

# The Chetek Alert

## FIRSTLOOK

### Free, family movie night at Chetek Youth Center, July 17

The Chetek Youth Center invites kids and families to a free movie showing at the youth center, 106 Knapp St., on Saturday night, July 17.

After sunset, a kid-friendly movie will be shown in the street on a large, inflatable movie screen, courtesy of the Chetek Chamber of Commerce. The event will run about two hours and is free to attend. Bring your own lawn chair.

There will be concessions, candy, soda and pizza sold. Knapp Street, between First and Second streets, will be closed to traffic during this time.



### Upcoming, local American Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross says there is a severe blood shortage and donors of all blood types are needed. Those who give now through Saturday, July 31, will receive a \$10 Amazon.com gift card and receive a chance to win gas for a year (\$5,000 value).

Schedule an appointment to donate or find at blood drive at redcrossblood.org, by calling 1-800-redcross or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app.

Upcoming local blood drives are:

- Friday, July 16: Rice Lake, at Rice Lake Elks Lodge, 36 E. Eau Claire St., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Tuesday, July 27: Cameron, at Mosaic Technologies, 401 S. First St., from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Wednesday, July 28: Ladysmith, at Our Lady Sorrows Catholic School, 105 Washington Ave. E., from 1-6 p.m.

## DEATHS

Randy Bilderback, 66

Suzanna Meilahn, 78

Myrtle Severude, 87

Darlene Solie, 81



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## Brew & Rib Fest returns—500 treated to delectable ribs, refreshments, music

Excellent weather was the cherry on top of Chetek's 23rd annual Brew & Rib Fest which boasted bottomless brews/ciders, delicious ribs and catchy music by the Jerry Way Band at Phillips Park on Saturday, July 10. It was the 23rd consecutive year the Jerry Way Band has played at the event. The 500 guests in attendance were treated to nearly 400 racks of ribs that were rubbed in secret spices, smoked and slathered in sauces by the six pitmaster teams vying for the coveted steel pig awards. Smokin' Buddy's, a team of Minnesota residents, pictured above, won the Judges Choice Award—also known as the Best of Fest. Sand Creek Brewing Company, of Black River Falls, pictured below, at left, won one of the People's Choice Awards while Chetek's own Todd Olson and Tim Maher, pictured below, at right, took home the second People's Choice Award. Photographed in the red and blue T-shirts are John Flor and Mike Brown, who were event organizers, along with Darryl Dahl, pictured with Smoking Buddy's (in the gray shirt) and Jennifer Blatz, not pictured. Tickets are limited to 500 people and sell out in the first 24 hours each year, so the public is encouraged to visit the Chetek Brew & Rib Fest website at [www.chetekbrewfest.com](http://www.chetekbrewfest.com) for updates regarding next year's tickets.



## No 50 cal. ammo, Tannerite at county range

The Barron County Property Committee considered a varied agenda on Monday, July 12, including changes related to the Barron County Government Center, a former Rice Lake school building and the county's public rifle range in the town of Arland.

The committee approved an ordinance prohibiting use of binary reactive exploding targets, such as Tannerite, and use of 50 caliber center-fire ammunition or larger. Hours of operation at the Owen Anderson Shooting Range, 760 Ninth Avenue (CTH D), are limited to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

County officials said the restricted hours and new regulations were brought on in part because of noise complaints from nearby property owners.

County parks staff also plan to raise an earthen berm to better block the sound, perhaps by adding wooden walls and filling them with dirt.

Parks staff recorded decibels in the 90s and over 100 at a nearby residence. "About 70 (decibels) is

comfortable hearing," said maintenance, facilities and parks director Steve Olson. "That's the best we'll ever get it there."

County administrator Jeff French said the range has gotten more use over the years as other public and private ranges in the region have closed. Some shooters come from as far away as Minnesota.

"It's full on a weekend. They're waiting to shoot," said parks/maintenance coordinator Ken Beranek. As usage has increased, so has shooting of louder high caliber ammo and the use of Tannerite. Beranek said some people are putting Tannerite in old televisions, micro-waves and other appliances, and blowing them up at the range.

Instances of people shooting after hours are also increasing.

For any violation at county shooting ranges, the fine is \$263.50.

The range is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, except during deer gun hunting season and deer muzzleloader season, when hunting is

permitted on the 105-acre shooting range property.

In other business, the Property Committee took the following actions:

- The Property Committee approved a recommendation to close the north entrance of the Barron County Government Center, effective Saturday, Aug. 7.

County Board chairman Louie Okey said limiting the building to one entrance on Monroe Avenue was a safety precaution.

"We need to make the building as safe as we can," he said.

County Treasurer Yvonne Ritchie expressed some concern about closing the entrance. She said many people use the north entrance in the weeks leading up to the July 31 property tax deadline for easy access to the treasurer's office. She said some people still ask why the steps leading to the north entrance were removed from along La Salle Avenue.

Property Committee members indicated they would consider **SEE COUNTY, PAGE A7**

## Hay bales lost to fire, July 9

A hay shed in the W16400 block of Hogsback Road, Rusk County, caught fire early Friday morning, July 9, and Chetek and Weyerhaeuser firefighters were called to put it out.

According to Barron County dispatch logs, the fire was reported at 4:55 a.m. at the 20-by-30 foot shed. Chetek Fire Chief Ryan Olson said the steel

shed had hay bales inside, which were all lost to the fire. The damage to the building was unknown.

The fire was under control by 8 a.m. with the help of a skidsteer, which was used to move the bales around.

The cause of the fire was not known at this time. Fourteen firefighters responded in total, Olson said.



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Smoke rises from smoldering hay bales that were removed from a steel shed on Friday, July 9. A skidsteer was used to remove the burning bales from the shed.

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