

## IN BRIEF

## Police arrest suspect in Astoria robberies

The man who police say is responsible for two recent robberies in Astoria has been arrested.

Astoria police said on Sunday that Donald Lee Sparling, 68, is in custody on charges unrelated to the robberies.

Sparling allegedly robbed Lewis & Clark Bank on Commercial Street on June 30 by presenting a note to a teller. On Friday, he allegedly robbed Wauna Federal Credit Union on W. Marine Drive in a similar manner.

Police have not disclosed the amount of money stolen from either location.

## Gould appointed to Gearhart City Council

GEARHART — Dana Gould, a former sheriff's deputy and emergency responder who has lived in Gearhart since 2018, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the City Council.

Gould was named to take the position of Kerry Smith, who became mayor after Paulina Cockrum resigned in June. Smith was sworn in on Wednesday.

— *The Astorian*

## DEATHS

July 10, 2022

EASLEY, Lucille Rose, 90, of Happy Valley, formerly of Astoria, died in Happy Valley. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

July 8, 2022

McVEY, Bobbie Eugene, 88, of Warrenton, died in Seaside. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

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July 5, 2022

SMITH, Lillian Darlene, 85, of Hammond, died in Seaside. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 26, 2022

FRISON, Jerry, 80, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## MEMORIALS

Saturday, July 16

GASCOIGNE, Derek Alan "Derk" — Celebration of life and open house from 1 to 4 p.m., Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. in Warrenton. Please bring stories to share.

HAUKE, Eric A. "Skip" — Celebration of

life from 1 to 4 p.m., Clatsop County Fairgrounds, 92937 Walluski Loop.

Saturday, Aug. 6

MENDENHALL, Joel Eric — Graveside service date has been changed from Saturday to Aug. 6 at 1 p.m., Ocean View Cemetery, 575 S.W. 18th St. in Warrenton.

## CORRECTION

**Incorrect reference** — As part of the redevelopment of a former elementary school in Cannon Beach, pedestrian trails and a foot bridge could connect the site to Ecola Creek Park and Les Shirley Park. An A1 story on Saturday incorrectly referred to Ecola Creek Forest Reserve.

## ON THE RECORD

DUII

• Sean Michael Burnside, 38, of Eugene, was arrested on Friday on Oregon Highway 103 for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving. He was allegedly involved in a crash.

• Colbey Michael Fair, 22, of Reno, Nevada, was arrested on July 4 at

E. Harbor Drive and S. Main Avenue in Warrenton for DUII. Fair was allegedly involved in a crash with a bicyclist.

• Daniel Ernest Charles Bean, 36, of Portland, was arrested on June 30 on U.S. Highway 26 near Saddle Mountain Road for DUII and reckless driving.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

**Clatsop Care Health District 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.

THURSDAY

**Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission**, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave.

**Warrenton Planning Commission**, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

FRIDAY

**Astoria City Council**, 9 a.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

## Wyden urges Congress to act on tech grants

McConnell warns he may derail package

By PETER WONG  
*Oregon Capital Bureau*

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, flanked by three high-tech executives from the region, gave his pitch for swift congressional action for billions of dollars to boost the nation's semiconductor manufacturing and research.

Some of that federal money is expected to come to Oregon, home of the "Silicon Forest" and many technology businesses, including chipmaker Intel, which with 22,000 workers is Oregon's largest private employer.

Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, said Oregonians may be baffled by complex explanations about the difficulties of supply chains leading to inflation rates not seen in four decades. But he said they understand one simple reason for a shortage of cars and other products — a lack of semiconductor chips, many of which are made outside the United States.

"They are certainly thinking about inflation and whether they will have access to products," he said Saturday. "It is clear as today is in Oregon.

"Computer chips have been essential to the quality of life in our state and country. It is just as clear that supporting domestic chip production is a must for lowering costs for U.S. consumers and increasing high-wage, high-skill jobs."

Wyden also said there is a national security argument for boosting domestic production of chips, given U.S. dependence on their manufacture in China — a global economic rival — and other Asian nations.

Wyden was joined at the Portland event by executives from Intel, nLIGHT and Microchip Technology Inc. All have their corporate headquarters outside Oregon, but all have manufacturing plants here — Intel in Hillsboro and Aloha, nLIGHT in Hillsboro and Vancouver, Washington, and Microchip Technology in Gresham.

The event was at Stark's Vacuum Cleaners on N.E. Grand Avenue. Wyden said it was an example of a family-owned business — it dates back 90 years — where the modern product now relies on



Intel Corp.

**Intel Corp. could seek federal grants to establish a regional technology hub.**

semiconductors.

In addition to leading the Senate Finance Committee, which writes tax legislation, Wyden is one of the congressional negotiators seeking to resolve differences between Senate and House versions of legislation aimed at boosting U.S. economic competitiveness.

## GOP leader's threat

Wyden spoke two days after Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican from Kentucky, said in a tweet he might derail the legislation in an evenly split Senate if majority Democrats proceed with unrelated proposals he objects to in a pending budget reconciliation measure. Among them are increased taxes on high-income earners, pricing limits on prescription drugs and tax incentives for clean energy.

"They are separate matters," Wyden said. "I will keep working with anybody who wants to give American workers and manufacturers the help they need now to strengthen the American economy. I believe we can help our country and outcompete China."

The original Senate version of the competitiveness legislation passed 68 to 32 — with votes from McConnell and 18 Republicans — back in June 2021. U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent who normally sides with Democrats, joined 31 Republicans in opposition. It is sponsored by three Democrats, including Wyden, and three Republicans.

The House passed a different version, largely along party lines, in February.

Among the differences are the proposed spending amounts. The House proposes \$52 billion for grants for semiconductor manufacturers, \$45 billion for supply chain improvements, and \$160 billion for research and

development. The Senate proposes \$50 billion for manufacturing grants, \$10 billion for the U.S. Department of Commerce to name cities as regional technology hubs and \$250 billion for research and development, but in a different way than the House bill.

President Joe Biden, on a brief stop in April at Portland International Airport, urged Congress to get moving on the legislation.

One of the other congressional negotiators is U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, a Democrat from Beaverton whose 1st Congressional District includes the Intel plants.

Wyden said he hopes Congress can move on a stand-alone bill before the summer recess starts in early August. Democrats, who have thin majorities in both chambers, have other options to advance it.

## Intel executive: Act now

At the event, an Intel executive said that without the pending legislation, the United States is likely to fall behind others that have increased their incentives for semiconductor manufacturing: the European Union, India, Japan and South Korea. This excludes China, which has loaned billions to its own manufacturing enterprises.

"The longer Congress delays in passing the act, the higher the risk that chip manufacturers will decide to invest and expand outside the United States," Gabriela Cruz Thompson, the senior director of university research and collaboration for Intel Labs, said.

"If we wish to retain advanced chipmaking capabilities, time is of the essence. There is bipartisan recognition that chips are critical to our nation and economic security. And there is bipartisan support for manufacturing here in the United States."

In January, Intel

announced a \$20 billion investment in two new chip-making plants near Columbus, Ohio — an announcement that drew criticism about why the plants were not built in Oregon. In April, Intel announced a \$3 billion expansion of its D1X development factory, which will be named in honor of Intel co-founder Gordon Moore on a 500-acre campus in Hillsboro's Ronler Acres.

Thompson said Intel will seek federal grants under the legislation to establish a regional technology hub — but also did not rule out grants for manufacturing outside Oregon.

"We are going to be getting funding especially to do research and development here in Oregon, the region and the Northwest — but also in other places in this country," she said.

Scott Keeney started nLIGHT about two decades ago in Seattle, but moved the company south to be closer to the cluster of businesses known as the Silicon Forest. Headquarters is in Camas, Washington, but nLIGHT which makes semiconductor lasers for consumer, industrial, and military and space uses — employs about 1,000 people at plants in Hillsboro and Vancouver.

"We wouldn't have a semiconductor industry without government support," Keeney said. "Maybe for the past 20 years, it has been less vital. But as we have seen the world change, it is absolutely vital."

Dan Malinaric is corporate vice president of Microchip Technology Inc., based in Chandler, Arizona. Its plant in Gresham employs 750 people. Others are in Arizona and Colorado.

Even with investments in Gresham that will triple its production, Malinaric said his company is hard-pressed to keep up with demand for semiconductors that are used in a wide range of products.

He said demand cannot be satisfied even through an expansion by TSMC (Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company), the world's largest. Taiwan is a self-governing island, but China asserts that Taiwan belongs to it — and China has made no secret that military force is not off-limits in reunification.

"The best investment we can make is in our existing plants," Malinaric said.

## Hunger remains a constant concern across Oregon

Bonamici hosted a roundtable

By ELIZABETH MILLER  
*Oregon Public Broadcasting*

Before the coronavirus pandemic, in 2019, the number of people seeking assistance through the Oregon Food Bank system was 863,000.

In 2020, that number was 1.7 million. The next year, 1.2 million.

But now, Oregon Food Bank CEO Susannah Morgan said that the number is "going back up."

"We are back in the worst level of hunger that this country has seen since the 1930s," Morgan said during a roundtable discussion on hunger Friday.

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici hosted the roundtable, asking advocates from local and state organizations in Oregon about the region's level of hunger and recent efforts to address food insecurity.

Bonamici acknowledged the recently signed Keep Kids Fed Act, which extends flexibility for meal programs operating this summer and next school year.

"I'm glad that Congress came together to extend the child nutrition waivers that were established at the beginning of the pandemic ... to make sure that children are not going hungry," the Oregon Democrat said.

Bonamici also men-



Oregon Food Bank

**The Oregon Food Bank said it is seeing an increase in demand for hunger assistance, like food boxes, after need had fallen from a high during the coronavirus pandemic.**

tioned her work on the 2020 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which includes funds to support meal costs for seniors, and she highlighted the upcoming White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, the second-ever conference of its kind and the first since 1969.

Bonamici said her office is preparing a report for the Biden administration and asked participants to share their ideas to address food insecurity. Questions Bonamici asked the group to consider include:

• What specific actions should the federal government, both Congress and the executive branch, be taking to end hunger, improve nutrition and eliminate disparities?

• How has your community been affected by hunger or diet-related disease?

• What existing federal programs are effective, and

what could be expanded or improved?

• What federal or state programs are not working?

• Are there barriers that could be removed by the federal government that would help ease your work on hunger and nutrition?

Participants mentioned bringing back the child tax credit and making permanent the federal waivers that offered flexibility for school meal programs during the pandemic.

Whitney Ellersick, the senior director of nutrition services at Portland Public Schools, noted how certain policy changes could interfere with providing food by sharing one family's story. She said the family filed a complaint because their child was unable to access free meals. Unlike the past two summers, grab-and-go meals for children are not allowed, and parents are unable to pick up meals for

their students.

"I just took a civil rights complaint for a family who has a student with special needs, where eating in the park is not an appropriate setting for their student," Ellersick said. "They tried, and that was not the right environment."

Ellersick said students and their families shouldn't have to file paperwork or complaints to access food.

Though the Keep Kids Fed Act may offer more flexibility for summer meals, rules are not yet in place to enforce the new law.

Next school year, there will be more changes. Federal flexibility that allowed for universal free meals has ended. Schools will return to offering free and reduced-price lunches based on family income, meaning some students will eat for free, with others paying. Ellersick said she will continue to advocate for free meals for any student that wants one.

"We don't charge a family for library books, right? Even if they can afford it, we don't charge them for library books within the schools," Ellersick said. "We don't charge them for certain things, but we do charge them for food based on their socioeconomics."

Other participants in the roundtable suggested adjusting the federal poverty limit and ensuring more opportunities for children and adults to learn about nutrition and where their food comes from.

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