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ILWU dispute with EGT Development

Clash in Longview

LONGVIEW— Police officers clashed Sept. 7 with members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) who were blocking a train from delivering grain to a new terminal at the Port of Longview.

The incident led to a shutdown of ports in Seattle, Everett, Anacortes, and Tacoma the following day, where longshoremen refused to report to work for the day.

Longview-based ILWU Local 21 has been trying since January to secure an agreement with EGT Development to use longshore workers to operate a new \$200 million grain export terminal. EGT — a joint venture of Japan-based Itochu Corp, South Korea's STX Pan Ocean and St. Louis-based Bunge North America — leased the property from the Port of Longview, but insists it is not obligated to employ ILWU members. EGT has sued the Port in federal court to avoid hiring them.

ILWU has on several occasions

blocked trains from delivering grain to EGT and has held protest rallies, including one at EGT's corporate office in downtown Portland that drew more than 1,000 people.

More than 125 people have been arrested since the dispute began.

On the morning of Sept. 7, protesters gathered at the Port of Vancouver to block a 107-car Burlington Northern Santa Fe train headed to the EGT terminal to deliver grain. After a two-hour standoff with police, the train was let through.

Later that afternoon, some 400 protesters stood on the tracks at the entrance of the Port of Longview to prevent the train from entering.

According to union officials, 50 police in riot gear charged the group — which included women and children — using batons and pepper spray on some of the protesters. No one was seriously injured.

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On the railroad tracks in Longview, police move against ILWU members Sept. 7. EGT's lease with the Port requires that it employ ILWU members, but EGT is suing in federal court to get out of that. (Photo by Dawn Des Brisay)

Bakers battle prison bread in schools

By DON McINTOSH
Associate Editor

Pop quiz: What does it take to get a job making whole grain buns for the cafeteria at Mountain View High School in Vancouver, Washington?

Answer: A felony conviction.

At least eight school districts in the state of Washington serve baked goods made by inmates at the Airway Heights Correctional Facility, 10 miles west of Spokane.

At Airway Heights, inmates work at an on-site bakery making bread, buns, rolls, Danishes, cookies, and brownies. They're in for drug crimes, property crimes, violent crimes, or sex crimes.

The Airway Heights prison bakery is one of about three dozen enterprises run by Correctional Industries, a unit of the Washington Department of Corrections.

Danielle Wiles, Correctional Industries program manager in Olympia, told the Labor Press the program is intended to provide cost savings to the prison system, and work experience and training for offenders for when they're released back into the community.

Under Washington state law, prison enterprises may sell to state agencies,



Bakers Local 114 member Sergio Ayala, above, earns a union wage and benefits at Franz Bakery in Portland. But Franz finds itself competing for school district business with a prison-run bakery near Spokane.

school districts, and non-profits, but not to the private sector. The law says Correctional Industries is not supposed to "unfairly compete with Washington businesses." And its funds are to be in-

vested in work programs that "minimize the impact on in-state jobs and businesses."

But Correctional Industries does im-

(Turn to Page 2)

Multnomah Co. chair steps in to end union standoff

AFSCME Local 88 members will vote on a new three-year contract with Multnomah County.

Members of AFSCME Local 88 will vote Sept. 28 and 29 on a new three-year union contract covering about 2,800 employees of Multnomah County.

The two sides reached agreement Aug. 31 after Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen stepped in to end a months-long standoff. Cogen, joined by the county's newly hired labor relations director, was able to reach an agreement in a few hours of bargaining. Until then, the county's chief negotiator had been labor relations consultant Diana Moffat, who was paid \$75,000 to lead bargaining.

Local 88 president Michael Hanna said Moffat's approach was to stall, and then object when the union appealed for intervention from county

decision-makers. It was a big departure from the collaborative relationship the two sides had developed in recent years. In 2007, the county and the union used a problem-solving approach in bargaining, and in 2009, the union volunteered a wage freeze to prevent layoffs. Now, Hanna said, Local 88 was treated in bargaining like an enemy. The county insisted on a two-year contract that eliminated job security and overtime protections, offered no raise in the first year, and opened health benefits to renegotiation in the second year.

"We were at a crossroads, and things were getting ready to go off the rails," Hanna told the Labor Press. "We didn't know if our members were ready to strike, but our bargaining team was resolutely not going to budge."

But the county dropped its concessionary demands when Cogen entered bargaining. Hanna said the new deal is a fair one.

"I wasn't looking at this from the

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...Prison bread

(From Page 1)

pact the private sector. Prison-made baked goods have been displacing goods made by law-abiding workers on the outside, such as the unionized workers at Franz Bakery, which has operations in Oregon and Washington.

That rankles Terry Lansing, secretary-treasurer of 1,160-member Bakers Local 114. Lansing says in the competition for school district business, Correctional Industries is undercutting family-owned Franz, a union employer since 1910.

Inmates at the Airway Heights bakery don't pay taxes. They can't unionize. And they're paid 55 cents to \$1.75 an hour for their work. [The state takes up to 90 percent of that for crime victim restitution, legal obligations, costs of incarceration, and savings for when they're released.]

At Franz, by contrast, workers earn \$19 to \$24 an hour, with fully-paid medical and pension benefits, a guaranteed work week, and overtime pay after seven hours in a day.

"These are jobs we want to preserve," Lansing said. "[Our members] are taxpayers, and our taxes support the school districts."

In a 2010 interview with the Labor Press, Franz Spokane-area general manager Tim Harper wouldn't disclose the dollar amount or volume of busi-

ness lost, but said it's significant.

"We definitely had to make cutbacks because of it," Harper said.

Harper said 2009 was the first school year that Franz didn't have the contract for Central Valley School District in Spokane. Employees at the Franz bakery in Spokane had children in the district, and were outraged about the switch to prison-made bread, Harper said. They spoke out at PTA meetings but got nowhere.

Franz competes with the prison bakery for school district contracts, but the company has been reluctant to go public criticizing the prison bakery. One

Who's eating prison-made baked goods?

The following school districts serve baked goods produced at Airway Heights Correctional Facility:

Auburn School District
Highline School District
Federal Way School District
South Kitsap School District
Blaine School District
Spokane School District #81
Mead School District
Central Valley School District
Mt. View School District

reason is that Food Services of America, which distributes the prison-made bread to schools, is an important Franz customer. Also, Franz doesn't want to publicly criticize the school districts for buying prison bread, since the company hopes to win back their business.

But Lansing, at the Bakers union, is free to speak his mind. He has one question for the districts: "Do the parents know you're feeding their kids prison bread?"

For over a year, Lansing has campaigned against serving prison-made baked goods in schools.

"I am positive that most parents would not allow a time-serving convict into their kitchen to prepare their child's meals, yet I believe that is what your School District is doing," Lansing wrote in a letter to the Clatskanie School District.

In letters to the districts, Lansing raises concerns about safety and the ethics of forced labor.

Wiles, at Correctional Industries, has answers to some of those charges. The labor is not forced, she says. Inmates must take part in some kind of rehabilitative program, but they don't have to work specifically at Correctional Industries. They can take classes or take part in treatment instead. Inmates can receive prison discipline for refusing some prison jobs, like cleaning, but they can't be disciplined for refusing to work in the bakery or other Correctional Industries enterprises.

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ATU #757 voices race concerns at TriMet

A report commissioned by the union finds minority employees more likely to be disciplined.

Amalgamated Transit Union Local (ATU) 757 is publicly calling out its biggest employer, TriMet, over how the transit agency treats minority employees.

About a year and a half ago, the union contracted with Stephen Johnson, a sociologist and statistician, to analyze TriMet disciplinary data to see if there was evidence of disparate treatment. Johnson and fellow researcher Christine McCaslin looked at TriMet data from 2000 to 2009. They found that minority employees made up about 17 percent of the TriMet workforce, but accounted for 24 percent of the disciplinary actions over that time. In nine of the 10 years, minority employees were more likely to be disciplined than their numbers would have suggested.

"We don't know why," Local 757 attorney Susan Stoner told the Labor Press. "We just noticed there seemed to be a disproportionate amount of discipline of minority employees." That led Local 757 to commission the report, Stoner said.

According to Johnson's report, over the 10 year-period, of the 226 employees terminated for cause, 62 were minorities; and of the 1,585 who received some form of discipline, 381 were minorities. In the termination cases, the most common reasons cited were poor job attendance and time lost at work. The report acknowledges that discrimination is notoriously difficult to document. But it concluded that some form of further investigation might be war-

ranted.

Earlier this year, Local 757 made the report available to several lawyers representing clients in discrimination lawsuits against TriMet. TriMet was given a copy in late spring. Now the union is publishing it on its web site, atu757.org.

TriMet spokesperson Mary Fetsch said she hadn't seen the report, but said the agency would welcome a dialogue with the union about it.

Fetsch also disputed the notion that TriMet would treat employees differently based on race.

"We're an equal opportunity employer, and we make no race-based distinctions in employment decisions," Fetsch told the Labor Press.



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... Police, ILWU clash

(From Page 1)

In a media briefing, Cowlitz County Sheriff Mark Nelson said police were trying to disperse the crowd through a public address system, but their orders were shouted down.

"We've danced this dance before," Nelson said. "When our officers went in to make peaceful, lawful trespass arrests, they were rushed by a mob of hundreds of protesters who were resistive and throwing things at the officers."

In all, 19 protesters were arrested. "Everyone came to the tracks on their own free will to stand up for justice and protect good jobs in this community," said ILWU International President Bob McEllrath, who stood with the protesters and was detained by police, but not arrested. "It shouldn't be a crime to fight for good jobs in America."

McEllrath told protesters after he met with police that: "You can get maced and tear-gassed and clubbed (today)" or wait for longshore support from all over the West Coast when the next train tries to enter the EGT terminal.

"If we leave here, it doesn't mean that we gave up and quit," he said. "It means we're coming back."

Early the following morning, on Sept. 8, hundreds of ILWU members reportedly stormed the EGT terminal, broke down the gates, overpowered security guards, damaged railroad cars, and dumped grain, according to Longview Police Chief Jim Duscha.

Fifty police officers from Kelso, Longview, Cowlitz County, the Washington State Patrol, Woodland, Kalama and the Burlington Northern Railroad responded to the scene. No one was injured, and there were no arrests, Duscha said.

The Longview Daily News reported that grain was spilled from about 70 of the 107 cars.

Associated Press reported that security guards were held hostage.

"That didn't happen," Craig Merrilees, communications director of the ILWU, told Carlisle, Pennsylvania, radio host Rick Smith on the Rick Smith Show. "The reporter and the police



Police detain ILWU International President Robert McEllrath for standing with his members against multinational EGT. (Photo by Dawn Des Brisay)

chief who was responsible for that erroneous information recanted that account," Merrilees said.

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Trumka: ILWU dispute with #701 is jurisdictional

A resolution adopted by the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board condemning Operating Engineers Local 701 in a work dispute with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) at the Port of Longview has been nullified by national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka.

ILWU presented the resolution to the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board on July 29, charging that Local 701 was "aiding and abetting" an employer that the ILWU had a dispute with.

Longview-based ILWU Local 21 has been trying to secure an agreement with EGT Development to use longshore workers to operate its new \$200 million grain export terminal under a "Working Agreement" the union has with the Port of Longview that covers the operation of ship and barge docks, handling cargo, and facility operations.

EGT Development, a joint venture of Japan-based Itochu Corp, South Korea's STX Pan Ocean and St. Louis-based Bunge North America, leased the property from the Port of Longview and argues that it is not obligated to use ILWU members. EGT has sued the Port in federal court to avoid hiring ILWU members.

Talks between EGT and ILWU broke off earlier this year.

In July, EGT signed a five-year agreement with General Construction

Co. of Federal Way, Washington, to run the terminal. Employees there are represented by members of Gladstone-based Operating Engineers Local 701.

The motion to adopt the resolution condemning Local 701 for taking the work was ruled out of order by Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain, who determined it was a dispute over jurisdiction. But the board overturned him and passed it by a wide margin.

Both ILWU and Operating Engineers Local 701 are affiliates of the AFL-CIO at the state and national levels.

In his ruling, Trumka said Chamberlain was correct to rule the resolution out of order. "The work at issue involves a jurisdictional dispute," he wrote, pointing out that jurisdictional disputes are governed and settled by Article 20 of the AFL-CIO Constitution. "In view of these provisions, neither the Oregon AFL-CIO, nor any other AFL-CIO state, area, or local central body has authority to intervene or take sides."

In conclusion, Trumka wrote: "Let me be clear that this letter concerns simply the issue of the authority of the state federation to take action relating to jurisdictional disputes. This should not be construed as a judgment on the merits of the dispute."



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Official Notices

AUTO MECHANICS 1005

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12.

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, preceded by a 9 a.m. shop stewards' training session.

ALL MEMBERS are invited to shop stewards' training. Stewards must attend steward meeting to be compensated.

PLEASE NOTE: Rochelle Conrad will be available from 8 a.m. to noon during the Regular Lodge meeting to answer any questions you may have about Health and Welfare and Pension plans.

All meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

BAKERY, CONFECTIONERY, TOBACCO WORKERS AND GRAIN MILLERS 114

Executive Board meets 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, in the meeting room at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland.

BOILERMAKERS 500

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, at 2515 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland.

BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS 1

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

CEMENT MASONS 555

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

CENTRAL OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26, at UA 290 Training Center, 2161 SE 1st St., Redmond.

COLUMBIA-PACIFIC BUILDING TRADES

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 20, Sept. 27 and Oct. 4, in Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Women of 48 meets 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at Chapel Pub, 430 N Killingsworth St, Portland

Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, in the Executive Boardroom

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 21 and Oct. 5, in the Executive Boardroom

Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 26, the Meeting Hall

General Membership Meeting meets 6:30pm Wednesday, Sept. 28, in the Meeting Hall. Doors open at 5:30pm for BBQ.

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, in the Executive Boardroom

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, in the Dispatch Lobby

Sound and Communication Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, in the Meeting Hall

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, at Northern Wasco County PUD, 2345 River Road, The Dalles

Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria

Washington Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at Round Table Pizza, 5016 NE Thurston, Vancouver

Meetings are at 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland, unless otherwise noted.

DEATH ASSESSMENTS: The following deaths have been declared: No. 2279, Richard L. Dale; No. 2280, Clolon O. Albright; No. 2281, Murl Young; and No. 2282, Robert J. Rosenboom. The Sept. 2011 assessment is \$1.50.

IBEW 280

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Redmond.

Joint Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way Portland, OR. PLEASE NOTE: Nominations for all positions will take place at this meeting.

Open positions include: President; Vice President; Treasurer; Recording Secretary; Warden; Correspondent, two

(2) Executive Board positions; and one (1) Board of Trustee position.

FIRE FIGHTERS 1660

Members meet 8 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego.

FIRE FIGHTERS 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

GLASS WORKERS 740

PLEASE NOTE: SPECIAL CALL meetings will be held to vote on allocation of the October 1, 2011 Wage-Benefit increase.

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield. PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem. PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.

Executive Board members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

INSULATORS 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12. Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14.

Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

IRON WORKERS 29

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #200, Portland.

IRON WORKERS SHOPMEN 516

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

LABORERS 320

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at Joe Edgar Hall, Teamsters' Complex, 1850 NE 162nd Ave., Portland.

LABORERS 483

Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

LABORERS/VANCOUVER 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3, preceded by a 6:15 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the Vancouver Labor Center, 2212 NE Andresen Rd., Vanc., Wash.

LANE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

LANE, COOS, CURRY & DOUGLAS BCTC

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Pkwy., Springfield.

LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, preceded by a 6:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236

Portland area members meet 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. PLEASE NOTE: This is a SPECIAL CALL meeting to vote on the allocation of the wage increase effective Oct. 1, 2011.

Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

MACHINISTS 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, preceded by a 9 a.m. stewards' meeting.

Meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone. PLEASE NOTE: Nominations for two (2) Executive Board positions will take place at this meeting.

MACHINISTS 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 10.

Regular membership meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12.

Shop stewards' training session 9 a.m. Saturdays, Sept. 17 and Oct. 15.

Meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

MARION-POLK-YAMHILL LABOR COUNCIL

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, followed by a 7 p.m. general meeting at 2110 State St., Salem.

METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27. Executive Board meets 10.m. Thursday, Oct. 13.

Meeting are at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

MOLDERS 139B

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY EMPLOYEES 88

General membership meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept.

21, preceded by a 6 p.m. stewards' meeting. Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5. Meetings are held at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

The September meeting has been canceled.

PAINTERS & DRYWALL FINISHERS 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. www.iupatlocal10.org.

PLASTERERS 82

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

PORTLAND CITY & METROPOLITAN EMPLOYEES 189

General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 4701 E Burnside, Portland.

PLEASE NOTE DATE AND LOCATION CHANGE.

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 6025 E Burnside, Portland.

ROOFERS & WATERPROOFERS 49

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6. Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13.

Meetings are at 5032 SE 26TH Ave., Portland (503 232-4807).

SALEM BCTC

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent.

SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, at Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Local 16 Hall, 1887 Laura St., Springfield.

Coos Bay area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

SIGN PAINTERS & PAINT MAKERS 1094

Members meet 3:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

SOUTHERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy.#3, Central Point.

SOUTHWESTERN OREGON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3, at the Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend.

SW WASHINGTON LABOR COUNCIL

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at the ILWU Local 4 Hall, 1205 Ingalls St., Vancouver, Wash.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 517 Railroad St., Brookings.

Coos Bay area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 4816 S., 6th St., Klamath Falls.

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, at 950 Industrial Circle, White City.

Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall, The Dalles.

Humboldt-DeI Norte Co. area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the Eureka Training Center, 634 California St., Calif.

UNITED STEELWORKERS 1097

Members meet 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, preceded by a 5:45 p.m. Executive Board meeting, in the union office building, Westport.

LERA breakfast Oct. 4 to focus on pensions

“Pension Plans: Bargaining Challenges in Today’s Economic Environment” will be the topic of the Oregon chapter of the Labor Employment Relations Association (LERA) breakfast Tuesday, Oct. 4.

Experts from the public and private sectors will discuss the legal framework of pension plans, plan designs, rehabilitation plans, bargaining challenges, strategies, and opportunities.

Panelists will include Peter Sturdivan of Milliman Inc.; Attorney Greg Hartman of Bennett, Hartman, Morris and Kaplan; Steve Manton, a policy analyst for the City of Portland; Tim Gauthier, executive director of the Oregon-Columbia chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association; and Joe Kear, a union representative of the International Association of Machinists.

The breakfast will be held at Clackamas Community College/PGE Building at Town Center Loop in Wilsonville from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Jim Bailey at baileyarbit@gmail.com.

Retiree Meeting Notices

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED

AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER
Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, followed by an 11 a.m. General membership meeting in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland.
All retirees are welcome to attend.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 280
Retirees meet between 11:45 a.m. and noon Monday, Oct. 10, at Home-town Buffet on Lancaster in Salem, in Lancaster Mall. If you have any questions, please give Don Ball a call at 541-327-3388.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS 23
Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, at Denny’s Restaurant, 12101 SE 82nd Avenue, Happy Valley.

Retirees meet noon Tuesday, Oct. 11, at Westmoreland Union Manor, Portland.

GLASS WORKERS 740
Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at Izzy’s Pizza & Buffet, 1307 NE 102nd Ave. & Halsey, Portland.

INSULATORS 36
Retiree breakfast 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236
Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 14, at Izzy’s Pizza & Buffet, 1307 NE 102nd Ave. & Halsey, Portland.

MACHINISTS
Retirees meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 25 Cornell, Gladstone,

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL
Business meeting from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 10, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, #103-A, Portland.

OREGON AFSCME
Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 1-800-521-5954, ext. 226.

TRANSIT 757
Retirees meet 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290
Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

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Local Motion

August 2011

A list of Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces deciding whether to be union-represented – as reported by the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

Voting in union elections

Date	Workplace (Location) Union	Yes	No	
6/29	Childrens Farm Home (Corvallis) SEIU 503	59	59	👉
8/10	Planned Parenthood (Portland, Bend, Salem) SEIU 49	97	43	👉
8/22	City of Milton-Freewater Police (Milton-Freewater) MFPA	11	0	👉

Requesting a union election

Workplace (Location) Union	Number of workers in unit
Parry Center for Children (Portland) SEIU Local 503 DECERT	120
Architectural Metal Works (Portland) Sheet Metal Workers Locals 16, 66, 55	45
Kaiser Permanente membership services (Portland) SEIU Local 49 DECERT	96

LEGEND

👉 : workers will be union-represented 👉 : workers will be on their own

DECERT : A decertification election occurs when some union-represented workers declare that the union no longer has majority support. A 'yes' vote is a vote for the union.

Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington banquet Sept. 30

The Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington will host its annual Labor Awards Banquet Friday, Sept. 30, at the Vancouver Hilton, 301 West 6th Street Vancouver, Washington.

A no-host bar will be provided starting at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m.

The annual event recognizes labor unions, labor organizations, labor leaders, and union allies for their outstand-

ing service not only to the labor movement, but to the community as well.

Tickets are \$60 per person or \$480 for a table of eight.

The Roundtable also suggests each person donate an item for a door prize.

For more information, or to order tickets, call 360-921-2864 or e-mail eboctran@comcast.net.

SW Washington CLC ends Columbian boycott; endorses city council pols

VANCOUVER — The Southwest Washington Central Labor Council has ended its boycott of the Columbian newspaper.

The daily newspaper, which covers the greater Vancouver/Southwest Washington area, was put on the “Do Not Patronize” list in February after delegates complained of slanted coverage against unions and public employees. The resolution calling for the boycott instructed delegates to revisit the action at the end of July to determine whether or not the newspaper had expanded its coverage “to represent all of the community.” If it did, the boycott would be withdrawn.

During that time period, the boycott was joined by the Portland-based Northwest Oregon Labor Council; the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council; as well as many of the 39 labor organizations affiliated with the Southwest Washington CLC. Rank-and-file union members were encouraged to cancel their subscriptions and politicians were asked not to advertise in the newspaper.

However, at the labor council’s monthly meeting in August, delegates decided that coverage had become more favorable, so the boycott was lifted.

“Not everyone was in favor of ending our action against the Columbian,” said Secretary-Treasurer Roy Jennings, a member of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757. “Some of our delegates still believe the newspaper has an

anti-labor sentiment. While we can agree to disagree on many issues, we believe that at this time the Columbian has reached a turning point. Clearly the Columbian has done better in its reporting.”

The labor council has invited publisher Scott Campbell to attend its meeting Oct 27. It also posted on its web site a link directing union members how to subscribe to the newspaper.

In other action at the August meeting, the labor council issued the following political endorsements:

- Re-elect Bart Hansen for Vancouver City Council, Position 4. Hansen was appointed to the council in January

2010, filling the seat vacated by Tim Leavitt after he was elected mayor. He won the seat outright in a special election last year.

- Elect challenger Anne McEnerny-Ogle to Vancouver City Council, Position 6.

The Vancouver City Council is non-partisan.

- Re-elect Jim Irish mayor of La Center.

- Support Proposition 1, to increase the sales tax by 0.2 percent (2 cents on a \$10 purchase) to preserve C-TRAN local fixed route, limited, commuter and connector service

The general election is Nov. 8.

Anti-union initiative withdrawn

Without explanation, sponsors of an anti-union ballot initiative effort withdrew their initiative on Aug. 30, just four weeks after they turned in 1,484 signatures to get the process started.

The initiative was aimed at making it harder for public employee union members to give to their unions’ political funds, and had the fingerprints of business lobbyist Mark Nelson on it. Chief petitioner Mel Zucker told the Labor Press that conservative former Oregonian columnist David Reinhard, who works for Nelson, was central to the effort. But neither Reinhard nor either of the chief petitioners returned calls from the Labor Press seeking explanation as to why the measure was

withdrawn. The initiative was in an early stage and had not yet been approved to circulate.

Resources could be part of the answer; Zucker told Oregonian reporter Jeff Mapes that the campaigners didn’t get support they thought they were promised.

A similar initiative — sponsored by an associate of perennial union foe Bill Sizemore — may still be gathering signatures for the 2012 ballot. The union-backed ballot initiative watchdog group Defend Oregon is calling on supporters to report sightings of signature gatherers at www.defendoregon.org/petitions.html.



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Union families celebrate Labor Day at picnics in Oregon

Jobs and the economy were on the minds of many attending union-sponsored Labor Day picnics in Oregon.

An estimated 20,000 people showed up at Oaks Park in Southeast Portland for a gathering sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council. Among the crowd was U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, Portland Mayor Sam Adams, Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen, Attorney General John Kroger, and State Treasurer Ted Wheeler.

Numerous other elected officials and political candidates used the day to mingle and introduce themselves to union members.

The message labor delivered to politicians at every picnic in the state was to get some backbone and start standing up vocally for public- and private-sector workers, who continue to take the brunt of the blame for the poor economy.

“The answer to what ails this country is a good-paying job with benefits,” said Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain. “A job is the answer to the low-income housing shortage; it is the path to quality education; a job decreases the crime rate; and a job will increase revenue for the state and city so that we can afford to provide vital services.”

At Oaks Park, Sen. Merkley said the time is ripe for investing in infrastructure. “Infrastructure is jobs. We need to do a lot more nation building here in America, and if that means doing a lot less by ending the war in Afghanistan and bringing those funds home, that’s what we need to do. Less nation building abroad and more nation building at home.”

But the day wasn’t all about politics. Many people came for the grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken, music, bingo, horseshoes, raffles, face painting, dunk tanks, and carnival rides.

Picnics were held at Ferry Road Park in North Bend sponsored by the Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council; at Jasper Park in Pleasant Hill arranged by the Lane County Labor Council; at Tou Velle State Park in Central Point sponsored by the Southern Oregon Central Labor Council; at Riverfront Park in Salem organized by the Marion-Polk-Yamhill Central Labor Council; at Sorosis Park Shelter in The Dalles sponsored by the Mid-Columbia Central Labor Council; and at Pioneer Park in Bend hosted by the Central Oregon Central Labor Council.



Letter carrier Jamie Partridge gathers signatures at Oaks Park for petitions calling on Congress and the U.S. Postal Service and its Board of Governors to “Save Our Postal Service” and six-day delivery. One of the petitions seeks Congressional approval of HR 1351, a bill that would correct the overfunding of the Postal Service’s pension accounts and bring the Postal Service into financial solvency, with no use of taxpayer money.



The mother and daughter duo of Tami and Sarah Marston (photo left) performed labor songs at Tou Velle State Park. The picnic, which drew more than 200 people, was sponsored by the Southern Oregon Central Labor Council. (Photos by Wes Brain)



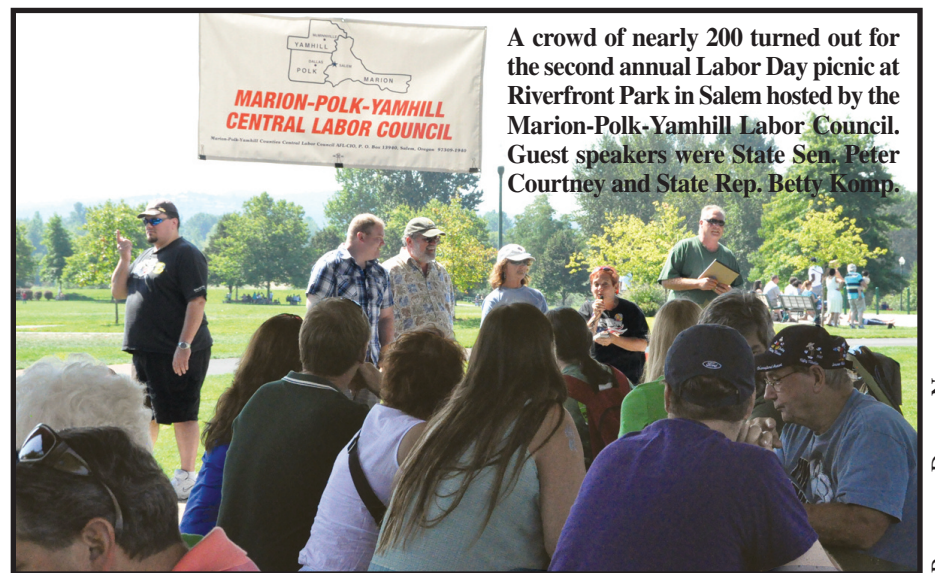
Portland mayor Sam Adams took a turn in the dunk tank at Oaks Park to raise money for Labor’s Community Service Agency.



Gene Thrasher, a school bus driver in Bend, flips burgers at Solidarity Day picnic at Pioneer Park.



The Oregon AFL-CIO held a press conference under the Sellwood Bridge following speeches at the Labor Day picnic at Oaks Parks to discuss the need to focus on job creation projects. At the podium is Melinda Clark, an unemployed member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16. Behind her is U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), who called for greater spending on the nation’s infrastructure. “We need to do a lot more nation building here in America, and if that means doing a lot less by ending the war in Afghanistan and bringing those funds home, that’s what we need to do,” Merkley said.



A crowd of nearly 200 turned out for the second annual Labor Day picnic at Riverfront Park in Salem hosted by the Marion-Polk-Yamhill Labor Council. Guest speakers were State Sen. Peter Courtney and State Rep. Betty Komp.

PHOTO BY DONNA NYBERG

... New contract adds right to 'Flextime'

(From Page 1)

point of view of trying to have management get a 'win,'" Cogen told the Labor Press. "My goal was to find a win-win."

Details were mailed to members Sept. 9. About 85 percent of those covered by the contract are full-fledged union members; only members may vote on the contract.

The new agreement includes individual step increases as well as across-the-board cost-of-living increases: 1.2 percent immediately, retroactive to July 1; 0 percent in the second year; and 1 to 4 percent in the third year, linked to the Consumer Price Index. A side agreement commits the county to use savings from the second year cost-of-living freeze to prevent layoffs of Local 88 members.

And in a non-binding side agreement, the county will aim for a county-wide ratio of one manager for every seven or eight workers. Currently the ratio is 1 to 6.5, Hanna said. Cogen said the change would save at least \$3.5 million over the next two years. The idea of slimming down management ranks was first raised as a union issue at the state level earlier this year, and a new state law calls for a 1 to 11 ratio at large state agencies.

"[Local 88] understood that these are tough times, and that everyone needs to sacrifice," Cogen said. "But they wanted to make sure that it was fair and equitably distributed — that labor would feel it, management would feel it, and we'd try to do it in a way that will preserve services to the com-



Can you hear me now? Above, a participant at a June 30 rally calls Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen. On Aug. 31, Cogen intervened in bargaining and was able to reach in a few hours the agreement that had eluded the parties for six months.

munity."

The contract also preserves existing health and retirement benefits, as well as the right of laid-off workers with seniority to "bump" into positions elsewhere in the County that they are qualified for. And it continues the county's "Project Save" policy, in which workers slated for layoff may take a demotion into a vacant position.

New non-binding language in the contract commits Local 88 to support the county's sustainability principles, which include energy efficiency, recycling, and resource reduction measures; the contract also continues the county's commitment to provide an annual bus pass as an employee benefit.

And the contract includes a non-

monetary benefit that Local 88 members had identified as a priority: A committee composed of representatives of labor and management will work out details of a policy to allow employees flexibility in their work schedule. Under the policy, which will be implemented July 1, 2012, employees will have some choice in how they set their schedule unless management can show a strong business reason not to allow it.

"To me it's just a good idea," Cogen said. "We think it's better for family life. There are times when it's better for customer service. And it will make our employees happier."

Once members approve the contract, it will go to the county board for ratification.

...Prison bread

(From Page 2)

not Washington inmates.

Lansing also got the Southwest Washington Central Labor Council to include the issue in a questionnaire given to candidates seeking labor's endorsement.

Is the Bakers' campaign paying off? Several Oregon and Washington school districts that served prison-made baked goods last year have backed off as of this school year. It could be because of concern about bad press. Or it could be that — as several third-party distributors told the Labor Press — Franz is dropping its prices to win back the business. Lansing and the distributors also said districts have complained of poorly cut bread and other quality problems. Plus, Airway Heights bread and rolls come frozen; districts may prefer to serve fresh bread.

Lansing intends to continue the campaign.

At the upcoming Oregon AFL-CIO convention, Bakers Local 114 is introducing a resolution calling on union members to tell the Bakers Union if they see prison bread in schools, and for the Oregon AFL-CIO to demand its removal.

"It's one thing to have your child sit on a chair made by inmates," Lansing told the Labor Press. "It's another to have them consume food."

Moreover, to work in the bakery, inmates must apply and be interviewed, must have served at least the last six months of their sentence without infractions, and must have a high school diploma or GED or be working toward one. As for safety concerns, Wiles says civilian staff supervise the inmates and follow all USDA and health regulations. To prevent inmates from using the bakery operation to import contraband, Wiles said, supplies are also handled by staff.

Sometimes, Lansing's letters get a response. "The state of Washington does not fully fund education," Walla Walla school board president Cindy Meyer replied in a letter. "Yet our expectations for quality remain high in every area. We would not be good stewards of the limited tax dollars we receive if we were to spend more for a quality product than we had to."

Lansing has also found support among union members who serve the food, such as Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA). Last October, the OSEA local at St. Helens School District in St. Helens, Oregon, wrote to the school board formally requesting that the district's nutrition program buy baked goods from Oregon providers,

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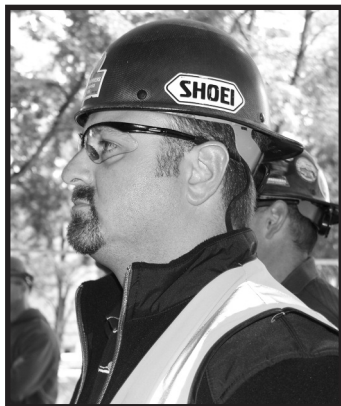
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Merkley visits trades job site



Above, members of United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) Local 290 get a visit Sept. 1 from U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley. Merkley was given a tour of the Edith Green Wendell Wyatt Federal Building, which was stripped down to girders and is being reconstructed as one of the most environmentally sustainable federal office buildings in the country. Work on the 512,400 square foot project is being performed under the terms of a project labor agreement signed by 24 local unions. At the time of the visit, 17 plumbers, 17 pipefitters, at least 12 ironworkers, and smaller numbers of other craftworkers were employed on the project. At the end of the tour, Merkley was on hand as Iron Workers Local 29 member Barney Volk (right) was honored for outstanding work.



Oregon AFL-CIO convention to include congressional debate

Delegates from labor unions around Oregon will convene in Eugene Sept. 26 for the Oregon AFL-CIO biennial convention. Oregon AFL-CIO is the state's premier labor union federation, made up of affiliated locals from about 40 international unions with a total of about 112,000 members.

Highlights of the three-day meeting will include a 45-minute debate among candidates for the 1st Congressional District seat vacated by David Wu, a visit from Gov. John Kitzhaber, and a presentation from Karen Nussbaum, executive director of the national AFL-CIO's community affiliate Working America.

Other guest speakers include U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, AFL-CIO Industrial Council Director Bob Baugh, Oregon House Democratic leader Tina Kotek,

British Columbia Labor Federation President Jim Sinclair, and national AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt-Baker.

Delegates will vote on policy resolutions, and will choose the state labor federation's officers for the next four years. As of press time, President Tom Chamberlain and Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Byrd were expected to run for re-election. No other candidates are expected to run.

The convention will take place at the Eugene Hilton Hotel & Convention Center. Workers there are not union-represented, but the Portland-headquartered hotel workers union UNITE HERE Local 9 has no objection to meeting there; for now only three hotels in Oregon are union-represented, all in Portland.

... Clash in Longview

(From Page 3)

The fracas did get the attention of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), a global federation of 779 unions representing over 4.6 million transport workers in 155 countries. ITF condemned the police action and called on EGT to live up to the work agreement the ILWU has at the Port of Longview.

"EGT are playing with fire, and they know it," said ITF President Paddy Crumlin in a press release. "They need to take a big step back and think about what they are trying to force through, then see sense and talk to the ILWU about how to resolve this issue before it escalates even further."

Also on Sept. 8, U.S. District Court Judge Ronald Leighton in Tacoma issued a preliminary injunction to stop acts of picketing misconduct. The Na-

tional Labor Relations Board had sought a motion to ban all picketing at the EGT facility.

The injunction prohibits the ILWU from blocking rail lines, impeding business, making threats or engaging in violence. The injunction applies to all trains or ships headed to or from EGT, no matter where the trains or ships are at the time. A violation of the injunction could result in federal civil contempt charges and fines of up to \$25,000 per violation.

Judge Leighton had issued a temporary restraining order the previous week, and scheduled a contempt hearing for Sept. 15.

On Aug. 29, the NLRB issued a complaint against ILWU Locals 21 and 4 alleging that their acts prior to Sept. 7 violated federal labor law. A hearing is scheduled on that complaint before an administrative law judge on Oct. 11.

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New report: Labor's story left out of high school history textbooks

Key union contributions to American democracy and way of life ignored or distorted

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The nation celebrated Labor Day earlier this month, yet few Americans have any idea why. A new report on how the history of labor is treated in high school history textbooks offers an explanation — most Americans never got any education about the labor movement's proper place in our country's history and its many contributions to the na-

tion's development.

"American Labor and U.S. History Textbooks: How Labor's Story is Distorted in High School History Textbooks," sponsored by the Albert Shanker Institute, in cooperation with the American Labor Studies Center, surveys four major textbooks that together account for most of the market in U.S. history textbooks. The report notes that these textbooks often present labor history in a biased, negative way. For example, they focus on strikes and strike violence while giving little or no attention to the employer abuse and violence that were usually at the root of

such actions. Their persistent focus on conflict overrides any attention to labor's central historical role in bringing generations of Americans into the middle class.

In addition, while the report credits the textbooks with some accurate reporting, it notes that the textbooks virtually ignore:

- The vital role of union activism in passing broad social protections and reforms such as the eight-hour work day, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, occupational safety and health, the end of abusive child labor, and environmental protection;

- Organized labor's support for the civil rights movement; and the role organized labor played in the 1960s in particular, when the rise of public sector unionization brought many more Americans into the middle class and gave new rights to public employees.

"This report explains why so few Americans know much about labor's history and contributions," said American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and Albert Shanker Institute President Randi Weingarten. "It paints a devastating picture of distortion and omission. Too often, labor's role in U.S. history is misrepresented, downplayed, or

ignored. The result is that most American students have little sense of how the labor movement changed the lives of Americans for the better. A vital piece of U.S. history is disappearing before our eyes."

Weingarten added that contemporary media treatments from such sources as Fox News only make matters worse. "For example, the Gallup/Phi Delta Kappa poll released in August indicates that 68 percent of the American public surveyed hears more negative than positive stories about teachers in the media," she said.

The reports' sponsors will be sending a letter to each of the four textbook publishers asking to discuss the issue in person and to recommend more accurate accounts of what labor has done. Their hope is to encourage all publishers and curriculum developers to take another look at the social studies materials they have produced to correct these kinds of inaccuracies and omissions.

"We urge all textbook companies and authors to reconsider their treatment of labor history and tell this crucial part of the American story," said Eugenia Kemble, executive director of the Albert Shanker Institute.

The report notes that the problem of negative or incomplete coverage of the labor movement in school textbooks dates back at least to the New Deal era, and that scholars began documenting this biased treatment beginning in the 1960s. It concludes that U.S. history texts have essentially "taken sides" in the intense political debate around unions — the anti-union side.

The report's sponsors estimate 16 million currently enrolled public and private high school students will never be exposed to a serious account of labor's history.

"In order to fulfill their responsibilities as citizens today, our students need to understand the past sacrifice of working men and women, individually and through their unions, that gave us the quality of life most of us still enjoy," said Paul Cole, executive director of the American Labor Studies Center. "That quality of life is threatened today by well-funded anti-union groups."

"The central argument of this report is not simply to plead for equal treatment for labor in history textbooks," Weingarten noted. "It is that American history itself is incomplete and inaccurate without labor history. Textbooks that leave out or slant labor history simply aren't fully reflecting our nation's history."

The report reviewed hard-copy student editions of textbooks published by Harcourt/Holt (2009), Houghton Mifflin/McDougal (2009), McGraw Hill/Glencoe (2010), and Pearson/Prentice Hall (2010) for high school U.S. history classes. It is designed to be both a critique and a resource for teachers, students, and others that can help fill in the gaps left by many standard textbooks.

The full report is available at www.shankerinstitute.org.

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Once upon a time, Golden Books, Crayola Products, and Oshkosh kidswear were all union made, but they've since moved overseas.

If your kids are among the luckiest students in the nation, they will have a Union Teacher to guide their studies, Union members who provide custodial and support services, possibly a union principal (the National Association of School Administrators) and their school bus drivers may be union. When they pledge allegiance to the flag, most likely, it will be union made by workers at the Annin Flag Co.

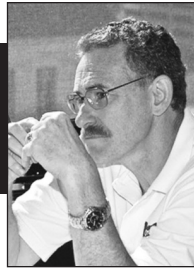


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- ✓ Wigwam Socks

Who's On Our Side?

By Tom Chamberlain



President Obama's Sept. 8 speech on job creation laid out a concrete plan to put millions of Americans back to work and push our economy into high gear.

As we enter the 2012 election cycle, every candidate — everyone even toying with the notion of running for office — agrees that America must create jobs, and create them as soon as possible. But often, that is where the agreement stops and the rhetoric begins. And rhetoric rarely translates into a solid plan that is strategic and achievable.

So consider this a message to any candidate seeking a union endorsement on why rhetoric won't cut it, and why union members will be asking for achievable job-creation plans in 2012.

While Oregon is a state that prides itself on creating jobs in an emerging green economy, green energy has not surpassed manufacturing as our jobs base. Oregon is still a manufacturing state, in a region that is known for making things — from streetcars to trucks, medical equipment to microchips, solar panels, aviation parts and more.

Candidates must not only recognize the importance of those industries to our economy, but they must understand that the bulk of our manufactured goods are exported through our ports and airport. Those facilities

are the conduit that connects products from across the Northwest to markets around the world. For our economy to grow, our ports and airport must keep up.

Now let's be very clear: A good job is a good job, whether in the private or public sector. All too often we hear that cutting government will create jobs. Cutting government usually means cutting jobs. Public sector jobs infuse millions of dollars into our economy. These are jobs that support local business, who pay taxes that fund our state's essential services, and build roads and bridges which create jobs in the private sector. When we cut public sector jobs we increase demand for unemployment, food and health care subsidies, and other services that low wage earners and the unemployed need.

As candidates increase their jobs rhetoric they must remember the importance of a plan, because it does something rhetoric does not: It sets the path to create jobs. And a good-paying job with benefits is the answer to most of what ails us.

A job is the answer to the low income housing shortage; it is the path to quality education; a job decreases the crime rate, and increases revenue so that we can afford to provide vital services. We cannot answer Oregon's, or this country's problems until we increase employment.

Candidates must be ready to fight for federal and state funding to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. This alone will put thousands of Oregonians back to work. And they must be willing to develop a jobs strategy that attracts new business and maintains and expands existing companies, all while maintaining a healthy environment.

Achieving rapid job creation is the responsibility of every level of government, the private sector and yes, unions. We must elect candidates who understand that they can't shirk their responsibility to create jobs, and who are committed to the resurgence of a strong middle class.

With unemployment still over 9 percent, and in fact over 18 percent when you factor in those who have given up looking or who are working part time when they need full time work, I challenge candidates to quit the rhetoric and follow President Obama's lead. Show us a plan. Show us you're on our side.

And I challenge union leaders and members to listen to those seeking your endorsement very carefully. If creating jobs is not their number one priority, whose side are they really on?

Tom Chamberlain is president of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

Workers rights go local: Seattle passes paid sick leave

Seattle businesses with at least five employees will be required to offer paid sick leave under an ordinance approved Sept. 12 by Seattle City Council.

Public health was the rationale for the measure. Workers without sick leave lose wages when they call in sick, so they're more likely to go to work sick, exposing co-workers and customers. Children are more likely to be sent to school sick if their parents must lose wages to care for them. Under the new ordinance, workers will be allowed to use the sick leave to care for themselves or immediate family members.

The measure was proposed in May by a coalition of 70 labor and community groups. It was strongly opposed by the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce. But it enjoyed wide public support in Seattle. A late August poll of likely voters by Grove Insight opinion research found that 69 percent supported the measure, while only 22 percent opposed it.

In the days leading up to the vote, union members and other supporters of the measure flooded City Council with phone calls, postcards and e-mails. City Council members received over 1,000 e-mails. Supporters also rallied and filled council chambers the day of the vote. The vote was 8 to 1 in favor.

The measure requires established companies with 5 to 49 employees to provide at least five days a year of paid sick leave. Companies with 50-249 employees would provide at least seven days, and those over 250 at least nine.

The ordinance will take effect Sept. 1, 2012. Employees start earning the time off after six months on the job. Businesses less than two years old would be exempt from the requirement.

The Economic Opportunity Institute, an independent public policy research center, estimated that 190,000 of Seattle's 500,000 workers don't currently have paid sick leave, but would

get it under the ordinance. That includes nearly 30,000 in accommodation and food service, 20,000 in retail, and close to 20,000 in health services. Seattle is home to about half a million jobs.

San Francisco and Washington D.C. passed similar ordinances in 2008. Milwaukee voters approved a sick leave initiative in 2008, but that measure was nullified this year by the Republican majority in the Wisconsin state legislature. And the Philadelphia city council passed a sick leave ordinance in June 2011 that was vetoed by its mayor.

Connecticut became the first state to pass such a requirement in June 2011. The Connecticut law requires five days a year of paid sick leave, and applies to hourly workers in service sector businesses of 50 or more employees.

As to whether Portland would consider such an ordinance, a spokesperson said Portland Mayor Sam Adams's office would have to look into it.

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NW Oregon CLC to recommend Witt

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council will recommend that the Oregon AFL-CIO endorse State Rep. Brad Witt in the special Democratic primary election Nov. 8 in Oregon's 1st Congressional District.

Witt is a union representative of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555.

Several Democrats — including Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian and State Sen. Suzanne Bonamici — are vying for the seat, with the winner taking on the Republican primary nominee in a special election Jan. 31 to succeed David Wu, who resigned mid-term.

Under AFL-CIO policy, central labor council's don't endorse in federal races. Rather, they make recommendations to the state body for action. The Oregon AFL-CIO will take up the matter at its convention in Eugene later this month.

NOLC's vote to recommend Witt was held at a delegates' meeting Sept. 12.

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IN MEMORIAM

Lung cancer has claimed **KEN MACKILLOP**, retired president of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555. He passed away Sept. 10 at his home in Hollywood, Florida. He was 72.



Kenzie Melville MacKillop was born on June 24, 1939, in Sydney, Nova Scotia. He moved to Los Angeles in 1951 with his mother and sister, where he reunited with two older sisters.

After graduating from Eagle Rock High School, MacKillop found a job at a Western Electric telephone manufacturing plant and joined the Communications Workers of America.

In 1961 he moved into the retail field as a clerk at a Safeway supermarket in Southern California, where he joined Retail Clerks Local 770.

After a decade there, MacKillop transferred to Oregon and worked at the chain's store in Lincoln City, where he was a member of Salem Local 992. While living at the coast he also owned and operated a campground for tourists and a fast-food drive-in.

In 1979, MacKillop was hired to work for Local 992 as an organizer and union representative. Soon after that, UFCW was formed by a merger of a number of retail-oriented unions.

The UFCW consolidated Local 992 into Eugene Local 201, and MacKillop continued his staff duties at the merged local. In 1985, when UFCW merged Oregon and Southwest Washington locals into Local 555, MacKillop moved to the Portland area to work on the staff.

In 1987, MacKillop ran for president of the 19,000-member local, de-

feating incumbent Mike Hereford.

He retired from that post in 1997.

During his tenure, MacKillop served as a trustee on the seven health and welfare and pension trust funds which cover the local union's members. He was a delegate to the Portland-based Northwest Oregon Labor Council and to the Salem-based Marion-Polk-Yamhill Counties Labor Council. He served on the Oregon AFL-CIO's Executive Board and was a vice president of the state labor federation.

MacKillop also was on the board of directors of the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Company, the non-profit entity that publishes the Northwest Labor Press.

He was inducted into the Northwest Oregon Labor Retirees Council's Labor Hall of Fame in June 2005.

Outside of labor, MacKillop served several terms as chair of the Oregon Wage and Hour Commission.

He also was interested in racehorses. As a business venture in the 1990s, he and two partners owned a string of eight race horses that ran at racetracks in the Pacific Northwest.

Survivors include his wife Mary (Lyons), a former office manager of the Labor Press; four children from a previous marriage, John, Michael, Robyn, and Kara; three stepchildren from Lyon's previous marriage, Casey, Robin, and Jessi; one grandchild and two step-grandchildren.

At MacKillop's request, no service will be held. According to his wife, Mary, he wanted only to be cremated and have his ashes strewn on the horse track — "because they've shit on me all my life," he told her.

Niemi elected president at SEIU Local 49; major contracts ahead

Members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 49 elected Meg Niemi to a three-year term as president in mail ballots counted Aug. 31. Niemi outpolled challenger Patti Harris, a longtime Kaiser Permanente chief steward.



MEG NIEMI

Niemi has been president since May 2009, when she was appointed by the Local 49 Executive Board.

Headquartered in Southeast Portland, Local 49 is a private-sector affiliate of SEIU, with about 9,100 members in Oregon and Southwest Washington — principally health care and building service workers such as janitors and security guards. Local 49 also represents about 900 members of Workers United (formerly UNITE) who work at Pendleton Woolen Mills, a Xerox plant in Wilsonville, and several industrial laundries.

President is Local 49's top elected office. As president, Niemi directs a staff of 25. She'll have her hands full in the coming year, as nearly three quarters of the local's membership will be in contract negotiations in 2012. Relations are strained with many employers, Niemi said.

"I think the economy being tough is an excuse for a lot of employers to feel insecure and try to take that out on low-wage workers," Niemi said.

Many Local 49 members are in low-wage occupations, Niemi said, and are having to fight back against proposals for cuts. Contracts up for renegotiation include the Portland-area master janitorial contract, the national agreement at Kaiser Permanente, and contracts at Good Samaritan hospitals in Corvallis and Albany.

Pendleton Woolen Mills launches made-in-the-USA clothing line

Fabric for the 'Portland Collection' is union-made in Oregon & Washington

Decades after most apparel companies abandoned U.S. manufacturing to chase cheaper labor overseas, Portland-headquartered Pendleton Woolen Mills is launching a new made-in-the-USA clothing line. Its "Portland Collection" debuted Sept. 8 at a fashion show in downtown Director Park.

The clothing won't be union-made, but it will be made of union-made fabric

— from the company's mill in Washougal, Washington. The 141 workers there (and 20 at the company's Pendleton, Oregon, plant) are members of Workers United (formerly UNITE), a division of Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and are represented by Portland-headquartered SEIU Local 49.

Under the union contract that runs through October 2013, wages at the Washougal mill range from \$12.91 to \$15.87 an hour with overtime pay on weekends or after 8 hours in a day. Other benefits include full-family health coverage, a defined-benefit pen-

sion plan, paid vacation, and eight paid holidays a year.

The company is a 140-year-old family-owned business.

Pendleton blankets are union-made in Washougal and Pendleton, but Pendleton Woolen Mills' previous apparel lines have been manufactured overseas. A large tote bag in the new Portland Collection is foreign-made, but all the clothing is U.S. made, said Pendleton spokesperson Linda Parker. Pendleton's production manager did not return Labor Press calls seeking further details.

CWA defends AT&T/T-Mobile merger

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — Communications Workers of America (CWA) is defending the proposed merger of T-Mobile into AT&T after the Justice Department on Aug. 31 formally sued in court to stop it.

The \$39 billion sale would let AT&T take over the wireless provider from its current owner, Germany's Deutsche Telekom, which wants to unload it.

If the deal goes through, T-Mobile would become part of AT&T, which has a neutrality clause its contract with CWA. That would open the way for the union to organize T-Mobile employees without facing the constant opposition it now receives from current

T-Mobile management.

"In today's sinking economy, where millions of Americans are looking for work, DOJ has filed suit to block a merger that will create as many as 96,000 quality jobs," CWA said in a statement. "In a nation where workers' rights are routinely violated, as occurs everyday at T-Mobile, DOJ apparently believes workers should be on their own instead of having a fair choice about union representation. DOJ's action would put good jobs and workers' rights at the bottom of the government's priorities."

The day before, AT&T had said that if it took over T-Mobile, it would also return 5,000 offshored jobs to the U.S.

"In the U.S., where too many Americans, especially in rural areas, don't have access to the tools of Internet technology, the DOJ is looking to block a plan to build out high speed wireless access to 97 percent of the country," CWA added. "Instead of acting to block this merger, our government should be looking to support companies that create, keep and return good jobs to the United States."

Justice Department officials ignored those points when they announced their lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in D.C. They want the U.S. wireless market to stay "vibrant and competitive," and said that if the two firms merge, it wouldn't.

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Thank You!!

The **Northwest Oregon Labor Council** would like to thank all the **Sponsors** and **Volunteers** who helped make this year's **Labor Day Picnic** at Oaks Park a great success. Thanks to you, an estimated 20,000 people were able to enjoy their day off with great food, fun, and camaraderie. And if you had anything to do with the fantastic weather, thanks for that, too! Below is a list of all the organizations that contributed to the event.

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