Eat a treat - support a cause

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Baker Amanda German of Wausau frosts a carrot cake Tuesday at **Downtown Grocery** in Wausau. **Downtown Grocery** will participate in this year's EATS at the University of Wisconsin Marathon County. / T'xer Zhon Kha/Daily Herald Media

lf you go

What: EATS

When: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; jazz music and dancing from 9 pm to 10 pm

Where: UWMC campus (academic building), 518 S. Seventh Ave., Wausau

Cost: \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door

Contact: Call 715-261-6280 or visit www.uwmceats.com



WAUSAU — Raising money for academic scholarships is as easy as snacking on a smorgasbord of gourmet food. Who knew? The University of Wisconsin Marathon County on Saturday will host its 31st annual Education Assistance Through Scholarships fundraiser, also known as EATS.

About 40 local chefs will have tables and stations set up throughout UWMC's academic building offering a diverse lineup of grub, including pumpkin seed dip, fried dumplings, venison meatballs, white chicken chili and pork tenderloin marinated in pinot noir.

Downtown Wausau's **Be Well Bakeshop** and **Downtown Grocery** each will have a chef representing them at EATS, said **Megan Curtes**, **owner of Be Well Bakeshop and manager at Downtown Grocery**.

Coconut fig bites, no-grain macadamia bread and gluten-free ginger brownies with crystallized ginger are just three of the baked goods that the two businesses plan to have on-hand.

"Being able to use a selection of different ingredients makes baking more fun and still satisfies your craving for sweets," Curtes said. "Some of the ingredients are things people wouldn't normally think of using, and that can open up a whole new world."

A special "chocoholic" station also will be available at EATS and will feature exclusively dishes and desserts containing chocolate.

"Some chefs have a signature dish that they make every year, while others like to spice it up and bring something new," said Kristine McCaslin, EATS committee chairwoman. "Everything is served in sample sizes, which allows you to try something you're curious about but that you might not want an entire serving of."

Three bars will be set up around the building, offering soda, wine and beer, while jazz music and dancing will be offered later in the evening in the campus' student union.

More than 500 people attended last year's fundraiser and raised nearly \$26,000 for student scholarships, which can help students pay for such things as books, school supplies and child care.

