

Idaho Falls Police Department

News Release

April 4, 2011

The Idaho Falls Police Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Joelyn Hansen as the new Community Projects Coordinator and Public Information Officer.

Joelyn, who started March 31, will undertake the duties formerly completed by the past community projects coordinator, which includes graffiti clean-up and working with the department volunteers which include the Citizen's Watch Patrol. The CWP is a volunteer program which has provided cost-saving services to the IFPD for the past 10 years.

Joelyn will also undertake the duties as the public information officer for the department which is new to the position. Police Chief Steve Roos and Joelyn want to broaden and deepen the information provided to the public and the media as they utilize the Internet and social media.

"The changes should open the doors to the community knowing and understanding more of the day-to-day operations of the department," Joelyn said. "The community is fortunate to have forward-thinking leadership which wants to make information more accessible to the public."

In the coming weeks, the community will notice changes as the IFPD integrates the use of Facebook and Twitter in disseminating information and making news releases, photographs and videos more accessible on the IFPD's website.

Joelyn is a graduate of Washington State University with a bachelor of arts degree in communication, with an emphasis in journalism. She comes to the department after previously working as a newspaper journalist for the past seven years.

Her work experience includes working as an editor at a weekly newspaper in Wolf Point, Mont., a municipal and business reporter at a daily newspaper in Beatrice, Neb., and most recently as the cops and courts reporter at the Post Register in Idaho Falls.

During her time as a journalist Joelyn has generated newspaper coverage for military deployments to first-degree murder trials. In all of her positions she has reported on the day-to-day activities and duties of law enforcement.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a journalist but am now looking forward to utilizing my skills and talents in enhancing the services of the IFPD as we look to further the mission of the department," Joelyn said.

She currently makes her home in Idaho Falls where she is actively involved in the community.

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News Contact:

Joelyn Hansen

Community Projects Coordinator

(208)612-8655