

DORENA NEWS

Summer is here, June is almost over, and July 4 is next week. Be careful with fireworks and remember kids are out riding and walking on the roads.

• July 7 is the Amber and Michael Matchulat's Benefit. Call Marissa to see if there are any raffle tickets left and there are now bracelets for purchase. You do not have to be present to win.

• The annual Crow Car Show on July 14 at Crow High School, 25863 Crow Rd., in Eugene. This is the largest fundraiser for the entire school district, put on by the Crow Booster Club. Those who would like to help can con-tact www.signups.com/go/hMCiPkC. Set up is on July 13. There will be many activities and fun

for all ages.

• It is not too early to sign up for the Lorane Community-Wide Sale, which takes place Aug. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To sign up or for more information, contact Mina Knittle, P.O. Box 71, Lorane, Ore., 97451. Participants can rent a table at the grange by contacting Jeri Porter at 541-942-2448. Cost is \$10 for a table or for an outdoor space at Dew Drop Inn.

• On July 4, there will be an "Art in the Country" Festival on the grounds of the Applegate Regional Theater on the corner of Fleck Road and Central Road (at the former Central Elementary.) It will be free admission and free parking.

Happy July 4 and be safe!

Chamber, Paktech team up to help Whitsell Mill owner with office space

By Caitlyn May
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When Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Travis Palmer heard about the fire at the Whitsell Manufacturing Mill in Saginaw, he made a call.

"I gave them a few days to get their heads to stop spinning," he said. But once they had, he reached out and asked what the chamber could do to help.

"One of the owners, he mentioned they're currently trying to maintain some sort of business out of his living room and it wasn't working well because it wasn't set up for business with faxes and phone lines,"

Palmer said.

So, he made another call.

Paktech, a manufacturing company that provides handles and application equipment to food and beverage companies, expanded its business to Cottage Grove last year after it moved into the former Kwikie building on Davidson Ave.

The company originally brought approximately 35 jobs to the area using its in-line automated application that provided a 100 percent recyclable product.

And while the factory space at the new Paktech building is in full swing, the office spaces were empty. Until owner Scott Diehl received a phone call

from Palmer.

"I think there's 10,000 or 12,000 feet of office space up there and they were operating out of dining rooms and things like that so I offered them the space to see if that would help them get started," Diehl said.

The mill, standing at 194,000 square feet, burned to the ground on May 27 in a fire that burned overnight. Shortly after the fire, 25 mill employees, a fraction of the workforce, returned to the job. At the time of the fire, owner Walter "Fred" Whitsell told The Sentinel, "We're optimistic. You have to be. What else are you going to do? It's like 40 years of your life is gone in a moment. Some-

thing I built from nothing, with like six people. I don't even like to stop and think about it. I really don't."

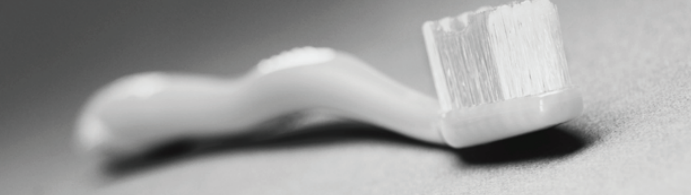
Whitsell is not a member of the local chamber of commerce but Palmer said, that was not a consideration.

"They're still an employer in the area and membership or not we care about their well-being and wanted to help out where we could. They employee about 100 people and we wanted to help where we could," he said.

Diehl said he did not believe the mill employee would work long-term out of the Paktech offices but they were welcome to stay as long as they wanted.

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Next 912 Project meeting to discuss wildfire preparedness

The Cottage Grove 912 Project will be meeting Monday, July 2, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant, 401 E. Main St.

During the meeting, Justin Patten, a forest officer with the

Oregon Department of Forestry, will provide information on wildfire preparedness.

Wildfires spread quickly at speeds up to 14 mph and can last for indefinite periods of time. Being prepared reduces

your risk. Whether you live in the city or country, it is important to be prepared.

The tips and insights provided by Patten will help those who attend to be better prepared in the event of a wildfire

in our area.

The Cottage Grove 912 Project is a community education-based organization established in 2009.

POLICE LOG

June 19

• A suspicious condition was reported on Adams St. after seeing two individuals walking around to the back of a house with red gas cans.

June 21

• A disorderly subject was reported on Grover Ave. after a neighbor saw a subject "assaulting" an organ with a sledgehammer and then hitting

a truck with both the sledge hammer and his hands while playing loud music. The individual was contacted to turn down the music.

• Lewd conduct was reported on Gateway Blvd. when a man in a clown suit was seen mooning passing vehicles.

June 22

• A noise complaint was reported to a group of at least

six individuals who were screaming and laughing in the Walmart parking lot.

• A woman came to the police station to report that her Xanax was stolen from her purse.

June 24

• A suspicious condition was reported after a house sitter on 1st St. reported that when she went to check on the house

she heard the shower running upstairs and subjects moving around.

• Shoplifting was reported at a grocery store on Gateway Blvd. after an individual walked out of the store with beer.

• A noise complaint was reported on Madison St. after hearing loud country western music blaring from a nearby house.

Three Oregon Department of Forestry fire districts enter fire season

SALEM — Three Oregon Department of Forestry fire protection districts from the mid-coast through the southern Willamette Valley to the crest of the Cascades entered fire season on Thursday, June 21. ODF-protected lands covered by the declaration include state, private, county, and city forestland, as well as Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for-

estlands in western Oregon. The West Oregon, Western Lane and South Cascade districts protect lands in Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Polk, southern Linn County and a portion of northwest Douglas County.

An unusually dry May and early June prompted the declarations.

"We've received a couple shots of rain recently, but that

doesn't make up for the dry spring we've experienced this year. The result is that we are a couple weeks ahead of where we traditionally are regarding fuel moistures and fire conditions in the forest," said Western Lane District Forester Link Smith.

Chris Cline is district forester for ODF's South Cascade District based in Springfield. He said fuel moistures in eastern Lane and southern Linn counties are already similar to what they historically would be for the beginning of July. "As of June 20, more than 200

wildfires were reported on ODF-protected lands throughout Oregon. These burned just over 200 acres. More than 80 percent of those fires were caused by people. In light of those numbers, West Oregon District Forester Mike Totey said, "Most wildfires at this time of year are triggered by people, so they are almost entirely pre-ventable with some foresight."

To find out what restrictions are in place at any given location, visit www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/Restrictions.aspx.

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