

The Chetek Alert

Established 1882 | No. 10 Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

FIRST LOOK

Barron County job fair at Cedar Mall

An in-person job fair is being held at Cedar Mall in Rice Lake on Thursday, June 24, from 3–6 p.m. It is hosted by Workforce Resource Inc. of Barron County.

Twenty-two local employers will be at the event. For more information, contact Pattie Huse at 715-308-1030 or email husep@workforceresource.org.



Movie in the Street at Chetek Youth Center on June 19

The Chetek Youth Center invites kids and families to a free movie showing at the youth center, 106 Knapp St., on Saturday night, June 19.

After sunset (9 p.m.), a kids 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 to sit on.

There will be concessions, candy, soda and pizza sold.

Knapp Street, between First and Second streets, will be closed to traffic during this time.

DEATHS

Kathleen Hofstede, 73

Arlene Hoveland, 90

John Wachs Jr., 56



Communities start process to apply for Rescue Plan funds

BY BOB ZIENTARA | BARRON NEWS-SHIELD

Three months after the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law (on March 11, 2021), Barron County municipal governments are about to begin the process of applying for their share of funding, according to local, state and federal sources and databases.

Local governments were notified about their potential payments within a short time after ARPA was signed into law. However, it wasn't until Tuesday, June 8, that local officials learned something about how to actually get the money.

And, apparently, there isn't much of a time window to sign up.

"The (Department of Revenue) just posted the form to apply for the funds yesterday," said Roger Ol-

son, Cameron village clerk, on Wednesday, June 9.

"We have until June 18, 2021, to get the application and other necessary paperwork in to be eligible to receive the funds."

Liz Jacobson, Barron city administrator, said that after the city signs up for the funding, "some wording from the Department of Revenue seems to indicate that we should expect the first half of our allotted funds toward the end of June."

In March, local governments in the News-Shield circulation area began to get information about how the money could be spent.

The Almena Village Board was told the money could be spent to reduce the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by assisting

SEE FUNDS, PAGE A7

Council approves assessment, WWTP engineering contracts

The Chetek Common Council met for a regular meeting on June 8 and approved a laundry list of agenda items, from updating the city's garbage service ordinance, to renewing an assessment services contract, to accepting a nearly \$2.7 million engineering contract for the new wastewater treatment plant.

The council approved a new five-year contract with Associated Appraisal Consultants Inc., to do property assessments for the city. Clerk/Treasurer Carmen Newman the company would be doing a reevaluation next year.

The state wanted assessment values to be within 10 percent of what state sales were, but the city's assessment ratios were at 82 percent, Newman said. The last full reevaluation was done in 2011, she said.

For a cost of \$18,900, Newman said the company was recommending an interim market update—meaning no interior inspections were required.

The council reviewed a proposal to update audio and video equipment in the council chambers to improve virtual meeting capabilities. A quote of new equipment and installation costs totaled \$22,139.82, from Audio Architects, of Chippewa Falls.

Council member Earl Grover, Ward 2, was concerned about the cost. Council member Terry Hight, Ward 3, agreed, but noted there was a need, as people watching the meeting online often complained about it being too quiet.

The topic was tabled for next month to get more in-

formation about the equipment and the costs.

An ordinance to clarify the city's residential garbage can uses and sizes was approved by the council. Newman said it was being updated for the city's new residential garbage cans and truck with the mechanical arm that emptied the cans. It limited residents to two city-provided garbage cans and allowed anyone to use the smaller 65-gallon can.

The ordinance also banned overflowing cans. If the garbage cans did not close fully, they could be damaged when being emptied by the truck. Anyone who habitually overfilled cans could be up charged.

Public Works Director Dan Knapp said the storm siren along City Park Drive had been damaged in the 2019 storms. He had gotten it working again, but it would eventually be replaced for about \$24,970. This new siren would overlap the one at City Hall. That one would be eliminated and parts would be used to update the siren at the Chetek Fire Hall.

Chetek Mayor Jeff Martin said Hight was being appointed to the Chetek Ambulance Service Commission. Representatives from the communities the CAS covers make up the joint committee. Hight replaces Edwards who agreed to the change after having been on the commission for more than two years.

"I wanted a fresh set of eyes," Martin said. "The city of Chetek is a tad disappointed with the function of the

SEE CITY, PAGE A8



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

Tom and Pattie Huse, of Chetek, left, and Jill and Brian Obarski, of Fort Meyers Beach, Fla., right, were enjoying the Chetek Wine Walk on Tuesday, June 15. They were at Fostbites Pub.

Chetek's June Wine Walk now underway

Chetek's June Wine Walk began on Tuesday, June 15 and runs through Thursday evening, June 17.

Fifteen businesses have wine samples, custom wine glasses and coupon books. The cost of \$20 for the wine glass and coupon book. There are only 300 custom glasses, painted with a bee and theme of the wine walk, "Bee Happy." The 15 businesses include A Twist of Lemon, Antczyk Angus, Candy Corner & Creations, Carpe Diem, Chetek Bakery, Rod & Gun Sport Shop, CJ Conner Art Studio, Great Pines Plaza, It's My Lucky Day Unique Boutique, Just

Imagine Floral and Vintage Treasure, Lake Country Marina, Off "R" Rockers, Pillar Construction, Pine Lodge and Whimsical Wares. KJ's Fresh Market does not have glasses but is participating.

For every \$10 spent at participating retail businesses, wine walkers will get a ticket entered into the prize drawings. The prizes will be drawn at 7:15 p.m. on June 17, at Main Street Park. You do not have to be present to win.

The grand prize this year is a Weber grill and accessories, valued at \$500, sponsored by Pillar Construction. Names will

be drawn for the winners of three gift bags. Each gift bag have apparel, gift certificates, decor, candy, lotions soaps and other items donated by local businesses and restaurants. The bags are valued at \$250 and can be seen at Candy Corner and Creations during the wine walk.

Fifteen other local businesses and restaurants are also participating in the event. Each business will have its own hours.

Proceeds from the event will go toward the Chetek Liberty Fest fireworks show on July 4, which is put on by the chamber.



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

Aquafest one of many Kroeze concerts to catch this summer

Pictured, Chris Kroeze walks down the stage's catwalk during his concert on Thursday evening, June 10, at Rice Lake's Aquafest. Kroeze's fame might outgrow small-time gigs, but his small town roots remain. Kroeze is performing at Barron's Music in the Park on Wednesday, June 23. The event is 6–8 p.m. at Anderson Park and sponsored by the Barron Chamber of Commerce and Barron Electric. Concessions will be served, starting at 5 p.m., with proceeds benefitting the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. Sale of select alcoholic beverages will benefit the Barron-Maple Grove Fire Department. Kroeze, a Barron native, gained fame with his runner-up finish on NBC's "The Voice" and more recently reached #51 on the Billboard Country Indicator Chart with his new single "Summer Song." He will be performing at Chetek's Liberty Fest Beach Party on Sunday, July 4, and at the Hydroflites Aqua Theater on Saturday, Aug. 14.

-Cunningham Realty Group WI-

CUNNINGHAM REALTY GROUP WI

Scott and Gretchen Cunningham and their 10-member team

are ready to assist you with buying and selling your next home.

Give us a call today

and let us help you score a home run on your next move!



Scott Cunningham
CHETEK



Gretchen Cunningham
CHETEK

WWW.TEAMCUNNINGHAMWI.COM 715-296-7557