



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



Hunter Scheel

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

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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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

BY JEFF MARTIN | CHETEK MAYOR



Jeff Martin

Over the last few days I've given a number of interviews for several news outlets all wanting to know who Officer Emily Breidenbach was and what her loss means to our community. Where do you start? How do you do justice to any individual who passes unexpectedly and, in her case, in the line of duty? We have lost a darn good officer who wore a badge, carried a gun and helped maintain the public's safety. But like all good officers, she did so much more than enforce the law. She built bridges into our community with kids and adults alike—in our schools, on our

streets, downtown and the surrounding area. I first met Emily when she was a young girl back in the 90s. Her dad was our Chief of Police at the time and she would spend time at The Garage, the youth center that used to operate where AutoZone now is. From time to time I'd give her a ride home after we closed up shop. Many years later while on a ride along with Officer Breidenbach, we shared a laugh as our roles were now reversed and she was giving me a ride—fortunately for me it was not in the back seat. Our son, Charlie, is on the autism spectrum and loves to build Legos models. In 2021, he was working steadily on a 6000+ piece model of Hogwarts Castle (of Harry Potter fame). Every day I was posting his progress on Facebook so that his grandparents and our friends could enjoy the journey with us. One early evening there was a knock on our front door from Lt. Jessica Larson and Officer Emily. They were stopping by as they wanted to see Charlie's work up close. I can tell you, Charlie was a bit curious why anyone would be interested in his work but in what town

do you have two officers make a house call just to ooh and aah over someone's labor of love? This, in a nutshell, is what kind of Officer Emily was. On that ride along I did with her on a Friday evening in May, she bought me an ice cream cone at DQ, she followed up on a tip of someone who was attempting to solicit illegal drugs, she conducted a welfare check on an elderly resident and pulled someone over for an OWI. All in a day's work—or, in that case, a night's work. Emily was personable and caring but professional and competent when duty called. In the last year, she took point on Chetek PD acquiring a therapy dog and became Officer Grizz's handler—yet another bridge into people's lives. We have all lost a wonderful member of our Chetek family. May God bless her family—both her parents and siblings, and the greater fraternity of officers which she was a member of. It's a dangerous world out there and we will always need people like her to suit up and go into harm's way on our behalf. Thank you Officer Emily for your service. May God bless and keep you always.

SLAIN: Both officers described as outstanding, passionate about community

FROM PAGE A1

has served the local community at Chetek PD since 2019, following in the footsteps of her father Bob Breidenbach, who was Chetek PD's Chief of Police from 1999-2005. Breidenbach began her career in law enforcement with Stoughton Police Department in Dane County where she served its community for nine months before joining her Chetek PD family. Breidenbach recently engaged in March, has left behind her fiancé and his four children. 23-year-old Officer Scheel, a 2017 graduate of Prairie Farm High School, graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy in December of 2022 and worked diligently with the Cameron PD after graduation. "Hunter has been a dedicated officer and was very passionate about his job," Cameron Police Department Chief Adam Steffen explained. Scheel served his country in the Army National Guard for six years. Scheel left behind his mother Jessica Janota and his girlfriend Camryn Gosdeck. A press conference was

held at the Barron County Justice Center on Monday, April 10. Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald, Cameron PD Chief Steffen, Chetek PD Chief Ambrozaitis and Barron County District Attorney Brian Wright were in attendance. "We will get through this and we will come back Emily strong," Chief Ambrozaitis stated. During the press conference Sheriff Fitzgerald expressed the department's gratitude for the outpouring of support law enforcement and first responders have felt since the tragedy. Fitzgerald said the sheriff's department and other area law enforcement agencies are helping to cover Cameron and Chetek while officers take time to grieve together. "We heal as one," Fitzgerald concluded. DA Wright said it will take approximately 30 days before the Division of Criminal Investigation's case will make it to his desk. "These are two outstanding officers and they deserve nothing more than this report coming from the DA's office in an expedited manner. I think [expediting

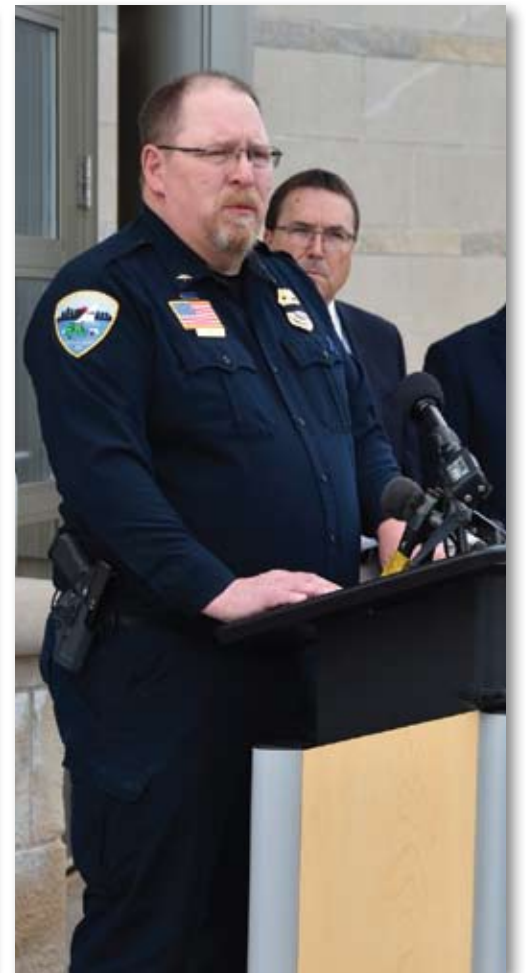
this case] is the least we can do for the families of these officers and certainly for the community as a whole," DA Wright concluded. The case will be made public after approximately 45 days according to Wright. It is expected that law enforcement from across the country will be in the Cameron and Chetek area to show support for the fallen officers, their families and the departments. "We have been through tragedy in Barron County but nothing like this," stated Sheriff Fitzgerald. Both officers were escorted from the medical examiner's office in Ramsey County, Minnesota to area funeral homes Monday evening. Officers will stand vigil by each officer's side until the services are complete. It is customary for departments to retire the badge number of those killed in the line of duty. "From Emily dancing in the football stands to Hunter at National Night Out with kids playing in the squad—this is how they should be remembered," Fitzgerald concluded.

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KENTON TROUTMAN | THE CHETEK ALERT AND SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured above at left is Cameron Chief of Police Adam Steffen and Chetek Chief of Police Ron Ambrozaitis at the Barron County Justice Center for a press conference Monday, April 10. Both chiefs kept their statements concise and thanked the community for its support. Both chiefs assured the community that the departments will come back from this tragedy, but it will take time. Pictured below is Officer Hunter's vehicle parked in front of the Cameron Municipal building which is comprised of the police department and village hall on Monday, April 10. Locals and area residents have brought flower bouquets, flags and other items as a tribute to Officer Hunter.



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Chetek Chamber
-2023 BANQUET-

Monday, 04.17.23 at Fire Away Roadhouse
5 P.M. - 6 P.M. - Social Hour & Registration
6:30 - 7:30 P.M. - Dinner & Chamber Presentation
See You There!

PRESENTATIONS INCLUDE:

- Discussion on the Chamber budget
- Benefits of Chamber membership
- Promoting your business
- Business resources
- Information Booth advantages
- Learn about the Visitors Guide
- Chamber Bucks program
- Chamber Volunteer of the Year

CHETEK AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We would like to invite all Chamber members to join us for a night of camaraderie, information and dinner. Attendees will be entered into a drawing to win

- A cooler filled with adult beverages
- Chamber Bucks

THE CENTER MENU

The upcoming week's menu for dine-in lunches at The Center is as follows:

- Wednesday, April 12: Baked chicken breast, au gratin potatoes, green beans, assorted bread and fruit Jell-O™.
- Thursday, April 13: Seafood pasta salad on a lettuce leaf, three-bean salad, assorted bread and cook's choice cookie.
- Friday, April 14: Creamy chicken and vegetables over a biscuit, buttered beets and a fruit yogurt parfait with granola.
- Monday, April 17: Build-a-burger on a bun with cheese, lettuce, tomato, baked beans and ice cream.
- Tuesday, April 18: Chicken alfredo over whole wheat noodles, steamed broccoli, a dinner roll and diced pears.
- Wednesday, April 19: Slippery Hill entree salad with deli meat, hard boiled egg, cheese,

- veggies, cottage cheese, a breadstick and brownie.
- Thursday April 20: Baked pineapple ham, mashed sweet potatoes, buttered peas, assorted bread and a lemon bar.
- Friday, April 21: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, California vegetables, assorted bread and Oreo fluff.

Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m., and includes milk and/or coffee. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per meal for those 60 years and older. For 59 years and younger, the cost is \$10. Please call The Center at 715-925-2600 to reserve meals 24 hours in advance. There is no reservation necessary for soup and salad bar days on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, served 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Center is located at 711 First St., Chetek.