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WPD adds reserve officer



Williston Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat shakes hands with Nathan Peoples and congratulates him on being a member of the WPD. Nathan Peoples' mother Donna Newsom looks on. Newsom held the Bible as her son put his left hand on it and raised his right hand to take took the oath.

Story, Photos and Video

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WILLISTON – On Tuesday afternoon (Aug. 1), Williston Mayor R. Gerald Heathcoat administered the oath of office to Williston's newest reserve officer at City Hall.

The newest and youngest Williston Police Department Reserve Officer is Nathan Peoples, 20. Peoples is a member of the Belleview High School Class of 2015.

<https://youtu.be/zHXlmtgsRUc>

In this video, Williston Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat administers the oath of office to Nathan Peoples.

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Nathan Peoples' father Bill Peoples pins the badge on his son.



Pausing for a photo opportunity are (from left) Bill Peoples-Nathan's father, Nathan Peoples, Connor Peoples-Nathan's brother, and Donna Newsom - Nathan's mother.

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The ceremony was attended by Williston Police Chief Dennis Strow, WPD Deputy Chief Clay Connolly, WPD Lt. M. Fortney, WPD Sgt. B. Landis, WPD Officer M. Wright and WPD I.T. Guru John Salmeier.

After taking the oath of office, the new reserve officer said he is thankful for being accepted, and he is very happy to be a member of this “family” of officers.

Also in attendance were Williston City Manager Scott Lippmann, as well as friends and family members of the new WPD reserve officer.

Chief Strow said he is happy to have a diverse set of officers from various age groups. He sees the older law enforcement officers as having an opportunity to help their younger counterparts.

Before being accepted as a reserve officer, Peoples took a polygraph, had a criminal background check conducted, and was given medical and psychological examinations, Strow said.

There was an absolute mandate, too, that he pass an interview by Mayor Hethcoat. Chief Strow said the mayor is responsible as the final gatekeeper to say whether a person becomes a member of the WPD.

Chief Strow mentioned that he is happy to have Reserve Officer Peoples onboard and performing those duties.

There is a potential, Chief Strow said, that after an officer retires in October, if Peoples proves himself as a reserve officer, that he could become a full-time WPD officer.