

The Chetek Alert

Established 1882 | No. 6 Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

FIRSTLOOK

Deadline for Chetek Citywide Garage Sale ads is May 28

The Chetek citywide garage sales take place on Saturday, June 5, (with many being held the day before and the day after). The deadline to be included in the citywide garage sale ad page is Friday, May 28, at 12 p.m.

Ads and a handy map showing where the sales are will be published in the paper on Wednesday, June 2.

Ads are \$15 and must be placed in person. They include a 2-inch, one-column ad, a number on the citywide map that corresponds to your ad and three garage sale signs. You may purchase more than one ad slot. See the ad on Page A3 for complete information.



Memorial Day drive-thru dinner at American Legion

The American Legion Auxiliary is holding a drive-thru Memorial Day Dinner on Monday, May 31, from 11 a.m. until the food runs out, usually around 1:30 p.m.

The meal will include chicken, potato salad, coleslaw and a bar or cookie. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free for children age 4 or under. There will be no early sales and exact change is requested.

The drive-thru dinner will be at the American Legion Post 179.

DEATHS

Richard Knoll, 63

Ruby Riewestahl, 95



Laugh n' Learn Childcare Center now open in Chetek

Laugh n' Learn ChildCare Center opened in Chetek on May 3, in Chetek. The business is owned by Todd and Sarah Murray, of Chetek, with Megan Elwood, also of Chetek, as the director.

The child care center is for infants who are six weeks old, to children age 12. The center is state licensed and has a capacity of 28 children. The location was formerly Little Creations Childcare Center.

They provide daily activities and projects, Elwood said, along with breakfast, lunch and snacks. There is also an outdoor play area.

Sarah Murray has 20 years of experience in

child care. Sarah and Todd formerly owned the business from 2004-2006. Elwood also brings 12 years of child care experience.

An open house was held for parents and children to see the center on May 1, with Laugh n' Learn officially opening on the following Monday.

They are open from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Laugh n' Learn is located at 727 Morrison St., Chetek, near ABC Truss and Roselawn Elementary School. Find Laugh n' Learn on Facebook. The business can be reached at 715-764-1057 and Elwood can be reached at 715-764-9766.



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

Laugh n' Learn Childcare Center opened this month in Chetek. Pictured above, left to right, are center director Megan Elwood, and owners Sarah and Todd Murray.

Corn drying tower near city airport approved by council

A new corn drying tower received the blessing of the Chetek Common Council on Tuesday evening, May 11, following a meeting and public hearing on the proposed structure.

Charlie Rihn intends to build a corn drying tower on his property near the intersection of CTH A and CTH SS. While this is outside of the city limits, the estimated height of the tower—100 to 110 feet—exceeds height limits near the airport, as set by city ordinance.

Structures are limited to 35 feet within a half mile of the airport property and 50 feet from a half mile to a mile from the airport property. Structures between a mile and three miles away from the airport must be under 100 feet tall.

Rihn requested a variance to exceed the 35 foot limit. The location of the tower was under a half mile from the airport. After a site study, a Federal Aviation Administration inspector gave Rihn's project her blessing, saying it was not likely a concern.

During a public hearing held prior to the council meeting, local pilot, Bob Tchop voiced his concerns about the tower. Tchop powered parachutes and is certified to instruct in them. Tchop instructs around 10-12 students each year.

Powered parachutes are the propeller-driven go-kart-like aircraft that fly under a parachute canopy and are often seen flying over Chetek during Liberty Fest. The FAA does not set minimum altitude limits and they are allowed to fly very low to the ground.

Tchop noted powered parachutes fly different traffic patterns (the race-track-like flight paths used when landing or taking off at an airport) than airplanes such as Cessnas and Pipers. To stay out of the way of faster airplanes and because of shallower climb rates, powered parachute traffic patterns are closer to the airport and only 200 feet above the ground.

Rihn's tower would be right in his

SEE CITY, PAGE A9

Separate crashes kill two, injure two



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Emergency medical personnel transport a woman injured in a motorcycle crash from an ambulance to a Life Link helicopter that landed at the crash scene on Hwy. 53 on Wednesday afternoon, May 12. The male driver was killed.

Two fatal crashes occurred in as many days last week, on Tuesday, May 11, and Wednesday, May 12, on Hwy. 8 and Hwy. 53.

A three-wheel motorcycle crashed in the northbound median of Hwy. 53 on Wednesday afternoon, May 12, killing a man and injuring a woman, according to the Barron County Sheriff's Department.

On Thursday, May 13, Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald said the deceased victim was Richard Knoll, 63, of Rice Lake. The woman was Lois Allen, 72, of Rice Lake.

The crash was reported at 3:09 p.m. on May 12, at mile marker 122, between Chetek and New Auburn.

Barron and Chippewa county sheriff's deputies responded, along with Chetek Police, New Auburn Fire Department, Chetek Ambulance Service and Mayo Ambulance. A Life Link helicopter landed at the scene.

Northbound traffic was stopped for about 45 minutes for the helicopter to land and for emergency crews to work. Northbound traffic resumed after 4:10 p.m.

Life-saving measures were attempted on Knoll but unfortunately were not successful. Allen was transferred from the Chetek ambulance to the helicopter. Flight tracking data showed the helicopter flew to Mayo Hospital in Eau Claire.

Knoll was pronounced

deceased at the scene.

The initial crash investigation showed that Knoll and Allen were riding a three-wheel motorcycle (trike) on northbound Hwy. 53 when it left the road and rolled in the median. Both were wearing helmets and both were ejected from the motorcycle, Fitzgerald said.

The cause of the crash was not known as of May 13. Drugs and alcohol were not a suspected factor, Fitzgerald added. The crash was being investigated by Barron County Sheriff's Department, State Patrol and Barron County Medical Examiner's Office.

An obituary for Knoll may be read on Page A2 of this newspaper.

HWY. 8, LOG CABIN ROAD CRASH

A driver was injured and a passenger was killed when a 2001 GMC Jimmy

went into the opposite ditch and struck a tree and power pole and rolled.

The crash was reported at 3:47 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, on Hwy. 8, between Cameron and Weyerhaeuser at Log Cabin Road.

According to the Wisconsin State Patrol, the vehicle was westbound when it crossed the centerline, entered the south ditch, struck a tree and a power pole and rolled onto the passenger's side.

The passenger was pronounced deceased at the scene. The 80-year-old driver, from Sauk Rapids, Minn., was airlifted to Mayo Hospital in Eau Claire, with injuries that were not life threatening. The driver was wearing a seat belt. Alcohol use was not suspected.

The crash is being investigated by the Wisconsin State Patrol.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A passenger in this vehicle was killed when it went into the opposite ditch, hit a tree and a power pole, and rolled on Tuesday afternoon, May 11. The driver was airlifted to Mayo Hospital in Eau Claire.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Boat crashes into tree on Lake Chetek shore on Saturday

A man was injured but required no EMS transport when his boat crashed into a tree along the south shore of Lake Chetek, near Rainbow's End Resort on the Island, according to Barron County dispatch logs. The crash was reported on 10:36 a.m. on Saturday, May 15. Barron County sheriff's deputies, Chetek Ambulance Service and Chetek Fire Department responded. A helicopter was called for but later canceled. The cause of the crash was not mentioned in the log. The boat can be seen in the tree, at right, in this photo from Dan Akins.

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