



The Baker County Press

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Sumpter City Hall floods

• WATER CAUSES AN ESTIMATED \$2,500 IN DAMAGE FOR SUMPTER

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
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In an ironic twist, Sumpter's City Hall flooded just days after Utility Manager Jeff McKinney reported at the March City Council meeting that there would be some inevitable flooding around town due to runoff.

Bookkeeper Kathi Vinson discovered the flooding when she arrived for work Thursday morning, March 16th.

Reflecting on the past year that afternoon, McKinney said, "We had forest fires, then snow, now floods!"

McKinney explained that runoff washed boulders into a 24" culvert, which backed up and flooded out City Hall. The water was about two inches deep inside the building.

McKinney said by 7:30 a.m., "The mayor (Cary Clarke) was in hip waders and up to his chest clean-

ing out the culvert with me."

They used pry bars and shovels to clear the culvert and got the water "back where it was supposed to be."

Meanwhile, Vinson, City Recorder Julie McKinney, and Vinson's husband, Ron, worked inside the building to mitigate damage, including using shop vacs and moving items.

McKinney said nothing was lost in the flooding. It took most of the day to get everything out of City Hall.

By afternoon, Busy Bee

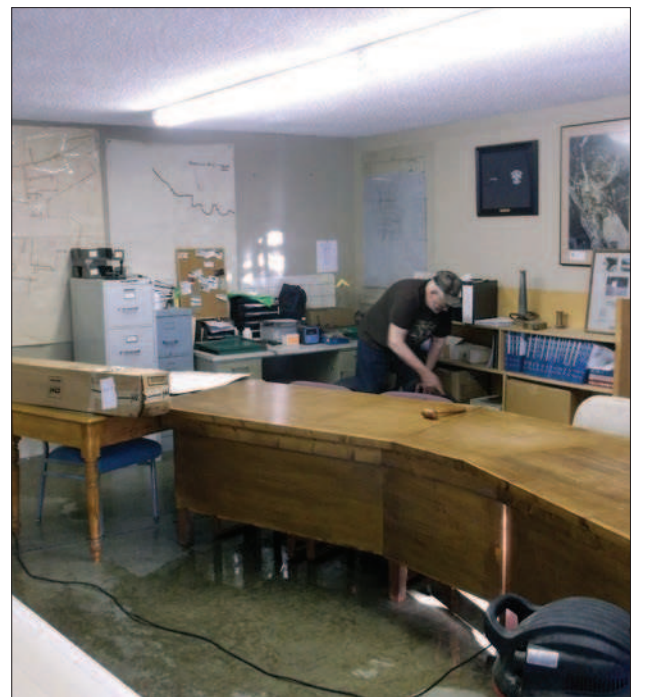
Professional Cleaning was on site and at work on restoration with their big super vacs, dehumidifiers and other equipment.

McKinney said they were awesome and would have the office in shape to open in three days or so.

McKinney estimated known outside costs at that time at about \$2,500.

It was not known at the time this article went to print if insurance would cover the damage or not.

Sumpter City Hall reopened Monday, March 20th.



Submitted Photo.

Ron Vinson wades through two inches of water seen here on the floors of Sumpter's City Hall.

Firearms parts manufacturer expands into new warehouse

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Clay Winton, owner of Crosshair Customs, has purchased the warehouse at 2300 Windmill Road.

Crosshair Customs offers AR-15 firearm parts and gun accessories, as well as custom design services.

This is the first manufacturing business Winton has owned.

"We will be doing gunsmithing, offering custom gun options in addition to our main production," explained Winton. "So we'll still offer custom options in addition. Plus we can order in anything. It's really broad at this point. We're doing the online thing, that's just recent, so we're selling somebody else's products just like a grocery store. We're doing resale on that side.

"We carry 50,000 different products on the main website alone. We have twelve websites, so, we're a little bit broad.

"We ship out everyone else's stuff all the time and now our own stuff is just now coming online—none of it is available on the website yet."

Winton explained that they have an app in development where people are able to customize a gun they will be able to buy, allowing customers to see different options offered.

Winton was working out of his home for a year and a half.

He made the website for Crosshair Customs in October 2016, retailing other people's parts, before he expanded and began doing custom designs.

"I got into doing online retail business last October and built the website and that's what got everything rolling," explained Winton.



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Clay Winton talks about his company's new expansion in Baker City.

"And that's what's now paying for this. We're currently the largest shipper in the county."

Winton acquired the building in January and the

machine shop came in at the end of that month.

The building is still under construction.

They will be opening retail in two weeks but they

are already manufacturing and expanding.

SEE FIREARMS PAGE 3

Four men arrested on drug charges

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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On March 16, 2017 at about 4:50 p.m. Baker City Police Officers served a narcotics-related search warrant at 2175 Clark Street in Baker City.

"We had been receiving information for a considerable amount of time about drug activity at this residence, which became a very high priority for us considering how close it is to Brooklyn School. On that day we were able to get the last pieces we needed to write a warrant and address the community problem," said Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner this week.

During the search officers seized:

- Items containing small amounts of Methamphetamine
- Drug paraphernalia
- Numerous Marijuana plants
- Processed Marijuana
- Firearms
- Prescription Pills

Multiple individuals were arrested subsequent to the warrant service to include:

Chuck Briney, Probation Violation; Paul Heller, Probation Violation, Possession of a Controlled Substance Methamphetamine; Laif Edison, Delivery of Marijuana within 1,000' of a School, Possession of a Controlled Substance Methamphetamine, Possessing more than Eight Marijuana Plants within 1,000 feet of a School; Travis Darnell, and Possession of a Controlled Substance Methamphetamine.

This investigation is ongoing and additional arrests and charges are likely.

Eight officers were involved in the execution of the warrants, said Lohner.

MP306 accident leads to arrest

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Late in the evening of March 15, medics and law enforcement were called to the scene of a two-vehicle collision eastbound on I-84, near milepost 306.

At the scene, a pickup truck pulling a trailer had rear-ended a commercial truck and trailer. However, when EMTs went to assist the driver of the truck, no one was present in the vehicle and there were no obvious signs of trauma.

Law enforcement soon determined that the vehicle and trailer were stolen. Baker City Fire Chief Tom Wills stated that the scene then "transitioned to a manhunt."

SEE MP306 ARREST PAGE 5



Photo Courtesy of the Baker County Sheriff's Office. James William Wallace.

Friday Cloudy with rain showers. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Highs in the lower 50s. Friday Night: Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Saturday Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Highs in the lower 50s. Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers. Lows in the lower 30s.

Sunday Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers. Chance of precipitation is 30%. Highs in the mid 50s. Sunday Night: Lows in the mid 30s.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

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