



NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

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VOLUME 116, NUMBER 5

PORTLAND, OREGON

MARCH 6, 2015



Executives from TNT Development sign an iron beam as members of Iron Workers Local 29 look on.

Portland skyline changes with topping out of 30-story high-rise

Union workers get high praise from contractors, developer of Park Avenue West

By Michael Gutwig
Editor & Manager

Members of Iron Workers Local 29 were surrounded by media and local dignitaries Feb. 19 for a topping out ceremony at Park Avenue West, a 546,000-square-foot building that features 13 floors of office space, 15 floors of apartments, and two floors of retail space.

At 504 feet, the 30-story union-built tower is the tallest structure erected in downtown Portland since the 1980s, said Mark Parsons, superintendent for general contractor Hoffman Construction. "This is the kind of thing that makes our country strong," Parsons said.

The high rise will reach peak employment of 300 construction workers later this month.

The project also supported over 50,000 work-hours at Fought & Co., a steel fabricator signatory with Iron Workers Shopmen's Local 516. According to Larry Dykier of Fought, workers fabricated roughly 3,527 tons of struc-

tural steel and delivered 23,000 pieces to the project in 400 loads.

Seventy-eight union ironworkers had a hand in putting those pieces together — using 63,000 bolts. They placed the last beam Feb. 19 at the topping out ceremony.

"The Iron Worker Local 29 guys did a brilliant job on this thing," said Kevin Patterson of REFA Erection. "Everybody went home safe."

As is tradition, workers signed the beam, which is adorned with an American flag

and an evergreen tree, before hoisting it to the top of the

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The final beam at Park Avenue West is hoisted into place during a topping out ceremony Feb. 19.



Local 29 ironworkers James Marble and Doug Green attach the final steel beam to a cable from a tower crane operated by Anson Barrow of Operating Engineers Local 701.

NAFTA ON STEROIDS Fast track fight begins

By Don McIntosh
Associate Editor

The AFL-CIO has begun an all-out campaign to defeat "fast track" in Congress, and a vote on it is expected within days or weeks.

Fast track, also referred to as trade promotion authority, is legislation that would make it easier for Congress to pass more NAFTA-style trade agreements — including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a super-secret agreement being negotiated with 11 other Pacific Rim nations. Under fast track, when the president presents a trade agreement, Congress must hold an up-or-down vote within 90 days, with limited debate and no amendments.

If Congress passes fast track this time, the consequences could be enormous. TPP has been called "NAFTA on steroids" by its critics. It would cover almost 40 percent of the

world's economy, including Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam.

The Obama Administration has never publicly disclosed what it's proposing to other nations in the closed-door TPP negotiations. Even members of Congress were prevented from seeing it initially. After U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) campaigned for TPP negotiations to be more transparent, the Administration let members of Congress see its proposals — in a special room, by appointment, with no cameras, smart phones, or paper allowed in. Yet as many as 600 corporate trade lawyers have full access to the negotiating texts.

Much of what the public does know about the TPP has come from leaked texts made available by the web site WikiLeaks. Those

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Gannett pushes an exotic proposal at KGW, KING-TV

Three unions — IATSE, IBEW, and SAG/AFTRA gear up for conflict

KGW and KING, Gannett is pushing an exotic proposal: Getting rid of the clause on union jurisdiction.

By Don McIntosh
Associate Editor

There's labor trouble brewing at Portland's KGW-TV and Seattle's KING-TV. The two NBC affiliates are among 46 local television stations owned by media company Gannett, which also owns USA Today and the Statesman-Journal in Salem, Oregon. In bargaining with the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) over new union contracts at

Union negotiators are trying to make sense of what that means. Exclusive jurisdiction is a core principle in American labor relations. It takes the form of a clause in nearly every union contract that says the union represents all workers in a given occupation or workplace, and therefore the terms of the union contract apply to all those workers. Without exclusive jurisdiction, the employer could hire people to do the same work as union members, but who aren't union members, and aren't covered by the contract or its terms.

"They would be able to bring

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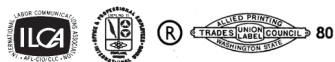
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COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Swan Island shipyard workers reject contract offers

Shipyard workers at two Vigor Industrial-owned facilities at Portland's Swan Island have turned down new contract proposals.

At Cascade General, 221 workers narrowly rejected a tentative agreement in voting held Jan. 16. Workers are represented by the Portland Metal Trades Council, a coalition of 10 craft unions. The contract expired Nov. 30, 2014.

At Vigor Fab, 231 workers at facilities in Portland and Puget Sound, Wash., voted down a "last, best and final" offer — 226 to 5. Voting was held Jan. 14. Workers are represented wall-to-wall by Boilermakers Local 104. The contract expired on Feb. 28.

Vigor Industrial is the parent company of Vigor Marine at Swan Island, plus several other ship building and repair facilities in Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Bremerton and Port Angeles. The company is owned by Frank Foti.

Last October, Foti brought in a new 960-foot floating drydock to Swan Island, opening Portland to new markets, such as cruise ships and post-Panamax vessels.

Shipyard workers at Cascade General, Vigor Shipyard, and Washington Marine Repair are covered under one master labor agreement negotiated and administered by the national Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO. The region's respective metal trades councils bargain local terms and conditions in side agreements.

The national agreement doesn't expire until June 2017.

After workers at Cascade General rejected their contract offer on Jan. 16, the sides returned to the bargaining table on Feb. 9. At that time, the employer rescinded a ratification bonus that was part of the first tentative agreement.

"The company said the ratification bonus was a one-time offer, and will not be put back on the table for discussion," said Brian Opland, business manager of Boilermakers Local 104, an affiliate of the Portland Metal Trades Council.

Union officials consider the ratification bonus equivalent to retroactive pay to when the contract expired in November.

"I think it will be very difficult to get to a deal without that

(retro pay) in there," said Bud Bartunek, president of the Portland Metal Trades Council and area director of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 5.

At the Feb. 9 bargaining session, Cascade General did agree to allow individual unions to select their medical plans. The rejected proposal had called for an across-the-board change from a 90-10 medical plan to an 80-20 medical plan. The premium on an 80-20 insurance plan is less expensive. Under the revised proposal, each union will be allowed to vote on which medical plan they want. However, those unions whose members elect to have better benefits will be responsible for covering the additional cost through a wage deduction.

Another bargaining session is scheduled for March 19.

Opland of the Boilermakers told the Labor Press no new talks have been scheduled at Vigor Fab.

Last year, Vigor Shipyard in Puget Sound implemented its last, best and final offer on workers represented by the Puget Sound Metal Trades Council. Workers then voted not

to strike. It takes a two-thirds majority to strike.

Vigor Shipyard is signatory to the master labor agreement.

Last September, Vigor Industrial unilaterally implemented a "no tobacco" policy at all of its facilities. In response, the Portland and Puget Sound metal trades councils filed an unfair labor practice complaint with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

A few weeks after the filing, several hundred shipyard workers at six Vigor Industrial facilities in Oregon and Washington conducted a one-day unfair labor practice strike during lunch break and at the afternoon shift change.

Opland said the NLRB Region 19 ruled in favor of the metal trades councils and ordered Vigor Industrial to rescind the policy. The company has appealed. A hearing is scheduled for June.

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Labor attorney Susan Stoner retires after decades defending bus drivers

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 757 general counsel Susan Stoner retired effective Feb. 28.

Over the 24 years she was an in-house attorney, she was an important figure behind the scenes in the life of the union. Stoner's legal work helped win arbitrations and defend contracts, and won reinstatement for dozens of transit workers. She also advised union leaders during years of battles with public transit agencies like TriMet and private contractors like multinational First Student.

Stoner, 65, is a Portland native and the daughter of Cal Stoner, an ardently pro-union electrical contractor. Stoner Electric Group, which he founded in 1960, continues to

employ members of IBEW Local 48 to this day.

"My dad loved IBEW," Stoner says. "I grew up thinking unions were wonderful."

And she still thinks that. Despite their decline, unions are still workers' best defense, Stoner says, and the most democratic institutions they'll encounter.

"Our job in the union," Stoner says, "is to resist exploitation and the greed of the people who are running our working lives."

Before settling down as a labor lawyer, Stoner says she was a hippie and an activist. Graduating from Wilson High School in 1967, she joined up with causes from anti-war to anti-poverty to historical preservation. She worked for the homeless youth clinic Outside In, started a women's health clinic, and volunteered with a prisoner support group. She enrolled at Marylhurst College in 1975, and earned independent study credit interviewing activists in the Eastern and Southern United



Susan Stoner

States. She studied law at University of Houston, and met videographer George Slanina, whom she later married.

Moving back to Portland in 1988, she passed the Oregon bar and did outside legal work for Local 757 and other clients until joining the union as staff attorney in 1991.

Stoner says she's grateful to have represented bus drivers and mechanics: "They are oriented toward service to others, and they're always on time," Stoner said.

If she has one bit of parting advice, it's a call for unity: "Members need to realize that dissension within the union empowers the employer."

In retirement, Stoner will spend time at home in Southeast Portland finishing the fifth book in her series of self-published historical mystery novels set amid the labor union ferment of 1900s Portland. Titled *Deadline*, it deals with a real-life conflict between cattle and sheep ranchers in Central Oregon.

Stoner's successor as ATU Local 757's general counsel is Lane Toensmeier.

...Fast track fight begins

From Page 1

leaks show U.S. negotiators pushing the other countries to:

- Agree to an "Investor-State Dispute Resolution" process in which foreign investors can sue governments in special tribunals of trade lawyers — if new regulations reduce expected profits;

- Agree to extraordinarily long monopolies for copyrighted works — 70 years after the death of a copyright holder; and

- Expand drug company profits by giving them the right to extend drug patents for new uses, requiring generic manufacturers to re-run expensive tests to prove drug safety, and outlawing systems that price medicine according to clinical benefits.

For the AFL-CIO, TPP comes in a larger context of 20-plus years of trade agreements that have coincided with record trade deficits and the loss of millions of American manufacturing jobs.

"Today, the trade policies of the United States are undermining the interests of working people," the national AFL-CIO Executive Council declared in an official statement adopted Feb. 23 in Atlanta. "When decisions about economic policy are made behind closed doors, those decisions tend to advance the policy preferences of political and economic elites, not the broad interests of the populace at large.... U.S. trade deals — from NAFTA and CAFTA to Korea and Colombia — form a mountain of broken promises made to workers. With NAFTA and Korea, we were promised more jobs and higher wages because the deals would make it easier to export U.S. products. Instead, the deals made it easier to export U.S. jobs."

Both supporters and opponents of the TPP have stepped up their campaigns. Obama cabinet officials are criss-crossing the country to stump for the TPP. Obama's Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker — the billionaire Hyatt heiress — flew to Portland Feb. 17 to talk up the TPP with local execs at a nonunion Leatherman Group factory. And Obama trade czar Michael Froman — in magazine articles, TV interviews, and meetings with elected officials — has been selling the idea that the TPP will bring jobs back to America. [It's already brought his predecessor a job: Ron Kirk, who started the TPP negotiations in 2009, left in

2013 to take a job as an international trade lawyer providing "strategic advice to companies with global interests."]

On Feb. 26, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon) and seven other senators took to the Senate floor to speak in opposition to fast track and the TPP.

The same day, President Obama met in person with members of Congress, including Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon), to seek support. Obama even invited a reporter from Portland's KGW-TV to the White House for a two-minute interview in which he implied the TPP will have "tough protections for labor rights and the environment."

Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon), who voted against NAFTA and every agreement since, just laughed at that claim.

"These things can change at any time," DeFazio told the Labor Press by phone, "but the last time I checked, the environmental provisions were meaningless and the labor provisions were non-binding, yet the 'investor-state' provisions are stronger than ever: Corporations can sue the United States of America for a loss of anticipated profits — to undermine environmental, labor or consumer protection laws."

Elizabeth Swager, director of the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign, says DeFazio and Merkley are certain "no" votes on fast track. But other members of Congress from Oregon and Southwest Washington aren't signaling how they'll vote. And fast track's fate may depend on Wyden, the most senior Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee. Wyden voted for NAFTA in 1993, and most other trade agreements since then. But a disagreement between Wyden and Senate Finance Chair Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) over the details is causing a delay in the fast track bill.

On March 4, Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain flew to Washington, D.C., to lobby members of the Oregon delegation.

"I think we have a shot at stopping this one," Chamberlain said. "But it's going to take people calling their elected representatives."

The Oregon AFL-CIO is holding a "Push Back the Fast Track" rally Monday, March 9, at 5:30 p.m. at Director Park, 815 SW Park Ave., Portland.

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UNION MEETING NOTICES

AFSCME 189

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 10. General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 24.

Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside St., Portland.

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers 114

Executive Board meets 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 31, at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 204, Portland.

Cement Masons 555

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland.

Fire Fighters 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

Fire Fighters 1660

Members meet 8 a.m. Thursday, March 12, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego.

Glaziers 740

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, March 9, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield.

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at Best Western Plus, Mill Creek Inn, 3125 Ryan Drive SE, Salem.

IBEW 48

Public Sector Employment Workshop 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, in the Meeting Hall.

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10, in the Executive Boardroom.

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, in the Dispatch Lobby.

Sound and Communication Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, in the Meeting Hall.

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

Washington Unit Meeting meets at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at the

Longview Hall, 1145 Commerce Ave, Longview, Washington.

Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 16 in the Executive Boardroom.

Executive Board Meeting meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18 in the Executive Boardroom.

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

DEATH ASSESSMENTS: No. 2424, Calvin H. Hiatt; No. 2425, Eugene Guenzi; and No. 2426, Merrill H. Mitchell. The March 2015 assessment is \$1.50.

CORRECTION: An article published in the IBEW Local 48 Newsletter on Feb. 20, 2015 introduced three new staff members of Local 48. One of their names was misspelled. Please note that Jon Jensen joined the staff in November of 2014, not Jon Jenkins.

Insulators 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 11.

Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, March 13.

Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Iron Workers 29

Members meet 7 p.m., Thursday, April 2, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #200, Portland.

Iron Workers Shopmen 516

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12.

Special Meetings Notice – If necessary: Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 6 p.m. Purpose of meeting - To conduct regular union business and first reading of proposed changes to bylaws. Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 6:15 p.m. Purpose of meeting - 2nd reading of proposed changes to bylaws. Saturday April 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Purpose of meeting – 3rd and final reading and Vote on proposed changes to by

laws. Meetings are held at 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle, Portland OR.

Laborers 320

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Joe Edgar Hall, Teamsters' Complex, 1850 NE 162nd Ave., Portland.

Laborers/Vancouver 335

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

Laborers 483 Municipal Employees

Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

Linoleum Layers 1236

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 26.

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting is **SPECIAL CALL** to vote on wage allocation.

Meetings are at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Molders 139B

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

Office & Professional Employees Local 11

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at the OPEIU LOCAL 11 meeting hall, 3815 Columbia Street, Vancouver, Washington. **PLEASE NOTE:** Nominations will take place at this meeting.

Operating Engineers 701

District 4 members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, at Pheasant Café, 149 E Main St. Hermiston.

District 1 & 5 members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2, at 555 E. First St., Gladstone.

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at North Bend/Coos Bay Labor Center, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at Holiday Inn Express, 285 Peninger Rd., Central Point.

District 2 members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at the Comfort Suites, 969 Kruse Way, Springfield.

Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Website: www.iupatocal10.org

Sign Painters & Paint Makers 1094

Members meet 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 16, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Plasterers 82

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

Plumbers and Steamfitters 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 20, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin. The following locations will be able to participate remotely in the Regular Business Meeting at 7:30 on the 3rd Friday of every month: Bend, Eugene/Springfield, Eureka, Medford, and Salem.

Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 26, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24. Please contact agent Craig Spjut at 707-496-1767 for location confirmation.

Coos Bay area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, at 4816 S. 6th St., Klamath Falls.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall, The Dalles.

Roofers & Waterproofers 49

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12.

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, April 2.

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

Sheet Metal Workers 16

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy., Medford.

Eugene area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at 1887 Laura St., Springfield.

Coos Bay area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

Women of Sheet Metal meet 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 20, at Beulahland, 118 NE 28th Ave., Portland. Children are welcome.

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS

Central Oregon

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 23, at the Social Justice Center, 155 NE Irving, Bend.

Lane County

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at 1116 South A St., Springfield.

Linn-Benton-Lincoln

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, preceded by a 6:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

Marion-Polk-Yamhill

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, followed by a 7 p.m. general meeting at 4735 Liberty Road, S., Salem.

Mid-Columbia

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at 3313 W. 2nd, The Dalles.

Northwest Oregon

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, March 23, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Southeastern Oregon

Delegates meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at the Woodworkers Hall, 3836 Altamont Drive, Klamath Falls.

Southern Oregon

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

Southwestern Oregon

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

Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at Laborers Hall, 2212 NE Andresen, Vancouver.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCILS

Columbia-Pacific

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 10 and March 17, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

Lane, Coos, Curry & Douglas

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, March 25, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Pkwy., Springfield.

Salem

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Thursday, April 2, at the IBEW 280 Training Center, 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent.

Metal Trades Council

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, March 12.

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 24.

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

HAPPENINGS

The **Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans** will hold its state convention Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Madison's banquet room, 1125 SE Madison, Portland. Guest speakers are Chuck Sheketoff, executive director of the Oregon Center for Public Policy, and Rich Fiesta, executive director of the national Alliance for Retired Americans. Registration is \$12.50 and includes lunch. For more information, go to www.orara.org.

The **Pacific Northwest Labor History Association** will hold a day-long mini-conference Saturday, March 14 at the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria. Labor educators Marcus Widener, Bob Bussel and Norm Diamond will lead a discussion about labor history in the region. For more information, contact Ron Verzuh at 541-852-5540, or email rverzuh@shaw.ca.

The 26th annual **Labor Bowl Challenge for Muscular Dystrophy** will be held Sunday, April 12, from noon to 2:30 p.m. at Sunset Lanes in Beaverton. The event is coordinated by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 82 and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council. Since its inception in 1989, union members have raised \$362,025 for MDA. For more information, or to sign up and receive fundraising packets and instructions, call Jim Falvey, president of Letter Carriers Branch 82 at 503-493-5903. To donate silent auction items, call NALC's MDA Coordinator Debby Burbank at 971-404-5384.

A **Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament** to raise money for Doernbecher Children's Hospital will be held Saturday, April 25, from 4 to 10 p.m. at Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 Hall, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland. Buy-in is \$50. The top three winners will receive Visa gift cards of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. For more information or to register, call 503-254-0123, or email ekeeper@smw16.org.

AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 17 at the AFSCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 1-800-521-5954 ext. 226.

Alliance for Retired Americans Oregon Chapter

The 2015 State Convention will be held 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at the Madison Banquet Room, 1125 SE Madison, Portland. Registration is \$12.50 which includes lunch. For additional information, please call 503-675-7764 or go to orara.org.

Electrical Workers 48

Retirees, wives and friends meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, at Russellville Park Plaza, 20 SE 103rd, Bldg. West. For reservations and more information, please contact Glenn Hodgkinson at 503-656-0028.

Elevator Constructors 23

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 11, at Hometown Buffet, 10542 SE Washington St., Portland.

Glass Workers 740

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 16, at Izzy's Pizza, 1307 NE 102nd Ave, Portland.

Insulators 36

Retiree breakfast 9 a.m. Thursday, April 2, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

Iron Workers 29

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 11, at the Union Hall meeting room, 11620 NE Ainsworth Circle #200, Portland for a catered lunch.

Plumbers and Fitters 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, March 19, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Salem Retirees meet 12 noon Wednesday, March 11, at Almost Home Restaurant, 3310 Market St. NE., Salem.

Sheet Metal Workers 16

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 12, at Sizzler's Restaurant, 3737 SE 82nd, Portland.



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IN MEMORIAM

Operating Engineers Local 701 member killed in crane accident

Christopher Pierson, a member of Operating Engineers Local 701 employed at Axis Crane, was killed Feb. 17 when a 35-foot beam he was placing detached and pierced the cab of his crane.

According to the Multnomah County Medical Examiner's Office, Pierson died of blunt force head trauma. The accident is under investigation by the Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Administration.

Pierson, 40, was married and had three children (see photo). His widow, Robin, is a stay-at-home mom to Aeri, 11; Owen, 9; and Braylen, 3. The family moved to Keizer from Nevada three years ago, at which time he joined Local 701.

Robin Wicklander, president of Local 701, said Pierson was



driving piles on a retaining wall project for Union Pacific. The accident occurred near the railroad tracks at 301 N.E. Second Ave. in Portland at about 5:30 p.m. Wicklander said he couldn't remember the last time a member of his union was killed on the job.

Delegates at the monthly meeting of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council held a moment of silence for Pierson.

A GoFundMe account has been set up on Facebook to support the family. Go to www.gofundme.com/mph5h4.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

New Hilton contract raises wages above \$15

UNITE HERE Local 8 has reached tentative agreement with the Portland Hilton Hotel and Executive Tower on a new three-year contract covering about 265 workers. The contract raises wages \$1.55 an hour and maintains health benefits and pension contributions at current levels. If ratified, housekeepers will get an immediate 50-cent pay increase retroactive to Aug. 1, 2014, and another 25 cents every six months, reaching \$15.20 an hour by the contract's July 31, 2017 expiration. Wages for line cooks and hosts are somewhat higher, and dishwashers and banquet bartenders slightly lower. Bell staff and banquet servers get minimum wage plus tips, but have full union benefits and protections.

Management dropped a proposal that it have the right to schedule workers for short shifts; under the contract, shifts have to be eight hours.

Bargaining had been under way since mid-October, but the two sides reached agreement Feb. 10 — two days before a

planned rally and picket.

Local 8 Secretary-Treasurer Eric Van Rossum led bargaining, but every bargaining session was observed by 60 to 80 workers, including the entire housekeeping department, which would come in on breaks to watch.

The union is recommending ratification. Voting will be held

in mid-March.

The Portland Hilton is the largest of four union hotels in the Portland area, and has the highest wages. Others are the Paramount and Benson hotels, where contracts expire this December, and the Vancouver Washington Hilton, which settled a contract last June.

... Iron Workers topping out

From Page 1

building (by Anson Barrow, a member of Operating Engineers Local 701) for placement.

"This was a dream of my grandfather's for two decades," said Vanessa Sturgeon, president and CEO of TMT Development. Her grandfather, company founder Tom Moyer, died in November.

The high rise initially broke ground in 2008, just as the Great Recession hit. Work was halted in early 2009, which left a huge hole in the middle of the city for

several years. TMT Development restarted the project in 2013. Sturgeon told the Labor Press Park Avenue West is on time and on budget. Apartments will be ready for move-in starting in January 2016. Office space will open in July 2016.

"I really enjoy working with the labor unions," Sturgeon said. "They understand the balance between the business-side and the work-side. They're smart and savvy. They protect their workers, but at the same time they're reasonable."

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Portland airport shop workers want a union too

Another group of low-wage workers at Portland International Airport (PDX) is seeking to unionize.

UNITE HERE Local 8 organizer Shellea Allen says more than two thirds of a group of 45 employees of the multinational corporation World Duty Free Group have signed union cards. The World Duty Free Group employees staff four shops at PDX: Kiehl's, Rich's News, The Oregonian, and The Market.

On Feb. 18, pro-union workers and supporters presented a demand to local management that the company recognize their choice to unionize, and they set up a brief informational picket at the airport. The company declined to respond.

The workers want more regular schedules, affordable health care, and wage increases, Allen said. Currently their wages range from Oregon's \$9.25 minimum wage to a little over \$10 an hour. World Duty Free Group has over 500 stores in 20 countries, and specializes in airport sales of fragrance, wine and spirits, cosmet-

ics, food, travel accessories and souvenirs.

UNITE HERE represents World Duty Free workers at the Detroit, Oakland, and San Jose airports.

The effort to unionize World Duty Free is part of a larger fight to improve wages and conditions for airport service workers. Last September, the multinational food concessions company HMS Host agreed to recognize UNITE HERE Local 8 as the representative of its 176 PDX employees at Starbucks Coffee, Gustav's Pub & Grill, Rogue Ales Public House, and Rose's Restaurant and Bakery. Gustav's later closed when airport managers cancelled its lease, but the union is bargaining a first contract for the remaining workers.

The World Duty Free shops used to be staffed by HMS Host, but the company sold its retail division to World Duty Free and kept its food service division.



show, the union sign on the front of the building was digitally replaced with "Make-A-Wish" for a skit about a very immature man (played by Fred Armisen) diagnosed with cancer. But that is the union office in Season 5, Episode 3, "Health Care," which aired Jan. 22 on the IFC cable network.

Regional Council spokesperson Ben Basom says the film crew shot a second skit at the office, which may even feature union secretary Martha Verduzco as an extra, though it hadn't aired as this issue went to press.

Basom says the union was approached last year by a location scout who admired the building. The Regional Council allowed Portlandia to use its location at no charge, and filming took place over about four hours Aug. 1. Portlandia is famed for lampooning Portland's quirks. It's available through Hulu, iTunes and Amazon, and on Netflix streaming.

A union office like something out of Portlandia

Keen-eyed local unionists might have noticed something familiar about a location in a recent episode of the comedy show Portlandia: It's the regional satellite office of the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters. Of course, that wasn't obvious: In the

show, the union sign on the front of the building was digitally replaced with "Make-A-Wish" for a skit about a very immature man (played by Fred Armisen) diagnosed with cancer. But that is the union office in Season 5, Episode 3, "Health Care," which aired Jan. 22 on the IFC cable network.

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... IATSE, IBEW, and SAG/AFTRA gear up for conflict at KGW

From Page 1

anyone in to do our jobs, and you couldn't prevent that," said Brad Anderson, executive director of SAG-AFTRA in Seattle.

"We've been struggling for months to get an explanation as to why this is all of a sudden necessary," said attorney John Bishop, who was brought in to assist Portland-based IBEW Local 48 in negotiations.

Gannett has already elimi-

nated the union jurisdiction clause in a SAG-AFTRA contract at television station WUSA-TV in Washington, D.C., and pushed it so hard in bargaining at KSDK-TV in St. Louis that members of IBEW Local 4 launched an ongoing boycott of their employer 10 months ago, using billboard and radio ads, an airplane banner, and a web site and Facebook page to call on viewers to stop watching.

According to Gannett's most recent annual report, about 10 percent of its U.S. employees are represented by unions, divided among 78 bargaining units and eight international unions.

In Portland and Seattle, IATSE, IBEW and SAG-AFTRA are joining forces to fight Gannett, though they continue to bargain separately for contracts at the two stations. KGW and KING became Gannett properties when the company acquired Belo Corporation in 2013. IATSE represents camera operators and video editors. SAG-AFTRA represents on-camera staff. IBEW Locals 48 and 46 represent master control operators and maintenance technicians.

"We're all in this together," said IBEW Local 48 business rep Donna Hammond.

IATSE Local 600 representative Dave Twedell says Gannett is pushing other issues besides jurisdiction. It's also proposing to eliminate the "successor" clause that keeps the union contract in effect if the company sells the station. And in January, it unilaterally worsened the family health insurance coverage — raising the employee share of the premium from \$250 to \$475 a month, and increasing the deductible from \$1,500 to \$5,000 a year.

That's despite the fact that Gannett is highly profitable. Gannett's broadcast revenue set a new record in the fourth quarter of 2014. The company paid CEO Gracia Martore \$7.9 million in total compensation in 2013. And on Feb. 24 Gannett announced it will pay \$45 million in quarterly dividends.

Twedell said IATSE will fight the health care change with an unfair labor practice charge at the National Labor Relations Board.

Union reps say they won't agree to give up jurisdiction, but management hasn't budged from its demand that they do.

"We have every reason to believe this is going to be their final proposal as well as initial, first of all because that's what they told us," Twedell said.

That sets the ground for a standoff, and the allied unions are beginning to line up outside backing for a public campaign. Last month the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO, passed a resolution of support.

The labor clash comes as Gannett prepares to spin off its newspaper and broadcast/digital divisions into separate publicly-traded companies, a move that has drawn interest from corporate raider Carl Icahn, who owns 6.6 percent of Gannett stock.

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City of Portland passes \$15 minimum for its contracted service workers

Portland City Council voted Feb. 18 to approve a \$15-an-hour minimum wage for about 150 janitors, security guards, and parking lot attendants at city-owned facilities. That makes the City the third local government body in Oregon to set a \$15 wage floor for at least some workers, following the Home Forward housing agency and Multnomah County.

The resolution — approved unanimously by City Council — is an update to the City's Fair Wage policy, a 19-year-old ordinance setting minimum wage and benefit levels for workers at certain city service contractors. The levels are currently \$10.38 an hour plus \$1.92 an hour for benefits. The newly passed resolution raises the hourly wage to \$15 as of July 1, 2015.

The resolution also sets a \$15 minimum for the City's own employees who are in full-time, budgeted positions, though less than two dozen currently make less than that.

The Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation, however, has hundreds of part-time, seasonal, and temporary workers who are not covered by the new \$15 minimum. Workers there are represented by Laborers Local 483.

To address that, the resolution authorizes a task force with members appointed by the mayor and each commissioner to "assess seasonal, recreational and apprenticeship work with appropriate compensation." The task force is supposed to complete its work in time for the

City Council to use the recommendations in the 2016-2017 budget process.

The \$15 minimum resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Dan Saltzman, and co-

sponsored by Mayor Charlie Hales. Laborers Local 483, Service

Employees Local 49 and other groups have campaigned in support of the ordinance.



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Teamsters ratify 4-year contract at AMR

Members of Teamsters Portland Local 223 and Vancouver Local 58 ratified a new four-year collective bargaining agreement at American Medical Response (AMR). The 450-member bargaining unit provides ambulance service to Multnomah and Clackamas counties in Oregon, and Clark and Cowlitz counties in Washington.

The agreement is retroactive to July 1, 2014, when the old pact expired. The new pact runs through June 30, 2018.

Local 223 union rep Dave Tully said the contract preserves health care benefits and cost-of-living wage increases.

AMR has been union since 1989.



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