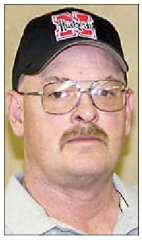

RICK HITE

Promises fresh changes to office.

Rick Hite of Gothenburg has stepped into the election batting box for the first time in his life.

Hite, 52, hopes to unseat Dawson County sheriff Gary Reiber of Lexington and garner more votes than fellow candidate Rick Schwarz of Cozad when voters go to the polls May 11.

"I think it's time for a change, a fresh look at how the department is run," he said.

The Gothenburg native said he's considered seeking the sheriff seat before but decided against it to remain loyal to Reiber.

Hite had worked as a Dawson County sheriff deputy for the past 19 years until he said he was terminated in February.

Since then, he's worked in the parts department at G-TEC, Inc. in Gothenburg.

If elected, Hite said he would change how investigations are done, particularly in combating the drug problem in the county.

"We need deeper investigation into burglaries and thefts because I think most of them occur to support the habits of drug users," he said.

Hite said he would also step up rural road patrol throughout the county.

What he would bring to the office is years of dealing with and understanding residents of the county and nearly 16 years of teaching the use of firearms to law enforcement.

"I'm all about fair and impartial law enforcement and finding new ways to combat the same problems that have been with the county for my entire career," Hite said. "A weak point of the sheriff's office is drug investigations."

Hite said what sets him apart from his challengers is a better understanding of people's problems.

"I'm also easier to talk to," he said. "I'm always available to listen to anyone's problems. I have a big concern for the people of the county."

After graduation from GHS in 1975, Hite drove a truck for 15 years before entering into law enforcement training at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island.

He began his law enforcement career as a jailer before becoming involved in civil process. Hite was on road patrol for the rest of his law enforcement career and supervised that department for nearly four years.

Hite has lived in Gothenburg and at Jeffrey Lake all his life.

He has three grown sons: Travis, Tyrel and Toby.

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