

December 31, 2018

*Photo Caption: Fred G. Monster, a unique special shape balloon, will participate in the 2019 Hudson Hot Air Affair on behalf of Family Fresh Markets of Hudson, New Richmond, and River Falls.*

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### **Countdown to Hudson Hot Air Affair**

The 2019 Hudson Hot Air Affair, Hudson's annual winter festival and hot air balloon rally, is set for February 1-3. Sponsored by WESTconsin Credit Union, the Hot Air Affair is celebrating 30 years with a "Pirates Fly'n the Croix-ribbean" theme. Several countdown events are planned in January to lead up to this pirate themed winter festival.

On Friday, January 11, 6:30-9:30 p.m. there is a kick off fundraiser meat raffle at Big Guys BBQ Roadhouse. Proceeds will support bringing the Peg Leg Pete the Pirate Parrot hot air balloon to Hudson.

There are two events on Saturday, January 12. County Market will host a countdown event from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to celebrate the Pirates Fly'n the Croix-ribbean theme. See the hot air balloon basket. And kids can pick up coloring sheets of balloons.

The YMCA Camp St. Croix will hold a candlelight hike and ski at the Day Croix on the 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. This free event is sponsored by PCK Foundation. Candle-lit trails for cross-country skiing and hiking along with trail side fires for quick warm ups and complimentary refreshments will be provided by Art Doyle's Spokes & Pedals.

Another fundraiser is set for Monday, January 14 at the Hudson Jimmy John's. Join us from 4-8 p.m. and help support the Hot Air Affair.

On Saturday, January 19, Dicks Bar and Grill will host its annual breakfast crafts for kids from 9-11 a.m. Come have breakfast, see a hot air balloon basket and celebrate the 2019 Hot Air Affair with this free art event for the kids.

If you are interested in learning how to crew for a hot air balloon (set up, launch, deflate and pack up), there is a Crew School at E.P. Rock Elementary School on January 19 from 1-3 p.m. The class will be presented by Stillwater Balloon and is open to adults and teenagers. The cost is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Pre-register by January 16 at Hudson Community Education.

On Saturday, January 26, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Family Fresh will host a Fun at the Fair Event. Learn about the St. Croix County Fair and 4-H projects and activities. Food sampling and register to win prizes, including a balloon ride in the Family Fresh hot air balloon during HAA 2019. A Pirate Treasure Hunt will kick off at 10 a.m. with the first clue presented at Family Fresh Market; clues will also be on Hot Air Affair Facebook every day. The hunt winner wins a \$100 gift certificate prize from Family Fresh Market.

The Phipps Center for the Arts will host a family day activity on Saturday, January 26, from 1-3 p.m. At this free event adults and children of all ages can create neotropical migratory bird costumes to wear in the quirky and fun “Pirates Fly’n the Croix-ribbean” Torchlight Parade on February 1. Co-sponsored by Tropical Wings, a non-profit that promotes awareness of birds and supports habitat conservation. No registration required.

The annual Taste of Hot Air Affair: Pirates Fly’n the Croix-ribbean Edition is set for Saturday, January 26, from 7-10:30 p.m. at the Hudson House Grand Hotel. This event is sponsored by BMO Harris Bank-Hudson and Keller Williams Realty Integrity WI/MN-Herg Group-Mary Yacoub. Enjoy spirits, wine and beer tastings, along with appetizers, decadent chocolates and artisan cheeses. Live music by Boondoggle, a silent auction, and wine pull. Proceeds from this event will be donated to American Cancer Society.

Grand Fête will offer a Caribbean Cooking class on Sunday, January 27, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Some of the most exciting and flavorful dishes come from the Caribbean. Explore this amazing cuisine and transport your taste buds to the tropics. Register online at [grandfeteshop.com](http://grandfeteshop.com) or in person.

On Tuesday, January 29, at 6 p.m. there is a Hot Air Affair Canvas Party Painting Class with Audrey Martin at Urban Olive & Vine, featuring the “Pirates Fly’n the Croix-ribbean” theme. The cost is \$45 for class and supplies with additional cost for food and beverages. Attendees must pre-register at [birchbarkcreations@hotmail.com](mailto:birchbarkcreations@hotmail.com).

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Hudson Hot Air Affair is coordinated entirely by volunteers. For complete schedule details, visit [www.hudsonhotairaffair.com](http://www.hudsonhotairaffair.com) or visit Facebook for the latest details.

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