



Photo by Neal Patten

From left, Yukihiro and Shiho with their son Wataru pose with reindeer in December 2019.

Live reindeer event switching to drive-thru

Verona tradition moving to Reddan Park

NEAL PATTEN
Unified Newspaper Group

While public social distancing orders will prevent families from getting up close and personal with reindeer this year, a modified arrangement is allowing the popular event to still take place.

From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, the live reindeer event will take place in a "cozy" drive-thru viewing format at Reddan Soccer Park, 6874 Cross Country Road.

Cars will be able to "drive past fairly close" and "still get a pretty good look" at the reindeer, Verona Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Le Jordan said. The Chamber will

If You Go
What: Live reindeer event
When: 3:30-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12
Where: Reddan Soccer Park, 6874 Cross Country Road
Info: Visit veronawi.com

make it as festive as possible, she said, with decorations in the park and Santa and Mrs. Claus waving to cars.

Public Health of Madison and Dane County staff have given the Chamber a thumbs-up on its drive-thru format for the event, Jordan said.

"We were really thrilled we could keep the reindeer so that kids have something to look forward to," she said.

Scout popcorn sales moved online

Pack 549 also launched GoFundMe fundraiser

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Since 1930, the Cub Scouts have provided youths with opportunities to try new things and face new challenges.

This year has presented Verona Cub Scout Pack 549 the opportunity of adapting traditional programming and fundraising activities to the "new normal" of social distancing.

For the safety of the scouts and community, the troop has modified its plans and will be doing contactless fundraising. The troop has established a webpage for online popcorn sales, which ship directly to patrons.

Pack 549 has also created a GoFundMe campaign to allow for online donations to the troop.

Funds raised will go towards a fun virtual Pine-wood Derby, recognition awards to reward scouts for their achievements and supplies for future den adventures.

For links to the popcorn sale and GoFundMe

campaign, visit pack549verona.blogspot.com.

Neal Patten, community reporter, can be contacted at neal.patten@wcinet.com.

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Auditions for VACT virtual play set Dec. 7-8

NEAL PATTEN
Unified Newspaper Group

Verona Area Community Theater is set to put a distinctively 2020 spin on a classic 1895 play.

Auditions for "The Importance of Being Earnest in a Pandemic" will be held from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 7, and Tuesday, Dec. 8, over Zoom.

Auditions are open to adults only, ages 18 and older. Registration to audition is required by 9 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6.

There will be three performances of the virtual play, including one on Friday, Feb. 12, and two on Saturday, Feb. 13.

The play will be a "trivial comedy for

If You Go

What: VACT virtual play auditions
When: 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7 and Tuesday, Dec. 8
Where: Zoom video conference
Info: Visit vact.org/auditions

serious people in unusual circumstances," according to the VACT website.

For information, visit vact.org/auditions.

Neal Patten, community reporter, can be contacted at neal.patten@wcinet.com.

Send it in!

We like to send reporters to shoot photos, but we can't be everywhere. And we know you all have cameras.

So if you have a photo of an event or just a slice of life you think the community

might be interested in, send it to us and we'll use it if we can. Please include contact information, what's happening in the photo and the names of people pictured.

You can submit it on our

website at ConnectVerona.com, email to editor Jim Ferolie at veronapress@wcinet.com or drop off electronic media at our office at 133 Enterprise Drive. Questions? Call 845-9559.

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