

District from 1A

"I am tasked with assuring that our 14 full time employees, including the nine critical care paramedics, are continually trained to stay on top of their skill sets to provide and fulfill our mission statement," House said.

implemented in June, House, as operations manager, is responsible to both Siuslaw Valley Fire Chief Jim Langborg and Western Lane's Board of Directors.

"If something of a disciplinary nature were to come up, the chief would be the one I would have to answer to. For procedural issues I would answer to the board.

Technically, I am still a Western Lane employee," House said.

House sees the IGA as a step toward full interagency consolidation while assuring the high level of patient care WLAD upholds.

"The true advantage is that we have continuity within the organization with me taking the position. Our mission statement will always be fulfilled. Our level of service will be maintained at the high level we now have," House said.

Langborg said, "Matt is doing a great job. He is the right person for the job, and we are expecting some great things from him."

"Looking at the overall picture, we have a new operations manager, a new operations chief at the fire department, as well as myself, all within two months," House said. "We are hitting our stride and accomplishing a lot of the plans we put in place, which has been good. Not a lot of roadblocks so far."

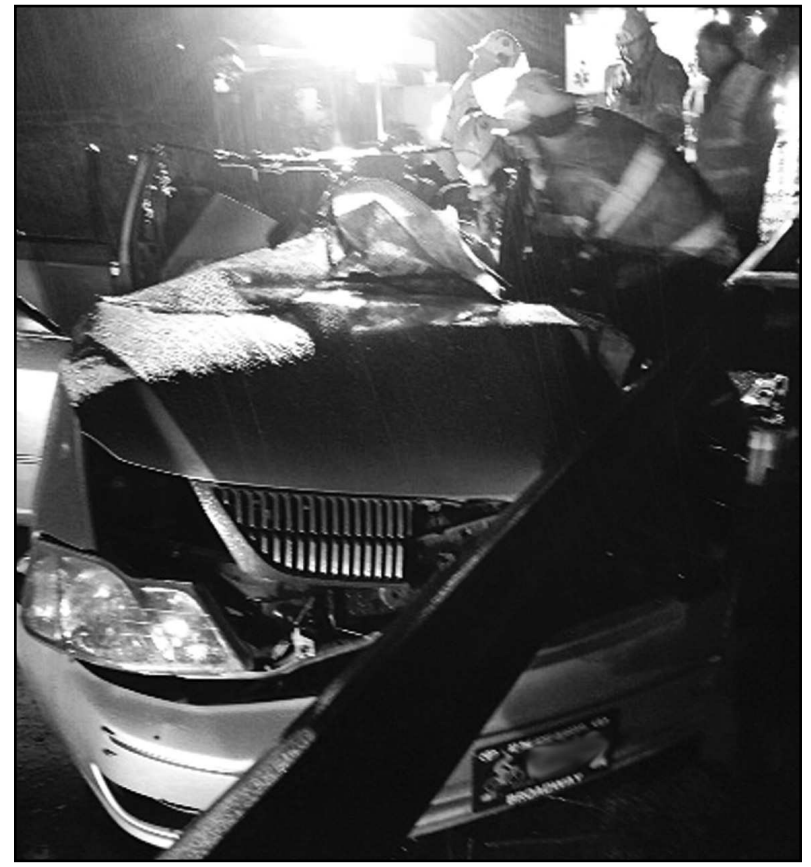
Collision from 1A

Western Lane Ambulance took the victim extricated from the vehicle directly to PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Eugene.

Another patient was taken to Peace Health Peace Harbor Medical Center in Florence and later transferred to Oregon Health and Science University in Portland on Tuesday morning.

Heavy rain at the time appeared to be a contributing factor in the accident.

Siuslaw Valley Fire Chief Jim Langborg said, "Please drive safely on Highway 126, especially when it's raining."



Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue firefighters and other emergency personnel work to extricate one of two victims in a head-on collision on Highway 126 Monday night. Rainy conditions seem to be a factor in the accident.

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Blues from 1A

"Blues and jazz go hand in hand," Salgado said. "When that saxophone player gets up to play, he's playing the blues."

Blues became more than just music once Salgado realized the genre linked together his two interests in school, history and music.

"Everything in America is entrenched in the blues," he said. "I learned the history of America — the Civil War, segregation, things I didn't

know about in Eugene — by listening to the blues."

His older siblings, who he said "were pretty hip," started bringing home contemporary music, such as Aretha Franklin, the Four Seasons and the Beatles, and kept bringing in more blues, such as Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson and Butterfield.

"I took to it. I was already into it — I was a knucklehead and the only things that interested me were history and music. Those notes just hit my auditory nerve in the right way," he said.

Salgado graduated from Willamette High School in 1972 and started playing in bars and nightclubs in 1973, when he was 18 and 19 years old.

In the autumn of 1977, Salgado was playing a set at the Eugene Hotel when the cast and crew of "Animal House" came in. The movie, starring, among others, John Belushi, was wrapping up 32 days of filming at the University of Oregon.

Belushi and his wife Judy were in attendance. Before the end of Salgado's set, a man approached Salgado to tell him that Belushi wanted to meet him.

"Now, at the time I had never heard of him. I didn't have a TV at home and I played clubs on the weekend, so I had never watched 'Saturday Night Live,'" Salgado said.

Belushi told him that night that Salgado reminded him of Dan Akroyd, but Salgado had not heard of him, either.

It was not until Belushi mentioned Ray Charles was coming on to "Saturday Night Live" that Salgado finally caught on to who he was.

"I started telling him the blues — telling him history ... We became friends," he said.

Salgado went to Hollywood to visit Belushi on a movie set, and is still friends with Judy Belushi.

In 1996, Salgado played at the FEC for the first time in its opening year.

"Curtis played our first concert in the theater at the FEC," said FEC Director Kevin Rhodes. "It was a big deal and a sell-out."

Last Resort Players' main stage musical "The Music Man" also sold out that year. At the time, Rhodes was

still the FEC operations manager. He remembers working on stage with Salgado during the sound checks.

Over the past 20 years, Salgado has continued to come to Florence to play to sold-out audiences, including at the 10th annual Chowder Blues and Brews Festival and several hit performances at Three Rivers Casino Resort.

"We had to stop selling tickets to the chowder festival since there wasn't any more room," Rhodes said. "He was very popular."

Also in 1996, the FEC hosted a game night and New Year's Eve Dance Party. Rhodes told the story about the night, and the enduring spirit of the FEC.

"When we first opened up the first New Year's Eve in 1996, ringing in 1997, we had a New Year's Eve party and dance. It happened to be one of those horrendous storms and we lost power," Rhodes said. "Fortunately, there were candles lit on each table and Myrna and Don Klupenger ran back home and got a generator. The band played from the generator and the show went on. We had a candlelit dance that night and the show goes on — must go on."

"We continue to put on shows here, and we're very proud of our celebration of 20 years."

Salgado said he doesn't have a single favorite place to perform.

"Hong Kong is a new favorite place to play. It was a special thing. Really, I like them all," he said. "There are very nice people wherever I go. The fanbase knows what I'm about, and we're slowly gathering more fans wherever I go."

He often plays at the Triple Door in Seattle, and has even played at a small deli in Delaware.

"I play everywhere. People show up and we have a great time. The deli seated only 55 people — that one was a blast," he said. "It's more about the people."

The Hank Shreve Band will open the New Year's Eve concert at 9 p.m., followed by Salgado, bringing the FEC full-circle at the end of its 20th anniversary year.

"It's amazing all that has happened," Rhodes said. "We brought something different to Florence. Our building has exceeded our expectations and continues to serve the interest of the community. We look forward to the next 5 years — and the next 20!"

Salgado said, "I'm just really looking forward to the New Year's Eve show. We're bringing a high level of musicianship. We're going to tear the roof off."

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.eventcenter.org and www.CurtisSalgado.com, or contact the FEC at 715 Quince St. or 541-997-1994.

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