



EATING LOCAL

Tips and resources for the second week of local eating challenge.

FOOD, 8C

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Page designer: Jocelyn Delmar

Magic with needle, thread

The Castellani Art Museum at Niagara University currently has a fantastic exhibit on Irish lace-making up through Dec. 2. I made my very first visit to the museum a few weekends ago to check out the beautifully intricate, handmade items first-hand and boy, was it an education.

A couple dozen pieces are on display in the gallery, from the teeny tiny stitches of Carrickmacross lace made with needles to heavier pieces called Irish crochet made with small hooks and thicker thread. Even pieces in progress and items made of black lace are on hand. I learned a little something from this exhibit. Actually, I learned a lot. I had no idea there was more than one kind of Irish lace. There are a handful of styles and they vary based on where the lace was created in Ireland. Youghal lace, for



DANIELLE Haynes

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AREA FESTIVALS

Niagara County Peach Festival

Noon to 10 p.m. today, Academy Park, Center Street, Lewiston. For more information, visit www.lewistonkiwanis.org.

Ukrainian Festival

Noon to 7 p.m. today, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, 3275 Elmwood Ave., Kenmore. For more information, call 873-5011.

Egyptian Festival

Today, St. Mary & St. Moses Coptic Orthodox Church, 350 Wheatfield St., North Tonawanda.

Grandparents Day

Noon to 4 p.m. today, Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum, 180 Thompson St., North Tonawanda. For more information, call 693-1885 or visit www.carrouselmuseum.org.

Chocolate & Wine Festival

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Gateway Harbor Park, Sweeney and Webster streets, North Tonawanda.

Music is Art Festival

Saturday, Delaware Park by Marcy Casino. For ore information, visit www.musicisart.org or call 880-3377.

Quaker Arts Festival

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 16, Orchard Park Middle School campus, 60 Lincoln Ave., Orchard Park. For more information, visit www.opjaycees.com.



DOUG BENZ/NEWS

IN FORM: The Lake Effect Furies practice at Rainbow Rink in North Tonawanda. The Furies are the Queen City Roller Girls' WFTDA-sanctioned all-star travel team.

ROLLER DERBY 101

A look at the fast-growing sport as playoff tournament hits WNY

BY JILL KEPPELER
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Roller derby teams from throughout the country will roll into Niagara Falls next Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the Women's Flat Track Derby Association North Central Region playoffs, an event that will eventually crown a regional winner (and runners-up) to head off to the national championships in November.

But what is roller derby, really? Is it anything like the fairly ... theatrical ... derby from the 1960s and '70s? What's up with the funny names? And what the heck is a jammer, anyway?

In honor of the regional playoff event, here's a primer on all things derby, from Alley Kats to WFTDA.

What is roller derby?

According to the Women's Flat Track Derby Association, modern roller derby evolved in 2001, although the term "roller derby" dates to the 1920s. It was originally used to describe roller-skate races, but in the late 1930s began to refer to a more physical competition involving two teams of skaters, the basics of which endure today. The sport began to be televised in the

ROLLER DERBY LEXICON

- **BLOCKER:** A derby position that includes offense and defense, keeping the opposing team's jammer from scoring while assisting their team's jammer. There are three blockers on the track during a jam.
- **BOUT:** A roller-derby match between two teams. Regulation Women's Flat Track Derby Association bouts have two 30-minute periods with a halftime break.
- **GRAND SLAM:** When a jammer passes all blockers and laps the opposing jammer.
- **JAM:** A two-minute playing segment during a derby bout.
- **JAMMER:** The derby position responsible for scoring points. After the first lap, jammers earn one point for every opposing blocker they pass legally. Jammers wear a helmet cover with a star on it.
- **PACK:** The group of both teams' blockers and pivot blockers on the track.

- **PIVOT:** The pivot blocker serves as the leader of her teammates during that jam. The pivot can also switch into the jammer position.
- **QCRG:** Queen City Roller Girls, Western New York's WFTDA-sanctioned roller derby league. The league has four home teams, the Alley Kats, Devil Dollies, Nickel City Knockouts and the Suicidal Saucies, an all-star team, the Lake Effect Furies, and the Ice Ice Babies junior league.
- **SUICIDE SEATS:** The closest seats to the track. These seats often cost more and come with a minimum age restriction due to the possibility of a skater landing among the fans.
- **WFTDA:** Women's Flat Track Derby Association, the international governing body for the sport of women's flat track roller derby. The WFTDA currently has 156 full member leagues and 91 apprentice leagues throughout the world.

— Courtesy of the Queen City Roller Girls and the Women's Flat Track Derby Association

1940s, but the version most often remembered dates from the early 1960s to the 1980s, with trademark theatrics and sometimes scripted storylines.

According to the WFTDA, mod-

ern flat-track derby got its start with one league in Austin, Texas. By 2012, there were 1,100 leagues worldwide ... and counting.

Queen City Roller Girls public relations chairperson Kathy Lis-

borg, otherwise known as skater "Vile Love It," said derby is one of the few team contact sports that exist for women.

"It's a seriously athletic sport," she said. "It takes a tremendous amount of training, endurance, strength, as well as the strategy of the sport."

"It's an incredibly mental game, very strategic ... and it's a lot of fun."

Western New York's local derby league is the Queen City Roller Girls, which was started in 2006 by skaters Sissy Fit and Flotrious and became a full member of the WFTDA in 2010. The league has four home teams (Alley Kats, Devil Dollies, Nickel City Knockouts and the Suicidal Saucies), which skate against each other for the Queen City Cup during the regular season; a WFTDA-sanctioned all-star team, the Lake Effect Furies, which plays against other teams in the Eastern region; and the Queen's Court, composed of players that have not yet been drafted to the other teams.

Earlier this year, the league also started a junior league called the Ice Ice Babies, for girls age 8 to 17. All the teams skate at the Rainbow Rink in North Tonawanda.

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Music is Art celebrates tenth anniversary

BY MIA SUMMERSON
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From a small gathering in an Allentown parking lot to one of the largest all-local arts and music festivals in the country, Music is Art has come a long way in 10 years.

The festival makes all types of music and art available to the people of Buffalo and its surrounding communities by donating tens of thousands of dollars worth of instruments to local schools, creating music education programs and exposing local artists.

Goo Goo Dolls bassist Robby Takac founded the organization after an impromptu show in 2002 during the Allentown Art Festival. Takac says his friends got together and

decided to have a party in the parking lot of his old recording studio.

"The festival itself has obviously gotten much bigger and (many) more people know about it," He said. "I think the thing that blows my mind the most is all the things that came off of this over the years. The instrument drives, the Music in Action program, the Music is Art summer camp we just ran, the Battle of the Bands and so many other things that have come about as we move forward with this."

"So to me I think that's the most mind-blowing thing, everything that spiraled off this one party that we had ten years ago."

This year there will be more than 100 bands and

300 dancers performing on 12 stages throughout the festival grounds behind the Albright Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo. There will be more than 70 artists and 12 "art installations" or live artists. Music is Art director Sarah Ruszczyk said last year around 23,000 people attended.

"With the amount it grows each year, I would say we could have close to 30,000 people," She said. "We also have a much bigger space this year than in prior years. This year (Lincoln Parkway) is going to be closed from Rumsey Road to Iroquois Drive."

"There are going to be three stages right at the bottom of the Albright Knox steps by the fountain,

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BODY ART: Two dancers perform at last year's Music is Art festival. The festival takes place Saturday behind the Albright Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo.