_ocal & State

Phone repair shop opens

By Samantha O'Conner soconner@bakercityherald.com

The founders of a phone repair shop in Ontario have opened a second store in Baker City.

Bradley Anderson, 28, and Rudy Santiago, 28, started Phones Plus Phone Repair in Ontario two years ago. Both had worked for Sprint for several years.

Anderson, who also worked for Verizon, is operating the Baker City store, at 2080 Third St. (the corner of Third and Broadway, the former location of Baker City Carpet Express), along with Jack VanderWaal, 28.

Anderson said he and Santiago, who continues to run the Ontario store, were motivated to open the business by the customers they met while working for Sprint.

"It's something I always saw," Anderson said. "People were coming in, 'my phone's cracked' and they had nowhere to fix it.'

Anderson said he advised customers who had insurance to send in their phones for repairs, but not many wanted to do so.

Opening a business to help people in that predicament seemed an obvious step, he said.

"It just made sense," Anderson said. "It was something viable to open and people needed it. I saw it batteries, water damage and



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Bradley Anderson's Phones Plus Phone Repair business services problems with phones, iPads and tablets.

every day."

Anderson said he has enjoyed his time in Baker City.

"Baker's really cool," he said. "I mean everybody was really nice up here. Everybody we met when we were checking places out was very nice, and it was just cool. (It) seems like everyone was really proud of the town, which is awesome."

Phones Plus focuses on phones, iPads, tablets, "basically anything mobile" for repairs.

The business offers a variety of services, including fixing glass backs, screens,

others problems.

For water damage, workers use an ultrasonic cleaner that is typically used to clean jewelry.

"When you drop it in there, it clears off all the corrosion and at that point we can examine for more damage on the device," Anderson said.

The business also sells and activates AT&T mobile services.

"It's been like a year in the making and we finally got approved for AT&T and that was the big step for coming up here because there's no AT&T store," Anderson said.

"So we just figured it was something that was needed and phone repair, of course."

The new business owners moved into the former Baker City Carpet Express building about a month ago. They have been painting, setting up the tint for the windows, and filling the empty area.

Anderson said he plans to add accessories in the future, such as headphones and Bluetooth speakers.

The business is open, and plans a grand opening Oct. 4. Phones Plus Phone

Repair's number is 541-239-5550, and it has a Facebook page.

Nonprofit conference Sept. 26 at Ontario

ONTARIO — The Center for Nonprofit Stewardship hosts the Eastern Oregon Nonprofit Conference from 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. MDT on Thursday, Sept. 26, at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario.

A number of speakers will provide informative talks and interactive workshops in addition to opportunities for $networking \ during \ the \ daylong \ event.$

Chuck Sams III, the board chairman for the Oregon Cultural Trust, will be the keynote speaker. His address, "Building

Cultural Capital in the Pacific Northwest," will discuss how the nonprofit sector is key to meeting community needs. Sams serves as the communications director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. He has worked in the nonprofit natural resource management field for more than 20 years.

The 2019 Eastern Oregon Nonprofit Conference will include 12 sessions that cover topics, such as fund development, financial accountability and organizational and board development. A "Meet the Funders" panel is scheduled to allow

those attending to participate in roundtable discussions with funders from across the state. Confirmed funders who will take part include representatives from the Oregon Community Foundation, Collins Foundation, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the Ford Family Foundation and Travel Oregon.

The day begins with on-site registration and light refreshments at 8:30 a.m., with the welcome and keynote address scheduled for 9:30 a.m. To register or for more information go to www.nonprofitsteward. org or call 541-230-1036.

Sen. Mark Hass running for Secretary of State

By Aubrey Wieber Oregon Capital Bureau

State Sen. Mark Hass on Tuesday officially launched his campaign to be Oregon's next secretary of state.

After helping lead a victorious fight to better fund education, Hass said it's time to move on to a higher office he's long had eyes for.

"When we completed a major landmark in that area this year, I felt it was a natural place for me to pivot and look at this role," he said.

Hass will continue to work as a senator and participate in the 2020 legislative session as he seeks the statewide office.

The Beaverton Democrat made the announcement on Twitter, about two weeks after saying he would not seek re-election to the Senate and that he was considering a run for secretary of state.

"This is an office where the work effects every single person in this state, and it's critical," Hass told Salem Reporter Tuesday morning. "It needs someone strong there."

When reached, Hass said he was closing out his email account in his "soon-to-be old job in the private sector" as he takes the next step in his long career of public service. In addition to being a lawmaker, Hass works as an account manager for advertising firm Cappelli Miles. Hass said he's long been interested in the functions of the secretary of state's office, specifically audits, campaign finances and elections. But as a lawmaker, he has been deeply involved in the push for increased education funding.

Hass on Monday tweeted out a campaign ad in which he touts his work on the passage of the Student Success Act, a historic school funding package he championed. Hass said it was the toughest thing he's done in his career.

Hass said if elected, he would make sure the \$1 billion per year is used properly.

"The very first audit will be to ensure the student success function, the money and the fund, is all distributed as the Legislature intended; to teachers and classrooms," he said.

Hass started in the House in 2001 before being appointed to the Senate in 2007. He has largely focused on tax reform and education policy.

When asked who will take on that work when he leaves, Hass said there are several lawmakers who could fill that role.

Hass previously worked as a TV journalist for 20 years. There, he said, he learned the importance of the audit function. Under his leadership, that would be a focus of the office, he said.

Hass is the second Democrat to announce his candidacy in what is shaping up to be a formidable primary. Jamie McLeod-Skinner, a Central Oregon Democrat who unsuccessfully challenged U.S. Rep. Greg Walden for his congressional seat, announced her interest earlier this summer.

KOOPMAN

Continued from Page 1A

But he was happy to be in the community where his father, Calvin H. "Bud" Butts, lived until his death at the age of 86 in September of last year. Butts had grown up in the Halfway area, but moved away as an adult. He returned to Baker City in the early 1990s to retire and spent the rest of his life in the community.

Koopman is proud of his heritage as a fifth- or sixth-generation Oregonian. His father's adopted family came West in 1845. He's proud of his "deep roots" in the history and traditions of the state and Baker County.

Now that his dad is gone, Koopman is leaving for a while on a new adventure, he says.

But he plans to be back. The 60-year-old says he'll return to his property at the base of Hunt Mountain in six to eight years.

This week, he's starting a new position at Southwestern Community College in Coos Bay where he'll serve as dean of the college's Career and Technical Education program.

Koopman, who began his employment with BMCC in 2010, worked in the same role at Blue Mountain for a number of years before taking the Baker City director's job for the college. From 2010 to 2015 he also served as associate vice president of instruction on the Pendleton campus.

"By helping students embrace distance and videostreamed education, we have helped them complete a degree in two years."

- Daniel Koopman, reflecting on his time as Baker County director for Blue Mountain Community College

As part of that job he served for two years as dean of Correctional Education. In that role he was the administrator for the prison education programs for inmates at the Powder River Correctional Facility in Baker City, Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton and Two Rivers Correctional Institution at Umatilla.

He completed his doctorate in Adult and Higher Education at the University of South Dakota in 2015 just before moving to Baker City.

He recalls telling his supervisor back in 2013 that if the Baker City director's job ever came open, he'd be interested in order to be closer to his aging father.

"The opportunity came when I least expected it," he says.

Koopman was eager to become a part of the Baker City community once he made the move in 2015. In addition to his day job, he also served as a Baker City Police reserve officer and volunteered with the Baker City Lions Club and the Baker County Chamber of Commerce Board. He served as the 2018 Chamber board president.

Koopman says because of his devotion to the Lions Club and the good work its members do, he intends to retain his Lions Club membership and support the group in any way possible while he's away theses next few years.

Looking over the past four years of his work in Baker City, Koopman points to innovative programs he's supported to help students succeed.

"By helping students embrace distance and videostreamed education, we have helped them complete a degree in two years," he says.

The Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree allows students to pursue bachelor's degrees at any Oregon university as juniors and the one-year Oregon Transfer Module transfers entry level classes to any Oregon four-year university.

BMCC also offers a variety of career pathway certificates, one-year certificates and two-year associate of applied science degrees ranging from accounting technology to construction trades, criminal justice and diesel technology.

"What an absolute honor this has been," Koopman says of his time in Baker City. "The individual students I've met along the way have been absolutely heartwarming and to see more of our students finish in a timely manner and to bring more resources than we thought we could

when I started."

While the college had once hoped to move the Baker program into a new building, that plan has been put on hold. The focus has moved to making the investment to upgrade the current BMCC Baker City center at 3275 Baker St. on the west side of town, Koopman said.

As he looks to the future of the Baker City program, Koopman hopes to see BMCC work more closely with the Baker School District.

"We hope to collaborate with 5J to the point that we have a steady stream of 5J students here," Koopman said. "I am immensely hopeful that we can see an increase in collaboration so families can make well-informed decisions to help them save money when it's time to go to college."

Seeking a new director

BMCC will continue its efforts to fill the vacancy created by Koopman's resignation, said Casey White-Zollman, vice president of college relations and advancement.

The salary range for the position is \$54,280 to \$63,825, depending on experience, she said.

Directors from other centers will be providing administrative coverage in Baker City until the new person is hired. "We will be screening applica-

tions (this) week and hope to fill the position some time in September,

White-Zollman said.

Koopman worked during the summer to help get the center prepared for the coming year, she said. Fall term starts Sept. 23.

Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 3, the Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to welcome students to the Baker City program. They will have the opportunity to register for classes. meet face-to-face with staff to ask questions and meet with success coaches. Their role is to guide students through their college experience with "support, information, and access to important resources," the BMCC catalog states.

A special welcoming event for all BMCC students is scheduled on Wednesday, Sept. 18, on the Pendleton campus at 2411 N.W. Carden

The event is titled "Welcome to the Pack," with a nod to the college's mascot, the Timberwolves. Students will be welcomed at 8 a.m. and the orientation program will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The day's events are aimed at helping students connect with faculty members and to learn more about resources available to them, White-Zollman said.

Lunch will be served, special events are planned and prizes will be given away throughout the day, she said.

For more information, go to www. bluecc.edu





Call for your FREE Information Kit! Get help paying dental bills and

keep more money in your pocket.

1-877-599-0125 www.dental50plus.com/25

