

# The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

## FIRSTLOOK

### Open house at The Center with antiques

Antiques will be on display at The Center in Chetek on Tuesday, Aug. 24, from 1-5 p.m. The display is organized by the Chetek Senior Citizens Inc. and The Center.

The open house will have coffee and goodies for visitors to enjoy. The items on display are owned by members of the Chetek Senior Citizens organization.

It will be a trip down memory lane for some, while others may be astonished of how life was lived without modern conveniences.

See antiques used for cooking and sewing, antique clothing, books, lamps, toys and dishes.



### Walk-in vaccination clinic open weekly

Barron County Public Health is offering a free, walk-in vaccine clinic at the Barron County Public Health office at the Barron County Government Center at 335 E Monroe Ave., Barron.

The shots offered are the Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines for COVID-19.

The clinic is open weekly, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.; then from 1-4 p.m.

For questions or assistance, call 715-537-5691, ext. 6442.

## DEATHS

Leon Jahn, 62

Judith Larson, 74

Donald Nielsen, 84



## Pontoon Olympix is Aug. 21



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

**The Original 13 Colonies Team won gold in the Pontoon Olympix Games in 2020. The games return to the Chetek Chain of Lakes on Saturday, Aug. 21.**

It's the annual Pontoon Olympix on Saturday, Aug. 21, and as many as 48 pontoons will take to the Chetek Chain of Lakes with absurdly dressed occupants and decorations to match.

The annual event has teams of boaters compete in yard games for trophies. Teams also raise money for local charities, such as the Chetek Food Shelf, Wall-eyes for Chetek, Christmas for Kids, Coats for Kids, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Scholarship Foundation, Curtie Cares, the Prairie Farm Pole Vault Fund and others, said organizer Kelly Timm. New this year, the event will donate books to elementary school teachers who are participating.

The games are held at Red's, Gilligans, Lynda's Lakeshore, Pokegama Lakeside Cantina, Somerset Pub and Wolf's Den.

An opening ceremony and boat parade will be at the Hydroflites Aqua Theater at 10 a.m. on Saturday. The public is invited to view the boats as they set

sail. There will be first, second and third place traveling trophies awarded for the best costumes. A new trophy will be awarded for the best boat decorations.

The closing ceremony will be at Pokegama Lakeside Cantina at 5:30 p.m., where the winners of the costume trophies, games and other contests will be named.

Registration for the event closed on July 31, so no more teams can sign up. But they have taken a slight departure in teams from previous years. Along with countries, themed teams and boats have signed up. There's a Dairy Country, The Moon, Woodstock, WWE and Land of Oz teams, for example.

"We're getting kind of crazy this year; thinking outside of the box," Timm said.

A captains' meeting will be held at the Hydroflites site at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 20. Timm added that teams can pick up their T-shirts from Carpe Diem, in Chetek, Wednesday through Friday, Aug. 18-20.



## WaterMania II is Aug. 28-29

After being postponed a year due to the coronavirus pandemic, Chetek's WaterMania returns for a second year. The event features two days of high-speed boat races on Lake Chetek.

WaterMania will be held Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 28 and 29, at the Hydroflites Aquatheater on Lakeview Drive. It is hosted by the Chetek Chamber of Commerce, the Hydroflites Water Ski Show Team and the Twin Cities Power Boat Association.

Donations are accepted, but the event is free to attend, noted Chamber President Darryl Dahl.

"If you love the smell of race fuel and the roar horsepower, this is the event for

you." Dahl said. "You'll bring a whole seat, but you'll only need the edge. Professional boat racing reaches speeds around 130 mph.

"Plus, it all takes place at the beautiful Hydroflites' Aquatheater with amazing views of Lake Chetek," he added.

There are eight classes of boats each day. Hot laps start at 11:30 a.m., the opening ceremony is at 12:45 p.m. and the races begin at 1 p.m. each day. People can meet the drivers at 6 p.m. on Aug. 28.

No carry-ins will be allowed at the event. There will be drinks and food concessions, with proceeds benefiting the Chamber and Hydroflites.

## DA report: no charges against deputy

Officer acted in self defense, district attorney says

The shooting of a man in Mikana was the result of a police officer making a split-second decision out of concern for himself and his fellow officers when threatened by an angry, unpredictable individual, according to a report released by the Barron County District Attorney on Tuesday, Aug. 17.

District Attorney Brian Wright stated, "On July 14, Deputy (Anthony) Weigand fired two shots from his department-issued rifle at Dylan Hancock, who had shouldered and was pointing a loaded AR rifle at Deputy Weigand. One of the bullets struck Dylan Hancock in the neck. Dylan Hancock survived. However, as result of his injuries, he is a quadriplegic."

Wright issued an 11-

page report detailing the day of the shooting and announcing that he would file no charges against the officer.

Wright did not say whether or not Hancock, 30, would be charged.

"Deputy Weigand was justified in his use of deadly force in response to the actions taken by Dylan Hancock that forced Deputy Weigand to make a split-second decision to defend himself and other sheriff's deputies from death or great bodily harm," Wright stated. The report states that

at approximately 6:47 p.m. on July 14, Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald received a call from someone identified only as A.J.W. requesting to speak with an officer regarding threats from Hancock, who is A.J.W.'s nephew. Hancock had allegedly sent a photo of a gun pointed at A.J.W.'s house and made threatening statements. A.J.W. reported concerns that Hancock wanted to "commit suicide by cop."

Fitzgerald assigned three deputies to respond.

Weigand was not among them, only responding after hearing from fellow deputy, Andrew Krahenbuhl, of police radio reports about the situation. Both were at the

SEE REPORT, PAGE A7



District Attorney Brian Wright



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARRON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Crash with dump truck detours Hwy. 8 near Cameron, Aug. 11

At least one person was injured in a two-vehicle crash involving a dump truck and what appeared to be a Jeep Renegade on Wednesday, Aug. 11, according to Barron County dispatch logs. The crash happened around 11:30 a.m., according to the State Patrol, and traffic was detoured on side roads until the road could be cleared by 3 p.m. A caller reported a dump truck in the ditch and a deputy later reported a man had a cut on his head and a possible broken leg. The nature of the crash and names of those involved was not available. Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald said he did not have any details on the crash, other than photos, as of Monday, Aug. 16. Pictured above, a dump truck sits in the eastbound ditch of Hwy. 8, east of 21-1/2 Street. The truck was labeled Antczak Trucking on the side and appeared to be hauling sand. S & R Towing was called to remove the vehicles.

## City considers parks, CAS for relief funding

The City of Chetek has started looking at how it will spend nearly \$222,000 in pandemic relief funding from the federal government over the next two years.

Coming in two payments, the city had received \$109,640.31 in July, and will receive another \$109,640.31 in July 2022.

At the Chetek Common Council meeting on Aug. 10, Council Member Terry Hight, Ward 3, noted the Chetek Ambulance Service was asking the city and townships to carve out a part of the American Rescue Plan funds to give to the ambulance service. The CAS wanted five percent from each local

municipality to help fund shortfalls and replace equipment for the ambulance service.

The CAS faces the same challenges that other rural ambulance services have; mainly that the state's Medicaid does not pay a rate that matches the costs of patients' runs.

Hight questioned if the combined five percent of ARP funds from the townships would cover what the CAS needed. Hight had recently been appointed to the CAS commission and attended just one meeting, but felt more details had to be sorted out.

He suggested that the city earmark the funds, but hold onto it and see

what the townships do. Council Member Scott Bachowski, Ward 1, agreed that the city's five percent should be set aside, but held on to. Council member Earl Grover, Ward 2, also agreed on holding on to it. He said he did not want to just throw money at a problem.

Hight said the rest of the funds should go toward funding a new water tower and to water and sewer utility improvements. Grover also agreed with Hight.

Bachowski disagreed. The city had applied for a Community Development Block Grant but did not get it, in part

SEE FUNDS, PAGE A8

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