

Bennett Lumber Products Donates \$100,000 to Palouse Ice Rink

By Cheryl Reed

Contact: Christina Randal, 208-413-4934, christina.randal@gmail.com

Bennett Lumber Products, Inc., a family-owned company based out of Princeton, Ida., has donated \$100,000 to Palouse Ice Rink to help renovate its newly purchased 44,000 square foot building in south Moscow. The new Parks Activity Recreation Center (PARC) will house a full-size ice rink and amenities to support the recreational and sporting interests of the community. Bennett's donation is the second six-figure gift from a local business supporting the renovation project. There have also been numerous private donors.

"I want to thank Bennett Lumber Products, a long-term and well-respected business on the Palouse, for supporting a new ice rink," said Mark McGuire, president of the Palouse Ice Rink board of directors. "Their generosity shows commitment to the future of our wonderful community."

Since its early beginnings in Idaho, Bennett Lumber Products, Inc. has been known for its community involvement and contributions to youth educational programs. "It's always been my father's best interest to help provide something for this community to benefit the kids and families," said company owner Brett Bennett. "For Moscow, Palouse Ice Rink is a huge attraction for this community."

Late last year Palouse Ice Rink purchased the former NRS facility from owners Bill and Donna Parks, fulfilling a longtime dream of building a permanent full-size rink for the community. Efforts to raise the remaining \$1.25 million needed for renovations began in November 2020 with an open house at the new facility. Spear-headed by a fund-raising committee managed by consultant Christina Randal, donations are now nearing the half-way mark, which is enough to complete phase one of the project and open in fall 2021. The city of Moscow's \$1 million investment will be the capstone funding for the project.

In a 2018 survey by the City of Moscow, 50% of respondents indicated that the community needed to provide more activities for teens. The new ice rink facility will allow Palouse Ice Rink to expand its programs that already serve teens, such as after school and Friday night skating as well as learn to skate programs, hockey, and figure skating. Bennett's generous donation is a reflection of the community's desire to provide for its youth.

"I'm extremely moved by how passionate Brett is about the ice rink and particularly the recreation opportunities it will provide for our youth," said Randal. "I was really moved that he was willing to contribute at such a significant level and for a project that benefits so many families in our community."

Tony Mangini, vice president of the Palouse Ice Rink board of directors added, “We are so fortunate to live in a community with businesses like Bennett Lumber that are willing to help us deliver a permanent full-sized ice rink to the Palouse.”

To find out how you can become part of the new Palouse Ice Rink, visit PalouseIceRink.com. PIR is a non-profit corporation and donations are tax deductible. There are numerous naming opportunities available for purchase. To find out more about Bennett Lumber Products, Inc. visit blpi.com.