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THE BUFFALO NEWS SUNDAY



Series win another notch in Sabres' magic season

Beating the Bruins is just the first step toward the Stanley Cup. | Page D2

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BUFFALO NEXT: BUSINESS OF SPORTS

Focus is on stadium as arena lease talks stay on back burner

Still plenty of time to negotiate deal for KeyBank Center

The Buffalo Sabres are making their first playoff run in 14 seasons. The Buffalo Bills are focused on getting their new stadium ready this summer for the start of the 2026 NFL season.

Next up: A new lease for the Buffalo Sabres at KeyBank Center.

But that will have to wait. The current lease has four more seasons to run, so there's still plenty of time to negotiate a long-term lease at KeyBank Center that will likely include millions in public funding for the Sabres to make significant and needed renovations around their three-decade-old arena.

That doesn't mean preliminary discussions are not continuing behind the scenes. And there's a shared realization of just how important the Sabres and their arena are to the success of downtown.

Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz said he's in communication with Pete Guelli, the president of business operations for the Bills and Sabres, but actual arena lease negotiations between the two have not been stepped up or advanced in recent months.

Guelli and Bills and Sabres owner Terry Pegula have other, more pressing deadlines to clear before then.

Despite all the momentum the Sabres have created this season, more serious talks aren't likely to happen until after the over \$2 billion football stadium is completed.

That's no surprise. Guelli and Poloncarz have intimated

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MIKE PETRO

Ruling on mandatory detention is likely to affect ICE cases here

PATRICK LAKAMP
News Enterprise Editor

A federal appellate court in Manhattan last week chipped away at the Trump administration's policy of holding immigrant detainees without chance for a bond, with a ruling that carries implications in Buffalo, where two federal judges lined up on opposite sides of the policy.

For some detainees, the ruling

means their chances of gaining release from the federal detention center in Batavia no longer depends on which judge handles their habeas corpus petitions.

Decisions from the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals set binding precedent for federal judges in New York, Vermont and Connecticut.

But the complex web of federal laws and regulations governing

immigration as well as the narrowly tailored facts in the case reviewed by the 2nd Circuit likely limits the reach of the ruling.

The appellate ruling affirms what three of four federal judges in Buffalo and Rochester were already doing – requiring immigration authorities in most cases to hold a hearing to gauge flight risk

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ANALYSIS

How Iran standoff could leave Trump in a worse position

MATT SPETALNICK
Reuters

WASHINGTON – More than two months into a conflict that has failed to deliver a decisive military or diplomatic win, President Trump faces the risk that a standoff with Iran will drag on indefinitely and leave an even bigger problem for the U.S. and the world than before he launched the war.

With both sides outwardly confident they hold the upper hand and their positions far apart, there is no obvious off-ramp in sight, even as Iran submitted a fresh proposal to restart negotiations. Trump

quickly rejected it on Friday. For the U.S. president and his Republican Party, the implications of a continued impasse are grim.

An unresolved conflict would likely mean the global economic fallout, including high U.S. gasoline prices, will persist, putting further pressure on Trump, whose poll numbers are falling, and darkening Republican

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- **INSIDE:** Iran pitches new proposal. **Page A8**
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DEREK GEE, BUFFALO NEWS

Rob Ebersole, owner of Scary Good Sportfishing in Angola, prepares his boats on the opening day of walleye season Friday. Ebersole says he's worried about new restrictions on consumption of fish caught in Lake Erie.

New guidelines worry those who fish in lake

Health officials say consumers should eat far less walleye, perch

MACKENZIE SHUMAN
News Staff Reporter

Walleye fishing season began on Friday with a note of caution from public health officials: If you're catching walleye or yellow perch in Lake Erie, eat less. Far less.

Pollution in Lake Erie from so-called forever chemicals has made eating the lake's plentiful supply of walleye and perch more dangerous, health officials said, in new guidance released this spring ahead of the fishing season.

Anglers are taking notice and weighing the risks.

"I'm definitely worried about it," said Rob Ebersole, the owner of Scary Good Sportfishing, which takes charter customers out onto the lake to fish for walleye and perch.

New data showing increased levels of "forever chemicals" in fish have led to the new, more restrictive guidelines. People should only eat one serving per month of walleye or yellow perch from Lake Erie – an amount about equal to a single, 8-ounce fillet, according to the advisories issued by the New York State

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