

Once suspended judge to run for Court of Appeals

Controversial former Marion County judge to run for Court of Appeals

Whitney Woodworth
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

More than three years after he faced felony charges that were dismissed and was suspended from the Marion County Circuit Court, former judge Vance Day is running for a seat on the Oregon Court of Appeals.

In a video posted on his campaign website, Day said Oregonians deserve to live in a diverse community and not have the government bully them.

"As a former circuit court judge, I know how to work within the judiciary to bring about change," he said in the video, adding that he was asking for voters' help in "making Oregon a great state again."

Day, now a resident of Powell Butte, has filed to run for position 3 on the Oregon Court of Appeals. Appeals court judicial races are typically quiet affairs, attracting little media attention and not many contested spots. Every position on the bench is a statewide race.

Position 3 is the only Court of Appeals race with two candidates running. Day is running against the incumbent, Honorable Darleen Ortega. Ortega was the first wom-



Day an of color and the only Latina to serve as an appellate judge in Oregon when she was appointed in 2003. The Oregon Supreme Court suspended Day from the Marion County court in March 2018 after finding the Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability had proven Day was guilty of six out of eight misconduct charges and ordered the judge be suspended for three years.

His suspension came after years of controversy, during which Day was accused of allowing a participant in the Veterans Treatment Court that Day presided over to handle his family's firearms after being convicted of a felony DUI.

An ethics investigation also looked into claims that Day refused to marry same-sex couples, hung a portrait of Adolf Hitler in a courthouse art display and bullied a referee at his son's soccer game.

Day told the Statesman Journal after the charges were dismissed that he was targeted for his politically conservative and Christian beliefs.

"I'm the first person to ever push back against the decades of liberal elites in Oregon government," Day said.

Following the commission's ethics hearing, Day was charged with two counts of illegal possession of a firearm and two counts of first-degree official misconduct

for the firearms incidents with the veterans.

The case was moved out of Marion County after Day's attorneys sought a change of venue due to the intense media coverage.

In October 2018, a Multnomah County judge dismissed the firearms charges just hours before he was set to stand trial after a key witness refused to testify. With their key witness gone and the statute of limitations up, prosecutors with the Oregon Department of Justice's criminal division could not refile charges on the case after the dismissal.

Day's law license remains active. Although he stopped hearing criminal cases in 2016 when charges were filed against him, he was free to seek office once his suspension was complete.

Who is Vance Day?

Appointed in 2011 by then-Gov. John Kitzhaber, Day ran uncontested in 2012 and was re-elected to a six-year term as Marion County Circuit Court judge.

He worked as a private practice attorney for 20 years and served as the chairman of the Oregon Republican Party from 2005 to 2009.

The years proceeding his suspension were marked by controversy and heightened media attention for his beliefs on same-sex marriage, his treatment of par-

ticipants in the veterans court, actions at the courthouse and behavior in the community.

The commission found Day implemented a system of discrimination by ordering his staff to screen out same-sex couples looking for Day to perform a marriage.

In Oregon, judges may perform marriages but are not required to, and Day's staff never carried out his plan. Day publicly stated that his Christian beliefs prevent him from performing weddings for same-sex couples.

Day has long maintained he has been targeted for his religious beliefs, especially those surrounding marriage.

"It's not about a gun," he said about the charges. "It never was."

Day told the Statesman Journal in 2018 that he saw an outpouring of support.

He later emerged as the president of the Promise Keepers, a national non-profit evangelical Christian organization that opposes same-sex marriage and promotes chastity, in late 2018.

The CEO of Promise Keepers Ken Harrison said on Steven Bannon's podcast in 2021 that liberals and the LGBTQ community are "destroying the identity of the American people."

For questions, comments and news tips, email reporter Whitney Woodworth at wmwoodworth@statesmanjournal.com, call 503-910-6616 or follow on Twitter @wmwoodworth.

RESTAURANT ROUNDUP

Cary's Bakeshop, Heroes Tap House, Cadillac Grille, Epilogue Kitchen

Em Chan
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

In *Restaurant Roundup*, Em Chan shares some local restaurants' latest updates. Have a question for a restaurant you'd like Em to look into? You can send her your inquiries at echan@statesmanjournal.com.

Cary's Bake Shop

The mobile Japanese and American bakery is back in the Office Depot parking lot to serve its delectable treats after being temporarily closed longer than originally expected.

Owners Cary and Akiko Takara originally announced on their Facebook page at the end of December that the bakeshop would reopen Jan. 19, 2022. However, once the date came closer, an update went online that the bakery would continue to be closed due to Akiko taking care of her mother in Japan.

"My mother was in critical condition, so I was taking care of her," Akiko said. "She's much better now, so I came back."

The two announced they would be back Wednesday, February 23, and winter store hours would be Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We're glad to be back," Akiko said. To keep up with what will be avail-

able at Cary's Bakeshop, follow the bakery's Facebook page.

Address: 2945 Liberty Rd South

Heroes Tap House

The Heroes Tap House has announced on Facebook they will be moving to a newer, updated space in the coming months.

Owners Kari and Donovan Wallace opened the tap house in the memory of their son who passed in 2015, and are hoping with the move to make the space more family-friendly, extending hours children are allowed in and generally updating the interior.

"Our lease was up (for the current location) so we excitedly said yes since the buildout in the new building is more updated," Kari said. "The furniture is being made by my husband and it'll be the same vibe, but it'll be updated."

Kari added that the biggest upside to the new space is a year-round covered outdoor seating area. The space is the former Geek Squad location in the plaza just across from the restaurant's current space.

"We're hoping to move by end of April, beginning of May," Kari said. "The menu will be updated a bit to include more family-friendly meals — full meal deal, stuff — but with the re-vamping we'll still offer 24 beers, 10 taps, full bar, Lotto and all that."



Cary's Bakeshop sells a variety of Japanese baked goods at their food cart in south Salem. ABIGAIL DOLLINS / STATESMAN JOURNAL

To keep up with the moving updates, follow Heroes Tap House's Facebook page.

Address: 4435 Liberty Rd South

Epilogue Kitchen

Still riding high from the semi-finalist James Beard Foundation Award, Epilogue Kitchen is also celebrating its three-year anniversary with a special menu for the week. From March 10-13, dinner service will be a fixed menu and completely gluten-free, with an option for it to be vegan and non-vegan.

Menu items include sweet potato and watermelon radish mille feuille, mushroom consomme, and corn pudding, among others. The four-course vegan option is priced at \$50 while the 6-course non-vegan option is \$90.

"We're really excited about this menu and can't wait to share it with you," owners Jonathan James and Maura Ryan wrote in a Facebook post.

To make a reservation, go to Epilogue Kitchen's website,

epilogue-kitchen.square.site. For updates and general details, follow their Facebook page.

Cadillac Grille

The Yard food park's Cadillac Grille food truck is under new ownership as of March 1. After two years, former owner Lisa Salter sold the food truck to new owners.

According to a Facebook post, the truck will be open seven days a week as of March 1 as it heads into its third year of operation.

Salter declined to comment on new ownership details.

To stay in the loop on Cadillac Grille's changes, check out their Facebook page for more details.

Address: 4106 State St

Em Chan covers food and dining at the Statesman Journal. You can reach her at echan@statesmanjournal.com, follow her on Twitter @catchuptoemily or see what she's eating on Instagram @sikfanmei.ah.

Oregon22 to bring millions of dollars in economic impact

Megan Banta Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Officials and tourism experts across Oregon are working to seize the opportunity that is the World Athletics Championships Oregon22 coming to Eugene and "maximize the economic impact on the state," Gov. Kate Brown said.

Oregon is ready to welcome "thousands upon thousands of visitors" as the event being held in Eugene highlights the state's beauty and bounty for an international audience from July 15 to 24, Brown said.

Oregon22, which was postponed from 2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, is expected to bring more than 200,000 visitors to Eugene and the Willamette Valley between athletes, coaches and spectators.

The World Athletics Championships Oregon22 will be "a time for Oregon to shine," the governor added during a media availability Wednesday morning.

Organizers expect the 10-day event to draw millions of dollars in economic impact and inspire people to visit Oregon for years to come, said Todd Davidson, who heads Travel Oregon.

"It cannot be overstated that the exposure of Oregon on the world stage through Oregon22 is an unprecedented opportunity for the state," Davidson said.

Here's what else officials had to say about the event.

Showcasing to a global audience

The World Athletics Championships, hosted every two years in a different city, commonly is viewed as the second-biggest single sporting event in the world, said

Niels De Vos, the executive director of the Oregon22 organizing committee.

It's second only to the World Cup, he said, though it has a larger reach.

By drawing global media, the 10-day event will feature Oregon as a place to live, work and play on social media and as part of around 6,500 hours of live TV coverage to an audience of around 1 billion people, De Vos said.

Time for city, state to shine

Though the event traditionally is hosted in major global cities, Eugene is the "spiritual home" of track and field, De Vos said, and Oregon22 will show people how legendary and unique the city is for the sport.

That starts with the recently renovated Hayward Field, and track athletes and fans already know the venue has a certain magic, said Richie Hunter, vice president of university communications for the University of Oregon.

"Track athletes and fans around the world know of the Hayward Field magic," she said. "We can't wait to showcase this magic and the magic of the University of Oregon on the world stage."

Oregon22 is also an "incredible opportunity" to showcase Eugene, said Mayor Lucy Vinis.

"Since learning Eugene would serve as the host city of this event, the first time it has been held in the United States, our local leaders have come together around the common purpose to welcome and inspire the world," Vinis said.

The city's vision is to "celebrate our unique community, create a sense of be-

longing for all visitors and build civic pride" she said.

Doing that has required the city to make significant investments, Vinis added, and the city is still looking for financial help putting on a free festival on the banks of the Willamette River.

The festival will take place in and around the city's new Downtown Riverfront Park, a multimillion-dollar linear park featuring artwork and overlooks.

Oregon as a whole also will have the chance to shine, Brown said, and she can't wait for the opportunity to show off the state's food, small businesses and outdoor adventures.

Impact for years to come

A study in 2015 estimated \$52 million in spending directly related to the event and \$138 million in overall impact, Davidson said.

Tens of thousands of people will be visiting, he said, driving overnight stays and support for small businesses not just in Eugene but up and down the Interstate 5 corridor from Portland down to Roseburg and beyond.

The economic impact will go beyond the 10 days of the event, Davidson said.

Some research shows around 60% of visitors have purchased Oregon-made products even after they return home, he said, and there's an expectation that people watching the events from home will want to visit after seeing what Oregon has to offer.

"Ultimately, we expect the events to inspire future visits to Oregon for years to

come," Davidson said.

Planning for smoke, heat

Organizers are planning for a number of possible contingencies, Brown said, including smoke and weather.

There's flexibility in the timetable, De Vos said, if it's "absolutely necessary to move an event if air quality is so bad that athlete health would be impacted."

Brown pointed to shifts in event starts during the Olympic Trials as an example of what people could expect, specifically referencing an event that got pushed to 8 p.m. because of sweltering temperatures.

Hands-on opportunities at UO

Beyond economic impact, the event is giving students and staff at UO opportunities for hands-on activities and research, Hunter said.

For example, she said, faculty are studying the impact of the event on the area's air quality, she said, with the goal of showing no impact so Oregon22 can serve as a model for environmentally friendly event planning.

She encouraged people to look for the air quality sensors on the track at Hayward.

Journalism and communications students also are getting hands-on opportunities, she said, including the production of media packages that will broadcast across the world.

Contact city government watchdog Megan Banta at mbanta@register-guard.com. Follow her on Twitter @MeganBanta_1.