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Dems ask Kitz to quit

Brown: Kitzhaber situation 'bizarre, unprecedented'

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Secretary of State Kate Brown says she is unsure what to make of a meeting between her and Gov. John Kitzhaber, who is under pressure to resign.

Brown, who will succeed Kitzhaber if he resigns, said the governor asked her this week to return to Oregon as soon as possible from a conference in Washington, D.C., to discuss a transition in the governorship.

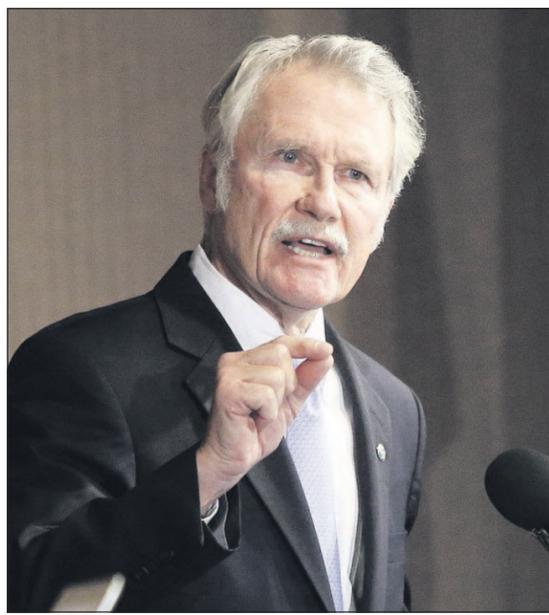
But when Brown arrived home Wednesday afternoon and was whisked into a private meeting with the governor, Kitzhaber questioned why Brown cut short her trip and said he had no plans to resign.

Brown recounted the series of events in a statement Thursday morning, after her abrupt departure from the conference fueled rumors

See BROWN/2A



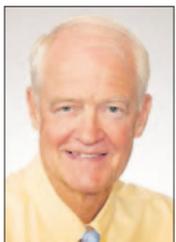
Kate Brown
Secretary of State



Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber speaks during a gubernatorial debate on Oct. 10, 2014, in Portland.



Rep. Tina Kotek
House Speaker



Peter Courtney
Senate President



Ted Wheeler
Treasurer

Party leaders say trust is gone

By PETER WONG
and HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. John Kitzhaber is now under renewed pressure by Democratic leaders to resign in response to the influence-peddling allegations against him and first lady Cylvia Hayes.

Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, said he and House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, urged the Democratic chief executive to resign — just one month into his fourth term — when they met in the governor's private office Thursday.

Kitzhaber's response? "The man is struggling," Courtney told reporters afterward, though he declined to speculate about the mental state of Kitzhaber, who turns 68 on March 5.

Kotek was also unsure of Kitzhaber's plans.

"I really don't know," Kotek said. "I really don't know. He did not give any indication either way."

Although Courtney and Kotek agreed Kitzhaber should resign, they cited different reasons.

"It has become clear to both of us that the ongoing investigations surrounding the governor and Cylvia Hayes have resulted in a loss of the people's trust, and have undermined his ability to effectively lead as our state's chief executive," Kotek

said. Courtney said he and Kotek made the same request when they met Tuesday. Kotek said Kitzhaber requested the Tuesday meeting.

Courtney said he had expected Kitzhaber to announce his intentions Wednesday, when Secretary of State Kate Brown — the next in line in succession — flew back early from a conference in Washington, D.C. at the governor's request.

But instead, Kitzhaber — through his lawyer, his press office, and in comments with Portland television station KOIN — said he had no such intent.

Courtney said his call for resignation was less about the specific allegations and more about the distractions they cause, even though lawmakers are moving ahead with budgets and bills.

"It just seems to me that the perceptions and distractions have reached a point" where Kitzhaber cannot interact with lawmakers effectively, he said.

State Treasurer Ted Wheeler, in a separate statement, minced no words in calling on Kitzhaber to resign.

"Unfortunately, the current situation has become untenable, and I cannot imagine any scenario by which things improve," he said. "Oregon deserves a governor who is fully focused on the duties

See KITZHABER/2A

Your Weekend



- "Twelve Angry Jurors" at Bob Clapp Theater
- Valentine's luncheon and style show
- Oregon Hunters Association annual banquet

For times and places see Coming Events, 5A

Weekend Weather

| Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-------|-------|-------|
| | | |
| 55/42 | 57/35 | 53/29 |

Watch a game



Pendleton vs. Hermiston
Friday, 5:15 p.m., at Hermiston



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

For the love of the sport

Dan Arnold of Pendleton fishes for steelhead near the Eighth Street bridge Thursday on the Umatilla River in Pendleton. Arnold, who says he tries to fish every day of the season, is allergic to them and releases everything he catches. "I just love to fish," Arnold says.

A century ago, flu ravaged Pendleton

Flags flew at homes of quarantined residents, most schools shut down

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Flu seems a mild inconvenience for most Americans — an unlikely threat of three-to-five days of misery and several days off work. Fewer than half of us were vaccinated last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Among those who are young and healthy, the vaccination rate is even more dismal.

Perhaps a journey back to 1918 is in order. That's when Spanish influenza circled the globe in three waves, killing an estimated 40-100 million people who often died quickly, drowning in their own body fluids, their skin turning a ghostly blue.

If flu shots had been available,

Pendletonians would likely have lined up in droves for them. The town's residents watched the most virulent flu virus ever known rip through their community. *East Oregonian* reports from late 1918 and early 1919 reveal a community in turmoil.

Before the epidemic abated, the city would close schools and businesses, establish an emergency hospital in the library, spray city streets with sheep dip and require flu flags be flown at homes of quarantined flu victims.

Pendleton's first reported case came on October 10, 1918. A sick Marine arrived by train and was taken to St. Anthony Hospital, but the disease may have made it to the city before that. By the next day, five people had come down with the dreaded influenza. Pendleton Mayor J.L. Vaughn issued a proclamation that decreed the closure of "all schools, churches, lodges, libraries ... all clubs or associations in the City of Pendleton, and all

pool halls, billiard parlors, bowling alleys, picture shows, opera houses and other public places of amusement where people may assemble." Police and health officers would enforce the temporary regulations.

"Influenza in Pendleton" stretched across the front page of the *East Oregonian*. By the end of October, all schools in Umatilla County had closed, except for the school in Adams.

In early November, the Pendleton City Council voted to require flu flags to be flown at the homes of quarantined influenza victims. An emergency flu hospital was established in the library room at the city hall to handle the rise in flu cases. The *East Oregonian* began listing the names and addresses of newly quarantined people.

The number of cases waned, so Mayor Vaughn reopened schools on Nov. 30, but they closed again on Dec. 20. Almost 100 homes had

See FLU/8A

PENDLETON Obama's budget could cut research funding

Scientists, programs face termination

By GEORGE PAVEN
East Oregonian

The Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center in Pendleton stands to lose nearly half its funding from the federal Agricultural Research Service in the President's proposed 2016 budget.

Such deep cuts would force the center to end some research programs, lay off three of five scientists and reduce their overall support staff, said center director and research leader Dan Long.

Though the final budget must first be approved by Congress, Long said it puts a dark cloud over station operations. CPCRC serves approximately 3 million acres of dryland crop production in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington, with projects aimed at improving farming practices, techniques and equipment.

Since 2010, the station has helped local wheat farmers improve their soil management practices to conserve water and provided scientific proof that reduced tillage fallow systems can outperform conventional tillage systems — both in retaining moisture and controlling erosion.

The tilled summer fallow program is one of 15 projects from across the country that would be cut back or eliminated in the President's budget in order to shift money to what the administration has identified as higher priority initiatives within the ARS.

CPCRC could lose up to

See FUNDING/8A



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