

January 5, 2026

NEWS: Hudson Hot Air Affair - For Immediate Release

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We are sharing a series of press releases leading up to the Hudson Hot Air Affair on Feb. 6-8, 2026. Each press release will highlight a different aspect of this popular winter event.

Attachments: text file and photo file (jpg)

Photo Caption: Things are warming up for the 37th annual Hudson Hot Air Affair with several pre-events leading up to the February 6-8, 2026, event. Photo by Ryan Sanford.

Hudson Hot Air Affair Pre-events

The 37th annual Hudson Hot Air Affair (HHAA) is returning to our longtime venue at EP Rock School with a fun Star Wars theme of “Sky Walkers Return to Rock.” The hot air balloon rally and winter festival is presented by WESTconsin Credit Union and supported by hundreds of sponsors, partners and volunteers.

We have a lineup of pre-events to warm up for this year’s festival. Join us for a countdown event at Hudson Grocery Co-op, 1701 Ward Ave. Stop by on Sat., Jan. 17th, 10am-1pm to learn about Hudson Hot Air Affair. We’ll have a prize drawing and kids’ activities. Also, tickets will be available for the St. Croix Valley Food Bank Prize Drop Fundraiser.

A returning favorite on Sat., Jan. 24th, 9-11am, is the Breakfast Crafts for Kids at Dick’s Bar & Grill at 111 Walnut Street. Come have breakfast and enjoy an art event for kids.

The YMCA Camp St. Croix will host Croix by Candlelight at the Camp, 532 County Road F, on Sat., Jan. 24th, 4pm. A fun-filled family event with activities, campfires and chili! Enjoy a hike, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing if there is enough snow.

County Market/Jerry’s Foods at 2310 Crest View Drive, will host a countdown event on Sat., Jan. 31st, 10am-1pm. Celebrate the “Sky Walkers Return to Rock” theme with store specials, food tastings and more.

A tasty new event is the Hotdish Cooking Contest hosted by Hudson Area Senior Center on Sun., Feb. 1st from 3-5pm at the Hudson YMCA, 2211 Vine Street.

On Wed., Feb. 4th, 6-9pm there is a HHAA Canvas Party Painting Class with Audrey Martin, featuring a painting of “Starry Night” at Pedro’s Pizza Lounge, 212 Walnut Street. \$50 for class and supplies. Must preregister! See hudsonhotairaffair.com/events for details.

Do you want to support HHAA? We still have a couple balloons looking for sponsors. Sponsorships are open to business, family and/or individual. Sponsors receive a ride for one person in the first launch at HHAA, (weather permitting) the opportunity to help crew, chase, ride in the Torchlight Parade and help at the Moon Glow, as well as recognition in HHAA

Marketing. The sponsor fee is just \$495. Contact HHAA at HotAirAffair@gmail.com for more information.

Details on these pre-events and other Hot Air Affair activates can be found at HudsonHotAirAffair.com/events or check for event listings on Facebook.

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