

The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

FIRST LOOK

Free, drive-thru COVID-19 testing in Barron on Oct. 2

The Wisconsin National Guard will be offering free drive through COVID-19 testing in Barron County. Free testing will be available on Saturday, Oct. 2, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The testing site is located at the Barron County Justice Center, 1420 Hwy. 25 in Barron. Enter at the north driveway and follow the signs. Testing is open to all Wisconsin residents ages five and up.

You can register the day of your test here <https://register.covid-connect.wi.gov/en-US/> or you can register in person when you arrive. If you have questions about COVID-19, please dial 2-1-1. You can also text COVID-19 to 211-211. For the latest information, follow Barron County Public Health on Facebook or visit the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website.



Cub Scouts host spaghetti dinner on Friday, Oct. 1

Chetek Scout Pack 21 is hosting a spaghetti supper on Friday, Oct. 1, at the Chetek American Legion.

Spaghetti is all you can eat with meat sauce, garlic bread, salads and desserts.

Dine in or to-go orders will be available. Hours are 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Child tickets (6-12 years) are \$5. Children 5 and younger eat for free with a paid adult meal.

Tickets are available from any Cub Scout member or at the door.

DEATHS

James A. Dietrich, 51

Virginia E. Godbout, 76

Margaret A. Hardt, 67

Darrvol Hedtke, 82

Mayo J. Loofboro, 84

Barbara Prorok, 75

Lenora D. Vana, 91



Cheers to 25 years for Dallas' Oktoberfest

For a quarter of a century, the Dallas Oktoberfest has been the place to be for a taste of that small-town country charm. The people of Dallas are busily getting ready for the big day on Saturday, Oct. 2, and what a day it will be with a pancake breakfast, car show, vintage base ball, arts and crafts, music, wiener dog races, beer, brats, lefse and more!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Right away on Saturday, things will be heating up in the fire hall in Dallas. The firemen have pulled out the firetrucks, mopped up and given the all clear for the Dallas-Sioux Creek Fire Department All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast. It is easy to size up that these are the best pancakes around.

The breakfast runs from 7:30-11 a.m. Free-will donations will go towards firefighting equipment upgrades.

CRAFT FAIR AND FARMERS MARKET

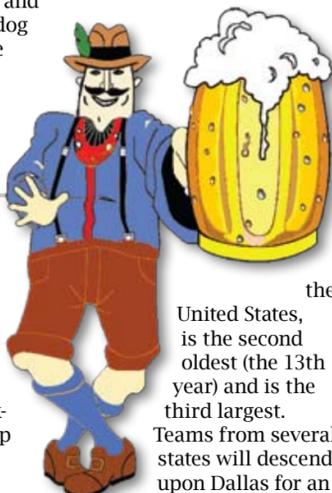
Vendors have been industriously sewing, painting, knitting, crafting and harvesting in preparation of the Arts & Crafts Fair and Farmers Market that runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dallas park.

Stop by and visit with neighboring farmers selling their bountiful produce and local artisans with their handcrafted goods. There is still room for more vendors.

The fee is only \$15. Call Nicole at 715-418-0875.

KUBB TOURNAMENT

The lines are being drawn and the pitch is being set for Dallas Oktoberfest Kubb Tournament. This tournament is the only six-person team tournament in



the United States, is the second oldest (the 13th year) and is the third largest. Teams from several states will descend upon Dallas for an epic battle for the championship.

Originating in Sweden, Kubb is a yard game old enough to have been played by Vikings. Tournaments are held all over Europe and there are now 40 tournaments in U.S.

For more information, contact Eric Anderson at wisconsinokubb@gmail.com.

CAR SHOW

The good folks at Cahoon's Garage are gearing up for the Dallas Oktoberfest Car Show held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Corey Cahoon, owner of Cahoon's Garage, and LaVonne Duce

are preparing to welcome visitors and car aficionados of all ages.

Car Show registration starts at 9 a.m. at Cahoon's Garage, corner of Second and Anderson streets. There is no entry fee. You are welcome to bring tractors, boats, bikes or any vehicle you want to show off. Everyone is welcome.

"Come make the scenic drive in your favorite ride to Cahoon's Garage! We are so excited to again be part of the 25th annual Oktoberfest, held in the small hidden treasure of Dallas, Wisconsin," Duce said. This year, a People's Choice Best Car Trophy and a People's Choice Best Truck Trophy will be presented at 2 p.m. at Cahoon's Garage.

Duce continues, "We're looking forward to visiting with you at Cahoon's Garage, the renovated Ellefson's Oldsmobile Dealership, established in the 1920s. Check out the Facebook page for a sample of what's in store, including a 1925 Model T, built by Henry Ford and made affordable for the good-hearted, hardworking people of small-town America. Prost!"

CRAFT BEER AND BRATS

As customary, there's always something brewing at Valkyrie Brewing Company, but owners Randy and Ann Lee have outdone themselves for this year's Oktoberfest. They will be pouring 15 different Valkyrie beers featuring

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Wheeler signs off after 22 years on The Fox

BY CARL COOLEY

Arnie Wheeler will sign off of The Fox 99.1 FM Morning Extravaganza for the last time on Friday, Oct. 1., but he doesn't have any grand departure planned.

"It's just going to be another day on the job, and at the end, I'm going to say, 'See ya!'" Wheeler said in an interview on Thursday, Sept. 23, at the

studios of TKC Inc. It's a simple, no-frills end befitting to a career that Wheeler has built with the idea of keeping things light-hearted and fun.

Wheeler will be moving to Tennessee, where his wife, Lila Wheeler, has moved for her job.

Twenty-two years ago, Wheeler was hired by station owner Tom Koser for the brand new radio

station. "He's the original host of the Fox Morning Extravaganza," Koser said.

Wheeler got his start in radio while a sophomore at Roosevelt High in Minneapolis, Minn. The public schools owned and operated a radio station, and Wheeler took school classes learning how to news, host shows and produce commercials for radio, he said.

"All the big-boss jocks of the 1970s," Wheeler said of what inspired him to try radio. "WLS in Chicago, with Larry Lujack. Fred Winston." With an old tube radio at his parents' cabin on Spirit Lake in Burnett County, he'd listen to WLS and WCLF in Chicago, Ill., and KAAY in Little Rock, Ark., as well as Twin Cities stations. "Tom Barnard is on KQRS to this day. He was a screaming Top-40 DJ back when I was a kid. He was 'The Catman' on WDGY."

Asked about finding his voice for radio, Wheeler said he grew into it. "Everybody that starts as a young broadcaster has a thin, high-pitched voice usually," he

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CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

Basina joins the Chetek Alert staff

Alexa Basina, of Chetek, is the Chetek Alert's new office manager. She comes to The Chetek Alert with a background in marketing and business administration. Basina is the owner of In Step Dance Studio, a dance studio located in Chetek. In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors, spending time with family and traveling when time allows. She is a Chetek native and currently resides in Chetek with her husband, Eric, and three children, Natalie, Easton and Hudson. Basina brings many different talents that we are excited to utilize here at The Chetek Alert. She takes the duties over from the Alert's former office manager, Lisa Rhodes, who was hired at a title company in Rice Lake.

Historian presents past of Weyerhaeuser railroad depot

Editor's note: The following text was presented by historian John Terrill at the 2021 Weyerhaeuser Booster Days, about the history of the Weyerhaeuser Railroad Depot.

BY JOHN TERRILL

We're gathered here on Railway Avenue in front of the 1910 Soo Line depot in Weyerhaeuser because of the vision of a couple of Minneapolis flour mill owners and investors, who were looking for a quicker and cheaper way of sending their flour to the east coast.

W.D. Washburn and Charles Pillsbury, two of those flour mill owners, wanted a shorter route to the east coast that avoided the bottleneck of Chicago, where rail cars spend days in yards waiting to be switched into trains that were headed east.

With that in mind they filed articles of incorporation for the Minneapolis, Sault Ste. Marie & Atlantic Railway in Wisconsin in October of 1883. The charter was signed by Gov. Jerimiah Rusk, for whom this county is named. Washburn was named president. Washburn Avenue in Weyerhaeuser is named for him.

Organizers of the railroad envisioned a route across largely undeveloped northern Wisconsin and upper Michigan with a destination point of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. From there the rail cars crossed the St. Mary River and were transported by the Canadian Pacific Railway across Canada to Montreal and then down to Boston, Portland, Md., and New York via connecting railroads.

Unlike some

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CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

Local railroad historian, John Terrell, gave a presentation on the history of the Weyerhaeuser Depot at Weyerhaeuser's Booster Days on Sept. 4. Above, Terrell, dressed in authentic railroad agent's attire shows where the three telegraph lines came into the depot.

Low Everyday price on 1.75 ltr

Badger Claw Vodka & Gin (1.75 LTR) ONLY \$9.99

Giovanni's Pizza
Chetek area's exclusive distributor of Giovanni's Pizza from Brainerd, MN!

FOST BIVES Spirits

Hours
Monday - Thursday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join us for a Wine Tasting on Fri., Oct. 1 from 3-5 pm.

Try a sample of our select wines!
Feature wine: Buck Shack

Busch Light
\$18.49/30 pack

All 24 & 30 packs of domestic beer sold at the lowest legal limit!

Don't forget to grab a pizza with your beer! Chetek area's largest selection of whiskey, bourbon, vodka, gin, tequila, wine and craft beer! 118 Douglas Street | Chetek