

# Fire:

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instrumental in developing the grain elevator at Mission for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Pendleton Flour Mills and its elevators partnered with other companies to form Grain Craft in 2014. Northwest Grain Growers, Walla Walla, assumed Grain Craft's lease on the Mission elevator from the tribes in June 2016.

Flagg assessed the impact of the fire on local businesses. He said he expects more of a negative effect on grain growers than on truckers.

"If growers can't sell as much grain locally, it might actually help truckers," he said. "They'll get more long hauls to the river, and fewer short hauls to Pendleton and Mission."

Local growers however are likely to be hurt by the disaster.

"Short-term, there should be a negative impact for growers," Flagg said. "They had three main market alternatives before the fire: United Grain (Corp.), Northwest Grain Growers and Pendleton Flour Mills (now Grain Craft). Three made for a more competitive market. Eliminate one, and competition is reduced. Pendleton Flour Mills offered a good price, but smaller volume than the export buyers."

Flagg noted this year's crop already is big.

"It was a challenge to find a home for physical storage even before the fire," he said.

Flagg pioneered ground storage as president of United Grain, which exports to Asian markets.

Grain Craft, the largest independent milling company in the U.S., on June 21 announced its parent company entered into a deal for Redwood Holdings of Baltimore to acquire Grain Craft. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed, bakingbusiness.com reported.

Redwood Holdings has invested in long-standing, family-owned businesses across a range of industries. Grain Craft will continue to operate as an independent business following the transaction, the company reported.

The nation's third largest flour-milling company, Grain Craft operates 13 flour mills in the U.S. The company's headquarters is in Chattanooga, Tennessee with a satellite office in Overland Park, Kansas. In October 2021, the company opened a new laboratory facility in the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center in Manhattan.

Grain Craft was established in May 2014 after Milner Milling Co. and its partner Pendleton Flour Mills acquired Cereal Food Processors Inc., Mission Woods, Kansas, bringing together three of the most prominent independent milling companies in the country. G&L Holdings, a family company, owned Grain Craft.

The sale closed Aug. 2.

# Food:

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Processing ready to eat products occurs in a sterile environment.

"We designed the facility in 2017 to minimize the possibility of coliform bacteria or other pathogens collecting on surfaces," Maag said. "Workers' shoes are scrupulously disinfected. The onions are cooked at 180 degrees. The overpressure our ventilation system provides is maintained at the highest level in the ready to eat space. We've never had a recall."

A powerful magnet removes any metallic fragments from processed onions before packaging. And robots have taken over much of the packaging process, Maag said.

"Packaging risks accidents, so we adopted robotics for safety concerns," he said.

Sam the Robot, named for the company's first employee, Operations Vice President and Debbie Radie's father, carried two 45-pound onion boxes.

Tom Flaherty, Maag's cousin and sales vice president, emphasized the importance of transportation links.

"One railroad car carries as much as four trucks," he said. "When trucking companies were short drivers during the pandemic, then diesel fuel took off, we were



Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

**The sterile environment for processing ready-to-eat onions operates Monday, Aug. 15, 2022, in the factory at Boardman Foods in Boardman.**

able to take up the shipping slack thanks to our Union Pacific main line rail connection."

## Work ethic continues

Boardman Foods organized the Families First Childcare Center, 255 Olsen Road, to help retain and recruit workers during the pandemic.

"Forty to 50 school-age kids attend day care center," Radie said, "and up to 20 preschoolers will join them this year."

The next generation of his family has the same work ethic as their Irish immigrant ancestors, Maag concluded, citing his son Patrick, plant support manager.

Following the visit to Boardman Foods, roadshow participants had an opportunity to meet local business leaders at the nearby SAGE Center. The center is an interactive museum highlighting sustainable agriculture and energy in Morrow County.

OBI is Oregon's most comprehensive business association, representing more than 1,600 members, employing more than 250,000 Oregonians. OBI members come from all industry sectors and all parts of Oregon, more than 80% of which are small businesses. OBI also serves as Oregon's affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers.

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Silver ring that has an eagle with a turquoise stone in the middle of it. Also a Sisco kid mask, white with red lettering. Please call (541)561-5223. Hermiston area.

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Saturday, August 20th:  
11am, preview 9am  
79509 Stage Gulch  
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Only two items have reserves: an 18' Caterman full setup and 10' new cabinet table stop saw with vacuum system brand new. Everything else will be sold. Many new and slightly used tools almost all items in sale are in great condition. 580C Case loader, Polaris ranger w/ full cab snow tracks and tires, 2006 aluminum trailer, Morgan gooseneck 24ft trailer, 2003 Ziemann 3 unit 4 wheeler trailer, 18ft catamaran raft fully setup, two horse trailer, 250lb anvil, small travel trailer, fifth wheel hitches, post hole digger, box scraper, pallet forks, hay forks, back blade, discs, plow, John Deere auger, John Deere drill, two grain silos, 16ft hill meat refer box, 30 old Moore theater seats, ranch & farm supplies, double combination vault door from bank w/ combo, two fridges, three glass door commercial cooler, large amount of data center trays new, reload hunting and fishing gear, hog feeders, pipe threaders and benders, various household items, sausage grinder, rock polishing and cutting machine, old cleaver, buck saws and knives, commercial pipe and steel cutting machine, workout equipment, two fat tire bikes, two saddles, two roll away tool boxes, hotdog and popcorn machine, new air compressor 80gal, Kirby vacuum, banquet chairs and tables in excellent condition, two large polar swap coolers, three large shop fans, assorted telephone poles, 100's of decoys geese and ducks, Denver Bronco signed helmets Payton manning, vault door out of bank, new sawstop with vac system, lots of new tools battery and corded.

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Garage Sale: Fishing gear, yard tools, treadmill, elliptical, 3 wheel bicycle with motor, kitchen equipment, hand tools, furniture, and wheel and tires. August 19th & 20th, 7am-3pm. 31135 Shelley Lane, Hermiston

YARD SALE: Head vases, Fenton, collectibles, household items, decorations, makeup, 14 pairs of men's Wrangler jeans, men & women's tops, jackets & coats, crystal face masks, sunglasses, men's Bianchi Torino men's bike, women's red 3.0 Raleigh bike, purses & shoes, bedding & Christmas, tires, Brother typewriter, a lot more items! Friday & Saturday August 19th & 20th, 9am-5pm. 1713 W Alleluia Ave, Hermiston, OR.

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**\$264,000**  
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Huge \$20k price reduction! Move-in ready. 3bed, 3bath, w/family room. Central HVAC. Double garage. Large fenced backyard, close to park. **Vicki 541-969-9441c. #22696529**  
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**\$243,000**  
Well-kept townhome! Main level consists of a large kitchen, dining space, living space, storage. Upstairs 2bedrooms, primary suite w/full bath. **Jason 760-409-6842 #22379502**  
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6acres and a totally remodeled 3bed, 2bath home. **New:** flooring, paint, trim, baths, granite, Pella windows, SS appliances, new mini-split HVAC system. **Kevin 541-969-8243c. #22192699**  
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**\$1,200,000**  
29 acres(m/l) w/3,571 sf(m/l) 4bedroom, 3bath custom log home. Complete remodel/ addition. D-log interior. 30'x35' 3car garage with loft/upstairs, workbench, shop, storage shed. **Jerry 541-969-6378c. #22453137**  
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**Pendleton Children's Center**  
**We are now accepting applications for Lead Teachers, Teachers and Assistant Teachers through Aug. 19.**  
We will start screening applications on Aug. 15, so early applications are preferred. We'll be caring for 3- and 4-year-olds starting this Fall, in a new, high-quality, nurturing early learning environment. Please join our team! See our website for more details. <https://www.pendletonchildrenscenter.org/apply-online/>

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**HERMISTON ROCK PRODUCTS, LLC**  
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Full-Time CDL Truck Driver wanted. Must have valid Medical Card. Pre-Employment testing required. Call 541-963-3409 for more information or email us at [hermrock@outlook.com](mailto:hermrock@outlook.com).

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**JM Eagle of Umatilla, Or. The world's largest plastic pipe company is seeking a CLASS A CDL TRUCK DRIVER**  
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