

The Chetek Alert

Established 1882 | No. ## Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

FIRST LOOK

Chetek Alert office closed on Sept. 6 for Labor Day

The Chetek Alert office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6, for Labor Day. The office will be open for normal business hours on Tuesday, Sept. 7. The deadline for ads and press release articles is 10 a.m. on Sept. 7. The deadline for letters to the editor will be 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 3, due to the Monday holiday.



American Legion raffle is Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6

American Legion Post 179 annual raffle drawing is Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6. There are 14 cash prizes with \$1,000 as the grand prize. The drawing is at 1 p.m. Doors at the Legion open at the Legion at 10 a.m. with snacks served at 11:30 p.m. Raffle tickets are \$5 for one or three for \$10. Tickets can be purchased from any Legion member or before the drawing at the Legion on Sept. 6.

Chetek Citywide Garage Sales listed on Page B10

Chetek Citywide Garage Sales are the weekend of Saturday, Sept. 4. On Page B10 of this newspaper, find a map and ads for 15 garage sales in the Chetek area. Some sales start early on Thursday, Sept. 2.

DEATH

Bernard Jaeger, 97



Parades, polka and more at Booster Days

Weyerhaeuser Booster Days are this weekend, with old favorites and some new events as well. Bill and Clara Krzyzaniak are honored as this year's grand marshals, noted Dave Wierzba, one of the event organizers.

"They have both been big volunteers in the community and helped with Booster Days, preparing food," said Wierzba. Bill also played on the city ball team for many years and both have been big supporters of the community and longtime residents, Wierzba added.

The parade is Sunday, Sept. 5, at 12:45 p.m. People can call 715-651-0169 to register, or show up at Barney's on Sunday

to register. There is no cost to be in the parade.

Wierzba noted one of the new events is a presentation on the history of the railroad depot by John Terrell. Also noteworthy was the sports memorabilia silent auction; one of the big ticket items was a jersey signed by Milwaukee Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo.

There were a few openings left in the softball tournament. Teams could call 715-790-1823 to sign up. Depending on how many teams there were, the softball tournament could start on Saturday, instead of Friday evening, Wierzba said.

For the Bazaar/Craft Fair, around 15-20 vendors had

signed up and there was still room for more. The cost is \$25 for a vendor space. Contact Wierzba at 715-790-3555 to sign up.

"We weren't able to have an event last year. Come on out and see the improvements to the depot, see the new playground equipment," Wierzba said. Proceeds from Booster Days funds these community improvement projects, he said.

For more information, see the schedule below, or visit <https://weyerhaeuser.weebly.com>.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 3

6 p.m.—The softball tournament kicks off the event on Friday evening (pending the number of teams). For info on the tournament, contact 715-790-1823.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4

7:30-11 a.m.—United Methodist Church breakfast. Cost if \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids 10 and under. Carryout are \$7.

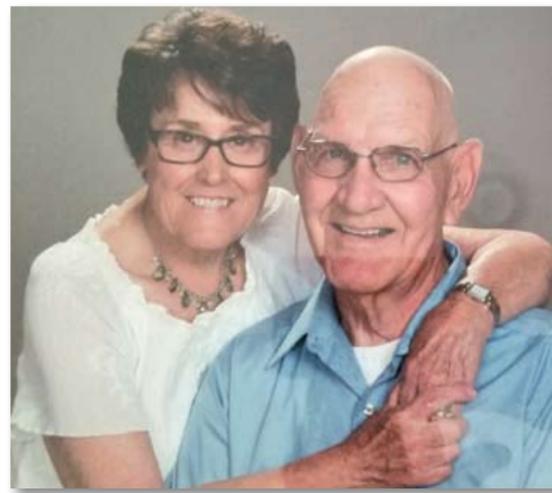
8 a.m.—Softball tournament continues.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.—Sports memorabilia auction at the park.

9 a.m.—Volleyball tournament. For info or to enter, call 715-642-0335.

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.—Booster Day Bazaar. For info, call 715-790-3555.

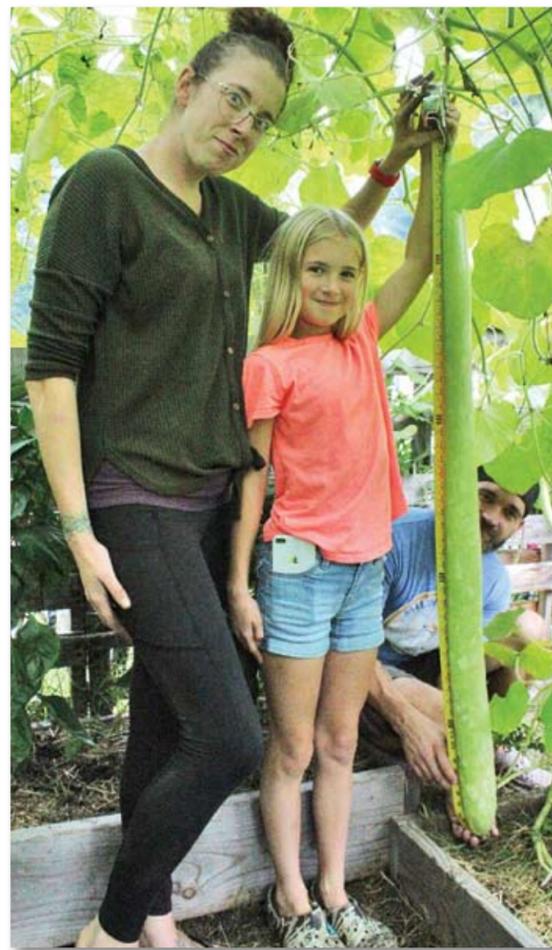
11 a.m.—History presentation on the Weyerhaeuser rail Depot by John Terrell, at the Depot. **SEE BOOSTER, PAGE A3**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bill and Clara Krzyzaniak are this year's Booster Days Parade Grand Marshals. They are being recognized for their years of volunteering and support of the Weyerhaeuser community.

World-record cucumber grown in Chetek?



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

April Gruenwald has grown an Armenian cucumber (also known as a snake melon) that appears to have broken a world record at more than 56 inches long. She is pictured with her daughter, Evangeline Hutzler, center, and her fiancé, Eric Hutzler, behind them.

BY CARL COOLEY

It's only April Gruenwald's second year growing a garden at her Chetek home, but she is on track to make a name for herself with what could be a world-record breaking Armenian cucumber.

At her home in the city of Chetek, Gruenwald, her fiancé, Eric Hutzler, and their children have planted an urban garden, with plants interspersed among each other along trellises and fences. She has planted heirloom varieties of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, carrots, beans and herbs. But the most noteworthy is more than 4-foot-long Armenian cucumber (also called a snake melon). They are related to muskmelons, Gruenwald noted.

She planted them without any intent to go for a world record, but once the plant spread out and began producing massive fruits, she decided to just see how big it would get. Normally, they are harvested when they are around 12-18 inches long.

"They are so prolific," she said. Its fruits grew pretty fast in the beginning, but have plateaued now, she said. Once fully mature, she will harvest the seeds sometime in September.

As of Thursday, Aug. 26, the largest **SEE CUKE, PAGE A8**



JIM MORAN | CHETEK ALERT

Buddy Poppies benefit needy veterans

Chetek Mayor Jeff Martin signed the Buddy Poppy Proclamation to kick off the Buddy Poppy Drive for the Chetek VFW Auxiliary on Aug. 23. The proceeds are used to offer aid, relief and comfort to needy veterans and members of the armed forces in the Chetek area. The poppy represents the blood shed by American military service members and reminds us of their sacrifices. The members of the Chetek VFW Auxiliary will be distributing buddy poppies in front of KJ's Fresh Market and in front of the Chetek Bakery on Friday, Sept. 3 and Saturday, Sept. 4. Any size donation for veterans and their families in the Chetek area will be greatly appreciated. Pictured left to right are VFW Auxiliary President Jodi McKinney and Jr. Vice President and Buddy Poppy Chairperson Pat Smith. Seated is Martin.

Find the Harvest Fest medallion

Today, we kick off the Alert's annual Harvest Fest Medallion Hunt.

Somewhere in city limits and on property open to the public is the Harvest Fest medallion, pictured inset. Three clues will be printed over three weeks, starting this week, to guide to you its hidden location. Once found, bring it to the Chetek Alert office at 312 Knapp St. The office is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Labor Day, Sept. 6. No digging or climbing



is required to find the medallion. The winner will win a prize of Chamber Bucks, the medallion and get their photo in the paper.

CLUE 1

It's socially distanced and hidden away. But come and find it, night or day. Write down some algebra to demonstrate, A clue that equals the answer of eight.

Clue 2 of three will appear in the Wednesday, Sept. 8, edition of The Chetek Alert.

Sen. Johnson at meth town hall

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson is featured speaker at a town hall meeting on the impact of methamphetamine on the community on Thursday, Sept. 9. The meeting will be held at the Barron Area Community Center, starting at 3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Also speaking will be Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald and Department of Health and Human Services director Stacey Frolik.

Fitzgerald said meth is still a troublesome issue for the area and Johnson wanted an update on the matter. "We also wanted to give an update

to the community, as it has been a while. Department of Health and Human Services Director Frolik and I will be giving the update on meth in our area and some positive programs," Fitzgerald said.



Sen. Ron Johnson



Stacey Frolik



Chris Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald was not sure if Johnson would speak, but they would call on and take questions from the public if they were related to the topic of drugs. Johnson would not be answering questions on unrelated topics.

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