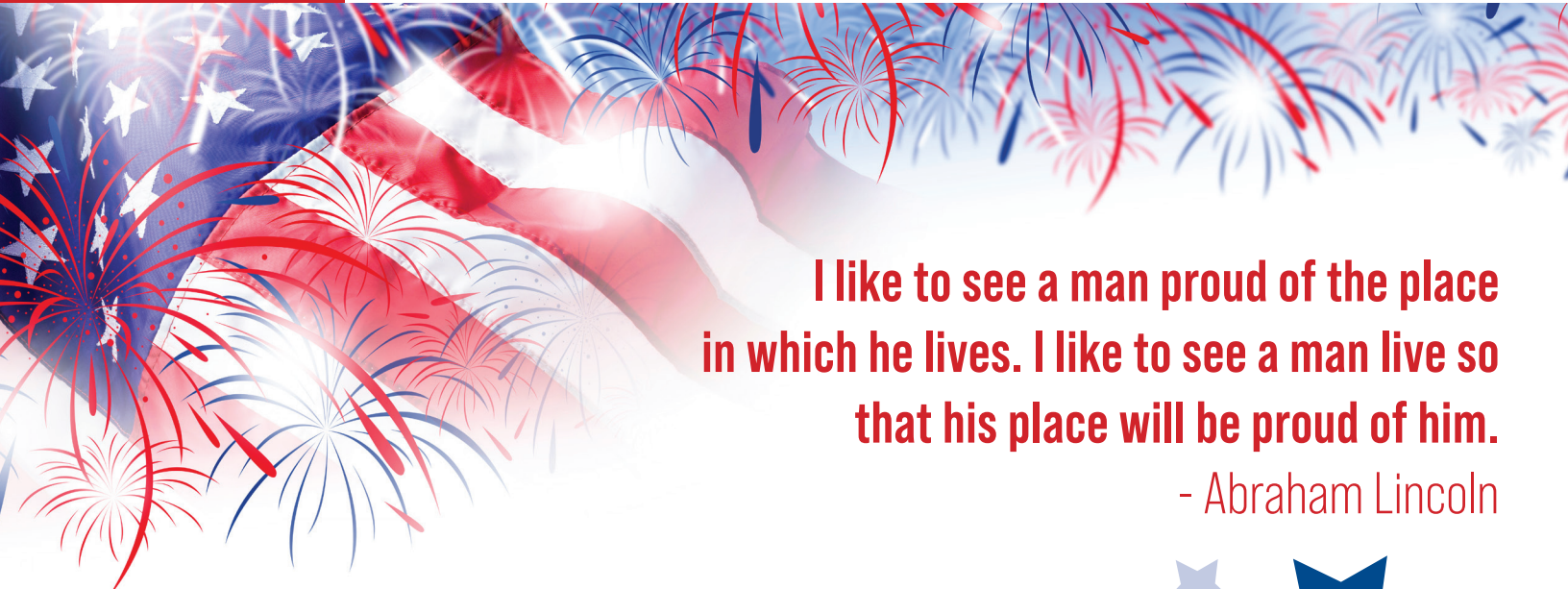


WOODY'S WORLD



I like to see a man proud of the place
in which he lives. I like to see a man live so
that his place will be proud of him.

- Abraham Lincoln

HAND CUP ASSEMBLY

JOSHUA MCDOWELL, PRODUCTION CELL SUPERVISOR

Another year has passed, bringing many changes to personnel, the products we assemble, and the machines we use to do so. A poly vertical was introduced to the market our customers like, so we have been working hard to keep up with their orders. Along with the new verticals, we have integrated many of the Aegis product lines into our department, so employees are learning how to fill resins, assemble small hand cups, and Solo Neos. We, and the process improvement engineers, have improved many of the designs and procedures so that processing and assembly are more efficient.

The department has gone through many personnel changes, but as of now, we are fully staffed. With

employees and the supply chain being stable (knock on WOOD, pun very much intended), we have been charged with the task of reducing lead times, which we are undertaking now. Many employees have worked numerous hours of overtime to ensure sub-assemblies are ready and available for use in the cells; they have also been very flexible, allowing our department to run a variety of assemblies through the cells from day to day. I cannot thank them enough for rising to the challenge.

With machinery and fixtures, Bob Robinette has been busy making improvements requests a reality. He has developed and made fixtures to assist in brazing new parts, inserting screens into pads, and is currently working on a machine to insert our foam and silicone rings into pads. These devices have increased productivity and reduced the likelihood of overuse injuries in our employees. Lastly, we received a new bagging machine through a

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grant, so now we can bag our small hand cups and pads, reducing packaging times and bag usage throughout the year.

For me, reflecting on the six years since I started, the time has been very busy, sometimes challenging, and full of many opportunities and changes. I would not trade these experiences as they have shaped me into who I am today.



QUALITY &
CONSISTENCY
ARE A TEAM
EFFORT



Happy Birthday

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Dylan Speidel	5
Chris Clark	8
Chris Rosenberg	13
Shawn Nardella	15
Devin Johnson	19
Tanya Lawver	20
Joe Jones	21
Andrew Hayes	25
Sheryl Stanley	27

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Bryan Strobel	1
Kelcie Lohof	1
Max Birdsley	5
Eddie Borninkhof	10
Lilyana Lopez-Smith	10
Kelly Koontz	11
Derrick Lefler	14
Johana Lopez-Smith	14
Trever Pankratz	19
George Witschen	21
Ryan Blumenshine	22
Holly Schwarm	23
Jonathan Hampton	30
Bob Moran	31
Sandy Robinson	31

Congratulation to

Deegin W. McNiven

Deegin graduated from Laurel High School. He plans to attend Northwest College and earn an Associates Degree in Engineering. He then plans to attend MSU-Bozeman (or similar) to get a masters or doctorate in Human Factors Engineering or Ergonomics Engineering.




Congratulation to


Chadon Lee Crnkovich

Chadon graduated from Laurel High School. He plans to move to North Dakota and work for his uncle as a welder, make big money and start a family.

Chadon is the son of Jacob Crnkovich, Michele Hansen, Troy Hansen, Chealcae Crnkovich



THANK YOU



LIVE UNITED
United Way
United Way of Yellowstone County

Dear WPG staff,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for hosting a food drive and participating in our United We CAN sculpture contest. With supporters like you, we know we can achieve our goals. Thanks to your contribution we were able to collect over 900 food items. All the Best,

Chissy Buse



WPG'S PHOTO CONTEST

SAFETY UPDATES

RACHAEL McCANDLESS, SAFETY & PROCESS ENGINEER

We have had a recent influx of ergonomic incidents and near misses that has been a little concerning. So please remember that while we do talk about deadlines and getting product out the door, we don't want anyone feeling like they need to compromise their health and safety, or rush through their job, or any more long-term maintenance items (like hazard assessments) because we use these to flag changes and help get requests in motion. I know it can be hard to see all the improvements when they take a while, so feel free to ask for status updates. WPG is continually improving processes, procedures and our work environment, but both short-term and long-term, the most important goal for all of these improvements is for the safety and health of our employees, not purely efficiency in production. The stretching times are critical for both your short-term and long-term health, so please take advantage of them, as well as the stretching room up by Reception.

Our company motto is to "Do the right thing" and this includes allowing each employee to TAKE YOUR TIME to be safe and do it right. I know we all know better but rushing never produces the best results. Take an extra second or two to double check and reflect on your situation, process and set-up/environment as this can make a big difference.

We are working on some changes to how we do training and procedures, and even how we log the PPE for each process because we want to emphasize how critical it

Our company motto is to "Do the right thing" and this includes allowing each employee to TAKE YOUR TIME to be safe and do it right.

is to follow processes and procedures correctly, and we want to ensure that we make it as simple and straight-forward as possible. So please let us know areas we can improve (whether in person or through hazard assessments, requests, or 5S audits) and be patient as we work to clean up these processes. This requires that you respect changes made to processes and PPE as well, because injuries and broken equipment can result from failure to do so.

While the biggest downfall of work-related injuries is the actual effect on the employee's health, there are often times other repercussions of these injuries that impact everyone company-wide. We never want you to hide any work-related injuries and we want to remind you to report them in a timely manner. But please consider the implications next time you contemplate rushing through a process or performing a task in a manner that is not safe as this can ripple down to affect you, your co-workers, and the company at large. Examples of these "ripples" are increased insurance premiums that the company

must figure out how to cover. Honestly consider if there are corners that you're cutting that could lead to negative outcomes (i.e. movements that are unnecessary or "lazy") or processes that concern you that you may be shy to bring to light.

It is important that if you sustain an injury that is work-related, you report it right away to your supervisor or the Safety or HR department and fill out a Near Miss or Incident Report. Ultimately it is up to each individual to ensure that they are doing all they can to keep themselves and their co-workers safe. If you feel pressured to not do your best, or that there are outside influences that could be affecting your safety or health, please come talk to us about your concerns. We value and appreciate that everyone has a personal life outside of work, and WPG's biggest commitment is to make sure that everyone can maintain a safe and healthy life, both on a day-to-day basis and well into the future.

On a personal level I recently had some medical news that has me out of the office for a while with some working from home. Katie has information on how you can get updates so feel free to ask her if you are curious, but starting May 23rd you will need to fully rely on Katie and Kazz and anyone they delegate to for safety-related inquiries as I will be undergoing major surgery and do not know for sure when I will be back. But I look forward seeing all your smiling faces soon and hearing the report of how safe everyone has been.



WILLIAM KOSS
Hand Cup Assembly



**1 Full-Time
PRODUCTION
TECHNICIAN FRAME
ASSEMBLY**

**1 Full-Time
CNC OPERATOR**



2023 WOODY OPEN

KATIE WHITMOYER, HR/SAFETY MANAGER

LOCATION: Stillwater Golf Course, Columbus, MT

DATE: Saturday, September 7, 2024

Estimated Tee Time: 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Everyone tees off from an assigned starting hole. Please arrive by 8:30 a.m. at the latest to get assigned tee, etc.

FORMAT: Scramble—everyone drives, pick the best shot from there on in

FOUR MAIN RULES TO THE TOURNAMENT:

1. HAVE FUN!
2. Actual employees will have first preference when it comes to filling available spots
3. Family and Friends of WPG employees must have at least one WPG employee on their team (foursome). Preferably we are looking for teams where the majority of the players are WPG employees, however teams of one WPG employee and three non-employees MAY be okay, depending on how many employees wish to play.
4. Once everyone who is interested has signed up, preference will be given to employees in filling available spots. Groups who do not have an employee with them will be assigned an employee or two who have signed up as individuals or as pairs

Although WPG picks up the majority of the cost for the tournament, costs to participants will be the same this year as they were last year (YAHOO!):

\$17.00 per employee

\$27.00 per non-employee

You will be asked to pay these entry fees in advance of the tournament to HR. Checks will be accepted, but cash is preferred so that it is easier to pay off group winners and flag prizes immediately at the tournament.



WBLC YOUTH WORKFORCE IN MONTANA PANEL



The amount of prize money is designed to give people a chance in one way or another to win back their entry fee (most of it)- so they end up with a free round of golf, some friendly competition, a couple of free drinks, some free food, and most of all some good FUN!! Watch for the sign-up sheet in the downstairs breakroom this summer.

SUMMER EMPLOYEES



Welcome Back

BRAYDEN BENNINGTON
Machining & Cut-Out



Welcome Back

TAYLOR FELLER
Hand Cup Assembly



Welcome Back

NATHAN STROBEL
Maintenance



Welcome Back

ERIC WOOD
Powder Coating/Cleaning



AIMEE LARUE
Frame Assembly

The Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative hosted some representatives from Montana education, insurance, and small business to get their expertise and perspective on having individuals under 18 in the workplace.

Our own Katie Whitmoyer sat on a panel discussing employment or internships for individuals under 18. WPG often employs part-time and summer employees. This panel had some unique perspective on this subject.

MBCEA CONFERENCE

ROSS KING, TECHNICAL SALES MANAGER

The Metal Building Contractors and Erectors Association (MBCEA) convention was held in San Diego from April 24-26. We have been doing this show for about 12 years and they move it to a different area each year.

The show has grown a lot and we have had great exposure, but this year the show didn't seem to be as well attended. I'm just going by foot traffic by the booth so I couldn't see if the golf course or the pools were

busy during the exhibition part of the conference. Did get a good lead from a neighboring booth about a potential new distributor dedicated to the IMP industry

Donors Are Vital!



WOODS POWR GRIP / LAUREL COMMUNITY BLOODMOBILE

Thursday, June 20
2:45 to 6:00 pm

To make your lifesaving appointment today, contact **Jodi** at jodis@wpg.com or go to donors.vitalant.org and use blood drive code: laurel. You can also scan the QR code with a smart phone to schedule.



Thank you to Woods Powr Grip and the Laurel Rotary Club for their continued commitment to help our local area hospitals save patients' lives by hosting blood drives in the Laurel Community.

For more information or to schedule a donation, call **877.258.4825** or visit us at vitalant.org
Find us @vitalant:   

vitalant 

★ **HAPPY** ★
Independence Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

PHOTO CONTEST

Photo Entry Deadline
Wednesday, June 19

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, June 20

4TH OF JULY

WPG Holiday
Thurs.-Friday., July 4-5

LABOR DAY

WPG Holiday
Monday, September 2

WOODY OPEN

Employee Golf Tournament
Saturday, September 7

THANKSGIVING

WPG Holiday
Thurs. -Fri., Nov. 28-29

SHUTDOWN

WPG Holiday
Wed. - Wed., Dec. 25-Jan. 1

