

STAMPEDE COURT



Courtesy of Elgin Stampede
The 2017 Elgin Stampede court, from left: Riley Ferre' of Wallowa, Diedre Schreiber of Enterprise and Megan Peppers of Elgin. Far right: 2016 Queen Kimber Case.

WARNER

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Becky went to school in Milton-Freewater back when Mike was a mail carrier there, but Mika and Tyler graduated from Enterprise High School and Mike remembers "We were on the circuit for seven years. You go to the games and everything else in the winter."

Mike got his start in the Postal Service in 1978 in the Pendleton mail distribution center, working nights — the traditional starting point for a lot of postal careers. But within eight months he landed mail carrier job in Milton-Freewater.

He returned to Pendleton in 1992 as a delivery superintendent, then just a year later he made the move to postmaster in Joseph. In 2002 he came to Enterprise to wrangle the 5,000 letters and 600 packages a day that the office handles.

The way he tells it, that postal career was a practical decision.

"I thought the Postal Service would be a good future," he said. "You knew you had a job every day."

But he got lucky, too, and he knows it. It was a good career, all right, but it also has been a good life. In Wallowa County, he said, "I had lots of good people to work with, that's for sure."

Today those people include Lori Cooney, who will fill in as postmaster until a permanent replacement is appointed, as well as Holly Siever, Jerry Hayes, Maureen Booher, Sheila Ames, Dwane Harvey, Keenan Blessing and Linda Anderson, who also is retiring as a contract mail carrier "in the tule weeds of Crow Creek and Elk Mountain" after 16 years.

During his final week on the job, Mike resisted posing for an individual picture for this article, insisting on having his picture taken with Lori and Linda.

That's the kind of boss he's always been — the kind of guy who thinks of his team as his people, Lori said.

"He's a good postmaster and a good person," she said. "He's always been just a good guy and a good boss."

Mike's always been very flexible, she said, working around employees family needs, important events and emergencies. He's been seen delivering mail, working two jobs to make life work for everyone.

That's not something you see much of outside of a small town. And small-town is a point of pride for Mike.

"The people here are very friendly," he said. "If you have a problem with the mail they are not the problem. They're not city people."

The biggest problem he's faced, he says, is when the tracking number says a package has arrived, but it really hasn't, yet.

Of course, there are leaking packages and smelly packages, too, but nothing

dangerous.

"We're going to miss him," Lori said. "We've got a lot of good people here, but Mike's all I've ever known as a postmaster in my 12-year career."

While she serves as postmaster, Lori figures she can't do better than try and keep things the same as Mike did.

"That would be my goal," she said, "to do things half as good as he did."

Now, Mike is going to finish training his horse "Lucky," ride his horse "Jazz" and mule "Duffy," snowmobile in the winter, take the boat out, and do some camping and fishing and hunting.

"I'm booked hunting and fishing through the middle of November," he said. "After that I'll find something else. I'm not going to stay home. I used to think, 'Why leave this job when you're already working?' But I think, now, I'll try something else. There's plenty of work in this county if you want it."

FOR THE RECORD

Dispatch log:

- Monday, Sept. 26**
 10:14 a.m.: Report of single-vehicle accident in rural Enterprise.
 10:20 a.m.: Report of possible impaired driver in Enterprise.
 10:40 a.m.: EPD issued a warning for child neglect in Enterprise.
 11:02 a.m.: Chumaree Dawn Crum, 33, address unknown, arrested by Baker City police on a Wallowa County warrant for failure to appear, original charges of fraudulent use of a credit card and theft III.
 11:52 a.m.: 911 report of vehicle crash at Wallowa Lake.
 12:31 p.m.: Family dispute in Enterprise.
 1:34 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise.
 1:46 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise.
 2:45 p.m.: Report of unauthorized use of motor vehicle in rural Wallowa.
 4:09 p.m.: Report of possible impaired driver in Enterprise.
 4:38 p.m.: Theft complaint in Enterprise.
 4:51 p.m.: Wallowa County Community Corrections issued a detainer warrant for Errol Clarence Bullock, 34, of Wallowa for probation violation, original charge assault IV domestic violence.
 6:38 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise.
 7:44 p.m.: Disturbance in Joseph.
 8:39 p.m.: Bryanna Hope Sheffield, 23, of Joseph arrested for furnishing alcohol to a minor. Transported to Umatilla County jail.
 9:08 p.m.: Christopher Anthony Hoppel, 23, of Joseph arrested and charged with assault. Transported to Umatilla County jail.
- Tuesday, Sept. 27**
 12:07 a.m.: Request for ambulance in Wallowa.
 9:13 a.m.: Request for ambulance in Joseph.
 12:01 p.m.: Request for ambulance in Enterprise.
 4:21 p.m.: Jacob Dylan Hart, 19, of Joseph arrested on a Community Corrections detainer warrant and transported to Umatilla County jail.
 5:19 p.m.: Amanda Michelle Palmer, 29, of Enterprise arrested on a Umatilla County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear, original charge assault IV and reckless endangering. Cited and released after bail posted.
 8:17 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise.
- Wednesday, Sept. 28**
 1:07 p.m.: Report of possible wolf depredation in rural Joseph.
 3:46 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise, citation for driving while suspended.
 9:49 p.m.: Hannah Rachel

Rose Staicoff, 31, arrested on Wallowa County Circuit Court warrant by Jackson County Sheriff's Office for probation violation, original charge DUII.

- Thursday, Sept. 29**
 7:53 a.m.: 911 report of rollover crash on Highway 82 in rural Enterprise.
 8:59 a.m.: Harassment report in Enterprise.
 12:11 p.m.: Traffic stop in Joseph.
 1:45 p.m.: Trespass complaint in rural Enterprise.
 3:07 p.m.: Report of lost camera on Hurricane Creek, possibly at the trailhead.
 5:15 p.m.: Otilia Thiel, 51, of Enterprise arrested for probation violation and criminal trespassing. Transported to Umatilla County jail.
- Friday, Sept. 30**
 6:22 a.m.: Non-injury crash in rural Wallowa.
 10:53 a.m.: Theft reported in Enterprise.
 11:19 a.m.: Lost older, white female schauzer/shih tzu mix with faded, red collar and tags from Lime Quarry Road in Enterprise.
 12:17 p.m.: Complaint regarding door-to-door salesmen in Wallowa.
 12:33 p.m.: Report of possible game violation in rural Enterprise. Transferred to OSP.
 3:05 p.m.: Report of bears in

- Joseph. Referred to ODFW.
 4:45 p.m.: Statewide misdemeanor warrant issued for Donley Kermit Blackburn, 64, of El Dorado, Mo., for failure to appear, original charge DUII.
 5:01 p.m.: Statewide misdemeanor warrant issued for Gerritt James Johnson, 24, of Enterprise for contempt of court.
 5:32 p.m.: Traffic crash on Lower Imnaha Road; report taken in Joseph.
 8:13 p.m.: Request for ambulance in rural Lostine.
 8:33 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise.
 10:01 p.m.: Search and Rescue responded to Imnaha area after report of hunters in need of assistance.

- Saturday, Oct. 1**
 9:23 a.m.: Report of trespassing and game violation in rural Enterprise; referred to OSP.
 10:08 a.m.: Report of possible impaired driver in Enterprise.
 12:04 p.m.: Complaint regarding door-to-door salesmen in Joseph.
 12:57 p.m.: Report of non-injury

- traffic crash in rural Enterprise.
 2:06 p.m.: 911 transfer call from Idaho reporting injured hunter in Imnaha. Life Flight responded.
 3:48 p.m.: Hit and run reported in Enterprise.
 4:09 p.m.: Large, shaggy brown and gray dog with clipped tail loose in Joseph.
 4:42 p.m.: Report of child neglect in Enterprise.
 6:29 p.m.: Request for ambulance in Enterprise.
 7:48 p.m.: Lost 9-month-old border collie with red collar in the Clear Lake area.
 10:18 p.m.: Traffic stop in Enterprise.
- Sunday, Oct. 2**
 10:26 a.m.: Lost blonde Akita mix male dog in Enterprise.

Circuit Court

Sept. 28
 Donley Kermit Blackburn, 65, of Eldorado Springs, Mo., fined \$260 for failure to drive within a lane, a Class B misdemeanor.

FIRE

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During a helicopter survey of the area Friday afternoon, fire managers identified a spot fire east of the burn area across Trout Creek. Due to the time of day, it was determined firefighters could not safely access the spot fire until the following day.

Early Saturday morning brought a strong thunderstorm across Northeast Oregon, producing higher-than-expected wind in the planned burn area with very little moisture. Firefighters hiked to the spot fire Saturday and found that the winds allowed the spot fire to spread to the east, upslope onto Cougar Ridge, South of Division Gulch and ultimate-

ly outside of the prescribed burn area.

The Minam Fire was declared late Saturday, when fire managers identified that they would not be able to contain the fire spread outside of the planned perimeter within the next 24 hours.

Cooler weather kept the spread of the fire minimal into Sunday as additional crews and aircraft arrived on scene to support suppression efforts. Weather forecasts indicate an increased chance of precipitation over the coming days, which should help containment efforts.

Forest officials said smoke from the Minam Fire will have moderate impacts to air quality in the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Valleys over the next couple of days.

For incident updates, visit inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5050.

BEAT

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Another class of phytonutrients (plant nutrients) known as lignans, which have their highest concentration in flax seeds, produces a similar response in the body as does Tamoxifen, the anti-estrogen medication used to treat some women with breast cancer.

One key study concluded that "dietary flaxseed has the potential to reduce tumor growth in patients with breast cancer. And this was just in five weeks. If the therapeutic index seen in this short-term study can be sustained over a long-term period, flaxseed, which is inexpensive and readily available, may be a potential dietary alternative or adjunct to currently used breast cancer drugs."

The amount of flax seed used in the study was about half a tablespoon a day, something that could be easily added to one's cereal in the morning or to a muffin.

If this is all a little confusing, I highly recommend you visit NutritionFacts.org, which offers several short videos describing the research on how our diets can affect our risk of get-

ting breast cancer and how we can increase our survival once it is diagnosed.

On a more personal note, though, I am touched by the women and families who are affected by breast cancer. I have seen the whole range of emotional responses by those who have been diagnosed and suffered. There are those who want every possible thing done to treat their breast cancer, while others have insisted that they would rather die than to have a part of their body surgically removed. Some women ask for bilateral mastectomies (like Angelina Jolie) to reduce their risk of developing breast cancer, while others have chosen not to undergo mammograms or physician visits for fear that they may find breast cancer.

I can understand and empathize with each person's choices, but doing nothing is not a good option. As they say, a good defense is a good offense. When it comes to beating breast cancer, focus on a healthy lifestyle that can prevent it from even developing in the first place. It's possible to "beat it" before you ever have to fight it.

Kenneth D. Rose, MD, is a general surgeon at Mountain View Medical Group in Enterprise.

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- Wallowa County Grain Growers
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- and a special expression of gratitude to our legions of volunteers, whose contribution of time and energy make it all possible!

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