

GOVERNOR: Fiancée's business dealings called into question

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surviving the botched roll-out of Oregon's online health care exchange.

But the allegations surrounding the work of his fiancée were more damaging, dominating headlines in the state following his victory.

A series of newspaper reports since October have chronicled Hayes' work for organizations with an interest in Oregon public policy. At the same time, she was paid by advocacy groups and played an active role in Kitzhaber's administration, a potential conflict of interest.

The spotlight on Hayes led her to reveal that she accepted about \$5,000 to illegally marry a man seeking immigration benefits in the 1990s. Later, she admitted she bought a remote property with the intent to grow marijuana.

A fiercely private person, Kitzhaber has been forced to answer embarrassing and personal questions about his relationship. In response to questions at a news conference last month, Kitzhaber told reporters that he's in love with Hayes, but he's not blinded by it.

Kitzhaber, 67, met Hayes, 47, before the 2002 election, when he was governor and she was a candidate for the state Legislature. She lost her race, but they later reconnected after Kitzhaber's term ended.

Hayes used the title "first lady," though the couple never married, and she took an active role in his administration. They were engaged last summer.

"One thing I hope people know about me is that I love this state and its people, its rivers, its mountains and its landscapes with every fiber of my being," Kitzhaber said in his parting statement. "It is because of that love that I tender my resignation."

Puppy buyer beware

By Jodi Schneider McNamee
Correspondent

A very tiny brown and black female puppy was surrendered at BrightSide Animal Center in Redmond a couple of weeks ago after a man had found the little rottweiler mix for sale in an ad on Craigslist. He purchased the four-week-old puppy for his girlfriend, but she decided against it.

The puppy had a severe eye infection upon arrival and was looked at by a veterinarian. She would need special drops in her left eye every three hours and needed to be fostered by a volunteer.

BrightSide Animal Center volunteer coordinator Sana Hayes decided that she would take on the responsibility of fostering the little puppy with her medical needs.

Most veterinarians and dog breeders agree that puppies shouldn't be separated from the rest of their litter for adoption before two months of age. A new study researched by veterinarians in Naples, Italy, confirms that advice, showing that puppies removed from their litter mates earlier were more likely to develop behavioral problems as adult dogs.

"It's been proven that puppies need to be with their mothers and siblings until weaned, which is usually about eight weeks," said Hayes. "It's a crucial time in their life. The puppy that my husband, Bill, and I are fostering is missing out on learning behaviors from her mom and litter mates, and we are going to have to try hard to make up for that."

Puppies do a lot of learning during their first few weeks of

life, developing skills, behaviors, and personality traits that will remain with them throughout the rest of their lives, and which can only be learned from the mother dog and their siblings.

So why was this puppy advertised on the Internet at such a young age?

"We can't prove it, but the four-week-old puppy, that I now call Raven, could have been a victim of backyard breeding," Hayes said.

A backyard breeder is someone who keeps a number of dogs and either breeds them deliberately or just lets them breed. Backyard breeders may have a few dogs or many, one breed or several. They usually have no understanding or concern regarding the breed standard, genetics, socializing the dogs, and maintaining their health. This is not to be confused with "hobby breeders," who breed small numbers of dogs and care for their dogs well.

"I would like to educate people that a backyard breeder isn't a legitimate breeder. They aren't breeding for a good purpose. They tend to let puppies go when they are too young, and one of the reasons is because tiny puppies tend to be more appealing to people," Hayes said.

Backyard breeders are also motivated by profit. Ads from these breeders fill the classifieds. They are not knowledgeable on how to breed responsibly, such as screening for genetic defects. Responsible proper breeding entails much more than simply putting two dogs together. A backyard breeder who is successful in selling puppies may



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE

Five- to six-week-old puppy, Raven.

decide to expand and become a puppy miller — someone who breeds dogs with profit as the one and only motive and concern.

Most professional breeders of pedigree dogs will not allow their pups to go to their new homes until they are 12 weeks old, although some breeders see eight weeks as a fair time to allow the puppies to leave, and taking home a puppy at eight weeks old is not uncommon.

There are many ways to distinguish a responsible breeder from the rest. A responsible breeder will place all pet-quality animals with a contract requiring the purchaser to spay/neuter the pup, and will also evaluate the health of their pups using sound, standardized genetic and other testing recommended for the individual breed.

According to the ASPCA, many puppies sold online come from puppy mills or backyard breeders — they even use fancy terms like "certified kennel," "AKC registered," "pedigree" and "health certified." Many of these breeders are really puppy mills in disguise. No responsible breeder sells their dogs online and has them shipped to your doorstep.

Those looking for a pet are encouraged to adopt a dog or puppy from a shelter or rescue organization. And for those seeking a purebred dog, nearly 30 percent of canines up for adoption at shelters are purebreds.

Raven has been doing well in her foster home and on Valentine's Day, the Hayes' adopted their furry friend through BrightSide Animal Center.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Sisters Urban Renewal Agency Annual Report


The Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 for the Sisters Urban Renewal Agency has been prepared and is on file at Sisters City Hall, 520 E. Cascade Ave. and is summarized here. In FY 2013-14 Sisters URA received \$1,058,977 in revenue, spent \$735,309 on projects and administration, and paid \$439,022 in principal and interest. Estimated tax revenues and interest for FY 2014-15: \$188,700. Budgeted expenditures for FY 2014-15: \$394,647 (Capital Projects Fund) and \$86,100 (Debt Service Fund). Interested persons may obtain a copy by contacting Finance Officer Lynne Fujita-Conrads at 541-323-5222 or lconrads@ci.sisters.or.us. A copy is also available on the City's website, www.ci.sisters.or.us.

An analysis of the tax collection impact on the permanent rate of other tax districts is shown in the table below.

Taxing District	FY 13/14 Forgone Revenue	FY 13/14 Permanent Rate Levy	% of Permanent Rate Levy
Deschutes County	16,763	23,747,378	0.07%
Jail Bond	854	1,242,696	0.07%
Fairgrounds Bond	1,455	2,068,363	0.07%
County Library	7,211	10,143,588	0.07%
Countywide Law Enforcement	12,462	17,520,004	0.07%
County Extension/4H	285	414,250	0.07%
9-1-1	2,119	2,984,946	0.07%
City of Sisters	34,633	801,633	4.32%
Sisters/Camp Sherman Fire District	33,623	1,956,737	1.72%
Sisters Park & Recreation District	2,878	245,362	1.17%
School District #6	53,769	7,021,639	0.77%
School #6 Bond 2001	12,936	1,691,672	0.76%
High Desert ESD	1,234	1,720,682	0.07%
C.O.C.C.	8,129	11,070,002	0.07%
Total	188,351	82,628,952	0.23%

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