

HERMISTON

Crash traps driver, cuts power across town

East Oregonian

A car crash at Northeast 10th Street and East Elm Avenue cut power for a thousand Hermiston customers Wednesday night and closed roads for several hours as crews worked to clean up and restore power.

Umatilla County Fire District 1 battalion chief Corey Gorham said a minivan hit a distribution line around 8:35 p.m. Wednesday. The driver, 47-year-old Daniel Davis of Hermiston, was the sole occupant of the vehicle, and was trapped inside of the vehicle due to live power lines.

After power was shut off to the live wires, Davis was removed from the van and transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center. Gorham said the man was flown to Portland with some abdominal injuries, but had no update on his condition Thursday morning.

Hermiston Police said the cause of the crash was still being investigated, but alcohol and controlled substances were not believed to be factors. Davis was cited for driving with a suspended license and careless driving. The high-voltage lines and power pole were destroyed,

leading to extensive repairs. Steve Meyers of Umatilla Electric Cooperative said 1,039 customers were without power. He said customers within city limits, as well as north and east of town, were affected. As of noon Thursday he said three customers still did

not have power. Power was restored to most customers at 11:42 p.m. Wednesday, but some roads were closed until Thursday morning. Northeast 10th Street between Diagonal and Elm was blocked, and flaggers directed traffic on Elm as late as 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

PENDLETON

Season finale at Feves gallery features student art

East Oregonian

The final show of the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery season showcases the work of current Blue Mountain Community College students.

All works included in the exhibit are created by students who have taken at least one art class. The works are representative of art courses offered at BMCC and feature a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces — including drawings, paintings, sculptures, ceramics and photography. The exhibition is considered family-friendly.

The public is invited to a special opening reception Monday, May 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in BMCC's Pioneer Hall, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. Light refreshments will be served. The show runs through Thursday, May 31.

Some of the exhibited student work will be available for purchase. BMCC does not take a commission during the student show — all purchases are handled directly between the artist and the customer.

Students will be critiqued by a judge for awards, including best of show, first through third places and honorable mentions. In addition to the judge's awards, gallery visitors can vote for the people's choice award.

This year's judge is Judith Baumann, the new master printer at Crow's Shadow

Institute of the Arts in Mission. She is described as a "lively, knowledgeable and highly skilled printmaker."

She has a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Virginia Commonwealth University and a master's degree in fine arts from Alfred University School of Art + Design in New York. In 2015, Baumann completed the professional printer training program at the Tamarind Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Feves, who moved to Pendleton in 1945, created her own style. She began exhibiting her work in 1952 and became an internationally known ceramic artist. Feves helped mold the work of many artists, offering art apprenticeships in her studio.

The Arts Council of Pendleton raised money for a commissioned piece by Feves for the Vert Auditorium. However, she died before it was complete, and the funds were then used to create a gallery in her memory.

A nonprofit exhibit space, the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery seeks to connect emerging and established artists with students, staff and the general public. It's open Monday through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or by appointment by calling 541-278-5952.

For more about the gallery, visit www.bluecc.edu/community/feves-art-gallery.



Contributed by Casey White-Zollman

One of the featured pieces from the 2017 BMCC Student Art Show. This year's event opens with a public reception Monday, May 14 at the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery on BMCC's Pendleton campus.



Contributed by Casey White-Zollman

Another of the featured pieces from the 2017 BMCC Student Art Show. After its May 14 opening, the gallery will operate Monday through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Sheriff: Matlack urges voters against IP 43 petition

Continued from 1A

same topic," Matlack said in a phone call with the *East Oregonian* on Thursday. "People want to know where I stand ... In everything I do as an elected official, I'm autonomous."

Initiative Petition 43 would make possession and transfer of "assault weapons" and "large capacity magazines" illegal, except for military and law enforcement. IP 43 defines an assault weapon and states that if the law goes into effect, anyone who legally possesses such a weapon would be required to remove it from the state, sell it to a firearms dealer, give it to law enforcement or render the weapon inoperable. The initiative has been spearheaded by religious groups, and must have 88,184 valid signatures by July 6 to get on the November ballot.

In his letter, Matlack stated his support for the Second Amendment, and that he believes IP 43 may be unconstitutional.

He said he does not fear law-abiding citizens who want to protect themselves, and instead fears criminals who don't obey the law, and who wouldn't comply with new gun laws.

Matlack referred to incidents throughout history that he felt were violations of basic rights.

"Many countries have suffered oppression in our recent past, such as Nazi Germany, Stalin's Russia, Cambodia, Venezuela and so many other countries," Matlack wrote. "The first thing they did was disarm their citizens."

When asked to clarify how those incidents were related to IP 43, Matlack said it came down to an issue of self-defense, but didn't directly address the connection between the events and assault weapons.

"As a cop you do all the steps you can to protect yourself," he said. "Is that always possible? No. But if the person does have an intention to hurt you, you're able to protect yourself. I think it's the same type of concern — people's right to protect themselves."

Matlack told the *EO* he couldn't think of specific instances where a person in Morrow County protected themselves from a dangerous situation with a semiautomatic weapon.

He did refer to a recent incident where several pheasant hunters on a Morrow County ranch were able to stop car thieves they encountered by drawing guns on them until officers arrived. He said he thinks people prefer semiautomatic weapons because they shoot better.

"And more importantly, the statute — 'shall not be infringed,'" Matlack said. "Because they want it, and part of the law is that they can have it."

Matlack said disarming citizens could put them at more risk, and that the best course of action to keep citizens safe was to focus instead on mental health and drug abuse, and reporting people who pose a risk.

"To know and not report should be criminal," he wrote.

Matlack later told the *EO* that he didn't necessar-

ily feel that those who don't report should be penalized.

"That was more rhetorical," he said. "When people see something that's obviously bad, I'd hope they'd report it."

Hermiston and Pendleton's police chiefs both refrained from stating their views on the initiative, noting they are not elected officials. Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan did not respond for comment.

Morrow County Commissioner Melissa Lindsay said the commissioners had not discussed the petition or the sheriff's stance at a recent meeting, and had not taken a formal stance on either to date.

"The sheriff is an elected position in Morrow County and is therefore accountable to the citizens of the county for his actions and opinions," she said.

Morrow County admin-

istrator Darrell Green said commissioners are in the process of putting together a resolution opposing IP 43, and hope to have an official statement by Wednesday.

Matlack said he felt most of his constituents agreed with his views.

"I think when I no longer represent the public I serve, I won't be sheriff anymore," he said. "The people deserve someone who reflects their values."

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