

The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

FIRSTLOOK

Upcoming blood drives in region

American Red Cross Blood drives are in:

- Barron—Thursday, Oct. 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Barron Electric Cooperative, at 1434 Hwy. 25.
- Chetek—Thursday, Oct. 14, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Senior Community Center, 711 First St.
- Rice Lake—Thursday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Red Cedar Church, 1701 W. Allen St.
- Bloomer—Monday, Oct. 18, 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Pines Ballroom, at 9690 CTH SS.



Fall color reports available online

Leaves have begun to change colors already, meaning anyone planning a getaway when fall colors are at their peak can monitor live updates on the Wisconsin Department of Tourism's Fall Color Report by visiting www.travelwisconsin.com/fall-color-report. Fall foliage fans interested in tracking the state's fall color as it evolves over the next several weeks can access the report to make travel decisions on the go.

More than 100 fall color reporters throughout the state provide updates for all 72 counties. It is updated "virtually live," so the status of an area is updated as conditions change.

Fall colors are predicted to peak in Barron County in the first or second week of October.

DEATHS

Phyllis Arts, 82

David Hoff, 90



New cabin upkeep business helps you avoid 'cabin fatigue'

BY JIM BABBITT

Remember when you first saw your dream "cabin Up North?" It was peaceful, quiet, serene, the perfect getaway, a place to shed all of your city cares and worries. You were smitten. You were in love.

The years have rolled by. You visit the cabin less and less. The drive up seems longer, more boring. You worry about the cabin while you are gone and dread the upcoming chores.

Be honest—are you looking forward to cleaning the gutters and raking the leaves this month? How about shoveling the snow off the roof in February or washing the windows, inside and out, and power washing the outside of the cabin in April?

The thrill is officially gone. But you can get it back. And the "Keepers of Your Cabin" can make it happen.

Meet Debbie Driggs and Mano Molina. They are transplants from Califor-

nia who left the crime and noise out West to come to Chetek. They fell in love with Chetek when they would visit Molina's brother's cabin here. Then they fell in love with each other.

They have started a business in Chetek to do those chores you don't want to for a modest fee. They offer, says Molina, "services to fit your budget at reasonable rates." Keepers provides quality and reliable services. They will clean your gutters, wash your windows inside and out, shovel your roof, mow your lawn, pressure wash the exterior of your cabin in the spring, remove downed trees, help you launch your boat in the spring and get it out in the fall and much, much more.

Perhaps you worry when you're not at your cabin for an extended period. Did an ice-storm take out the power lines? Did a limb or tree fall on the roof? Did trespassers—probably animals but maybe

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Debbie Driggs and Mano Molina started "Keepers of your Cabin," and will do those chores that you don't want to at reasonable rates so you can kiss "cabin fatigue" goodbye.

Fire board reorganized; looks at next year's budget

The Chetek Fire District Board was reorganized during its regular bimonthly meeting on Thursday evening, Sept. 30, to bring the board into alignment with the fire district's original articles of agreement between the Town of Chetek and City of Chetek.

The articles from 1994 established the town and city as joint owners of the fire district, and specified each having two appointed members. In September, the Chetek Town Board and Chetek Common Council signed new articles of agreement, further specifying who can serve on the board.

The towns of Dovre, Prairie Lake, Sioux Creek and Rusk (Rusk County) have fire protection service agreements with the fire

departments. They are not technically allowed to have members serve on the fire board but commonly have in the past.

At Thursday's meeting, current board chair Mitch Hanson, town of Dovre, stepped down, and Ronnie Latcham, city of Chetek, was appointed the new chair. The new board consists of Latcham and Earl Grover, from the city, and Jim Macone and Keith Hanson, from the town of Chetek. Grover will serve as board secretary and Macone (who was absent) will serve as treasurer.

Before stepping down, Mitch Hanson noted that it was not exactly known how this situation came to be and said this

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL WESTBERG | CWASD

Becker, Claflin crowned 2021 Homecoming king and queen

Homecoming week at Chetek-Weyerhaeuser would not be complete without the coronation of the 2021 royalty which took place at the school's ceremony the morning of Friday, Oct. 1. Seniors Mathew Becker and Kora Claflin, who were crowned king and queen at the coronation ceremony emceed by the junior prom king and queen from last school year, seniors Marissa Zelek and Jed Potter. Pictured from the entire court, form left to right, are Ashton Kummet, Tristan Wendt, Carter Kummet, Brayden Kelm, Mathew Becker, Kora Claflin, Ella Olson, Mariah Bilodeau, Greta Jorstad and Abigail Kane.

A Look at Our Six Lakes

A Four Part Series

ALGAE BLOOMS IN CHETEK CHAIN OF LAKES

BY ALEX SMITH | WISCONSIN DNR

Have you ever noticed that the water in the Chetek Chain of Lakes starts out clear when the ice melts in the spring and gradually turns green by July each summer? This change is what the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) classifies as hyper-eutrophic based on algae, phosphorus and water clarity measurements.

A classification of "hyper-eutrophic" means that the lakes are extremely rich in nutrients, leading to thick algae blooms from July through September. The algae tends to accumulate in bays and other areas of stagnant water, creating unfavorable conditions and thick algae

growth that turns the water green and limits sunlight penetration into the water. This limited light penetration in the summer causes aquatic plants to be confined to growing in shallow water. Deeper water and drop-off areas also become void of vegetation as plants don't receive enough sunlight to grow causing a loss of essential fish habitat.

Algae blooms in the Chetek Lakes are a result of too much phosphorus that has developed or entered the lakes through several sources. One source includes lake-bottom sediments that still contain phosphorus

from when the lakes were wetlands before the dam was built. Phosphorus also enters the lakes through runoff from surrounding lands. This includes lake lots with lawns, farm fields, city storm drains, septic systems and natural sources such as wetlands, dead vegetation and leaves, and atmospheric particles and dust.

HEALTH IMPACTS OF ALGAE BLOOMS

Not only do algae blooms have adverse impacts on the lakes' ecosystem, they can also cause illness in humans, pets and livestock. Algae blooms can produce several different toxins, including dermatotoxins that affect the skin, gastrointestinal toxins that affect the stomach, hepatotoxins and cytotoxins that affect the liver,

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Alex Smith



RYAN URBAN | BARRON NEWS-SHIELD

Dashing dachshund 'Datzie' wins Dallas Oktoberfest races

Datzie, at right, won in a close finish in the Dallas Oktoberfest Wiener Dog Race. Datzie's owners, Tom and Mary Weller, of Stevens Point, said they would use the \$50 cash winnings to buy dog food. This was the 25th year of Dallas Oktoberfest, which is organized largely by Ann and Randy Lee, of Valkyrie Brewery. Ann said, "I was thrilled with the turnout. We believe that we had a record number of people."

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