

Born and raised in Nebraska, then educated in Missouri, Chris Lee now calls Colorado home as he joined The Holyoke Enterprise staff as a reporter this week.

Known by many as c lee, rather than Chris, Lee comes to Holyoke, Colo. from Salisbury, Mo., where he served as sports editor of the Chariton Valley News Press since graduating from Northwest Missouri State University (NWMSU) in December of 2008.

Lee was very involved in newspaper and yearbook publications at NWMSU, in Maryville, Mo., where he earned a B.S. degree in journalism.

Even at the high school level, at Chase County High School in Imperial, Lee was a member of the yearbook and newspaper staffs, serving as co-editor of the newspaper his senior year in 2003-04.

At NWMSU, Lee started as photographer for Tower Yearbook and was editor-in-chief his junior year. He was active on the Northwest Missourian, the school newspaper, serving as community news editor his senior year. Additionally, he was an assistant for the university photographer.

His success is evident in awards received, including first place in yearbook sports photography from Missouri College Media Association in 2007; Tower Yearbook Photographer of the Year, 2007-08; and NWMSU Student Publications Honor Roll of Service, 2007-08.

Lee was a SOAR leader, working as part of an 11-member team for three summers with NWMSU's summer orientation program. In 2008, he helped organize and coordinate much of the program, and was named SOAR Leader of the Year. He was also a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, where he held two officer positions: historian and awards chairman.

As community news editor of Northwest Missourian, Lee covered all community news for the campus newspaper, including county, city and breaking news.

At Chariton Valley News Press from January through May, Lee's sports editor role found him covering sporting events for five area high schools and overseeing two staff reporters, as well.

Throughout his college years, Lee said he had no intention of returning to his home area right away. But he heard of the opportunity at The Holyoke Enterprise and it just seemed right.

In high school, Lee competed for four years on golf and cross country teams and for one year on the basketball team. He was a four-year FFA member, as well.

He is starting up a photography business on his own, and so far has taken photos for two weddings and four couples' engagements.

Besides photography, Lee's interests include hunting, fishing and golfing, and he also said he enjoys playing cards with friends.

Lee's parents reside in Imperial, where his dad, Gary, is a soil conservationist for NRCS and his mom, Carolyn, is a reporter for The Imperial Republican and also works at McNair Insurance Agency. His brother Brian will be a senior at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyo.

A reporting position at the Enterprise opened when News Editor April Peregoy announced she would be leaving, as her husband Drew has taken a teaching position near Riverton, Wyo.

Enterprise Publisher Brenda Brandt has appreciated Peregoy's solid and thorough reporting in the two years she's been on staff, and is sorry to see the couple leaving the community.

Brandt is pleased to welcome Lee to the staff and feels his experience in the field and background will be very positive for the local newspaper and the community.

Lee and Peregoy's Enterprise employment will overlap for several weeks as Peregoy introduces Lee to various news beats in the community.