



# The Chetek Alert

Established 1882 No. 2 Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Chetek, Wisconsin One Dollar & Twenty-Five Cents

## FIRSTLOOK

### Chetek Cub, Boy Scouts collecting food, other items

Chetek Cub and Boy Scouts will be collecting personal care and food items for the local food pantry as part of their annual "Scouting for Food" drive. Residents should check their front doors this week for yellow door hanger flyers left for neighbors by Scouts with more information. Scouts will return on Saturday, April 22, at 10 a.m. to those same homes to pick up bags full of canned and dry nonperishable food, as well as personal care items. Please contact one of the Scout Leaders: Nathan Pierce, Cubmaster, 715-764-9297; Lloyd Persons, Scoutmaster, 715-764-2078; or Janice Gordon, Committee Chair, 715-379-9279 if wishing to participate in the food drive.



### CW Schools seeking Give Back Day projects

The Chetek Weyerhaeuser High School and Middle School is asking for people, businesses or organizations with possible Give Back Day projects to contact the them. Such projects include spring yard cleanup, painting (if supplies are provided) and outdoor chores—especially for those who are unable to do them. To suggest a project, contact Heather Bohl at the front office at 715-924-3137, ext. 2010, or at hbohl@cwasd.k12.wi.us. Deadline to submit requests will be Monday, April 24.

## DEATHS

- Emily Breidenbach, 32,** Cameron
- Dawn Evenson, 59,** Merrill
- Hunter Scheel, 23,** Hillsdale



## Fallen officers honored heroes at funeral ceremony

BY KENTON TROUTMAN

A joint funeral ceremony was held for Chetek Police Department Officer Emily Breidenbach and Cameron Police Officer Hunter Scheel on Saturday, April 15, at Cameron High School.

Kargus said the word "hero" is used too often and has lost its meaning in today's society but, "Not today. Last Saturday, they defined what a hero is," Kargus declared to a packed high school gymnasium of family members, community members, dignitaries, and law enforcement officers across multiple states. "They died as heroes protecting our community," Kargus concluded. Those in attendance included Gov. Tony Evers, Attorney General Josh Kaul, U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany, U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden and more than 1,000 members of law enforcement.

Officer Breidenbach, 32, and Officer Scheel, 23, were killed from a shooting incident that took place during a traffic stop on Saturday, April 8. The alleged shooter, Glenn D. Perry, was also killed.

Kargus, a chaplain for Cameron PD and Chetek PD, knew both officers personally and explained the close relationship between the departments and its officers, "Even though they worked for different agencies, they were friends; they worked the same shifts, and often backed each other up," Kargus explained. "Last Saturday [April 8] was the worst day of my life. I lost my two friends," he said as he looked

down from the podium at Officer Breidenbach and Officer Scheel's caskets draped with the red, white and blue.

Kargus thanked law enforcement for coming to support Chetek and Cameron during such a difficult time for both communities, "For all of you who are not from our county, you are our family."

While praying, Kargus asked, "Is there any sorrow as deep as the loss of a loved one?" He added, "We may not have answers as to why this happened, but we do have hope that is found in [God]."

Barron County has endured an unspeakable hardship Kargus said, but through these tragic events, Cameron and Chetek have shined because we love and care for one another."

### OFFICER HUNTER SCHEEL

Kargus noted there are many words to describe Scheel, but "The one word I want to use today to describe Hunter, is love," Kargus stated.

Kargus explained Scheel's love for his family, the PD and the National Guard, "He was so excited to join the National Guard. If he could have enlisted as a nine-year-old, he would have because he loved to protect." One of Scheel's aspirations was to become a police officer. Kargus told those in attendance about a video that had been circulating on social media



Hunter Scheel



JIM BELL | THE CHETEK ALERT

The time-honored ceremony of the deliberative folding of the flags in remembrance of the deceased was held near the end of the Police Honors service for Emily Breidenbach and Hunter Scheel outside Cameron High School Saturday afternoon. The flags were then presented to family members standing just steps away from the ceremony.

when Scheel was sprayed in the face with mace during the academy, the instructor asked Scheel why he wanted to be an officer, "It's my dream," Scheel exclaimed. "He loved it. He loved his job as protector, courtesy of the red, white and blue," Kargus explained.

"He was so eager and so young," Kargus recalled

meeting Scheel for the first time when he was hired at Cameron PD. "The first night I spent with him, all we talked about was hunting and fishing and doing things in the outdoors with his grandpa. When I left his squad [car], I thought 'Hunter' was absolutely a perfect name for him."

Kargus said without a

doubt, "Scheel loved his family, his department and his military comrades.

Mark Clements, Hunter's cousin, shared what Scheel was like, "The heart on this kid, I don't know how it could fit in his body or in this room. Clement added, "He was a protector at home and at work."

SEE HONOR, PAGE A7

## Crown Cabinetry celebrates grand opening

BY KENTON TROUTMAN

Crown Cabinetry celebrated the grand opening of its showroom on Friday, April 14, and Saturday, April 15. Members of The Chetek Chamber of Commerce were present for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Ken Schmidt, owner of the Chetek based, full service cabinetry company since 2022, is offering the area a fresh experience for those looking to remodel their kitchens and bathrooms. "The kitchen is the most important room in a home for most people," Schmidt noted. "So, why not offer a high end, tailored experience for clients looking to make a change?"

When Schmidt says his business is full service, he means it. The cabinet company can design, order, deliver and install its products—Crown Cabinetry is there every step of the way.

The cabinet company is unlike other companies in that the staff

SEE CROWN, PAGE A8



TYLER FLORCZAK | THE CHETEK ALERT

Crown Cabinetry celebrated its showroom grand opening on Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15. Crown Cabinetry staff aim to tailor a high-end customer experience no matter the budget. Pictured above at center are Ken Schmidt and his wife Jennifer, at the grand opening. Pictured at left in red is Chetek Chamber representative John Flor and pictured at right in red is Chamber representative Alex Swanson.

## New Auburn Bridgestop robbed Saturday night

The New Auburn Bridgestop was robbed Saturday night, April 15, just before 10 p.m. by a male subject who said he had a gun. The man made off with an undisclosed amount of cash, some or all of which was recovered.

Bridgestop is in the Chippewa County portion of the village, but deputies from Barron County were called for assistance.

According to the Barron County dispatch log, Barron County Sheriff's department received a call at 10:10 p.m., Saturday night, asking for two more deputies if available. The log entry said that Chippewa County advised they had a robbery at Bridgestop in New Auburn. A male subject in a black coat and sunglasses said he had a gun but did not display it to the clerk. The subject left on foot in an unknown direction.

Barron County's log said that around 10:35 p.m. a Bar-

ron County deputy said that Chippewa had a K-9 coming and that the drone was up. He also reported that the subject was northbound and that they had located a pile of money.

A neighbor said the money was found near the former St. Junes Catholic Church a couple of blocks east of Bridgestop.

The deputy further reported at 11:11 p.m. that he was checking on a vehicle with two males at a place of business on the north edge of New Auburn. One of the two was the business owner, and they were there watching for the suspect.

The Barron County deputy advised that he was clear at 11:40 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 18, Chippewa County Sheriff Travis Hakes reported that a suspect had been arrested. No further details are being released at this time, and there is no danger to the public.



**Kami Reid**  
**State Farm**  
 715-924-4878  
 www.kamireid.com  
 217 Dallas Street | Chetek

Call for a quote today!

Family is why we do it all.

We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. Helping you meet your insurance needs is part of our commitment to you.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

# HONOR: Scheel, Breidenbach legacy is love, care for community

FROM PAGE A1

Scheel's sister Audrey, discussed what it was like having him as a brother and described him as confident, strong and fearless. "When I think of Hunter, I see his contagious smile that he would give to anyone he met along the way," Audrey explained. "Little did he know, it was that smile that changed lives." She continued, "I cry and cry, knowing I will never get to see that smile again." She described that the pain she feels is unexplainable and can be felt physically and mentally when she visits the memories of her brother. "I know he's smiling, and he's proud. I know he is proud of having Emily's back," Audrey Scheel concluded.

Scheel's partner, Camryn Gosdeck, stepped to the podium and shared her gratitude to those who attended the service. She read Psalm 23 and discussed her and Scheel's connection, "Hunter and I shared many things in common, but something we both shared was our love and our passion for the Lord." The couple were to be engaged in May, as Scheel was able to save up enough money for an engagement ring.

Cameron Police Chief Adam Steffen said, "I was

blessed with getting to lead Hunter. They [Emily] [Hunter] performed their job with dignity, respect and professionalism."

**OFFICER EMILY BREIDENBACH**

Chetek Police Chief Ron Ambrozaitis shared with the crowd how Breidenbach had come to the Chetek Police Department. He described an eager young woman sitting at the edge of her seat holding her submission packet. He said he immediately recognized her last name, as her father Robert Breidenbach, used to be chief of police for Chetek PD. "I knew somehow, I had to make this girl part of the Chetek Police Department." Ambrozaitis noted there was no doubt about her qualifications, but there were other applicants for the job.

Ambrozaitis said he spoke with the other applicants and saved Breidenbach for last, drawing out the suspense for her. He knew she would be excited once she found out. "I told her to meet me outside,

behind the garage and told her," Ambrozaitis reminisced. "From then on, the excitement at Chetek Police Department began," Ambrozaitis said.

The Chetek PD Chief said Breidenbach loved children and worked with the Internet Crimes Against Children task force (ICAC). Ambrozaitis said Breidenbach wanted to attend the Detective Academy, so he sent her. However, Ambrozaitis said she was the spearhead for the PD's implementation of a therapy K-9. "For two years the girls at the PD wanted a therapy dog, and I said, 'Oh no, that's not good,'" Ambrozaitis recalled. But with some coaxing, Ambrozaitis slowly warmed up to the idea. "I had no doubt who the handler was going to be," Ambrozaitis said.

Officer Breidenbach was told that there was no room in the budget to bring on a therapy dog. So, she worked with the community to crowdfund the animal. "She raised \$18,000 in four months," Ambrozaitis recalled, "We only needed about six."

Officer K-9 Grizz was at the ceremony and was seen with his Chetek PD family.

Chief Ambrozaitis



**Emily Breidenbach**



JIM BELL | THE CHETEK ALERT

Pictured above, fellow police officers, bearing the red, white and blue of service to country and law enforcement, quietly waited outside Cameron High School Saturday afternoon while the funeral service honoring Emily Breidenbach and Hunter Scheel was being held. Pictured below, hundreds of police cars from all across Wisconsin and neighboring states, slowly made their way through downtown Chetek Saturday afternoon as their lights flashed and sirens sounded during the last leg of an honored journey marking the passing of slain police officers Emily Breidenbach and Hunter Scheel. The procession took approximately one hour and twenty minutes to pass by.



**NEWS ON THE GO!**  
www.chetekalert.com

**Enliven MedSpa and Wellness Center**  
- RENEW & RELAX -  
Acupuncture - Botox and Fillers - Cocoon Wellness Pod  
Coolsculpting - Facials - Infrared Sauna - Ionic Foot Detox  
Laser Hair Removal - Lash Lift & Tint-Extensions - Massage  
Microneedling - Reflexology - Reiki - Skin Tightening  
Spray Tan - Teeth Whitening and more!  
1035 N. Main St. Ste. 2SE, Rice Lake  
715-790-2190  
Enlivenmedspa.com

**Wolf's Den**  
RV Campground  
Resort & Tavern  
Live Music  
Weekly Specials  
Monday thru Wednesday  
Specials ALL Day  
\$2.50 Domestic Beer  
50¢ off rail mixers  
\$6.00 Pretzel with Cheese  
Thursday  
Specials from open til 8p.m.  
BOGO Domestic Beer & Rail drinks  
\$6.00 Pretzel with Cheese  
Friday  
Specials from open til 6p.m.  
\$2.00 Domestic Beer  
Saturday  
Bingo & Meat/Cheese Raffle 2p.m.  
Wednesday  
Meat & Cheese Raffle 6p.m.  
Saturday, April 22: Johnnie & Frankie 6-10  
Sunday, April 23: Rick Schroeder 1-5  
Saturday, April 29: Johnny Propane 6-10  
Friday May 5th: The Sixes 6-10  
Saturday May 6th: Uncle Brew & Pirate Charlie 1-4, Hap & Hawk 6-9  
Sunday May 7th: Mickey Lunn 1-4  
Friday May 12th: East Hill Revival 6-10  
Saturday May 13th: Cody Earl 1-5  
Whiskey Topaz 6-10  
Sunday, May 14th: Mudkat 1-4  
Friday, May 19th: west avenue band 6-10  
Saturday, May 20th: 2nd x-it 6-10  
Sunday, May 21st: Man to Man & Margie Ann 3:30-6:30  
(women fishing contest 10am)  
Friday, May 26th: Jack Willhite Comedy Rock Show 6-10  
Saturday, May 27th: Chrome Wheels 1-4  
3 Beers Down 6-10  
Sunday, May 28th: Roger Lee 1-4  
Monday, May 29th: Skeeter On Sound 1-5  
wolfsdenrvresortbarandcampground.com

**CLPA & CHETEK LION'S CLUB**  
**MEAT RAFFLE**  
50/50 Raffles | Meat | Pie | Blackstone Grill  
SATURDAY APRIL 22ND 2PM - 5PM  
AT SASSY'S BAR  
515 2ND STREET CHETEK, WI 54728  
PROTEK LAKES CHETEK  
Enjoy Our Chain of Lakes  
THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS:

Chetek Lions Club Wisconsin - United States  
KWIKTRIP  
Sterling Bank  
Lake Country MARINA  
WOLF'S DEN  
Six Lakes REALTY  
KWI DIVERSIFIED

**BARRON COUNTY FAIR**  
**Crafters Wanted**  
OVER 17,000 VISITORS!  
- SPACES AVAILABLE -  
FRIDAY, JULY 21  
THRU  
SUNDAY JULY 23  
• LIMITED SPACING •  
Contact Kevin Roske 715-761-5160