

Terrebonne motorcyclist dies in crash west of Redmond

BY TIM TRAINOR

Redmond Spokesman

A Terrebonne man died July 6 in a two-vehicle crash on Highway 126 west of Redmond.

Rodney Miller, 51, died at

the scene.

According to an investigation by Oregon State Police, Miller was traveling westbound on Highway 126 roughly two miles west of Redmond when the vehicle

in front of him attempted to turn left and the two vehicles collided.

Miller was driving a Kawasaki motorcycle, following a Chevrolet Impala driven by Evan Borden, 28,

of Bend. According to investigators, Borden was attempting to turn left into a pullout on the westbound shoulder when Miller crashed into the driver's side door.

Borden was uninjured, but criminally cited for DUII and reckless driving.

Highway 126W was closed for approximately five hours while members of the Oregon State Police

collision reconstruction unit investigated the scene. OSP was assisted by Deschutes County Sheriff's Office and ODOT.

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Pavliceks honored for charitable gifts

Couple has donated more than \$800,000 within Redmond

BY NICK ROSENBERGER

Redmond Spokesman

In front of the red brick of Redmond's City Hall early in the morning on July 4, a crowd gathered in gratitude for Dr. John and Jill Pavlicek. Members of organizations such as the Redmond Senior Center, the Redmond Community Church and Bright-Side Animal Shelter poured out their hearts for the impact the Pavliceks have made on their lives and communities.

Many in Redmond know Dr. John Pavlicek from sitting in his dentist chair, getting their teeth cleaned and their smiles shined. Others may know John and Jill as familiar faces from around town.

But fewer know about their widespread philanthropy, most recently in their donations of more than \$800,000 to various organizations throughout the Redmond community.

From their large house looking out over Pilot Butte Canal, The Greens at Redmond Golf Course and other homes they'd built, the Pavliceks were able to build a fortune through dentistry and real estate investing.

Over the decades, the Pavliceks helped build the skyline of the region. A two-story building on 14th and



John and Jill Pavlicek received a ceremonial flag on July 4 prior to the parade in Redmond, to thank them for their support of local students and charities.

Highland, the Chelsea Square Apartments across from Fred Meyer's, a building in Prineville, a warehouse at the Redmond Airport, the AmeriTitle building in Bend and a fourplex of apartments are just some of the properties the couple has built.

Just after Christmas in 2021, the Pavliceks received a check from selling some of this real estate and decided to spend it on the community they've loved for 50 years. From the Bethlehem Inn to scholarships for Redmond and Ridgeview students, the Pavliceks wanted to give thanks to the city that

helped shape them.

"We're just trying to give back to the community," said John.

The couple did not always have the ability to be generous with their funds.

"Both John and I came from extremely poor families," Jill said. "We were in poverty."

Jill grew up in a family of five living in a 35-foot trailer in Madras. John barely scraped by in a family living hand-to-mouth.

"You wonder sometimes how you make it through," John said. "Sometimes I think hell is here on Earth."

When he was two or three years old, John was in a fire that burned his leg. At Doernbecher Children's Hospital, he needed a thick skin graft that required moving skin from his stomach to put on his leg.

His father couldn't pay the full medical bill and was only able to pay \$5 a month for the procedure. Luckily, the hospital accepted it. In 2021, the Pavliceks donated \$100,000 to the hospital to thank them.

But as kids, money was tight. John had heard one of his neighbors helped another neighbor pay for their school-



Redmond Mayor George Endicott speaks about the impact the Pavliceks have made at a ceremony honoring their donations.

"I was gutsy," said John. "So I went to him and asked him if he could help me with some school. So he wrote me a check for \$100."

The neighbor told him the money was for tuition and that he could pay him back by helping somebody else.

The neighbor's request was one of the many reasons why the Pavliceks decided to create scholarships for Redmond students. They created four \$25,000 scholarships, two each for students at both Redmond and Ridgeview high schools.

While in dental school at Western Oregon University, John worked various jobs to get himself through college. He worked as a dishwasher, then at Blitz Brewery. He worked weekend graveyard shifts at a plywood mill — meaning he'd come home Monday morning and head straight to class.

The poverty they faced growing up is why they

worked so hard, Jill said. They understand the difficulties of growing up poor. That's why the scholarships won't always go to the students from well off families with straight As or high academic achievement.

Instead, they may focus on a teenager who is working a job to help support their family and helping take care relatives while they go to school, Jill said.

This focus on the less fortunate was also present through the dentistry practice, where they wrote off more than \$400,000 in bills for those in need. This was especially pronounced in the 1970s and 1980s, when there were a lot of struggling blue-collar workers who couldn't afford to have their teeth fixed.

"It was tough in those days," John said. "We were just so lucky. I don't know how else to say it."

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