

The Globe

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Tim Middagh / The Globe

Straight line winds snapped wooden power poles crossing Interstate I-90, just east of Worthington. The downed lines caused a multi-vehicle crash just before 6 p.m. Wednesday.

PACKIN' A PUNCH

Wednesday night storm results in fatal crash, numerous power outages

By Julie Buntjer
The Globe

One person died and four others were injured Wednesday evening after high winds toppled power lines over Interstate 90, just east of Minnesota 60. The multi-vehicle crash included one vehicle being rear-ended by a semi tractor-trailer before getting entangled in the power lines, and another vehicle also getting caught in the wires. All of the vehicles were eastbound in mile 46.

The crash was reported to law enforcement at 5:54 p.m. Wednesday — just 11 minutes after the Worthington Regional Airport clocked its highest wind gust of the evening at 63 miles per hour, according to Phil Schumacher, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Killed in the crash was Martha Lilian Llanos Rodriguez, 30, of Mexico City, Mexico. She was a backseat passenger in a 2021 Chevrolet hatchback

driven by Diego Alvaro Campos, 37, of Chile. According to the Minnesota State Patrol, Campos had stopped to avoid the downed power lines when his vehicle was struck by a 2019 Freightliner Cascadia driven by Jaskaran Singh, 26, of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Campos and passenger Aldo Alberto Viscarra-Aviles, 33, of Chile, sustained non-life threatening injuries, while passenger Bradford Scott Barrett, 42, of Annapolis, Maryland, had life-threatening injuries. All three of the individuals were transported to Sanford Worthington Medical Center. Campos and Rodriguez were wearing seatbelts; Barrett was not, and Viscarra-Aviles's seatbelt status is unknown. Airbags in the vehicle did deploy.

Tyler Scott Gilbery, 23, of Tea, South Dakota, was the driver of a 2009 Pontiac G6 that collided with the power lines. He sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to Sanford Worthington Medical Center. It was unknown if he was wearing a seatbelt.

Singh, the semi driver, was not injured. Assisting the Minnesota State Patrol

at the scene were the Nobles County Sheriff's Office, Worthington Police Department, Worthington Fire Department and Sanford Worthington Ambulance.

Interstate temporarily closed

With the downed power lines covering both east- and westbound lanes of Interstate 90, law enforcement personnel closed both lanes of travel for two and a half hours, according to Worthington Fire Chief Pat Shorter.

Shorter was among a crew of 15 from the department who responded to the scene. They stayed back until it was confirmed the power lines were properly de-energized by crews from Nobles Cooperative Electric. The power poles are owned by Great River Energy.

Both Campos and Viscarra-Aviles were outside of their vehicle and walking, albeit injured, when first responders arrived. After assessing the individuals in the Chevy, Shorter said they extricated Barrett, who was the front-seat passenger and the most critical. Barrett was the first to be transported to the hospital, followed by Campos

and Viscarra-Aviles. Gilbery was the last of the injured to be taken to the hospital.

Lori Buffington, spokesperson for Great River Energy, said their crews were immediately dispatched to the scene to clear the power lines from the interstate highway.

"The storm damaged 28 poles on our transmission lines in the area," Buffington said Thursday. "Our crews are now at work cleaning up the downed lines and have begun restoration. We expect the repairs to be completed within the next couple of weeks."

"Great River Energy expresses our sympathy for the loss of life and injuries that occurred as a result of the accident on I-90," she added.

Power disruptions

In addition to the high wind gusts, Schumacher said 1.33 inches of rain was recorded by the Worthington water treatment plant. But it was the wind that caused the most trouble.

Residents on the east half of Worthington were without power for approximately 20 minutes Wednesday evening when the downed power lines

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USFWS gets restored trail, new floating dock

By Julie Buntjer
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-owned Waterfowl Production Area and Wetland Learning Area received some much-needed attention this week, as a work crew from Ohio was in town to demolish the wooden duck blind and existing dock in favor of a new floating dock with a fishing pier.

The property, located along Read Avenue, is one of USFWS' few parcels located so close to a city and provides the public with an opportunity to connect with nature. In addition to a wetland that offers opportunities for fishing (primarily carp) and waterfowl watching, the site features a walking trail through reseeded native prairie grasses and flowers.

Jonathan Beyer, Proj-

ect Leader with the Win-dom Wetland Management District, said the USFWS partnered with the Okabena-Oche-da Watershed District and the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District to fund the new dock. The OOWD and SWCD each contributed \$3,500 toward the cost.

"This project is part of the Great American Outdoors Act," Beyer explained, noting that the Act was signed into law by the Trump Administration in August 2020 to prioritize investments in public access and recreation and help the USFWS fund some of its deferred maintenance projects.

Both the duck blind and dock — as well as the trail system at the Wetland Learning Area — qualified because it's

DOCK: Page 4



Tim Middagh / The Globe

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service employees strategize the assembly of a floating dock at the Worthington Wetland Learning Area and Waterfowl Production Area Tuesday afternoon.

Suspect at large after Worthington traffic stop

By Emma McNamee
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — Police were involved in a traffic stop where 2 individuals fled on foot near Clary Street and McMillan Street on Tuesday, May 10 at approximately 12:31.

Two men fled officers in a white U-Haul truck according to a press release from Worthington Police Department. Officers terminated their pursuit of the vehicle shortly after, due to concerns about public safety.

The U-Haul truck was later located unoccupied near Worthington Senior High School. The WPD recommend-

ed the school be placed into lockdown, though students were later released at the completion of the school day without incident.

Officers searched the area and took one male into custody. One individual is still at large and is described as a white male wearing a white t-shirt, light-colored baseball hat, and tattoos on his left arm.

If anyone has any information regarding this individual, contact the Law Enforcement Center at 507-295-5400.

Local law enforcement stated this was still an open case and no new updates were available as of yet.

Dust storm rolls across region Thursday



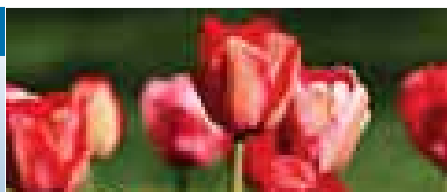
Photos by Tim Middagh / The Globe

Left: Wall of dust moves across southwestern Minnesota Thursday evening as a severe thunderstorm moves across Buffalo ridge, as seen from County Road 12 west of Worthington looking south Thursday evening. **Right:** Another view of the wall of dust moving across southwest Minnesota Thursday evening. A severe thunderstorm follows, moving across the Buffalo Ridge. This photo was taken from Nobles County 9, west of Worthington Thursday evening.

WEATHER

MOSTLY SUNNY

**HIGH 73°
LOW 50°**



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