A real ‘force’

‘The Last Jedi’ reaction splits fans of the saga. Page 5
Spicey Pickle in Lewiston offers fast, healthy food

Michele DeLuca
Lunch with the Boss

(Reviewer’s Note: The following is an irregular series following the new Niagara Gazette/Lockport Journal publisher John Celestino as he discovers restaurants in the Niagara region, accompanied by Michele DeLuca, Gazette features editor.)

When new publisher John Celestino asked me to join him for lunch last month, I was not particularly excited about the place he suggested for our meal. He wanted to go to a burger restaurant I hadn’t yet been to. I wasn’t expecting to find anything too thrilling at the locally owned spot called Rock Burger inside Players tavern on Fourth and Niagara streets. I was wrong.

I was amazed at the delicious burgers we found there, many of them stuffed with oddities like Reeses Cups or cheesecake or spaghetti. Regardless of what they were stuffed with, the burgers were delicious and I was amazed that my new publisher, who has only lived in the region for a half-a-year or so, had introduced me to a spot I might never have otherwise visited.

That said, he and I are setting off on little series of dining adventures where I follow him as he discovers the restaurants in the region. This gives me new eyes to the community and I think might do the same for readers. So, here goes.

Last week, John and I visited one of his favorite stops for lunch and dinner since he moved to the Niagara region from New Jersey, the Spicey Pickle on Center Street in Lewiston. John’s family, including his wife and two twin daughters, have remained in New Jersey while he gets settled here, so he eats out a lot, including several times a week at the Pickle.

I hadn’t been there since the place opened four years ago, when I wrote a story about it, so I was happy to join him as he introduced me to one of his favorite spots to have a quick and delicious lunch or dinner. The Spicey Pickle is owned by Aaron Rotella, who with the help of his brother Sean, and has been going strong since he opened.

Aaron, a former golf pro at Niagara Frontier Country Club, prides himself on using fresh ingredients. “I feel if you start with good ingredients you get good results,” he told me.

John, who loves Mexican food, especially likes the chicken tortilla soup which we both ordered that day, with crumbled chips on top. I had brown rice added and found the soup to be hot and savory with just the right about of what Americans consider to be Mexican flavors. “I’ve got my little secrets here and there,” Aaron said about the spices, but admitted to adding taco chips to the soup to thicken it.

Aaron finds the experience of owning the little restaurant rewarding, especially when the customers come in and remark on how much they enjoy the food. While we were standing there talking, a customer walked in and noticed the special on the chalkboard, which was a Buffalo ‘Philly’ steak and cheddar taco and it came in three sizes, a small for $5, medium for $7 to a large for $10.

“Your specials are awesome,” Mike Arcara said when I asked him about the Spicey Pickle. “And they have amazing burritos.”

We were served by Lydia Stone, 21, a Niagara University student studying tourism management, who will be leaving her job at the Spicey Pickle soon to study in Rome, Paris and London. “I love working here,” she told us. “Everybody is super nice and I have a really awesome boss.

As John and I waited for our food, we chatted about current events. He said he loved the story I wrote about the three generations of family that runs the Como Restaurant.

That was nice to hear. But, he completely disagreed with my column published in the Gazette on that day about the new statue in the circle in downtown Niagara Falls. I loved the statue, which was designed to commemorate a partnership between the U.S. and Canada to look after the waters of the Great Lakes.

John made a special trip to look at the statue. Staring at the newly installed piece, John said he just didn’t get it. He’s not alone. Others have said the same about what I think looks like the bones of a ship. Regardless, I like it and I think an evolving city needs public art. John said it would have been a lot more interesting if it would have been a fountain. Maybe with a barrel suspended in the air. I had to admit, he was sort of right. Either way, the new statue would still make a cool fountain.

Later, we watched Aaron make a super giant taco called a “Nooch” named after one of Aaron’s old friends. We brought it back at the office along with some loaded nachos and both were much appreciated by our colleagues.

On the cover
Star Wars fans raise their lightsabers before the starts of “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” movie in Subang Jaya, Malaysia, Friday.

AP PHOTO/Sadiq Asyraf
Three good choices for your holiday movie enjoyment

‘Shape Of Water,’ ‘Downsizing,’ and ‘Darkest Hour’ deliver solid entertainment in different ways

By Michael Calleri
moviel columnist@gmail.com

Why do you go to the movies?
Most people go to be entertained. Legendary film critic Pauline Kael once said that all movies are entertainment, even serious dramas or informative documentaries. “What’s the opposite,” Kael asked, “punishment?”

This fact may surprise you. Christmas is one of the busiest days of the year for moviegoing. Not everybody is gathered around a brightly decorated tree, sipping hot cocoa, and opening presents. Many families see a film together, carefully selecting a movie they hope will please every adult and teenager in the group. It’s a little more difficult when young children are involved.

I don’t recommend these films for kids, but most of you should appreciate either “The Shape Of Water,” “Downsizing,” or “Darkest Hour.”

“The Shape Of Water” finds its creative impetus in a popular 1954 monster movie titled “Creature From The Black Lagoon.” It’s not a sequel or a remake, but rather something more remarkable.

“The Shape Of Water” takes the 1950s idea of a South American jungle creature, half-man, half-fish, who is fascinated by a beautiful woman, and elevates it beyond anything you might imagine.

Directors Guillermo del Toro and his co-screenwriter Vanessa Taylor have made one of the finest films of this or any other year, and a possible Oscar winner for best motion picture. I have now seen “The Shape Of Water” three times.

A month ago, in preparation for voting for the Broadcast Film Critics Association’s Critics Choice Awards, I watched my Academy Screener (a special DVD) of del Toro’s exhilarating work. I am a dues-paying member of the BFCA. I rewatched it a few days later.

I recently saw it in a theater at my press screening, and I fell in love with it anew. It’s the reason movies were created.

“The Shape Of Water” has earned 14 BFCA nominations, including for best picture, and its Critics Choice Awards will air live from Los Angeles on the CW channel on Thursday, January 11.

In the early 1960s, in a military laboratory complex in Baltimore, members of the night cleaning crew, including Sally Hawkins as Elisa and Octavia Spencer as Zelda, learn about the impending government-sanctioned killing of a mysterious aquatic creature with human features. There are also Cold War-era Soviets eager for a chance to manipulate the goings-on.

Both actresses are superb, but the magnificent Hawkins is especially wondrous as a lonely woman who can hear but cannot speak. Elisa lives in an apartment above a movie theater, a place where reality meets fantasy. She becomes sympathetic to the plight of the amphibian, who is physically abused by his captor (a malevolent human monster, well-played by Michael Shannon).

As she gently befriends the creature, an unexpected feeling of love overwhelms her. She romanticizes his existence and is determined to help him escape from the murderous plot.

Elisa’s enlists her artist friend Giles, who loves old movies (a brilliant Richard Jenkins in an Oscar-worthy turn), to help her. He becomes equally fascinated by the creature.

There are many moments in “The Shape Of Water” that offer wonderful surprises. The film is bold, heartfelt, beautifully photographed (by Dan Lausten), and embellished with a flawless musical score by Alexandre Desplat.

Del Toro has made an exciting and stunning romance, the likes of which we rarely see. It’s filled with a keen understanding of the role motion pictures play in our lives. The director genuinely appreciates small details, which he adds to enlarge the importance of his visually magnificent movie. He and Taylor have created engaging characters that fill out the vibrant story in grand ways.

Hawkins should win the best actress Academy Award for her silent performance. Look for Jenkins and Spencer to be in the running in their supporting Oscar categories. Del Toro will be nominated.

As the thrills build, “The Shape Of Water” delivers heartbreaking jolts you didn’t expect. Don’t miss it.

DOWNSIZING: Norwegian scientists have perfected the ability to shrink people to about five inches, which bodes well for the environment and an ever more-crowded world. In the United States, this concept is taken to its ultimate degree when an entire community is built in New Mexico where newly-zapped folks, now tiny, can live a deluxe life as long as they stay within the wall.

“Downsizing” is a delightful whimsical fantasy directed by Alexander Payne and written by Payne and Jim Taylor. We follow our Everyman, played with his usual friendly and relatable manner by Matt Damon, as he has himself shrunk, but discovers, as in all good morality plays, that rainbows don’t offer pots of gold. He meets an immigrant woman (Hong Chau), who opens his eyes to societal abuses. Christoph Waltz plays a guy who can get you anything. I thoroughly enjoyed the movie and highly recommend it.

Darkest Hour: Winston Churchill’s actions need no introduction, and we again visit this legendary man as he faces epic decisions as the darkness of World War II overwhelms the world. As Churchill, Gary Oldman has a best actor Oscar nomination in his sights. During the period of the Dunkirk evacuation, Britain’s prime minister relies on his beloved wife Clementine (Kristin Scott Thomas) for support and assistance with ideas. Director Joe Wright and screenwriter Anthony McCarten use the indoors as a canvas for telling their story. You go especially for Oldman. He’s that good.

Michael Calleri reviews films for Night & Day. Contact him at moviel columnist@gmail.com.
Fans need to look beyond Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
If it’s music to your ears, don’t worry about record industry choices

By Thom Jennings
ngedit@niagara-gazette.com

Last week the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame announced its latest class of inductees, launching the inevitable backlash from music snobs on social media — much of it led by music writers and fans of bands that they consider are more deserving of the honor.

Atop the list, an easy target in these parts, Bon Jovi. Ever since the group’s namesake reportedly led an unsuccessful attempt to purchase the Buffalo Bills, he has been persona non-grata. I’ve never been a big Bon Jovi fan, but my wife exposed me to his music because she is a huge fan. As a birthday gift I took her to a Bon Jovi show in Toronto when Richie Sambora was still with the band. It lived up to her expectations and then some.

Since I cover the music scene, people like to throw the term “critic” at me. I am quick to correct them and use the term “reviewer,” for many reasons, not the least of which was how offended I was at a scathing write-up of Styx in a nationally respected newspaper when I was an adolescent. I just didn’t understand how someone could try and invalidate my feelings toward a beloved band.

A person’s taste in music is personal, and often driven by several factors. The term “soundtrack of my life” may sound trite, but almost everyone has a song that can evoke a powerful emotion. Bing Crosby’s rendition of “White Christmas” is the best selling single of all-time, and yet it is not considered the best song of all-time by everyone. It is a song that evokes emotion and likely brings back fond memories of Christmases past for many people.

It leads me back to the discussion of who is “worthy” for induction in the Rock Hall. The thing that people seem to forget is that individuals drive the induction process. Whether or not they are former inductees or industry professionals, they are still humans with their own subjective taste in music, their own soundtracks and their own construct as to what it means to be an “influential” artist.

Change the voting body, and you will change the makeup of the Rock Hall.

I like to think my taste in music is eclectic, but the reality is that with all endless combinations of playlists and genres, everyone has the ability to put together a unique mix of music. That’s not meant to downplay the honor of being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. If it was not somewhat of a big deal, nobody would truly care if their band was in or not.

Many artists also understand that even if they don’t see it as a personal honor, they know what it means to their fans. It is the ultimate validation.

As for artists that are “snubbed” by the hall, my opinion is driven by two vastly different experiences, one at a Sugarland concert and the other when I went to see Drake and Future.

In addition to Bon Jovi, my wife was a fan of the country duo Sugarland, possibly in part because of Sugarland lead singer Jennifer Nettles popular duet with Jon Bon Jovi, “Who Says You Can’t Go Home.” My wife dragged me to one of their concerts and I was immediately in love with the band even though I thought I was too cool to like a band named “Sugarland.”

I had a very different experience at a Drake and Future concert, I hated the music, every minute of it. Nevertheless, I couldn’t help but notice how much everyone enjoyed themselves at the show. Who was I to say the music stunk?

If there is a point to this story, it’s to never feel bad about a musician that you like, or even dislike. The thing I love most about music is its ability to bring people from all levels of society together. Love it or hate it, Bon Jovi and all the Rock Hall inductees have loyal fan bases that should feel honored, not criticized.

Thom Jennings covers the local music scene for Night and Day.
‘The Last Jedi’ is a hit but how much did audiences like it?
Is latest Star Wars film more “Attack of the Clones” than “The Empire Strikes Back”? 

By Jake Coyle

NEW YORK — With glowing reviews from critics and $450.8 million of worldwide box office in the first three days of release of “The Last Jedi,” all would seem to be right in the “Star Wars” universe. But some audience reactions metrics suggest not all Star Wars fans are as thrilled as Rian Johnson’s eighth episode in the franchise. While “The Last Jedi” sports a sterling 93 percent fresh Rotten Tomatoes score, the website’s users give it only a 56 percent score. A similar dichotomy is also found on the movie review aggregation website Metacritic, where the movie has a score of 86 out of 100 from critics but earned a woeful 4.9 out of 10 from users.

The role reversal between critics and fans has caused consternation throughout the Star Wars galaxy. Could “The Last Jedi” be a critical smash and a dud with audiences? Is “The Last Jedi” more “Attack of the Clones” than “The Empire Strikes Back”? What in the name of mid-chlorians is going on here?

For starters, the responses on Rotten Tomatoes and Metacritic are to be taken with a Death Star-sized grain of salt. They’re supplied by users to the website who can, by creating numerous accounts, vote limitless times, and need offer no proof of having actually seen the movie. Some believe a nefarious plot is at play, a theory backed up by the boasts of a few on social media. Similar ploys, after all, were used against the female-led “Ghostbusters.”

But why would anyone want to sabotage “The Last Jedi”? Well, there have been growing signs of rebellion against the galaxy far, far away. Some conservative moviegoers have taken issue with the current trilogy’s embrace of multiculturalism. Claiming an anti-Donald Trump agenda, some called for a boycott of last year’s spinoff “Rogue One.” Writer Chris Weitz noted the Empire “is a white supremacist (human) organization.”

Politics have always played a role in “Star Wars.” George Lucas has said he wrote it as a Nixon-era parable for the Vietnam War, about how democracies turn into dictatorships. But in carrying those themes forward to today, “The Last Jedi” has — like virtually everything else — been fed into America’s combustible politics. Even Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) has volleyed with Texas Senator Ted Cruz on Twitter over net neutrality.

“Similar to other movie sites, we’re currently experiencing a high volume of fan activity around ‘Star Wars: The Last Jedi,’” said Rotten Tomatoes spokesman Tyson Reynolds. “We’re closely monitoring all user review activity to make sure it’s valid.”

But their low ratings don’t jive with other, more scientific data. Like “The Force Awakens,” “The Last Jedi” won an A Cinemascore, which polls audiences coming out of theaters. Cinemascore counted feedback as 89 percent positive. ComScore's PostTrak audience survey recorded an average five-out-five star rating from moviegoers, with 80 percent saying they would definitely recommend the film.

And then there’s the mammoth box office. With $220 million in domestic ticket sales, “The Last Jedi” now ranks as the second highest grossing opening weekend of all time, after J.J. Abrams’ “The Force Awakens.” Disney’s distribution chief Dave Hollis estimates “The Last Jedi” will have legs through the holiday season similar or close to those of “The Force Awakens,” which ultimately grossed more than $2 billion worldwide. “The Last Jedi” is likely to eventually rank among the highest grossing films of all time, but it will depend on strong word-of-mouth and repeat viewings to sniff the realm of “The Force Awakens” or “Titanic.”

Yet regardless of any user scores, “The Last Jedi” has proved to be easily the most divisive “Star Wars” film. (Lucas’ second trilogy was too universally panned to be much argued over.)

Even many fans who generally applauded the film have taken issue with its comic flashes, a Princess Leia moment roundly compared to Mary Poppins, and of the film’s treatment of Hamill’s Skywalker. (Cantankerous and ornery, he spends most of the film on an isolated island.) And by shifting the parameters for how the Force works, some have said “The Last Jedi” is, as Variety claimed, “making stuff up as it goes along.”

For its part, Disney has sensed the tremors of backlash. “Rian Johnson, the cast, Lucasfilm, they’ve delivered an experience that is totally ‘Star Wars’ but at the same time is filled with things that are unexpected and new,” said Hollis. “And in that unexpected and new, it’s going to have people really talking.”

Even the cast of “The Last Jedi” acknowledged they were surprised by the direction mapped out by Johnson, who wrote and directed. “What Rian came up with, I was stunned,” Hamill told The Associated Press earlier this year. Said Daisy Ridley of first reading the script: “I was going, ‘Uh, I’m not sure about this. It just took us all a second to be like, ‘OK, this is where the story is heading.’”

But Johnson made “The Last Jedi” disruptive by design. “Having been a Star Wars fan myself for the past 40 years, I know intimately how passionate they are about it and how everyone has stuff they love and hate in every single movie,” said Johnson. “That takes the pressure off a little bit just thinking, ‘OK, there’s going to be stuff that everyone likes, there’s going to be stuff that people don’t like and it’s going to be a mixture.’”

The image released by Lucasfilm shows Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker in “Star Wars: The Last Jedi.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Associated Press

By Thom Jennings

— NIGHT & DAY, Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017

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**LISTINGS**

**NIGHT LIFE**

Niagara County

**THE BAKERY LOUNGE**: 3004 Niagara St., Niagara Falls (282-9498). Happy hours, 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

**BUFFALO WING JOINT**: 6560 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls.

**BROADWAY HOTEL**: 158 Main St., North Tonawanda (692-9810).

**THE COMO**: 2220 Pine Ave., Niagara Falls (285-9341).

**CRAZY JAKE’S**: 26 Webster St., North Tonawanda (693-9309). All shows at 9 p.m. Supercharger, Friday.

**DAVE’S LAST CHANCE**: 2620 Hyde Ave., North Tonawanda (694-6968).

**DELI**: 76 Pearl St., Buffalo (625-4422).

**FOLEY’S PUB**: 8752 Buffalo Road, Niagara Falls (285-9463). Music starts at 4 p.m. Sundays.

**FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES**: 7269 Ward Road, Niagara Falls (282-9498).

**THE GRIFF**

**THE HARBOR**: 707 Main St., Tonawanda (692-4837).

**THE MASTERS**: 3517 Main St., Lockport (433-4222).

**THE MILLERS**: 2220 Hyde Ave., Niagara Falls (693-2225). 55 Main St., Niagara Falls (283-9959).

**THE NINE**: 384 Webster St., Buffalo (778-9113).

**THE VAULT**: 8676 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls. White Chocolate 7 p.m. Friday. Seventh Sign 10 p.m. Saturday. Soul Committee 7 p.m.

**THE WING DINER**: 2600 Main St., Niagara Falls (692-9675).

**THE VILLAGE INN**: 405 Main St., Niagara Falls (283-9908).

**THE VIOLIN ROOM**: 205-8925.

**THE WAGON WHEEL**: 7201 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls (283-9861). Thursday Night Jams Open Mic Night with Chuck DeRosa, 8:30 p.m. tonight.

**WINING & DIVING**

**DANCE CLUBS**

**ECHO CLUB**: 341 Portage Road, Niagara Falls (282-3246).

**LEGENDS BAR & GRILL**: Quality Inn, 240 First St., Niagara Falls. DJ Danny D Karaoke, 9 p.m. today.

**LOCK 34**: 80 Main St., Lockport (433-4222).

**POOR BOYS**: Route 104 and Johnson Creek roads, Hartland (735-7236).

**TGI FRIDAYS**: 300 Third St., Niagara Falls. Margarita Mondays: Half-price margaritas all day long; On-Tap Tuesday: Buy One Draft Beer, Get One Free; Wine Wednesdays: Half-price bottles of wine all day; Thursday – Ladies Night, exclusive drink specials for ladies from 5-9 p.m.; Friday – TGI Happy Hour from noon to 7 p.m. including $3 domestic drafts and house wine; Saturday – College Game Day: $15 domestic beer buckets and 50-cent wings during all college football games; Sunday – NFL Game Day: $15 domestic beer buckets and 50-cent wings during NFL games. BOGO specials during halftime. Wear an NFL jersey and receive $2 domestic drafts.

**SPORTS BAR & GRILL**

**JOE’S SPORTS GRILL & BAR**: 223 Ferry Ave., Niagara Falls. Karaoke Monday, 2 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 p.m.; Thursday, 10 p.m.; Friday, 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 p.m.; Sunday, 9 p.m.

**LUNCH DINE & DANCE**


**SANTA’S RESTAURANT & CATERING**: 6560 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls.


**SENECA ALLEGANY CASINO RIVER BAR**: 777 Seneca Allegany Blvd., Salamanca.

**STAMPS THE BAR**: 98 Main St., Tonawanda. The Hip Hop Toy Drive, a donation drive for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County, 6 p.m. today. The Lady, the Tiger?, Irregardless, Tiger the Lion, Chris Squier, & DonnieO 6 p.m. Friday.

**SPICE HARBOUR**

**MUSIC LESSONS**

The Lockport Music Center

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**Niagara County**

**CRAFT KITCHEN & BAR**: 223 Ferry Ave., Niagara Falls. Karaoke Wednesday and Friday 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.

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See Listings, Page 7

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Grimm 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. Dec. 31.

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BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE: 1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo (896-5200). Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

NORTH TONAWANDA HISTORY MUSEUM: 54-60 Webster St., North Tonawanda (213-0554). Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Admission is $5, $3 for senior citizens and veterans, and free for active duty military. Group rates available. For more information, visit www.nnhistorymuseum.org.

ERIE CANAL DISCOVERY CENTER: 24 Church St., Lockport (439-0431). Admission is $6 for adults; free for children under 18. Group tours available. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays.

EXPLORE & MORE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM: 300 Gleed Ave., East Aurora (655-5131). Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. On the first Friday of the month, hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is $5 per person. Visit www.exploreandmore.org.

NIAGARA AEROSPACE MUSEUM: Niagara Falls International Airport, 2035 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls (298-9307). Operating hours will 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays though Sundays. Group tours and special events will be available by appointment. For more information, call 298-9307 or visit wnyspace.org or the museum’s Facebook page.

NIGHT LIFE

CRAZY JAKE’S: 2220 Main St., North Tonawanda (692-4837). 65 Webster St., North Tonawanda (693-2225). 55 Third St., Niagara Falls (524-3964). Live music Friday from 4 until 6 p.m. Sundays. Open mike night, 8-11 p.m.

SIDE PUB: Wednesday.

OF EAGLES: 707 Main St., North Tonawanda (695-3504). Lunch Buffet, 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. “Party With Monte” 7 p.m. today. Also, Juxtapose Band, Dec. 31.

THE VAULT: Soliday’s Bar and Grill, 7800 Millersport Highway, Williamsville. All shows start at 9:30 p.m., $15 domestic beer buckets and drafts and house wine; Sat - Sun. Happy Hour.

THE TRALF: 2665 Transit Road, Depew. All WNY News & Radio’s Big Sisters of Erie County, Lewiston (286-8200). Shows start at 9:30 p.m., $15 domestic beer buckets and Late Night is Sunday and Friday 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.$15 domestic beer buckets and 50-cent wings during All Day and Night is Sunday and Friday – College Game Day: $15 domestic beer buckets and Late Night is Sunday and Friday 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. One Draft Beer, Get One and Friday 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. $15 domestic beer buckets and Late Night is Sunday and Friday 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.

WINE ON THIRD: 4723 Transit Road, Depew. All WNY News & Radio’s Big Sisters of Erie County, Lewiston (286-8200). Cannon Busters, 8:30 p.m. Today, also Juxtapose Band, Dec. 31.

GFY BAR & GRILL: 1402 78th St., Buffalo. Speedy Parker with Chuck DeRosa, 8:30 p.m. Today. Also, Juxtapose Band, Dec. 31.

BRAWLER’S BACK ALLEY: 7800 Brown Road, Barker. This restored 1920s Erie railroad freight house features railroad artifacts and memorabilia from Niagara Frontier railroads. The collection also includes railroad timetables, uniforms and tools.

SANBORN-LEWISTON FARM MUSEUM: 2660 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn (731-5982). Open 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays. Free or donation. Also open by appointment. Farm Museum and barn exhibits. No charge.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE: 641 Delaware Ave., Buffalo (884-0095). For more information, call 884-0095 or visit www.TRSite.org.

THIRTY MILE POINT LIGHTHOUSE: Golden Hill State Park, 9691 Lower Lake Road, Barker (795-3885). Admission is $1 for adults, 50 cents for children 5 to 12 and free for children younger than 5.

TOWN OF PORTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Second floor, Youngstown Civic Center, Lockport Street, Youngstown. Call 745-1271 for details.

VAN HORN MANSION MUSEUM AND THE NEW FANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: 2165 Lockport-Olcott Road, Newfane (778-7197). Open Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. (excluding holidays). For more information, call 778-7197.

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM: 645 Lake St., Wilson (751-9883). Hours: 2 to 4 p.m. first and third Sundays of each month or by appointment.

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AT THE MOVIES

For information on showtimes:
- FOUR SEASONS: Visit www.fourseasonscinema.com or call 297-1951
- REGAL STADIUM 12: Visit www.regmovies.com/theaters/regal-niagarafalls-stadium-12 or call (844) 462-7342 ext. 276
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