

Sheriff Dickerson clarifies statements recently made to media

Columbia County Sheriff Jeff Dickerson recently released the following clarifying statements regarding previous statements made about the department's budget cuts and the need for protection in rural areas:

In an interview with a newspaper reported, I was asked if people will be "unprotected" without enough deputies to patrol Columbia County. My response is that there are never enough deputies to "protect" citizens across the 657 square miles of our county, and that if we had more deputies, we might be able to better deter

crime in those areas. I was asked how a person could deter crime in the absence of more patrols. My response was that people should invest in home security items, make sure they know the serial numbers of their valuables and, if someone was threatening their lives, a shotgun loaded with .00-buckshot is a good deterrent.

I also said that in the rural areas of Columbia County, guns are a way of life, and that most people know how to defend themselves from those who would threaten them.

Later, when asked for clarifi-

cation, by a television reporter, I told him that I was in no way advocating citizens taking up guns and trying to enforce the law themselves. And that, if a citizen was seeking to arm him or herself as a means of self-defense, that they should be trained in the proper use of the gun.

This is merely following the advice of state law when it comes to getting a concealed weapons permit. This is common sense, too.

I am a supporter of the 2nd amendment in the Bill of Rights, and believe that an armed citizenry is better-pre-

pared to face those who threaten the life-safety of people than a disarmed one would be. As Sheriff, it is my duty both to enforce the law – and to work with the law abiding citizens of our county to conserve the peace and ensure tranquil communities. Unfortunately, there are threats to that peace in this county, and our deputies cannot be everywhere at once. A citizen who wishes to be armed for protection is granted that right by our Constitution, unless his or her behavior has led to a forfeiture of that right.

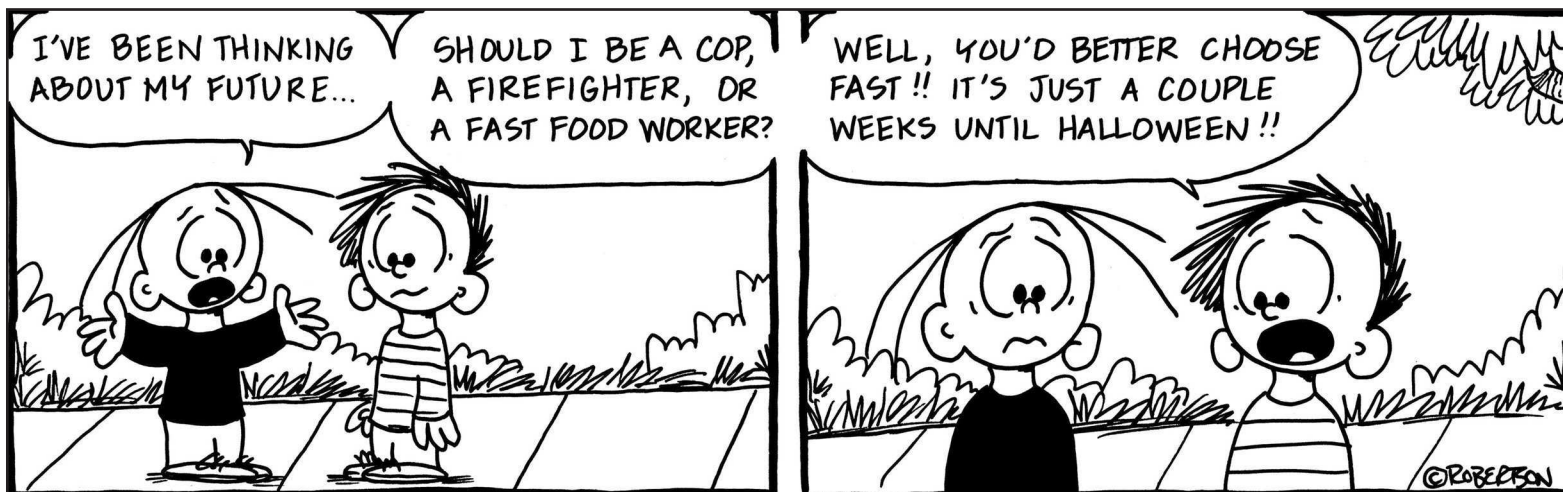
Sheriffs over the years have had detectives assigned to in-

vestigate crimes, until 2009, when budget cuts were made to eliminate those positions. Now that we have gotten down so far in our sworn enforcement numbers, I have made a tactical decision to make one of our five deputies a detective, believing we will get better investigations by having that investigator and gain much more than we lose by keeping that deputy on the road. Even with five deputies, we still can't go to all the calls we get (25 per day). Triaging the most serious calls and following up with a detective is what makes the

See Sheriff on page 18

Just for Fun

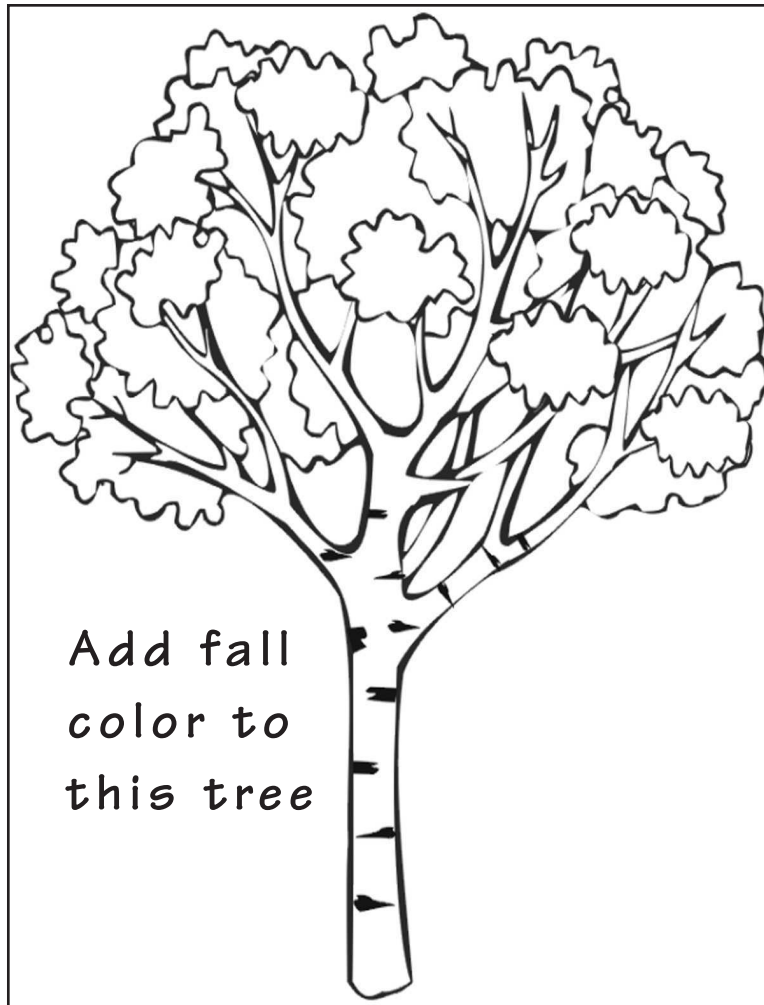
Casey and Kyle by Will Robertson



Solve this Sudoku

		9	3	7				
5	8							9
	4		1					5
4	7			1		6		
		6		5				7 2
	9				1		4	
2							8	1
				8	7	2		

Answer to September 21 Sudoku is on page 22



There is no business in the world so troublesome as the pursuit of fame: life is over before you have hardly begun your work.

LA BRUYÈRE
French essayist
(1645-1696)