

## Biersdorfer takes over as PC sheriff's deputy

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

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A familiar face has returned to law enforcement in Phillips County as Phil Biersdorfer has stepped in as the new sheriff's deputy for the Phillips County Sheriff's Office, starting July 20. Biersdorfer previously served as Holyoke's police chief.

With four decades of law enforcement experience under his belt, Biersdorfer is looking forward to returning to working as a full-time peace officer. Since his departure from HPD in 2011, Biersdorfer has worked as a part-time deputy with the Phillips County Sheriff's Office, helping with prisoner transports and court security.

While helping people and making a difference in the community are all driving factors for Biersdorfer, he admits that the diversity of the job also plays a role in his years of commitment to law enforcement. Being able to interact with citizens is also one of Biersdorfer's favorite aspects of the job.

"Not every traffic stop is a ticket, but it is an opportunity to talk with someone and to make another ally in keeping everybody safe," Biersdorfer said.

The hardest part of the profession for Biersdorfer is witnessing the pain people so recklessly cause each other.

"I don't appreciate what people can do to each other, whether it is domestic violence issues, assaults or people driving drunk, there are a lot of things that are obvious that they could avoid," Biersdorfer said.

"I have seen a lot of good people who have been injured in drunk driving accidents, and I have known people who have gotten pretty messed up in domestic violence issues, and those are all things that people can avoid if they just treat each other by the golden rule."

Entering what he hopes is his last chapter in his long career, Biersdorfer's aim remains to help make Phillips County a safe place for everyone.

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“My goal is for women and children to be able to take a walk in the evening and not have to be worried about being attacked, molested, harassed or anything like that,” Biersdorfer explained. “It has always been my goal in my career to make the area I serve a safer place.”

Biersdorfer first came to Holyoke in 2003 after a short-lived retirement as chief of police at the Eagle Police Department where he served for nearly 30 years.

With his wife Terri having an equally busy work schedule as the building official for the City of Holyoke and the librarian at Holyoke Elementary School, Biersdorfer said the two try to set aside at least one night a week to go out and spend time together. Biersdorfer said, “I like to spend time with my family as most married folks do.”

The couple is raising two children in their home, Tori and Isaiah Hatton.

Biersdorfer is also a member of the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. He currently holds rank as colonel in the Rocky Mountain Region as program director in the counter drug program.

The counter drug program assists agencies with aviation resources for non-specific, non-surveillance types of flights to overlook areas that might contain illegal grow operations.

While he hasn't flown in missions in a while, he has helped with search and rescue missions in the past. Biersdorfer said he is equally passionate about his work with the Civil Air Patrol as he is about his work in law enforcement.

Biersdorfer is appreciative of the opportunity to continue to serve Phillips County.

“I am very happy that Sheriff Urbach showed the confidence in me to put me on, and I certainly

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want to do right for him," Biersdorfer said.

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