

# The Chetek Alert

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Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

## FIRST LOOK

### Free airplane rides at Rice Lake airport

The local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association will be hosting free airplane rides for kids, age 8 through 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 14, at Rice Lake Regional Airport. Flights are dependent on weather.

This is a great opportunity for young people to experience the wonders of flight. A parent or guardian must accompany the child in order to sign a permission form.

COVID-19 precautions require preregistration at <https://youngeagles-day.org>. Temps will be taken, and masks will be required during the flight, along with social distancing.

The airport is located at 1872 14-1/2 Avenue, off of Airport Road, north of Cameron.



### Make and take free bouquets at public library event

The Cameron Public Library presents a free event, a Garden Chat with Carla, from the Little Garden That Could." Attendees will be able to make and take bouquets.

The event is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 18, at Sportsmans Park Pavilion, Spruce Street, Cameron.

It will be hands-on fun for the whole family with activities for kids. Create your own beautiful summer bouquet with flowers provided.

## DEATHS

Debra Gunnufson, 51

Carl Hoveland, 93

Lois North, 96

Elsie Wilczynski, 89



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

## KJ's Fresh Market working on plans to expand store

Sources at KJ's Fresh Market say the company is looking at expanding the grocery store in Chetek. KJ's (above, right) occupies about half of the building, with Family Dollar (above, left) occupying the other half of the building in the 700 block of Second Street. KJ's intends to take over the whole building, do some remodeling and have the project finished in 2022. Finalized details about the expansion were not available from KJ's as of Tuesday, Aug. 10.

## On point: A family's special place on the lake

### Memories, history, still being made at lakeside cabin

BY CARL COOLEY

For one extended family, the Chetek Chain of Lakes has always been a special place for them. But this year has been exceptional, as the family celebrated a wedding on Prairie Lake this summer.

The descendants and relatives of the late Dr. Raymond and Stephanie Annis have been vacationing in Chetek for more than 50 years, noted their niece, Marcia Widloe. Her son, Jason Widloe, and the bride, Erin Kennedy, were married at the Annis family cabin on Aug. 1.

"This place is so important for the entire family," Marcia said of the cabin on Annis Point, a peninsula on north Prairie Lake.

Raymond passed away 20 years ago, and Stephanie passed away 11 years ago, noted their son, John Annis. Now the property belongs to the Annis siblings. It's kept as a special getaway for the whole family.

The prominence of the area has been passed from generation to generation. Terry and Edith Sellars, who owned USMC Island nearby, taught her sons

how to clean fish, Marcia said. It's likely why her sons, Tristan Widloe and Justin Widloe, became fisheries biologists. Marcia said Justin also credits the family cabin for his love of the outdoors and it was part of why he now has a Youtube channel dedicated to pocket knives.

"It's because they have all been coming here since they were young," Marcia said. "Every year, we have not missed a year."

According to Marcia, Raymond and Stephanie purchased the property from Via Simonsen, about 47 years ago. Before that, the Annis family stayed at Bell's Resort, Red Lodge and at other resorts around the chain of lakes.

But what makes the property so amazing, is how it was named for the family.

About 30 years ago, a man had a heart attack while fishing, Marcia said. Raymond, an OB-GYN doctor, heard the boaters' calls for help. He made is way to their boat, jumped in and began performing CPR.

"If you can image doing CPR—doing life resuscitating help—in a boat," Marcia said. The man was

later airlifted by seaplane to the Twin Cities, and survived, she said.

In honor of Raymond's life-saving heroics, the Chetek Chamber of Commerce named the peninsula Annis Point, Marcia explained.

But today, there is a curious discrepancy on local maps. Lake maps label Annis Point on the west side of northern Prairie Lake, near where 12-1/4 Avenue and 21-3/4 - 22nd Street intersect. But the Annis family note their property is on a point a quarter mile south, immediately west of USMC Island and closer to Sister Island.

Regardless of what the lake maps say, the family cabin and property has always been the real Annis Point for them.

After a fire in the 1930s, the cabin was repaired. The cabin, shed and boat house are all original structures, Marcia said.

Marcia said she has been visiting Chetek since she was 12, and its special qualities have not diminished. "Chetek is in my blood. This is the most important place. I only care to come

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured are the late Dr. Raymond and Stephanie Annis, who owned a cabin on a point on Prairie Lake. It was named Annis Point, after Raymond helped save a fisherman who was having a heart attack, according to the family.

## Kroeze, with band, playing at Hydroflites site, Aug. 14

A concert to benefit the Chetek Hydroflites Water Ski Show Team is Saturday afternoon, Aug. 14, and features local favorite, Chris Kroeze. It will be one of his few local performances with his full band.

Janene Haselhuhn, with the Chetek Hydroflites, said it is a chance to showcase the group's new venue, which was built in 2018.

Sponsors of the event are paying for Kroeze to perform, but ticket sales and donations will benefit the ski team, Haselhuhn said, this season, and next.

The event runs from 2-3:30 p.m. Before Kroeze takes the stage, there will be some trivia for entertainment, with Kroeze merchandise and other prizes being offered. There will be brats, hot dogs, pizza, pop corn, drinks and candy for sale.

The weather looks promising, Haselhuhn said, adding people should bring a chair to sit on, along with a hat

and sunscreen for the sun.

Kroeze will play on the lakeside stage, facing the aqua theater. Boaters can watch from the water, but the view and the sound won't be as good, Haselhuhn noted. Those watching from the water will be encouraged to donate to the ski team.

Haselhuhn noted that one side of the boat landing will be blocked off for a few hours on Aug. 14, for the band to unload and load up after the show.

The Hydroflites have three shows left this season, Sunday, Aug. 15, Sunday, Aug. 22, and Sunday, Sept. 5. There is no show during Water Mania, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 28-29.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at [www.hydroflites.com](http://www.hydroflites.com). There will be a limited number of tickets for sale at the gate.

The Hydroflites Aqua Theater is located at 728 Lakeview Drive.

## Crash kills passenger; driver charged with OWI

One person is dead and another injured after fleeing from a police traffic stop shortly after midnight on Friday, Aug. 6, according to the Barron County Sheriff's Department.

The victim was 25-year-old Liban K. Abdi, according to the crash report filed by the sheriff's department. Abdi's address was listed as Greeley, Colo., but he had been living in the Barron area for a short time, said Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald.

The driver of the car, Mohamed Ahmed Shire, 44, of Barron, was arrested after the crash and is charged with two felonies—vehicle operator fleeing an officer and operating while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense).

According to the criminal complaint filed in the Barron County District Attorney's office:

At approximately 12:10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 6, a Barron County sheriff's deputy observed an eastbound vehicle leaving Barron and accelerating as it came out of a curve on Hwy. 8 east of 17th Street.

The officer recorded a speed of 72 mph as the vehicle passed him going the other way. The officer turned around and pulled the vehicle over after it had turned south onto CTH O (18th Street).

The officer observed two people in the vehicle and the driver identified himself as Shire. The officer reported that he immediately noticed a strong

odor of intoxicants in the vehicle and observed two open bottles of beer that had liquid in them.

The officer attempted to conduct a field sobriety test on Shire, but Shire allegedly began walking back toward his vehicle.

The officer ordered Shire to stop, but he refused. The officer grabbed him, but Shire was able to get back in his vehicle and close the door.

The officer retreated to his squad car and drew his service weapon while repeatedly commanding the driver to once again exit the vehicle.

The defendant started his vehicle and allegedly drove off at a high rate of speed. The officer pursued, but the fleeing vehicle reached speeds of more than 100 mph and the officer lost sight of it after it failed to stop for a stop sign at CTH D (Seventh Avenue).

The officer terminated the pursuit near Fifth Avenue, but later saw a vehicle crashed at the T-intersection of CTH A and CTH O.

The vehicle, a 2013 Chevy Equinox SUV, had struck a tree and was badly damaged. Officers reported that the vehicle was split open and the passenger seat was dislodged. The passenger had been pushed into the back seat, showed no signs of life and was later pronounced deceased at the scene.

The

SEE CRASH, PAGE A9



Mohamed Shire

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