

Former Oregon governor cleared

By Steven Dubois
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — Former Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber insisted he broke no laws, and federal prosecutors backed him up Friday, announcing that no criminal charges will be filed against Kitzhaber or his live-in fiancée over allegations she used their relationship to win contracts for her consulting business.

Kitzhaber surrendered to political pressure in February 2015 and resigned over allegations that Hayes used their relationship to win contracts for her green-energy consulting business and failed to report the income on her taxes.

The U.S. Attorney's office in Portland said in a brief statement that the criminal investigation that began more than two years ago is over and that no federal charges will be sought. Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum previously announced the state would not bring charges.

"As I have said from the beginning, I did not resign because I was guilty of any wrongdoing but rather because the media frenzy around these questions kept me from being the effective leader I wanted and needed to be," Kitzhaber said in a statement. "Then there was the real investigation, not by reporters, but people with subpoena power and the ability to look at everything in context. They decided there was nothing to pursue."

A series of newspaper reports beginning 2014 chronicled Hayes' work for organizations with an interest in Oregon public policy. As she was being paid by advocacy groups, she played an active role in Kitzhaber's administration, a potential conflict of interest.

Media outlets dug further, learning that Hayes accepted about \$5,000 to illegally marry a man seeking immigration benefits in the 1990s. Hayes also

confirmed a report that she bought land in a remote part of Washington state in 1997 to grow marijuana.

Despite the reports, Kitzhaber won re-election in November 2014 to an unprecedented fourth term as Oregon governor.

It turned into an unprecedented short term as the Hayes scandal dominated headlines for weeks. Secretary of State Kate Brown assumed Oregon's highest office after Kitzhaber ended his four-decade political career in inglorious fashion and resigned just over a month into his fourth term.

Brown is still Oregon's governor. Brown spokesmen Bryan Hockaday and Chris Pair did not immediately respond to phone and email messages seeking comment.

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

After eight years out of office, Kitzhaber became governor again in 2011. Hayes used the term "first lady," even though the couple never married.

The former emergency room doctor remained quiet

for months after leaving office, but slowly emerged with public appearances, Facebook posts, and an attempt to do consulting work in his area of expertise — health care.

A Facebook post from March, marking his 70th birthday, shows his view of the 21st century media landscape has not softened.

"Fully two years before the 2016 election normalized this phenomenon, I got to be a pioneer (or maybe that was a guinea pig) in this brave new world of politics with emails, social media, click for cash tabloid 'journalism' and fake news," he wrote.

Hayes still has her consulting business. She also worked as a journalist and written a humorous book under a pen name. The book, "Surprising Reasons to Believe Donald Trump Will be a Great President," is 150 pages and 149 of them are blank.

In his statement Friday, Kitzhaber said he's "back."

"I intend to continue to do what I've been doing for most of my adult life: trying to help Oregon deal with the challenges we face in a way that moves us beyond the current division and polarization and brings us back together as a community."

SISTERS EVENTS • ENTERTAINMENT

Wed.~June 21

Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (6:15 sign-up). Free! *With beer tasting with Fort George Brewing.* For information call 541-549-2471 or go to foodcartgarden.com.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

Thurs.~June 22

The Depot Café Live Music with Mark Conklin & Got Whiskey 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Donation cover. For more information call 541-549-2572 or go to sistersdepot.com.

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sistersaloon.net.

Friday~June 23

Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Live Music with NTT 5 to 7 p.m. No cover! For info: 541-549-2471 or go to foodcartgarden.com.

Angeline's Bakery Live Music with The Mostest 7 p.m. \$5 cover. For additional information call 541-549-9122.

Paulina Springs Books Author Slideshow with John Shewey and Tim Blount 6:30 p.m. The bird enthusiasts present "Birds of the Pacific Northwest." Refreshments will be served. Info: 541-549-0866 or go to paulinasprings.com.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Saturday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

Fir Street Park Sisters Farmers Market 2 to 5:30 p.m. Oregon-grown produce & plants, with live entertainment too! sistersfarmersmarket.com.

Downtown Sisters 4th Friday Art Stroll 4 to 7 p.m. Galleries & shops feature live entertainment & refreshments! Info: sistersartsassociation.org.

Sat.~June 24

Cork Cellars Live Music with Bill Keale 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For info call 541-549-2675 or go to online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with the Emerald City Band 7 to 10 p.m. No cover for classic rock on the outdoor stage! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Live Jazz with Elise Franklin & Warren Zaiger 5 to 7 p.m. No cover! For info call 541-549-2471 or go to foodcartgarden.com.

Sisters Saloon Live Music with Riley's Range Benders 8 to 11 p.m. No cover for Americana, roots & blues! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

The Depot Café Open Mic Night! 6 to 8 p.m. For additional information call 541-549-2572 or go online to sistersdepot.com.

Listings free to advertisers. Submit by 5 p.m. Fridays to teresa@nuggetnews.com

Sunday~June 25

Aspen Lakes Golf Course 20th Annual Outlaw Open 12:30 p.m. Fundraising scramble golf tourney. Don't golf? The catered BBQ dinner is at 6 p.m., \$30 per person. For info go to aspenlakes.com.

Wed.~June 28

Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (6:15 sign-up). Free! For additional information call 541-549-2471 or go to foodcartgarden.com.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

Thurs.~June 29

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sistersaloon.net.

Friday~June 30

Paulina Springs Books Author Reading with Bryan Denson 6:30 p.m. Denson presents "The Spy's Son: The True Story of the Highest-Ranking CIA Officer Ever Convicted of Espionage and the Son He Trained to Spy for Russia." paulinasprings.com.

Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Live Music with Juju Eyeball (Beatles tribute band) 5 to 7 p.m. No cover! For info: 541-549-2471 or go to foodcartgarden.com.

Creekside Park Sisters Roundup of Gems 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. New location for the annual event! For more information call 619-920-0464.

Angeline's Bakery Live Music with Cuppa Joe 7 p.m. \$5 cover. For additional information call 541-549-9122.

Saturday~July 1

Blue Pine Designs Grand Opening Celebration! 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See the beautiful, hand-crafted furniture & accessories, and enjoy free giveaways at 411 E. Cascade Ave. For info: 541-904-5162 or bluepinedesigns.com.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with Petty Fever, with opening act The Blues Brothers Review 9 p.m. Award-winning Tom Petty tribute band. Tickets: \$10 at bendticket.com. 541-549-6114 or hardtailsoregon.com.

Sisters Saloon Live Music with the Tommy Hogan Band 7 to 10 p.m. No cover for blues, R&B and rock! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Live Music with Bittercreek 5 to 7 p.m. No cover for classic rock! For info: 541-549-2471 or go to foodcartgarden.com.

Cork Cellars Live Music with Jim Cornelius & Mike Biggers 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For info call 541-549-2675 or go to online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Creekside Park Sisters Roundup of Gems 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. New location for the annual event! For more information call 619-920-0464.

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Wonder Woman (PG-13)
Fri-Thurs 3:30, 6:45

Baby Driver (R)
Tues 7:15
Wed-Thurs 2:30, 5:00, 7:30

Paris Can Wait (PG)
Fri 2:15, 7:00
Sat-Thurs 4:45

Rough Night (R)
Fri-Mon 2:30, 5:00, 7:30
Tues 2:30, 5:00

Movie times and titles are subject to change. Visit website or call for latest information.

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