

THE BUFFALO NEWS

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Good morning, Buffalo: a quick look at what's happening today

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That soggy, dirty December landscape on Tuesday needed some snow. Now we've got just enough, thanks to the latest cold front. And we're not going to see much more for a while, the National Weather Service says, unless we happen to be in the traditional Snow Belt areas south of Buffalo, where as much as 4 more inches could fall today.

It's nice to look at, but it's cold. Temperatures today are supposed to top out in the mid 20s, but it won't even feel that warm, so figure on wearing your winter hat and gloves if you're going to downtown Buffalo to try to spot Keanu Reeves. There's a stiff west wind expected, with gusts up to 25 mph. Tonight's low should settle in the mid to upper teens.

Is there hope for anything better in the forecast? Not really. After all, this is December. Below-freezing temperatures are expected through the early part of next week. Our next chance of serious snow may come Sunday.

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Shooting a movie always seems to involve detouring traffic. In the case of "Henry's Crime," the Keanu Reeves film which is shooting today around Fountain Plaza and Lafayette Square, it's going to detour Metro Rail riders. No trains will run through Fountain Plaza from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., which means that all the uptown trains will stop at Church Street and all the downtown trains will stop at Fountain Plaza. Shuttle buses will be available to fill in the gap.

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Buffalo School Superintendent James A. Williams tells the Board of Education meeting at 5:30 p.m. about his recent trip to China and the student-sharing venture he and the Chinese talked about. The plan revolves around an immersion high school in Buffalo that would enroll half its students from Buffalo and half from China. In addition, Buffalo students would visit China for an academic year or for a summer, and teachers and principals from both countries would travel back and forth for leadership training. The big question: How do we pay for it?

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Now we've got another bridge project to mull over -- the Buffalo Harbor Bridge, which is supposed to connect the inner and outer harbors. Planners say it's a piece of a larger plan that includes last year's opening of Erie Canal Harbor, the planned Canal Side project and the Outer Harbor Parkway that will replace a three-mile stretch of

Fuhrmann Boulevard.

You can see the draft report in the Central Library; the state Department of Transportation, 100 Seneca St.; Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp., 95 Perry St.; or at www.buffaloharborbridge.com.

Can't attend? You have until Jan. 11 to send written comments to the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp., Attn: BHB Project, 95 Perry St., Suite 500, Buffalo, NY 14203.

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A State Senate hearing on the Interest on Lawyer Account Fund (IOLA) and the viability of future legal services for the poor will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Francis M. Letro Courtroom in O'Brian Hall on the University at Buffalo North Campus in Amherst.

Presiding will be Sens. Ruth Hassell-Thompson and John L. Sampson, both New York City area Democrats. The hearing is open to the public. The IOLA Fund, founded in 1983, pays lawyer fees for indigent people facing foreclosure, eviction, unemployment hearings, fair hearings or other legal actions. For details, visit www.iola.org.

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Today is the last day to ship something via UPS and get it there by Christmas without paying extra to speed up the delivery.

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Innovative Canadian flamenco guitarist Jesse Cook visits the Performing Arts Center in Rockwell Hall at Buffalo State College at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and \$35.

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It's a Classic Irish Christmas at 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Palace Theatre, 2 East Ave., Lockport. On stage are Andy Cooney, comedian George Casey, soprano Emma Kate Tobia and the Darrah Carr Dance Troupe. Tickets are \$20.

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The Sabres, having won four in a row, three of them by one goal, test their winning streak against the Ottawa Senators at 7:30 p.m. Watch on the MSG Channel. Listen on WGR 550 AM.

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Only Big Four school seeing basketball action tonight is Canisius. Both the men's and the women's squads play a doubleheader against Duquesne in Pittsburgh -- the women, who are on a five-game winning streak, at 5 p.m.; the men, who are 4-4 on the season, at 7:30. Jay Moran and Mike Scott will call both games on the Golden Griffin Broadcast Network, www.gogriffs.com. Video will be on www.goduquesne.com.

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Local author Bob Swiatek talks and signs copies of his 12th book, the essay collection "Mirror, Mirror, On My Car," in Talking Leaves Books, 3158 Main St.

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Father Marty Moleski, a Jesuit priest and theology professor at Canisius College, is featured in the latest installment of the Theology on Tap Series in Cole's, 1104 Elmwood Ave., at 7:30 p.m. His topic -- "Galileo: Rude,

Arrogant and Almost Entirely Wrong." Admission is free.

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