

STUDENTS

Continued from Page 1A

The events are designed to teach students about being safe around electricity, and also show them the career opportunities available in the industry.

And, as with the fire hose demonstration, to have fun.

Students were divided into smaller groups to cycle through the stations, including operating the control panel on an OTEC line truck, and learning from Baker City Fire Department paramedics how to splint a broken bone.

OTEC lineman Chris Peppers showed students how to operate the truck's control panel, and he let them explore the truck and its features, including a very loud horn.

Inside the church, line-men Mark Dyer and Myles Schwabke had a safety station where they showed students what happens if a kite is flown too close to power lines.

Schwabke had a small switch he would step on that sent electricity through the station table, showing the electric shocks.

They also demonstrated the dangers of a ladder bumping

"South Baker students were able to take away a great discussion of how these safety careers are such a great future choice for the students."

— Kristin Schwin, sixth-grade teacher, South Baker Intermediate

into power lines, an overturned car beneath active lines, and other scenarios.

Sixth-grade teacher Kristin Schwin said the students loved the event. Schwin said it was a great experience for the students to learn both about safety precautions, and the roles that emergency responders play.

"It's things they're not really exposed to very often, so it's very nice for them to get a chance to be exposed and learn how this equipment all works," Schwin said.

Around 30 South Baker students participated, and Schwin said they were grateful for the break from the classroom and to be able to be outside to learn.

"South Baker students were able to take away a great discussion of how



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Quinton Wellman operates an Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative truck with lineman Chris Peppers.

these safety careers are such a great future choice for the students," Schwin said. "Many loved seeing what it would be like to work as a lineman, a fireman, or an EMT. The students loved the

public service element and how many of these workers are out there saving lives and rescuing others on a daily basis, often at great risk to themselves. Very eye-opening."

Harvey's ethics case set for Friday

By Jayson Jacoby
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

Oregon's Government Ethics Commission is scheduled to determine Friday, June 11 whether Bill Harvey, chairman of the Baker County Board of Commissioners, violated state ethics laws last year.

The Ethics Commission was initially slated to review Harvey's case April 30, but he had scheduling conflicts that day and the matter was rescheduled for the June 11 meeting.

Susan Myers, an investigator for the Ethics Commission, recommends the Commission make a preliminary finding that Harvey committed eight violations of ethics laws. Myers wrote in her report that she found a "preponderance of evidence" that Harvey, who was elected in 2014

and re-elected to a second four-year term in 2018, used his position to benefit himself, his son and his son's business, and that the elder Harvey failed to disclose conflicts of interest as required by state law.

In a written response to the Commission, dated May 27, Harvey wrote that "the thought that I used my County Commission position to benefit myself is absurd. Who would ever want to work seven days a week, for two months away from my family, and ignore what was required of me at home as a father, grandfather and husband? As a salaried elected official, all of the extra hours and workload was done at no additional pay for myself"



Harvey

Harvey asks that the Ethics Commission give him a warning on one conflict of interest allegation, that he hired his son, William Shawn Harvey, to haul boat docks to the county's Hewitt Park near Richland in August 2020.

Bill Harvey also proposes that the Commission warn him for discussing the possibility of hiring his son to do demolition work at the building the county bought in August 2020 and that now houses the Baker County Health Department.

The county did not hire William Harvey for that work, and Bill Harvey, who made the proposal, did not participate in the discussion.

See Harvey / Page 5A

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

"I just can't see how either side could have a problem with it going on the ballot because both sides of this argument think that the community wants what they want and they think what their opinion is is best for the community," McQuisten said. "So if both sides think that, why not toss it out there?"

She said she's committed to complying with the will of the voters, and if a majority of voters favor the city applying for a quiet zone, she would support that.

A local group, Neighbors for a Safer, Quieter and Healthier Baker City, in 2019 submitted to the city council a petition signed by more than 230 people who support the city pursuing a quiet zone.

"This group is very passionate but I'm hearing from others in town who are just as passionately against this," McQuisten said. "And I'm probably hearing from more of those folks probably because they are coming to me in grocery stores, on Facebook, and not coming here to speak. I'm very aware the community is divided and they are very divided."

Councilor Joanna Dixon said that although there will always be sources of noise, she is sympathetic about South Baker Intermediate, which is beside the railroad tracks.

"Maybe that would be the one place in town that we do put these barriers they're talking about and the quiet zone from that point on," Dixon said.

To qualify for a quiet zone, the city would need to upgrade the safety barriers at public railroad crossings,

to ensure vehicles couldn't reach the tracks when a train is in the area.

Train engineers could still sound their horns when they determined that was necessary, if a vehicle was on the tracks or in other emergencies. About 24 trains per day pass through Baker City.

Councilor Lynette Perry suggested the city schedule a town hall meeting to allow people to voice their opinions prior to an election.

"I think that would be the best way to handle it," Perry said.

Five residents attended Tuesday's meeting to express their support for a quiet zone, and for the safety improvements to existing railroad crossings that would be required — Eric Layton, Peter Fargo, Suzanne Fouty, Bev Calder and Dick Haynes.

Layton, who is a member of Neighbors for a Safer, Quieter and Healthier Baker City, asked the council to delay any action on the matter until the group has made a presentation.

"We haven't been able to share the opportunities and concerns with you and we'd like to do that before this goes to a ballot measure," Layton said.

Calder said she was a city council member when the council first discussed the idea of a quiet zone around 2001. At the time, estimates for the cost of crossing improvements was around \$500,000.

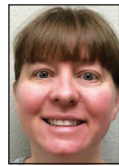
When the city put the issue on the ballot in May 2002, 82% of voters opposed the city pursuing a quiet zone.

But Calder pointed out that La Grande, which like Baker City has five public crossings, spent about \$200,000.

FRUITS

Continued from Page 1A

"You can use it anywhere in Oregon," said Mandy Peterson, a registered dietician nutritionist who works with the local WIC program.



Peterson

In Baker County, that includes the Baker City Farmers Market (Wednesdays, 3-6 p.m.), Hedge Rose Farm in Halfway, and Val's Veggies in Baker City.

The voucher is given directly to the vendor, who cashes it like a check.

Peterson said local WIC participants redeemed \$4,444 in vouchers through the Farm Direct Nutrition Program.

"We spent more of ours last year than the state average," Peterson said.

She said the statewide redemption rate was 44.27%. Baker County's rate was 60.35%.

Vouchers can be used to purchase fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, and fresh cut herbs. It cannot be used for processed foods (jam, honey, dried fruit), live plants, meat, fish, eggs, or non-food items.

WIC at the store

At the grocery store, WIC participants have extra money for fruit and vegetables due to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

For the next four months — June through September — the WIC fruit and veggie benefit is \$35 per participant.

The regular benefit is \$11 for pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum women, and \$9 for children ages 1 to 5.

"That means lots of fruit and veggies for these families," Peterson said.

These WIC benefits can be used on fresh, frozen, and canned fruit and vegetables at the grocery store.

To learn more about WIC and the Farm Direct Nutrition Program, call 541-523-8211.

Program for seniors

Another program, called the Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program, helps senior citizens purchase fruits and vegetables from farmers markets and farm stands.

To be eligible for the program, seniors must meet all the following criteria:

- Be at least 62 years old by April 1 of the current year;
- Be receiving either SNAP benefits and/or Medicaid on April 1 of the current year;
- Have income below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level in the current year;
- Be living in a situation where food is not provided for them.

This program provides \$24 in vouchers to be spent from June to November.

Double Up program

A statewide program called "Double Up Food Bucks" started in 2015 to match SNAP benefits up to \$10 at farmers markets.

SNAP — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — can be used to purchase food at farmers markets. The SNAP/EBT card is swiped at the market manager booth, and tokens are provided to purchase food that is eligible for the SNAP program, said Jake Sunderland, press secretary for the Oregon Department of Human Services.

The Baker City Farmers Market started participating in the Double Up program in 2020, and this summer is part of a pilot program that increases the match to \$20.

Molly Notarianni is the executive director of the Farmers Market

Fund, which supports the Double Up program. She said that since 2015, data showed a one-to-one use of Double Up (people were using \$10 in SNAP benefits for the \$10 match)

In 2020, usage jumped to a ratio of 2-to-1, meaning SNAP recipients were spending twice as much of their benefits at farmers markets.

"There were a lot more SNAP dollars used at farmers markets," Notarianni said.

This data spurred the idea to increase the Double Up match to \$20 this year at select markets including Baker City, Joseph, La Grande and Pendleton.

Notarianni hopes to continue the \$20 match if data supports the need.

"We hope to sustain it at a higher level," she said.

More information about the program can be found online at doubleuporegon.org.

This website has a list of participating markets, and will note which markets are matching up to \$20.

APPLIANCES & MORE
Jay & Kristin Wilson, Owners
2036 Main Street, Baker City
541-523-6284 • ccb#219615

Whirlpool

BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR

12 days, departs year-round

FROM \$2,599
\$2,349

1-888-817-0676
promo code N7017

* Free date changes anytime up to 45 days prior to departure for land tours, up to 95 days prior to departure for cruise tours. Deposits and final payments remain non-refundable. Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 6/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel
Introducing the INOGEN ONE - It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

Reclaim Your Freedom and Independence NOW!

inogen

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit

1-855-839-0752

Annual Youth Trail Ride started in 1964 is sponsored by the Baker County Mounted Posse

This is an outdoor camp with horseback riding and outdoor adventure for youths ages 12-15 years old.

Cost is \$2.00
(that's right only \$2.00 dollars)

June 26-27, 2021

For more information, questions or an application please call Jodie Radabaugh at 541-524-9358 or 541-403-4933

All state and county regulations will be followed.

2021 EASTERN OREGON PHOTO CONTEST

Official Rules:

Photo Contest open now and closes at 11:59 pm Sunday, June 20, 2021.

Staff will choose the top 10. The public can vote online for People's Choice from 12:01 am Monday, June 21 through 11:59 pm Thursday, June 30.

Digital or scanned photos only, uploaded to the online platform. No physical copies.

Only photographers from Oregon may participate.

The contest subject matter is wide open but we're looking for images that capture life in Eastern Oregon.

Entrants may crop, tone, adjust saturation and make minor enhancements, but may not add or remove objects within the frame, or doctor images such that the final product doesn't represent what's actually before the camera.

The winners will appear in the July 8th edition of Go Magazine; the top 25 will appear online.

Gift cards to a restaurant of your choice will be awarded for first, second and third place.

Submit all photos online at: bakercityherald.com/photocontest