

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 18, the 261st day of 2019. There are 104 days left in the year.

ON THIS DATE

In 1970, rock star Jimi Hendrix died in London at age 27.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$1.8 million
07-12-18-30-41-44

Mega Millions: \$211 million
12-15-30-50-65-1-x4

Powerball: \$70 million
11-27-31-36-67-11-x2

Win for Life: Sept. 16
22-39-68-72

Pick 4: Sept. 17
• 1 p.m.: 4-0-0-5
• 4 p.m.: 7-5-3-9
• 7 p.m.: 9-6-5-0
• 10 p.m.: 0-1-4-8
Pick 4: Sept. 16
• 1 p.m.: 9-9-4-7
• 4 p.m.: 3-1-5-1
• 7 p.m.: 5-3-3-0
• 10 p.m.: 1-1-8-0

NEWSPAPER LATE?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Make your mistakes, take your chances, look silly, but keep on going. Don't freeze up."

— From "You Can't Go Home Again" by Thomas Wolfe

Misha Isaak turns down judicial post

By Claire Withycombe
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown's top lawyer said Tuesday he is turning down a plum judicial post after an outgoing state advocate for government transparency said he tried to exert undue influence over her work.

Public Records Advocate Ginger McCall's resignation last week turned the spotlight on Misha Isaak, whom Brown had just appointed to the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Isaak is declining the appointment, Brown announced Tuesday.

"I have worked hard

to earn a professional reputation beyond ethical reproach," Isaak wrote in a letter to Brown dated Tuesday. "I am not willing to accept further damage to my reputation that could arise from joining the bench under a cloud of controversy. I have therefore decided to decline the appointment to the Court of Appeals."

His decision comes after public criticism of his role in the public records controversy and his path to the court appointment.

"My understanding is because it creates a cloud over his appointment," Brown said in an interview with the Oregon Capital Bureau, as to the reasons for the decline. "And he values the integrity of the court, as do I."

Last year, Brown appointed McCall to be the state's first public records advocate, charged with resolving disputes between those seeking government documents and public officials. The advocate also trains public officials on the state's complex public records law.

The post was created by state law in 2017 through legislation Brown proposed.

McCall resigned after 18 months on the job, blaming unacceptable influence from

the governor's office, and specifically identified Isaak.

"I have received meaningful pressure from the governor's general counsel to represent the Governor's Office's interests on the Public Records Advisory Council, even when those interests conflict with the will of the council and the mandate of the Office of the Public Records Advocate," McCall wrote in her resignation letter to Brown. "I have not only been pressured in this direction but I have been told that I should represent these interests while not telling anyone that I am doing so. I believe these actions constituted an abuse of authority on the part of the general counsel, and are counter to

the transparency and accountability mission that I was hired to advance."

McCall then released detailed memos of her meetings with Isaak and Brown's government accountability attorney, Emily Matasar.

The governor said Tuesday that members of her executive team had spoken to Isaak about his conversations with McCall, but said she didn't know if Isaak faced discipline.

Brown said she is changing how she handles appointments to judgeships in the future. She has so far appointed two of her gubernatorial staff to court positions and Isaak would have been the third.

Oregon House GOP votes in new leadership

By Jessica Pollard
East Oregonian

SALEM — The Oregon House Republican caucus will be seeing more leadership from east of the Cascades following a leadership election Monday night.

Rep. Christine Drazan, R-Canby, will be replacing Rep. Carl Wilson, R-Grants Pass, as Oregon House minority leader. Rep. Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles, will be taking over the deputy leader position, previously held by Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove.

And Rep. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, will take over for Rep. Sherrie Springer, R-Scio, as whip.

"In the end, the caucus wanted to go in a new direction and approach to how primarily they manage campaigns," said Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner.

Smith, who represents District 57, which includes Morrow and Umatilla counties, moderated the election, and noted the meeting was finished within an hour.

Wilson and Sprenger were elected

last November. Barreto had previously served as deputy leader to Rep. Mike McLane, R-Powell Butte, before Wilson took his place as minority leader.

Barreto, who represents District 58, which includes all of Union and Wallowa counties as well as portions of Umatilla County, said he was nominated to continue within the position, but that he wasn't interested in doing so with Drazan.

"If Carl would have won, I would have run again for deputy leader," he said. "There's a point where you want to give people a chance."

Barreto noted that his former role was time consuming, and said he looks forward to spending more time in his own district.

"You're never really out of the election cycle," he said. "There's a lot of time, energy and finances involved.

It's a huge amount of work, and it's a difficult task to find qualified and willing candidates."

OPB reported last week that the Republican caucus had scheduled a Monday meeting that would possibly host a leadership election — a rare move in the month of September on an odd numbered year.

They also reported that the election may have been pushed in part by corporate lobbyist Shaun Jillions, who told OPB on Tuesday that he wanted to see "significant changes" to the Republican Caucus campaign infrastructure.

Smith noted that all three elected into leadership are new to the caucus.

"I think if you really look at the House Republican caucus in its entirety, the vast majority of those members have served one, maybe two terms. It's a very inexperienced caucus, and they wanted to go a different direction," he said.

Smith said that a different direction primarily has to do with how the

caucus runs campaigns.

"That seemed to be the argument, but the argument was never clarified," Barreto said.

While Drazan might be new to lawmaking, her political experience is vast.

Having held an executive director position for the Republican Party's campaign efforts in the past, she also previously served as the chief of staff to former House Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House Mark Simmons.

"She has strong political instincts and experience at the highest level of the Oregon House. A lot of the newer members were really drawn," Smith said.

Bonham said that he felt Drazan was tenacious and talented, and also the last Republican standing in the Portland metro area.

"I think that you're going to see a new crop of Republicans — that are relatively new to this process — bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the campaign season," he said.

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