

Sweet

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“We needed to partner with a business, and they love to do programs with youth in our community,” said Janie Radnovich-Brose, who is the district’s youth transition specialist along with Shannon Keck.

The specialty bicycle looks typical on the back end — seat, pedals, handlebars — but the front is equipped with an insulated cooler loaded with ice cream and dry ice.

To recruit staff, Radnovich-Brose and Keck had students apply and interview for the position.

“For a lot of these kids, this is their first job,” Radnovich-Brose said.

And, Keck said, it will help students gain skills in customer service, money transactions and bike safety.

Twelve employees and four adult supervisors rotate through two daily shifts — one morning and one afternoon.

The Ice Cream Pedalers will sell cold treats Monday through Thursday along the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway. They have a set route that runs from Geiser-Pollman Park to Central Park — along the Parkway between Washington and Valley avenues — so hungry patrons know where to find them.

“We’ve been decently busy,” Isaac Nemec said on Tuesday, after they arrived at Geiser-Pollman Park for the late morning stop.

The Pedalers play music — but not the traditional jingle that signals an ice cream truck.



In addition to selling frozen treats and bottled water, the Ice Cream Pedalers pick up trash along their route on the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway. Isabel Hardy, left, and Sophia Daffer worked the morning shift on Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

“We didn’t want to drive people crazy,” Mitchell Stephens said with a laugh.

During the lunch break, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the ice cream is restocked for the afternoon session.

Here is where you can find the Ice Cream Pedalers:

Morning schedule

- 8:30 a.m.: Geiser-Pollman Park
- 9:45 a.m.: Central Park

- 10:15 a.m.: The Great Salt Lick in Court Plaza
- 10:45 a.m.: Central Park
- 11 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.: Geiser-Pollman Park

Afternoon schedule

- 12:30 p.m.: Geiser-Pollman Park
- 1:45 p.m.: Central Park
- 2:15 p.m.: The Great Salt Lick
- 2:45 p.m.: Central Park
- 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Geiser-Pollman Park

er-Pollman Park

Treats

The cooler is loaded with a variety of treats with various prices, from \$1 for an Orange Dream Bar to \$4.50 for a Big Bopper Sandwich.

They have cold water too, for \$1.75 per bottle.

Cash or cards are accepted. “The students do all the transactions,” Stephens said, as Daffer took a dollar in pay-

ment and recorded the sale. “The ultimate goal is to prepare the students with job skills.”

And they aren’t just serving up cold treats — this group picks up litter as they go along the Parkway.

“Everywhere is cleaner after we’ve been there,” Stephens said.

They don’t have a specific location at each stop, but they do try to park out of the hot summer sun.

“Look for us in the shade,” Stephens said.

Deliveries

The Ice Cream Pedalers can deliver as well for orders over \$10 — check the page on Facebook for a link to an order form.

A customer can request a location and time, and specify a quantity of treats.

They also have an email: iccreampedalers@gmail.com.

Suspect

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Baker City Police officers responded and found a male juvenile with a gunshot wound. Efforts to save the victim were not successful.

Police also found a female juvenile at the scene who was not hurt.

Police haven’t said whether the female juvenile who was in the parking lot reported the shooting, or whether someone else called police.

According to the state law dealing with juveniles being prosecuted as adults, a judge can consider, among other criteria, whether:

- “The youth at the time of the alleged offense was of sufficient sophistication and maturity to appreciate the nature and quality of the conduct involved.”
- “The amenability of the youth to treatment and rehabilitation given the techniques, facilities and personnel for rehabilitation available to the juvenile court and to the criminal court that would have

jurisdiction after transfer” (to adult court).

- “The aggressive, violent, premeditated or willful manner in which the offense was alleged to have been committed.”

- “The previous history of the youth, including: prior treatment efforts and out-of-home placements; the physical, emotional and mental health of the youth; the youth’s prior record of acts that would be crimes if committed by an adult; the gravity of the loss, damage or injury caused or attempted during the offense.”

The law also gives the prosecutor the right to have at least one psychiatrist or licensed psychologist, of the prosecution’s choice, examine the juvenile defendant.

Baxter said he doesn’t know how long it typically takes for a judge to decide on a motion seeking to prosecute a juvenile defendant in adult court.

A defendant convicted of second-degree murder as an adult could be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Easements

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“The work that has been done has largely been the permitting aspect, getting the government permits that they need to construct that line.”

The federal government has approved the 293-mile route, which runs from near Boardman, in Morrow County west of Pendleton, and the Hemingway substation near Murphy, Idaho. The Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council, part of the state Department of Energy, is reviewing the proposed 500-kilovolt transmission line, which would cross parts of Baker, Malheur, Union, Umatilla and Morrow counties.

The proposed route through Baker County would run south of Interstate 84 from near Huntington to the Durkee Valley, cross the freeway near Pleasant Valley, then follow the route of an existing 230-kilovolt line (which it would replace) along the north side of the freeway to near Baker City, then head north along the east side of Baker Valley between the freeway and the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

Martin said he has been in touch with Idaho Power officials, who expect to complete the state permitting process later this year, although he said “that timeline may get pushed out a little bit further.”

Idaho Power anticipates the transmission line could be finished as early as 2026.

A regional organization, Stop B2H, has been working for several years to block the project, claiming it is not needed and would harm the environment, increase

the risk of wildfire, and intrude on private property.

Idaho Power is required to survey sites along the route, including private property, for wildlife and plants, among other things.

In late 2021 and early 2022, attorneys representing the company filed 10 lawsuits against Baker County landowners — and similar complaints against other property owners elsewhere in Eastern Oregon — seeking access to their properties for surveys.

Idaho Power dismissed all the Baker County suits this spring after all the affected landowners granted the company permission to do surveys.

Easement payments

A focus of Wednesday’s meeting was the one-time payments Idaho Power will offer to property owners for easements across their land.

“They have individuals that work with Idaho Power approaching landowners and presenting packages of documents to folks,” said Martin, who called for a show of hands from property owners who’d already received the documents.

Nearly every landowner attending has received initial offers from Idaho Power.

Martin said landowners should have an attorney review the forms before signing.

“If you notice, they’re full of blanks, so those are pretty generic forms,” he said. “For most of you, unless you have an attorney look at it, it’s a lot of legalese and lawyer jargon.”

Martin said the packages are in effect the first step in the negotiating process. In most cases Idaho Power is seeking a 160-meter wide easement, although the dimensions vary depending on the property.

He said landowners would be able to continue using the easement for purposes such as cattle grazing.

Martin said that if Idaho Power can’t negotiate an easement, the next step would be a “condemnation lawsuit.”

Also known as eminent domain, that’s a legal process that forces a private landowner to give up a portion of property for a public project, such as a highway or power line. The property owner would receive a payment, but it would be determined by the court rather than in a negotiation between the parties.

“You’re probably all aware of that aspect,” Martin said. “Idaho Power would file a lawsuit against you to obtain a right of way through your property. So, that process is fairly involved.”

He said Idaho Power would prefer to avoid condemnation lawsuits, given the cost of litigation.

In response to a question from a landowner about where transmission towers would be built, Martin said Idaho Power would have some flexibility, but that towers and any other structures would have to be within the easement.

At the end of Wednesday’s meeting, Bennett said property owners can contact him by email at mbennett@bakercounty.org for more information.

Alfred (Larry) Craig

June 4, 1933 - June 18, 2022

On June 18th, 2022, Alfred (Larry) Craig, age 89, died peacefully at the Pioneer Home in Palmer. Larry was born in North Powder, OR on June 4, 1933. He graduated from Eastern Oregon University with an Education degree and served in the US Army. Larry married Marcia (Parker) Craig in 1954. They were married for 51 years until Marcia’s death in 2005. Together, they raised their son, Stuart.

In 1959, Larry and Marcia moved to Kodiak, Alaska. He taught high school history and was later the principal at Kodiak High School. From Kodiak, Larry and family moved to Anchorage where Larry was West High School vice principal. Moving to Palmer, Larry accepted a position as school counselor at Palmer High School. A promotion to the Director of Secondary Education followed. Shortly before retirement, he was the facilities manager for the Mat-Su School District. Larry was also a lifetime member of the Elks and Masons.

Larry always loved a good adventure. On their honeymoon, Larry and Marcia began their adventures by refusing to share their tent with bears while camping; later they traveled throughout Alaska, over the Alaska Highway, and to various favorite locations in the lower 48. Their travels took them to Uganik Cannery on Kodiak Island as winter caretakers, to Homer, AK for many fishing trips, and through the Panama Canal. He fought fires in interior Alaska, floated down the Yukon River with his son Stuart, and shared a jet boat trip through Hells Canyon on the Snake River with friends. He often traveled back to Alaska to visit his son Stuart and family.

Larry loved good jokes, loved to tease, and spent most days with a smile on his face and in his heart. One of his favorite sayings was “tempus fugit” (time flies). As he is welcomed into heaven with open arms by his loving wife Marcia and all his family and friends that went before him, he thankfully no longer has to worry about tempus fugit.

Larry was preceded in death by his father, Charles (Jack) Craig, his mother, Dorothy Craig Haley, his brothers, Steve Craig, Terry Craig and Thomas Craig, and his wife, Marcia Craig. He is survived by his son Stuart Craig, and his grandson, Joshua Craig.

At his request, there will not be a memorial service. His ashes will be interred next to his wife Marcia at the family burial plot in Baker City, OR.

Council

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“Fundamentally, the reason why I’m here is because I believe a wrong was done to our community,” Husk said. “Working in the fire service I know what it takes to put out a fire in your house. I’ve been out on fires with (only) two people, and fortunately they were small, small, small fires.”

Husk’s concern is that with the fire department staffing reduced from 16.25 full-time equivalents in the fiscal year that ended June 30, to 10.5 in the current fiscal year, firefighters’ ability to handle structure fires will be significantly reduced.

“That guy in the black shirt in the back,” Husk said during Thursday’s meeting, indicating a fellow firefighter in the crowd, “him and I went to a fire at Kirkway about six to eight months ago, it was just a small shed that had spread into the adjoining property and we barely got that knocked down with two people.

“So if we show up at your home, and there’s a full bedroom on fire? On the second floor? Our ability to get there and fight has just been destroyed,” Husk said.

Husk disputes Cannon’s contention that the city can’t afford to continue operating ambulances due to the rising cost of the service, and that the city is collecting only about half the amount it bills.

In response to the city’s decision to discontinue ambulance service Sept. 30, 2022, Baker County, which by Oregon law is responsible for ensuring ambulance service, has

hired Metro West Ambulance of Hillsboro to replace the city. In the meantime, Metro West has had an ambulance in Baker City for the past several weeks.

“They did certain creative math to make it show that ‘we couldn’t afford the ambulance,’” Husk said during Thursday’s meeting. “We have the actual expense numbers from the previous year, and they can’t fudge those, and then we have a budget where they can just make up numbers and make believe, and when you look at the budget and think that it’s super expensive, overtime is through the roof, you don’t see the backside that they changed the way the department works.”

Husk and Casey Johnson, a firefighter and president of the fire department’s union chapter, have cited a decision by Cannon and Fire Chief Sean Lee in July 2021 to reassign the department’s two of the three division chiefs from working the same 24 hours on, 48 hours off schedule that firefighter/paramedics do, to a standard 40-hour weekday schedule.

He said that means the division chiefs aren’t available as often to go out on calls or to cover the station when a two-person crew is out on an ambulance or fire call.

The result, Johnson said in a previous interview, is that the department, more often than before the staffing change, has to ask off-duty firefighters to respond to the station, to ensure it is staffed, when a two-person crew is out on an ambulance or fire call.

According to city records, the fire department’s overtime bill for the nine-month period

July 2021 through March 2022 was \$135,600 — an increase of \$69,900, or 94%, from the same period the previous year.

Husk and his coworkers during Thursday’s meeting described overtime exceeding 100 hours per worker a month, placing stress on the staff.

Recall process

“The topic tonight is to get all of us that are interested in this on the same page so going forward as we have recall petitions we have resources that we can call on,” Husk said Thursday.

“All this comes from a council that says don’t worry about it, there will be no effect from our actions. Don’t worry about it, two firefighters is better than four firefighters. Don’t worry about it, we’re gonna save you money by getting rid of this ambulance. And then, we forgot to tell you, we got rid of the ambulance revenue that offset the cost and now you’re paying more. And don’t worry about it, we’re going to cut services we give you and not cut the taxes you pay for those services. So, that’s why I’m here.”

A standing-room-only crowd attended the City Council’s May 10 meeting, and 18 people spoke to councilors, objecting to the plan, announced March 22, to cut ambulance service.

Councilors voted 7-0 during that meeting to have Cannon draft a proposal for continuing ambulance service that would be sent to the county.

But two weeks later, during their May 24 meeting, councilors voted 4-2 to not submit that proposal.

Councilors Dean Guyer, Joanna Dixon, Johnny Waggoner Sr. and Kenyon Damschen voted in favor of Guyer’s motion to not respond to the county request for proposals.

Mayor Kerry McQuisten and Councilor Shane Alderson voted no.

Councilor Jason Spriet was absent.

Husk told the audience Thursday that to qualify for a recall vote, he would need 680 verified signatures from city residents who are registered voters. A separate petition with at least that many signatures would be required for each councilor, although voters could sign multiple petitions.

If the county clerk certifies a petition, the councilor named on it could either resign or face a recall vote.

“The councilor, if they have any form of integrity, they resign,” Husk said. “If they don’t and they say screw those people, they don’t know what they’re talking about, then the county sends out a special election.”

“Recall is a simple process, with a lot of red tape,” he said. “That’s our recourse. We’re here to hold people accountable to their dereliction of offices.”

Husk said that even if his campaign succeeds, and a new group of councilors fires Cannon and the city fire department resumed ambulance service — although the county’s contract with Metro West is for five years — he wouldn’t try to rejoin the department.

At the end of Thursday’s meeting, Husk said “this is not an empty meeting. There will be results from this.”