

What's the trend?

Letter to the editor:

I remember years ago when we were struggling to make ends meet in our farming operation; I would sit down with our friendly banker Harley Sager for financial advice. Invariably, his first comment was let's look at the financial trend. Are you getting ahead or just meeting expenses or are things getting worse for you?

As I look at the Morrow County sheriff's political race, I have to ask myself that same question. What is the trend of criminal action in Morrow County today? We all can recall when there was a great deal of confidence in the safety of city dwellers but also that of rural Morrow County. Today, I am afraid that my confidence has been shaken with the outburst of burglaries in a number of outlying communities. Shops have been totally stripped of thousands of dollars of farm tools, welders and welding supplies, not to mention stripping copper wiring from power lines and super expensive electric motors. Cars have literally been stolen from storage building. This, not to mention mail box bashing, shot gunning road signs and even stealing road signs.

The reality of all this does not provide any degree of confidence for those single people living by themselves in their country homes. Unfortunately, these outbursts of criminal actions shake the people's confidence in the ability of the sheriff's department to reverse this trend. We all realize that this is a huge county with many rural roads to cover, not to mention patrolling the cities. Maybe it is a lack of funding for more deputies, I don't know. Maybe because of this "dark of night skull dugery," a realignment of officer duties would be in order and some changes might make some sense.

I also remember when the "DARE" program was a great success here in Morrow County. Most lately, I hear that it was not the success that I remembered. I can tell you as past juvenile judge that it was truly a success. It provided a conduit for the DARE officer to have an excellent relationship with the students of our schools. Many times criminal actions against local citizens were prevented or solved because of the confidence that the student had with the DARE officer. It's time to reconsider the value of this program.

The last thing that I want to mention is the lack of a skilled Search and Rescue Team in Morrow County. We need the sheriff of Morrow County to rely upon the dozens of ranchers and four wheelers and snow mobilers who know the Blue Mountains like the back of their hands. I frankly do not know what happened to that elite group but maybe they were not adequately appreciated or acknowledged. I don't know.

In short, I must ask myself the question, what is the trend? Is the safety factor and the criminal activity within our boundaries heading in the right directions? Can my neighbor 18 miles from Ione, or 24 miles out in Butter Creek and Ella Roads go to bed at night and be assured that their property or lives are not going to be in danger? I ask you readers to ask the same question about your area. What is the trend? Listen to Larry Sample and get his answers to these and other questions. I for one will have to tip my hat to Larry Sample, the guy who has the experience and the ability to reverse the trend of increased criminal activity. Vote Sample for sheriff.

Louis Carlson
Heppner

Support for Matlack for four more years

To the editor and people of Morrow County:

I'm writing this open letter in support of Sheriff Ken this fall.

It has been my pleasure to work and serve with Sheriff Matlack on various committees and handling school related issues, both during and before his current term of office. I also had the opportunity, before the last election, to attend several of his campaign speeches and presentations. Sheriff Matlack delivered on his campaign promises in relation to being a working, on the road Sheriff.

I have seen his car in various parts of Morrow County, as I have had to travel around the school district for meetings in different communities. This has been especially prevalent in the north end of the county where the vast majority of the population resides.

Sheriff Matlack has also worked with me in my role of school principal to resolve important school issues with families that related to law enforcement. One situation that comes to mind caused both of us to spend most of a weekend and one weekday evening establishing the supervision and residence of a student who had been dropped off at his grandparents home by a non-responsible parent. Not spending that time, intensively when we did, would have been very detrimental to the health and welfare of the student involved.

In closing, I urge support for Ken Matlack, Morrow County Sheriff, for four more years.

John Sebastian, AC Houghton Elementary principal
Irrigon

Larry Sample for Morrow County Sheriff

To the editor:

I have 23 years of law enforcement experience, 12 of which were with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, where I began as a deputy and promoted to patrol Sergeant. The decision to leave the sheriff's office was made only after the current administration failed to demonstrate the best interest for the citizens of Morrow County or the employees of the sheriff's office.

An opportunity presented itself to use my experience as a police advisor in Iraq at which I took advantage of, as I felt my skills here were no longer being utilized to their full potential. I spent 19 months training and mentoring the Iraqi police at every level of a police agency.

Now that I am home I am supporting Larry Sample for sheriff as I know his integrity is of high standard. I worked with Larry for 10 years of my employment with the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and know he has the values I believe are necessary to be an excellent sheriff. I am looking forward to working with him again as I know he has the experience and dedication that the citizens of Morrow County need and deserve.

If the citizens of Morrow County are looking for a sheriff that has integrity and will be dedicated to all the citizens of Morrow County then Larry Sample is that person. Please join me and vote for Larry Sample for sheriff.

Phil Morris
Heppner

Encouragement to support and vote for Matlack

To the editor:

Since Ken Matlack was elected as the Morrow County Sheriff, the Gilliam County Sheriff's Office and Morrow County Sheriff's Office have worked hand in hand combating the criminal element plaguing our citizens along the border between our two counties. We have had multiple thefts and burglaries along the Morrow/Gilliam County border that have been resolved because of the sheriff's experience, expertise, and diligent nature to break down "borders" and work together with all those who are affected building strong relationships along the way.

Sheriff Matlack has been instrumental in developing relationships furthering Morrow County's ability and resources to further serve and protect the citizens he represents. I have known Sheriff Matlack for many years and know he is, without question, the best person to continue to serve as chief executive officer and conservator of the peace as Sheriff of Morrow County.

Prior to Sheriff Matlack taking office, I had never met the outgoing sheriff, I met the undersheriff one time, and only knew three or four of the deputy sheriff's. Today I know nearly every employee of the Morrow County Sheriff's Office with the exception of the 911 call takers working in the dispatch center. We have an open line of communication that has allowed us to work together and exchange information on related or similar cases.

Serving as sheriff in a small county requires the sheriff to work outside the office. I know Sheriff Matlack takes an active role in investigating crime and traffic safety. I have heard him on the radio and have met him at crime scenes with his sleeves rolled up and getting his hands dirty. Sheriff Matlack is a man who is not afraid to see a job to its successful end even if he has to do it himself.

I have heard nothing but praise from Sheriff Matlack's employees. They bless his guidance and leadership, they respect him, and it should be pointed out they are in a situation where they can only say they love their job but can not comment on the election itself for fear of potential retribution.

I encourage the people of Morrow County to support and vote for Ken Matlack as their sheriff.

Sheriff Gary Bettencourt
Gilliam County Sheriff's Office

FFA news



Heppner FFA Rituals Team B was well represented by these members: Sentinel- Garrett Gibbs, Reporter- Willy Gentry, Secretary- Brandi Hong, Vice President- Jessica Hughes, President- Justin Yocom and Treasurer- Afton Clark. -Contributed Photo



The Heppner FFA Chapter officers represented our community (as did two other rituals teams from Heppner) at the Blue Mountain District FFA Leadership Camp held October 5 & 6, 2008 at Camp Elkanah. Picture are: Secretary- Kellee Jones, President- Lane Wright, Sentinel - Jarreid Miller, Treasurer- Brynna Rust, Vice President- Brett Harrison, and Reporter- Devin Robinson. -Contributed Photo

Valby Lutheran Church to dedicate Memorial Grove

On Sunday, October 19, Valby Lutheran Church will be dedicating a new "Memorial Grove" alongside its cemetery. Trees are being planted in this new grove to remember infants who have been lost over the years at any stage of pregnancy or early infancy, and to honor the grief of parents who may not have had the opportunity to formally acknowledge and commemorate the loss.


A brief service of dedication and remembrance will follow regular morning worship, which begins at 9 a.m. Tree planting will get underway thereafter, followed by a light meal of soup and bread. The community is welcome to attend.

For more information call Katy Anderson at 989-8174.

Booster Club Steak Feed and Auction to be held this weekend



The annual Heppner Booster Club Steak Feed and Auction will be held on Saturday, October 18. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and the live auction will begin at 8 p.m. There will also be raffle items and a silent auction. -Photo by Autumn Morgan



Real Estate

By **DAVID SYKES**
REALTOR

DON'T USE GASOLINE TO CLEAN!

Despite the availability of relatively safe and efficient cleaning agents, some people still use gasoline to clean clothes, floors, paint brushes, machine parts - just about anything.

Gasoline is designed to burn. It vaporizes readily and the vapors can be exploded. What does it take to make gasoline vapor burn? Only air and a source of ignition.

Because the pilot light of a furnace or heater is hidden from view, do-it-yourselfers frequently forget about it as an ever-present source of flame and ignition. An open flame isn't the only source of ignition for gasoline vapor. The electric arc that occurs when you flick a light switch or pull an electric plug out of a wall socket can ignite vapor. So can the sparks from an electric drill's motor.


As you can see, it's easy to start a fire with gasoline and one spark - that's what it's made for. Fortunately, it's even easier to follow this advice: Don't ever use gasoline for cleaning!



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Vote Larry Sample Morrow County Sheriff

INTEGRITY

Will protect and serve *ALL* of Morrow County *EQUALLY*

Professionalism *not* False Promises
Foundation *not* Political Favors

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Larry Sample for Sheriff