



PHOTOS BY ZACH SILVA/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Clockwise from top: What is left from the fire continues to burn and smoke into Monday; crews from across the county gather to monitor and fight the flames; a group of onlookers take time out of their Memorial Day to look at the damage done by the blaze.

FIRE from A1

By Monday morning, the smoke still aggressively billowed through the air and crews were still on scene. “We’ll have to start the investigative phase but I can’t do that until this thing is cooled down,” said Wooten. “We could be here total a week.” Stationed near the railroad tracks, groups of onlookers parked their cars to take pictures and look at the destruc-

tion done to the mill. Among the group were some who worked for Whitsell Manufacturing who couldn’t believe their worksite in ashes. “I feel sad it happened because here’s where we go for bills, for food, for my kids,” said Hector Hernandez, who has worked at the mill for over three years. “I feel sad, man, because a lot of friends have to find another job.” Further down the tracks was Rick Matney, who was just hired last January, taking pic-

tures as he stared in disbelief. “Not good. Not good at all. I mean, I’ve got to find another job,” said Matney. “Hopefully

he’ll rebuild one day. “But I can’t wait. Got bills and stuff.”



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9 Reasons to Shop Local

1 Shopping Local Creates
Jobs: The jobs created allow spending in the local economy and helps create more jobs.

2 Local independent businesses invest more in our community:
They support local charities, schools and community events which financially impacts our community.

3 Local businesses sell a wide range of great products at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.

4 Shopping Local saves you money and time!
Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items more.

5 Shopping Local retains our community:
Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.

6 Shopping Local retains our distinctive-ness: Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community’s needs.

7 Shopping Local encourages community growth.
By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Cottage Grove’s diversity, charm and appeal; which in turn, attracts new community members.

8 Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy. Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Cottage Grove. When shopping locally, you create funds for more city and county services through taxes. In turn, these funds are invested in neighborhood services including police, fire and ambulance as well as park and library improvements.

9 Local shops value you more: Local businesses survive by their reputation and repeat business, which means you get a higher standard of service.