

**BUCKS
KNOCK OFF
EAGLES FOR
FIRST IMC WIN**

SPORTS, B1



**SHUTDOWN
MAKES IT HARDER
TO MEASURE
ECONOMY**

BUSINESS, A8

EAST OREGONIAN

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\$1.50



EO file photo
Two horses run through a pasture at the Buck Brogoitti Animal Rescue outside Pendleton in 2011. The pair of horses were found abandoned near the Cold Springs Reservoir.

Buck Brogoitti Animal Rescue shuts down

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

The Buck Brogoitti Animal Rescue just outside Pendleton is in its final days. Director Tamara Brogoitti said circumstances have forced her to shut it down.

"It's sad," she said. "I gave it my best."
John Trumbo, former Umatilla County sheriff, worked with Brogoitti in 2010 to use her land to provide a home to horses the sheriff's office seized in abuse and neglect cases. The large-animal sanctuary became a charitable nonprofit and operated under a six-member advisory board that included Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan and Pendleton attorney Rob Collins, now Umatilla County circuit judge.

Brogoitti said the board stopped meeting a few years ago and some of its members moved from Pendleton. She had to stop taking horses a while

back and mortgaged her rentals and drained her savings to trudge on with the sanctuary. Her health is in decline and she continues to grieve for her daughter, who died in 2017. With no more money coming in and only enough hay to last through the weekend for the 15 horses at the rescue, she was done.

**'IT'S SAD.
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MY BEST.'**

Tamara Brogoitti,
director of The
Buck Brogoitti
Animal Rescue

"I was at the breaking point," Brogoitti said.

She reached out on the operation's Facebook page, asking for donations of hay. Someone on Facebook notified Laura Zirjacks-Stark about the circumstances at Buck Brogoitti. Zirjacks-Stark is the president and co-founder of the nonprofit Community Equine Outreach of Eastern Washington.

"We kind of had to step up — we're the closest one to her," she said.

Community Equine Outreach is a nonprofit in Mesa, Washington, about a 90-minute drive

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HERMISTON

Concussion case moves to fed court

District denies most claims, asks for dismissal

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

A lawsuit against the Hermiston School District seeking \$38.9 million alleging failure to protect a student from concussion harm has been moved to federal court, and documents from the school district's side are denying major portions of the family's claims.

A suit filed by a Hermiston family on behalf of their son in September will now be heard by the U.S. District Court, moved up from the state level. Dawna and Todd Martin allege that their son, Connor,

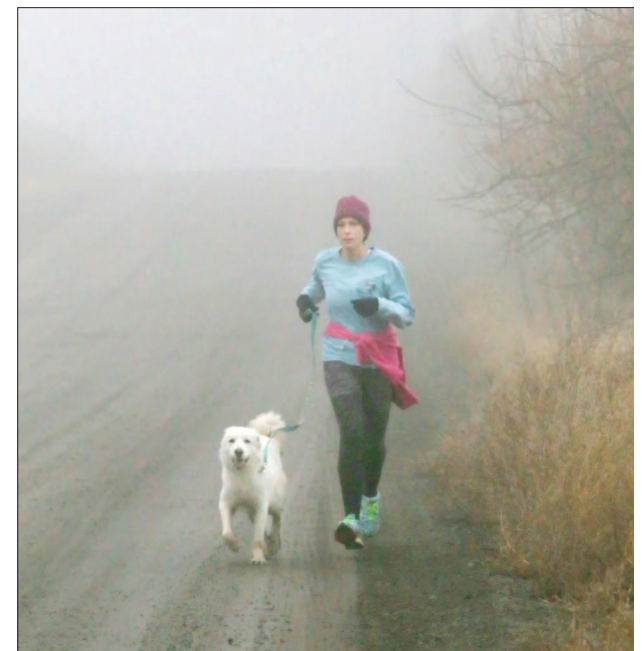
ball after he had already had a concussion while on the field, and claim that district and athletic staff did not take proper measures to inform them, or to make sure their son was physically and medically sound before returning to the field. The family has sued the district for medical costs and emotional distress.

The district's response lists eight defenses, including contributory negligence — stating that the "plaintiff's damages were caused in whole or in part by his own intentional acts, or the negligence (sic) of intentional acts of other parties, or non-parties."

Roy Blaine, the trial court administrator for the Umatilla County Courthouse, said there are

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Jogging in the fog



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Rosemary Chapman and her dog, Annie, go for a jog in the fog Friday along County Road 1003, north of Pendleton.

Pacific Power seeks to soothe ire of local customers

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Local Pacific Power customers irked at what they saw as unfair power bills remain on the hook for payment.

Pacific Power spokesperson Drew Hanson said the company is aware of the

complaints and is working with the customers. He said until last Friday, the company's customer service team had not seen an uptick in calls from the Pendleton area nor an increase on its social media channels.

"That said, our top concern is for our customers," Hanson said, "and we take

any and all questions seriously and welcome feedback about our system and service."

Amanda Lofting, of Pendleton, saw her bill increase from \$122.50 in November to \$287 in December. She said that was baffling because she works 12-hour shifts so she is not

home half the time.

Pacific Power sent someone to check her meters, she said, and "they came back that they were still reading right, according to them." A customer service representative also called and listened to her concerns, she said, and set her up an equal payment plan, which dropped

her bill to \$34.

"That's a lot better than \$300," she said.

Hanson explained the equal payments plan does not provide a discounted rate but rather levels out payments to make monthly budgeting more predictable.

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