

## The Times hires new reporter

Written by Elizabeth Barrett  
Friday, 07 June 2013 13:01 -

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Austin Benson is 2013 Doane College graduate.

A Doane College graduate is covering sports and general news at The Times.

Austin Benson, of Brewster, WA, joined the newsroom on May 29, a couple of weeks after receiving a degree in journalism and media with a minor in English.

Benson said he took the job because of the level of professionalism exhibited at the newspaper.

"I've heard about the awards the paper has won and liked what I saw when I interviewed here," Benson said.

That, coupled with a desire to produce a quality product "rather than just unimportant news to whoever was reading the paper" helped Benson decide to accept the position.

The 24-year-old grew up in Brewster, WA, playing baseball and basketball.

Benson followed an older brother to Doane College where Benson was offered a scholarship to play baseball.

His freshman year of college he played shortstop and center field and later threw out a shoulder and broke a foot.

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The following fall, Benson joined the Tiger basketball team and played point guard and later shooting guard for the next four years.

What Benson would most like people to know about him is that he's somewhat shy and guarded until he gets to know a person.

Benson said he likes the small-town feel of Gothenburg, noting that Brewster has about 3,000 inhabitants.

"I like how people wave and smile at you," he said. "And I really like the tree-lined streets which make me feel protected and puts me at ease when I'm far away from my family."

As far as hobbies, Benson said he enjoys any kind of sport, including water sports, and boating.

"My big hobby is golf because it's competitive and fun and you can play until you're 80," he said.

Benson fills a position left by Deb Egenberger who now works for the North Platte Telegraph.

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