

DAILY CITIZEN

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TERRI PEDERSON, DAILY CITIZEN

Jim Selchert looks at a product in his new store Jimz Farmstand, N5410 Highway DJ, Juneau, on Monday. The store opened on May 1 and has its grand opening this Friday.

FROM BARN TO MARKET

Juneau man turns family building into little local superstore

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A Juneau man has repurposed his family's barn into a unique shopping experience for patrons, including locally made foods and deals on merchandise, giving Juneau its own little superstore.

Jim Selchert grew up on the dairy farm at N5410 Highway DJ, Juneau. The barn had housed his father's cows. But in the 1990s, when his father stopped farming, the barn

lost its purpose, but not its significance.

"Mom and dad in the '80s had one of the top dairy farms in the state," he said. After his father's death in 2022, Selchert began focusing on how to use the barn.

"I didn't just want to leave it sit," he said. "You see so many of these nice old farms. My mom and dad were impeccable about the maintenance of how things were, and a lot of the old farms were like that. Once they quit milking in them, then everything

just falls apart, and then the barn falls down. And I didn't want that to happen to this place.

Selchert had been a truck driver and brought produce to farmers markets, which gave him the idea of doing something similar at the farm.

The result is Jimz Farmstand, a barn-turned-store that opened on May 1 and

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Housing, service organization celebrates 60 years

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From housing assistance to helping first-time homeowners, the Central Wisconsin Community Action Council has been a go-to for lower income people in five counties since 1966.

The nonprofit, which serves Columbia, Sauk, Dodge, Juneau and Adams counties in south-central Wisconsin, celebrated its 60th anniversary on Tuesday at Bowman Park in Wisconsin Dells. Organization leaders, student marching bands and community members celebrated the organization's work and community presence.

Volunteers also held a food drive during the event.

"We're pretty proud of the fact that (we have) 60 years in this community," Central Wisconsin Community Action Council Director Fred Hebert said. "Not too many businesses in this town have survived that long. We appreciate the support from the Dells and Delton area, all the fundraisers

we have had over the years. We're very successful at what we're doing."

Hebert added that his staff do a great job taking care of people in need in the Dells, Portage and the rest of the organization's five-county area.

CWCAC was one of 16 original Community Action Agencies in Wisconsin that formed during the mid-1960s at the behest of then-President Lyndon B. Johnson, established as private nonprofits that helped local low-income residents. The agencies began forming across the country after the Economic Opportunities Act of 1964.

The central Wisconsin organization has programs for housing and energy assistance, helping homeless people find shelter and residency, a small business development loan program, a no-interest car loan program and a down payment assistance program for first-time home buyers, among

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JOHN GITTINGS, DAILY CITIZEN

Central Wisconsin Community Action Council Director Fred Hebert, left, talks with District 14 state Sen. Sarah Keyeski, D-Lodi, during the nonprofit's 60th anniversary celebration Tuesday in Wisconsin Dells. The organization serves lower-income residents of Columbia, Sauk, Dodge, Juneau and Adams counties.

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