

ENGUR: Emigrated to London in 1989

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Jackie, 47, was born during that period and was only three-years-old when her family returned to Uganda. A year later, Ugandan general Idi Amin orchestrated a military coup and installed himself as president. Along with many of his fellow government workers, Yekosefati was removed from his position and thrown in prison. While he was eventually released, Jackie said her father was assassinated in 1977, one of an estimated 300,000 Ugandans that were killed under Amin’s regime. Jackie Engur said growing up with a single mother was tough, and in 1989, she and her two siblings emigrated to London to seek out an education. While her brother and sister attended universities, Engur enrolled in a community college after becoming a single mother. After graduating, Engur was able to parlay her degree into a job at the planning department for the London borough of Camden, becoming a British citizen during that

time. Engur had no reason to change continents until she met Ted Mitchell online several years ago. Mitchell, a native of California’s Bay Area living in Pendleton, and Engur began a long distance relationship. They each took turns visiting each other in their home cities, with Mitchell in England for the 2012 Olympics in London. In 2013, Engur and Mitchell married and she moved to Pendleton. While some of those close to her thought she was crazy, Engur said she was tired of the hustle and bustle of city life and was ready for a slower pace. After the move, Engur began co-managing the Blue Mountain Village Apartments, a 72-unit apartment complex in Pendleton owned by her husband. With many Pendletonians greeting her move with hospitality and friendliness, Engur said she’s happy in the Round-Up City. Now she’s ready to give back. Pendleton Chamber of Commerce past president Susan Bower met Engur

through her job as a business consultant. Bower said she came away from their conversation impressed with Engur’s work history and interest in tourism and when a Planning Commission spot was vacated recently, she sponsored her nomination. “Jackie just gets it,” Bower said. On Jan. 20, Engur was unanimously confirmed by the Pendleton City Council. Engur was personally motivated to seek out the position out of a sense of continuing her father’s public service. When her now-grown son calls from London discouraged about a recent challenge, Engur reminds her of his family’s history. “I say, ‘You don’t give up. You might take baby steps but you’ll get there,’” she said. “I always give him an example. ‘Do you remember where we started from?’” “(He’ll say), ‘Yes, Mom.’” “Now Look. See where you are and see where your mom is. So you don’t give up in life.”

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KITZHABER: The couple is still engaged to be married

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and Senate did not respond to requests for comment by deadline Friday. Kitzhaber rejected the idea that groups that paid Hayes influenced his policy positions. “I think the fact that Sylvia and I have some areas of common interest, climate change being one, low-carbon fuels being one, measuring outcomes through metrics being another, the fact that we have a convergence of interests does not seem to me to imply that if those issues appear in my administration, that influence has necessarily been exerted. So I don’t buy the basic premise.” Kitzhaber also declined to say on Friday whether it was appropriate for Hayes to contact state employees on behalf of her clients, such as Demos, a group that hired Hayes to work with states to adopt an indicator called the Genuine Progress Indicator. “I believe that it is an appropriate question for the

ethics commission to address,” Kitzhaber said. An email released to the EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau this week reveals the awkward position that Hayes’ contracting created for state employees. In May 2013, Hayes called David Allaway, an employee with the Department of Environmental Quality’s solid waste program, to discuss the Genuine Progress Indicator, or GPI, and how it might align with DEQ’s strategic planning. Allaway summarized the conversation in an email to DEQ director Dick Pedersen and legislative coordinator Palmer Mason. “Although it was official in her capacity as a private contractor (3E Strategies), and not as the First Lady, the fact is she is the First Lady and some of this may get back to the Governor,” Allaway wrote. “She also mentioned a few relevant initiatives that the Governor’s Office will be supporting or leading.” In an email Friday after-

noon, Allaway said DEQ did eventually participate in development of a GPI for Oregon. The agency discussed methodologies and data for the environmental measures with staff at the Department of Administrative Services, which is working to create an Oregon GPI. Kitzhaber said he and Hayes tried to keep separate her role as an unpaid policy adviser and private contractor. “We have attempted to draw a very clear line over the last four years between her paid professional work and her volunteer work as first lady,” Kitzhaber said. Kitzhaber said he would not call for an investigation of his and Hayes’ activities. “I still don’t believe that is necessary,” Kitzhaber said. The couple is still engaged to be married and although the governor deferred to Hayes on many questions, he would not say if the first lady will be available to answer questions any time soon. Hayes is in Sweden visiting friends at her own expense.

TEST: ‘The days of just choosing a multiple choice answer are gone’

Continued from 1A

tlar, two of Lind’s students, hear that message loud and clear. Bellinger said he knows most of his classmates aren’t expected to pass this year, but he wasn’t going to let that intimidate him. “I’m going to prove them wrong,” he said. Kestler said she was “kind of nervous” about the new test. Some of the practice test she found easy, she said, but in other cases she was confused about what the questions were asking. Lind said one of the reasons Smarter Balanced scores will likely be lower is that students will be expected to show their work, write short answers, type in equations and place points on graphs. That will eliminate the points students got on the multiple-choice OAKS test from process of elimination or plugging answers into equations. “The days of just choosing a multiple choice answer are gone,” he said. “You’re not going to fake your way through this test.”

Jessica Campbell, a third grade teacher at McKay Creek Elementary, said she tells her kids that the state test will be extra hard this year, but she knows they can do it. “I always try to tell them, in life anything that’s hard, if you go into it with a good attitude and try your hardest, that’s being successful regardless of the score,” she said. Noble said when she teaches new skills she tells the students they’re not learning the skills just to pass a test, they’re learning life skills that will help them contribute to the world as an adult. McKay Creek principal Aimee VanNice said she thinks the fact that the Smarter Balanced test will take months to grade manually, instead of getting feedback instantly from a computer, will actually help morale. “You can have those conversations about what felt good about it, what do you think you need to work on, without that instant feeling

of ‘Oh I’m a failure,’” she said. Pendleton School District assessment coordinator Laura Miltenberger said one good thing about Smarter Balanced is it’s much more engaging than OAKS, with kids dropping and dragging shapes to solve a puzzle or answering questions about a video clip. “In fact, some kids said it was fun,” she said of the practice test. She said switching to a test that measures critical thinking instead of regurgitating facts — and teaching those skills starting in kindergarten — will turn out a generation who are more prepared for life after school. “We’re no longer givers of information,” Miltenberger said. “Kids can pull out their phones and look it up if they have a question. Now we’re teaching them how to read critically and glean that information. Factory jobs are mostly gone. We have to prepare kids for jobs we don’t even know we’re going to have in the future.”

Umatilla

Students in Umatilla School District know a little bit more than their peers about the Smarter Balanced test because they piloted the test last year. Superintendent Heidi Sipe said unfortunately the state hasn’t returned the school’s scores, however. But even when those scores do come, she said she always reminds her staff that state test scores are merely one tool to improve instruction. “I do not want our kids to feel pressured to ‘ace’ the test, but rather to enjoy the process of learning and take pride in their thinking and monitor their own progress as learners,” she said in an email. “It’s easy to give too much power to a test, however, we cannot let adult issues negatively impact students and their quest for knowledge.”



— **CLIFFORD G ALDRICH** —

In honor of Clifford G Aldrich’s life and service to country, on February 7th, 2015 at 1:00 pm, the Ione American Legion Post #95 will place a military plaque with honors at the Highview Cemetery, Ione, Oregon.

There will be a potluck immediately following at the Ione American Legion Hall. Cliff’s daughters and family hope to see all his friends and family there. Please bring your favorite potluck dish and memorable stories to share. Paper products, place settings, and non-alcoholic beverages will be supplied.

If you have questions, please call either Arlynda Gates at 541-422-7534 or Arletta Arnspiger at 541-256-0412. Our family appreciates all the support you have given us through this difficult time. Donations can be made to The Clifford G Aldrich Funeral Fund at Bank of Eastern Oregon, PO Box 39, Heppner, OR, 97836, or the Ione American Legion Post #95, PO Box 384, Ione, OR, 97843.



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