

Schwarz wants to be aggressive, fair if elected county sheriff

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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PAUL SCHWARZ

Investigator has worked in sheriff's office.

If elected Dawson County sheriff, Paul Schwarz promises an aggressive, yet fair and impartial, approach to law enforcement.

The 44-year-old Lexington Police Department criminal investigator is running against sheriff Gary Reiber of Lexington and former sheriff deputy Rick Hite of Gothenburg.

Schwarz has been in law enforcement in Dawson County for 21 years where he's been a Gothenburg police officer, a K-9 handler, deputy sheriff and investigative sergeant for the Dawson County Sheriff's Office.

"I've done a lot of good for the county while I worked in the sheriff's office and want to take what I've learned and done in Lexington and apply it county wide to other communities," he said.

The investigator said he would return the sheriff's office to aggressive investigation of drug activities and bring back youth programs such as D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education).

To the office, Schwarz said he would bring a strong set of moral values, honor, unwavering integrity and tenacity and a strong sense of leadership.

What sets him apart from the other candidates, he said, is his experience.

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Schwarz said he's completed numerous law enforcement courses including homicide investigations, evidence identification, processing and collection, drug investigations and conspiracies and leadership training in addition to taking courses at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, and working with FBI agents and those with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

He described his experience in drug investigations as extensive as well as in other facets of law enforcement.

In addition, Schwarz said he understands local, state and federal law enforcement systems better than the other candidates.

Although he said some in the county think he would focus on Lexington where he lives, Schwarz said he's concerned about what happens in all of the cities in Dawson County where he served for 16 years.

Schwarz, who is single, is engaged to Billie Trejo of Cozad.

He has three children: Anastacia Moreno of Lincoln, and Sadie, 17; and Caleb, 10.

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