



Antonio Sierra/Hermiston Herald

CRASHES ON THE MOUNTAIN

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

Series of crashes 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

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 pick-

ing 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 said they were going to stop at the rest area at Deadman Pass, near milepost 229, when he saw jackknifed semitrailers on the road ahead.

"I kind of swerved," he recalled. "I was able to miss a couple of cars and trucks."

But he tapped the brakes, he said, and lost control of the car.

The front of their Nissan smashed into the rear driver's side of an Amazon semitrailer. The collision tore apart the front of the car, and the engine ended up on the asphalt.

But the Nissan's safety features worked well, Carter said. The air bags, seat belts and crumple zones protected the family.

"We're all pretty much fine," Marjorie said.

The Hyatts were part of a series of

See Crashes / A8

SHIP shapes up, grows

South Hermiston Industrial Park gets an expansion

By ERICK PETERSON
Hermiston Herald

Hermiston's SHIP is a lot like the Millennium Falcon from Star Wars — it might not look like much right now, but it's got it where it counts.

That was the gist Wednesday, Feb. 16, from Hermiston Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, who said the expansion of the South Hermiston Industrial Park will mean a great deal to Hermiston.

The \$2 million expansion extended paved road, water and sewer lines and upgraded electrical power to the site west of Highway 395 near the Walmart Distribution Center, making the park shovel-ready. Parcels range from 1.5-20 acres, depending on market demand.

Morgan said this is the kind of development businesses are looking for when they consider moving to Hermiston. They want

ground, lots of it, he said. Sometimes, they even want land for their suppliers to locate — and this land should include infrastructure.

"As a healthy economic region, we want to make sure that we can accommodate large-scale industrial development as well as smaller stuff," he said, and SHIP sets the stage for such accommodation.

Early success

The city is holding a grand opening of the expansion complete with ribbon cutting March 4 at 12:15 p.m. at Cook Avenue off Southeast 10th Street.

Though the SHIP expansion started with a groundbreaking July 7, 2021, planning for the project took place in 2017 and work began in 2018.

Morgan pulled out a map of the area and described the planning. He said the

See Industry / A8

Explosion, fire at Shearer's Foods



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

Fire departments from throughout the area combat a blaze Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 22, 2022, at Shearer's Foods off Highway 207 in Hermiston. The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office reported an explosion in a boiler room set off the blaze. Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, reported receiving seven patients from the emergency, and none were in critical or serious condition. For the latest version of this story, go to www.hermistonherald.com.

INSIDE

A3 ▶ Morrow School District bond to be put on the ballot

A6 ▶ Nazarene church plans fun run to get diapers for those in need

A7 ▶ Neighbor Dudes crowns popper royalty

A9 ▶ Hermiston seeks input on broadband