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Skagit officer is new Twisp police chief

By Ann McCreary

Paul Budrow, Twisp's newly hired police chief, brings 25 years of law enforcement experience to the job.

Budrow began working for the town last week. He was a deputy for the Skagit County Sheriff's Department for 12 years, and for the past eight years has worked as police chief for the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe in Sedro-Woolley.

The job in Twisp was appealing, Budrow said, because he loves the area and enjoys working in small towns.

"I like small community-type chiefing. I like to be a working chief – getting out and meeting people," Budrow said.

Budrow grew up in Massachusetts and graduated from college with a degree in biology and chemistry. He became a scuba instructor and served in the Navy reserves. His scuba experience led him to join a dive search and recovery team for the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department in Massachusetts.

He joined the Skagit County Sheriff's Department in 1988, leaving in 2000 to teach classes around the country for [Advanced Interactive Systems](#), an independent law enforcement training organization. His teaching included firearms training and "use of force" courses.

While working for the Upper Skagit Tribe, Budrow also taught law enforcement classes at Skagit Valley College. He said he plans to continue teaching online classes while working for Twisp.

Twisp's police department includes officers Ty Sheehan and Mike Kim, who is currently working under a Department of Justice narcotics enforcement grant. About 20 hours of patrol duties for the town are also conducted by Okanogan County sheriff's deputies Shane Jones and Gisberth Gonzales.

Budrow replaces Rick Balam, who has been serving as acting chief since November.

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