

Sheriff's wife shares her unique perspective

To the Editor:

My name is Andrea Denton and I'm married to Verlin Denton, the Sheriff of Morrow County. As most of you know, Verlin is running for a second term of office. Also running for the Sheriff's position is Ken Matlack. I am in a somewhat unique position of knowing both candidates. Many years ago, when Mr. Matlack was an OSP trooper working out of the Arlington office, I worked in the Irrigon Justice Court and got to know him. I found him to be a very nice guy.

My husband and I have very strong feelings against the popular form of "mud-slinging" politics and are very proud of the fact that we have not engaged in a negative campaign. We have tried very hard to focus the campaign on why you should vote for Verlin, not why you should not vote for Ken. Both candidates have a strong law enforcement background. Both are good men.

The reason I write this letter is to say what no one has been saying. Ken's platform is promoting community policing, interagency cooperation, strong drug enforcement, an active reservist program and the duties of the Sheriff and Undersheriff. What no one has said is "been there, done that." Verlin (along with most Sheriffs) has been living and promoting community policing for decades. Verlin has strategically located his deputies in every community in the County to facilitate quick response time and encourage participation in community activities. Verlin already has cooperative agreements with every law enforcement agency in this part of the state and has enjoyed excellent working relationships with every agency he works with including Juvenile

Departments, District Attorneys, the Courts and other law enforcement agencies.

Verlin has actively promoted enhanced drug enforcement for every one of his 21 years with Morrow County. He was a founder of the drug task force that increases the effectiveness of drug enforcement by combining the limited resources of multiple agencies. He continues to support their work, currently serving as Chair of their Board of Directors. He has met with local ag businesses and individual farmers to help them learn how best to protect their anhydrous ammonia tanks from theft.

Verlin is a strong believer in stretching our resources through the use of reserves and has expanded the reserve program three-fold just in the last few years. Keeping in mind that the reserves are unpaid volunteers, generally with a full-time job elsewhere, they cannot be used interchangeably with the regular complement of deputies.

So, finally, the differences between the candidates comes down to two things: 1) what Ken says he would do if elected versus what Verlin is and has been doing for years; and 2) the duties of the Sheriff and Undersheriff. Ken promotes having the Sheriff performing the duties of a patrol deputy, what he characterizes as being a "working supervisor."

Meaning no disrespect to Ken, I would expect that from his background. His experience is similar to that of the Morrow County Sergeants, who are also working supervisors. His suggestion that the Sheriff and Undersheriff should do the same demonstrates a lack of experience and understanding of the scope of the responsibilities of the primary administrator of a Sheriff's Office the size of Morrow County. The reason Verlin doesn't patrol is

because he spends 40-50 hours per week performing the functions of the administrator of his agency: supervising 30+ people; managing \$2+ million dollar budget; executing contracts, grants and interagency agreements; acting on a variety of boards and commissions and representing the department to the public. While Verlin can and has competently and professionally performed the duties of a deputy, the deputies cannot reciprocate by performing the duties of Sheriff. So, if the Sheriff is patrolling, I am left to wonder who (that we didn't elect) will conduct the business of the Sheriff.

While Verlin is not a particularly good politician (isn't comfortable glad-handing and "kissing babies" for a vote; won't tell you what you want to hear just to secure your vote, and isn't good at blowing his own horn), he is an excellent Sheriff. He is a man of integrity that is dedicated to professionalism and hard work. He has many years of experience "making more with less" by maintaining (or even expanding) services with often dwindling budgetary resources. He is respected by his peers around the state. And, despite implications to the contrary, he is a very approachable and accessible leader, as evidenced by every member of his department publicly supporting him. I am hopeful and confident that the voters can see past the political rhetoric to recognize that Verlin is the "real deal." And while I am clearly not unbiased in this election, I thought some might appreciate my unique perspective.

(s) Andrea Denton Heppner

Lewis has pro-growth ideas

To the Editor:

I am endorsing Keith Lewis for Heppner mayor. He has a pro-growth agenda for Heppner- not the

information not be disclosed. The meeting in Irrigon was not a fundraiser but a chance to meet the candidate and hear what I had to say. If people wish to contribute to my campaign, I appreciate it. But it's their vote that will make the difference and I appreciate each person that intends to vote for me.

Deputy Lambier may not have liked my response to the question at the Heppner Forum concerning the duties of the Sheriff but I know what a Sheriff does and I know what the people want and I will do it.

I have never promised daily patrols to the most remote parts of the county. What I have promised is that the Sheriff and the Undersheriff will be more in the field and will provide assistance to the deputies when they become overloaded with calls. This is not unusual and I remember on many occasions when former Sheriff Roy Drago would respond to calls and take complaints to take some of the work load off deputies. His active participation is one of the things I remember most about his administration and I will do it again. If I am elected Sheriff, you will see deputies in the most remote part of the county but it won't be every day and I don't think people ever expected it to be every day.

Deputy Lambier cites that I "promised" to deliver mail to a woman near Cutsforth Park. He has taken a statement completely out of context and which is not true trying to make "political hay." I have no intention of delivering the mail. The person he is referring to is Barbara Gilbert. I asked Barbara if I could give her name and let people call her if they wanted to know the context of this discussion. She quickly agreed. We had a good laugh over this one. Deputy Lambier needs to investigate his leads and go to the source before he quotes things totally out of context and creates a false image.

I won't address all the areas that are incorrect but I will address a few. I want to make it clear that in a public forum at Irrigon Stokes Landing on Oct. 28, 2004 the question was asked if I was going to give out officer phone numbers to the public. I said, no that I was not going to do that. It is my belief that to be more involved with people and your community it is helpful to be available to them and I personally believe in listing my phone number. However, I understand the other side of the issue and the concerns for safety and I will not force people to provide phone numbers, etc. Nothing in Deputy Lambier's citing ORS 192.445 or 192.502 3 has anything to do with preventing officers from listing their personal information. It has more to do with the requirements they must submit in writing when they request the

Matlack offers comment on Lambier letter

To the Editor:

This article is in reference to remarks made by Deputy Jeff Lambier in the Oct. 13, 2004 issue of the Heppner Gazette Times.

The article contains numerous errors and distortion of facts and exaggerations. The article appears to be one of desperation on his part. I know it is the political season and emotions can run high but for a person with his background I would have expected a better effort to report factual information. I do appreciate the fact that he did spell my name correctly.

I won't address all the areas that are incorrect but I will address a few. I want to make it clear that in a public forum at Irrigon Stokes Landing on Oct. 28, 2004 the question was asked if I was going to give out officer phone numbers to the public. I said, no that I was not going to do that. It is my belief that to be more involved with people and your community it is helpful to be available to them and I personally believe in listing my phone number. However, I understand the other side of the issue and the concerns for safety and I will not force people to provide phone numbers, etc. Nothing in Deputy Lambier's citing ORS 192.445 or 192.502 3 has anything to do with preventing officers from listing their personal information. It has more to do with the requirements they must submit in writing when they request the

Elect Bobbi Childers Morrow County Clerk



Current Chief Deputy for Barbara Bloodsworth, Morrow County Clerk

I have over four years of experience and training in the Clerk's office.

I can do all the duties of Clerk. It's my job.

Paid for by Bobbi Childers

Heppner City Government. How much more can residents afford to pay in city taxes? Is having one of the highest tax rates in the state pro-growth? How much higher will water rates increase? How much will it cost the city if it goes ahead and start its own garbage service? How much do you want your garbage service rates to increase?

The city has a track record of fiscal irresponsibility. It is time for an accounting of our local government. It is time that our city's dealings see the light of day.

Keith Lewis has the business background and integrity needed to successfully tackle our city's issues.

Please vote Keith Lewis for mayor. (s) Randy and Bernice Lott Heppner

Childers brings experience to office

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Bobbi Childers for the office of Morrow County Clerk and encourage the voters to elect her to this position.

I have three reasons for supporting Bobbi. One is that she has been trained to handle the duties of county clerk when needed. When Barbara Bloodsworth had to be away from the office, Bobbi stepped in as a very capable, knowledgeable and personable assistant, as she has done when I needed help.

The second reason is that Bobbi has attended state training sessions and belongs to professional groups related to her job, which has allowed her to personally become acquainted with people at the state level who could assist her when needed.

The third and most important reason is that with limited county money, I think it would be better to elect someone who already has had the training and experience than spending much needed dollars training someone new. When someone with no prior experience in the clerk's office is elected, it will require training to certify that person and bring them up to speed with state laws and statutes. Why should we do that when we already have a very capable and experienced person who would like to hold that office?

Therefore, I am asking you, the voters, to consider this very carefully and cast your vote for Bobbi Childers. She will do an excellent job for all of us.

(s) Sally Walker Heppner

Kemp to run as write-in candidate


To the Editor:

Due to no fault of my own, I was not on the Nov. 2 ballot for Lexington Town Council, Position 1.

As a council member, I would strive to provide a safe, attractive and affordable community for people to enjoy and live comfortably. I have experience in grant writing, budget committees, economic development and city government to help make Lexington prosper. I believe as a council member, one must have common sense, be financially responsible, honest, truthful and above all lawful.

I would appreciate your support by writing in Marcia Kemp, Position 1- Lexington Town Council. (s) Marcia Kemp Lexington

CONGRESSMAN GREG WALDEN







Leading the Oregon Way

Greg Walden... Making a difference for us: Greg has returned to Oregon over 220 times to stay in close touch with residents and work on their concerns. As Chairman of the Forests and Forest Health Subcommittee, he co-authored legislation to improve forest health, safeguard our communities from catastrophic wildfire and create jobs—it is now law and beginning to deliver results.


A Small business owner working to create jobs: After 18 years as a small business owner, Greg knows the challenges rural communities face in creating jobs. That's why he's supported incentives to revitalize the economy, stood up for Oregon's resource-based jobs, and strongly advocated for farmers and ranchers in the Klamath Basin and throughout our district.

A father and husband who cares about quality education: As the parents of a 14-year-old in an Oregon public school, Greg and his wife understand the importance of providing our children the best education possible.

"Returning home to Oregon every week from our nation's capital, I see firsthand the problems we face and work closely with local people to develop solid solutions. With your support, I will continue to work hard to make a real difference for real people. Together we will make our state and our nation stronger and more secure."

Greg Walden



A Trusted and Proven Leader

PAID FOR BY WALDEN FOR CONGRESS • PO BOX 1091 • HOOD RIVER, OR 97031

Gardner's Men's Wear

in Heppner, Oregon is closing its doors forever!

Complete Liquidation! Wall to Wall Close-out!

ADDITIONAL PRICE REDUCTIONS

Starting Monday, Oct. 18th

- All Sales Final - Cash or Major Credit Cards - No Layaway, Please -

Gardner's Men's Wear

193 N. Main, Downtown Heppner

Store hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday