

From the Sheriff's Desk . . .

by Jeff Dickerson,
Columbia County Sheriff



Three Pillars to Uphold the Law Enforcement Profession

Everyone knows that one of the main purposes of law enforcement is to conserve the peace. The mission for every sheriff elected in Oregon counties is to be the chief conservator of the peace for

his or her county. The 36 Oregon sheriffs are united in this vision and work collaboratively with one another to accomplish the mission across our diverse state.

I am very fortunate to have office holders in neighboring counties who have stepped up time and time again to assist and encourage me in my duties as sheriff. Washington County Sheriff Rob Gordon and Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin are the two sheriffs responsible for jurisdictions to the south and west of the Nehalem River Valley area and who have been most helpful to my office for their willingness to support our efforts wherever feasible.

What all three of us hold in common is a view of the office of sheriff that goes beyond just enforcing laws

and preserving the peace. I believe I can say without exception that each of us views our role as sheriff as a mandate to uphold the honor and nobility of our mission, and of our profession.

For me, this means that before we even can consider enforcing the law or exercising our authority, we must be committed to three bedrock principles – three absolute convictions that any and every enforcement officer must hold dear: 1. Uphold and defend the Constitutions of our state and nation; 2. Uphold the law; and 3. Ensure justice.

First, and foremost, we must uphold our constitutional freedoms. In truth, the only reason to give gov-
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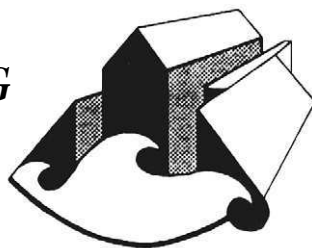
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