

# The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

## FIRSTLOOK

### Forty citywide garage sales ads in this week's paper

The Chetek Citywide Garage Sales are the weekend of Saturday, June 5. Forty garage sale ads are included in this year's sales. See the ads on Pages B9 and B7, with a handy map on Page B9.

Days and times vary for each garage sale. Some sales start earlier on Thursday, June 3, or run later to Sunday, June 6.



### Gypsy moth aerial spraying planned

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will be conducting aerial spraying in select sites in Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Rusk and Washburn counties on Wednesday, June 2, weather permitting, to control the spread of invasive and destructive gypsy moths.

Spraying will take place east of CTH I, near the southern Barron County line; and north of Hwy. 64 and south of CTH M, southeast of Sand Creek.

To learn more about the Gypsy Moth Program, visit <https://gmaerialspray.wi.gov> or visit the gypsy moth portal at <https://gypsy.moth.wi.gov/>.

### Chetek Wine Walk is coming June 15-17

This year's first Chetek Wine Walk will be held Tuesday through Thursday, June 15-17.

Three hundred custom wine glasses will be available for the first 300 participants, along with a book of 31 coupons. The cost is \$20. Proceeds will benefit the Chetek Chamber of Commerce's Liberty Fest fireworks show.

See the ad on Page A10 for participating businesses and more information.

## DEATH

Gene Peterson, 87



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL WESTBERG

### Chetek-Weyerhaeuser High School Class of 2021 graduates

The Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Class of 2021's commencement ceremony was held on Saturday, May 29, at Chetek-Weyerhaeuser High School. Superintendent Mark Johnson gave the welcoming speech. Diane Huiras was the staff speaker. Principal Larry Zeman gave the commencement address, and diplomas were presented by school board members Korie Lentz and Mindy Hamilton. The class song was "How They Remember You" by Rascal Flatts and the class flower was a white rose. Pictured, the class of 2021 tosses their caps in celebration.

## Hardin's Gardens offers heirloom produce

BY CARL COOLEY

A new farm in Chetek is offering unique, heirloom produce—farm-to-table style—delivered in boxes for 16 weeks each summer. This year, the season starts Thursday, June 3.

Hardin's Gardens CSA is owned by Stephen Balcer and his wife, Clare Kuntz-Balcer, who recently moved to the town of Prairie Lake from Baltimore, Md. The small farm is named for Kuntz-Balcer's uncle, John Hardin, and the farm he had

which she visited during the summer.

Community supported agriculture, or CSA, is a type of farm that lets consumers purchase shares (like a membership or subscription) of the farm's produce at the start of the season. The share owners receive an ever-changing offering of fruits, vegetables, flowers and other produce as the summer progresses.

What makes Hardin's Gardens unique, is its focus on heirloom varieties.

Balcer is growing varieties

of vegetables, fruits and herbs that existed before 1950, when many types of produce started to be hybridized, he explained. All his plants started from seeds he sourced from specialty, heirloom seed companies.

Produce found in grocery stores today has been bred for high yields and robustness for shipping. But heirloom varieties have kept their more unique, nutritious and flavorful qualities, Balcer said. The produce that Hardin's Gardens is growing won't be like anything you will find at the store or most farmers markets, he said.

Balcer's focus on flavor comes from his background of 12 years as a chef. After playing semi-pro football, he went to culinary school in 2008, he said. After, he began an internship at Gertrude's Chesapeake Kitchen, a restaurant in the Baltimore Museum of Art, and worked there for 12 years, rising to executive chef.

Five years ago, the restaurant started its own urban garden to grow fresh food for specialty dishes. Balcer learned it's important to not feed the plant, but feed the soil with organic material, which in turn feeds the plant and

SEE HARDIN'S, PAGE A9



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

Hardin's Gardens, owned by Stephen Balcer and Clare Kuntz-Balcer, is growing heirloom produce and offering the purchase of shares for the 16-week season.

## Taste of Chetek will be held Monday, June 7

More than 20 businesses are expected to be at Taste of Chetek on Monday evening, June 7.

The event, hosted by the Chetek Chamber of Commerce, showcases local restaurants, who set up booths and sell samples of their signature dishes and foods.

"It's a great way to learn about all the restaurants in town," said Jennifer Blatz, chamber event coordinator.

Taste of Chetek runs from 5-7 p.m. on June 7, on Moore Street, between First and Second streets (which will be closed to vehicle traffic), and at Main Street Park (624 Sec-

ond St.) next to Ohde Pharmacy. The event will be moved inside The Center, at 711 First St., if weather is uncooperative.

During the event, Randy Marty, of Baker's Dozen, will play music.

The cost for 15 sample tickets is \$15, or \$2 per individual ticket.

## Hillsdale family farm hosts Dairy Breakfast on June 5

A celebration and salute to farmers returns with the Barron County Dairy Breakfast on Saturday, June 6, at Hillsdale Dairy. Serving is 6-11 a.m. on the farm, located at 815 Hwy. 25, a half-mile north of Hillsdale.

On the menu is all-you-can-eat pancakes, with real maple syrup and butter, all-Wisconsin omelet, applesauce, deep-fried cheese curds, Culver's frozen custard sundaes, milk and coffee.

Activities include horse-drawn wagon rides, antique tractors and machinery on display, door prizes and a self-guided farm tour.

Admission to the event is a freewill offering.

Hosting the event is the Ben and Sandee Kraft family.

Ben grew up on the farm, which was purchased by Ervin Jr. and Carol Kraft in 1981. Ervin Jr. grew up on a farm in Fond du Lac County, and after completing a dairy short course at University of Wisconsin-Madison, got a job as herdsman at Sugar Bol Farms near Chetek.

They looked all over the state for a farm of their own. They had a farm lined up in Taylor County, but that deal fell through, and they ended up with about 140 acres along Hwy. 25.

Despite the traffic, the location had its advantages.

"The milk

SEE DAIRY, PAGE A9



RYAN URBAN | BARRON NEWS-SHIELD

The Barron County Dairy Breakfast is hosted this year at Hillsdale Dairy along Hwy. 25. Pictured are, from left local dairy promoters Kim Barta and Audrey Kusilek, and members of the Kraft family, including Sandee, Ben, Ervin Jr., Carol, Matthew, Clayton and Wesley. The REAL Seal presented to the family was made by Wayne Pederstuen.

## Camerama returns, June 4-6

BY BOB ZIENTARA | BARRON NEWS-SHIELD

It takes a lot of hard work to run a local summer festival—especially after an absence of two years.

Cameron resident Denise Paddock, a 32-year veteran field technician for Rice Lake-based Cooper Engineering is helping to coordinate Camerama Days 2021.

She said that the process has had its challenges, but that willing volunteers and cooperating organizations are helping to lighten the load as Camerama 2021 approaches on June 4, 5 and 6.

"I have been involved with Camerama by volunteering in concessions, ticket sales, (and other tasks)," Paddock said May 17.

"I helped the previous board by organizing the slow pitch tournament for

them," she added.

When former Civic Club leaders decided to step aside ("after several years of hard work," Paddock noted), she and Sharon Rouse (former owner of Roush's Sports Bar & Grill) "decided to try and pick up where they left off," she added.

Rouse, who sold her business (which reopened recently as the Z Bar) is the president of the Civic Club, while Paddock serves as secretary-treasurer. Together, they have been working to revive the festival.

But Camerama wouldn't be possible without help, Paddock noted.

"The Cameron Fire Department, led by Mitch Hansen, and Jim Lundeen, are organizing the horse pull and grilled chicken dinner that we hold on Sunday (June 6)," she said.

"Tim SEE CAMERAMA, PAGE A9

### Camerama Days returns for 2021

- What: Camerama Days
  - Dates: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 4, 5 and 6
  - Venues: Sportsman's Park—softball, live music, concessions, kids games, craft show, bean bag toss.
- Cameron Fire Hall—Boy Scout pancake breakfast, horse pull, chicken dinner  
Cameron Elementary School—Fun run, 5-kilometer walk/run and 10K run  
Main Street—Grand parade

Sources: Cameron Civic Club, Cameron Fire Department, Community Bank of Cameron, Pieper-Marsh American Legion Post

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