

Buffalo Rocket

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Six More Weeks?



It's that time of year folks, again and yet again it seems. Punxsutawney Phil has been called out for a second look at the winter season, seeing if his prophetic shadow predicts another sweep of cold weather. Lirpa Sloof, who consulted the marsupial this Wednesday has concluded that, yes, we are indeed in for six more weeks of Winter. Sloof has agreed to revisit Phil next Wednesday, April 1st.

Botanical Gardens Welcomes Spring To Buffalo

The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens welcomes the return of the annual Spring Flower Exhibit which is open daily from 10:00am to 4:00pm through Monday, April 13. The blooms will bring an early spring for those looking to escape the winter weather and enjoy the sights and smells of fresh flowers. Plus, the Botanical Bunny will be on site March 28, April 3 and April 4 from 10:00am to 4:00pm for kids and families looking for seasonal photos.



BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY

Botanical Gardens

fodils, colorful tulips, and more seasonal favorite flowers. With over 20,000 blooming bulbs throughout the conservatory, the sights and scents of spring have arrived early at the Botanical Gardens.

The Spring Flower Exhibit gives visitors the opportunity to enjoy spring inside the warm conservatory while the early spring weather remains cool outdoors. The Botanical Gardens encourages visitors to engage their senses and unwind among the beautiful sights and smells.

"Our Spring Flower Exhibit is a long-standing tradition for our community, and we are excited to share tens of thousands of spring flowers set among our tropical paradise. Visiting the Botanical Gardens with loved ones is a great way to experi-

ence the amazing power of plants as they transform all around us this spring," said President/CEO Erin Grajek.

Visitors will also enjoy the chance to see the Botanical Bunny happening during the Spring Flower Exhibit on Friday, March 28; Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. All visitors on this day are welcome to take photos with the Botanical Bunny at no additional cost. Also included with admission on Botanical Bunny Days is a scavenger hunt for seasonal surprises hidden throughout the conservatory! Face painting will also be available by Glamour Girls for an additional cost.

All exhibits are included with regular admission to the Botanical Gardens. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$17 for students and seniors, *Continued on page five.*

YMCA Buffalo Niagara To Host Fundraising Gala On April 25

YMCA Buffalo Niagara is excited to announce its 2026 Strengthening Community Gala is planned for April 25 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.

This premier event kicks off at 5:30 pm and includes cocktails, dinner, a silent and live auction, and live entertainment by The Uptown Groove. The prestigious Gold Key Award will also be presented to an outstanding YMCA volunteer who exemplifies the values and mission of the YMCA. The Gold Key Award recipient's name is kept secret until the moment of presentation.



more than a great evening. It is a chance for our community to come together and make a real difference. Every guest in the room is helping expand opportunities for children, families, and seniors who rely on the YMCA every day. We hope people will join us for a memorable night that truly strengthens Western New York," TJ Stewart, the Gala Chair on the YMCA's Board of Directors, said.

All proceeds of the Gala benefit the Y's efforts to empower youth and improve community health in Western New York. Tickets are on sale now at YMCAGala.org.

Memories

From the Buffalo Rocket archives



March, 1994. GOING TO THE PARK...Welala Tereffe of Woodward Ave. and her friends Hannah and Erin Holden, of Middlesex Ave., who just moved from here from the midwest, were seen Sunday on their way to Delaware Park for a game of baseball. Behind them is a pile of melting snow.

Local Weather

THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH



Partly Cloudy
High 40°
Low 31°

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH



Rain
High 46°
Low 33°

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH



Partly Cloudy
High 46°
Low 39°

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH



Rain
High 45°
Low 27°

MONDAY, MARCH 30TH



Partly Cloudy
High 37°
Low 26°

TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST



Mostly Cloudy
High 42°
Low 29°

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1ST



Sunny
High 2000°
Low -437°

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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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David Gallagher Publisher Daryl GallagherProduction Director
 Dennis Gallagher Managing Editor Bill Snyder.....Sports
 Joe BortzColumnist Charles Wilson Distribution
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Going To Coopertown!

While Major League Baseball opens their season Thursday, March 26, with fourteen games scheduled, it won't be long before North Buffalo Baseball Softball will be opening their 69th year in Shoshone Park on Saturday, May 2nd, just five weeks away.

Excitement for the 2026 season is building now and reaching higher levels with each day that passes on the calendar. Just after we sprang forward two weeks ago, the Boys and Girls of North Buffalo now all hope that the month of April will fly by as fast, just like a fastball from any mound in Shoshone Park.

Registration figures for a Summer in North Buffalo are steadily rising as we write this, as more teams might need to be added to the House Divisions of the League that will run from early May until late July. Without any rain-outs from inclement weather in the next few months, the Boys and Girls will get to have a great year, playing in a Park not far from their homes.

All seven diamonds on the Don Morris Fields of Shoshone Park and the diamonds of nearby McCarthy Park will be ready for the boys and girls on Opening Day. But first, a Parade will be ran up Hertel Avenue to the Park from the Church at the corner of Hertel and

North Park, if there's Sunshine and green grass. For years, St. Margaret's Church and the adjoining School Hall next door, have always been the official starting point for the Base-

ball and Softball Parade on a good Saturday for the outdoor party. The Church and the Cornelius Apartments are exactly one mile from Shoshone Park and thousands of Boys and Girls will walk proudly to the Park, dressed in their new team uniforms for the season.

"It's the best day in North Buffalo," said long-time president Don Morris, during his tenure running possibly the best youth baseball and softball league in Western New York and possibly the whole State. Literally, thousands of boys and girls have learned America's favorite past-time in this tiny Park, located on Hertel Avenue near Main Street since 1957. What started as once just four boys teams, grew to include more opportunities for both younger and older boys.

Last year, there were over 1,300 boys and girls playing every night during the week and on Saturdays. There were close to 80 House teams for boys and girls, almost 20 t-ball instructional teams for boys and girls and Travel teams for both the boys and girls at the ages of eight, ten, twelve and sixteen U levels. Every Diamond in Shoshone and McCarthy Park is utilized all season long for both regular season and playoff championship games.

This past weekend, three 12U Travel Blaze teams got ready for their season already with a big party with their families and friends in the League. The three teams, identified now as Green, Yellow and

Gray, will be representing North Buffalo Baseball Softball this season when they travel to Cooperstown, NY in late July and compete against teams from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware in an outstanding location, not far from the Baseball Hall of Fame. The North Buffalo League has been preparing twelve year old Boys every year and are the best that our League can be to represent this City League that stands alone in offering opportunities for boys to play.

For North Buffalo Coaches like Todd Mann, Matthew Burke and Sean Ryan, they have been working with North Buffalo Boys ever since they began playing as t-ball rookies and have watched them develop over the years to get them ready for Cooperstown. Todd

Mann coaches the Green team and the players include Ben Auerbach, Tim Bartels, Jermin J. Collazo, Hunter Gallagher, Patrick Gaughan, Naveen Ladori, Xander Mann, Teddy McGowan, Gavin Ramsey, Leopold Scott and Conor Smith.

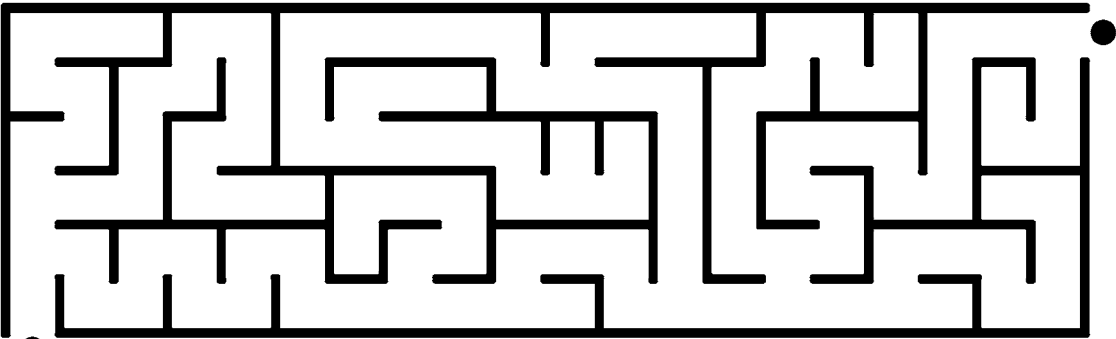
Matt Burke coaches the Yellow team and his players include Ben Burke, Max Capaccio, Patrick Donoghue, Alex Dunbar, Zeke Ganci, Noah Lundquist, Gerald Nance, Connor Roehl, Eric Smith, Owen Weaver and Henry Zebro. The Gray team is coached by Sean Ryan and his team includes Dalton Gee, Myron Griggs, Michael Miller, William Potenza, Charlie Ryan, Shiloh Pixley, Ryder Lane, Charlie Johnson, Ethan Goldin and brothers Elijah and Ezekiel Fadness.

With the beautiful new Thomas Smith Athletic Center (TSAC) now open and available for practices for the many teams, the Boys and Girls are ready to swing away at the plate and hit a homerun for this Community in Youth Baseball and Softball in Shoshone

Park. It's almost time to "PLAY BALL!"



Kids' Maze



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 Answers on page five.



Squatter On Hertel Steals over \$2000 from Victim's Apartment

North Buffalo
March 23, 2026

Main Street - Officers dispatched at accident/injury at 2930 Main Street. Upon investigation defendant found to have slurred speech, staggered gait, blood shot eyes, strong odor of alcohol, could not follow directions, and could not perform SFST's. Upon breath test defendant did blow a .13% BAC.

March 23, 2026

Delaware Avenue - Complainant states defendant did rent a hotel room by means of stolen credit card numbers and did not have any other means to pay for said room causing hotel loss of \$328.74.

March 21, 2026

Hertel Avenue - The defendant did unlawfully/forcibly enter the victims dwelling located at 2302 Main Street Apartment 2 causing approximately \$200.00 in damage to the door and lock. While inside the defendant did take \$2,906.00 from the victim's purse without permission. Defendant identified through investigation and identified by victim through video footage.

West Side

March 21, 2026

West Ferry Street - While on routine, patrol officers observed New York registered vehicle traveling southbound on Parkdale Avenue. Officers initiated traffic stop at West Ferry Street and Hampshire Street. Defendant did admit to officer he had a suspended license. DMV did confirm suspension. Upon search of defendant, officer did find unknown white powdery substance in a clear baggie. Weight approximately 8.6 grams.

March 20, 2026

West Eagle Street - While being searched a Buffalo City Lock Up, defendant was found to be concealing a yellow wax bag of a white powdery substance believed to be heroin.

Riverside

March 22, 2026

Condon Avenue - Arrested did harass complainant, attempting to break his phone and breaking doors and other items in the home. This caused complainant to fear

Laird Avenue - Defendant did strike the complainant in the face multiple times with a closed fist causing swelling and pain to complainants left eye/left side of face. Actions did occur when the complainant has an active refrain from order of protection with him being the protected party.

March 18, 2026

Auburn Avenue - Defendant was operating New York registered vehicle that is suspended, defendant did drive to his house and got out of the driver seat attempting to walk away from said traffic stop.

for his life so he did call 911. This is a repeated, ongoing incident. Arrested was taken to ECMC. Complainant wants an order of protection.

March 21, 2026

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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		

ACROSS
1 Sticks (out)
5 Govt. loan agcy.
8 Answer an invite
12 Canyon comeback
13 Chest muscle
14 Andy's boy
15 Israeli airline
16 Dumpster explorer
17 Spoken
18 Costa Rica neighbor
20 "Good as new," for one
22 Crow's greeting
23 French diarist Anais
24 Pedestal
27 Nevada gambling city
32 Recipe abbr.
33 "Sixth sense"
34 U.K. recording label
35 Document destroyer
38 Love god
39 Numerical prefix
40 Discoverer's call
42 Aid
45 More serene
49 La Scala melody

DOWN
1 Army transport
2 Golden State sch.
3 Compared to
4 Comfort wheel
50 Genesis vessel
52 "Othello" villain
53 Taxpayer IDs
54 Fish eggs
55 Streetcar
56 Wise one
57 Summer hrs. in D.C.
58 Robust
5 Really spread out
6 Actress Arthur
7 Performs
8 Rent sharer
9 Spaniel type
10 Test tube
11 Soccer leg-end
19 Bell or Barker (Abbr.)
21 Bill of sale
24 "Dynamite" band
25 Blond shade
26 Tidying (up)
28 Enzyme suffix
29 Toothed wheel
30 "I love," to Ovid
31 Bro's sib
36 Sheathe
37 God, to Galileo
38 Crude stone artifact
41 "That's a laugh!"
42 Lip
43 - Major
44 Exceptional
46 Kate of "The Martian"
47 Alike (Fr.)
48 Apple variety
51 Scepter

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MAGIC MAZE ● WORDS WITH BIRDS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: Long Spiked Hair in the Middle

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Bandicoot | Crowed | Handover | Ravenous |
| Beagle | Demure | Lawrence | Stephen |
| Botswana | Disrobing | Percheron | Stern |
| Clarksburg | Gulley | Prowl | |

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FREE PIZZA: Nun Fo Yu, Nobody Avenue, 14216

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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'll Be 70 On New Year's Day. When Should I Apply For Social Security? - Ask Rusty

Dear Rusty: I was born on January 1st, 1958, so I believe Social Security considers me to be 70 as of December 2027. I'm planning on filing when I turn 70 to maximize the payment. I'm not sure if I should start in December, with the first payment in January 2028. Or should I start in January with the first payment in February 2028? I know I can start anytime; however, I don't want to file before the maximum payment, even by one month. **Signed: Wanting Maximum Benefit**

Dear Wanting: You are correct that if your birth date is January 1, 1958, you are entitled to your full age 70 benefit in December 2027.

So, if you claim your SS benefit to start in December 2027, you will get your maximum benefit amount, and you will receive that payment in January 2028 (on the 2nd Wednesday). Basically, anyone born on the first of any month is considered to have been born in the previous month for SS benefit purposes.

You can apply for your benefits up to 4 months prior to your birthday month, and SS usually suggests applying about 3 months in advance to give them time to process your application. When you complete the application, you will specify the month you wish your benefits to start, so applying early does not present a problem. You

can either call SSA at 1.800.772.1213 to make an appointment to apply over the phone, or you can apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply.

The one thing you might want to do is put the following in the "Remarks" section of your application for SS benefits: "I do not wish to receive any retroactive Social Security benefits. I want my benefits to become effective with the first month of my age 70 eligibility (December 2027 because I was born on the first of January)."

Including that remark will ensure that your benefit will be the full maximum amount you are entitled to at 70 years of age, without any reduction. And I congratulate you on choosing a strategy which maximizes your monthly benefit and will likely provide you with the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-dvisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Kiwanis Club Of Buffalo

WWW.KIWANISCLUBOFBUFFALONY.COM



CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SHOW

Congratulations UB CKI Lieutenant Governor Sofia, Piyush and Caitlyn for a job well done!

Congratulations on a great year President Hanna and the entire City Honors Key Club

Congratulations to the Aktion Club, especially Advisor Bill

April 14, Tuesday 5:30pm - All members Zoom meeting



NOW Hertel North Park Baseball & Softball REGISTRATION IS ONLINE - WWW.HNPYBL.COM

Senior TRIVIA

Pop Quiz

Test your knowledge!

1) Who is the director of the Oscar-winning movie "Parasite"?

2. What is miso?

3) What are the names of the romantic couple in "Wuthering Heights"?

4) Which city's nickname is "Pearl of the Orient"?

5) Where is Pearl Harbor located?

6) Before becoming president, Barack Obama served as a senator from which state?

7) Which peninsula is the largest in the world?

8) Who is the Greek god of war?

9) Who composed the opera "The Ring of Nibelung"?

10) In computer emails, what does the acronym "CC" stand for?

Answers on page seven.

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Bob Schwall

"First of all, we want _____ bills..."

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!

Display **E A R P A D** _____

Process **R A M E N N** _____

Crazy **L A M E N T** _____

Divine **S C A R E D** _____

TODAY'S WORD

Answers on page seven.

The Grapevine



Afternoon Drive Host WEBR AM 1440 AND FM 105.3 is one of Buffalo's most iconic radio stations. We are celebrating our 100TH Anniversary in 2024 and would like you to join our family!! We are currently looking for an Afternoon Drive host to be on air from 2PM-6PM Monday-Friday. Bring your energy and ability to relate to our listeners. Experience preferred, but will consider someone who is willing to learn and take direction. College radio would be a big plus!! Great support with local ownership. Have fun, be yourself and grow at the same time!! Please email a recent air check to: Tony Venturoli, Program Director, WEBR AM 1440, FM 105.3. Email address is: ajthedj104@hotmail.com. Phone 716-481-8836.

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



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FURNACE SAFETY INSPECTION

\$29!

Botanical Gardens Welcomes Spring To Buffalo

Continued from page one. \$9.50 for kids ages 3-12, and kids under 2 are free. All exhibits are free for Botanical Gardens Members with ID. Tickets can be pre-purchased online at buffalogardens.com.

About Buffalo and

Erie County Botanical Gardens

Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that welcomes all to enjoy its living plant collections, breathtaking conservatory, and educational programming. Opened in 1900, the Bo-

tanical Gardens is located within a park system designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Support for the organization is provided by public funds from Erie County; the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; members; donors; and friends.



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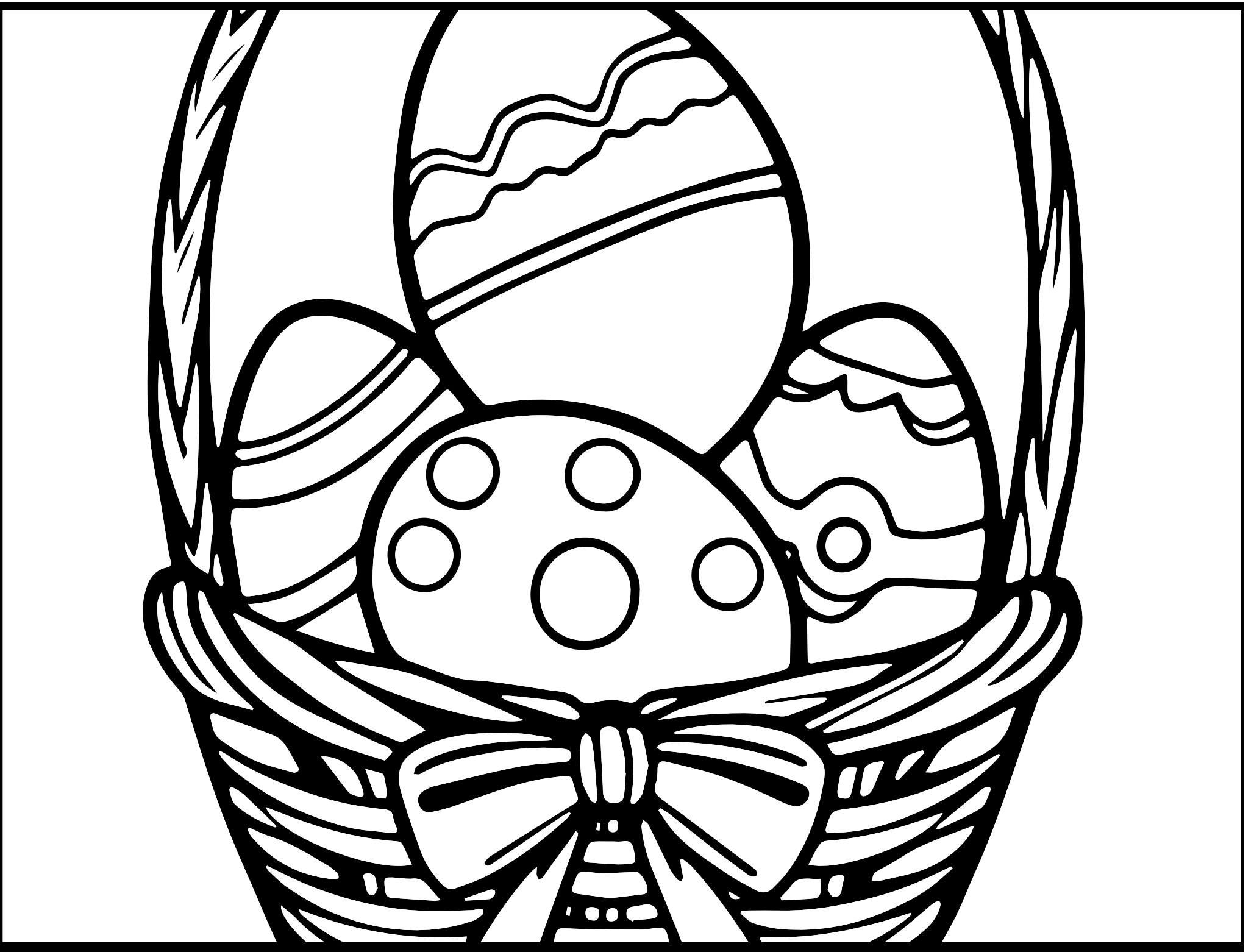
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Age: _____

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CLASSIFIED

LEGAL

Notice of a Formation of a Domestic Limited Liability Company LEGAL NOTICE Name of LLC: Creighton Optical, LLC Date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the NY Dept of State: 01/21/2026 Office of LLC: Erie County, Principal office: 80 Southwest Parkway, Lancaster, NY 14086. The NY Secretary of State has been designated as the agent upon whom process may be served. Secretary of State of New York State shall mail process to Ashley Zakrzewski, 80 Southwest Parkway, Lancaster, NY 14086. Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose for LLCs under NY Limited Liability Company Act. No specific duration or dissolution date. 13

REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF ERIE M&T BANK, Plaintiff - against - JACK J. DROZDOWSKI, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on February 10, 2026. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in the Closing Room of the Erie County Clerk's Office, 92 Franklin Street, 1st Floor, Buffalo, New York on the 28th day of April, 2026 at 10:20 AM. All that tract or parcel of land, situate in the Town of Cheektowaga, County of Erie and State of New York. Premises known as 1340 Borden Road, Depew, NY 14043. (Section: 114.12, Block: 1, Lot: 3.1) Approximate amount of lien \$67,272.70 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 814185/2024.

Timothy M. O'Mara, Esq., Referee. McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 840 New York, NY 10170 Tel. 347/286-7409 For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832 Dated: March 2, 2026 During the COVID-19 health emergency, bidders are required to comply with all governmental health requirements in effect at the time of sale including but not limited to, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing (at least 6-feet apart) during the auction, while tendering deposit and at any subsequent closing. Bidders are also required to comply with the Foreclosure Auction Rules and COVID-19 Health Emergency Rules issued by the Supreme Court of this County in addition to the conditions set forth in the Terms of Sale . 16

36 SS LANCASTER, LLC filed Articles of Organization in New York on February 3, 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. 15

Notice of Formation of 3410 JAMES LLC, LLC Articles of Org. filed with the Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/07/2025. 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 468 NORTHAMPTON ST., BUFFALO, NY 14208. Any lawful purpose. 17



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GAMES

- Bong Joon Ho.
- Fermented soybean paste.
- Heathcliff and Catherine.
- Manila, Philippines.
- 1896 in Greece.
- Illinois.
- Arabian Peninsula.
- Ares.
- Richard Wagner.
- Carbon Copy (once used in typewriters).

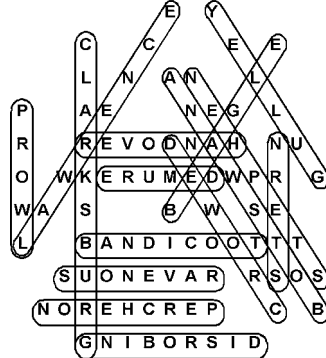
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Puzzle on page three.

WORDS WITH BIRDS



Puzzle on page three.

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

J	U	T	S	S	B	A	R	S	V	P	
E	C	H	O	P	E	C	O	P	I	E	
E	L	A	L	R	A	T	O	R	A	L	
P	A	N	A	M	A	S	I	M	I	L	E
C	A	W	N	I	N						
B	A	S	E	L	A	S	V	E	G	A	S
T	S	P	E	S	P	E	M	I			
S	H	R	E	D	D	E	R	O	S		
U	N	I	T	O	H	O					
S	U	C	C	O	R	C	A	L	M	E	R
A	R	I	A	A	R	K	I	A	G	O	
S	S	N	S	R	O	E	T	R	A	M	
S	A	G	E	E	D	T	H	A	L	E	

Puzzle on page three.

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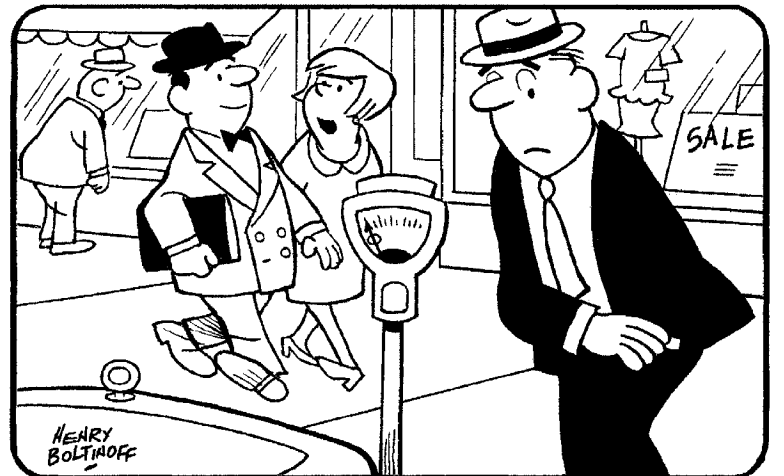
Winter Auto Floor Mats, Brand new Jeep Compass Floor Mats. \$50.00. Call 716-248-5344.

TO PLACE YOUR SALE NOTICE

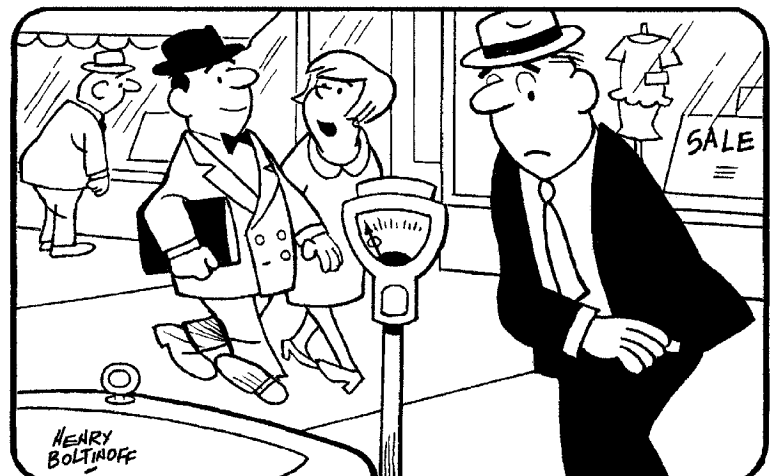
IN THE BUFFALO ROCKET CALL 632-0808

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: Nope. None. Nada. Bupkiss. Nuh uh. Try Again. Not this time. Hahaha.

GAMES

SCRAMBLERS

solution

- Parade;
- Manner
- Mental;
- Sacred

Today's Word

SEPARATE

Puzzle on page four.

Kids' Maze Solution



Puzzle on page two.

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