

# LEADER-TELEGRAM



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## Three dead in separate drowning incidents

LEADER-TELEGRAM STAFF

EAU CLAIRE — Three people died in separate drowning incidents in recent days. Officials have released the names of all victims.

The first incident was in Eau Claire, when authorities say Justin Vue went missing while on a tubing excursion on the Chippewa River. Authorities said he was due to meet others in his party, but did not arrive at the meeting point.

His body was found after a search that ended around 9 p.m. Friday at a point about 20 feet from shore and near where he was last seen.

Two more drowning deaths happened Friday in Barron County, on Pokegama Lake north of Chetek. According to the Barron County Sheriff's Department, authorities were called Friday afternoon after a call of someone in the water near a running pontoon boat.

Law enforcement was able to bring the body of Scott Brummond of Chippewa Falls to shore, but he was already dead.

More **DROWNING** | A2

## Sun, splashes and fun for dog competition

MATT MILNER  
 Leader-Telegram staff

EAU CLAIRE — Saturday's bright sun and warm temperatures were perfect for hanging out at the pool and splashing around. Especially if you had a chew toy to chase.

The DockDogs big air competition drew competitors and their owners to Scheels over the weekend, along with healthy crowds to cheer on the canine contenders. For Asher Benedict, it was a chance to see something a little different.

"It was great! The dogs jumped really far," said Asher, 10.

The best jumps saw the dogs run down a 40-foot path and launch themselves for distances of 20 feet or more. Rookies had a harder time with it, just like any competition. When Frankie, a 7-year-old golden retriever took a couple practice jumps it was less of a leap than a refined belly flop.

Still, that was enough for Destiny Jackson, Frankie's owner. They had tried a competition last year but Frankie just wasn't sure about the whole "jump when you can't tell where your paws will land" thing. This time, though, Frankie tentatively hopped from



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT MILNER

A near-perfectly timed leap sent this dog soaring a bit more than 20 feet on Saturday, one of the longer jumps of the day's competition.

the deck toward a toy.

While the jump was the first step, there was another challenge once Frankie was in the water. The ramp for the dogs to come out of the water is screened from the platform. Frankie swam back to where she had come in, and was a little lost trying to figure out where Destiny was calling from.

Eventually, Frankie figured it

out and lined up for another try.

This time the hop took her a bit further and she swam straight to the ramp. She left the water with a big doggie grin and looked for all the world like she was strutting up the ramp.

For Paisley Potaczek, 10, Saturday's event was the chance to check out the competition.

"Tomorrow, I'm going to do it,"

she said.

Paisley and her dog, Mabel, had an eye on this competition for a while. She wanted to give it a shot on as a birthday present to herself. So they practiced at home, working on how to time the jumps.

"I'm really excited to do it," she said.

More **DOGS** | A2



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