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WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2018

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Saginaw fire reduces mill to cinders



PHOTOS BY ZACH SILVA/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Fire crews continued to fight the blaze at Whitsell Manufacturing mill in Saginaw on Monday morning, with days of mop-up expected to continue.

Multiple agencies responded to an early-evening fire Sunday night that destroyed the 180,000-square-foot mill structure and nearly 46 acres of log piles

By Zach Silva
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On Sunday evening, just before 7 p.m., the Whitsell Manufacturing mill in Saginaw caught fire, damaging nearly 10 acres.

The blaze spanned an area of a quarter-mile, reaching heights of more than 4,000 feet, continuing until containment shortly after 10 p.m. The mill is host to four businesses that work in conjunction and, according to South Lane Fire Chief John Wooten, "they are a complete loss."

"We were here about 15 to 20 minutes when the structure collapsed, the whole thing came in," said Wooten. "The fire had explosive growth. It was one of the fastest growing fires that I've seen in my career. It just engulfed the whole building."

Firefighters from across Lane and Douglas County tended to the blaze. More than 50 firefighters were on scene with the assistance of 11 water tenders (fire ap-

paratus that transport thousands of gallons of water each, along with eight fire engines and aerial support. The height of the plume mixed with wind, causing the fire to push to the other side of Highway 99 and prompt a temporary closure before it was contained.

"I was actually starting a plan to evacuate all the houses on the hillside. We were working with [Lane County Sherriff's Office] on that," said Wooten.

See FIRE A10

Cottage Village secures \$100,000 grant

By Caitlyn May
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Cottage Village is one step closer to seeing construction on its E. Madison Ave. property after Cottage Village Coalition announced late last week that the project received \$100,000 in grant funds from the Edwards Mother Earth Foundation.

The grant, the latest in an ongoing fundraising effort, brings the total amount donated or pledged for the project to more than \$500,000.

"Cottage Village Coalition continues to make steady progress towards building 13 tiny houses in our effort to prevent homelessness. This generous donation from EMEF moves us closer to achieving our goal," said Bruce Kelsh, Cottage Village Coalition Committee Chair.

Based in Washington, the EMEF is a private family foundation that was founded in 1997, "with a broad vision statement for a sustainable planet

Earth," according to the organization's website. Its mission statement notes the need to contribute to a sustainable and diverse quality of life by addressing global climate disruption.

Cottage Village, while not specifically aimed at addressing climate change and environmental concerns, will certainly have a small carbon footprint. No more than 300 square feet to be exact.

The project, which has been in the works for more than a year, is part of an ongoing effort to address affordable housing in Cottage Grove. Cottage Village Coalition joined forces with Eugene-based nonprofit SquareOne Villages to obtain a grant for \$200,000 from the Meyer Memorial trust and subsequently purchased 1.1 acres on E. Madison Avenue to construct 13 tiny houses. Under the terms of the grant, the project must be completed by the summer's end. But according to Cottage Village Coalition, that deadline may be extended.

The project, estimated to cost just



COURTESY SQUAREONE VILLAGES

DREAM HOME-A rendering of one of the models being considered for Cottage Village.

over \$1 million, has yet to submit plans to the city or go through the planning process.

It has, however, recently released details concerning possible renters and

community structure.

According to SquareOne Villages,

See TINY A9

BMD adds kid zone

By Caitlyn May
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Bohemia Mining Days is set to inch closer to its 60th year this summer. But before it does, organizers are adding a new facet to the festival that will see more changes this year than it has in the last 10.

Competing with county fairs around the state this year, BMD will host a kids' zone designed to offer activities and learning opportunities for children. Before it can welcome new residents to the 7,000 square-foot kids' zone,

See BMD A11

COMMUNITY

Keeping Tradition

The WOE is set to celebrate 86 years of tradition

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HEALTH

No stone unturned

South Lane Mental Health sets positive messages in stone. Literally.

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COFFEE WITH THE EDITOR



Have a news tips? Want to talk about community events? Have a question? Stop by Backstage Bakery.

The LAST THURSDAY each month from Noon to 1 p.m.

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