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# EAST OREGONIAN

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# KITZ QUILTS

What about water?

## Kitzhaber resigns; Brown will be governor

By HILLARY BORRUD and PETER WONG  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — John Kitzhaber will resign as governor of Oregon in the wake of an ethics scandal involving himself and his fiancée, Cylvia Hayes.

The resignation will take effect Feb. 18 at 10 a.m.

"I apologize to all those people who gave of their faith, time, energy and resources to elect me to a fourth term last year," Kitzhaber said in a statement.

Under Oregon law, Secretary of State Kate Brown will be governor.

She spoke briefly to reporters, expressing sadness but declined to answer questions.

"As you can imagine, between now and Wednesday we have a lot of work to be

done, and that's what I'm going to go back to and do," she said.

Kitzhaber and Hayes are the subjects of a criminal investigation being conducted by Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum into allegations of influence peddling by the couple.

Press reports over the last several months have raised questions about how Hayes used her influence as Oregon's first lady to obtain lucrative consulting contracts.

Willamette Week first reported in October that Hayes was paid at least \$85,000 for work that overlapped with policies on which she was an official, although unpaid, adviser to the governor. The EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau reported Jan. 27 that Hayes was paid an additional

See KITZHABER/10A



AP file photo  
**Secretary of State Kate Brown listens to Gov. John Kitzhaber speak in Portland in 2013. Brown will become the governor Wednesday when Kitzhaber resigns. For more on Kate Brown and subpoenas filed for Kitzhaber and Cylvia Hayes' emails, see Page 10A.**



AP file photo  
**Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber speaks after he is sworn in for an unprecedented fourth term as governor on Jan. 12, 2015 in Salem.**

Hansell, Smith will work to educate new Gov. Brown

By GEORGE PAVEN  
East Oregonian

Local lawmakers remain confident they can continue to develop new irrigation water supplies in northeast Oregon, despite losing an important ally in former Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Kitzhaber, who announced his resignation Friday amid mounting political scandal, was instrumental in convening the Columbia River-Umatilla Solutions Task Force in 2012, and his staff has been working diligently on negotiating additional water rights proposed by the Northeast Oregon Water Association for the region's agricultural economy.

See WATER/10A

# Remembering Garrett

## Memorial library rededicated after moving from hospital to college

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

Garrett Lee Smith wrote in his suicide note, "Put me in the ground and forget about me."

His family, friends and home town of Pendleton couldn't do that.

A resource library and mural memorializing Garrett appeared at St. Anthony Hospital about a year after his 2003 death. On Friday, the memorial library was rededicated at its new home at Blue Mountain Community College with Garrett's parents in attendance.

Former Sen. Gordon and Sharon Smith experienced crushing sorrow after their adopted son, a student at



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
**Former Sen. Gordon Smith and his wife, Sharon, speak at the dedication for the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Library on Friday at BMCC in Pendleton.**

Utah Valley State College in Orem, swallowed a bottle of sleeping pills and washed them down with whiskey. His voice mail instructed, "Don't call me anymore. I'm not feeling well." The day after he died would have been his 22nd birthday.

Garrett's death shocked those who best knew the amiable college student with the bright smile.

After losing their son, the Smiths went public, resolving to prevent other families from going through the pain of suicide. The Garrett Smith Memorial Fund financed the tiny library on the first floor of the old St. Anthony Hospital. The library had two dedicated computers and magazines, books and pamphlets with information about mental health and wellness. The fund also financed men-

tal health screenings of local students.

The senator wrote the book "Remembering Garrett, One Family's Battle with a Child's Depression" and pushed for more federal funds for suicide prevention. In 2004, President George W. Bush signed the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act into law, authorizing \$82 million for youth suicide prevention.

When St. Anthony Hospital opened a new \$70 million hospital across town in 2013, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Library needed a new home and the community college seemed a logical choice. The library is now the cornerstone of the school's Health & Wellness Resource Center.

On Friday, a slice of the community gathered near the memorial library in Mor-

row Hall for speeches and a ribbon cutting. In the audience was Garrett's preschool teacher, coaches and high school friends, plus many more he never knew.

Garrett grinned from the memorial wall. A teenager looping his arm around his father's shoulders. Light-heartedly mugging for the camera with friends and family. Garrett as a baby, toddler, athlete and Pendleton High School graduate. BMCC President Camille Preus referred to the mural in her opening remarks.

"To see Garrett's life right in front of us and to know about the tragic end makes us want to work that much harder to ensure that students who find themselves in a position of hopelessness have a place

**Garrett's life was brief but beautiful, and it continues to have meaning for others."**

— Gordon Smith,  
Former U.S. senator

See GARRETT/12A

## HERMISTON Schools add administrator for special ed

Split from ESD gives district room to create own program

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

In one of the first visible signs of change since Hermiston School District announced its separation from the InterMountain Education Service District, Rocky Heights Elementary principal BJ Wilson will step into the newly created role of special education director for the district this fall.

Wilson said he will miss Rocky Heights but is excited about working to "break ground" on a new model of special education delivery outside of the ESD structure.

"It's an opportunity to build something that has never been built before," he said.

Special education is currently overseen by special programs director Dr. Jon Mishra, who also supervises other subgroups like talented and gifted students. Next year Wilson will run day-to-day special education operations under Mishra as the district hires nine to 12 new employees to fill roles historically covered by the ESD.

Wilson, a former special education teacher and director of special education for Morrow County School District, defined special education as "a place for students to get their needs met, whatever they are." He said one way he wants to facilitate that is to expand training for regular classroom teachers so they can better support their students with disabilities.

"The number one goal I have is for special education students to be successful," Wilson said.

Change is coming, but the break-



Wilson

See SCHOOL/12A

