

# SALON

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The two who tested positive were able to return on Wednesday, Lang-Maxwell said.

Nancy Staten, the Health Department administrator, said the agency does not officially clear employees to return to work after they have tested positive or been identified as a close contact with someone who tested positive. But Staten said Health Department officials will advise business owners, on a case-by-case basis, about when employees have met state-recommended time frames for self-quarantining.

Employees can return to work when health officials determine they are no longer potentially infectious. The time frame depends on factors such as whether the person tested positive, and when symptoms went away.

Lang-Maxwell said she felt it was her responsibility as a business owner who serves the public, to be forthcoming under the circumstances.

"I want to let people know what happened," she said. "The more we can get educated about it the better. We have to be honest as a community. The whole community doesn't have to just shut down. We have to continue with life."

Lang-Maxwell said she also wanted to emphasize that she takes the threat of the virus seriously, both as a business owner and an individual.

"I want to let people know what happened. The more we can get educated about it the better."

— Shannon Lang-Maxwell, owner, A-Diva Salon & Day Spa in Baker City, where two employees tested positive for COVID-19 recently

She suffered a chemical burn to her lungs two years ago, an injury that caused permanent damage to her vocal chords and led to severe asthma. Her condition makes her susceptible to respiratory infections such as COVID-19.

"I have done everything possible that you're supposed to do because of my situation," Lang-Maxwell said.

Although Oregon Gov. Kate Brown eased regulations on salons and some other businesses starting May 15, Lang-Maxwell said she didn't reopen until late May, and then only allowed one employee with one client at a time in the salon.

She said she gradually increased the number of people allowed in the building, although even before the two workers tested positive she was generally restricting capacity to three employees, each with one client, at a time.

She said both her employees and clients wear face masks. The salon's waiting room is closed, and clients wait outside until their appointment. All clients and employees have their temperatures checked, and



Photo courtesy of Shannon Lang-Maxwell

Allison Duman, background, colors a client's hair on Tuesday at A-Diva Salon & Day Spa in Baker City. Both employees and clients are required to wear face masks.

seats and other surfaces are cleaned after each appointment, she said.

(Lang-Maxwell said that neither of the workers who tested positive ever had a fever, which is also a common symptom of COVID-19 infection.)

"I feel completely safe and comfortable having clients," she said.

In her July 31 Facebook post Lang-Maxwell wrote: "We take this virus very seriously & have prided ourselves in providing a safe environment & all the safe practices we have been following."

Lang-Maxwell said she didn't lose her sense of taste or smell, but she did have what seemed like a severe sinus infection.

Because of her pre-existing conditions she said she was actually tested twice, with both results being negative.

She noted that health officials told her the test is about

70% accurate on average, however.

None of the three other salon workers had symptoms, Lang-Maxwell said. But she said Health Department officials told them to all assume they could have been infected and to self-quarantine.

Lang-Maxwell said she's not sure how many relatives and friends of salon employees were interviewed by contact tracers. She said she's not aware of any of those people subsequently testing positive. She noted that people who don't have symptoms generally aren't tested, something the Health Department has confirmed.

Lang-Maxwell said she has no definitive evidence as to how either of the two salon workers contracted COVID-19.

One had recently visited a water park in Boise and gone camping with friends, she said.

Photo courtesy of Shannon Lang-Maxwell

In addition to the state requirement that clients wear face masks, A-Diva Salon & Day Spa also checks their temperature when they arrive for an appointment.

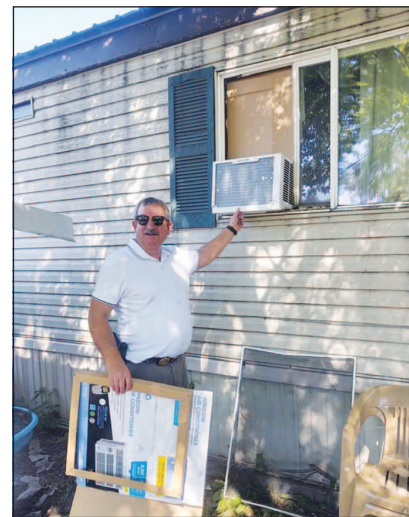
# City police help local man on record hot day

By Chris Collins  
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Baker City Police Chief Ray Duman and Amanda Baker, the city's community service officer, really weren't looking for activity that would cause them to step out into the record-breaking heat on July 31.

But before their work day had ended, a call came in from Garland, Texas, that required them to do just that.

Robin Medina was worried about how her dad, James Kleinschmit, was surviving the 105-degree heat in his single-wide mobile home in Baker City, Duman said. Not knowing who else to call, Medina started with the Baker City Police Department.



Submitted photo

Baker City Police Chief Ray Duman helped install an air-conditioner in a local home on July 31, the hottest day so far in 2020 at 105 degrees.

"It was a simple matter. She called the PD and we helped out."

— Ray Duman, Baker City Police Chief

It was a simple matter, Duman said. "She called the PD and we helped out."

But Medina said she and other family members were left without words to express their appreciation for the efforts of Duman and Baker.

Phoebe Wachtel, administrative assistant for the police department, took the call at 3:10 p.m. Friday and began racking her brain for a way to help Medina. Wachtel said she was worried that if the need was passed to another agency, it might not have been immediately met near the end of the day on a sweltering Friday afternoon.

So before referring Medina elsewhere, Wachtel said she first briefed Duman on the matter and then forwarded the call to him.

Kleinschmit is in his late 70s, has health problems and uses a wheelchair, Medina explained to Duman. She said she could pay up to \$250 for an air conditioner if help could be provided to make the purchase and install it at her father's home.

Baker was assigned to find the item at the right price, Wachtel said. She tried several Baker City stores before making a purchase at Miller's Home Center, which helped out by giving her a \$50 discount on the deal, Wachtel said.

All that was needed next was for someone to install the appliance at Kleinschmit's home.

Duman said the job was left up to him and Baker. "I said 'either we go do this and be nice human beings or it doesn't get done,'" he said.

They made the choice to help. The air conditioner was set on a window ledge at Kleinschmit's home and secured.

"The family was very appreciative and so was he," Duman said of Kleinschmit.

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# Police say circuit breakers stolen

By Chris Collins  
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The Baker City Police Department is seeking help from anyone with information about the theft of commercial-grade circuit breakers from two business sites over the past month.

The first took place the night of July 14, Sgt. Wayne

Chastain stated in a press release. In that case, thieves broke into the electrical panel behind Maurices, the women's clothing store at 1090 Campbell St. They took five commercial circuit breakers and damaged two others belonging to Gregory Sackos of Baker City, Chastain said.

The total loss and damages exceeded \$22,000. Maurices also suffered the loss of a full day of business while the breaker box was repaired, he said.

In the second case, Chastain said thieves broke into the power distribution area of the Tesla charging stations at 1 Sunridge Lane.

They took four commercial-grade circuit breakers belonging to the Tesla company, operating out of Washington state. The total damages and loss in that case are estimated at about \$12,000, Chastain said.

Anyone with information about the two thefts is asked to call Chastain at 541-524-2014.

Police also urge local businesses to take extra precautions to protect their circuit breaker panels from potential theft.

Locks were cut on the prior thefts, so that is no guarantee of safety, Chastain said. He suggested that business owners check to see if their electrical

panels have been tampered with and to consider installing video surveillance cameras.

The Tesla company knew about the issue with the theft from the charging stations before police were notified, Chastain said.

A tow company reported the crime to police after it was called to tow a vehicle stopped for a charge that couldn't obtain one, Chastain said.

Tesla, from its location in the Seattle area, knew about it within a half-hour of when the crime happened, Chastain said. The company deenergized the system for the safety of its customers, he said.

# Fire near Richland contained

RICHLAND — The Dry Gulch fire was contained at 297 acres on Monday night after threatening five homes.

No structures were damaged, said Larisa Bogardus, public information officer for the Bureau of Land Management's Vale District.

The fire, about seven miles north of Richland along Eagle Creek, was reported late Monday morning. The blaze, which burned in grass, started on private land and spread to public ground managed by the BLM. Residents were notified about a possible evacuation, but that wasn't necessary.

The fire, the largest this summer in Baker County, was human-caused, but investigators have not determined the origin, Bogardus said.

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Baker City, Oregon

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## THANK YOU, MARY NESKE!

The Haines Fire Protection District (HFPD) wishes to thank Mary Neske for 15-plus years of volunteer service to the district. Mary served on the HFPD Board as a Director and as Treasurer for years; she was the Fire Prevention Officer and helped in many other ways, too. Always willing to pitch in and lend a hand, Mary helped with garage sales for the fire department and was regularly one of the first to show up with food for fire fighters at incidents. The HFPD Board of Directors and its patrons offer their deep gratitude and thanks to Mary as she steps down from the board.