

Weber joins *The Star News* staff

BY SAM WEBER
REPORTER

There is something special about small communities such as Medford. The close-knit society, the happy and helpful people, the everyday stories that bring everyone together and bind them in a way that large cities and metropolises fall far and away from experiencing. As such, I am overjoyed to begin a new chapter of my life here at *The Star News*.



Sam Weber

With sensationalist news media all around, it is the community paper that has the responsibility to chronicle the truly important stories, the niche publications that large media organizations allow to fall by the way side in favor of spotlight narratives. I truly believe *The*

Star News is fixated on vital local information, so it was a simple choice for me to make in joining their ranks, rather than a wide-reaching media outlet.

I was born and raised in the city of Green Bay, before moving to Stevens Point to further my education. It was there that I found my desire to report on local communities, which culminated in me moving here to the city of Medford, where I hope to stay for a long time.

I possessed a natural love of reading and writing from an early age. Throughout high school and college I further cultivated these tendencies. I spent much of my time in writing classes, originally for fiction writing, but I soon found myself drawn towards more factual non-fiction writing.

One of the largest reporting influences that first caught my attention is the late New Journalism writer Tom Wolfe. I originally read one of his articles by happenstance and was immediately hooked. His unique writing and narration style was like nothing I had ever read before, causing me to seek out more of his work, both his non-fiction writing and his novels. It was around this time that I began musing the idea of becoming a reporter, but it wasn't something that I was completely set on quite yet. It wasn't until I had a particular interest in reporting that I set off on my own to plant the seed that would soon blossom into a fruitful career.

My first foray in reporting was an online music magazine. An avid musician myself, I began writing analyses on faintly known bands and solo artists that I personally listened to, but who had little to no information about them elsewhere. It was my desire to spread their music to as many people as I could and that encouraged me to begin writing articles. I enjoyed it so much that I knew that community reporting was the only sensible career path for me to take, and with that I rapidly found myself comfortably situated in Medford.

It is that fondness of giving the unheard voice a medium to tell their tale that I bring to your community, and I hope to do justice for you all.

I look forward to meeting so many new people, and am thrilled that I will be able to hear and share the peoples' stories from across the city. If you have something you wish to discuss, don't hesitate to contact me.