

The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

FIRSTLOOK

Breakfast, open house at fire hall

The Chetek Fire Department will be hosting an open house and pancake breakfast on Saturday, June 26, from 7-10:30 a.m. at the Chetek Fire Hall. All are welcome.

It is a chance for residents to visit and meet the firefighters, see the fire hall and all of the equipment.

On the menu are pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, juice and milk. There is no cost to attend or to eat, but free-will donations for the department will be accepted.

Raffle tickets will be available for purchase for a chance to win a side-by-side UTV that will be given away at the 28th annual Chetek Fire Department Ice Fishing Contest on the Chetek Chain of Lakes on Jan. 15, 2022.

For more information, contact Matt Davis at 715-764-2107.



Chetek Liberty Fest brochure inside this newspaper edition

The schedule for the 47th annual Liberty Fest is inserted in this edition of *The Chetek Alert*. The handy guide lists the schedule of events and includes a map of their locations around the city.

Liberty Fest runs Thursday, July 1, through Sunday, July 4.

DEATH

Wilfred Berning, 97



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITNEY DAVIS

This straight truck, reportedly carrying Amazon deliveries, crashed through a guardrail on CTH I and went into the Chetek River on Saturday morning, June 19. The driver was not injured and was later cited for inattentive driving.

Amazon delivery truck takes dip in river

The Chetek River nearly became the "Amazon" River when a truck carrying Amazon deliveries crashed through the guardrail on CTH I and came to rest with its front end in the river.

The crash occurred sometime before 7 a.m. on Saturday, June 19, just north of the tourism info booth on CTH I. The straight truck was traveling north. Chetek police and Barron County

sheriff's deputies responded, along with the Barron County Highway Department.

Chetek Police Chief Ron Ambrozaitis said the driver, David Walker, of Minneapolis, Minn., was not injured. The truck had extensive damage to the undercarriage and two axles had broken. The front end of the truck was barely in the Chetek River, which was low from the lack of rain.

Jerry's Towing, of Roberts, was called to remove the truck. Around 9:30 a.m., the highway department and police shut down the road for about an hour, so two large wreckers could pull the truck out. The road was reopened to one lane of traffic by 10:30 a.m.

The driver was cited for inattentive driving. The Amazon packages were not damaged, Ambrozaitis said.



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Jerry's Towing, of Roberts, was called to pull the truck out of the bank of the Chetek River and back onto CTH I. The road was reopened around 10:30 a.m. on June 19.



CHETEK ALERT PHOTOS

Chetek's June Wine Walk prize drawing winners announced

Chetek's June Wine Walk was held June 15-17 last week, with the gift and grand prize drawing on Thursday, June 17. The names drawn for the gift bags and gift cards included Pat "Tina" Bugher, Karen Lettner, Carolyn Bremer, Vanessa Groskreutz and Lani Nichols. Diane Mikelson, of Wabasha, Minn., was the winner of the grand prize, a Weber grill and accessories worth \$500. Pictured above, at left, is Mikelson. At center is Bugher, with her gift bag. At right is Lettner, with her gift cards. See more wine walk photos on Page A8. The next Chetek Wine Walk will be held in late July.

Find flavorful food at The Kitchen at the Funny Farm

Add food to the list of things you can find at the Funny Farm Flea Market & More, north of Chetek on CTH M, which has been expanding its attractions since it opened in 2018.

Paula Cole, of Chetek, has been running The Kitchen at The Funny Farm, which offers fast food-style menu items with a gourmet twist. On the menu are burgers made with grass-fed beef on garlic butter buns, southern-style chili dogs (topped with coleslaw and spicy chili), Guinness beer brats, tortilla pizzas, cheddar and gouda grilled cheese, grilled chicken salad, caprese stacks (mozzarella, tomatoes and basil with balsamic vinaigrette on toast) and savory Korean barbecue bites (called bulgogi). They also

serve A&W root beer floats, ice cream, kettle corn and caramel corn.

Cole previously lived in Virginia for four years, and that's where she discovered the southern-style chili dog. She moved to Chetek several years ago when her husband got a new job in Chippewa Falls. They chose to live in Chetek, because, "It is beautiful here," Cole said.

Cole's other business is Organic Infusions by Paula. That's what led Funny Farm owner John Morneau to ask Cole to run The Kitchen.

The Kitchen has window service. It is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Funny Farm can be found one mile north of Chetek on CTH M, at 885 24-1/2 St.



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Paula Cole is running The Kitchen at The Funny Farm, serving fast food-style menu items with a gourmet twist. Cole is pictured with samples, left to right, of caprese stacks, Korean barbecue (bulgogi) and a southern-style chili dog.

Renovations for dam, county low-income housing discussed

The Barron County Board of Supervisors met on Monday evening, June 21, to discuss future renovations of county-owned low income housing, improvements to the area around the Chetek Dam and future uses for the Ann Street School in Rice Lake.

Absent from the meeting were supervisors Eric Pannier, Dist. 15, towns of Chetek, Sumner and Doyle, and Marv Thompson, Dist. 20, city of Rice Lake.

CHETEK DAM IMPROVEMENTS

Barron County Administrator Jeff French said the county was looking at improving the area around

the Chetek Dam. The structure and land around it is owned by the county. The suggestion came from Supervisor John Banks, Dist. 3, city of Chetek.

The area below the dam is used by anglers, French said. Some basic improvements, like lighting, could be installed. Any work would be budgeted in 2022.

County employees and the recreation deputy were looking at possible improvements to the area. French said the area to the east of the dam would be difficult to improve as it needed to remain a protected spillway area.

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