

The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

FIRST LOOK

Brew and Rib Fest this Saturday

Brew and Rib Fest is this Saturday, July 8, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Phillips Park in Chetek (Across the street from the City Beach). At the time of print, tickets were still available on the Brew and Rib Fest website at <https://www.chetek-brewfest.com/tickets>. This year, tickets are only available online. Attendees will receive their commemorative sampling mug upon entry to the event where 15 brewers will be at the event offering samples. Attendees can vote on their favorite ribs. Tickets are \$50 for general admission before tax.



Sand Creek Fire Department Chicken feed July 16

The 41st annual Sand Creek Fire Department's chicken barbecue is Sunday, July 16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost of one quarter of a chicken is \$13 at the door, and one half of a chicken is \$16 at the door. To go orders will be available. A raffle drawing will take place at 3 p.m. Live music will be provided by The Man 2 Man Band with Margie Ann. A pedal tractor race and 5 Buck Duck race will take place at Riverside Park located at E9271 County Road VIEW, New Auburn. Proceeds from this event will go toward the purchase of fire and rescue equipment.

DEATHS

Lyndsie Frank-Murphy, 39,
Chetek
Robert Koenig, 89,
Inver Grove Heights, Minn.



69-year-old alleged meth dealer sentenced to probation

A former Weyerhaeuser mail carrier who was originally charged with a methamphetamine distribution



Timothy Wilson

offense nearly three and one-half years ago was sentenced to two years' probation Wednesday, June 28, 2023, in Barron County Circuit Court.

In a deal with prosecutors, former Chetek resident Timothy D. Wilson, 69, now living in Chippewa Falls, pleaded guilty to a reduced felony charge of methamphetamine possession, in exchange for dismissal of two other charges.

Conditions of **SEE METH, PAGE A7**

Tickets now available for circus on July 22



The circus is coming to town! The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus is visiting Chetek on Saturday, July 22, at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at Gotham Park. The circus is sponsored by the Chetek Fire Department.

The 90 minute family-friendly show under the big top will feature big cats, the tight rope, aerialists, foot juggling, horses, daredevils and so much more.

A portion of ticket sales purchased before the day of the circus will go to the Chetek FD for training and equipment needs. Early birds who purchase their tickets ahead of time will pay \$13 for adults and \$8 for children and seniors. Tickets are now available around town at local businesses including:

- The Chetek Alert.
- Sterling Bank.
- Stardust Drive-In Movie Theater.
- Carpe Diem.
- Candy Corner & Creations.
- Chetek Visitors Center.

Tickets purchased the day of the event at the box office are \$16 for adults, \$9 for children ages two to 12-years-old and seniors ages 65 and up.

Gotham Park is located at 226 City Park Drive.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Power parachute crashes into powerline in Chetek

A power parachute crashed into a powerline on Saturday, July 1, around 8 p.m. According to a press release from the Chetek Police Department, the incident occurred at the intersection of Lakeview Dr. and City Park Dr. The Chetek Fire Department and Chetek EMS were requested at the scene according to the Barron County Sheriff's Department Dispatch log. The power parachute was carrying two people at the time of the crash. The passenger was transported from the scene with several broken bones and a laceration sustained in the crash. The pilot of the aircraft was flown to an area hospital by a Life Link air transport for injuries resulting from the collision including a broken ankle that required surgery. According to Chetek Police Department Chief Ron Ambozaitis, both occupants are recuperating from their injuries. The FAA was notified of the incident and will be handling the investigation, according to the press release.

Local Veterinarian expanding business into Cameron



PHOTO BY BOB ZIENTARA | BARRON NEWS-SHIELD

Four and one-half years after it closed in December 2018, the former Mayo Clinic Health System building near Cameron will reopen—this time as a small animal veterinary practice. The new owner, Chetek veterinarian Adam Staff, said he closed on purchasing the building Friday, June 16, 2023, five days after receiving approval from the Barron County Board of Adjustment. Located at 2049 15th Avenue, the property includes this building on just over two and one-half acres of land. Mayo Clinic Health System-Northland operated a medical clinic at the Town of Stanley location until closing it in January 2018.

BY BOB ZIENTARA | BARRON NEWS-SHIELD

Chetek veterinarian Adam Staff was looking for a place to expand his Chetek Veterinary Clinic practice, where he and two other practitioners

were doing business. "But there were multiple things that intervened," he said Monday, June 19, 2023. "We had two veterinarians here for a long time and recently added a third,

but we're really squeezed in the 1,600-square-foot building where we are now." In the meantime, the practice lost one of its veterinarians, who recently moved to Illinois. The

practice is hoping to replace her soon, Staff said. "I drive to Rice Lake and Cameron all the time and happened to see a sign" advertising the former Mayo **SEE VET, PAGE A7**

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VET: Chetek Veterinary Clinic's new building has over 7,000 sq. feet, offering clinic staff ample office and surgical space

FROM PAGE A1

Clinic building at the corner of 15th Avenue and County Hwy. SS, he added.

Staff said the asking price "wasn't crazy," so he and his fellow veterinarian proceeded with negotiations with the help of Chetek Realtor Charles "Chick" Feather.

"Buying a building from a corporation is more involved than [it is with] an individual owner," Staff concluded.

Not only was the former medical clinic a lot bigger (7,100 square feet) than his existing building, it was also the perfect setup for an animal hospital, he noted.

"It has nine examining rooms, many of them with sinks, a procedure area and four office spaces," Staff said. "We do the same thing that [Mayo] did, but with different kinds of patients."

The business will operate in two

locations, the veterinarian said. Animal surgeries and hospitalizations will take place at Cameron, while the Chetek location will continue to function as it has.

The business currently employs nine full-time workers. Besides the third veterinarian currently being sought, the business may add jobs after the Cameron location opens, hopefully by October 2023, Staff concluded.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Barron County Democrats doing their part to keep county roads clean

The Barron County Democrats "adopted" a 2-mile section of CTH SS to clean up trash and litter. The group is in its third year of partnership with the Barron County Adopt-A-Highway program. The BCD group removed 11 bags worth of trash on Saturday, June 10. In 2022, the group removed 14 bags of litter, "Maybe we are getting ahead of the litterers," noted the group. The Barron County Democrats are happy to do their part to keep the local environment litter-free. To volunteer for this or other opportunities, contact the group through its website at <https://www.barroncountymocrats.org/> and use the "Contact Us" option under the "About Us" tab.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Barron Electric supports regional youth with check donation

Barron Electric Cooperative has supported the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for many years and recently donated \$500 each to Chippewa Valley Council, Northern Star Council, and Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes. Barron Electric's donations will help youth succeed in life. Barron Electric's General Manager Aaron Torud remarked, "Barron Electric is excited to support these organizations that help make the future a better place and prepare youth for a lifetime of leadership." Barron Electric donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed capital credits of former members. Pictured above at left is Laura Martins, Major Gifts Manager for the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes accepting a \$500 check from Barron Electric Board Director Patti Mandel, pictured at right.

Getting Hitched?

Send in your picture for a wedding announcement in **The Chetek Alert!**

To submit a photo and marriage info, send an email to editor@thechetekalert.com or stop in to fill out a form at 312 Knapp St., P.O. Box 5, Chetek WI 54728.

METH: Meth and smoking devices found at Wilson's home

FROM PAGE A1

Wilson's probation require him to remain absolutely sober and to work with his probation agent to complete any and all evaluations, counseling, treatment and follow-up.

He cannot possess or consume controlled substances, unless prescribed, and "must not associate with anyone known to have or be using controlled substances, except in a controlled setting," court records added.

Wilson was originally charged with possession between 10 and 50 grams of meth with intent to sell after his arrest while he was on his mail delivery

route near Weyerhaeuser Monday, Feb. 10, 2020.

Earlier the same day, Barron County Sheriff's investigators executed a search warrant at the defendant's home in Chetek. No one was there at the time. But investigators seized unused plastic bags, a digital scale covered with alleged meth residue, smoking devices, and a sandwich bag containing more than 20 grams of meth.

When he was taken into custody in Rusk County, the defendant was allegedly found in possession of more meth and \$929 in cash, mostly in the form of \$20 bills, the complaint said.

CPAL FUND

Following is a recent list of donors to the Chetek Public Arts League:

- Ingrid Rothenbeuhler
- Bob and Kathy Rykal
- Bob and Lynda Rogers
- Sue Avery
- Lori Richter
- Margaret Sailor
- James Andresen
- Carol Erickson
- Ron and Judy Gust
- William and Linda Schuberth IMO James Skozek
- Nichelle and William Gabbard
- Brian and Margo Christensen

Donations to the mural fund may be sent to the CPAL, P.O. Box 433, Chetek, WI 54728.

CHETEK MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT

JUNE COURT DISPOSITIONS

- Robin L. Cunningham, 66, Chetek, fail to yield right of way from stop sign [May 28] \$98.80.
- Ryan A. Maser, 47, Racine, possession of marijuana [April 28] \$300.
- Alicia M. Johnson, 35, Chetek, parking/standing where prohibited [March 27] \$68.
- Marsha C. Young, 40, Menomonie, operating after suspension, [May 13] \$124.

Got a news scoop?

Let us know!

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Rice Lake Speedway

Friday, July 7
Kart Track All Weekly Divisions

Saturday, July 8 - Firecracker Special
(Rain Date Only)

GATES OPEN AT 5:00 P.M. — RACING AT 7:00 P.M.

Jim & Ardie's FAMILY MUSEUM

OPEN HOUSE - SAT. JULY 8TH • 9AM-4PM

- Farming Before Tractors
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- Guitar Over 200 yrs. Old
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PIONEER VILLAGE MUSEUM
1866 13 1/2-14th AVE. CAMERON, WI

PIONEER LIFE DAY CAMP

July 12-14 & Aug. 8-10: Pioneer Life (Ages 8-13)

The Pioneer Camp experience introduces children to daily life in Northwest Wisconsin in the late 1800's. Campers will feed the chickens, water the garden, wash clothes with a wash board, attend a one-room school, make ice cream with a hand-cranked churn, weave a basket, pump water from the well, and more.

Contact: If you have questions, please call 715-458-2080 or Email: museum1@chibardun.net

FREE KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday-Thursday, July 16-20 / 3-6 pm daily
At The Refuge (724 Leonard Street)

Each day children will enjoy music, crafts, Bible learning, outdoor activities and more as they learn how they can be equipped with the armor of God to become Keepers of the Kingdom who stand strong in today's battle for truth.

Check out our Facebook page (Chetek's Multi-Church Vacation Bible School)
Call Pastor Jeff at 715-925-6078 or LeAnne at 715-642-3470 to register.

For children who have completed kindergarten through 5th grade