OFF PAGE ONE

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:

Continued from Page A1

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."

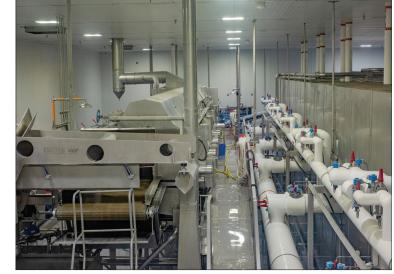
A powerful magnet removes any metallic fragments from processed onions before packaging. And robots have taken over much of the packaging process, Maag said.

"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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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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