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Officer kills assailant

Officials: Man pointed pellet gun at police

Author: SHAWNA McMANUS

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Tribune Staff Writer

CHEBOYGAN -- A man with a pellet gun who police say had stabbed his domestic partner was shot and killed by a city officer Wednesday night.

Michael David Demerell, 42, was killed after being shot once by an officer from the Cheboygan Department of Public Safety, according to Police Chief Kurt Jones. The officer's name has not yet been released, but he has been placed on administrative leave with pay, Jones explained.

Two city law enforcement officers were called to a residence on West First Street at around 10:30 p.m. after a report of a stabbing, Jones said.

When they arrived, they found Aleta Seifert, 45, who had suffered a stab wound to the back and a knife-inflicted slash in her forearm, he reported. Seifert told police she had run to the neighbor's First Street residence for help after Demerell stabbed her in their home, which is four or five doors down.

Seifert and Demerell lived together in a house at 833 Dresser St. The two were reportedly arguing for a while before the stabbing, Jones explained. They were alone in the home with a 2-year-old grandchild.

"She said (Demerell) had been degrading her, calling her names all day," Jones said. "She said he had stated on several occasions that if she called the police, he would kill the baby. She was afraid for the child's welfare."

One of the officers stayed with Seifert and the other called for backup and proceeded to Demerell's home, Jones said.

Troopers from the Michigan State Police arrived, and the officers could see Demerell inside the home with what was believed to be a semi-automatic handgun in his hand, Jones said. They retreated to the driveway, and Demerell came out of the residence with the gun. A patrol unit from the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department arrived at the Dresser Street residence around that time, Jones said.

"(Demerell) was waving (the gun) around, talking with his hands, and the officers were giving him the command to drop the weapon," Jones said. "(Demerell) blurted out several things, like telling them to shoot him, and at some point he stopped talking, took two steps forward and pointed the gun at them."

After being shot, Demerell was transported to Cheboygan Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead, Jones said.

Seifert was treated for her two wounds and received around 26 stitches, Jones said. The grandchild was not injured.

The weapon Demerell had been holding was later discovered to be a BB pellet gun, Jones said. According to court records, Demerell pleaded no contest to a charge of attempted resisting and

obstructing an officer after an incident in June of 2001. In lieu of jail time, he was to attend an in-patient program at the Birchwood Center for Chemical Dependency in Alpena.

According to Demerell's sentencing memorandum, he had also been previously convicted of domestic assault and operating under the influence of liquor.

There has not been a shooting by a police officer in this county since either the late 1970s or early 1980, which involved a Michigan State Police trooper, according to police.

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