

Kitzhaber confident he will be exonerated

By JEFF MAPES
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Thirteen months after he resigned the Oregon governorship, John Kitzhaber is going public again.

Kitzhaber said he will launch a Facebook page that he says will give him an opportunity to talk about public issues.

In his first extensive interview after his resignation, Kitzhaber told Oregon Public Broadcasting that he stayed quiet for more than a year while federal investigators probed allegations that fiancée Cylvia Hayes used her position as first lady to win consulting work.

But he said he hasn't been interviewed by federal agents and that it's time to get on with his life.

"It's been a tough year, it's been a painful year. I've obviously struggled with a feeling that I let down people who elected me and certainly was not my intention," Kitzhaber said in an interview Thursday afternoon in a downtown Portland coffee shop.

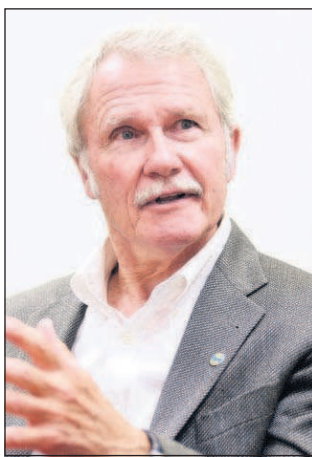
Kitzhaber said he and Hayes are still engaged but haven't set a date. "We're obviously hoping to get past, obviously, the investigation," he said.

The former governor said he continues to have firm views about issues ranging from health care to tax policy. He said he was troubled by a proposed ballot measure that would raise Oregon corporate taxes by \$2.6 billion a year.

Kitzhaber said he agreed the state needed more revenue but said the union-backed initiative failed to reform what he regards as a broken system of paying for schools. And he also said it would cause a bitter rift between business and organized labor that would poison the state's politics.

Kitzhaber offered only brief commentary about his successor, former Secretary of State Kate Brown. Her comments about Kitzhaber's state of mind in his last days of office were widely seen as contributing to pressure for him to resign.

"I think she's obviously had a steep learning curve," he said, "and I'm certainly not going to comment on her job performance."



John Kitzhaber

"I remain confident that when the truth is told and the investigation complete, I will be exonerated," he said. "I am very confident of that."

In the months before his resignation, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission had launched an investigation into the pair, as did the state attorney general's office. But both probes have been on hold while the FBI and U.S. Department of Justice investigate Kitzhaber and Hayes.

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Sea lions and harbor seals dive off the docks of the East End Mooring Basin after crews from the Port of Astoria inflated air dancers.

Inflatable scares for sea lions

ASTORIA — Inflatable air dancers, staples of used car lots and mattress stores nationwide, were given new a purpose along the docks of the East End Mooring Basin.

The Port of Astoria used a handful of the nylon, tube-shaped dancers to scare sea lions and harbor seals off the dock Thursday morning.

It's the latest effort by the agency to rid its docks of hundreds — sometimes thousands — of lounging, federally protected sea lions drawn into the Columbia River to forage fish runs. The large marine mammals have attracted thousands of tourists, while

causing substantial damage to the Port's docks, losing the agency moorages and creating a palpable animosity with the fishing community because of their predation on endangered salmon runs.

As the colorful cartoonish creatures filled with air, sea lions and harbor seals in the immediate vicinity quickly took to the water while other sea lions, just one dock over, stayed put.

Nobody expects the air dancers to be a permanent solution, said Executive Director Jim Knight, but they will help the Port understand the sea lion's behavior.

Lawyers say renovated jail no place for mentally ill

By MARTHA BELLISLE
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Lawyers representing mentally ill defendants waiting extended periods of time for competency services are asking a federal judge for a restraining order to stop the state of Washington from sending these people to a renovated jail instead of a psychiatric hospital.

When the state Department of Social and Health Services failed to meet a judge's deadline to provide competency services, it proposed a plan to send the defendants to the Yakima Competency Restoration Center. But lawyers for the defendants filed a motion late Thursday saying the center is inappropriate and unsafe.

"The use of jails to treat people with mental illness

is inhumane, and a plain violation of the court's order," said La Rond Baker, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, Washington. "It is an unsafe practice that is further evidence of this state's continued disregard of its legal obligations."

U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman issued a permanent injunction in April that said the state was violating the constitutional rights of its most vulnerable citizens by forcing them to wait in jails for weeks or months for competency evaluations or for treatment to have their competency restored.

Pechman gave the state until Jan. 2 to fix the problems at state psychiatric hospitals and start providing services within seven days of a judge's order.

But the state agency

failed to meet the deadline and asked for more time. One solution they proposed was the Yakima center.

But in a motion for a temporary restraining order filed late Thursday, the lawyers for the defendants said that center would cause irreparable harm.

They said a court-appointed monitor and others have expressed serious concerns about a jail-based restoration program, including that it's staffed with corrections officers and has not been retrofitted to address safety concerns.

Now that the facility is operating, these concerns are critical, the lawyers

Oregon's top utility regulator withdraws for reappointment

PORTLAND — Oregon's top utility regulator, Susan Ackerman, has withdrawn her application to Gov. Kate Brown for reappointment.

Ackerman is chair of the Public Utility Commission, which regulates the costs Oregonians pay for utilities. Her four-year term ended earlier this month.

Ackerman and the commission made headlines last month when public records showed her communications with Brown's office were strained over an anti-coal bill that Brown signed into law last week.

A commission spokesman said Friday that wasn't why Ackerman withdrew her application. The spokesman said Ackerman wants to take time off on sabbatical. He said Ackerman plans to stay through May 20.

The governor will likely recommend Ackerman's replacement by May, which is when the Oregon Senate meets to confirm appointments.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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541-278-2683 • jperkinson@eastoregonian.com

Multimedia consultants

- Terri Briggs
541-215-0447 • tbriggs@eastoregonian.com
- Jeanne Jewett
541-364-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com
- Stephanie Newsom
541-278-2687 • snewsom@eastoregonian.com
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To submit sports or outdoors information or tips:

541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production Manager: Shane Weston
541-966-0825 • sweston@eastoregonian.com

AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY

Partly sunny

SUNDAY

Rather cloudy with a shower

MONDAY

Cloudy, a shower in the p.m.

TUESDAY

An afternoon shower

WEDNESDAY

Partly sunny, a shower or two

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
60°	37°	59°	39°	58°
62°	36°	59°	39°	61°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
62°	36°	59°	39°	61°
62°	36°	59°	39°	61°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	53°	25°
Normals	56°	36°
Records	76° (1934)	15° (1965)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.90"
Normal month to date 0.76"
Year to date 3.27"
Last year to date 2.01"
Normal year to date 3.31"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	55°	22°
Normals	58°	35°
Records	75° (1972)	10° (1965)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.63"
Normal month to date 0.56"
Year to date 2.12"
Last year to date 1.25"
Normal year to date 2.83"

SUN AND MOON

	Sunrise today	Sunset tonight	Moonrise tonight	Moonset today
	7:00 a.m.	7:07 p.m.	3:41 p.m.	5:06 a.m.

	Full	Last	New	First
	Mar 23	Mar 31	Apr 7	Apr 13

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Location	Today	Sun.
Seattle	60/46	54/45
Wenatchee	57/39	52/42
Spokane	55/36	57/43
Pullman	57/38	57/38
Yakima	63/37	62/40
Walla Walla	62/40	62/40
Lewiston	61/39	61/39
Enterprise	57/28	57/28
Hermiston	62/36	62/36
Pendleton	60/37	60/37
La Grande	58/38	58/38
John Day	63/42	63/42
Ontario	61/35	61/35
Caldwell	62/39	62/39
Burns	56/31	56/31
Medford	67/49	67/49
Klamath Falls	63/42	63/42

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today with a stray shower.
Eastern Washington: Partial sunshine today.
Eastern and Central Oregon: Partly sunny today. Mostly cloudy tonight, but partly cloudy in the south.
Cascades: A blend of sunshine and clouds today; not as cool across the north.
Western Washington: Rather cloudy today. Occasional rain and drizzle tonight.
Northern California: A shower in spots today; any time at the coast, in the afternoon in central parts.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	56	46	c	54	45	r
Baker City	55	29	pc	57	32	c
Bend	60	37	pc	56	35	r
Brookings	57	49	c	56	47	r
Burns	56	31	pc	56	32	r
Enterprise	57	28	pc	58	37	c
Eugene	62	47	c	58	45	r
Heppner	58	34	pc	59	39	sh
Hermiston	62	36	pc	59	39	r
John Day	63	42	pc	62	39	sh
Klamath Falls	63	42	pc	53	35	r
La Grande	58	38	pc	59	38	sh
Meacham	56	37	pc	56	35	c
Medford	67	49	c	60	43	r
Newport	56	48	c	55	47	r
North Bend	58	49	c	59	48	r
Ontario	61	35	pc	63	39	c
Pasco	62	37	pc	59	39	c
Pendleton	60	37	pc	59	39	c
Portland	62	48	c	58	47	r
Redmond	61	36	pc	57	34	c
Salem	62	47	c	58	46	r
Spokane	55	36	pc	58	42	sh
Ukiah	59	31	pc	58	36	sh
Vancouver	63	47	c	58	46	r
Walla Walla	62	40	pc	59	42	sh
Yakima	63	37	pc	60	39	c

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Areas of rain will extend from the Ohio Valley to the Gulf Coast today with locally severe storms in the Southeast states. Snow showers will dot the northern Plains. Showers will dampen the coastal Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 93° in Imperial, Calif. Low -10° in Lake Yellowstone, Wyo.

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	62	32	pc	65	35	pc
Hong Kong	74	65	pc	71	65	c
Jerusalem	68	49	pc	58	45	pc
London	47	39	c	49	39	c
Mexico City	78	48	pc	75	46	pc
Moscow	26	15	sn	25	13	pc
Paris	48	36	pc	49	38	c
Rome	62	45	s	62	49	pc
Seoul	60	36	s	58	35	s
Sydney	73	63	s	70	64	c
Tokyo	62	50	r	57	43	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Sunday
Boardman	NNE 4-8	NNE 3-6
Pendleton	NE 4-8	SSW 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

0 2 4 4 2 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	66	35	s	66	40	s
Atlanta	67	42	r	55	37	s
Atlanta City	44	36	r	41	31	r
Baltimore	46	33	r	39	30	sn
Billings	46	27	s	64	41	pc
Birmingham	63	40	r	55	36	s
Boise	61	39	s	65	45	pc
Boston	43	27	s	36	29	sn
Charleston, SC	76	56	r	65	43	pc
Charleston, WV	45	33	r	45	28	sf
Chicago	41	29	c	43	29	c
Cleveland	38	29	pc	38	27	c
Dallas	60	39	pc	59	36	s
Denver	36	16	s	56	32	c
Detroit	40	27	pc	44	27	pc
El Paso	67	43	s	70	46	s
Fairbanks	19	15	sn	35	15	c
Fargo	37	25	sf	42	27	pc
Honolulu	79	71	pc	82	70	c
Houston	65	46	pc	64	38	c
Indianapolis	45	29	c	64	39	s
Jacksonville	78	58	t	69	42	pc
Kansas City	46	29	pc	50	29	s
Las Vegas	82	58	s	86	60	s
Little Rock	61	35	pc	56	33	s
Los Angeles	74	55	pc	74	55	pc

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Louisville	49	31	r	47	31	c
Memphis	56	36	c			