

News of Record

Marriages

June 4 - Franz Joseph Earl Corder to Oreanna Marie Bolin, both of Halfway.
June 6 - Eric William Lower to Christie Ann Marie Southwell, both of Halfway.
June 13 - Brandon Lee Larkin to Karly Larae Reed, both of Baker City.

Arrests

June 10 - Lacey Kilborn for Contempt.
June 10 - Bryan Karolski for Assault IV, Harassment.
June 11 - Timothy Slaney for Probation Violation.
June 11 - James Reed for DUI, Hit & Run, Reckless Driving.
June 11 - Melissa Lattymer for Criminal Trespass.
June 13 - Coty Hanson for Probation Violation.
June 14 - Anthony Myers for Contempt.
June 14 - Jacob Walker for Probation Violation.
June 15 - Michael Weisenburgh for DUI.

Baker County
Parole & Probation
Most Wanted

McBride, Steven Michael
DOB: 11/24/1981
Sex: Male Race: White
Hair: Blonde Eye: Blue
Height: 5'10" Weight: 190
Convictions:
Coercion

The person above has criminal warrants. If you see this person, do not attempt to apprehend them yourself. If you know where this person may be, contact Parole and Probation at 541-523-8217 or your nearest police department. You may also e-mail parole@bakercounty.org

I've had the opportunity to receive the positive influence of many great fathers in my life. My own father, the dads of my best friends, and the dads who were friends of my parents (who became almost like my "second dads").

Growing up, I didn't always realize that not everyone had a good dad. Someone who provided for the family, who could, and would, fix a flat tire on a bike, someone who treated their mom, their wife, and their neighbors really well. Someone who would drive any distance at any hour to rescue their child (or anyone else's child for that matter) when a car broke down. Someone who would volunteer countless hours of time and donate monetary resources to causes, organizations, and school. Someone willing to put the fear of God into would-be-amorous-teen-aged-boys or anyone who might threaten to cause harm to any member of their family.

My own dad was born in 1923 on a farm in eastern Nebraska, enlisted in World War II, was devoted to and married my mother after knowing her for only three weeks; loved, disciplined, and was proud of their four children; worked hard, had a passion for raising good horses, had a special connection with troubled teen boys who sometimes had a tough time relating to their own dads; loved to talk to people, was an exceptional driver and operator of all kinds of equipment, was a hard-headed German who loved to argue; hated to lose at Yahtzee to my mother, and loved liverwurst. He saved orphaned fawns, an owl, three baby raccoon when our dog had killed their mother, and cried when that same old dog

No One Else Can Fill Your Shoes

grew old and sick and had to be put to sleep.

He taught me to drive a stick shift at age 11, shared with me his love and knowledge of horses and animals; taught me to back up a horse trailer (albeit not as well as Dotty Miles can), instilled the importance of sportsmanship, and told me to always look in the back seat of my car before getting in it.

He was the strongest man I knew. The fact he was able to retire while in his 40s was a very good thing because at age 67, he died from metastatic prostate cancer before PSA testing was available. Seeing the strongest man I knew have to crawl to bed one night and become so weak he could no longer hold up his head in the wheelchair was something incredibly difficult, but is not the lasting image I have.

Good dads are certainly not perfect dads. But they do show up, every day, for the job of being Dad.

I'm lucky. And I appreciate my own wonderful dad, Gordys Byron Diers, and the other great dads I've been so fortunate to have in my life. I especially thank my husband who has been a wonderful dad to all of our children. The newest, and one of the very best dads who is a part of my life, belongs to my granddaughter, Gloria Bella.

A short time before he died, my dad asked me if I would remember him after he was gone. I told him then, every day, Dad, every day.

Happy Father's Day. I think about you every day.

*-GDP



To Gloria
With all my love
Forever Dad
Your Husband
Gordys

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Letters

Return to Science-Based
Management of the Forests

To the editor:

I am a very old man. I was born and raised in Baker and up until a few years ago, I maintained a vacation home at Sumpter. I left Baker in 1954 to attend college. I did return each summer while in college in order to work for the USFS. I then spent my working years with timber companies in California and Washington. I have always been a "Baker Boy" and I have followed the happenings in Baker County through my subscription to the Record Courier.

Through the years, I witnessed the forest practices of governmental agencies change due to the influence exerted by very wealthy environmental groups. Unfortunately, the changes had a devastating effect on local economies. Again, unfortunately, the changes also had a serious negative impact on the environment, both locally and globally. The management of federal forests today, or I should say, the lack of management, has resulted in a return to conditions in our forests that existed prior to the western migration of pioneers. It is commonly believed that the forests of that era were vast expanses of healthy park-like settings. In reality, the forests were plagued by massive outbreaks of fire, insects, disease and wind damage. Huge fires raged to such an extent that winter weather sometimes failed to fully extinguish them. Trees weakened by the fires were easy prey for the other scourges of insects and disease.

For many decades, private, federal, state and local organizations and agencies cooperated in doing forest research. Slowly, progress was made so that forest practices could be applied in order to achieve healthy forests. Virtually all of those hard-earned lessons have been abandoned over the past 30 years or so. Today, our practices are creating the very same conditions that produced wildfires such as the 1910 fire in Idaho which burned over 2 million acres of old-growth forests. It also killed 60-70 people. If we persist in refusing to apply the lessons learned, we will see fires of this magnitude again.

Many of the people of Baker County recall when the huge parcels of federal land in the county were truly managed. There were good primary roads and nearly all secondary roads were lightly maintained so that fire crews, equipment, materials and supplies could be rapidly deployed to most fires. Even more importantly, these roads allowed fire crews to quickly move out of harms way in the event the fire "exploded" or in the event that spot fires developed behind them. In those days, there were many good family-wage jobs for people in Baker County and in many other counties as well. Timber stand improvement (TSI) jobs existed year around. These included such things as thinning, pruning, slash burning, erosion control, post-fire site rehabilitation, timber harvesting and reforestation.

Local people have seen changes in forest practices that have led to in a number of very negative results. Forest-related jobs have been drastically reduced. Secondary jobs such as retail sales and service have been slashed. Taxes to local governments have fallen dramatically. Inexplicably, road closures and even the total destruction of existing roads have become an annual happening. Even roads that existed long before the 1905 establishment of the USFS have been destroyed. The prescribed burn was originally a fine tool used by forest managers to reduce the build up of flammable materials in the forest. These were well planned and carefully executed. Over the past 20 years or so, these burns have become nothing more than arson by amateurs. No preparation work is done to confine the burn to a specific area or to limit damage to live standing timber. In the afternoon the federal workers leave for home and a small contract crew is left to try to contain the spread of the fire. Not infrequently, the burn turns into a wildfire. In the pine region, most intentional burns were a matter of piling slash in the summer and then burning those piles in the winter. Zero damage was done to standing timber. Broadcast burns, i.e., setting a fire which will burn over a given area up to an established perimeter, was common west of the Cascade Range in the Douglas-fir region. These broadcast burns are not desirable in the pine region because of the damage caused to standing timber and because of the problem with the fire becoming a major conflagration. Yet, federal agencies in the pine region continue to use broadcast burns as a means of reducing the fuel load. In past

years, one of the major problems of containing wildfires had to do with the issue of spot fires. Burning material carried high into the air by the wind and then deposited some miles from the original fire made containment very difficult. Research showed that these spot fires were usually not caused by burning leaves and branches but rather by chunks of dry rot material in the top portion of standing snags. This "punk" material ignites and immediately becomes a glowing ember much like a piece of charcoal. It is very light in weight and is torn loose by updrafts from the fire. It can travel dozens of miles before it ignites a new fire. Years ago, forest practices dictated that snags over 14' tall be felled in order to reduce the threat of spot fires. Today, it is not unusual that agencies require that snags be left standing. The problem today is that with such vast areas of our forests being excluded from timber stand improvement work, there are millions of standing dead snags. In addition, agencies have stopped doing site rehabilitation after wildfires so that millions of acres of burned over land are left with standing blackened snags. These standing snags not only provide fine fuel for the next fire, they also provide dry rot to be carried to ignite new fires.

There are many other changes in forest practices that have affected the people in Baker County. It has been obvious to most that these changes have not only been detrimental to the health of our forests but have also hurt the economy and reduced the use of forests in the area for recreational enjoyment. I have no doubt that the inexplicable policies and practices of federal agencies involved in resource management have caused intolerable anger and frustration for the citizens of Baker County. I don't know how the citizens of Baker County can do what has been recommended by some, i.e., "cooperate fully with the federal agencies". The federal agencies appear to be hell-bent on continuing on the path of mismanaging the forests and reducing to a bare minimum the use of the forests by citizens.

Ideally, the best possible solution would be for the federal agencies to return to science-based management of the forests and to work closely with local officials and citizens in order to provide the greatest good to the greatest number in the long run. Here's to hoping they do just that.

David C. Davis
Olympia, WA

Leave the Roads and Trails
Alone

To the editor:

On June 3, 2015, Tom Montoya, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, submitted a community editorial lauding the USFS and its efforts to implement the Blue Mountains Forest Plan. He announced the best way to "re-engage" the community, the stakeholders, and the USFS. He advocates open to the public meetings, which will provide "opportunities to discuss and develop ideas that will help us to improve the final Revised Forest Plans, and provide clarity on our final decision."

Mr. Montoya asked local organizations, county organizations, tribes, members of the public at large, and special interest groups to host or participate in public meetings in their communities on issues brought forward through the Draft Environmental Impact Statement comment process.

If my memory serves me correctly, the comment period is over. Why have "marathon" meetings when the general public has to attend, unpaid, while the USFS officials naturally get compensated?

We have been going through this process or similar processes since 2009. Let's review what has happened. At least five forest supervisors have come and gone, none could get the "plan" right. The citizens have comments, studies have been done, and maps have been tendered, and what is the result? The citizens' ideas and input have been largely ignored, the USFS seems to receive input and then largely (in my opinion) just make an arbitrary decision.

Why don't [sic] the USFS spend the money that they allocate to the Forest Plan to managing the forest? I speak from experience. I am an inholder (I own land totally surrounded by the National Forest). Here is what I have observed. I have seen no forest management for the last 25 years. No thinning, no weed control, no serious logging, the forest is overgrown.

See LETTERS on page 7

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