

Hogan from page A8

with outmoded policies and procedures.

"I wouldn't necessarily do away with any existing departments," Hogan said. "But I would take a fresh approach, and examine every aspect of our operations."

Besides having worked with the Oakland sheriff's department, Hogan has worked with departments in Wayne and Livingston counties. "I know how they should operate. I do understand the sheriff's operation."

Hogan scoffs at the idea he might not have enough experience running a jail — something his opponent said is "75 percent of the sheriff's responsibility."

As a state police commander, he has operated lockups in Brighton and Detroit. That's not the same as running a jail as large as Oakland's, he acknowledged. "But I'm enough of a leader to know that much of what occurs is done by people hired and trained to do the job on a daily basis."

"I believe in delegating responsibility and giving people the wherewithal to carry out their duties," Hogan said. "Then I believe in follow up to make sure my people are following procedures and doing the job in a pro-

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Matt Hogan
sheriff's candidate

essional manner."

Hogan said he believes in alternative sentencing procedures — such as work release, tethering and boot camps. "It's easy to lock somebody up," he said. "I believe there should be alternatives to simply warehousing people in jail."

Among the innovations he would implement as sheriff, Hogan said, is closer liaison with schools — as with expanded DARE programs — and the community. "Police have a habit of assuming they know all about gangs, drugs and other phases of police work. But we police have to be more involved in the community, so they are not simply reacting to problems."

Hogan said women and minorities should be encouraged within the department so the sheriff's department reflects the diversity of the community.

Nichols from page A8

recidivism rate less than the regular jail population, he said.

Nichols said he even enjoys going to boot camp graduation exercises, where former disciplinary problems demonstrate promise. "I'm not part of the moral majority," he said, "but we make boot camp inmates go to church."

The sheriff also enjoys hearing from the parents. "One father told me his son had never been polite to him before," said Nichols, "and he'd never before addressed him as 'sir.'"

"He wanted to know what he did to his son," said the sheriff.

Nichols foresees more crime and more criminals ahead as the county grows. "More people mean more crime," he said.

"I come from the school of police work that says if you do wrong, you're going to be punished," said Nichols, "and you should be punished fairly and fairly. I don't believe in molly-coddling criminals, and I don't believe in finding excuses."

Even so, Nichols doesn't believe locking people up — warehousing human beings — is necessarily the answer, particularly for nonviolent offenders. With more people destined to be wards of the criminal justice system, he sees a bigger need for

alternative programs such as work release and the boot camp.

Gangs are an emerging problem in Oakland, Nichols said. Thus there may be a need for a bootcamp for juveniles — male and female. "If you don't turn kids around while they're young, you may never be able to," he said.

In the next four years, Nichols said he'd like to see his department emerge as a coordinating organization that supplies support services — high tech crime investigation, for example — to other law enforcement agencies.

Nichols doesn't want the sheriff's department to become a super police agency. But there should be greater coordination

between police agencies — for complicated cases, or a police presence at World Cup Soccer or Crainin Woodward.

Nichols bristles if anybody implies his age or health are factors in his bid for another term in office — even though he's 77 (and turns 78 three weeks after the election) and has respiratory problems for which carries an oxygen tank in the car.

"I'm not running for Arnold Schwarzenegger's job," he said. "I'll put my sick record against anybody else's."

Asked how many pushups he could do, Nichols fired back at a reporter, "How many can you do?"

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