



NIMA

North Idaho Manufacturers' Association

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Covering:

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Clearwater,
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Latah,
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Three Grangeville Manufacturers Expanding

Advanced Welding

Advanced Welding at 910 North D. Street, owned and operated by Ryan Uhlenkott has purchased 32 acres and is building a 30,000+ square foot facility just outside Grangeville. They expect to break ground and anticipate completion early next summer.



Advanced Welding has been at the same location for seven years, prior to that they were in Cottonwood for three years. They currently employ 26 workers and are looking to add 10 additional employees in the next 12-24 months. This will be a combination of positions such as welding and laborers.

Advanced Welding makes building skeletons, known as red iron in the industry. They provide the entire skeleton package for your building, from beams and columns to stairs and handrails. They have built the skeletons for buildings up to seven stories tall. They were recently awarded a 2.6 million dollar steel package for a Regal Cinema in Seattle, Washington.

Ryan said, "We use about 4,000 tons of steel per year. They are shipping throughout the Northwest; to Oregon, Montana, Washington and Utah."

All the steel they build off of is generated in a 3-D CAD system that works with erectors for installation. They also use a three head CNC drill line machine coupled with large saws.

Intermountain Machine and Fabricating

Roy Schumacher owner and operator of Intermountain Machine and Fabricating gave us the grand tour of his new 80' x 160' building that will house his operations and business office. This new facility is located on Highway 13 east of Grangeville.



The facility boasts two miles of heat coil in the floor that is connected to a water boiler system. The new facility will also house Aqua Source a well drilling and pump installation business. Roy has worked out of a building just east of his new facility for the last eight years.

In addition to being a job shop and fabrication facility Intermountain Machine and Fabricating builds a road packer that attaches to the back end of graders that compacts the soil. They are also making a shock absorber for a drilling machine that prevents the drilling machine from being damaged when it hits hard surfaces.

Roy says they currently employ ten and are planning on expanding when they are in the new facility.

Gem Chain Bar / Aqua Jet

Gem Chain Bar and Aqua Jet are owned and operated by Rick and Kim Peterson. Their business is located at 93 Hwy. 95 North in Grangeville.

Gem Chain Bar was started in Kooskia in 1989 and moved to Grangeville in 2005. They just expanded their facility by 1,900+ square feet. Gem Chain Bar makes bars for automated logging systems. Their primary market is harvester cutting. Rick said they employ three full-time and two part-time employees. They plan to expand their operation and hire at least one additional full time employee.



The Aqua Jet portion of their business is a CNC water jet that cuts materials to precise dimensions. The CNC water jet has allowed them to cut a far greater number of bars to a more exact dimension, which increases their ability to assemble the bars more quickly. The CNC can cut a multitude of flat surfaces and will allow them to increase their manufacturing to include industrial, signage and decorative items. With the new CNC system Rick says they are ready to accept jobs from other manufacturers that need water jet cutting.

By the Numbers: In the Workforce, by David Butcher

We're doing more with less these days. Let's see just how well we're holding up. Here we break down the employment and productivity numbers into bite-size helpings.

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

152.8 million: Number of people 16 and older. 82.1 million men and 70.7 million women, in the nation's labor force in May 2007.

3 million: Number that annual manufacturing employment dropped from 1997 (17 million) to 2006 (14 million).

41%: Percentage of 37,000 employers in 27 countries that are "having problems filling skilled positions."

2%: Percentage increase of women in manufacturing over the past decade.

7.6 million: Number of workers who hold down more than one job (so-called moonlighters comprise 5% of the working population; of these moonlighters, 4 million work full time at their primary job and part time at their other job.).

6-8: Number of job changes that wage earners can expect to have within a chosen profession in a lifetime.

3: Number of times workers can expect to change their profession completely.

PRODUCTIVITY & PRODUCTION

28%: Percentage of workers 16 and older who work more than 40 hours a week; eight percent work 60+ hours a week.

45: Average hours a week workers in the U.S. work.

16: Hours each week those workers count as unproductive.

2.9: Hours per 8-hour workday the average worker admits to squandering, not including lunch and scheduled break-time.

1.6%: Productivity growth in the total manufacturing sector in the second quarter of 2007, as output increased 3.5 percent and hours increased 1.8 percent: 4.7 percent productivity increase in durable goods manufacturing, and -1.9 percent decrease percent in nondurable goods manufacturing for the same period.

94%: Percentage of manufacturing productivity growth in the U.S. over the past two decades.

32%: Per-capita output gap between Europe and the U.S., mostly a consequence of "Europe's poor productivity over the past 10 to 15 years."

General Membership Meeting

NIMA had our general membership meeting on October 23, 2007 at the Lewiston Red Lion. There were 53 members and Stakeholders present.

New officers were elected, with one vacant position still open for nominations. The meeting was not only well attended but there was a great deal of interest by members in moving this organization forward. Many of the members volunteered for committees and the general consensus is that NIMA is headed in the right direction, providing needed services for manufacturers.

Dave Bonfield presented information to the members about the Economic Development

Association (EDA) and Idaho Gem Community Implementation (GEM) grants. Both grants will be working toward developing a workforce for local manufacturers. Local school principals and superintendents and high school teachers will be involved with manufacturers in developing curriculum to provide hands-on math and science labs for high school students. One of the main focuses of these grants is to make schools and students aware of the career opportunities for them in the manufacturing industry.

Committees were formed to move our organization forward so we can provide manufacturers with assistance.

The committees are:

Workforce Development, Chair Barry Ramsay, this committee will develop the tasks needed to accomplish the goals laid out under the guidelines of the Economic Development Association (EDA) and the Idaho Gem Community Implementation Grants. The purpose of these grants is to develop a process to encourage potential employees to look at manufacturing jobs as a career choice.

Communications Committee, Chair Bruce Larson, the communications committee is tasked with the development of the website, list serve and other methods of communications that will benefit local manufacturers.

Finance Committee, Chair Ed Endebrock, the finance committee is committed to making NIMA a financially solvent organization that is not dependent on grants for its existence.

Benefits Committee, Chair Kim Geist Jr., this committee will be reviewing and recommending to the members options in: health insurance, retirement programs, product liability, etc.

As a manufacturer you will be hearing more about the progress of workforce development, information on benefits, communications and finance. Watch for this information in future newsletters.

REMEMBER: NIMA is a manufacturing association run by manufacturers. We need your help to continue to support manufacturers in North Central Idaho and South Eastern Washington.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the committees please contact Dave Bonfield at: dvbonfield@cablone.net.

Communications

The communications committee has established a new website, it can be seen at: www.northima.org

Watch for the list serve that should be up and running by the end of December or the first of January. This list serve will allow you to stay in touch with other manufacturers in this area without exposure to outside spam.

You will be receiving more information about the list serve and how you can be a participant, as we get closer to implementation.

NIMA Silver Stakeholders

NIMA would like to give a special thanks to all of our Silver Stakeholders:

Zion Bank

Potlatch #1 Federal Credit Union

Valley Vision

Sterling Savings Bank

Palouse Economic Development Association