

DEAR EDITOR: TOP 1 of 2
to the Citizens of Albany County + the City of Taramie,

We would like to thank the citizens of Taramie and Albany County for their support + kindness over the past 13 months. This has been a difficult + heart-wrenching time for all of us. However, it is now time to begin the healing process. Let us not forget Matthew + his . . .

Our thanks to Cal Rerucha and his entire staff. Long hours, high stress and attention to detail led to the successful outcome of this case. Gene Wiegand of the Albany County Crime Victim/Witness Program must also be thanked for his assistance + concern through these trying times.

The City of Taramie and Albany County should be proud of the highly qualified + well trained men + women who make up the Taramie Police Department + the Albany County Sheriff's Department. You have some of the most dedicated + professional law enforcement personnel in the Rocky Mountain area. The willingness of the two departments to work together + share information led to the final verdict. In particular, we would like to recognize and thank Rob Dulree of the Sheriff's Department and Dave O'Malley, Jeff Bury and Ben Fritzen of the Taramie Police Department for their professionalism, their dedication + their humanity.

Matthew's death has focused national attention on the twin topics of tolerance and Respect for Diversity. We will also continue to concentrate our efforts on these two issues through the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

At the same time, and as we have done since our first press release from the hospital in Ft. Collins, we will continue to emphasize that Laramie, Albany County & Wyoming are great places to live & that Wyoming is our home.

Respectfully,

Judy & Dennis Shepard