

# The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

## FIRSTLOOK

### Play the Where's What Contest in this newspaper

Thirty ads are in this week's paper, a part of the annual Where's What Contest.

Ads are on Pages A4, A5 and A7. Each participating ad is identified with a burst that says "Where's What participant." The contest directions, clue key and entry form are on Page A3. Once completed, return the form with your contact information to the drop box at The Chetek Alert office at 312 Knapp St. by 12 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16.

The Alert will draw from the completed entries for prizes from each participating business and the winners will be contacted.



### Annual Chetek Hydroflites Night Show Sept. 9

The Chetek Hydroflites annual Night Show that was canceled due to weather has been rescheduled to Friday, Sept. 9. We will have musical entertainment by Short SirKit a musical duo composed of Joe Sir and Chetek native Heather Kittleson who will be performing cover songs of legendary artists from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. They will be performing from 6 p.m. to the 7:30 p.m. There will be guest skiers in town for the Buck Up Freestyle Jump Tour Finals. The Night Show will start at dusk, approximately 8 p.m. under the stadium lights. The concession stand will be open and have a limited selection of adult beverages available.

### DEATHS

- Scott Banks, 56**, New Mexico
- Randy Conarroe, 67**, Chetek
- Doris Ebler, 84**, Chetek
- Kevin Retzloff, 57**, Chetek
- Debra Sewilo, 67**, Rice Lake
- Joan U'Ren, 91**, Chetek



## Local man saddles up, grabs life by the horns

BY KENTON TROUTMAN

A Chetek local isn't taking any bull at the Barron County Pro Rodeo on Friday, Sept. 9, and Saturday Sept. 10. Aeden Janson is fresh to the riding circuit but is leaving his mark wherever he goes.

Janson didn't learn how to ride a bull until last year, unlike other riders who start riding when most kids are learning how to ride a bike. Janson always found himself enamored by bull riding but was lacking the influences in his life that could open doors to that world. When one of his friends started riding, Janson asked his friend about riding but didn't seem to gain much traction. But Janson was bull-headed enough to persevere, and continued to ask his friend about riding. Finally, after a month, his friend broke down and took him to a rodeo in Wisconsin. Janson received



SUBMITTED PHOTO

SEE RODEO, PAGE A7 Aeden Janson rides a bull at a rodeo in Wabasha, Minn.

## Find pickin' n' grinnin' at Pioneer Village Museum for Cameron Bluegrass Festival

The 16th annual Bluegrass Festival at Pioneer Village Museum near Cameron runs Friday through Sunday, Sept. 9-11.

Music starts Friday evening at 5 p.m. and goes until 9 p.m., Saturday music is from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Food and refreshments will be available all weekend, along with acoustic instrument workshops on Sunday, Sept. 11.

There is camping for a

limited number of campers. The music lineup will feature nationally known bluegrass band, The Kody Norris Show, from Tennessee. They will wow you with their impressive pickin' styles, soulful vocals and mountain style bluegrass music. They are one of the most entertaining and best dressed bands today!

Visitors will also be entertained by more great music from local and regional bands, including: Maple Ridge, The New Midnight Coal Company, River City Ramblers, St. Paul Mudsteppers, Gospel Notes, Bluehills Travelers, Flattgrass Revival, The

Stringsmiths, The Waddington Brothers, Lorn & Royce Band, Forest Ridge Reunion Band and John Vincent & Friends. For the schedule visit the festival's website at [cameronbluegrass.com](http://cameronbluegrass.com).

Each day's entry fee includes all of the music, as well as the museum. On Saturday, visitors will also be able to enjoy an Arts and Crafts Show. The festival will be held rain or shine. Entry fees are: Friday \$10, Saturday \$20, Sunday \$15, or \$35 for all three days (\$5 each for children 5-12). The museum is located between Cameron and Barron at 1866 13-1/2 Ave. (CTH W).



PHOTO COURTESY OF DARRYL DAHL

## Masonic Lodge serves 140-plus lunches to benefit Curtie Cares

The Chetek Lodge #277 held a hot dog and brat fundraising event on Saturday, Sept. 3 for Curtie Cares, <https://curtiecares.org/>, a nonprofit organization that offers assistance to those who are homebound by offering transportation for running errands at no cost to the passenger. Pictured from left to right are Brothers Tom Nicolaides, Curt Harrison, Tom Lorow, Chuck Harrison, Dave Bowman, Jim Toman and "PJ." Not pictured are: Jim Sells, Darryl Dahl and Paul Roe. Lodge #277 was appreciative of KJ's Fresh Market (food trailer/parking lot), Synergy in Chetek (propane), The Chetek Bakery (buns) and Blues Hills Sportsman's Club (condiments). A total of 148 lunches was served. Once again, the Chetek community has shown its support for Curtie Cares.



CHETEK ALERT

Knapp and Moore streets are closed to traffic from First to Second streets for Harvest Fest. Pictured above are vendors and visitors on Knapp Street at last year's Harvest Fest.

## Harvest Fest this Saturday

BY KENTON TROUTMAN

Harvest Fest in Chetek is Saturday, Sept. 10, with a farmers market, art and craft fair, food stands, kids activities and a garden tractor pull. The event is hosted by the Chetek Chamber of Commerce.

"Town will be bursting with visitors for this year's Harvest Fest," said Jennifer Blatz, Harvest Fest organizer.

There will be as many as 70 vendors for the farm-

ers market and art and craft fair. The farmers market and craft fair runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Knapp and Moore streets, between First and Second streets. It will be open to foot traffic and closed to vehicle traffic.

Several food stands will be available to satisfy visitors' appetites. The Chetek Knights of Columbus will be selling pulled pork sandwiches with a pickle spear, chips

SEE HARVEST, PAGE A7

## The game is afoot: search for the coveted Harvest Fest Medallion

The long awaited second clue has been revealed for The Chetek Alert's Harvest Fest Medallion Hunt. Once found, bring it to the Chetek Alert office at 312 Knapp St. The office is open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The medallion is hidden somewhere in the Chetek city limits and is located on public property. No digging or climbing is required to



find the medallion. The winner will win a prize of 100 Chamber Bucks, the medallion and have their photo published in the paper.

### CLUE 2

**Not too high up, not on the ground, but looking underneath, may reveal it's hanging around.**

The final Clue will appear in the Wednesday, Sept. 14, edition of The Chetek Alert.

## Paint the town? Meeting to discuss new murals in Chetek

In recent years, many cities have brought murals to their communities, sometimes as part of a citywide beautification program, or as part of a public art program. Whatever their purpose, murals benefit the community by attracting visitors and being a source of civic pride.

An effort is underway to start a program to bring murals to Chetek. Input from community members

is needed to make the program work well. All community members who want to know more about the effort and have ideas for its success are invited to attend a meeting in Chetek at The Center, located at 711 First St., Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. Patsy Vork will present some of the ideas under discussion and facilitate the meeting. The Chetek US Out Retail Group is sponsoring the event.

## All Veterans Picnic on Sept. 18

Barron County's 21st Annual All Veterans Picnic returns to Pioneer Village Sunday, Sept. 18. The back gate opens at 9 a.m. with the opening ceremony at 11 a.m., followed by the chicken dinner at 12 p.m. This event is free to

all veterans. The Barron County Veterans Picnic is recognized as the best vets picnic in the state. Come out and enjoy a day filled with food, and explore the grounds of Pioneer Village located at 1866 13 1/2 14th Ave. in Cameron.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Chetek Chamber supports community therapy dog

A portion of the funds raised from Chetek Brew & Rib Fest in July have been donated to the Chetek Police Department to support the addition of a community therapy dog. The dog is being crowd-funded by the community and will be coming to the department sometime this fall.

## Women's Conservation Field Day at Blackbrook Farm Sept. 10

Wisconsin Women in Conservation (WiWiC) is hosting a women's field day in Amery on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 1-4 p.m., at Blackbrook Farm. Co-owner Ayla Graden-Dodge, who is a WiWiC Conservation Coach, will lead a farm tour, which will be followed by networking time and a farm-sourced snack. The event is free and open to all interested women farmers, landowners and conservationists. Children are welcome with supervision. RSVP at WiWiC.org.

Graden-Dodge, with her husband James, runs the 140-acre farm outside of Amery with a scenic and diverse mixture of tillable land, pasture, woods, a pond and a stream running through it all. Blackbrook Farm is home to pasture-raised hogs, a small herd of Scottish Highland cattle and pastured chickens for meat. The animals help the couple to improve the soil through their manure as well as rooting and pecking the ground. The animals love to

eat quackgrass and veggie scraps from the 160-member organic vegetable Community Supported Agriculture(CSA) operation. This "composting cycle" keeps inputs lower, builds soil and gives the best life to their healthy animals. The couple is growing about 5 acres of Certified Organic vegetable crops, with the remaining acres in either organic alfalfa hay, pollinator habitat, cover crop, fallow, or home to their animals.

"To be able to see the increase in toads, worms and all kinds of birds and wildlife on our farm brings me great joy and reinforces in me that, as stewards of this land, we need to continue protecting our water, wildlife and land in conjunction with using it," says Graden-Dodge.

Graden-Dodge has focused on increasing biodiversity on the farm, both above and below ground, through regenerative practices, grazing organic pastures, cover cropping, protecting the wetlands for wildlife, creating pollinator plots and roadways, and

restoring the woods to oak savannah for habitat and grazing. The couple continually strives to be stronger stewards of the land they inhabit to ensure its diversity for generations to come.

Part of the Blackbrook Farm field day will address technical advice and cost-share funds that are available from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other agencies for portable fencing, remote water lines, native prairie seed and other conservation practices.

All women farmers, landowners and conservationists in Polk, Barron, Dunn and surrounding counties are welcome, as are women who are contemplating purchasing land. WiWiC is hoping to build a regional network of women interested in land stewardship, and part of the event will be dedicated to a peer-to-peer Learning Circle and networking time. For more information, contact Stephanie Coffman, with Marblesseed, at stephanie.coffman@marblesseed.org or

## Genealogy Society to tour Pipestone Quarry

Monday, Sept. 12, the Blue Hills Genealogical Society will meet at 2:15 p.m. at the Pioneer Village Museum Cultural Arts Building to then go to the Pipestone Quarry. Jack Nedland, retired county forester, will lead the group and discuss the importance and characteristics of the quarry. The public is invited to this free field trip sponsored by the genealogy society. Once at the parking spot to go to the quarry, the hike to the actual quarry is about 1 mile. Be sure you are able to walk the distance to and from the quarry.

The Blue Hills Genealogical Society meets the second Mondays of the month usually at the Bar-

ron Senior Center unless otherwise planned and advertised. If you would like to join the Society, go to its website at [www.bhgsbc.org](http://www.bhgsbc.org) and apply.

If you have a printed family history that you would like to donate to the Society, materials of research use are preserved at the Resource Library at 410 E. LaSalle, Barron, Suite C. Contact Society president Gloria Dobberfuhl to see about donating materials.

If you have an ancestor that lived in Barron County by 1870 or by 1922, you may apply for a Pioneer or Century certificate. Details and applications can be found on the Society website.

Your family roots are an important part of making you who you are. The Blue Hills Genealogical Society can help you find those roots.

## Gathering at Chetek Lanes for class of 1967

The class of 1967 is having an informal get-together at the Chetek Bowling Alley on Saturday, September 17 at 3 p.m.

## RLCHF to match Chetek Food Shelf donations

The Chetek Food Shelf is excited to announce that the Rice Lake Community Health Foundation has approved our request for their Matching Funds grant that will match donations made to the Chetek Food Shelf dollar-for-dollar, up to \$20,000. To be eligible for the matching of funds, checks must be made payable to the RLCHF with the name Chetek Food Shelf on the memo line.

The Chetek Food Shelf is a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization funded solely by donations and is staffed by unpaid volunteers. All donations are tax deductible, and tax receipts are available upon request.

The Food Shelf serves residents of the Chetek-Weyerhaeuser School District. The Food Shelf provides basic human necessities to improve the quality of life for people in the local community. The Food Shelf is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and visitors are always welcome. Call 715-925-3500 with questions or additional information.

## Fundraising event at City of Chetek Dog Park

The annual Pics with Pets event will be at the City of Chetek Dog Park on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Pet owners are invited to bring their furry friends to the park for a 20-minute photo session provided by B. Mack Photography + Creations. Pet owners will receive five free digital photos of their four-legged friends. All of the freewill donations collected at the event will benefit the Humane Society of Barron County.

## HARVEST: Dairyland Garden Tractor Pull at 2 p.m., Saturday

FROM PAGE A1

and a drink. The Chetek Scout Troop 29 will be selling a chicken dinner from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Main St. Park.

The Funny Farm is hosting a car and truck show at their venue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Chetek Area Museum will be open from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. for visitors.

Postbites Pub will be hosting a Street Dance from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. with Johnny Propane performing from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Margaritaville from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Chetek Police Department is, once again, sponsoring a bounce house from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the City Diamond.

The Buck Up Freestyle Jump Finals are also an event worth attending during this coming Harvest Fest weekend.

The competition will take place on Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Hydroflites Water Ski Show site. This will be the final event of the first Pro Tour that took place across the nation.

The competition will begin at 2 p.m. Former Hydroflites ski team members competing in the event include Derek Buchman and Carter Buchman.

The Dairyland Garden Tractor Pullers will host a garden tractor pull at 2 p.m. on First Street near the city ballpark and Kwik Trip. Ear protection is recommended as the event can be quite noisy. The Chamber will sell beer and food at the garden tractor pull. For those wanting to register for the tractor pull, visit [www.dgtp.org](http://www.dgtp.org) for rules and entry fees.

The Chamber is hosting a kids sawdust coin hunt at 3 p.m. also at the ball park.

## RODEO: Man has competed in 40 rodeos, winning first six rodeos

FROM PAGE A1

a crash course in riding by simply getting on the bull and hanging on for dear life, "I only lasted about two or three seconds but that didn't matter to me." He said the event wasn't a success but it was a milestone experience for him.

During Christmas of 2021, Janson had a lot on his mind. He was a high school graduate who knew what he wanted to do but wasn't sure how he was going to accomplish it. After a few weeks, Janson packed up his car and drove to Texas to work on a ranch. He didn't have any connections but knew that the best place for him to get his foot in the door would be working at the ranch. He made it to the ranch at 2:30 a.m., took a nap for a couple of hours and was to work by 6 a.m. His life became immersed in work

and going to rodeos on the weekends where he could meet people.

Janson started going to larger rodeos and met Justin Glover, a Professional Bull Rider who has helped show him the ropes. Janson said he not only found a sponsor but a mentor in Glover. Janson explained that since moving back, Glover will call him up once a week to see how he's doing and will review Janson's riding videos with him to help improve the next ride. "I will sit and watch my riding videos for up to two weeks after a ride to critique myself and see what improvements I can make for the next one," said Janson.

Those who are inclined to enjoy a good rodeo from the stands would imagine that sitting in a chute with a raging bull under them would be the most terrifying, nerve-racking experience of their

life, but for Janson, it's a time of being calm and collected, "I'll be nerved up until I'm on the back of the bull. Then everything becomes calm, and I get to a place where people can be talking and hollering around me and I won't hear a thing."

Janson plans to have his pro card in the next year, so he can compete at the large rodeos like Cheyenne Frontier Days and the Calgary Stampede. Janson said his dream is to ride in the NFR in Las Vegas.

Currently, Janson rides as often as he can, and has averaged as many as 10 bulls a week between practice pens and competitions. Each bull has a different attitude, and some of them keep his heart pumping the entire time.

Janson experienced his first close call with a bull at a rodeo in February that left his spinal cord bruised. "I wasn't able to walk for about

a week, and it really had me thinking about what I would do if I was paralyzed." Slowly, his feeling and mobility returned, and he got back on a bull within a couple weeks of being released from the hospital. "I honestly thought I would be nervous after what happened, but I got right on that bull and won the rodeo," Janson explained.

"I've been to the rodeo in Rice Lake before but to ride in it is a different experience, and it's the first time people I know will get to see me." Janson said. "I'm more excited than anything to have people I know watching me this weekend." Janson said he has won six rodeos and won his first buckle in Texas. So far, he has competed in 40 rodeos.

Lash Lounge by Ryann is Janson's first local sponsor for the Barron County Rodeo this weekend.

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