



The Chetek Alert

Established 1882 | No. 1 Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Chetek, Wisconsin | One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

FIRSTLOOK

Crown Cabinetry hosting showroom grand opening

Crown Cabinetry in Chetek is hosting its showroom grand opening celebration this Friday, April 14, and Saturday, April 15, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be door prizes and refreshments for those in attendance. Additionally, there will be raffle prizes at the event—must be present to win. Prize winners will be announced after the event on the Crown Cabinetry Facebook page. Crown Cabinetry is located at 121 S. Second St.



Candlelight vigil for fallen officers April 12

A candlelight vigil is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, at 7 p.m., at Mosaic Technologies, to remember fallen officers Emily Breidenbach and Hunter Scheel. The Law Enforcement Foundation of Barron County is holding the event. Parking will be available at Mosaic and at Cameron High School and Middle School across the street. Mosaic is located at 401 S. First St. in Cameron.

DEATHS

- Kenneth Breckner, 89**, Menomonie
- Joshua Cagle, 49**, Rice Lake
- James Cline, 51**, Chetek
- Irvin Kressin, 89**, Chippewa Falls
- Carl Osberg, 66**, Gainesville, Fla.
- Dianne Tempel, 84**, Willmar, Minn.



Communities mourn loss of officers

Two officers shot during Cameron traffic stop Easter Weekend

BY KENTON TROUTMAN

The two police officers and a man have been identified by officials after a shooting incident took place during a traffic stop Saturday, April 8, in Cameron.

At approximately 3:38 p.m., Chetek Police Department Officer Emily Breidenbach and Officer Hunter Scheel of Cameron Police Department stopped 50-year-old Glenn Douglas Perry of New Auburn, based on a report law enforcement received. "The officers were conducting the traffic stop based on a warrant and to check the welfare of the driver



Emily Breidenbach

following a notification of concerning behavior," according to Justice Department officials.

The Barron County Sheriff's Department Dispatch Log indicated that Breidenbach notified dispatchers she would be conducting a traffic stop with Scheel in Cameron. Breidenbach and Scheel stopped Perry on CTH SS and Hwy. 8 near a utility pole plant.

The dispatch log stated that Breidenbach and Scheel positioned their squad vehicles to be in front and behind Perry.

At 3:38 p.m., Breidenbach said Perry had a gun. Shortly after she

said Perry had a gun, Officer Scheel said shots had been fired and there was an officer down. Further shots were fired and the dispatch report said Scheel was down.

It was reported that Perry had used a rifle to fire at the officers.

Officer Scheel and Officer Breidenbach were pronounced deceased at the scene, and Perry was transported to an area hospital where he later died.

CTH SS was closed to traffic until the scene could be cleared by law enforcement and vehicles

transported to a secure impound facility. First responders requested at the scene included: Cameron Fire Department, Cameron Police Department, Mayo Clinic Ambulance, LMC Ambulance, Chetek Fire Department, Life Link Helicopter, Barron County Sheriff's Department, Wisconsin State Patrol and Barron County Highway Department.

Therapy K-9 Officer Grizz was in Officer Breidenbach's K-9 equipped squad car during the incident and eye witnesses reported him wandering near the scene. Though K-9 Grizz was on scene during the incident, he was not harmed. Grizz

was picked up shortly after the incident by Justin Larson, volunteer firefighter for Chetek Police Department and his family. The family looked after Grizz until his Chetek PD family picked him up and has been looking after him ever since.

Perry, a 1992 Chetek High School graduate, had two charges in 2020 for domestic violence. A complaint filed in March of 2020 alleged a quarrel had taken place between Perry and two members of his family that escalated into a physical confrontation. The complaint said Perry was seen with a rifle.

32-year-old Officer Breidenbach

SEE SLAIN, PAGE A8



Hunter Scheel

Scheel remembered for leadership, desire to help others

BY BOB ZIENTARA | BARRON NEWS-SHIELD

Hunter Scheel, a Prairie Farm native and one of two police officers who were killed April 8 in an incident at Cameron, was remembered this week for his accomplishments in school and the ways in which he prepared himself for a career serving others in law enforcement.

Wendy Dallmann, who coached the 2017 Prairie Farm High School graduate in track, cross country and ice fishing, said Scheel "was an amazing student athlete who always worked hard no matter what he was doing."

A state qualifier as a sophomore in the 3,200-meter run, Scheel "was instrumental in creating Prairie Farm's Cross Country team; he was the driving force behind adding this sport," Dallmann added. "He was a born

leader and was passionate about helping others."

Scheel became interested in the National Guard while he was in high school, and he served in that capacity until he recently trained to become an officer.

"I had the chance to speak to him recently," Dallmann said. "You could see and hear the excitement about being an officer [for the Cameron Police Department] and having the opportunity to serve the public in yet another capacity."

Dallmann said she was proud to have coached, taught and influenced Scheel.

"He was one of a kind and will be missed greatly by all those that knew him," she said. "My sincerest sympathies go out to Hunter's family and also Emily Breidenbach's family and friends."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Concentration shows on the face of former Prairie Farm High School track and field runner Hunter Scheel, pictured above in green, as he competes in a distance running event.

Funeral service announced for slain officers Saturday, April 15

The funeral service arrangements for Chetek Police Department Officer Emily Breidenbach and Cameron Police Department Officer Hunter Scheel has been scheduled.

The visitation will be held from 9 a.m.

to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, and the funeral service is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m., at Cameron High School. Police honors will be conducted following the ceremony outside of the school. The school is located at 750 S. First St. in Cameron.

Community offers tribute to slain officers



KENTON TROUTMAN | THE CHETEK ALERT

Chetek residents and community members from around the area, have visited the Chetek Police Department to pay tribute to Chetek Police Officer Emily Breidenbach. The department's old squad has been a memorial for people to place flowers, ribbons and flags since April 9.

The tragic news about Chetek and Cameron losing beloved officers Emily Breidenbach and Hunter Scheel, has left the community swirling in disbelief and bewilderment.

Officer Breidenbach and Scheel were described to be passionate, kind individuals who were community centered.

It is not often a public servant is told how much they are appreciated. But the Chetek and Cameron communities have something special—they are filled to the brim with gratitude.

It's hard to say whether these officers knew how much they meant to their

communities but one thing is certain—their families and friends will know how much their service meant.

The Chetek Alert has compiled comments from people/organizations who had the privilege of knowing Breidenbach and Scheel personally and professionally.

HEATHER A. FISHER

I worked with Hunter at Kwik Trip in Cameron. He was always positive and had a great personality. He really set the bar high as far as work ethics go. One of my favorite memories was when we had to fill a 500 piece fried chicken

order for a customer. It was a very stressful event but I couldn't have asked for a better partner. Our running joke was calling each other "silly goose" when we made mistakes. After he left Kwik Trip and became an officer—fulfilling his life long dream—he still looked out for me and checked in to see how life was going. My dog was lost in December 2022 and he helped look for him all night and made sure he was found. Hunter had a heart big enough for the world! He will really be

SEE TRIBUTE, PAGE A7



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TRIBUTE: Officer Emily and Officer Hunter made a lasting impact on those they met

FROM PAGE A1

missed!

MARY PITTMAN

Emily Breidenbach is one of those people God brings into our lives—making us all the better for knowing her. She truly had a heart for this entire area and loved her job and the people she met, especially the kids. If there were kids around, Emily was always right there with them dancing, talking, helping—whatever they needed. Emily was always appreciative when people thanked her or recognized her hard work and she would say, “It’s my job.” The Sunday School kids at Northside Christian Fellowship recently made thank you flower pots for Chetek First Responders, and Emily came to see the kids and brought Grizz to meet them.

When I recently spoke with Emily, she was still talking about the craft the kids made. She loved it. Last Halloween, Emily was there with Officer Grizz, one 6-year-old boy on the spectrum was a little overwhelmed and scared, so Emily talked to him and showed him where Officer Grizz liked to be skitched. Of course, when the boy found Grizz’s tickle spot, the boy received a lick on his face in appreciation. The boy was excited but he asked Emily what he should do if somebody was mean. In typical Emily fashion, she told him, “If anyone is ever mean to you, just tell me. Officer Grizz and I will take care of it for you.” We all remember her big heart, her infectious laugh, her smile, and yes, her sass. I was proud to call her my friend. Our hearts are broken and the tears still fall but our memories and our love for her goes on. We miss you Emily. Rest in peace.

JUSTIN LARSON

Chetek is a family town, and the moment Emily moved up here, she became everyone’s family. Friendly, funny, energetic, down to earth, understanding, and compassionate—she was the perfect recipe for what a small town officer should be. Someone like that is irreplaceable.

ANONYMOUS

A few weeks ago, I was sitting at home struggling with grief, and there was a silence in my house that was deafening. I decided to go to a Rice Lake grocery store to buy some ice cream to make myself feel better. On my way home, just outside of Cameron, the red and blue lights lit up behind me. I thought, “So much for enjoying my decadent ice cream.” The officer came up to my car, identified himself, and told me that I had a burned out tail light. We talked for a bit, and somehow, it came up that I was a widow, trying to find my way through grief.

He asked me some questions—he wanted to make sure I had a support system. I told him yes and explained my situation.

He shared his grief with me, and an analogy he used to work through difficult seasons.

During our conversation, I expressed concern for him standing outside my vehicle, while other cars were driving by. He said, “Not to worry.” I was amazed at the amount of wisdom, compassion and empathy this young man had. He talked about his mom. He talked about his dad. He told me about walking across the stage when he graduated the academy. I told him his family must be so proud of him. He smiled. He told me that when I arrived at home, I should give my dog a hug and have my tail light fixed.

His parting words to me were, “We will make it.” As he walked back to his squad car, I watched him in my rear view mirror, convinced I was watching an angel. When I heard the news, it broke my heart. But I have learned

something—I have an angel. I know exactly what he looks like and Hunter is his name.

CHETEK WEYERHAEUSER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Officer Emily Breidenbach was not simply a law enforcement officer when it came to her work with the Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District—she was a member of the school community. She was a substitute teacher at Roselawn Elementary, took several young students shopping during Shop with a Cop each year, and would stop in and read to students. Officer Breidenbach was often seen at sporting events—amping up the student section by leading the “Roller Coaster” or simply chatting with other students and cheering on the Bulldogs with them. Most recently, she was known to stop in the buildings with K-9 Officer Grizz and loved bringing him in to hang out with the students.

Many can speak of her joyous spirit, smile, and friendship. It is that positive impact on the community and its youth that we will miss the most here at CWASD and what will surely be Emily’s lasting legacy.

BUD BREMER

About this time last year, I was talking to Emily in the alleyway between Sassy’s and Phill’s when Emily excused herself. She proceeded to take a beer from a man drinking in the alley and disappeared inside Sassy’s. When Emily returned, she told the gentleman his beer was on a table inside and he was welcome to finish his drink inside—but not outside. She then returned to our conversation. God bless Emily and Hunter. They knew how to be community police.

SUSAN WOJTKIEWICZ

Officer Emily Breidenbach introduced Officer Grizz and talked about her work with a therapy dog at the Barron County 4-H Dog Project meeting on February 16. We were amazed by her devotion to police work and dedication to the therapy dog program. We are heartbroken by her loss.

STEPH WORKMAN

[Emily was] our girls very own personal hometown hero. We will always remember our “Embyl.”

KRISSY GOTCH

It was the summer of 2022. We were on the way home after a very long, sad day of picking up my father’s ashes from the funeral home. It was very late at night when, all of the sudden, we hit a giant doe—we were only about 60 yards from the Chetek Exit too! We pulled over on the side of Hwy. 53. The hood was all bent and we had no power to the van. There were semis zooming by us going at least 70 mph. After such a long day, my senses were shot and this was the last thing I wanted. We sat waiting for a tow truck, and with every passing semi, I could feel my fear growing. So, I called the Chetek Police Station. I felt immediate relief when a police officer pulled up behind us. To our surprise, it was Emily! She left her lights on us, so passing cars could be aware of our presence. She checked on us, and asked if we were alright. She called us a more expedient tow truck.

She then had to dispatch the deer. She came back to the car afterward and said, “Don’t tell the guys down at the shop it took so many shots. They wouldn’t let me live this one down.” We laughed and enjoyed small talk.

She had no idea how much we needed that laughter. I’ve wanted to thank her so many times, and unfortunately, now I can’t. So, I want to pass this on to her family. When we needed someone for a helping hand, it was her. She

brought this energy that made us feel so much better. Her helping us will live with us forever. Her smile was contagious and in the darkest days that I’ve had, she made it better. Much love Emily! Thank you for being that angel we needed.

REBECCA BLOTZ

I have had the great pleasure of knowing Hunter Scheel since he was 9-years old. As a young man, it was evident he had a kind and generous nature. Numerous times, I would look out my window to see him mowing my lawn or washing my truck. He was always looking for ways to help people. To those who knew him well, it was not a shock when he announced that he wanted to join the National Guard. He bravely served his country in Afghanistan, and then his community in Barron County. Our corner of the world is a much colder and darker place without Officer Scheel.

JESSICA PAUL

My kids, Lincoln and Liberty, were selected for the December 2022 Shop With A Cop Program and they absolutely loved having this opportunity. The loved every time Emily would come to their class with Officer Grizz.

JENNA HUBIN

We have a seasonal camper at Wildwood Resort in Chetek. On our way home, we stopped at Kwik Trip. My husband took my daughter in to get a snack and while they were there, they met Emily. My husband said our daughter Harper, who was five was just staring at her, as she was on duty and in uniform. Emily noticed and walked over to say “Hi.” Emily talked to her and gave her a sticker badge to wear. My daughter was obsessed and wouldn’t stop talking about it. I never had the chance to meet her, but the fact that she would go out of her way to say “Hi” to young children and make their day, says a lot about her character. I’m so sorry to her family, friends and the community for the loss of such a beautiful person.

ELAINE SILER LARSON

The first time we met Emily, she was with my daughter-in-law Jessica. It was a work day, and they were both in uniform. She was light hearted, friendly, and that smile was always there. From that time on, she was considered a friend. Whether we saw her out and about around town, or she would stop by a family gathering for a bite—she felt like family and we were lucky to know her that way. She liked to pick on me a bit when I would see her at the Kwik-Trip but I loved it. She will always be so missed, this community has lost a bit of its soul.

JESSICA ROSE OLDENBERG

I remember when Emily first started. She was always hanging with the kids at the youth center. She was truly an angel on earth. She was always smiling and the life of the party. She would even stop by to check in and talk for a few minutes. She loved the kids and people of our community. She was truly a loving, caring person inside and out.

JULIA LE BAR

We never knew Officer Emily personally, but we had a couple of interactions with her that were so meaningful. Even in my brief conversation with her, it was clear she was a beautiful person inside and out.

Hearing her name, seeing her at school for pickups and drop offs with Officer Grizz, holidays, responding to calls, or driving by—she had joy, hope and the embodiment of peace. Although she



KENTON TROUTMAN | THE CHETEK ALERT

Pictured above, Chetek Police Department Officer Emily Breidenbach at left and Lt. Jessica Larson at right, were having a laugh at some of the crowd’s dance moves at the Liberty Fest Street Dance in 2022. It wasn’t uncommon for Officer Emily to “bust a move” of her own if she heard a catchy tune. Pictured below is Chetek PD’s first Coffee with a Cop event on Sept. 14, where Blueberry Cottage Labradoodles brought puppies for the PD and community to play with in preparation for the adoption of the department’s first Therapy K-9. Little did Breidenbach or Chief Ambrozaitis know, they would be the brown pup pictured below, their own—less than one month after this photo was taken. Officer Emily was an advocate for the addition of Officer Grizz, noting that he would help diffuse tense situations at the schools, be a great addition to the community and be there for victims of traumatic events. Pictured below from left to right are Officer Andy Meza, Lt. Jessica Larson, Randy Clark and Heather Clark of Blueberry Cottage Labradoodles, Chief Ambrozaitis and Officer Breidenbach.



was so young and had her whole life ahead of her, she fulfilled her calling. We are deeply saddened for those who knew her personally, especially her family. She was a warrior. She was an angel and touched so many hearts. If there ever was a person armed with love, care, peace and courage, it was her. Chetek couldn’t have been more blessed and honored with her service. She led the little ones, and protected and guided her community. I pray her mansion is filled to the brim.

TAMARA FALL GIGUERE

We knew Hunter when he was a grade school kid at Prairie Farm. Hunter, his mother and sister. They were our neighbors in Ridgeland for a time. Hunter had the most smiley, sparkly little face! Our kids spent hours together playing in the yard or at each other’s houses. My husband made a special swinging door in our fence, so the kids could come and go safely through the yard. Hunter was always the one to say “Thank you” and “Please” first. Hunter was also very protective of his sister and play mates. We were so proud that he grew up to serve his community and his country.

SAMMY SHEPPARD

My husband Matt, and I work at Camp Chetek. Our camp runs through the summer, and we have an amazing inner city ministry that allows many children who would not be able to afford camp to come for a week. Emily and the other officers regularly took time out of their busy schedules to come to camp during our summer ministry. I do remember Emily would stop and let the kids see her squad car and even played a few games of 9-square with them. It was so good for our ministry to have her and she will be greatly missed.

KIMBERLY PAIGE RIEGEL

Hunter was an amazing young man, friend, class-

mate, and officer. I had the pleasure of getting to know Hunter during college as we went to Northwood Tech together and we both majored in Criminal Justice. We also were in the Criminal Justice Club together. Hunter was very involved and eager to help others. I looked up to him, and was honored to have called him my friend. Not a day went by where Hunter didn’t have a smile on his face, or a day he didn’t make you laugh. I am forever grateful to have had the pleasure to know Hunter, and will never forget his kindness, and his contagious laugh. He was a genuine sweet soul who was taken too soon. May his soul rest in peace.

LISA HAMILTON CARLSEN

My 6-year-old granddaughter and I were blessed to have met Officer Emily at a Trunk-or-Treat event at the Chetek Lutheran Church. I had recently moved home to Chetek.

She was there along with a few colleagues from the PD and fire department. As we made our way through the event, we stopped at their “station” so my granddaughter could see the squad car, ambulance and fire truck up close. Officer Emily immediately got down to her level and had a pretty silly 10-15 minute discussion about Unicorns with my granddaughter, who naturally—was dressed as a unicorn. They discussed always being careful with her unicorn horn and to spread the magic everywhere she went. It was one of the cutest interactions I’d ever seen.

Thank you Officer Emily for always making each child feel so special and spreading your own magic. Your legacy will live on through the memories you instilled in our small community.

BETH KLEFSTAD COMSTOCK

I was Hunter’s first grade teacher. He was the sweetest, bright and funny guy with so much promise. He always did anything to help his friends in the classroom and on the playground. His compassion for others was always evident. His smile could light up a room and his laugh was contagious. I know Hunter grew up to do wonderful and courageous things, but a big part of me will always remember him as an amazing 6-year-old with a giant sized heart.

Now, he is forever a hero. Thank you for serving and for protecting, Hunter. You will be deeply missed.

CHETEK FIRE AND RESCUE

Emily set the standard for what we all can and should be doing to better our communities and the lives of the people in them. She is the glue that bonded all of the Chetek emergency services to the people they serve through her fundraising and community event efforts. We are going to miss her terribly.

SHANA M. FRASER

I remember her love for Chetek even as a kid! Emily biked all over town—she would go so fast in order to keep up with her brother! She’s always been so adventurous and very involved with Chetek Hydroflites. One year, she came back for the Summer and had shaved her head! Her hair was spunky and made everyone smile, just like her.

DARRYL DAHL

Emily embodied “small town spirit.” She was everywhere, always smiling, and cared with all her heart. She made Chetek a better place—professionally and personally. The PD wasn’t a job for her, it was an opportunity to have the most impact and she nailed it. She was an amazing person through and through.