

# WOODY'S WORLD

Inspection does not improve the quality, nor guarantee quality. Inspection is too late. The quality, good or bad, is already in the product. As Harold F. Dodge said, *"You cannot inspect quality into a product."*

- LEAN PRINCIPLE

## BOND'S BITS BYE-BYE

As many people have heard, I have resigned from Wood's Powr-Grip after almost 32 years of working for the company.

I have been maintaining a long distance relationship for several years with the intention of moving over to the Oregon coast. In December of 2018 we purchased a house and shop in Tillamook, Oregon 3 miles from the cheese factory. We have several milk tankers drive by every day going to and from the creamery. We are able to host our family, including the grandkids, on vacations to visit the beach. With a place to live, the other pieces of planning started to take shape.

Cynthia and I have started a company ([oregontpg.com](http://oregontpg.com)) to provide a source of income. We will be a dealer for Wood's Powr-Grip, with an emphasis on providing training and equipment servicing and repairs. My experience and knowledge gives me a unique expertise in providing those

**"I have left my figurative fingerprints on many things here, and I like to think I have made things better more often than not."**



I started in Wolf Point as my first engineering job after college. I flew to Wolf Point for a weekend interview. I was picked up at the airport by Lisa Wood on a Friday. I spent the weekend hosted by Keith Wood, while Faye and family left for a weekend getaway. Soon after, I was moving from Iowa to Wolf Point.



services. The location is about 60 miles from Portland to provide a base of customers. Seattle and northern California places like Sacramento and San Francisco are about a day's drive to be able to provide services to more customers. For a while I will continue to represent Wood's Powr-Grips interests on the ASME safety standards committees.

An early project was to design a new lifter with more versatility and function than a powr-frame, but at a similar cost. Some design objectives were given to me by Keith that he and Holger Kramp (Glastechnik) had developed. I learned of some previous designs that had been proposed that had not been adopted. Thus the MRT4 was born about the same time as

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**QUALITY &  
CONSISTENCY  
ARE A TEAM  
EFFORT**



## Happy Birthday

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

Dylan Speidel	5
Joshua Schreiner	6
Gabe Bush	8
Chris Rosenberg	13
Shawn Nardella	15
Teke Thunder	19
Joe Jones	21
Joshua Seiffert	30
Jessica Strobel	31



### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Bryan Strobel	1
Kelcie Lohof	1
Renee Glover	3
Mary Strech	9
Eddie Borninkhof	10
Kelly Koontz	11
Derrick Lefler	14
Johana Lopez-Smith	14
Trever Pankratz	19
Holly Schwarm	23
Bob Moran	31
Sandy Robinson	31



the whole company moved to Laurel. Now there are several look-alike lifters to the MRT4 from competitors all over the world. The MRT4 design has also been a foundation for other lifter designs at Wood's such as the MRTA8 and MRTALP8.

As the company grew and personnel changed, I took on the role of managing the product engineering department. There have been many changes of people, job roles and company structure over the years, including Keith and Faye retiring. I have witnessed many building remodels and expansions as well as new equipment and processes and software changes. My job has given me the chance to travel and experience several places in the U.S. and the world. In my first year, I went to New York City to meet with Catholic Cemeteries about a custom lifter. Since then I have visited customers in Minnesota, Ohio, New Jersey, Iowa, Missouri,

California, North Carolina as well as England, Germany and Mexico and other locations. I have also gone to China and the Netherlands for Wood's. Trade shows and ASME meetings have taken me to many places as well.



As I wrap up this stage of my career, I have played my role as the biggest most complex lifter so far headed for California and as we prepare for some of the biggest changes in 40 years to the number one core product N4950 are planned. I have been able to learn a lot over the years

from co-workers, customers and vendors. I have left my figurative fingerprints on many things here, and I like to think I have made things better more often than not.

I wish everyone the best. Thanks!

## HAND CUP UPDATES

JOSH MCDOWELL, PRODUCTION CELL SUPERVISOR

To better serve our customers and meet the goals set forth by WPG, hand cup assembly has initiated and tested a series of changes in how we build our assemblies and sub-assemblies. Guided by the principles of Lean and the process improvement engineering team, we moved closer to one piece flow in our poly pump, small plunger, and hand cup cells. We also reduced set-up times in the many of the cells by leaving them set-up between jobs and shifts. The combination of reducing set up times and moving closer to one piece flow will save thousands of dollars a year.

Due to governmental mandates in response to the Coronavirus and slowdown that came after, we planned a project and divided

the plan into phases to better manage it and the outcomes. During the various phases, we will move a few of sub-assembly cells closer to the point of use, move material storage to the

**The combination of reducing set up times and moving closer to one piece flow will save thousands of dollars a year.**

point of use, change cellular layouts to improve flow, and elevate a constrained resource to meet greater customer demand in future.

Along with the improvements and planned adjustments, we have had many personnel changes with employees either retiring or moving on to other pursuits. In order to fill in the gaps, we hired seven new employees throughout the year and promoted Pearl Richter to assistant supervisor in January. The new hires are Eli Indreland, Shelby Elmore, Ben Maddy, Faithe Ainsworth, Megan Goettl, Brad Cain, and Briana Mills-we look forward to their continued years of service with us.

We will continue to focus on improvement and promote reasonable changes within our department, keeping an eye towards the WPG legacy and our customer's needs.



# PHOTO CONTEST

STACY LAWVER, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

The photo contest deadline is quickly approaching. Only 4 weeks left to get your photos turned in.

Just a reminder - there are Three categories (Landscapes, Animals and People) and one winner in each category. Each winner collects \$50 in cash!!

Every employee will be allowed to enter up to three (3) photos per category, but you can only win one time! Digital photos are preferred, but not required.

You can bring your photos to me directly or you can e-mail them to [stacyl@wpg.com](mailto:stacyl@wpg.com). I'm asking everyone to **please**

**add where your photo was taken with each**

*The deadline for submissions is **10:00AM Monday, July 6,** but you can turn your photos in **ANYTIME between now and July 6!***

**photo submitted.** Do not alter your photos except for



cropping and minor lightening or darkening.

Voting ballots will be available Monday, July 6. They can be picked up at reception (one form per employee). Voting will be open for two weeks. Photos will be posted in the downstairs breakroom.

## WPG UPDATES

BRYAN WOOD, PRESIDENT & CEO

As we wade through these uncertain times I have trouble finding the words to express how much I appreciate how the team here at WPG has been riding out this storm together; supporting each other, and the company, with optimism that better times will return. These past three months have been clouded with uncertainty. When the country first started shutting down I was optimistic that within a month things would start returning to normal. I was one of the many naive people who thought that the January 31st ban on travel from China, followed by the March 11th ban on travel from Europe would isolate the US enough to minimize the effect on us. Unfortunately we now know that was not the case.

May sales are going to be about half or maybe slightly over half

of what our monthly average was in the first quarter. However the last two years we have seen record sales in May so this month's sales will be less than half of what they were last May. We are going into June with less backlog (orders that are scheduled to ship) than we

**“ For us, decisions that adversely affect people's lives are always the hardest to make. ”**

had at the beginning of May. Even so, I am still optimistic that June sales will be slightly better than what May sales were. We are starting to see signs of recovery in the

financial markets. I think this is a good indicator that we will start to see more activity in the construction industry and as a result orders will start to pick up during June. We will watch these number carefully, as well as what is going on in the rest of the world, and by late June we should have a better idea as to what our work schedules will look like during the summer months.

For us, decisions that adversely affect people's lives are always the hardest to make. As the picture for how the economy is going to recover starts to come into focus we will be weighing all possible options and look for the route that has the least impact on everyone. We still hope to return to a normal schedule in July, but that will all depend on what we see for orders in the coming weeks.

## NEW EMPLOYEES



BRODEE WARD  
Night Shift

## SUMMER EMPLOYEES

Welcome Back!



ISAAC MANDERS  
Central Store

Welcome Back!



ALEX WOOD  
Computer Software



JESSICA STROBEL  
Lean Assistant

# SAFETY CULTURE

LES FISCHER, SAFETY AND TRAINING SPECIALIST

## NOTICE

**EVERY INJURY  
HOWEVER SLIGHT  
MUST BE REPORTED  
IMMEDIATELY**

It is important that all workplace injuries and illnesses are *reported to the Safety Department and/or your supervisor as soon as reasonably possible after they occur.*

Prompt reporting allows for prompt identification and correction of hazards and prompt medical attention for injuries. In some instances an employee may not immediately realize that s/he has been injured or made ill. In such circumstances, the employee must report the injury or illness as soon as reasonably possible after becoming aware of the injury or illness.

Please know that any delay in reporting injuries/illnesses, may compromise your ability to claim Worker's Compensation benefits.

I wanted to give you an update on what we have been working on in the Safety Department. With a little sunlight and nurturing the (6S) Hazard Assessment training have been blossoming. All of your great ideas and feedback have and will continue to be instrumental in establishing a safety culture that we can all be proud of. Studies have shown, a positive safety culture can influence our perception on the importance of safety and increase morale. "If a workplace feels safe and secure, productivity and employee wellbeing are also going to be high. Employees have also proven to be more committed to company goals and work well together as a team in workplaces where a positive culture exists." Communication is most effective when it comprises a mixture of top-down and bottom-up collaboration. This is going to be a continuous process of improvement and I am looking forward to watching the culture grow with all of us.

We are awaiting the air monitoring lab test that

will represent all respirator operations in Hand-cup. The purpose of this test, was to determine if we can eliminate the need for N95/P100 respirators and pivot exclusively to dust masks. This will not only save money, but it will solve some much needed issues with

**"If a workplace feels safe and secure, productivity and employee wellbeing are also going to be high."**

comfortability and practicality. It's also a win-win as it relates to morale and productivity. We are going to maintain a stock of P100 masks for certain applications, however their need will be greatly reduced. I will let you know of the results

of the lab test as soon as they come in.

We have been updating the "Safety Manual" for the past 10 months or so, and the process is nearly complete. Yes, WPG has a safety manual and it is now located at the SAFETY STATION outside of the safety office. Alongside of the safety manual will be the "Safety Training Referral" booklet, as we move forward with the completion of more training processes. To name a few; Hazard communication (SDS's), Reasonable Suspicion, CPR and first Aid, Hazard Identification and Prevention Plan. And we have already completed the Lockout/Tagout and Crane/Hoist, Hook, and Sling training. Katie and I wanted to thank Symphony Fike for her superb contributions and hard work assisting the Safety Dept. during her tenure. She has been extremely helpful with the development of the Safety Processes at WPG.

"For safety is not a gadget but a state of mind."

## Congratulation to Kylie London Fyfe

She is graduating from  
School of Light Preschool

Kylie aspires to be  
"A Master of Everything"

Kylie is the granddaughter  
of Mike and Patti Fyfe





Congratulations to Grandma Carol  
and Grandpa Bobby Brooks on the  
birth of their granddaughter!

## Emery Lynn Gallagher

born Wednesday, April 29  
she weighed 8lbs 9oz  
and measured 21 inches long  
Emery joins big brother, Hunter

It's a  Girl!



## MARKETING UPDATES

BARRY WOOD, VP MARKETING & COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Along with the regular tasks that the marketing department undertakes, there have been only a couple of notable events over the last several months. The first of these is the Lucas Lifter. I would guess that almost every department was effected by the Lucas lifter over the last several months. For Marketing, this meant that instructions had to be written, videos had to be shot and edited, and a seemingly infinite number of photos was taken. We had also planned on doing a series of

social media releases and ads to promote the accomplishment to our customer base. These plans were quashed by the existence of a non-disclosure agreement preventing us from promoting the lifter. Never-the-less, the project took up several weeks of time. As I write this, I do have to acknowledge Daniel and the engineering team who

“... what the engineering fellas accomplished was amazing.”

helped him. I do not mean to sound like I am complaining about the project, because what the engineering fellas accomplished was amazing. I know that these large projects require a Herculean effort on your part, and they are to

a lesser degree disrupting to other departments. But when they are done, the notoriety that they bring to WPG fill me with a great deal of pride.

The second event is the corona virus and all the havoc that came along with it. As I write this, we are about mid-way through the state-wide shut down ordered by Governor Bullock, and we still have several weeks in the “social distancing” being implemented nationally. It takes something like this to make a person realize how much we rely on actions of others to keep things moving. With multiple tradeshow being cancelled, and no big engineering projects it really lowers the demands on the marketing resources. It gives us time to work on all the “someday” projects, like writing articles for the next newsletter. Or generally projects that are distasteful, and we’d prefer to put off.

# 10% OFF

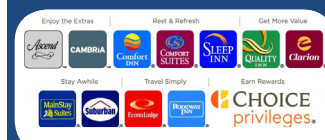
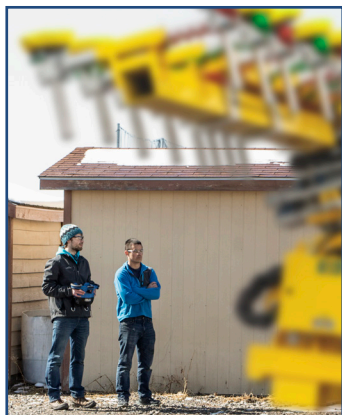
**CHOICE**  
HOTELS

Once again, **WPG** has been granted a discount of 10% for hotels that all employees can take advantage of through **Choice Hotels.**

If you have rewards with them, you will still get rewards towards your trip. You also get a second bonus with your rewards. You get to choose one:

This is a business rate and **our number for the reservation is 00416430.**

See Lee Ann with any questions.



★HAPPY★  
*Independence Day*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**CARDBOARD CHALLENGE**  
Tuesday, June 23

**PHOTO CONTEST**  
Photo Entry Deadline  
- 10AM - Monday, July 6

**LABOR DAY**  
WPG Holiday  
Monday, September 7

**WOODY OPEN**  
Employee Golf Tournament  
Saturday, September 26

**THANKSGIVING**  
WPG Holiday  
Thur - Fri, Nov 26-27

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Bighorn Resort  
Friday, December 11

**SHUTDOWN**  
WPG Holiday  
Thur - Fri, Dec 24-Jan 1



# SCHOOL BOARD BIDS FAREWELL TO TRUSTEE LONGBOTTOM

FROM LAUREL OUTLOOK ARTICLE BY CHRIS MCCONNELL,

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

At Monday's virtual school board meeting the board and administrators said goodbye to longtime Laurel School District Trustee Mike Longbottom.

Superintendent Linda Filpula said she wanted to thank Longbottom for his 15 years of service as Laurel School District trustee. "You have been a role model as a trustee and how a trustee should conduct themselves and for always,

**You have been a role model as a trustee and how a trustee should conduct themselves and for always, always putting the kids first in all your decisions.**

always putting the kids first in all your decisions. I greatly appreciate and respect you and will miss you. Thank you for all of your service to all of our students and for your support throughout all the years."

Board Chair Karen Teeters added, "I've appreciated your help in the short time I've been on the board and I want to thank you for your service to the district."

## UPCOMING EMPLOYEE EVENTS

KATIE WHITMOYER, HR/SAFETY MANAGER

Usually this time of year we are looking forward to all kinds of fun get-togethers- graduations, weddings, picnics, and more. However, as we all know, this year has been everything but normal, and unfortunately a lot of large events have gotten cancelled, postponed or altered. WPG Employee Appreciation events are long-standing traditions, but much like many other events that have fallen victim to worldwide circumstances, I fear that some of our events will fall into this category as well. While trying to make any predictions these days is even more far-fetched than usual, I just wanted to provide you all with the current status of our usual company events:

continue to keep everyone updated as I know more through huddle meetings.

means that (of course weather permitting) everyone still keep this date marked on your calendars for a fun day!

**If you ever have any input on future company events, please don't hesitate to stop by my office and share them...**



### CHRISTMAS PARTY:

WPG's Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday, December 11, 2020 at the Big Horn Resort. Obviously the world can change quite a bit between now and then, so the rest of the details are pending.

### OTHER:

Holly Schwarm and Pearl Richter in HC Assembly have been so awesome in putting together a WPG Cardboard Creation Challenge that is happening NOW!! See them for more details, but the contest ends on Tuesday, June 23!!

Also, if you ever have any input on future company events, please don't hesitate to stop by my office and share them, or drop them in the suggestion box! I always appreciate any and all input- good or bad.

### MUSTANGS GAME:

The annual WPG Day at the Mustangs has been scheduled for Sunday, June 21. While the Mustangs organization has not officially reached out to me to confirm anything, I speculate that it is likely this event will not happen this year. I will

### WOODY OPEN:

The Woody Open Golf Tournament is still scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2020 at the Stillwater Golf Course. Latest I heard from the course is that they are still hosting tournaments starting in June, pending the number of attendees registered. This

# RIVERSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL SURPRISES STUDENTS WITH AWARDS IN BILLINGS

FROM BILLINGS GAZETTE MAY 27, 2020

Riverside Middle School students were surprised by a parade of teachers and staff in vehicles Wednesday morning as the school handed out their end-of-the-year awards to the top eighth-graders.

The 2020 winners are:

## ELKS STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Nominated by faculty and judged on the basis of character, leadership, service, citizenship and academic achievement.

Winner: Tyler Strobel

## AMERICAN LEGION CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Honors students who have shown outstanding academic achievement, leadership and responsibility for two years.

Winners: Marquel Berns and Kienna Gillespie

Runners-up: Nathan Strobel and Ruby Hampton

## YMCA PRINCIPAL'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

Nominated by faculty and judged on the basis of character, leadership, service, citizenship

*Congrats!*

**TYLER STROBEL**  
Elks Student of the Year  
Tyler is the son of Bryan and Karissa Strobel

**NATHAN STROBEL**  
American Legion  
Citizenship Award  
Runner-Up  
Nathan is the son of Steve and Karyn Strobel

and academic achievement.  
Winner: Owen Blatchford

## ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Voted on by coaches based on leadership, dependability, teamwork, determination, coachable attitude and athletic ability.

Winners: Elysiana Ramirez, Michael Grams and Maxx Lee



Tyler Strobel holds a sign as principal Kevin Kirkman, right, and teachers and staff from Riverside Middle School as they arrive to present him with the Elks Student of the Year award on Wednesday. CASEY PAGE Billings Gazette

# CARDBOARD CREATION CHALLENGE

WPG will be having a Cardboard Creation Challenge. So get your craft supplies ready and get creative. Feel free to get your family involved. The challenge is to build something—anything from cardboard.

Categories for judging will be costumes, toys/games, art/sculptures, and furniture/functional.

The only rule is, the main building material must be cardboard. Glues and

tape may also be used. Other materials can be used, but for decoration only.

## START YOUR BUILDING NOW!

Please bring in your finished creations on **Tuesday, June 23** for the judging. If your creation is too large to bring in, please bring pictures.

Handcup assembly is saving large cardboard flats for anyone who wants them.

If you have any questions talk to Holly or Pearl in HCA.

An idea board is posted in the break room.



Want to take advantage of a nice warm-weather day in the middle of a workday? Try cutting loose with some Ultimate Frisbee in one of the softball outfields from noon to 1 p.m. Whether you're interested in participating at a workout level or relax mode (or somewhere in between), anyone is welcome to join in the fun — just make sure to pack some tennis shoes, shorts and a t-shirt! Usually there's a core of four to six regular players. Contact Bryan Strobel to get on the notification list.

**See Bryan Strobel for more information!**