

The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

FIRSTLOOK

Kids craft kits now available at the Chetek Public Library

Beginning Monday, April 26, anyone with children can call the library (at 715-924-3195) to request Take-and-Make craft kits.

Kits will include the pieces needed to complete a simple project. A sample picture will be included to show the potential final result. Individual results may vary! Let library staff know if you need scissors, glue, glue sticks or tape. Crafts will change every Monday morning. Take-and-Make kits may be collected inside the library or through curbside pick-up. The program will start with a "tractor" kit.

Families may schedule times to select materials in the children's room. While no toys or games are available at this time, all the books are ready to be checked out and taken home.

Call ahead for a specific browsing time or knock on the door, mask up and come in to check out books, DVDs and books on CDs.



Chetek Lions Club fish fry, smelt feed on Friday, April 30

The Chetek Lions Club is holding a drive-thru fish fry and smelt feed on Friday, April 30, from 4:30-7 p.m., at the Chetek American Legion Post #179 at 1432 Highway Blvd N (CTH 55).

The cost of the meal is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. There will be no early sales and it is drive-thru only.

DEATHS

Milford Newman, 91

David Skoug, 83



New owners open Gilligans on Friday

On Friday, April 23, Gilligans will open with Tony and Sherry Malsom as the owners of the bar, restaurant and bait shop.

"We've always liked to go. [Sherry] wanted to do something different and start something new," Tony Malsom said of why they purchased the bar, restaurant and bait shop.

The Malsoms have lived in the area for nearly 10 years and have two children in the local schools. Their 7- and 9-year-olds play hockey.

After the sale on Thursday, April 15, from former owners, Bob and Julie Stangle, the Malsoms closed Gilligans for a week to make some changes to the interior and exterior. Inside, the walls were getting new colors of paint to make it their own and give it more of that "Gilligans feel," Tony said.

New equipment was installed in the kitchen and there will be some changes to the menu as well. The staff will remain the same.

The bait shop, known as Skipper's Bait & Liquor



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

Sherry and Tony Malsom are the new owners of Gilligans in Chetek. The business reopens on Friday, April 23.

Store will now be called Gilligans Bait & Liquor Store. Malsom plans to add a wider selection of clothing. The bait shop is currently open.

"Yeah, it's been a long process. Anxious, but Sher-

ry is excited," Malsom said.

The Malsoms plan to have a grand opening event later this year.

Asked what her and Bob's plans are after selling their business of 13 years, Julie Stangle replied, "Relaxing!"

City approves docks, refinancing, land sale

The city's public dock project was formally approved on April 13, with the council voting on the funding for the new docks on Lake Chetek at Knapp and Stout streets.

Council Member Earl Grover, Ward 2, made a motion to approve \$9,850 from the city's coffers, with \$4,900 coming from the parks development fund and \$4,950 from the fixed asset reserve fund. The motion was seconded by Council Member Scott Bachowski, Ward 1. Of the project's total cost of \$22,800, the remaining \$12,950 was covered by community and group donations. The total costs include the docks, one ramp, tree removal and site surveying.

Initially, it was thought the installation costs

would be entirely funded by donations, like other park structures had been, said Council Member Terry Hight, Ward 3. The city would then pay for upkeep and maintenance, which was a significant ongoing contribution. He took issue with the city paying any purchase or install costs.

Chetek Mayor Jeff Martin noted the project changed from just one large dock at Stout Street, to two smaller docks, due to nuisance concerns of the neighbors. Changing the plan changed the costs, he said.

After Martin called the question, the council approved the funding unanimously. A date of installation is not yet set. The docks are built, but the

floats for the docks are on back order.

The council discussed raising the stormwater utility fee increase. The fee is charged on all utility bills to fund the stormwater sewer system and upkeep.

Newman explained the residential property fee is a flat rate of \$2.25. The utility committee recommended it be increased \$0.50, or about 22 percent. The commercial property rate was \$20.87 per acre and the industrial property rate was \$16.29 per acre (minus permeable surfaces). She suggested the commercial and industrial rates be increased by 22 percent as well.

Council members agreed 22 percent **SEE CITY, PAGE A7**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Area Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts collect donations for food pantries

Local Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops collected 1,914 pounds of food to donate to local food pantries and food shelves, including the Chetek Food Shelf. The scouts distributed donation bags at residences on April 10, then returned to collect the filled bags on Saturday, April 17. The amount collected was more than similar drives by the Post Office. Pictured are scouts of Chetek Boy Scout Troop 29 and Cub Scout Pack 21, which are both sponsored by Chetek Lutheran Church.

Council hears claims against Chetek ambulance director

BY CARL COOLEY

Questions about the performance of the Chetek Ambulance Service's director have been raised by a former employee of the service and his family. CAS Director Ryan Olson has refuted their claims and said they are not accurate and not true.

Roger Klawiter, a former crew chief with the CAS, his wife, Linda Klawiter, and their adult daughter, Ashley Hable, spoke during the public comments part of the Chetek Common Council meeting on April 13.



Roger Klawiter

problems the organization was having due to a "toxic work environment" and because of retaliation against her father, Hable said.

"The [CAS] board came to my dad and asked questions in which he answered truthfully. After that, retaliation began," she said. It was not confirmed of what specific questions were asked of Roger Klawiter.

"When you hear from EMTs that are on the service that the director is bragging about how he is planning to fire your dad, and that even though the director is taking the EMT course because he has to, he has no intention of working as an EMT to help the service because he wouldn't get on-call pay and he expects more money for it," Hable said to the city council.

Hable said Olson was shirking off taking calls by only taking "easy calls" or when asked to assist other responding services. "I knew, in good conscience, that I could not stand by and watch that type of unprofessional leadership," Hable said, adding it was resulting in current employees looking for jobs elsewhere.

If the CAS was out of service for 20-50 percent of the time, it would mean longer response times and have a ripple effect on surrounding communities as other ambulance services respond to Chetek calls.

"I think the City of Chetek needs to **SEE CAS, PAGE A7**

Vaccination clinic now open

Local vaccine availability got a boost this week with the opening of a community vaccination clinic at UW Eau Claire-Barron County in Rice Lake. The clinic is open Tuesdays to Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Appointments are available by calling 1-844-684-1064 or visiting vaccinate.wi.gov. Health care providers and pharmacies also remain options for the vaccine.

In Barron County, 36.1 percent of the population has received at least one dose of the vaccine and 28.4 percent have completed the series of shots. Statewide, 40.4 percent have received at least one dose.

The counties with the lowest vaccination rates—at least one dose—include Rusk (26.4 percent), Clark (22.5 percent) and Taylor (21.9 percent). The high-

est rates are in Dane (53.8 percent), Bayfield (53.3 percent) and Door (57 percent).

About 44 percent of women and 36 percent of men have been vaccinated. This disparity is due in part to the fact that there are more women over age 65 because they tend to live longer and more women work among other groups with early eligibility for the vaccine, such as health care, child care and education.

As far as case numbers, Barron County's were flat in the week ending Tuesday, April 20. Barron County Public Health reported 47 new cases in that span, compared to 52 in the week prior. Active cases stood at 77, up from 66 in the week before. But the first death in weeks was reported, an individual in their nineties.

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