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Inside the Capitol Senator Bruce Starr



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Starr Backs Sex Offender “One-Strike” Bill “These crimes are heinous and perpetrators should be treated accordingly,” said Starr

Sen. Bruce Starr (R-Hillsboro) thinks we need to be doing more to prevent tragedies like that of little Jessica Lunsford, the 9-year-old Florida girl who was kidnapped, raped and murdered by a convicted sex offender earlier this year.

He announced a proposal to enhance the penalties for those found guilty of these horrific crimes. [Senate Bill 1063](#) increases the mandatory minimum sentence for first degree sex abuse to 25 years and requires lifetime monitoring after release.

“Let’s protect our children” said Starr. “We need to do more to prevent these tragedies before they happen.”

In addition, those convicted of these crimes would be monitored electronically 24 hours a day. SB 1063 is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee awaiting a public hearing. [Click here to read more.](#)

Keeping Intel in Washington County Property Tax Exemptions Seen as Job Creators

Washington County and Hillsboro offered Intel a \$579 million incentive to continue investing in Oregon.

County commissioners and Hillsboro city councilors voted unanimously to approve an extension of Intel property tax exemptions on nearly \$25 billion in new equipment over 15 years, beginning in about 2010.

The chip maker will continue paying regular taxes on its land



Yahoo to Open Hillsboro Facility Bill Supported by Starr in 1999 Paying Dividends

Less than five years after its passage, Legislation supported by Senator Bruce Starr (R-Hillsboro) is attracting some of the fastest growing and most recognizable technology companies to Oregon.

Yahoo! recently announced plans to open a facility in Hillsboro creating 170 family wage jobs. In February, Google announced it was building a facility in The Dalles.

“This proves once again that when government concentrates on economic development—families and schools win,” said Starr.

These jobs would not have been possible without Senate Bill 622, passed in 1999, which provided access to high speed

and buildings until then.

fiber optic lines around the state.

Intel is Oregon's largest private employer, with 15,500 people working at seven campuses in the Hillsboro area.

[\(Click here for more\)](#)

Both Hillsboro and The Dalles are served by fiber optic loops and Yahoo! cited this access as one of its reasons for choosing Oregon. Oregon Health and Science University also uses this technology extensively to deliver health care services to rural parts of the state.

Senate Republicans Fight for Schools AND Seniors! Caucus Stands Up for Elderly and Disabled; Refuses to Back Dem Plan for Cuts

Republicans in the Oregon Senate say funding schools first is a priority but not on the backs of seniors and the disabled, fighting the state's meth epidemic, or training programs at community colleges.

With agreement legislators will spend no more and no less than \$12.393 Billion, Republicans say they are not willing to pit seniors against children.

Programs facing cuts under the Democrat spending plan include nursing, medicine, hospitals, clinics, community corrections, community colleges, higher education, prisons, Project Independence, and the Commission on Children and Families.

The Democrat plan passed mostly along party lines with one Democrat joining the Republicans.

Legislators Agree on Anti-Meth Package Bills Increases Sentences, Targets Parents who Expose Children to Meth

A bi-partisan coalition of Senate and House members recently completed work on a compressive package of legislation to address Oregon's growing methamphetamine epidemic. The plan incorporates ideas ranging from increasing jail time and treatment to a crack down on the chemicals used to make this dangerous drug.

The plan allows judges to hand down stiffer sentences for those convicted of methamphetamine production and distribution as well as for the theft of chemicals used to make the drug. Other elements include a ban on one of the most popular ingredients used by meth cooks, classifying methamphetamine related fires as first degree arson and expanding first degree child neglect to include exposing a child to a methamphetamine lab.

Perhaps the most innovative part of the package is the beefing up of Oregon's Drug Court system where those arrested for meth possession are given the choice of the Drug Court program or prison. The program is estimated to cost \$200 per month, which the participant must pay. Drug courts cost significantly less than incarceration but have shown great promise.

The bi-partisan agreement will be encapsulated into Senate Bill 907 and House Bill 2485. The Senate and the House are expected to take action in the next few weeks.

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