

The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar

FIRST LOOK

Grand opening at KJ's Fresh Market

An eight-week-long grand opening will be held at KJ's Fresh Market, in Chetek, starting on Saturday, Aug. 10.

There will be samples, demos and two Green Bay Packers ticket giveaways during the event.

On Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 8:30 a.m., the owners of KJ's will have a ribbon cutting with local officials and representatives from the Chetek Chamber of Commerce and the city of Chetek.

The band 4cast, from Eau Claire, will play in the parking lot from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15.



WPT host at Pioneer Village fundraiser

Inga Witcher Orth, the host of Wisconsin Public Television's "Around the Farm Table" will be at the Barron County Historical Society's Pioneer Village Museum for a fundraising event on Sunday, Aug. 11. She will do a cooking demonstration at 2 p.m.

This event will also include a farm-to-table luncheon, costing \$30, which takes place at 1 p.m., featuring locally grown produce and foods from Morning Dove Farms and Slipper Hill Farms.

Attendees can have high tea with Orth at 3 p.m., with lemonade, quiche and desserts. Cost is \$20.

Tickets can be purchased through the museum's website at www.pioneervillagemuseum.org, or by calling the museum at 715-458-2080.

DEATHS

- James Borgaro, 84**, Menomonie
- Joyce Burling, 82**, Hillsdale
- James Colvard, 75**, Chetek
- Danny DeBauche, 70**, North Hudson
- Todd Poznikowich, 51**, Weyerhaeuser



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT PHOTOS

Doing the 'Cha Cha Slide' in Chetek at National Night Out

Pictured above, Chetek police officers, Lt. Jessica Larson, far left, and Emily Breidenbach, far right, do the "Cha Cha Slide" dance with kids at National Night Out in Chetek on Tuesday, Aug. 6. Nationwide, families were invited to meet with local police officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians and firefighters for fun times, giveaways and free food. The event encourages police and community partnerships, as well as neighborhood camaraderie. In Chetek, kids enjoyed a bounce house, got door prizes and were invited to see the inside of police, fire trucks and ambulances up close. Also, Red Cedar Church members handed out around 75 backpacks to kids.



Pictured above, left to right, Bronx Malsom, Waylon Malsom, Harper Malsom and Maddyx Malsom checked out the inside of a Chetek Police Department squad car during National Night Out. At right, pictured front to back, are Willow Nelson, Michael Nelson, Lilly Nelson and Kaylee Kazort, as they check out a Chetek Fire Department fire truck.

Undergrads finish sixth summer of lake research

BY CARL COOLEY

At the Raw Deal cafe in Menomonie on Wednesday, July 31, 10 undergraduate research students at University of Wisconsin-Stout presented their latest research on the Red Cedar Watershed, its problems and the ideas for solutions to those problems.

Political science professor Kim Zagorski said the students did a great job this year. Her students focused on the social science aspect of what people think about the watershed and where they think the problems arise from.

"One of the things we're seeing is the historic 'it's them, not us' is starting to change," she said. More people are seeing that the problem affects the whole community and will require community-wide efforts to fix it. The research studies are shedding light on how complex of issue it is, while also looking at creative solutions, she said.

Faculty advisors Arthur Kneeland, a biology professor, and Chris Ferguson, an economics professor, added that the Lakes Research Experience for Undergraduates program's purpose is to train new

scientists. Students won't fix the issues in the watershed, but will provide the ideas, data and possible solutions that area residents, local officials and watershed and farmer groups can use.

For the problem of phosphorous in the lakes and rivers, Ferguson said there isn't one single "magic bullet" that will solve the problem, but it will be more like 20 different solutions working in conjunction.

Ferguson said they were applying for another three-year grant from the National Science Foundation in order to continue the program.

2019 RESEARCH

Ivy Huwald, from Humboldt State University, in Arcata, Calif., looked at how residents' relationship to the watershed has changed through history. From a source of wild rice for Native Americans, to a source of resources for fur traders and loggers, to a source of recreation for residents and tourists, Lake Menomin today has aesthetic value for residents, rather than recreational value. "Despite negative views on Lake Menomin, people still

feel a deep connect to the watershed," she said. Finding ways to show the value of the watershed—beyond economic value—will help spur on restoration efforts, she said.

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor student Olivia Rengenier, researched how people get their news and information about the watershed. While there was a shift toward national news, around 80 percent of those surveyed said they still used local or state news sources. Both social media and local news are needed to spread information about the watershed, she said.

"Local media is still really a backbone to the community," Rengenier said.

Nell Gehrke, from Augsburg University, in Minneapolis, Minn., surveyed people's opinions about the issues facing the watershed and their causes. (Full disclosure: this reporter was interviewed for Gehrke's and Rengenier's research.) Gehrke said more people realize that efforts to solve watershed problems will require widespread, collaborative efforts.

Elizabeth Saunders, from Indiana **SEE RESEARCH, PAGE A9**

Lake Fest set for Aug. 9-10

Chetek's seventh annual Lake Fest is all set for this weekend. The event consists of a preparty raffle event on Friday, Aug. 9, and an afternoon at the Lake Chetek sandbar on Saturday, Aug. 10.

Activities kick off Aug. 9 at Red's Eating & Drinking Establishment with the Lake Fest preparty raffle giveaway, which runs from 6-9:30 p.m. There will be dozens of raffle drawings, door prizes, a meat raffle, a 50/50 raffle, music by Kelsey Miles and much more.

Raffle tickets are currently available for \$5 each or five tickets for \$20 at Red's, Gilligans and other Chetek businesses. The first-place prize is two Leinenkugel's adirondack chairs, donated by MillerGB Sales; second place wins a \$250 Visa card donated by Walleyes for Chetek; third place wins \$250 in Chamber Bucks donated by the Chetek Chamber of Commerce; fourth place wins dinner once a month for a year at Gilligans; and fifth place

wins dinner once a month for a year at Red's.

After a night at Red's, Lake Fest continues on Aug. 10 for an afternoon at the Lake Chetek sandbar, where participants will enjoy sunshine, shallow water to play or relax in, cold drinks and music. From 1-5 p.m., music will be provided by DJ Double D from a giant raft during the event.

Red's and Gilligans will also be offering Lake Fest T-shirts for \$10.

Last year, sunny skies and temperatures that soared into the high 80s attracted more than 100 registered pontoons and boats, along with several others who anchored and tied together for a fun afternoon on the sandbar. The community event raised more than \$2,500 in 2018.

The Chetek Chamber of Commerce and Walleyes for Chetek are the sponsors for this year's event. One-hundred percent of the donations go toward the local organizations.

Weyerhaeuser man driving on CTH SS dies from heart attack

A Weyerhaeuser man suffered a fatal heart attack while driving, causing his vehicle to run off the road at the intersection of Hwy. 8 and CTH SS in Cameron on Friday morning, Aug. 2, according to the Barron County Sheriff's Department.

The man was identified as Todd Poznikowich, 51. No other people or vehicles were involved in the crash, which was reported at 6:53 a.m. on Friday.

"A passing motorist stopped, removed a lone male from the SUV and began CPR," said Ron Baures, patrol captain with the Barron County Sheriff's Department. "Life Link III, Marshfield Medical Center Ambulance and BCSD deputies responded to the scene where the male driver was pronounced deceased by medical examiner after lengthy CPR."

Traffic was **SEE CRASH, PAGE A4**

Funnel cloud appears over Dallas, Barron, Almena areas

Tornado sirens were activated Saturday afternoon, Aug. 3, when trained weather spotters reported a funnel cloud north of Dallas and south of Barron.

The funnel cloud was spotted around 4:43 p.m., near Almena, according to Barron County Sheriff's Department dispatch logs and Barron County Emergency Management.

Photos posted on social media showed a wormlike funnel cloud extending down from the cloud base. Only when funnel clouds touch the ground do they become tornadoes, and this one did not appear to touch the ground or cause any damage, according to dispatch logs.

The funnel cloud sighted could be a "cold air funnel," which form, beneath showers or weak thunderstorms high above the ground, according to the National Weather Service. Usually, they stay high up.

"Cold air funnels are usually harmless, but on rare



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN GILLES

Brian Gilles snapped this photo of a weak funnel cloud, high above his house southeast of Barron, around 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3. Fortunately, the funnel cloud did not touch down to become a full-fledged tornado.

occasions, they can touch down and cause EF0 level (winds up to 85 **SEE FUNNEL, PAGE A9**



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