



Buffalo Rocket

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Happy Valentine's Day!



Heads up! Valentine's Day is right around the corner, taking place on Saturday, February 14th, 2026.

Valentine's Day occurs every February 14th of each year since 270 AD. Across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. The ancient Roman ritual of Lupercalia welcomed spring to the card-giving customs of Victorian England. The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Val-

entine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

Americans probably began exchanging handmade valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap."

In addition to the Unit-

ed States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century.

Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year (more cards are sent at Christmas).

Popular Annual Love Week Returns To The Botanical Gardens For Fifth Year



Love Week returns for its fifth year at The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens.

The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens welcomes visitors back to celebrate the

most romantic month of the year for their popular Love Week, happening February 7-15 both during the day and in the evenings. Love Week attendees will enjoy their beautiful Orchid Exhibit for a romantic, flower-filled visit.

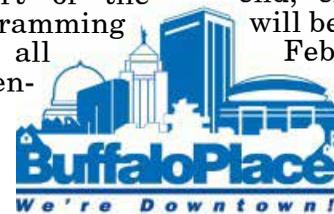
Love Week returns for its fifth year of celebrating all things love—whether it be love for a
Continued on page six.

Valentine's Sweetheart Skate At Rotary Rink

The community is invited to enjoy a Valentine's Sweetheart Skate at Rotary Rink at Fountain Plaza, Presented by Community Bank, on Saturday, February 14th from 11am through 9pm. As part of the special programming for the day, all guests will enjoy Buy One, Get One ice-skate rentals with their sweethearts, in addition to always free skating. In celebration of the holiday, visitors will also enjoy giveaways including Valentine's headbands and sunglasses.

Buffalo Place thanks Community Bank for their Presenting Sponsorship of the free ice-skating season at Rotary Rink. Buffalo Place also thanks our official Media Sponsor and Partner, The Buffalo News. Following the Valentine's holiday weekend, extended hours will be offered for the February Break week, February 16th through February 20th, daily from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Rotary Rink is located in the heart of Downtown Buffalo on Main Street between Chippewa and Huron Streets. Complete details are available online at www.buffaloplace.com and the Rotary Rink at Fountain Plaza Facebook page.



Memories

From the Buffalo Rocket archives



February, 1994. ON ICE..Frigid temperatures have not deterred area fishermen from their sport as Paul Dominclak, who caught this Northern Pike Saturday on Lake Erie, shows. Erie County Executive Ed Rutkowski last week unveiled a plan to boost sport fishing in Lake Erie, noting that Erie County has more licensed fishermen than any other county in New York State. Photo by Dave Puerner.

Local Weather

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH
Partly Cloudy High 40° Low 27°	Rain/Snow High 30° Low 21°	Rain High 25° Low 16°	Rain/Snow High 29° Low 26°	Mostly Cloudy High 35° Low 25°	Mostly Cloudy High 39° Low 31°	Rain/Snow High 37° Low 24°

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NORTH PARK THEATRE
OPENING FRIDAY
SCARLET



SCARLET (DUBBED) Fri 2/13: (4:30), 9:30 Sat 2/14: (2:00), 7:00 Sun 2/15: (4:30), 9:45
 Mon 2/16: 7:00, 9:30 Tue 2/17: (4:30), 9:30 Wed 2/18: (2:00), 7:00 Thur 2/19: (4:30), 9:30
 SCARLET (SUBTITLED) Fri 2/13: (2:00), 7:00 Sat 2/14: (4:30), 9:30 Sun 2/15: (2:00) Mon 2/16: (2:00) Tue 2/17: (2:00), 7:00 Wed 2/18: (4:30), 9:30 Thur 2/19: (2:00), 7:00
 LABYRINTH (1986) Sat 2/14: (11:30am) Sun 2/15: (11:30am)
 SHIRLEY (2024) Mon 2/16: (4:30)

1428 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216, (716) 836-7411

If your name is found in the BUFFALO ROCKET to win a FREE PIZZA, take proof of identification to BOB & JOHN'S LA HACIENDA at 1545 Hertel Avenue to pick up your FREE PIZZA (Takeout only, must be redeemed within one week). If your name is listed for NORTH PARK THEATRE PASSES, you will have two free passes mailed out to you.

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The Buffalo AKG Announces "Rockin' at the AKG" 2026 with DEVO



DEVO, photo by Jay Spencer.

The Buffalo AKG announced that Rockin' at the AKG, one of the museum's most important annual fundraising events, will take place on Saturday, June 6 with DEVO and special guests Soul Coughing and Shilpa Ray. Tickets will go on sale exclusively for AKG members beginning Wednesday, February 25, at 12 pm, and to the public on Friday, February 27, at 12 pm.

The museum plans to unveil a new ticket offering for this year's event called GA Premium. Details of the new ticket offering will be available when tickets are on sale.

In 1973, out of the remnants of late '60s political activism and the rising post-punk music climate, the seminal band DEVO was born. The formative lineup consisted of two sets of brothers—Mark and Bob Mothersbaugh, and Gerald and Bob Casale—along with drummer Alan Myers, all hailing from Akron, Ohio.

The band's prophetic message of "Devolution" and their strikingly original fusion of electronics and punk made them a singular influence throughout the '80s and into the '90s. DEVO began when Mark Mothersbaugh and Gerald Casale met as students at Kent State University and began exchanging ideas about art and music.

Deeply influenced by the Vietnam War, campus protests, and the tragic Kent State shootings of May 1970, the duo started making films and writing songs that would evolve into a wholly unique performance style. Their art-meets-music ethos quickly propelled them into the spotlight as one of the most high-profile acts in the New Wave movement, earning them a fervent cult following

that included David Bowie, Iggy Pop, and Neil Young.

In 1978, after an impromptu endorsement at Max's Kansas City where David Bowie declared them "the band of the future," DEVO was whisked off to Germany. There, Brian Eno—along with Bowie's collaboration—produced their debut album Q: Are We Not Men? A: We Are DEVO!. The record caught the attention of both critics and the industry, helping the band build a devoted following. It wasn't until their third album, Freedom of Choice—produced by Bob Margouleff and featuring the double-platinum single Whip It—that DEVO became a worldwide phenomenon.

The band continued to evolve, releasing influential albums such as New Traditionalists, Oh No! It's DEVO, and Shout. Their visual and sonic innovations helped define the aesthetic of the early MTV era. In 1990, DEVO went on hiatus to pursue other creative paths. Mark Mothersbaugh received a call from friend Paul Reubens and went on to compose the theme and music for Pee-wee's Playhouse. This unexpected opportunity launched him into a prolific career in film and television composition.

He founded Mutato Muzika—a full-service music production house and a nod to his DEVO roots ("mutant" + "potato")—and brought in Bob Mothersbaugh and Bob Casale. Based in the iconic Oscar Niemeyer building on Sunset Boulevard, Mutato became one of the most successful music houses in Hollywood.

Mark has since become one of the most in-demand and highest-grossing composers in the industry. In addition to hun-

dreds of commercials, games, and television projects, his film scores include The Rugrats Movie, Rushmore, The Royal Tenenbaums, The Lego Movie, Thor: Ragnarok, Cocaine Bear, and most recently, A Minecraft movie.

Gerald Casale, director of most of DEVO's music videos, became a notable figure in the MTV revolution, directing videos for bands like Rush, Foo Fighters, Soundgarden, and Silverchair. He also built a successful commercial career, directing for brands including Miller Lite, Diet Coke, Mrs. Butterworth's and Tang.

In 1996, DEVO reunited for the first time in six years at the Sundance Film Festival to an exuberant crowd—DEVO was back. With the original lineup intact (except for Alan Myers, who was replaced by drummer Josh Freese), the band reignited their live performance legacy. Freese remained with DEVO for nearly two decades.

Since then, DEVO has continued to perform at festivals and venues around the globe. Their message feels more relevant than ever, and their influence can be heard in bands ranging from Rage Against the Machine and Nirvana to LCD Soundsystem and Santigold. Kurt Cobain once said, "Of all the bands who came from the underground and made it in the mainstream, DEVO were the most challenging and subversive of all." (Nirvana covered DEVO's Turnaround, featured on their 1992 compilation Incesticide.)

In 2023, DEVO embarked on their 50th Anniversary Tour, featuring three original members—Mark and Bob Mothersbaugh, and Gerald Casale. Jeff Friedl now holds the drumsticks, and Josh Hager has taken over for the late Bob Casale on rhythm guitar and synths. Their high-energy performances blend punk, rock, and synth-pop in a way that continues to astonish and delight audiences.

As music critic Bob Lefsetz recently wrote about DEVO's set at Cruel World:

"It occurs to me that this music is anything but dated... make no mistake, live DEVO ROCKS!"

SCRAMBLERS
 Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

King
 HICLAP

Inset
 ALIYN

Weight
 REDBUN

Feint
 ODDEG

TODAY'S WORD

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"First they fill you with chicken, then _____"

Answers on page seven.



The Blotter

Felonies

From "D" District

Multiple DUI's Issued In North Buffalo

North Buffalo February 8, 2026
Delaware Avenue - The defendnat did take \$538.41 worth of merchandise past all points of purchase from 2626 Delaware Avenue, making no attempt to pay. Loss prevention was able to recover all merchandise and ID the defendant by NY driver's license.

February 7, 2026
Hertel Avenue - Defendant did drive New York registered vehicle while intoxicated and did strike multiple vehicles. Defendant did fail sobriety test.

February 6, 2026
Hertel Avenue - The defendant arrived at 2640 Delaware Avenue (Burlington), in New York registered vehicle. She proceeded to enter the store, concealed merchandise and left without rendering payment. She fled in the same vehicle that she arrived in and the property stolen was valued at \$304.72. The defendant was identified by the complainant, the supporting deposition and video evidence was obtained by detective.

February 6, 2026
Wellington Road - Defendant did violate order of protection by repeatedly calling victim's phone and multiple voicemails. Victim recognizes suspects voice and he called from his direct number. Defendant called her approximately 80 times.

February 6, 2025
Hertel Avenue - Complainant stated after verbal altercation, defendant kicked in her bedroom door, damaging it and the door frame. Complainant stated suspect then struck her in the head with metal air freshener can causing swelling and bleeding from the head. In violation of order of protection.

February 6, 2026
Amherst Street - Defendant did take shopping carts and slam them into outside glass doors of TOPS supermarket causing them to break off the track and entered store while closed and

remained inside without permission.

February 5, 2026
Hertel Avenue - Complainant reports that defendant did enter 1770 Hertel Avenue and select \$235.98 worth of merchandise into a shopping cart taking without permission. Defendant did then pass all points of purchase.

West Side February 9, 2025
Hoyt Street - Officers stationary did observe a Black Chevrolet bearing New York registered license plate traveling eastbound with no headlights on and driving at a very slow rate of speed. Officers did conduct a traffic stop at Hoyt Street where officers did observe in plain view two Coors 24oz beer cans. Defendant was instructed to lower his window.

When defendant opened his door officers instructed him to turn off vehicle where defendant then exited the vehicle instead and then stumbled into the door. Officer did observe the defendant to have bloodshot eyes, an odor of alcohol, and an odor of urine with wet pants. Defendant did conduct breath test with BAC result of 0.18%.

February 5, 2026
West Ferry Street - Defendant involved in moving violation and accident at West Ferry and Niagara. Upon interaction with defendant, defendant did make belligerent statements, did have slurred speech, impaired motor skills, and a strong odor of alcoholic beverage. Defendant did blow a .19 BAC.



MAGIC MAZE ● WORDS HEARD IN A CONTROL TOWER

I I F D B Y W U S Q O M K F Y
I F D B Z E T I D E P X E F A
X W U N S Q T M T O N R L O W
J (A F F I R M A T I V E) H E N
F D C A O A G E E Y W G V K U
T S Q B P O G B N L L O K A R
I H A F T E C A B Z B R Y T S
W G N I D N A L Y K W A U Q S
V U X S D N U O R A O G N R O
Q A P N M L D N E C S E D U R
T R O H S D L O H J B M I L C

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: CLEARED FOR —

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Abeam | Cross runway | Hold short | Squawk |
| Abort | Descend | Landing | Taxi to gate |
| Affirmative | Expedite | Roger | Unable |
| Climb | Go around | Say again | |

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FREE PIZZA: Anee McMahon, 32 Lyndhurst Ave., 14216

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15			16					17			
		18			19		20				
21	22			23		24					
25			26		27		28		29	30	31
32		33		34		35		36			
37			38		39		40		41		
			42		43		44		45		
46	47	48			49		50				
51					52		53			54	55
56					57				58		
59					60					61	

- ACROSS**
- 1 Canine cry
 - 4 Dalai —
 - 8 Sultry Horne
 - 12 Uncle, to Juan
 - 13 Bard's river
 - 14 401(k) relatives
 - 15 Provider of free groceries
 - 17 Lapel jewelry
 - 18 Fawn's mom
 - 19 Nome resident
 - 21 Nuanced
 - 24 English cathedral city
 - 25 100%
 - 26 Poseidon's realm
 - 28 Follow
 - 32 L-Q bridge
 - 34 Cover
 - 36 Gear teeth
 - 37 Avid
 - 39 Kauai souvenir
 - 41 Last (Abbr.)
 - 42 Conducted
 - 44 Justice Antonin
 - 46 Movie promo
 - 50 Sprite
 - 51 Campus mil. group
 - 52 Eats for para-keets
 - 56 Jazzy James
 - 57 Singer Braxton
- DOWN**
- 1 Justice Dept. agency
 - 2 2016
 - 3 Gourmand's online journal
 - 4 File stickers
 - 5 Director DuVernay
 - 6 "— Lisa"
 - 7 Bracelet site
 - 8 Feign singing
 - 9 Composer Satie
 - 10 "Peter Pan" dog
 - 11 Professional gp.
 - 16 Speck
 - 20 Pub pint
 - 21 "Ditto"
 - 22 Forearm bone
 - 23 Snaky fish
 - 27 Be sick
 - 29 1997 Vanessa Williams film
 - 30 Hybrid fruit
 - 31 "Como — usted?"
 - 33 Louisiana symbol
 - 35 — Moines
 - 38 Seminary subj.
 - 40 Stranded during a blizzard
 - 43 Unpaid bills
 - 45 TV alien
 - 46 Not kosher
 - 47 Indian flatbread
 - 48 Envelope abbr.
 - 49 Funny person
 - 53 Genetic letters
 - 54 Wilder's "— Town"
 - 55 Insult, slangily

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Answers on page six.

Weekly SUDOKU

		1		7	4		8	3
4	9	8	6	5		1	2	
		2			1			5
		6		8		3		
3			1		5	8	9	
	1		3	4		5		2
	2					4	6	1
			4			2	5	9
	4			6				

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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I'm Still Working; Why Didn't My Benefit Amount Increase? - Ask Rusty

Dear Rusty: I have been working somewhat consistently since commencing my Social Security benefit income. I've been collecting since my full benefit age of 66, approximately. I'm now 81, and customarily, in about October of each calendar year, Social Security notifies me of additional benefits from my additional work. Not this year.

I earned some \$18,000-\$19,000 in 2025. SS advised I did not meet some 35-year formula. I thought that formula just applied to the original benefit calculation. Otherwise, one seems cheated given the SS taxes paid on income received after applying for benefits without any

consideration for that income. **Please advise me. Signed: Feeling Cheated**

Dear Feeling Cheated: FYI, your Social Security benefit is always based on the highest 35 years of your lifetime earnings (with your early years' earnings automatically adjusted for inflation). And that formula continues even after you start receiving benefits. Social Security will look at your earnings each year to see if your recent earnings are among your highest. If so, they will automatically recalculate your benefit to give you a higher amount (and pay you retroactively to the first of that year). Apparently, in past years, your more

recent earnings were among the highest over your lifetime, which is why you received those notifications in the fall of each previous year saying your benefit was adjusted based upon recent earnings. That you didn't get a similar notification this year, means that your earnings in 2024 were not among the highest over your lifetime, so no adjustment to your monthly benefit was appropriate.

Now, to clarify, those annual notices you received in the past always referred to the preceding year – that is, if you received a notice in October 2024 of a higher SS benefit, that was a result of your 2023 earnings. If you got no such notice in October of 2025, that means that your 2024 income was not among the highest over your lifetime. And your 2025 earnings of \$18,000 – \$19,000 will likely not be among your lifetime highest either, so you probably won't get a notice next year either.

It's important to understand that your contributions to Social Security (i.e., the SS payroll taxes you pay while working) are not put into a separate account for you – rather, they are used to help pay benefits to all beneficiaries. In other words, just contributing to SS with payroll tax from your work earnings doesn't necessarily mean you get a higher benefit. Your SS benefit is always based upon the 35 years in which you earned the most, including recent years if you continue to work. So, you weren't "cheated" – that is simply how the program works – your SS benefit is always based on your highest 35 years of work earnings, including recent years, with earnings from the early years adjusted for inflation..

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Senior TRIVIA

Pop Quiz

Test your knowledge!

- 1) What color is Sonic the Hedgehog in the video game?

2. What is the former name of the U.S. Virgin Islands?

- 3) What are the colors of the striped sweater Freddy Krueger wears in "A Nightmare on Elm Street"?

- 4) What is a more common name for pneumothorax?

- 5) By which name is Martha Jane Canary more commonly known?

- 6) What is Hawkeye Pierce's real first name in the "M*A*S*H" series?

- 7) What is a group of larks called?

- 8) Which car company uses the ad slogan "Driven by passion"?

- 9) What is the head of the Egyptian god of death, Anubis?

- 10) What is the currency of Japan?

Answers on page seven.

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ADOPT A PET Sponsored By The Buffalo Rocket

This Week's Featured Friend: EBONY

OUR SHELTER IS OVERFLOWING WITH DOGS!

Meet Ebony! Ebony is estimated to be about a year old and is a lovely, lush all black kitty. Our volunteers describe Ebony as shy but learning to enjoy being pet, especially a good cheek and chin rub. She was unfortunately a longer stay in our shelter, since July, but has been able to move to an offsite location. Ebony's confidence is growing everyday. We look forward to seeing her settled as someone's cherished companion. Ebony is currently located at PetSmart on Elmwood Avenue in North Buffalo. We encourage you to visit her and our other adoptable kitties, volunteer hours are Tuesday and Thursday 5-7 PM, Saturday 12-4 PM, and Sunday 2-4PM.

If you would like to meet any of the adoptable dogs, please fill out an application online (if you are not already pre-approved), call the shelter, and leave a message with your name and phone number and the dog you're interested in. Have patience, and they will call you back when they can. From there, a time will be scheduled for you to come and meet the dog. Please be patient, and remember they are very short staffed at the moment. Applications can be found at <https://friendsofcbas.org/adopt>

City of Buffalo Animal Shelter
380 N. Oak St. Buffalo 716-851-5694
Buffalo_Shelter@yahoo.com

To see more great pets, visit: <http://www.petfinder.com/pet-search?shelterid=NY341>

FREE NORTH PARK PASSES: John Pilato, 39 Parkside Ave., 14214



Michael P. Kearns
Erie County Clerk
Guest Columnist

County Clerks Announce Details On Upcoming DMV Closures

Erie County Clerk Michael P. Kearns and Niagara County Clerk Joseph A. Jastrzemski announced the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is preparing to launch the first phase of a new, modernized technology system designed to improve customer service and streamline operations for both residents and DMV staff over the long Presidents Day weekend.



major upgrade, the County-run DMV offices serving Erie and Niagara Counties will temporarily suspend operations beginning Friday, February 13 at 12:00 p.m. In addition, all NYS DMV offices will close statewide, with online and phone services unavailable beginning at 2:00 p.m. This brief shutdown is necessary to safely install and test the new software system before it goes live.

To complete this ma-

According to the State

DMV's rollout schedule, offices across New York, including in Erie and Niagara Counties, will reopen for customer transactions on Wednesday, February 18.

To ensure a smooth transition, appointments will be required for all in-person visits from February 18 through February 20 at all Erie County Auto Bureau branch offices and all Niagara County DMV offices. Mobile DMV services in Grand Island and Concord will be suspended during this period and are expected to resume the following week.

The upgraded system replaces decades-old technology with a single, secure platform that allows DMV employees to process transactions more efficiently, reducing delays and helping customers complete most transactions in one visit. The new platform

will also expand online services, allowing residents to complete more DMV transactions from home, on their own schedule.

In addition, during this time, the state DMV will migrate about 30 million records to the new system and complete the transition to bring the first phase of the upgrade online.

"After months of extensive training, our staff is ready to roll. We are optimistic this state-wide upgrade will streamline our work and further improve the customer experience," stated Erie County Clerk Michael P. Kearns. "We thank the public for their flexibility and patience during the initial roll-out period as everyone adjusts to the new DRIVES system."

Erie and Niagara County residents who need to renew a driver license or non-driver ID, or complete another DMV transaction before February 13, are strongly encouraged to do so ahead of time. As always, appointments are encouraged, as customers with reservations take precedence.

In Erie County, appointments can be made 24/7 online at erie.gov/clerk or by calling the Clerk's Outreach Center (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm and on Thursdays until 7pm) at 716-858-8864.

"This long-planned state upgrade will significantly improve how

we serve our residents. We encourage customers to plan ahead and schedule appointments in advance," said Niagara County Clerk Joseph A. Jastrzemski. "We greatly appreciate the community's cooperation as this transition moves forward."

Appointments in Niagara County can be made 24/7 online at dmv-appointment.as.me or by visiting the Niagara County Clerk's website at niagaracounty.gov.

For real-time updates before and after services resume, residents can visit erie.gov/clerk or niagaracounty.gov, or follow the Clerk's Offices on X, Facebook, and Instagram.

This February upgrade builds on recent improvements such as expanded online services, appointment-based office visits, and reduced wait times. A second major system upgrade is planned for 2028 as part of the DMV's long-term effort to modernize operations and improve customer experience.



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- Aspire Dental.....476 Hertel Avenue
- Bellamore Boutique.....3086 Delaware Avenue
- Bertha's Diner.....1430 Hertel Avenue
- Black Rock Beverages.....538 Hertel Avenue
- Bob & John's Pizzeria.....1545 Hertel Avenue
- Caz Mini Mart.....572 Hertel Avenue
- Century 21.....1705 Hertel Avenue
- Dash's Supermarket.....1770 Hertel Avenue
- Delaware YMCA.....2564 Delaware Avenue
- Enchanted Hair Salon.....3030 Delaware Avenue
- Evans Bank.....2670 Delaware Avenue
- Fig Tree Patisserie.....3062 Delaware Avenue
- Finishing Touches.....2820 Delaware Avenue
- Ginnane Funeral Home.....3215 Delaware Avenue
- Gloria J. Parks Community Ctr.....3242 Main Street
- Gramma Mora's.....1465 Hertel Avenue
- Great Clips.....2678 Delaware Avenue
- Hertel Coin Laundry.....1274 Hertel Avenue
- Hertel Park Senior Apartments.....1631 Hertel Avenue
- Hertel Parker Liquors.....1859 Hertel Avenue
- Home Taste (Chinese Cuisine).....3106 Delaware Avenue
- Imagine Salon.....1527 Hertel Avenue
- Macy's Place.....3100 Delaware Avenue
- Joey's Place.....83 Niagara Street
- Johnny's Meats.....1191 Hertel Avenue
- Knights of Columbus.....1530 Kenmore Avenue
- Korona Jewelers.....1588 Hertel Avenue
- North Buffalo Community Ctr.....203 Sanders Road
- North Buffalo Dental.....1600 Hertel Avenue
- North Park Library.....975 Hertel Avenue

- Parkside Community Center.....2318 Main Street
- Paul Wolf Agency.....2890 Delaware Avenue
- Plaka Restaurant.....2904 Delaware Avenue
- Price Rite Market.....1716 Kenmore Avenue
- Salon Avanti.....3086 Delaware Avenue
- Salon Coronado.....2870 Delaware Avenue
- Salon D Capelli.....3104 Delaware Avenue
- Scissors.....1497 Hertel Avenue
- Studio Sophia.....1094 Hertel Avenue
- Sunoco Gas Station.....4505 Main Street
- Theater Apts.....1065 Kenmore Avenue
- Terrie's Workout Center.....1481 Hertel Avenue
- Vince's Pizza.....1803 Kenmore Avenue
- Wesselman's Inc.....564 Colvin Boulevard
- Wellington Pub.....1541 Hertel Avenue

WEST SIDE

- Baptist Manor.....276 Linwood Avenue
- Buffalo Public Library.....Niagara at Porter
- BMHA Housing.....245 Elmwood Avenue
- CWJ Lock & Key.....183 Forest Avenue
- Corner Store.....Forest & Grant
- Delaware Apartments.....1217 Delaware Avenue
- Dibble Hardware.....262 West Ferry Street
- Elmwood Square Apts.....505 Elmwood Avenue
- Fast Stop Food Mart.....326 Military Road
- Frontier Liquor & Beverage Ctr.....121 Grant Street
- First Niagara Bank.....Elmwood at West Utica
- M&T Bank.....130 Grant Street
- Military Coin Laundry.....1134 Military Road
- Santasiero's Restaurant.....1329 Niagara Street
- Timon Towers.....1015 Delaware Avenue
- Trinity Tower Apartments.....33 Linwood Avenue

- West Market.....1032 West Avenue
- West Side Community Center.....Vermont at Fargo

RIVERSIDE

- AmVets.....25 Review Place
- Black Rock Pharmacy.....431 Tonawanda Street
- Boys & Girls Club.....54 Riverdale Avenue
- Buffalo Wine & Liquors.....2067 Niagara Street
- D District Police Station.....669 Hertel Avenue
- Doyles Deli.....1981 Niagara Street
- Faso Restaurant.....2126 Niagara Street
- Fast Stop Food Mart.....236 Military Road
- First Niagara Bank.....2141 Elmwood Avenue
- First Niagara.....201 Amherst Street
- Hearts Thrift Shop.....890 Tonawanda Street
- House of Sandwich.....800 Tonawanda Street
- M&T Bank.....788 Tonawanda Street
- Niagara Deli Pizzeria.....2043 Niagara Street
- Nickel City Bottle Return.....2209 Niagara Street
- Northwest Buffalo Community Ctr.....155 Lawn Avenue
- Pat's Pizzeria.....544 Ontario Street
- Pizza Bella.....1133 Tonawanda Street
- Riverside Market.....740 Tonawanda Street
- Riverside News Stand.....Tonawanda Street
- Roland Insurance Agency.....432 Amherst Street
- Sun Restaurant.....1989 Niagara Street
- Up To You Deli.....2189 Niagara Street



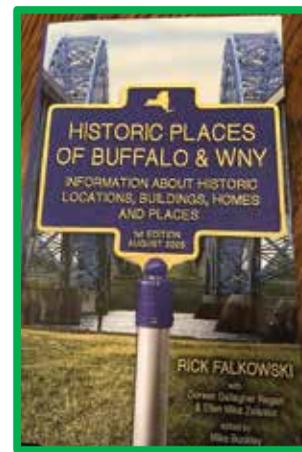
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Shea's Performing Arts Center announced registration is now open for "Sing Your Story," a camp for students ages 10 – 17 running during the February school break. Through a song of their choice, students in this camp will explore their unique life experiences to create a personal monologue and sing their story. Under the guidance of Shea's lead teaching artist Alejandro Gómez, participants will develop their own ideas, lighting, and costumes, culminating in a one-of-a-kind performance where they are the star! Sing Your Story concludes with a community showcase on the Shea's Smith Theatre stage, celebrating each student's creativity and voice. The week-long camp will run February 16 – 20 from 9:00AM – 4:00PM daily. Space is limited. The cost of the camp is \$250 for the week, with assistance available to those in need. To register, visit: <https://www.sheas.org/camps/sing-your-story/>.



M&T Bank Presents Third Thursdays at the Buffalo Zoo will continue for two Thursdays in 2026, February 19 and March 19. To participate, guests will need to reserve their free tickets online before arriving at the Zoo. Tickets can

be reserved at mtb.com/ThirdThursdays. There will be a limit of 10 tickets per group, with timed ticket entry still available between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. While tickets are honored all day, visitors are asked to arrive at the time they signed up for. Special programming on November 20 will feature several Zookeeper Talks including: 11 a.m. – Snow Leopard Keeper Talk at the Vanishing Animals North Exhibit 12 p.m. – Tawny Frogmouth & Wallaby Keeper Talk at the EcoStation Exhibit 2 p.m. – Bison Keeper Talk at the Bison Exhibit Current members of the Zoo are always admitted, even in the event of a "Third Thursday" sellout. Please note that rides, concessions and parking are not included in the free admission. As the Buffalo Zoo marks its 150th anniversary this year, the M&T Bank Presents Third Thursdays at the Buffalo Zoo program adds to the Zoo's ongoing celebrations, which are taking place through December 2025. M&T is a longtime partner of the Buffalo Zoo and remains the lead sponsor of the M&T Bank Rainforest Falls exhibit. To learn more about the Buffalo Zoo and its latest special events, visit buffalozoo.org.



Reunion for ALL YEARS of Nativity of the BVM School on Albany Street in Buffalo will be held July 12th (from noon-5pm) at Buffalo River Grove (formerly Fontana's Grove)-2299 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14227. Reservations are a must! RSVP by 6/30 to Rosie Mendolera at 716-881-1306.



Submit Your Community Event to

editor.buffalorocket@gmail.com



Popular Annual Love Week Returns To The Botanical Gardens For Fifth Year

Continued from page one. friend, family, significant other, or plants. This popular time at the Botanical Gardens invites Western New Yorkers to visit the Botanical Gardens during the day or at night as a way to celebrate and make memories with their loved ones. The popular Orchid Exhibit is on display, and the conservatory is filled with over 2,000 brightly colored orchids, making for an unforgettable and beautiful atmosphere to share with loved ones. In the evening, enjoy bright, mesmerizing lights that complement and highlight the beautiful orchid flowers.

During the week, visitors can experience the Orchid Exhibit every day from 10:00am to 4:00pm or under magical lighting on February 6-7, 13-15, 17, 19, 20-21, 26-28, and March 5-7 from 6:00pm to 9:30pm for Orchids After Dark. Those that come during the day will have a bright and intimate look at the orchids, and those that come during the evening will have a more dramatic and moody view of the orchids that are highlighted with dazzling twinkle lights. With over 2,000 orchids on display and thousands of magical lights bathing them in brilliant colors, this is a great choice for a romantic evening out. Organizers recommend getting tickets ahead of time, especially on or near February

14 for Valentine's Day.

Love is Love Night, an annual celebration of the LGBTQ+ community will take place on Wednesday, February 12 from 6:00pm to 9:30pm. Joining the celebration will be local partners and host Mr. Mocktail of SoberOneSix along with Niagara Pride Center, the MOCHA Center at Evergreen Health, and the Rainbow Collective of WNY. There will also be two drag shows throughout the night featuring Carrie Black, Mary Jane Price, Pamela Carnes, and Willa DeWhisp with music by Lydvicious. The first show will begin at 7:00pm and the second show will begin at 8:30pm. This popular Love Week event invites the public to come support and celebrate Buffalo's LGBTQ+ community and embrace all things love. All are welcome to attend. Love is Love Night is included with admission to Orchids After Dark.

New this year, the Botanical Gardens is also

offering special Mini Glow Golf nights during Orchids After Dark to offer the community a chance to putt around the plants. The sessions during Love Week are sold out, but there are still times available for Mini Glow Golf on March 4.

The Orchid Exhibit is open daily from 10:00am to 4:00pm now through March 9 and tickets prices are \$19 for adults, \$17.00 for seniors (62+) and students (13+ with ID), \$9.50 for kids 3-12 and kids 2 and under are free but must have a ticket. Botanical Garden Members are also free. Orchids After Dark is open on February 6-7, 13-15, 17, 19, 20-21, 26-28, and March 5-7 from 6:00pm to 9:30pm. Tickets for Orchids After Dark are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors (62+) and students (13+ with ID), \$10 for kids 3-12 and kids 2 and under are free but must have a ticket.

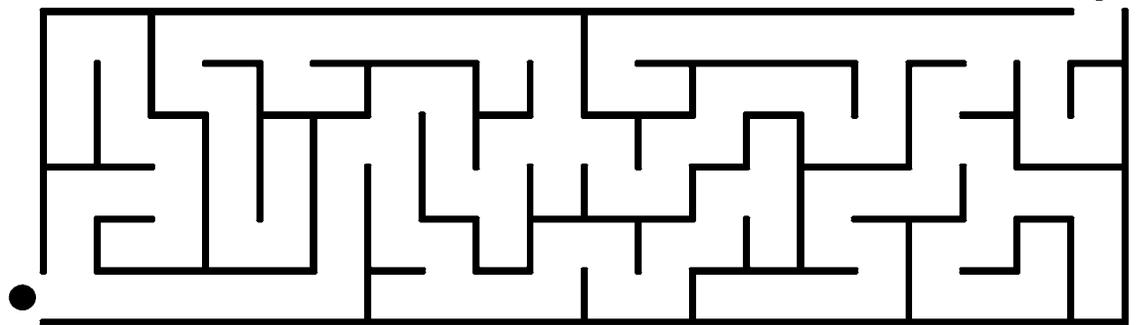
Use @BuffaloBotanicalGardens and #LoveWeek when posting and tagging on social media.



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Kids' Maze



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Answers on page five.

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CLASSIFIED

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE 59 CRANE DEPEW, LLC filed Articles of Organization in New York on January 29 th , 2026. The LLC's office is in Erie County. The Secretary of State has been named as agent of service of process against the LLC and shall mail such process to 61 Terrace Lane, Elma, New York 14055. The LLC is formed to carry on any business for which an LLC may be formed in NY. 11

Notice of Formation of TRUE NORTH RIDGE HOLDINGS LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on January 14, 2026. Office in Erie County. SSNY is the designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 418 Broadway, STE R, Albany, NY, 12207. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 11

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF ERIE PNC Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Erie County Public Administrator, as Limited Administrator of the Estate of Carol R. Elliott a/k/a Carol Elliott, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered November 20, 2025, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the first floor Closing Room of the Erie County Clerk's Office, 92 Franklin St, Buffalo, NY 14202 on February 10, 2026 at 10:10AM, premises known as 771 Eagle Street, Buffalo, NY 14210. All that Tract or parcel of land, situate, in the City of Buffalo, County of Erie, State of New York, Section: 111.83 Block: 3 Lot: 1.6. Approximate amount of judgment \$108,509.41 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 800651/2024. Christopher Pannozzo, Esq., Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: December 2, 2025 88274 7

Notice of Formation of a Domestic Professional Limited Liability Company Black Rock Mental Health Counseling, PLLC's Arts of Org were filed by the NY Dept of State on 1/8/25. Its office location is Erie County. Its purpose is mental health counseling. NY's Sec'y of State is designated as agent upon whom process may be served. The Sec'y shall mail a copy of any process to the PLLC at 36 Woodette Place, Buffalo, NY 14207. 9

Notice of Formation of Life Is Festive, LLC Articles of Org. filed with the Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on January 13, 2026. Office in Erie County. SSNY is the designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 331 Depew Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214. Any lawful purpose. 10

Notice of Formation of Whitney Place Stays LLC, LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 5, 2026. Office located in Erie County. SSNY is the designated agent of the LLC upon Whom the process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to PO BOX 249, Buffalo, NY 14205 11

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solution

1. Agenda;
2. Hoard;
3. Gleam;
4. Rapid

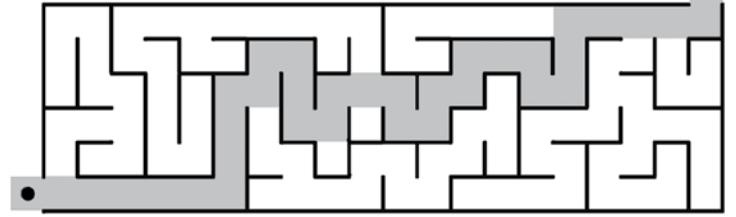
Today's Word

LADDER

Puzzle on page two.

GAMES

Kids' Maze Solution



Puzzle on page two.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tail is smaller. 2. Arms are longer. 3. Pocket is different. 4. Log is different. 5. Earflap is longer. 6. Rabbit's ear is moved.

1. Blue.
2. The Danish West Indies.
3. Red and green.
4. Collapsed lung.
5. Calamity Jane, a sharpshooter in Western history.
6. Benjamin.
7. An exaltation.
8. Fiat Automobiles.
9. A jackal.
10. The yen.

— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

ARF	LAMA	LENA
TIO	AVON	TIRAS
FOODBANK	PINS	
DOE	ALASKAN	
SUBTLE	FLY	
ALL	SE	ERISUE
MNOP	LEID	GOGS
EAGER	LE	ULT
LED	SCALIA	
TRAILER	ELF	
ROTC	BIRD	FOOD
ETITA	TION	QUI
FINN	STAN	BRS

Puzzle on page three.

WORDS HEARD IN A CONTROL TOWER

E	T	I	D	P	X	E						
A	F	F	R	M	A	T	I	V	E			
G	O	G	E	L	O	G	S					
G	N	I	D	N	A	L	Y	K	W	A	Q	S
O	N	U	O	R	A	O	G	N				
O	N	E	C	E	D	U	R					
R	O	H	S	D	L	O	H					

Puzzle on page three.

WORDS HEARD IN A CONTROL TOWER

E	T	I	D	P	X	E						
A	F	F	R	M	A	T	I	V	E			
G	O	G	E	L	O	G	S					
G	N	I	D	N	A	L	Y	K	W	A	Q	S
O	N	U	O	R	A	O	G	N				
O	N	E	C	E	D	U	R					
R	O	H	S	D	L	O	H					

Puzzle on page three.

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