

IN BRIEF

Police ID suspect in Astoria robberies

A suspect has been identified in two recent robberies in Astoria. Astoria police say Donald Lee Sparling, 68, is wanted for a robbery that occurred at Wauna Federal Credit Union in Astoria on Friday morning and for a similar robbery at Lewis & Clark Bank on Commercial Street on June 30. Astoria police said that, during the Wauna robbery, Sparling wore a black baseball cap with a logo, sunglasses with blue polarization, a puffy orange jacket and black cargo pants. Witnesses saw Sparling head eastbound on foot toward Ticor Title on Bond Street after the robbery, police said. In both incidents, Sparling allegedly presented a note to a teller and left with money. Police have not disclosed the amount stolen from either location. Police ask anyone who sees Sparling to call 911, or call the department at 503-325-4411.

Warrenton public works chief exiting

WARRENTON — Collin Stelzig, the city's public works director, is resigning this month. Stelzig, who plans to open his own business, has worked with the city for over 20 years. He was promoted to director in 2017. His last day is set for July 20. City Manager Linda Engbretson said the city is looking at several interim options.

County reports virus death

Clatsop County has reported a 53rd coronavirus-related death. A 69-year-old woman died on June 21 at an area hospital, the county announced on Thursday. The woman was fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the county said.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

July 6, 2022

JAGGER, Donna Louise, 75, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Arson

• Preston Blake Powers, 18, a former Astoria resident, was indicted on July 5 for four counts of first-degree arson and two counts of second-degree arson. He was also indicted in a separate case in March on two counts of first-degree arson and two counts of second-degree arson. The two indictments cover crimes alleged to have occurred in Uppertown in January 2018.

Aggravated harassment

• Nathan Yesudas Sathya, 41, of Gold River, California, was indicted on June 16 for aggravated harassment and second-degree criminal trespass. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in Clatsop County earlier that month.

Attempted assault

Johnathan Lance Kvale, 28, of Newport,

was arrested on Tuesday at Merry Time Bar & Grill on Marine Drive in Astoria and cited for attempted assault of a public safety officer, two counts of first-degree criminal mischief, second-degree disorderly conduct, second-degree criminal trespass and resisting arrest.

Criminal mischief

• Michael John Licari, 52, of Seaside, was indicted on June 30 for first-degree criminal mischief and stalking. The crimes are alleged to have occurred earlier that month.

Unauthorized use of a vehicle

• Kathleen Marie Devore, 35, of Seaside, was arraigned on Tuesday on charges of unauthorized use of a vehicle and failure to carry or present a license. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in July 2021.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Port of Astoria Airport Advisory Committee, 4 p.m., terminal building, Astoria Regional Airport, 1110 S.E. Flight Line Dr., Warrenton.
Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Seaside City Council, 6 p.m., workshop on camping ordinance; 7 p.m., meeting, City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY

Clatsop Care Health Dis-

trict Board, 5 p.m., Patriot Hall, Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington Ave., Astoria.
Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., work session, 163 E. Gower Ave.
Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
Clatsop Community College Board, 6:30 p.m., 1651 Lexington Ave., Columbia 219, Astoria.

Measure to avert legislative walkouts qualifies for the ballot in November

Republicans walked out over cap and trade

By PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

Voters will decide on a measure aimed at deterring legislative walkouts by disqualifying lawmakers from seeking reelection if they have 10 or more unexcused absences.

The proposed constitutional amendment will appear on the November ballot after sponsors collected enough signatures.

The measure will join two others referred by the 2021 Legislature. One would declare health care a right under the state constitution. The other would remove constitutional language allowing slavery, known as "involuntary servitude," as a punishment for crime.

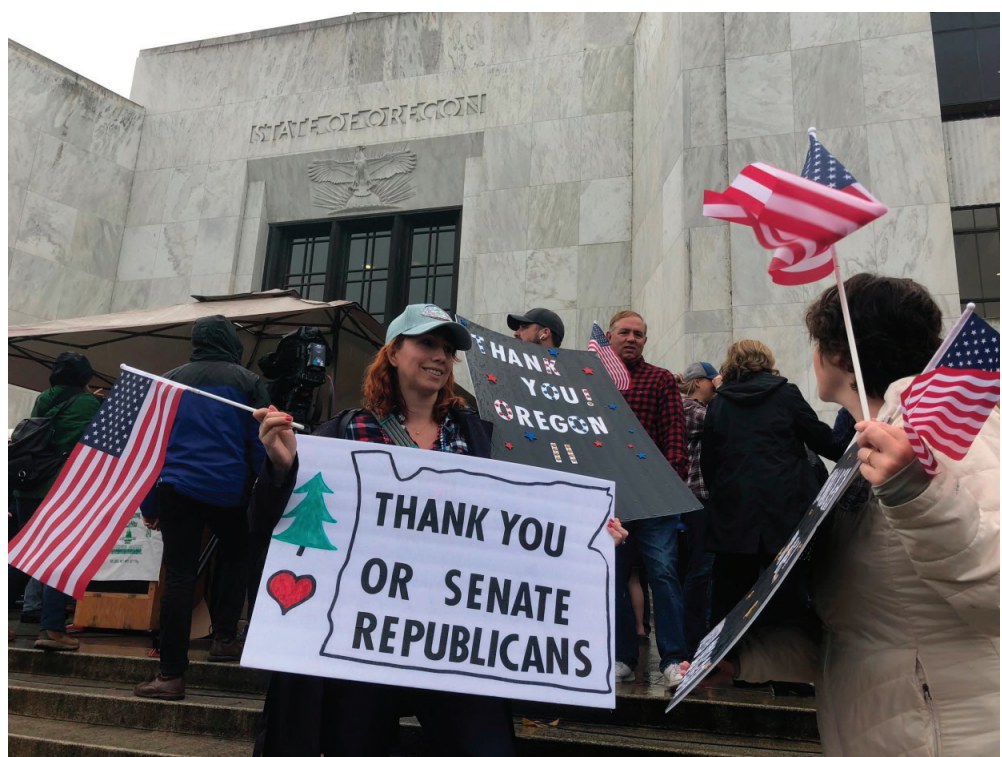
A pending measure would set new requirements for firearms permits and limit ammunition magazines to 10 rounds.

The state constitution requires the presence of two-thirds of the members in each chamber — 20 of 30 in the state Senate, 40 of 60 in the House — to conduct any business. In most other legislative chambers throughout the nation, the requirement is usually a simple majority of the members.

The measure was launched with the support of public employee unions opposed to walkouts by Republicans in the 2019, 2020 and 2021 legislative sessions.

Andrea Kennedy-Smith, a welfare worker from McMinnville, is a chief petitioner for the measure.

"If I didn't show up to work or if I made it impossible for other people to do their jobs, I would lose my job," she said when the signature-gathering drive began last year. "Republican senators even staged a walkout this year — in the



Sarah Zimmerman/AP Photo

Opponents of cap-and-trade legislation cheered Republicans who staged a walkout in 2019.

middle of the pandemic — as families were struggling with job loss, extra caregiving duties and the fear of illness just from going to the grocery store. This is why we have to come together and take a stand with these measures."

Advocates floated other proposals but concentrated on one.

Senate Republicans walked out in 2019 to stall a vote on a proposed corporate activity tax earmarked for school improvements. The vote went ahead after majority Democrats shelved some of their other legislative priorities for the session, and the bill passed despite Republican opposition.

Senate Republicans walked out in 2019, and Senate and House Republicans did so in 2020, to stall votes on proposed cap-and-trade legislation. Senate Republicans returned in 2019 after Democrats announced they did not have the votes to pass the legislation. But in 2020, the walkouts in both chambers prompted Democrats to shut down that session a few days before the deadline — and blocked

action on a host of bills, not just cap and trade. Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, then issued an executive order for the Environmental Quality Commission to come up with a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Senate Republicans walked out again in 2021, but only for a single day — and it was in protest of some of Brown's executive orders during the coronavirus pandemic.

House Democrats walked out for a week in 2001, when the Republican majority attempted to pass redistricting plans via resolution, which is not subject to a veto by the governor. Democrats returned after Senate leaders from both parties said they would have nothing to do with the House's proposed action.

Both chambers, then controlled by Republicans, passed redistricting plans that were vetoed by Gov. John Kitzhaber, a Democrat.

The Supreme Court ruled later in the year, when it largely upheld a legislative redistricting plan drawn up by Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, that legislators

could not enact a redistricting plan via resolution, only through the normal process of legislation.

In 1971, during a fight over whether 18-year-olds should be allowed to vote in state elections, Senate Democrats walked out to block an attempt to undo the legislation. Advocates seized their chance when the Senate president became acting governor in the absence of Tom McCall, who was out of state, and could not preside over the Senate. The line of succession changed in 1972 — the secretary of state is now next in line — and the governor remains governor during out-of-state travels.

The Senate president was one of two Democrats who joined 14 Republicans in what became the most recent coalition to run the Senate. The coalition lasted from 1957 through 1972.

The legislation passed, just before ratification of the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which set the national voting age at 18.

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Chief justice calls for immediate action on public defenders

By CONRAD WILSON
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Martha Walters seems increasingly impatient as the state continues to violate the constitutional rights of criminal defendants charged with crimes who cannot afford an attorney.

"Hundreds who are constitutionally entitled to counsel are being denied that right, and no end is in sight," Walters wrote in a letter sent July 1 to the eight commissioners who oversee the state's public defense agency.

Four times in her six-page letter Walters called on the board to direct the executive director of the Office of Public Defense Services to prepare a plan for presentation at a meeting later this month.

"The plan I am seeking is one that proposes immediate steps that will enable (the Public Defense Services Commission) to fulfill its obligation to provide lawyers for those who have a constitutional right to representation," Walters wrote.

While the chief justice did not name him in the letter, the person she asked commissioners to direct is Stephen Singer, who took over the Office of Public Defense Services in December.

Many of the problems facing the public defense system in Oregon date back years. Since last fall, the state has continued to charge people with crimes, despite the shortage of public

defenders. Some of those defendants are in custody.

Under the U.S. Constitution, criminal defendants have the right to an attorney. The state's failure to meet this obligation prompted a lawsuit in May.

"The chief justice is right," Singer wrote, by email, in response to her letter, "there needs to be a plan to address this crisis, but it is not one the agency can shoulder on its own. It will take all the stakeholders, the court system, the district attorneys, the Legislature, the governor, and lawyers across this state, to work together to change a system that has been broken this long."

A working group made up of state lawmakers, along with representatives from the governor's office and the judiciary, are meeting privately to address longer-term solutions to a crisis that has been building and well-documented for years.

Walters' letter indicates she wants more to be done immediately. At least publicly, the letter is among the most explicit acts Walters has taken to direct a state agency under her authority. In January, Walters emailed every member of the Oregon State Bar asking them to consider taking on public defense cases.

At the time, some criticized the email.

"Asking the civil bar to lend a hand as public defenders not only risks the continued compromising of the rights of individuals," said Bobbin Singh, the executive director of the Oregon Jus-

tice Resource Center, at the time, "but it sends an insulting message to public defenders about the skills and capacities required to represent individuals whose life and liberty hang in the balance."

In her letter last week to the public defense commissioners, Walters said the plan to address the immediate crisis should be specific, lay out the costs and explain how the agency will measure success.

"I realize that even an immediate, short-term plan may need to include a request to the Legislature to reallocate existing funds and provide new, additional funding," she wrote.

In February, when the shortage had clearly reached a crisis point, lawmakers agreed to give the Office of Public Defense Services an additional \$12.8 million so that the agency could contract more attorneys. That reactive spending is indicative of lawmakers' approach toward public defense.

For years, the Legislature has known about concerns facing the state's public defense system, but has failed to make sweeping reforms.

The chief justice has a unique relationship with public defense. While the agency is part of the judiciary, which she runs, she doesn't have direct oversight of the executive director. Rather, she appoints members to a commission that oversees the Office of Public Defense Services and its leader. Walters took over as the chief justice in 2018.

the Astorian

Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)

Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

DailyAstorian.com
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

Circulation phone number: 800-781-3214
Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR
ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP
All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Astorian become the property of The Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.
COPYRIGHT
Entire contents © Copyright, 2022 by The Astorian.



Subscription rates
Effective January 12, 2021

MAIL	
EZpay (per month)	\$10.75
13 weeks in advance	\$37.00
26 weeks in advance	\$71.00
	\$135.00

DIGITAL

EZpay (per month).....\$8.25

NEW DAYCARE - OPEN NOW!
Open year-round
3(Potty Trained) - 6 yo
Monday-Friday
8am dropoff - 5pm pickup

Located at **Lighthouse Christian Church**
on Dellmoor Loop Rd. Warrenton
Please call 503-738-5182 to Register Today

facebook /LighthouseChristianChurch101

Please ADOPT A PET!

BAILEY
Young Labrador Retriever

Stately in stature, well-behaved in manner, he is what friendship and happy pet memories are made of.

See more on **Petfinder.com**

CLATSOP COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER • 861-PETS
1315 SE 19th St. • Warrenton | Tues-Sat 12-4pm
www.dogsncats.org

THIS SPACE SPONSORED BY **BAY BREEZE BOARDING**