



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Kevin McQuead, left, is sworn in Monday, April 12, 2021, as the new chief of police for the city of Enterprise by Gina Birkmeier, customer service specialist for the city, before the City Council's regular meeting.

Chief McQuead shares thoughts on new job

Former deputy 'reintroduces' himself to community

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Enterprise now has a new police chief, since Kevin McQuead was sworn into the position Monday, April 12, at the monthly City Council meeting.

The long-time Wallowa County deputy was hired to replace former Chief Joel Fish, who was elected Wallowa County sheriff last year and took that post in January.

The council's Police Committee extended a conditional offer to McQuead for the position in February, contingent on his successfully passing several background investigations. The committee recently deemed those investigations concluded and made the offer official.

McQuead is the husband of city Administrator Lacey McQuead, who was not involved in the hiring process. Since the chief reports directly to the committee, there was deemed no conflict of interest.

Although many in the county already know McQuead, he and the Chieftain agreed it would be advan-

tageous to reintroduce him in his new capacity as chief. He answered a series of questions via email prior to taking on his new role.

Chieftain: Where were you born, raised and attended school?

McQuead: I was born in Arizona and raised in Escondido, in San Diego County, California. I graduated from Escondido High and attended college at the local junior college to study general education.

C: Tell a little about your family.

M: I married (the former) Lacey Shelton in 2011, who is a local native. Lacey was raised in Lostine, in the same house her father was raised in. My parents reside in Escondido in a house that they built when I was a young boy. I have a sister and brother that also reside in Escondido with their families. I have four boys, ages 23, 22, 15, 13. My two youngest attend Enterprise Junior High and High School.

C: Why did you want to be Enterprise Police chief?

M: Law enforcement called to me later in life. I began my law enforcement career in 2003 after figuring out it was where I was meant to be. I knew I wanted progression within my career, but I didn't realize how much I

wanted it until I started going through the application process. Writing down my years of service and accomplishments during those years, brought reassurance to my decision to apply for a leadership position. I have a great boss, friend and mentor in Sheriff Joel Fish. I went to him the minute I had any thought about applying for the position. It was my conversations with both him and my family that helped me realize this was the best decision and a great opportunity.

C: How long did you work for the Enterprise Police Department before becoming a deputy?

M: I worked for the Enterprise Police Department from April 2005 until January 2008.

C: Why did you leave the EPD for the sheriff's office then?

M: With only five years of law enforcement under my belt (including my years as a reserve officer), I saw the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office as an opportunity to expand the variety of calls and add new experience to my career. After 13 years, I still love my career as a deputy, but I am ready for the next stage, and that's to be a leader and mentor for the officers of Enterprise.

C: What do you see as the most important law enforce-

ment issue for the city?

M: This is to be determined.

C: Former Chief Fish made a point of developing a relationship with kids at Enterprise school. Do you plan to continue that?

M: Absolutely; kids are the future. I take pride in the relationship that I have with the youths of this community. I am excited for the morning greetings from the students getting off the bus and to continue the presence of EPD at the school. Sheriff Fish, as well as current EPD officers, have done a great job bringing a positive presence to the school, a presence that you will continue to see during my time as chief.

C: Your thoughts on the proposed school resource officer?

M: It is a goal of mine to have a resource officer in the school.

C: Anything else you'd care to comment on?

M: This is a new "starting point" in my career and I plan to be with the city of Enterprise until my retirement. I am fortunate that I get to begin this process with three incredible, experienced police officers: Jacob Curtis, George Kohlhepp and Cody Billman. I look forward to my career as police chief and serving the citizens of this community.

IN BRIEF

Fishtrap offers summer youth scholarships

ENTERPRISE — Do you know a kid who loves to write? Are you an aspiring writer entering grades 5-12? Fishtrap has several Scholarship opportunities for students to attend Summer Fishtrap this July for free.

Any youth who is entering fifth grade or above in the fall can apply for the scholarship through May 14. Details on applying are available online at <https://fishtrap.org/youth-scholarships/>.

Summer Fishtrap Youth Workshops are taught by fun, experienced educators who will help youths discover their unique, creative potential and inspire them to tell stories in new and exciting ways.

Wallowa County students have the choice to attend the week of classes in-person at Joseph Charter School July 12-16 or online via Zoom. Students living in all other regions

can take the writing workshops online.

The scholarships are awarded based on a personal letter demonstrating the applicant's financial need, age and how being able to attend Summer Fishtrap can enrich their writing.

Learn more about the scholarships and apply at fishtrap.org or contact Emily Aumann by email at emily@fishtrap.org or by phone at 541-426-3623 ext. 3.

— Chieftain staff



Births

A daughter, Angelina Lynn Richardson, was born April 7, 2021, in Enterprise, to Suzy Ellis and Timothy Richardson of Enterprise. Grandparents are Gary Ellis, Teresa Ellis, Michael Richardson and Thelma Vanarsdale.

A son, Conrad George Maly, was born April 5, 2021, in Enterprise, to Annika Maly and Geoff Maly of Enterprise. Grandparents are Wes Giesbrecht, Valerie Giesbrecht, Jef Fellows and Katherine Fellows.



This week's featured book

Peaces

by Helen Oyeyemi



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Wallowa man held on Utah sex charges

Michael Alexis accused of abusing a child

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — A Wallowa man accused of multiple counts of sex abuse of a child in Utah was arrested March 31 at his Douglas Street home by Wallowa County Sheriff's deputies, according to a police report.

Michael Anthony Alexis, 52, was arrested on a nationwide felony warrant issued by the district court in Washington County, Utah, for four counts of

aggravated sex abuse of a child. Washington County Detective Sgt. Nate Abbott said Thursday, April 8, that the alleged offenses took place over about a year's time from 2019-20. Although he couldn't identify the alleged victim, Utah law indicates anyone younger than 14 is considered a child.

"The charge indicates it was a child," Abbott said.

He said that after the alleged crimes, Alexis apparently relocated to Wal-



Alexis

lowa County. When the allegations were brought to the attention of the Washington County Sheriff's Office in the past couple of months and an investigation was opened, investigators sought Alexis out.

"We reached out to him and he was uncooperative," Abbott said.

As a result, the district court there issued an arrest warrant and Wallowa County deputies found and arrested Alexis.

Sheriff Joel Fish said the arrest took place without incident and Alexis surrendered willingly.

As of Thursday, the 5-foot, 6-inch, 225-pound

Alexis was still being held in the Umatilla County Jail in Pendleton without bail.

Abbott said Washington County is now in the process of seeking extradition from Oregon to Utah for Alexis to answer the charges. Alexis could waive extradition, the detective said.

Since Alexis has not been convicted, he is not required to be registered as a sex offender.

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SHADOW DAY

THANK YOU

The Rotary Club of Wallowa County wishes to thank the following businesses, agencies, and individuals for their help in making its April 5th, 2021 Shadow Day another huge success. Through their cooperative efforts, 41 high school juniors were able to explore a local career in an area of interest.

Schools
Building Health Families Classroom, Enterprise High School,
Joseph Charter School, Wallowa High School

Businesses/Agencies
Arrowhead Chocolates • Creative Tree Pre-School • Enterprise Animal Hospital
Enterprise Electric • ESD Technology Department • Joseph Electric
Josephy Center for Arts & Culture • Kni-co Manufacturing • Neils Body Shop • Roots Salon
Ruby Peak Realty • Sports Corral • Stangel Bison Ranch • Stangel Industries
Tanzey Forest Management • US Forest Service • Wallowa Community Bank
Wallowa Memorial Hospital • Wallowa School District
Oregon Water Resources Department - Watermaster
Wallowa County Sheriff's Office • Wallowa County Grain Growers/ Tri-County Equipment
Winding Waters Clinic • Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness

Thank You

Pastor Archie Hook

You came to us five years ago as our lay pastor, when we were struggling. You brought us back together in unity, bringing hope, deepening our faith, and strengthening our church family. Most importantly, you helped us all grow spiritually by learning to get past ourselves.

We wish you and Vicqui the best in your new role at La Grande Christian Church

Join Us!

Sunday, April 25, Pastor Archie's Last Sunday
9:30 am Last Bible Study
11:00 am Last Worship
Reception with Cake and Coffee after (noon)

All are welcome to attend the worship service, or to stop by for cake and coffee immediately following — you do not have to be a member of the church. Covid guidelines followed

Enterprise Community Congregational Church
"The Big Brown Church"
301 NE First St. Enterprise

For more information, find us on Facebook or call 541-426-3044