

Deputy shares thoughts on current sheriff

To the Editor:

I have received a lot of questions from different people about this election and what my views of our current Sheriff are. I would like to respond to those questions and let everyone know what kind of person that I work for as a Morrow County Deputy.

First, let me say that I have no idea what kind of Sheriff Mr. Matlack would be. None of us know what kind of Sheriff he would be. Mr. Matlack has never worked in a Sheriff's Office and has never been responsible for a \$2 million budget. He has never been responsible for the making of policies, for hiring and firing people. He has never served as an elected law enforcement official. He has never had to stretch his resources during constantly diminishing budget issues. So, Mr. Matlack doesn't know what being the Sheriff of Morrow County will entail and as voters we certainly cannot know what kind of Sheriff he will be.

Mr. Matlack has listed six points in his public mailing. The first point is that he believes that the Undersheriff and Sheriff should be out patrolling and helping the deputies take calls. That sounds great; but, who is going to run the Sheriff's Office when they are out on patrol? In most businesses, the boss doesn't help the employee do their job because the boss is busy making sure the business is taken care of. It is no different in the Sheriff's Office. As deputies, we don't need or want the Sheriff to help us do our jobs. We want him doing his job of keeping the office running so that we can just focus on taking our calls. In saying that he would be out on patrol, it is clear that Mr. Matlack has no idea what goes on in a Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Matlack's second point is that he will maintain a patrol schedule for all sections of the county and that patrol won't be pulled from one place to cover calls in another location. I know from experience that this is physically impossible. We currently have six patrol deputies. With scheduled days off and different shifts, we often times only have one deputy on at a time. The Sheriff tries to get two deputies on during busier times and schedules the deputies for rural patrol. It is just impossible to expect the deputies or even the Sheriff and Undersheriff to be able to cover the entire county all the time. And, to say that a deputy won't be pulled from his area to cover a call in another area is unrealistic at best. How would any voter feel if they knew there was a deputy that was not on a call in another area and would not respond for their complaint or to back-up another deputy on an officer-safety issue? Our Sheriff already maintains the best possible patrol schedule to give all the citizens of Morrow County the services they need. It is easy to point the finger at someone else when they are doing the job and you are not. Sheriff Denton has expanded our reserve program to fifteen reserves and has additional volunteers in the Search and Rescue organization. These two programs work to augment our patrols and help

us give more of a service to our communities. Sheriff Denton is already doing all that can be done at this time to increase our patrol levels.

Mr. Matlack's third point is that he would ensure that each area of the county sees regular police coverage. This is already happening. Often times we patrol during the night when people are sleeping or during the day when they are away at work. The thousands of miles we each put on our patrol cars each month is proof that we are patrolling the over 2,000 square miles of Morrow County to the best of our abilities.

Mr. Matlack's fourth point is that he would stress the importance of investigating drug houses and known drug dealers. This is also something that Sheriff Denton is already doing. Our department recently hosted a nationally recognized training in rural patrol drug investigation. Our deputies are encouraged to investigate drugs and have been doing so. Recently, several meth labs have been seized by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and investigations continue. As with anything, we have limited resources when it comes to man hours and many different duties that must be done during a shift. A Sheriff's Deputy is responsible for taking all calls on their shift (even non-emergency calls), serving civil process papers, transporting prisoners, writing reports, testifying in court, conducting follow-up contacts and enforcing traffic violations. While doing all these other duties we also attempt to focus on the illegal drug activity in our county.

Mr. Matlack's fifth point is that he would explore a Co-Operative Policing Agreement with the Oregon State Police. He may not be aware of this, but one already exists. We do have an agreement with them and it was last modified in 1991. Oregon State Police has always been helpful in responding to assist us with emergency calls or officer-safety related calls. Unfortunately, their staffing levels have dropped also and they cannot start responding to the non-emergency calls for our county. To expect this of the Oregon State Police would be unrealistic.

Mr. Matlack's sixth point is that he would support the effort to create a School Resource Officer through grant funding. Sheriff Denton has already tried to obtain this position through grants. Sheriff Denton has never been unsupportive of the idea of a School Resource Officer but unfortunately it takes a lot more than just an idea to make it happen. Grant funding is highly competitive and most grants come with many different requirements for matching funds.

I believe that Mr. Matlack's points show that he does not have the knowledge of what it would really be like to run the Sheriff's Office. But I know someone who does know what it is like to run the Sheriff's Office because he has been doing it for many years. Sheriff Denton has been doing a great job as the Sheriff of Morrow County. Let me tell you what it is like to work for Sheriff Denton:

Sheriff Denton is a man with a lot of integrity. His employees respect him and look to him for an example of professionalism and honesty. Sheriff Denton

holds his employees to a high standard of conduct and expects nothing but their best while serving the citizens of our county. When thinking about what kind of manager a person is, you can get the best answer by asking their employees. Sheriff Denton's employees are sending a very clear message that they are more than happy with him and want him to continue to be their Sheriff.

I think that I can best describe the type of person Sheriff Denton is by sharing what his response was on April 12, 2004. Two of our deputies were injured and taken to the hospital in Hermiston. Sheriff Denton immediately responded to the scene and arrived as the two deputies were being placed into the waiting ambulance. Sheriff Denton made a point to reach out to each of those deputies so that they knew he was there and was supporting them. After they left in the ambulance, Sheriff Denton did not linger at the scene or return to the office to talk with the media and handle the flood of questions. You might ask where Sheriff Denton was. Well, he was waiting at the hospital. He felt that his first priority was to see that both of his deputies were going to be okay and he be able to talk to them and tell them how much he appreciated them and supported them. Most law enforcement officers go through their careers wondering if that awful day comes and they are forced to take the life of another person; will their department stand by them. Our deputies were not left to wonder about this because Sheriff Denton was there to set their minds at ease.

I work for a man with experience, integrity and the desire to serve his public. I know what kind of Sheriff he is: the kind that I am proud to work for. His employees unanimously support him as sheriff; shouldn't you?

(s) Karen Zeiler
Senior Deputy with the
Morrow County Sheriff's
Office

Measure 37 provides opportunity for just compensation

To the Editor:

We strongly disagree with the decision of several county Farm Bureaus not to support Ballot Measure 37.

Neither of their two main arguments for opposing this measure: "It will break the government if they have to pay" and "It will gut the land use planning we have in place" are true.

If this Measure will "cost too much"; then it might be said the government is taking or diminishing the value of too much property. That is why the framers of our Constitution included in the Fifth Amendment the words: "Nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation." Governments have not protected this right; in many cases governments have abused it. Government regulators tend to view the taking clause of the Fifth Amendment as an unfortunate obstacle. This measure addresses that.

The second argument is an emotional one. This measure does not

change the land use laws already in place. It only provides an opportunity for a landowner to ask for just compensation when a regulation, zoning or land use change restricts the use of their property and/or diminishes the value of that property.

Property rights need to be taken seriously and are essential to the generation of wealth upon which all government depends. And, most importantly, clear title to property is a cornerstone to the freedom we have in this country and directly responsible for our prosperity.

According to Saint Thomas Aquinas: "Private ownership of property is the best guarantee of a peaceful and orderly society for it provides maximum incentive for responsible stewardship." Our Oregon century farms are an excellent example of this.

Measure 37 deserves a resounding yes vote.

(s) Jerry and Deanna
Dyksterhuis
Monroe, OR

Balanced plan already exists, vote no on 34

To the Editor:

The State Forest Management Plan is diverse. The members who made up the planning forum were also diverse. The groups represented are as follows: Oregon Trout, North Coast Land Conservancy, Coast Range Association, Sierra Club, Oregon Forest Industries Council, Oregon State University, Tillamook County, Forestry Extension Agent and Stimson Lumber Company. The plan was also peer reviewed by another diverse group of 26 scientists from around the country.

The planning effort included input from all segments of our population. This is a balanced, thoughtful forest management plan that will ensure predictable timber and revenues for our schools and local economies, diverse habitats for wildlife and fish and recreational opportunities.

Ballot Measure 34 proponents say they have a balanced approach to forest management. The diverse membership who worked seven years on the State Forest Management Plan, know what a balanced plan is.

Win or lose the Rainforest Coalition is using Measure 34 to raise money on sound bites, not science, for their corporate profits.

(s) Charles J. Hurliman
Tillamook County
Commissioner
Tillamook

Matlack served with honesty and integrity

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Ken Matlack for Morrow County Sheriff. I met Ken when he lived in Arlington and served on the Oregon State Police force. Ken was a great asset to our community and served with honesty and integrity. He treated everybody with respect and did not use his position to intimidate.

He served on our school board and his comments and insights were greatly respected. We considered it a great loss when he left our community. I believe that Ken would be

the best man for the sheriff position and would like to encourage everyone to vote for him.

(s) Connie Jo Yutzie
Arlington

Lewis will bring fresh approach to city government

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in support of Keith Lewis for the office of Heppner City Mayor. I have known Keith for over a decade and believe that he will bring a fresh approach to the city's government.

As a local business owner he has brought many new families to the area. As owner of 15 rental properties in Heppner, he has a keen view as to the economic development needed in the city. He has invested heavily in the Heppner community and economy.

His stewardship of the city and its finances would create a more attractive community to families looking to find an affordable and safe community in which to reside. Now that is the very definition of pro-growth.

Please join me in voting Keith Lewis for mayor. The city deserves his leadership.

(s) Calvin and Beverly
Sherman
Heppner

Cardinal Booster Club news

The Cardinal Booster Club met Monday, Oct. 4 at the school library. President Lynn Dee Ramos had design samples for the banners the club plans to order for the sixth grade to sell. It will take two to three weeks for a sample to be sent back to the club for approval. The club plans to order 50 banners to sell for \$50 each.

The club will take orders for eye-catchers during basketball season.

Mr. Holland's math class measured the cafeteria hallway and calculated the amount of paint needed to paint it. The ceiling needs to be repaired before painting can begin. Bryn Browning will give a progress report at the next meeting.

The community calendar changes have been forwarded to Anne Morter and the committee will meet to finalize the 2005 calendar. Progress is also being made on the 2004-05 sport schedule poster.

The club voted to retain the same slate of officers. That includes Ramos, president; Sharon Rietmann, vice president; Jeri McElligott, secretary/treasurer; and Arlynda Gates, concessions/dinner chairperson.

McElligott read a letter from the Townsend family expressing concern for the removal of the Mancell Townsend Memorial trophy case from the hallway. Members agreed to clean out the case and place it in the high school hallway. A trophy committee of Laurel Cannon, Betty Gray and Lynn Dee Ramos was formed to clean out the cases and rearrange the trophies.

The junior varsity girls' basketball coaching position will remain open until filled.

The next meeting of Cardinal Booster Club will be Monday, Nov. 1 at the school library.

4-H helps local girl with dreams



Jessica Wainwright

By Lin Wolfe, Oregon State Fair Marketing Director

We've all heard the story before: small town girl dreams of leaving behind her small town life for the bright lights of the big city. Jessica Wainwright plans to follow this script but she has a twist ending: she plans to return to Morrow County. "I like this lifestyle in rural Oregon," said Jessica, age 17, "While I look forward to leaving my home to pursue my career, I know I will be back."

Jessica plans to pursue politics and advertising - two topics that she wouldn't have dreamed she would enjoy if it wasn't for her experience with 4-H. "I have more self confidence because of 4-H and my experience at the Morrow County Fair has taught me that I can meet any new challenge."

In the eight years of being a 4-Her, Jessica has been able to improve her social and speaking skills. In addition, she has learned responsibility through raising a market lamb and working through all the basics of nurturing an animal: feeding, watering, and working her lamb, and providing necessary veterinarian care.

When she showed her market lamb at the recent Morrow County Fair, Jessica didn't get butterflies in her stomach. On the contrary, she revels in the challenges of figuring out the various judges and their styles. "I really enjoy the guessing game," she said. Her lamb took first place, something she is proud of. It also caught the eye of a generous anonymous donor who has provided \$450 to Jessica toward her Oregon State Fair experience in 2005. 4-H appealed to her just as it appealed to her mother. Jessica's mother was a 4-H member when she was young and she has been Jessica's club leader for the past 12 years.

This winter Jessica will set her sights on learning the finer points of livestock judging. She intends to learn how to evaluate the conformation and the different cuts of livestock.

As for the future, yes, Jessica does intend to leave the wide-open spaces of Morrow County to study politics and, perhaps, get an opportunity to change things for the better. She also has an eye toward photography - she's an avid photographer and hopes to weave that into her advertising pursuit.