

CONCUSSION

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The district admits that Martin participated in another game on Oct. 20 between Hermiston and Redmond High School, but said they didn't have enough knowledge to respond to the claim that Martin had a helmet-to-helmet collision with another player, or that he fell to the ground and his head bounced off the turf.

They admit that the same day, athletic trainer Dan Emery evaluated Martin and concluded he may have suffered a concussion, but deny that Emery told his father to take him home to rest, as well as subsequent claims about Emery's assessment of Martin's condition.

They admitted that Dr. Derek Earl evaluated Martin around Nov. 7, 2016, but said they lacked knowledge to admit or deny what the family claims Earl told them about his condition.

They also denied the family's claim that the district did not have rules or policies ensuring that coaches should be trained to recognize concussion symptoms, or policies that students should not return to play or training the same day they exhibit signs of a concussion.

An article published Friday by the Pacific Northwest-based news organization InvestigateWest says that while Oregon has laws for when students can return to athletic activities after concussions, the state is lacking in specific rules for when concussed students return to the classroom, or for accommodating students in class that are recovering from concussions.

The article reports that many schools don't know about or take advantage of the free resources for learning about how to help concussed students.

The Center for Brain Injury Research and Training, based in Eugene, released a free 10-hour online course to train educators, called "In the Classroom After Concussion."

The article also states that many times, the protocol for treating non-sports related brain injuries varies by individual school.

Federal court documents for the case state that the deadline for setting a pre-trial hearing is May 6, 2019.

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Jonny Badillo Guerrero and his partner Katya, of the Utah Ballroom Dance Company, perform during Dancing with the Hermiston Stars on Saturday at Hermiston High School.

DANCE

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the night went to Desert View Elementary School first grade teacher Kara Frazier, who shook and shimied her way through a salsa to the sounds of Shakira's "Hips Don't Lie." Frazier earned an almost-perfect 29 out of 30 for the performance.

In a video interview with Frazier and her professional dance partner Trevor, she said the hardest part was learning to do the dance while wearing high heels. She danced for Made to Thrive, which provides money and support for students who might not otherwise be able to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Jonny Badillo of Umatilla-Morrow Head Start danced a "Thriller"-themed cha cha as Michael Jackson, raising money for Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASAs act as advocates for children in the foster system.

Ashley Umbarger, looking very country in a fringe dress and cowboy boots, did a country two-step inspired by Loretta Lynn that featured a back flip. Umbarger and her husband Jeff Umbarger recently became co-directors of Campus Life, which provides wholesome activities and a safe, positive place for teenagers to hang out.

Mary Winebarger, a semi-retired bookkeeper, put in a long black wig and danced disco to



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Jake Bacon and his partner Katya, of the Utah Ballroom Dance Company, perform during Dancing with the Hermiston Stars on Saturday at Hermiston High School.

Cher's "Believe." She is the treasurer for Altrusa International, and raised money for the service club Saturday.

Tony Garberg, director of cardiopulmonary services for Good Shepherd Medical Center, donned a purple velvet blazer and whirled his partner around in a foxtrot to "Walk Like a Man" by Franki Valli and the Four Seasons.

"You didn't just walk like a man, you were the man!" judge Dawn Kennison-Kerrigan told him before the three judges awarded him a score of 26.

Votes for Garberg raised money for Rotary Club.

Bacon, who raised the most money of the night, put it toward the Kiwanis Club, of which he is a member. One of the ways the club will spend the money is on sponsoring Outdoor School for local fifth graders.

"Everyone wins out of this," he said. "The bragging rights are fun to have — and they will be used — but really, everyone wins, the dancers and the community."

While the Utah Ballroom Dance Company has 45 stops planned

for its tour, Saturday's emcee told the audience that Hermiston holds a special place in the company's heart as the longest-running Dancing With Your Stars show at seven "seasons." The Desert Arts Council had previously sponsored the event, but the Hermiston Education Foundation stepped up this year instead, with the help of U.S. Bank.

Bacon said he got recruited by Hermiston School District Superintendent Tricia Mooney, and despite what some may think, didn't have any dance experience whatsoever.

Once the seven participants were chosen, they got together for a "reveal" party where they were able to hear the songs available and choose which routine they wanted to tackle.

"When they brought up MC Hammer, everyone laughed and pointed at me, so I kind of got it by default," Bacon said.

Each dancer had one-hour practice sessions Sunday through Thursday, with a dress rehearsal Saturday. Bacon said his professional partner Katya was "amazing" and helped him learn quickly.

He said he was so nervous he almost felt sick, but once he went out on stage it went well, and he had fun bonding with the other amateur competitors throughout the week.

Bacon said he brought the mirror-ball trophy to school on Monday and presented it to the students, who asked if they could call him "McBacon" from now on.

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