

**PENDLETON
GIRLS BEAT
THE DALLES
BASKETBALL/1B**

Seahawks fan
rebuilds boat
LIFESTYLES 1C



REGION:
Oregon snowpack
at record lows **3A**

NORTHWEST:
Gun background checks
return to Legislature **9A**

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pioneers of testing

State expects just 35 percent
of students to pass Smarter Balanced test

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

What does a leader tell their followers when the odds are against them?

It's a question teachers are giving a lot of thought to these days, because the Smarter Balanced test is here — longer, harder and more confusing than its predecessor. State school superintendent Rob Saxton says he only expects 35 percent of students to pass it this spring.

That presents a challenge for teachers, who have to strike a balance between giving students hope they'll succeed on the new test and cushioning the blow for the many who will

fail, possibly for the first time in their school career.

Hermiston

Armand Larive Middle School math teacher Aaron Lind said he has been "very honest" with his sixth graders about the fact that two thirds of their class is expected to fail the math test. But he tries to infuse a note of optimism.

"Instead of saying 'You're not going to pass,' I look at it as 'A lot of you aren't expected to, but hey, maybe we can be a bright spot,'" he said. "Maybe we could have 45 percent pass, and that's great."

Brooks Bellinger and Alexa Kes-

See **TEST/12A**

Hayes to have no role in Kitzhaber's office

By **HILLARY BORRUD**
EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group

PORTLAND — Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber said Friday that first lady Cylvia Hayes will have no policy role in his administration moving forward.

Kitzhaber made the announcement in reaction to news reports early this week that Hayes may have failed to report \$118,000 on her tax returns that she received for work for a non-profit clean energy consultancy organization.

During a press conference Friday, Kitzhaber said some of the questions raised in news reports about Hayes' paid work were legitimate.

"Questions have also been raised concerning my own roles and responsibilities that also deserve a response, or a pathway to an answer, and I will try to do that as well," Kitzhaber said.

However, there were still many questions Kitzhaber did not answer.

He said the couple files separate tax returns and he could not address ques-

tions about the first lady's filings. He declined to say whether he discussed the returns with Hayes.

The group that paid Hayes in 2011 and 2012, the Clean Economy Development Center, has also worked to shape Oregon's low-carbon fuel policy. That prompted Republican legislative leaders on Friday afternoon to call for Democrats to suspend work on a bill that would make the low-carbon fuel standard permanent, at least until any investigations of Kitzhaber and Hayes are complete.

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission is considering whether to proceed with an official investigation into whether Hayes and Kitzhaber used their public positions for private gain. A decision is expected in March.

A hearing on the low-carbon fuel legislation, SB 324, is scheduled for Monday. Democratic leaders in the state House

See **KITZHABER/12A**



Kitzhaber



Hayes



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Biggest fan

CJ Christiansen, a lineman with Eastern Oregon Telecom, helps hang a 12th Man banner Friday on the cowboy at Columbia Harvest Foods in Umatilla. EOT was helped by a ladder truck from the Umatilla Fire Department.

Terror vocab still puzzles White House

By **JULIE PACE**
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Twice this month, the White House has publicly grappled with the politically fraught language of terrorism.

In the days after a deadly terror spree in Paris, President Barack Obama was criticized for purposely avoiding calling the attacks an example of "Islamic extremism," settling for the more generic "violent extremism." This week, the White House struggled to explain why the administration sometimes classifies the Afghan Taliban as a terrorist organization — and sometimes does not.

The rhetorical wrangling underscores the extent to which a president who pledged to end to his predecessor's war on terror is still navigating how to explain the threats that persist to the American public, while also being mindful of the impact his words can have abroad.

"They do believe that the part of the roots of terrorism comes from the way the United States acts and talks

See **TERROR/10A**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Jackie Engur was born in Uganda, lived in London, and now is the newest appointee to the Pendleton Planning Commission.

PENDLETON

New planning commissioner served same role in London

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

Jackie Engur has been asked the question so many times she just laughs.

"How did you end up in Pendleton?"

The Ugandan-born Engur, a recent appointee to the Pendleton Planning Commission, doesn't have a simple answer for why she moved to the Round-Up City in 2013 after spending the previous 25 years in London.

Engur's journey from Uganda to Eastern Oregon involves a political assassination, a career

in British planning and a love story.

Her story begins with a crucial decision by her father, Yekosefati Engur.

Uganda's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Yekosefati returned to Uganda to join a small group of leaders who brought independence to the Eastern African nation after decades of British colonial rule.

A key part of the newly installed democracy, Yekosefati was named Uganda's ambassador to the Soviet Union, a position he held from 1965 to 1970.

See **ENGUR/12A**



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