

The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

FIRSTLOOK

Brew & Rib Fest on July 10; sold out

Chetek's Brew and Rib Fest is Saturday, July 10, at Phillips Park on City Park Drive. The event runs from 1-6 p.m. All tickets have been sold and no tickets will be available at the gate.



Chetek Friends of the Library Garden Stroll on July 17

A garden stroll is being hosted by the Chetek Friends of the Library on Saturday, July 17 and tickets are on sale now. The cost is \$10 and tickets may be purchased at the library in advance or at the gardens from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on July 17. Funds raised from the event support library activities.

Each of the gardens is unique because of its location, landscape benefits, or special challenges. Prairie Lake Woodlands Garden provides a great deal of shade so hostas, ferns and astilbe flourish there. A retaining wall of repurposed, locally sourced, sandstone blocks line portions of the property.

Floral Menagerie Mania is another garden over 30 years in creation and yet still considered a work in progress. The garden is a diverse collection of flowers, shrubs, fruits and vegetables with pots of colorful annuals and wood carvings throughout.

Three other gardens, Quiet Place on Ten Mile, Wendy's Watergarden and Lakeside Landscapes each have unique elements among the plantings.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 17 and will be held rain or shine. For information, call the library at 715-924-3195.

DEATHS

Dr. Lowel Kristensen, 93

William McCaughey, 76

Dolores Waterhouse, 95

Lois Wood, 84



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS BURBACK

Boats on the water, fire in the sky: long exposure photo shows lake in new light

Chris Burback, of Eau Claire and a 1995 Chetek High School grad, captured this striking photo which shows the lights of boats leaving Lake Chetek after the Liberty Fest fireworks show on Sunday evening, July 4. Looking over the lake from the Long Bridge, Burback used a tripod to take a series of 19 photos, each time leaving the shutter open between 30-60 seconds. The long exposure results in trails of lights from the passing boats, along with the bursts of fireworks above them. The line across the top was a Chinese lantern floating by, Burback said. He then stacked the images together to produce the image above. He used a Nikon D4 camera, Nikon 24-70 mm lens, on ISO 200 at F5.6. See more Liberty Fest photos on Page A8 and Page B12.

Head to the Barron County Fair next week

After a hiatus in 2020 due to COVID-19 precautions, the Barron County Fair is back on next week, July 14-18, complete with rides, games, food, livestock shows and grandstand entertainment.

"We're just happy to have a fair," said Fair Board President Kevin Roske.

The opening ceremony is Wednesday, July 14, starting at 2:30 p.m.

But many of the open and junior shows will be underway Tuesday and through the rest of the week.

Grandstand entertainment includes harness horse racing, starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, July 15-16.

This year's demolition derby is Friday, July 16, starting at 8 p.m. And Saturday, July 17, is the Truck & Tractor Pull Extravaganza.

Roske noted the shift of the demo derby from Sunday to Friday is one of the only changes

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Liberty Fest welcomes back all, from familiar faces to first-timers

BY CARL COOLEY

Following a year of canceled and postponed events, longtime visitors and first-timers alike were welcomed to Chetek for the return of Liberty Fest, held Thursday, July 1, through Sunday, July 4.

"It was an amazing weekend of events from vintage base ball right through to the fireworks. I've heard so many compliments on the events and community the past week," said Darryl Dahl, president of the

Chetek Chamber of Commerce. The chamber organizes Liberty Fest each year (and major events such as the beach party, parade and firework display), along with other organizations and business that put on other events.

"As always, I can't say enough about all the hard work and planning by our Chamber members and volunteers plus the support of the sponsors," Dahl added.

Liberty Fest and the Fourth of July holiday had the benefit of falling

across a long weekend with beautiful, albeit hot, sunny days that were enjoyed by all who came to town.

Mark Thompson played at Fostbites on Friday evening and Deb Jacobs, of Chetek, was enjoying his music. When last year's events were canceled, she missed the camaraderie of seeing friends and she especially missed the beach party. She was enjoying this year by coming out for the street dance and was looking forward to driving the Chetek Fire Department's brush

buggy in Sunday's parade.

Bill Skar, of Illinois, was at WorldWide Pupils with Passport's food truck fair on Friday and was walking around with his friends' young daughter, Fiona. He has been coming to Liberty Fest for 23 years and had missed the parade most, last year. Making the most of this year, he was celebrating the Fourth of July with buddies, he said.

At the car show on Saturday, July 3, was Connie Fowler, of Omaha, Neb. She has been to every

Liberty Fest, she said. She had missed all the canceled events last year and missed seeing the crowds of people. To make up for it this year, they were going to look at every car at the car show and take several more trips through the craft fair. She had to get some caramel corn, she said.

Fowler also planned to go to Northlakes Drive-In for a root beer float. "Not a trip up here without it," Fowler said.

Larry Larson, SEE LIBERTY, PAGE A7

Meet Stardust Drive-In Theater's new owner

Nick Meyer is the new owner of Stardust Twin Drive-In Theater, north of Chetek on CTH 00.

Earlier this year, he purchased the business from Paul and Marlys Javener, the original owners who built and opened the theater in 2008.

Meyer came to Chetek after looking for an interesting business to start or purchase, he said. Two years ago, he was looking for a new business venture and, having worked previously as a Mercedes-Benz technician, he was looking at automotive-related businesses. But Meyer said none of his business plans he put together seemed interesting enough.

Previously, he worked for Fortune 100 and Fortune 300 insurance companies and was a state operations and process specialist for American Family Insurance in Washington state. He's a certified sailor and has delivered sailboats across the South Pacific, he has hiked the Camino

de Santiago pilgrimage across France and Spain and he is a certified scuba diver as well.

When he learned about Paul and Marlys Javener's drive-in theater and that it was for sale, it piqued his interest.

He met with Paul and

learned they had similar outlooks and visions for the business. With Paul wanting to retire, Meyer purchased the business.

Meyer's family has a cabin in Winter and that's how he became familiar with the

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CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

Nick Meyer is the new owner of Stardust Twin Drive-In Theater, located north of Chetek. Meyer purchased it from Paul and Marlys Javener, who opened the theater in 2008.

Low-key Liberty Fest, for the most part, police say

No major incidents were reported over the Fourth of July weekend, Friday, July 2, through Sunday, July 4. With Chetek full of visitors and residents enjoying the festivities, there were no major problems, said Chetek Police Chief Ron Ambrozaitis.

"I think it went very well. A lot of people [were here] with no major problems," Ambrozaitis said on Tuesday, July 6.

"I am pretty happy with the Fourth," said Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald. "Not too busy—a couple of OWIs on the boat and a couple on the roads, but no major incidents all weekend."

According to dispatch logs, there were a total of 10 OWI traffic stops. One driver was cited early Saturday morning near Almena. Another driver was cited early Sunday morning in Barron.

The rest of OWI stops were reported in the

Chetek area on July 4, with three of them being boating OWIs on Lake Chetek and Pokegama Lake on Sunday evening. There was one boating OWI on Lake Chetek on Friday evening.

An ATV rolled over on a man on Lake Aire Drive in Chetek on Friday evening. A caller reported his father-in-law was lying on the ground and was having trouble breathing after the crash. Barron's Mayo Ambulance responded. Ambrozaitis said the man was not injured.

Fireworks were the cause of a garage fire in the 1800 block of 22-3/4 Street in rural Rice Lake. Rice Lake Fire Department responded and the fire was under control by 10:36 p.m. No people or animals were injured.

A caller reported pine trees on fire from fireworks in the 1200 block of 22nd Street, near Cameron, just after 12 a.m. on July 5. Cameron Fire was posted.

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