

OPINION

PAID ELECTION LETTER

Elect Brian Jespersen for sheriff

To the editor,

I strongly support our current sheriff, Brian Jespersen, and encourage you to also.

I had the privilege of working with Sheriff Jespersen prior to my retirement and observed first hand a number of qualities that I respect and support in a professional law enforcement leader.

Sheriff Jespersen was a leader in Koochiching County's emergency management planning

followed by successful implementation of those plans.

Sheriff Jespersen implemented and updated critical communications within the county. One of these implementations is home notification alerts that can center in on all county households or target specific areas in the county depending on the emergency and need.

Sheriff Jespersen led and actively participated in numerous trainings,

planning and strategizing meetings with many different county, state, federal and international (Fort Frances) agencies.

All with the purpose of keeping our county residents safe.

Listed below are a few of the qualities that I have observed in our current sheriff:

- honesty
- integrity
- experience in administration and in the field

- ongoing training for his employees and himself
- listening skills
- approachable
- fairness

Sheriff Jespersen has made some difficult decisions and he has experienced challenging situations. Through these tough circumstances he remains respectful and empathetic, with the public foremost in his mind.

Susan Earley  
Congrave  
Ericsburg, MN

PAID ELECTION LETTER

Vote Perryn Hedlund for sheriff

To the editor,

Perryn Hedlund possesses many character traits that are important for the position of Sheriff of Koochiching County, and I would like to focus on the three that I believe are essential for this position.

Firstly, Perryn believes all people are equal before the law. No one will be granted "special treatment" nor will anyone be denied their rights before the law. Also he will not show favoritism, but will have standardized hiring procedures for the sheriff's department.

Secondly, Perryn is an excellent listener whether he is dealing with the public as a police officer, or working with fellow members of the criminal justice system. Hence the decisions Perryn makes are based on the facts, and even though people don't always agree with his decisions, they know that

at least they were heard. Perryn listens and weighs the fact before speaking; as we all know it is much better to listen, think, and then speak, so we don't have to remove our foot from our mouth.

Thirdly, Perryn has a calming effect in difficult situations. This is particularly important when he is answering calls where tempers could flare and violence ensue. He possesses strength under control and dissipates rather than escalates confrontations. When you keep the situation under control and the adrenaline levels low, people think more clearly and difficult situations are more easily resolved.

I worked for Minnesota Power for 30 years and helped keep the lights on for many of you, hopefully you will see the light and vote for Perryn Hedlund as your Sheriff.

Ron McClanahan  
Ericsburg, MN

PAID ELECTION LETTER

Dill's leadership shows commitment

To the editor,

On behalf of Molpus Timberlands Management, I want to thank Rep. David Dill for his past efforts and continuing support of important forestry issues and in particular his work on the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA).

Sustainable forest management on private timberlands enrolled in

the SFIA program is very important to the state's forest products industry, ensures public access for hunting and recreation, and serves important conservation interests that are part of Minnesota's heritage and Molpus' core values.

We truly appreciate Rep. Dill's willingness to work with Molpus' Minnesota

staff on these issues and commend him for his deep commitment to Minnesota forest lands and the economic, recreational, and conservation benefits that they provide.

Hunters, snowmobilers and others are able to enjoy public access to Molpus managed lands in Minnesota, in large part, because of Rep.

Dill's efforts.

For these reasons and the leadership Rep. Dill brings to the state, we support his candidacy for re-election to the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Dick Molpus  
Molpus Timberlands  
Management, LLC  
President  
Jackson, MS

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The Journal

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