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Governor asks for AG to investigate Hayes questions

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has opened an investigation into questions surrounding first lady Cylvia Hayes and her dealings with the administration of Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Rosenblum confirmed the investigation in a letter to Kitzhaber Monday morning, shortly after the governor asked Rosenblum to investigate questions surrounding first lady Cylvia Hayes and her



Kitzhaber



Rosenblum

dealings with the administration. “My office has already opened an investigation into this matter,” Rosenblum wrote. “I appreciate your intent to cooperate fully.”

More inside

First lady hires criminal defense attorney
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Although Rosenblum did not disclose the issues her office will investigate, the Department of Justice has pursued well-known Oregonians for tax evasion in recent years. Cases included conservative initiative sponsor Bill Sizemore, who pleaded guilty in 2011 to three counts of felony tax evasion,

and marijuana activist Paul Stanford who pleaded guilty the same year to one count of misdemeanor tax evasion. The Department of Justice has also prosecuted public employees for the misdemeanor crime of official misconduct, which under state law can include an official misusing public office to obtain a benefit. Prosecutors have used the broad official misconduct law to pursue cases ranging from a Lincoln County deputy district attorney indicted for attempting to use his position to have sex with a woman involved in a child support case, to an Oregon

State Police detective who pleaded guilty last year to charges related to his mishandling of a white supremacist case.

Kitzhaber said he asked Rosenblum to launch a review because of the media’s focus on the overlap between Hayes’ paid consulting jobs and her unpaid work as policy adviser, as well as the role of Kitzhaber associates in helping Hayes obtain some of those jobs. Public records released Friday revealed that Hayes directed state employees’ work to

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

History comes alive

Fourth-grader Rebecca Bearchum sits dressed as Chief Joseph on Monday during a living wax museum school project at McKay Creek Elementary in Pendleton. The wax museum is part of an assignment where students research a historical figure, create a biography on their subject and give a presentation about their subject to their class. More than 60 fourth-graders took part in the event in the school’s gym.

HERMISTON

City charter headed to a vote this spring

Charter unchanged for 60 years

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Dwight D. Eisenhower was president, Rosa Parks was refusing to give up her seat on the bus and the Cold War was in full swing last time Hermiston voters approved a new charter.

The municipal landscape has changed in the 60 years since, starting with the fact that mayors and city councilors are no longer

exclusively referred to as “he.”

As a result, the very fabric of Hermiston’s governance will be up for a vote this spring as voters consider a rewritten version of the city’s home rule charter.

On Monday night the city council approved ballot language that will place a new city charter before Hermiston voters in May. Mayor David Drotzmann noted that the city council had put in almost a year’s worth of work with

a city charter specialist to make the charter more reader friendly and erase ambiguities that might cause problems for the city.

“Please come out and support these issues ... please take time to review it,” Drotzmann said.

The charter, often compared to a constitution, lays down the law for how the city is run, covering everything from the number of city councilors to the powers granted the city manager.

One of the biggest changes to the new charter is that it would change the mayor’s term from

two years to four.

After getting criticism for proposing a second major change — shifting the municipal judge from an elected position to one appointed to by the council — the council elected to offer that provision as an amendment presented in a separate ballot measure.

After employing the services of attorney Chad Jacobs from Portland law firm Beery, Elsner & Hammond LLP the city council has rewritten Hermiston’s

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Doctor data danger

Medical records may be vulnerable to hackers

By TOM MURPHY
and BRANDON BAILEY
AP Business Writers

Everyone worries about stolen credit cards or hacked bank accounts, but just visiting the doctor may put you at greater risk for identity fraud.

Those medical forms you give the receptionist and send to your health insurer provide fertile ground for criminals looking to steal your identity, since health care businesses can lag far behind banks and credit card companies in protecting sensitive information. The names, birthdates and — most importantly — Social Security numbers detailed on those forms can help hackers open fake credit lines, file false tax returns and create fake medical records.

“It’s an entire profile of who you are,” said Cynthia Larose, chair of the privacy and security practice at the law firm Mintz Levin in Boston. “It essentially allows someone to become you.”

Social Security numbers were created to track the earnings history of workers in order to determine government benefits. Now, health care companies are, in some cases, required to collect the numbers by government agencies. They also use them because they are unique to every individual and more universal than other forms of identification like driver’s licenses, said Dr. Ross Koppel, a University of Pennsylvania professor who researches health care information technology.

But once someone creates a stolen identity with a Social Security number, it can be hard to fix the damage. A person can call a bank to shut down a stolen credit card, but it’s not as easy of a process when it comes to Social Security numbers.

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Singer dies, will be remembered for harmony

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Jeremy Miller’s life played out like a song.

The final note faded early Friday morning when Miller died at Oregon Health & Science University Hospital of pancreatic cancer.

In November, the ailing 36-year-old singer drew a sellout crowd to Pendleton’s Vert Auditorium for a benefit concert. Miller sang a solo and then harmonized with buddies from his old college quartet, Absolutely Nobody, which had come out of mothballs for the concert.

Miller’s father, former Blue Mountain Community

“He’s going to be a big singer up there in heaven with perfect pitch.”

— Tom Phelan, member of old college quartet

College choir director Dave Miller, had assembled the original foursome — Jeremy, Tom Phelan, Rick Pullen and Joe Lindsey and, later, Cory Cooley, who took Phelan’s place. The group sang during college concerts and traveled with the college president during a bond campaign in the late 1990s, entertaining with their own unique blend of

doo-wop and barbershop and drawing large crowds.

“Absolutely Nobody just kind of clicked,” Dave said. “They just got along so well and whoever saw them picked up on that.”

Dave said his son’s musical prowess had emerged early on. At age 5 or 6, Jeremy sang “Jesus Loves Me” in a pure high-pitched voice, with the Pendleton Presbyterian Church Choir singing background.

An accident threatened to derail Jeremy’s musical ambitions when he suffered head trauma after he and three teenage friends rode an inner

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Photo contributed by Terry Aichele

Jeremy Miller looks out at the crowd that gathered in November at the Vert to give him support in his cancer battle. Miller, who died Friday, sang a solo at the concert and sang with his singing group, Absolutely Nobody, which came out of mothballs for the benefit concert.



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