

WESTON COUNTY GAZETTE'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

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When the *Gazette* staff put their heads together for our pick for the 2018 Citizen of the Year, it was obvious and evident who rightly deserves that title. Congratulations to Susan Bridge, Upton Chief of Police!

Since starting her job in the "Best Town on Earth" in December 2016, Chief Bridge has been a stalwart champion of not only justice and safety for Uptonites and those passing through our community, but she's also been a paragon of compassion and concern and an advocate for community outreach. She is the epitome of a public servant and serves as the best possible example of a law enforcement officer. Chief Bridge doesn't just seek to punish lawbreakers; she actively seeks communication with them, taking time to understand their issues and reaching down a stable hand to pull them up out of darkness. She is a solution-orientated individual, instead of a consequence-orientated individual.

A 1985 graduate of Hernando High School in Brooksville, Florida, Chief Bridge graduated OJC Law Enforcement Academy in La Junta, Colorado a year later, and has worked in law enforcement ever since. She is also a graduate of the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy in Douglas. Chief Bridge was worked for the Evanston Police Department and the Uinta County Sheriff's Office, before taking the reins of the Upton Police Department.

As Upton Chief of



Police, she has not only commanded the enforcement aspect of her department, but Chief Bridge has also been heavily-involved in the community, never missing a public event and conversing with everyone she comes across, especially those in need. She has been very involved in acquiring funding for the Upton Police Department and has overseen a complete renovation of the Upton Police building, interior and exterior. She has been involved with Weston County School District #7 for training and events for

students and faculty and has ensured that the Upton Police Department has a frequent positive presence in Upton's schools, and she's been very involved in making a school resource officer more of a reality. Chief Bridge has also been involved with the beautification and development of downtown Upton, by purchasing property on the corner of Second Street and Pine Street having a complete restoration done.

Chief Bridge is married and has six children.

CONGRATULATIONS!

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