

# EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

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# MOUNTAIN CRASHES



Antonio Sierra/East Oregonian

Emergency crews respond to the scene of a mass crash involving more than 170 vehicles Monday, Feb. 21, 2022, on Interstate 84 about 21 miles east of Pendleton.

## Wrecks stretched 1.75 miles along Interstate 84 in Eastern Oregon, involved more than 170 vehicles

By ANDREW CUTLER, DICK MASON, ERICK PETERSON, ANTONIO SIERRA, ALEX WITTWER AND PHIL WRIGHT  
*EO Media Group*

**P**ENDLETON — The Hyatt family on Monday, Feb. 21, was heading west on Interstate 84, bound for their home in Yelm, Washington, when they became involved in one of the biggest traffic smash-ups in Eastern Oregon in years.

Marjorie, a kindergarten assistant, her husband, Carter Hyatt, a vocational therapist, and their son, Jacob, a sophomore in

high school, were returning from a trip to Utah, where they were a part of their daughter's engagement, including picking out her dress and ring.

"We had a wonderful weekend," Carter said.

On the way back in their Nissan Pathfinder, they stopped in Boise to spend the night of Feb. 20 with Jacob's brother, then headed out the morning of Feb. 21 for the final leg of the trek home.

Marjorie was asleep, Jacob was in the backseat watching one of "The Lord of the Rings" movies and Carter was driving. He

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Carter Hyatt/Contributed Photo

This Nissan Pathfinder belonging to the Hyatt family of Yelm, Washington, crashed Monday, Feb. 21, 2022, into the back of this Amazon trailer on Interstate 84 about 21 miles east of Pendleton. The crash was part of a series of wrecks that stretched almost 2 miles on the westbound side. The Hyatts were unharmed in the crash.

## Firefighters in Hermiston quell blaze of the decade

By ERICK PETERSON, ANDREW CUTLER, BEN LONERGAN, ANTONIO SIERRA AND PHIL WRIGHT  
*East Oregonian*

HERMISTON — Dozens of firefighters from multiple agencies worked Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 22, to quell a fierce blaze at Shearer's Foods off Highway 207 in Hermiston.

Employees of Shearer's Foods called 911 at 12:51 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 22, according to the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, and reported a boiler explosion with possible injuries. Umatilla County Fire District No. 1, Hermiston, was the first fire department on the scene.

"This was a big fire for us," Fire District No. 1 Chief Scott Stanton said.

"Probably haven't had a fire this size in the last decade."

A total of 60 firefighters from Fire District No. 1 and eight other agencies responded.

The blaze destroyed a warehouse and whatever was inside, Stanton said, but crews were able to keep the fire from spreading.

Having enough water was the primary challenge, he explained. The site had one fire hydrant, and the water tenders at the scene ran low.

"We had too much fire load and not enough water tenders to take care of that like we should," he said.

But given the size of this fire, he added, maybe even 30 water tenders would not have been enough.

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Numerous fire agencies work Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022, to extinguish the blaze ripping through a Shearer's Foods building, Hermiston.

