

The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

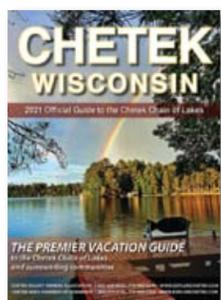
FIRST LOOK

Back to School special section in this print edition

The Back to School special section is in this week's Chetek Alert as section C.

Included are letters from school administrators and the school board with details of the plans and work they have done to get ready for the school year. There are updates on school bus procedures, Chetek Kids Club, Link2Learn and more.

School starts Wednesday, Aug. 25, at Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District.



Visitor Guide cover photo contest, win \$100 Chamber Bucks

The annual Visitor's Guide, put out by the Chetek Resort Owners Association and the Chetek Chamber of Commerce, is seeking photo entries for the 2022 cover.

The photos should feature Chetek settings and be vertical, not horizontal in format.

To submit photos, send them to the Chetek Resort Owners Association at info@chetekwi.net.

Submit photos by Wednesday, Sept. 22. The winner will receive \$100 in Chamber Bucks.

DEATHS

Donna Davey, 83

Ellen Mark, 98

John Siran, 79



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

After a one-year hiatus, Chetek's WaterMania power boat races return to the Hydroflites Aquatheater on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 28-29. Pictured above, Jonah Gilbertson, driving a boat in the SST 60 class, takes a victory lap after taking first place in the qualifying races at the 2019 WaterMania.

Fast boats, fun times to be had at WaterMania II

WaterMania II is Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 28-29 at the Hydroflites Aquatheater on Lake Chetek and all are invited to see the high-powered boat races.

"We had a blast the first time at WaterMania. It went excellent," said Tev Anafarta, one of the three race directors for this year's event. Anyone who loves the water and power sports will love this event, he said.

"It's a fun event for all ages. It is fun to watch the fast boats go around, the younger classes and entry-level classes. It's just a family-friendly event. We're out there competing and having fun," Anafarta said.

The free event is hosted by the Chetek Chamber of Commerce and the Chetek Hydroflites, but the races are organized by the Twin City Power Boat Association. The organization has been around since 1963.

There are eight classes racing this weekend, Anafarta said. GT Pro are small boats with 35-hp motors, reaching 45 mph, and drivers can be as young as 12. The Sport C class has 40-hp

motors and speeds up to 60 mph. Hobby Unlimited class has v-hulls and 75-hp motors, reaching about 50 mph. The VP 75 class is a capsule boat with 75-hp motors that pass 60 mph. The SST 60 class reaches 80 mph with tunnel hulls and 90-hp motors. A dual class, SST 120 and Formula 200 have a two-flag race start. They have tunnel hulls but different motors reaching 200 hp. They hit speeds of 120 mph. Formula 150 is similar to the previous class and reach speeds of 120 mph. The top class, Modified Unlimited, are boats on "crazy steroids," Anafarta said. They pass 130 mph and 400 hp.

Boats will race around a three-quarter mile track. A few classes run a shorter course. Most classes run 10 laps during the qualifying heats on Saturday, then 15 laps on the finals on Sunday. Anafarta encouraged families and kids to meet the drivers and see the race pits on Saturday evening.

For additional information and race times see the WaterMania ad on Page A8.



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

Driver injured in rollover on CTH 55

One person was injured and airlifted to a regional hospital following a rollover on CTH 55 south of Chetek on Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 24. The crash happened near CTH 55 and 5-1/4th Avenue. Chetek Ambulance Service and first responders, Mayo Ambulance, Chetek Fire Department and Barron County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene. Radio dispatches said firefighters were needed to assist with extraction from the overturned vehicle, pictured above. Life Link III helicopter was paged to meet the ambulance at the Chetek Airport. Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald said the driver's injuries were serious and the patient was flown to a hospital in Eau Claire. Information on the driver's name and the nature of the crash were not immediately available from law enforcement as of presstime. It was a busy day for emergency services, with Chetek Fire responding to three downed utility lines after Tuesday morning's storm and CAS responding to at least one medical call prior to the rollover.

108-year-old diploma returned to family

Editor's note: This story was submitted to the paper by Dave Patterson, a long-time summer resident of Chetek. This is his story of how he returned a school diploma from 1913 to the man's granddaughter.

From Dave Patterson: Five years ago, while antiquing in Hixton, Wis., I found a common school diploma from Chetek dated May 29, 1913. It once belonged to an Earl Barnstable and was still in its original oak frame. We [Dave and his wife Laurey] have had a cabin in Chetek for 20 years, so I decided to purchase the diploma, and it had been in our cabin ever since.

I have been sharing old postcards from my collection with The Chetek Alert and many have been published in their "Picture from the Past" column. John Banks, a volunteer at the Chetek Area Museum, saw several of my published postcards and suggested we should meet and compare my collection with the museum's postcard collection.

On June 17, we did meet at the museum. John gave me a tour of the museum and in one of the rooms, I noticed a couple of old school diplomas hanging on a wall. I told John that I had an old diploma from Chetek, dated 1913, and that I wanted to try and locate any relatives that might be in the area, so I could return it to the family. I also told John that if I could not locate a family member, I would donate the diploma to the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dave Patterson, at right, a long-time summer resident of Chetek, found a diploma from 1913 that was awarded to Earl Barnstable, of Chetek. He returned the diploma to Barnstable's granddaughter, Danette Nelson, center. At left is Rachel Knasinski, who works at the Chetek Café and helped connect Patterson with Nelson.

Chetek Museum.

Little did I know, almost a month later, the quest to find one of Earl's descendents would come to a happy conclusion right here in Chetek.

A few days later, I was having breakfast in the Chetek Café. I mentioned my diploma and family search to Rachel Knasinski, who is a retired teacher and a current server at the cafe. She did not know of the Barnstable family, but asked me to write down the information about the diploma. She mentioned

there were several regular patrons of the cafe and that she would be happy to ask if anyone knew Earl Barnstable or any of his family members.

The very next day, July 7, I received a call from Harry Bossany, who had been in the cafe and talked with Rachel. Harry owned the barbershop in Chetek for many years and told me he knew Earl Barnstable and used to cut his hair. Harry mentioned his brother, Joe Bossany, purchased from

SEE DIPLOMA, PAGE A8

Summer boat, ATV traffic keeps officers busy

BY BOB ZIENTARA | BARRON NEWS-SHIELD

The COVID-19 pandemic may have had one beneficial effect on Barron County last year.

In summer 2020, the coronavirus was probably a main contributor to one of the busiest seasons in memory for outdoor sports—particularly boating and all-terrain vehicle use—according to three area law enforcement sources: Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald, Deputy Jeff Wolfe and Josh Loining, conservation warden for the Department of Natural Resources.

And like the virus itself, the trend in "wheeling" and water activity has continued in summer 2021, the officers said in an interview on Tuesday, Aug. 17.

"We've seen an exponential increase," Loining said.

"The county's ATV trails were crazy busy last year," Wolfe said. "I think the virus contributed to it. People were off work or working away from home."

According to Fitzgerald, the county's law

enforcement community responded to the increase by engaging the public.

"We spent a lot of time in classrooms teaching outdoor safety," the sheriff said. He said that students throughout the county took courses in ATV, boating, snowmobile and hunting safety.

The county has two deputies working as school liaison officers, and both of them were active in the schools, Wolfe added.

Fitzgerald said the schools welcomed the classes not only because

they were aimed at young people starting their active years in outdoor sports, but, also, that they taught life skills.

"If you're in high school or you're 50 years old, you still need to have completed these (safety) courses" in order to operate outdoor vehicles, he added.

ENFORCEMENT ON THE RISE

Along with the rise in outdoor activity has come an increase in the presence of law enforcement.

By mid-

SEE BOATING, PAGE A7



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

An aerial photo taken July 3, 2021, shows a cluster of boaters at a sandbar on Lake Chetek, during the busy Independence Day weekend.

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