



EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521

Lifestyle

Section B

(715) 479-4421

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FROZEN FUN — Despite the snowstorm that hit the North Woods Friday night and into Saturday morning, nearly 150 attendees battled unplowed roads to visit the Northwoods Children's Museum's new Frozen Fest event. The day featured unique winter-themed crafts (above), children displaying their "Frozen"-themed attire (right) and photo opportunities with Princess Elsa (below). Characters Sven and Olaf also were in attendance.

—Staff Photos By MICHELLE DREW



Friends of FORK plaques recognize area businesses

No organization can succeed without the help of the community in which they serve, which is why Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) President Perry Pokrandt said he is grateful to members of the local business community who, in many ways, have stood with FORK in its effort to push back against childhood food insecurity.

Plaques were recently created to recognize area businesses as a sign of FORK's appreciation for their support.

"To more clearly recognize the contributions made by these local businesses FORK has created Friends of FORK," explained Pokrandt. "This plaque represents a partnership between caring businesses and FORK, as together we work to make this a better community in which to live."

To see a list of businesses that have already stepped up to help the kids, individuals can go to feedourruralkids.org/friends-of-fork.

"We invite all current Friends of FORK as well as all other area businesses to consider how, as we move forward, your business might work with FORK to help the kids," said Pokrandt.

Donations can be done simply online by visiting feedourruralkids.org. To discuss creative ways to collaborate, community members also can email info@feedourruralkids.org and FORK will reach out to chart a path forward.

Feed Our Rural Kids Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to provide nutritional support to children from food insecure homes across central and eastern Vilas County.

Free Christmas dinner set Dec. 21

Northwoods Share will hold its free drive-thru Christmas dinner Tuesday, Dec. 21, starting at 5 p.m.

The sponsor for this meal is Howard Young Medical Center and caterer is Howard Young Food Service Department. The dinner will feature beef tips with gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, a roll with butter and dessert.

These free dinners are held at the Needs Ministry building, directly behind The Rock Mission Center at 1019 E. Wall St. Northwoods Share

volunteers will greet vehicles and then deliver the meals car-side. Dinners will be handed out until 5:30 p.m. or while supplies last.

"Our dinners are sponsored by many churches, organizations and individuals," said organizer Sharon Rogers. "Without their help we would not be able to do all the things we do to help support our community."

For more information on these meals and other services provided, visit northwoodsshare.org or find it on Facebook.

Not that you asked, but...

By Eric Johnson



That's amore!

"Anyone who says that money cannot buy happiness has clearly never spent their money on pizza." — Andrew W.K.

With the year slipping inexorably toward the turn of the calendar page to January 2022, I'm left wondering when the futuristic 2015 "Back to the Future" Black & Decker pizza rehydrator is going to appear on store shelves.

Forget power shoelaces and flying hoverboards, my dream is to cruise into my kitchen after a hard day's wordsmithing, slip a 4-inch dehydrated pepperoni pizza puck into the rehydrator, cheerily intone "hydrate level four, please," and 12 seconds later pop out a piping-hot 15-inch pizza, my family cheerily enthusing "Boy, oh boy, dad, ya sure can hydrate a pizza" as I bring supper to the table.

The reality of 2021 is it still takes 17-19 minutes to cook a frozen pizza — after preheating the oven to 400 degrees. And my family never enthuses "Boy, oh boy, dad, ya sure can oven-bake a pizza."

Image my surprise recently when the mysteries of high tech online algorithms caught up to my Rumbelli lineage love of pizza and sent me word of the next best thing to a futuristic Black & Decker pizza rehydrator — a newsfeed chocked with stories about the rollout of robotic "automated pizza kitchen" vending kiosks churning out brick oven-style artisanal pizzas in just three minutes at the touch of a button, the tap of a computer screen, or an online mobile app link.

As an adherent to Bill Murray's sage observation that "every pizza is a personal pizza if you try hard and believe in yourself," I started crooning like Dean Martin as I hungrily scrolled through my newsfeed.

"When the moon hits your eye, like a big-ga pizza pie, that's amore!"

Breakfast, lunch or dinner — or a midnight snack — I'm always in the mood for pizza, the entire food pyra-

To JOHNSON, Pg. 2B

Today is final day to submit WTC program applications

BY MICHELLE DREW
NEWS-REVIEW ASST. EDITOR

As the shopping season for Warm The Children winds down, donations toward the program continue to come in, according to program coordinator Toni Ruthven.

The final deadline to turn in applications for Warm The Children, a program sponsored by the Vilas County News-Review under the auspices of the Eagle River Rotary Foundation to provide winter clothing for children in need, is today, Dec. 15.

"Because there is a process to approving these applications that takes a little bit of time, applications need to get in as soon as possible so that the chance to shop at Glik's is still an option," Ruthven said. Shopping at Glik's in Eagle River will end Wednesday, Dec. 22.

"As we continue to return to life as it was before the pandemic, it's been gratifying this year to see that shoppers that were unable to participate last year due to concerns of Covid have returned to the program," added Ruthven. "They want to do their part for their community and donating time is a great way to contribute to the program, especially for those who wish to do their part, but are unable to financially."



To date, vouchers for approximately 387 children have been sent out this year, said Ruthven.

Donations received for the program are used to purchase clothing for the children and the News-Review picks up all administrative costs. Monetary donations are tax-deductible.

Shopping this year is taking place at Glik's in Eagle River and Northland Clothing Co. in Three Lakes.

Donations to Warm The Children have now reached 98%, Ruthven said.

News-Review Publisher Kurt Krueger said donations are still coming in and the paper expects to meet this year's fundraising goal of \$80,000.

"We will hopefully exceed

the 2021 goal, enabling us to start the 2022 season with money already in reserve. Because we start the shopping season so soon after we start receiving donations, it is important that we have funds so that children can be shopped for as the winter season begins," said Krueger.

He stressed that every penny raised goes to clothe children in need in the area, as the News-Review funds all of the administrative, marketing and other costs associated with the program.

"I think it's important that the money being donated is used exclusively to help the kids and families that need it most," said Krueger. "We can fund all the program costs because we have a strong community newspaper with fantastic support from readers and area businesses, our advertisers."

Krueger noted that the massive success of a program that raises more than \$80,000 annually and serves more than 500 children has led to state and national awards for community service, given by both the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association in recent years.

Donations continue to come in

"Every donation, no matter how large or small, is greatly

appreciated. Donations can be made in memory of or in honor of loved ones," said Ruthven.

For more information, call Ruthven at (715) 479-4421.

Checks can be made out to "Warm The Children" and mailed to the Vilas County News-Review, P.O. Box 1929, Eagle River, WI 54521 or dropped off at the News-Review office. Online donations can be made at vcnewsreview.com on the home page.

In addition to many anonymous donors, donations were received as of Nov. 26 from residents in the following communities:

Eagle River: Tripp and Judy Anderson, Constance Downey, Carl and Cam Eggebrecht, Tom Ellis, Cliff and Susie Erickson, Bob and Barbara Mather, and Greg and Mary Jo Schuenke.

Sayner: Nadean Stahl.
St. Germain: Carolyn Brink, and Bill and Karen Wheeler.

Other Wisconsin cities: Martin and Kelli Heindel, Appleton; and Tim and Christine Pattermann, Hilbert.

Other states: Holly and Ted Evans, Pinecrest, Fla.; in honor of son Brinton D'hondt, and in honor of son Gunder D'hondt, Christine and Christopher D'hondt, Chicago, Ill.; Bill and Linn Owen, Deerfield, Ill.; and George Kuchta, Watersmeet, Mich.