

Raid rescues Yorkshire terrier puppies near Hermiston

By ANTONIO ARREDONDO
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Area animal rescue operations are hustling to save several Yorkshire terriers following a raid Friday, July 30, north of Hermiston.

Robin Barker, vice president of Fuzz Balls Animal Rescue, said several mistreated Yorkshire terriers were uncovered off Highway 395 near Hermiston in a trailer with no electricity or running water. With temperatures rising past the 100 degree mark this past week, it created an unsafe

environment for the puppies.

While Barker couldn't say how many dogs were in the trailer, six of the dogs were voluntarily given to the shelter due to their condition. Five were taken to the animal shelter, and one additional puppy is in critical care.

One of the terriers, despite being nearly 3 months old, weighed only 1 pound. Though he is receiving care at Fuzz Balls, Barker is not hopeful his condition will improve.

"He's not likely going to make it," Barker said.

Both the malnourished dog and its siblings are infected with canine

parvovirus, a highly-contagious disease that can be prevented with easily-accessible vaccines. If left untreated, canine parvovirus, commonly known as "parvo," can result in death in as little as 48 hours.

The other five dogs rescued are being treated for parvo at Mikey's Chance Canine Rescue, a West Richland, Washington-based shelter. Executive Director Andrea Moreno said the terriers arrived in rough shape but are being taken care of.

"They are doing OK right now, but are all in gross condition," Moreno said.

"They came in filthy, with matted hair and feces and urine all over them, and all dehydrated."

Mikey's Chance is one of the premier parvo treating facilities in the area, but the condition the dogs came in was severe even by the clinic's standards, Moreno said. She is hopeful the dogs — ranging from 16 days old to 3 years — will recover.

While the Mikey's Chance staff are working with the infected dogs in West Richland, an investigation is underway in Hermiston regarding the care the animals received.

Capt. Sterrin Ward with

the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office confirmed a deputy visited the residence on July 30 and recovered some of the animals. The six dogs receiving the care of shelters were turned over voluntarily, and many remain in the trailer.

Both Barker and Moreno encouraged anyone who recently purchased a Yorkshire terrier breed to get them checked for health issues, stressing the importance of knowing where your pet comes from. A good way to check is simply asking to see where the dog is raised.

"Anytime you are purchasing a puppy, check

and make sure they come from a good location," Moreno said. "Any reputable breeder will have no problem with that."

Moreno said breeders who refuse that request may run a puppy mill — a breeding facility that focuses on quick breeding and often neglects the care or condition of the animals. The Hermiston trailer is a textbook case, and Barker said they are a problem she has dealt with numerous times over the years.

"(They) are one of so many here in Hermiston," Barker said. "Something needs to change. In the end, the animals suffer."

Ukiah School District has new boss

Alumna and longtime teacher Laura Orr steps into role of superintendent

By SHANNON GOLDEN
The Observer

UKIAH — In the main lobby of the Ukiah School building, shadow boxes and picture frames hold a century of memories from past students. Decades-old letterman jackets share the wall with years of class photos.

For Laura Orr, the new superintendent of Ukiah School District, the wall holds four generations of family memories, too. The faces of her grandmother, father and now her own children greet her as she walks to her new office each day.

Orr was born and raised in Ukiah and completed her kindergarten through senior year in the storied white building. She went on to receive her bachelor's degree from Eastern Oregon University and continued her education in Utah, where receiving master's in science education at Western Governors University.

Upon returning to her hometown to teach, Orr joined a staff comprised of her former teachers.

"That was weird, but it wasn't weird for very long," she admitted.

For more than 18 years, Orr taught science classes for grades five through 12 in Ukiah. As of July 1, she transitioned once more into a new role at Ukiah School District.

After deliberation between outsourcing the job or sticking with a local candidate for the district's new superintendent, the Ukiah School Board appointed Orr for the position.

"Laura will be a great fit for the position as she possesses the drive, ambition and adaptability that Ukiah School District needs to be



Ukiah School District/Contributed Photo

The Ukiah School District has appointed longtime science teacher Laura Orr as the new superintendent. She started the job July 1, 2022.

successful in the future," said Wendt Eddy in a July 20 InterMountain Education Service District press release.

Connectivity a priority

For Orr, one of the district's most pressing challenges — and first orders of business — is internet connectivity.

"Modern education requires connectivity," she said.

Due to the region's lacking infrastructure, the school's internet is often spotty. This makes online learning and testing particularly hard. Orr noted all of Ukiah's high school students are planning to take at least one online dual credit class this coming year.

With funding support from IMESD, Ukiah School will receive a dedicated fiber internet line within a year — a multi-million dollar project the district would never be able to afford on its own.

"It's going to make maintaining a modern education

for our students possible," she said.

At the moment, nine educators and support staff — including Orr — keep the school running.

"Everybody knows what's going on and helps take part in things," she said. "It's full support all the way around."

Orr said she hopes new state incentive programs will help provide districts with what they need to encourage and support talented, local educators to teach in their very own communities.

Despite the unique challenges the district is facing, Orr contends that simply supporting students in their endeavors is the easiest part.

"With good teachers and good materials and good connectivity and intentional support to help them, they'll go as far as they wanna go," she said.

Teaching and community matters

Orr is a local and regional science education advocate and a member of several

boards, outreach programs and research projects around the country. She also encourages students to get involved in scientific research of their own.

Orr has been an active member of NITARP, the Teacher Archive Research Program organized by NASA and Caltech's Infrared Processing and Analysis Center. This program partners educators with a professional astronomer for a year-long original research project.

"Through it, you learn better techniques and skills to take back to students," she said.

For several years, Orr selected a few interested students from Ukiah to work with her on the research and present at national conferences. To Orr, this program gives students confidence that they, too, can make strides in scientific research.

"You don't have to be a special smart kid from a big school with a fancy research department," she said. "You could be just an interested kiddo from Eastern Oregon that just really thinks baby stars are cool."

Outside of school, Orr is active in the Ukiah community as one of the directors of the Ukiah Rodeo, leader of the town's 4-H clubs and a coordinator of the local NITARP astronomy research.

As she takes on the role of superintendent this fall, Orr will wear many hats. She will also serve as principal of the school and will still teach two science classes every day.

Orr sees the unique challenges of rural education as opportunities, rather than liabilities. According to her, the many years she's spent at Ukiah school — as a student and a teacher — give her extra understanding, drive and energy to make it the best it can be.

"The community itself would not be the same without us," she said. "We need to honor that tradition and culture and grow it and support it."



East Oregonian, File

John Honemann, former manager of the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton, poses for a portrait Nov. 9, 2021, at the airport. Honemann relocated from northern Colorado to Pendleton to start the job in July 2021. Airport Commissioner David Styer reported Honemann said the city in June 2022 fired him.

Pendleton airport commissioner says city fired airport manager

By JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — John Honemann in late June did not quit his job as manager of the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton, according to a member of the Pendleton Airport Commission. Instead, the city fired him.

Commissioner David Styer, owner of All Terrain Aircraft, said Honemann addressed the commission at its July 20 public meeting. "He said how much he liked working with commission members and thanked us for our contributions," Styer said. "John confirmed he did not quit. He was fired without notice or a severance package."

City Manager Robb Corbett and interim Airport Manager Steve Chrisman attended the meeting, Styer reported. Chrisman is Pendleton's full-time economic development director. Corbett declined to comment.

The East Oregonian has tried numerous times to contact Honemann for comment. He has not returned any messages.

The city hired Honemann in July 2021 to oversee the airport, two industrial parks with more than 90 tenants and a 1,000-acre wheat farm.

"I was actually surprised when they hired John last year," Styer said. "His skill set includes common sense, as in balancing budgets, doing what you say and saying what you're doing."

Honemann was popular with businesses at the airport and commission members, based upon reactions to his firing in late June.

Harold Nelson, owner of Pendleton Aircraft Service, said he was "shocked" when

Honemann no longer worked for the city.

"In my 53 years at the airport, John was the first manager with a pilot's license and an aviation background as a veteran," Nelson said. "He was on a mission to save the airport. He came around to talk to businesses up here, to find out what he could do to help."

Nelson's son Curtiss Nelson said the Pendleton Airport Commission had an upbeat meeting June 22, and then "suddenly John was gone" a day or two after.

"Sometimes there's a conflict between what's good for economic development and what's good for the airport," Styer said. "Such as siting a hotel where you can't see the terminal. People come into my shop to ask where the terminal is."

Airport Commissioner Gary Zollman, owner of Larry Burd Well-Drilling, commented that everybody liked Honemann, who had provided the airport budget to the advisory group, at its request.

Airport commission Chair Jim Webster, manager at Union Soil and Water Conservation District, La Grande, said he was "surprised and disappointed" about Honemann's departure.

"The commission felt that he was doing a good job," he said. "We weren't privy to the deliberations. It takes time to get a new person on board, so now we'll have to go through that process again."

LOCAL BRIEFING

M-F man dies in boating accident at McKay Reservoir

PENDLETON — A Milton-Freewater man died Friday, July 29, from a boating accident at McKay Reservoir near Pendleton.

According to the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, a 911 caller at

6:13 p.m. July 29 reported the accident, and sheriff's office marine deputies responded to the scene.

An investigation revealed eight occupants in a boat had been tubing on the reservoir. One in the group, Benjamin Ryan Camden, 41, of Milton-Freewater, was in the water. He attempted to get back into the boat when the

transom ladder broke.

"Camden was unable to pull himself into the boat, and it was decided he would hold onto the starboard handrail while the boat operator headed toward a boat ramp," the sheriff's office reported.

While slowing motoring toward the boat ramp, Camden lost his grip and slid under the boat. He

suffered serious injuries to his lower left leg from propeller cuts.

Nearby boaters assisted Camden to shore and then into a private vehicle that met with medics near the reservoir entrance. The ambulance rushed Camden to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, where he succumbed to his injuries.

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