

The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

FIRST LOOK

Public invited to attend CWSF annual meeting

The Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Scholarship Foundation will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 5:30 p.m. in the Guidance Office at the Chetek-Weyerhaeuser High School. The public is invited to attend.



Dallas Library hosting craft, game event for children five and up

The Dallas Library is hosting a Creative Kids event at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Children age five and older will have the opportunity to create a paddle ball game, make Valentine's critters, play games and enjoy a snack. There is no charge for the one-hour long event. There are limited supplies available for the craft. Contact the Dallas Library at 715-837-1186 or by sending a Facebook message. The library is located on Main St. in Dallas.

DEATHS

Kathleen Dettmann, 72,
Prairie Farm



Edge of greatness; Edgewood Bakeshop on the rise in Chetek

The Bakeshop locally sources many of its ingredients

BY KENTON TROUTMAN

In a Chetek cottage kitchen, a baker is working with multiple sourdough starters to fill a list of orders she recently received. She nurtures them, adding flour and water to the yeasty concoction. It's a time-old tradition. A drawn-out process that takes several days, sourdough bread is an art form not to be rushed. Unlike the hurried nature of modern recipes, sourdough's key ingredient is time.

Rebekah Stamps is the mind behind Edgewood Bakeshop, a popular cottage bakery dedicated to restoring homemade artisan bread and pastries

to their rightful place on Wisconsin tables. Move out of the way store-bought "artisan bread" because the old-world "real bread" is back in town, satisfying locals' appetite for wholesome, locally sourced, yeasty goodness.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Stamps was not always an artisan bread and pastry connoisseur. She went to college in Duluth, Minnesota, and moved to St. Louis Missouri, her husband, Michael's, home state. She worked in cafes before settling into a career in Human Resources and Operations for a large corporation. After eight years living in the daily grind, "I started to feel

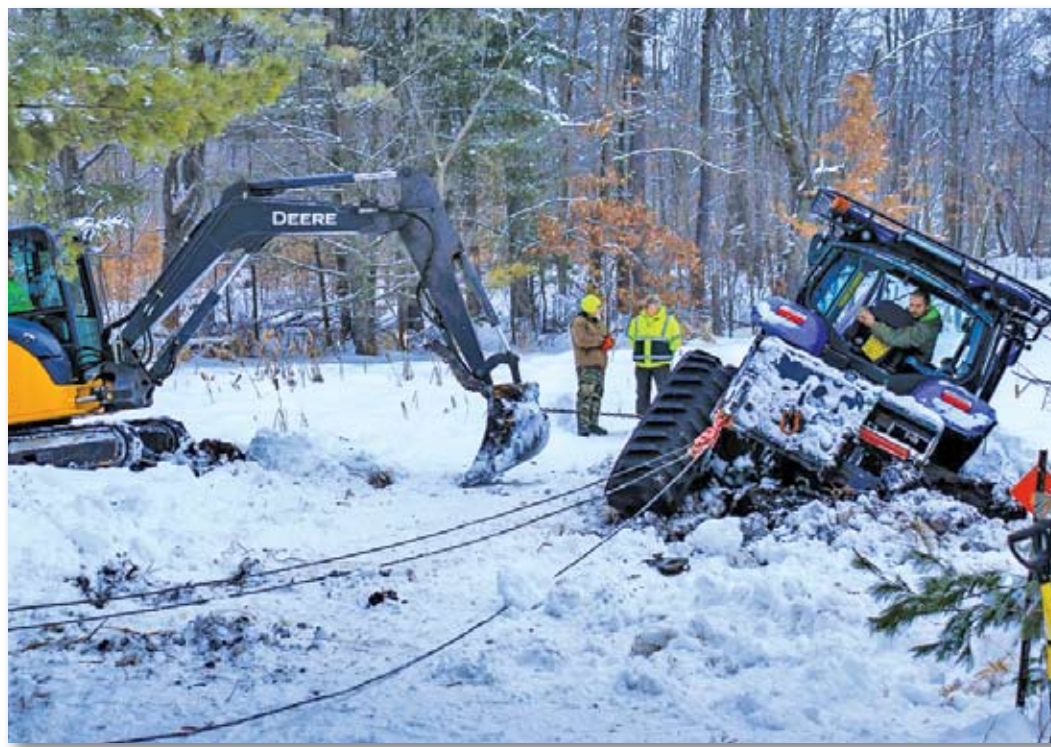
stagnant and bored in my job and had to rethink what I wanted life to look like going forward," Stamps recalled. She was no stranger to baking, but juggling work and raising a young family occupied her time. In 2019 and 2020, Stamps began to explore simple pleasures again. "My husband had a sourdough starter sitting in the kitchen, and I sort of took it over," Stamps explained. It wasn't a perfect first loaf, but with continued practice, loaf after loaf, Stamps learned the quirks of sourdough. At the time, she had found a fun hobby until she took a leap of faith.

She baked **SEE BAKE, PAGE A7**



PHOTO COURTESY OF REBEKAH STAMPS

Rebekah Stamps turns out sourdough bread and pastries including cruffins, turnovers, muffins, and other seasonal specialties out of her cottage bakery in Chetek.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Snowflyers trail groomer takes mud bath over weekend

The Chetek Snowflyers trail groomer was stuck in the mud while working on trail #30 between Chetek and Dallas on Sunday, Jan. 22. The trail was scheduled to be closed to snowmobiles while the Snowflyers worked their magic. The equipment operator was not injured and Hodgson Off-Road Recovery and Peak Excavation were contacted about pulling the equipment out of the muck. The groomer was operational after being removed and was given a five-hour long powerwash to freshen it up after the ordeal.

County retains law firm for highway department project, approves Dist. 4 seat

BY RYAN URBAN

The Barron County Board of Supervisors voted Monday, Jan. 23, to retain a law firm to pursue discussions with the construction manager of the county's over-budget highway department project.

The County is retaining the services of Milwaukee-based Attolles Law, s.c. The law firm focuses on representing K-12 school districts and county governments, according to the Milwaukee Business Journal.

The board voted to retain the firm after a closed session "pertaining to a potential claim regarding certain costs incurred, discussion of

contractual rights and responsibilities, review of potential resolutions and, otherwise, review of legal status in relation to (the Barron County Highway Department) project."

Attolles is to be in discussions with CBS Squared, the architecture and construction management firm hired for a \$25 million highway department building project. That project, which is not yet finished, has gone far over budget, with costs now nearing \$30 million.

WASTE TO ENERGY PLANT LOAN

The board also voted Monday to approve a loan of up to \$390,000 to the Waste to Energy facility for additional costs related to the installation

of a new acid gas removal system.

In October the County Board approved a \$4 million loan from the state trust fund for the purchase of the acid gas removal system.

The system itself costs \$4,118,323. However, costs related to the installation bring the total expense to \$4,408,939.

The Waste to Energy fund is able to cover some but not all of the cost, leaving a deficit of \$290,000. The \$390,000 loan from the county's general fund allows for a cushion in the event of unforeseen costs.

Supervisor Gary Taxdahl (District 10, Turtle Lake) made a motion **SEE COUNTY, PAGE A7**

Chetek man allegedly made attempt to steal two vehicles

A man from Chetek is free on bond pending a Jan. 31, 2023 court appearance on charges he allegedly tried to steal two vehicles from a downtown Chetek gas station, and damaged the gas pumps while doing so, according to Barron County Circuit court records.

The defendant is identified as Daniel D. Richie, 28, 1139 Knapp St., Chetek. He made his first appearance in court after being booked into the county jail on Thursday,

Jan. 5, 2023.

The complaint charges the defendant with operating a vehicle without the owner's consent, three counts of criminal damage to property, and tampering with a global positioning tracking device.



Daniel Richie

According to the complaint, an employee at the Cenex gas station in Chetek called police just after 7 a.m. Dec. 15, 2022, to report someone had tried to drive away in a customer's 2002 Toyota Tundra and had damaged

SEE THEFT, PAGE A7

Local taxes due Jan. 31, check with local municipality to avoid penalties

Samantha Sommerfeld, Barron County Treasurer is reminding county residents that real estate and personal property taxes are due to Town, Village and City municipalities.

Barron County collects 2022 taxes for the Town of Almena only and also collects prior year delinquent taxes for all municipalities.

Payments must be sent to the municipality shown on the tax bill to ensure residents' payments are received in a timely manner.

Payments must be received by Jan. 31, 2023, to avoid interest and penalty charges.

Electronic payments must be made to the municipality where the property is located. Not all municipalities accept electronic payments (credit cards and echecks). So, an individ-

ual may have to pay by physical check. Contact the municipality's treasurer to confirm the payment was received.

DEADLINE TO FILE FOR THE LOTTERY AND GAMING CREDIT

The Lottery and Gaming credit is reflected on the 2022 tax statement. In order to qualify for this credit, a person must be the owner of a home in Wisconsin that was their primary residence on Jan. 1, 2022. Only one primary residence may be claimed. Renters do not qualify. If a person does not receive the credit, but thinks they may be eligible for it, individuals can apply for the credit with their town, city or village treasurer.

The application form must be signed and returned to the local treasurer by Jan. 31, 2023.

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BAKE: Edgewood Bakeshop at Hope & Anchor Saturday, Jan. 28

FROM PAGE A1

20 loaves of sourdough bread in the spring of 2020 and set up a small stand at a St. Louis farmers market. "I remember being stunned because I sold 20 loaves of bread in an hour," Stamps reminisced.

By the winter of 2020, Stamps was self-employed and baking full-time.

Stamps was like flour to yeast in her urban St. Louis farmers market community. People were hungry for the wholesome, unadulterated simplicity of her "real bread."

Stamps' Edgewood Bakeshop bread stand opened unexpected doors when she met chefs in St. Louis. One chef, in particular, collaborated with her using her bread to create sophisticated dishes and incorporating new and unexpected flavors, "It was an eye-opening experience working with a chef who enjoyed challenging the status quo, blending flavors in new and exciting ways while using my bread to do it," Stamps recalled. She also secured her first wholesale clients who used her bread at their cafes.

Edgewood Bakeshop was rising in its urban community, and Stamps was ready to take the next step—opening a brick-and-mortar storefront. In a twist of fate, Stamps received a gut-wrenching call that a close family member in Wisconsin had suffered a serious health emergency. Her dream of a bakery was put on an unexpected hold.

NEW BEGINNINGS

In June of 2022, Stamps, her husband and two children packed up and moved back to her hometown, "It was a goal of mine to move back at some point, but circumstance made it happen sooner than I had expected."

Stamps comes from a proud German heritage, with her ancestors immigrating to the rolling hills of Wisconsin in 1850. Of course, Edgewood Bakeshop accompanied her on the journey back to her home state. "It was like starting from scratch when I brought the bakeshop to Wisconsin, but I was home," Stamps noted. "This time around, I had more confidence in what

I was doing with Edgewood, making the process easier than the first time around."

Supporting the local economy is very important to Stamps, and her business reflects this conviction, "I appreciate that this area has so many resources to tap into as a business owner. People enjoy cultivating and making in the true artisan fashion, and I love locally sourcing as many ingredients as I possibly can to support this amazing micro economy flourishing in Northwestern Wisconsin."

The name for the bakeshop was actually inspired by the road Stamps grew up on, Edgewood Rd., since changed to 27th St. The name is near and dear to Stamps' heart, and she is using her business to keep the name and her childhood memories alive.

During the summer of 2022, Stamps started baking out of a kitchen built on her family's property. She made use of the oven often, turning out loaves of bread and other laminated pastries for the farmers market at Country Lane Pantry in Barron. "Vendors arrive at the market around 11 a.m. to set up and people would already be walking around the property to see what the vendors would be selling," Stamps noted.

Edgewood Bakeshop became a crowd favorite at the pantry with Stamps baking dozens of loaves to fulfill special orders and stock her booth at the farmers market.

The business has thrown Stamps many learning curves but one she noted specifically was time management. "Running a baking business requires a lot of time and being as efficient as possible. My family refers to me as the machine because I have a specific method I use in the kitchen to make the best use of time," Stamps commented.

The baker has caused quite a stir in the farmers market circuit and has amassed a large online following. As if turning a cottage bakery into a full-time business wasn't enough, she is also a food photographer and has been published in Thrive magazine. With



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rebekah Stamps is a cottage baker and published food photographer born and raised in Chetek. She is the owner of Edgewood Bakeshop, established in 2020.

over 11,000 followers on Instagram, it is clear that she has a unique eye for producing eye-catching photos of food including cakes, pastries, and other sweet and savory goodies.

Before baking, Stamps was interested in photography and started taking photos of her two children. She then transitioned to food photography and fell in love, "Photography and baking were both part of Edgewood but the bakery grew faster than the photography did," Stamps concluded. She admitted it has been a while since she has picked up her camera but said she intends to pick up food photography again when she can give it the time and attention it needs.

The future is looking bright for the cottage bakery and Stamps said she sees an expansion in her future as her business continues to consistently grow. "I am operating at peak performance on my own at this point. I recognize I will need to make an addition in the future so the business can continue to grow." Stamps said she is hoping to have a brick and mortar storefront either in Chetek, Cameron or Rice Lake. She said Edgewood Bakeshop will have a studio for sourdough workshops in the building her business will call home. She also commented that food

photography workshops may be offered as well.

Although Edgewood Bakeshop does not have a current storefront, she does have a website and Facebook page for people to place orders and stay connected. Stamps offers online ordering through her website at edgewoodbakeshop.com where visitors can sign up for a bread subscription or place a one-time order from her selection of tasty breads.

Edgewood Bakeshop has a pop-up shop scheduled this weekend at Hope & Anchor Coffeehouse in Chetek from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28. She will bring along crowd favorites like her classic sourdough and cinnamon raisin sourdough breads. Stamps enjoys creating something new for her customers and is bringing sourdoughnuts to the event, including regular sugar dusted, raspberry jam and pistachio cream sourdoughnuts. She will also have savory, mouthwatering mushroom, onion, and gruyere turnovers available. Additionally, she will have flaky, melt-in-your-mouth lemon meringue cruffins, a croissant pastry in the shape of a muffin at the pop-up shop. Check out her Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/edgewoodbakeshop> for updates and specials.

COUNTY: Acid gas removal system to be installed in fall

FROM PAGE A1

that Waste to Energy be required to pay the loaned money back to the County with interest equal to the state trust fund interest rate of 5.5 percent.

"I've seen too many cost overruns on these projects, and I'm getting sick and tired of it," said Taxdahl.

But that motion failed 25-3, with the lone supporters being Taxdahl, Bill Effertz and Kathy Krug.

Supervisor Marv Thompson (District 20, Rice Lake) stated, "This is like borrowing your wife \$20 and charging her interest to pay it back."

After Taxdahl's motion failed, all 28 supervisors in attendance voted to approve the loan.

The acid gas removal system is expected to be installed sometime this fall. The new equipment is needed because the current system is expected to fail soon. The upgrade will also increase the efficiency of the system and increase the capacity of the facility.

In other business:

- The board approved the appointment of Stacy Neuman as District #4 Supervisor, representing the Town of Prairie Lake. She replaced Terry Lee, who passed away in December. This is Neuman's second stint on the board. She was District #2 Supervisor for the towns of Sioux Creek and Dovre from 2012 to 2014.

- The board approved designating \$72,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds for high-speed fiber in towers used for sheriff's

department communications. The total cost of the project is \$672,000, with service being provided by Mosaic Technologies.

- The board approved \$6,723 in ARPA dollars be used to improve the Barron County Economic Development Corporation's website.

- The board voted to support a resolution calling for more state funding for child support programs.

- The board approved the appointment of Barb Reischer to the Health & Human Services Board, replacing Randy Albrecht.

- The board approved the appointment of Karolyn Bartlett to the Health & Human Services Board for a three-year term.

- The board approved the appointment of Diane Vaughn to the Health & Human Services Board for a three-year term.

- The board approved the appointment of Brandi Nelson to the ITBEC Tourism Board, replacing Fran Langman.

- The board approved the appointment of supervisors Bartlett, Patti Anderson, Randy Cook, Louie Okey, John Banks, Craig Turcott and Jerry McRoberts to the strategic planning group.

- The board approved the appointment of Lance Peterson as the County's technology director.

- The meeting marked the start of the board using an electronic voting system for every vote, so no "ayes" or "nos" were uttered at the meeting. There will be no more roll call votes at meetings. All voting results will be published in the meeting minutes.

THEFT: Man backed into gas pump with stolen truck

FROM PAGE A1

some gas pumps in the process.

The caller said there was surveillance video of the attempted theft, which took place between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. that morning. The officer watched the video, which showed a man enter the co-op parking lot, get into a late model Oldsmobile Bravada. But the vehicle wouldn't start, so the intruder went to the truck sitting next to it, which the owner had left there the previous night with the keys still in it. The suspect started the Tundra and backed it up, striking a gas pump. As he pulled away, the hose from gas pump caught on the truck bumper which, in turn, broke the service panel in the front of the gas pump.

At one point, the intruder fell to the ground after getting out of the truck, and remained there for several minutes before leaving the area.

The officer contacted a nearby bar owner who provided additional surveil-

lance video that apparently showed the same man in the bar earlier that evening. A bartender told the officer that the suspect, later identified as the defendant, was on house arrest because she had seen him wearing an ankle bracelet.

On Dec. 19 a second bartender at the same establishment allegedly identified the defendant as her next-door neighbor. She provided additional details about the defendant's ankle monitor.

The officer contacted a company that monitors the device, and the company reported getting no GPS signal from the monitor on the night of the attempted theft. The investigation showed both vehicles involved in the incident had been damaged. The Bravada sustained an estimated \$2,500 in damages, and the owner reported there were gift cards missing from the vehicle.

Damage to the Tundra truck was estimated at just under \$675, and Synergy Co-op its estimated damages at \$2,233.

Wisconsin Fast Forward Grants available to employers

Employers are now able to apply for the latest round of Wisconsin Fast Forward grants from the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). Up to \$2 million in funding is available to employers who demonstrate a critical need for skilled workers and are seeking training grants to develop and implement a business-led skills training program.

The Fast Forward Program encourages the development of innovative solutions at the local and regional level to bring together employers, educators, workforce development entities, and economic development organizations to meet area workforce needs and increase the economic capacity of area residents.

Details on who is eligible to apply, application deadlines and award amounts are available in the Grant

Program Announcement:

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Public agencies.
- Private organizations in all industry sectors.
- Coalitions or partnerships of entities under the auspices of a public agency or a private organization.
- Tribal governing bodies of a federally recognized tribe or band of Native Americans, or an organization appointed by the tribal governing body.

The deadline to apply is 3 p.m. CST on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023.

Award Amounts range from \$5,000 to \$400,000 per grantee.



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OH WHAT A NIGHT!



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Call 608-258-4141 or visit www.overture.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023 – 2 PM
MEYER THEATRE – GREEN BAY
meyertheatre.org Call 800-895-0071

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 – 7:30 PM
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