



Best of the Valley Part II
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Vol. IX, Issue 19

Sept 23 - Oct 7, 2011

Baxter Construction Buys Rankin Building On River Road

Rankin Equipment Co. Also Has Plans to Expand To Building in Union Gap

By Carrie Snider

Two local businesses have purchased larger buildings in the area to accommodate their growth. They will be moving in the next few months.

Baxter Construction recently bought the Rankin building at 2521 River Rd. The 19,600-square-foot structure sold for \$960,000. The seller was represented by Rob Tranch of Prudential Almon Realty.

Baxter Construction currently operates out of a building at 1703 University Parkway in Terrace Heights, but the company needs more room. The current building is about 4,000 square feet.



Brice Baxter

Brice Baxter, owner of Baxter Construction, said its water division, which started in January, has been doing well.

"We specialize in fire and water restoration," he said. "I believe we are the only full-service business in Yakima that can do everything we do. We can do extraction, dry out, then do construction and repair." Along with that comes a lot of equipment, which is part of the reason Baxter bought the new building.

Baxter founded Baxter Construction in 1995. He serves as chairman of the Central Washington Homes Builders Association's Tour of Remodeled Homes, its Home Show, and the organization's Remodeler's

Council. He was named CWHBA Remodeler of the Year in 2007 and 2008.

Sharing the space with Baxter will be Air F/X, a local heating and air conditioning company owned by Paul Smith. It is currently located just down the street at 3004 River Rd. With the move, Air F/X will also have more space to be able to grow.

"We have outgrown our space," Smith said. He started the company four years ago and has five employees.

Smith specializes in geo-thermal, which is something that more and more people are requesting.

"Instead of using air outside to heat or cool, it utilizes the ground."

Ground temperatures are more stable, he explained, and so it conserves energy when heating or cooling.

Baxter and Air F/X hope to move into the new building in January.