

NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

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VOLUME 118, NUMBER 4

PORTLAND, OREGON

FEBRUARY 17, 2017



Repainting temporarily halted under Portland's Ross Island Bridge after a 40' fall put two workers in the hospital.

UNDER THE BRIDGE

Investigating a low-bid nonunion contractor, a union finds problems aplenty

By Don McIntosh

Under the Ross Island Bridge on Feb. 8, a painter working for nonunion Abhe & Svoboda plummeted 40 feet and landed on a co-worker, his own son, putting both in the hospital with serious injuries. Oregon-OSHA is investigating the accident and will produce a report in the next six months. But co-worker Omar Rubi says he has a pretty good idea what happened.

Near an over-large ladder hole on the highest level of

scaffolding, a loose metal plate had become a trip hazard, Rubi says — and Abhe & Svoboda employees were routinely failing to use fall protection. Workers at heights are supposed to wear harnesses and tie them to lines attached to scaffolding supports, but Rubi says that often wasn't happening.

In fact, the day before the accident, Rubi told co-workers they have the right under federal law to speak up about safety or other concerns. Soon after, a company safety inspec-

tor said he'd be writing Rubi up for not attaching his harness to a line. Rubi felt he'd been singled out for speaking up, and took pictures of his foremen and third-party inspectors not wearing harnesses. At the end of his shift, he was told not to come in the next day, despite having worked on the project five days a week since July 16, 2016.

An important thing to know about Rubi: He's a union "salt."

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Are unions becoming more popular?

Poll shows a surge in support, especially among the young

According to a Jan. 4-9 poll, 60 percent of the American public has a favorable opinion of labor unions, while 35 percent have an unfavorable opinion. That's the second highest level of support ever found for unions in this particular survey, which has been conducted off-and-on since 1985, sponsored by the Pew Research Center. It's also a big jump in union support since March 2015, the last time the survey was conducted, when 48 percent were favorable toward unions and 39 percent unfavorable.

The survey was conducted by telephone Jan. 4-9 among a national sample of 1,502 adults.



Results were also broken down by age, party affiliation, education, and income.

Young people were far more likely than older adults to view labor unions favorably: Three-quarters of those aged 18 to 29 say they have a favorable opinion of labor unions, while only 53 percent of those 50 and older do.

The survey also found that 76 percent of Democrats hold a favorable view of unions, compared to 44 percent of Republicans. But even among Republicans, the young were more likely to have a favorable view of labor unions: 55 percent of under-30 Republicans looked favorably on unions, compared to 32 percent of those 50 and older. Meanwhile, 49 percent of Republicans without a college degree favored unions, compared to 28 percent of college-educated Republicans.

Another 'right-to-work' state

Missouri follows close on the heels of Kentucky, and a right-to-work bill in Congress would bar any requirement to pay union dues nationwide

With the stroke of a governor's pen on Feb. 6, Missouri became the 28th "right-to-work" state. Right-to-work legislation passed in Missouri just weeks after Kentucky passed a right-to-work law.

Right-to-work is the rather misleading term for a law intended to keep unions weak and poorly funded — by barring any union contract that requires workers to pay union dues or fees.

New Hampshire might be the next right-to-work state: The state Senate passed a right-to-work bill Jan. 19, and the state House was scheduled to vote on it on Feb. 16, (after this issue



Eric Greitens, the newly-elected Republican governor of Missouri, campaigned on right-to-work. On Feb. 6, he signed the anti-union measure into law, above.

went to press). A right-to-work bill passed the New Hampshire Legislature once before, in

Turn to Page 8



Photo by David Groves

Nicole Grant, executive secretary of the M.L. King County Labor Council in Seattle, leads a chant Feb. 9 at the State Capitol in Olympia protesting a bill introduced by Republican lawmakers to make Washington a "right-to-work" state. More than 1,000 union members and supporters swarmed the Capitol to voice their objection to the anti-union legislation. A hearing and overflow rooms set up to accommodate the crowd filled quickly, so hundreds protested in different buildings and outside in the rain.

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...UNDER THE BRIDGE

From Page 1

A salt is a worker who takes a job as the agent of a union. Salts document management misdeeds, educate co-workers about their rights, and even take part in union organizing campaigns.

In this case, Rubi was sent in by Painters and Allied Trades District Council 5 on suspicion that something wasn't right on the Ross Island Bridge repainting project. It's a complicated three-year deal that involves the construction of temporary support structures and containment systems underneath the bridge in order to safely sandblast and repaint three steel arch spans that have aged and rusted since they were last painted in the 1960s.

The Ross Island Bridge spans the Willamette River, connecting U.S. Route 26 between southwest and southeast Portland. In 1976, ownership was transferred from Multnomah County to the state.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) estimated that bids would come in at \$30 to \$40 million. But nonunion Abhe & Svoboda of Minnesota won the contract with a low bid of \$22.3 million — \$11 million below the union-signatory contrac-

"When it's go, go, go sometimes people don't pay attention. ... Traditionally when you're working in a dangerous environment like that, employers don't usually rush you to get things done because they understand the liability issue."

— Abhe & Svoboda employee Omar Rubi



tor, Hercules Painting of New Castle, Pennsylvania.

The union wanted to know how Abhe & Svoboda could bid so low, even though they're required to pay the same hourly wage and benefits as their union competitor, under the state "little Davis-Bacon" law, which requires contractors on government construction projects to pay the prevailing wage. Could they be cutting corners to make the project pencil out? Rubi got a job there to find out, and soon found problems.

Paint in some cases was being applied at the wrong thickness or in conditions that were too cold or humid to meet manufacturer specifications, Rubi said. In places, paint was bubbling or chipping, or missing required "striping" along joints.

workers and supervisors, Rubi says.

Rubi, a native Spanish speaker, arrived at work on Election Day to find his locker defaced with obscene images and the words "Trump 16." A supervisor told him, on threat of firing, not to talk to a female African-American co-worker who had complained of extreme sexual harassment.

Meanwhile, Oldham did some research, and found violations and fines on numerous Abhe & Svoboda bridge projects. Some examples:

- Connecticut, 2007 — \$1.3 million in unpaid wages for paying painters at the wage for laborers and carpenters
- Astoria, Oregon, 2011 — Nearly \$30,000 in penalties for dozens of OSHA violations
- Hawaii, 2012 — \$15,500 in penalties for three serious OSHA violations
- Fresno County, California, 2013 — \$90,900 in civil penalties for failure to employ apprentices as required
- Mendocino County, California, 2016 — \$60,000 in back wages and \$55,000 in penalties for prevailing wage violations

And this wasn't even the first time Abhe & Svoboda had been scrutinized by Portland-area unions. In 1998, when Abhe &

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At former Graphic Arts Center, presses go silent forever



A massive Portland printing plant will shut down by March 31, terminating employment for 72 members of Teamsters Local 117, and 19 other employees.

Cenveo Corporation announced Jan. 30 that it will permanently close the former Graphic Arts Center plant, which occupies three-fourths of a city block at 2000 NW Wilson Ave.

Teamsters representative Adam Hoyt said the decision didn't come as a complete surprise. At one time the plant employed over 300 workers, but in recent years under the ownership of multinational Cenveo, work has been shifting to other locations, and the plant was operating at about a third of its capacity. In November 2015, Cenveo sold its Portland building and the

3.64 acres it sits on for \$7.5 million to developer James Winkler, and then leased it back from the new owner. Winkler Development reportedly plans to redevelop the block for industrial or office use.

Local 117, based in Tukwila, Washington, has represented the plant since 2014, when it absorbed Graphic Communications International Union Local 767-M. Hoyt said the union will seek to negotiate some kind of severance benefit.

The State of Oregon and Labor's Community Services Agency will also meet with the pink-slipped workers to help them sign up for unemployment and other benefits. Union wages at the plant range from \$12 to \$25 an hour.

Cement Masons

Brett Hinsley called up by international

Brett Hinsley, business manager of Portland-based Cement Masons Local 555, has been appointed international field representative for the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association.

He succeeds Roger Betterman, who was appointed general secretary-treasurer. Betterman is a former business manager of Cement Masons Local 528 in Seattle.

Hinsley, 50, has been business manager of Local 555 since May 2006. A graduate of Portland's Jefferson High School, Hinsley joined the union as an apprentice in 1998, and has been an active union member. He served two terms on the Executive Board and as a trustee on the health and welfare and pension trusts; he has served on the joint apprenticeship training committee, the NW Conference Committee, and the Construction Industry Drug-Free Workplace Program.

Prior to joining the Cement Masons, Hinsley was a member of Laborers Locals 320 and 483, where he worked at the Port of Portland.

As an international rep, Hinsley will assist locals in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana,



Brett Hinsley



Geoff Kossak

Alaska, Hawaii, North Dakota and Minnesota.

"Basically, I'll do whatever the international assigns me," Hinsley said. That could include assisting with contract negotiations, helping with internal union elections, organizing, and more.

Hinsley's appointment expires in 2019. At that time he will have to run for the position, along with all the other international officers.

Geoff Kossak, a business

agent since March 2012, was appointed by the Executive Board to complete Hinsley's unexpired term as business manager. The term is up in April.

Kossak, 42, is a third-generation cement mason. His father and grandfather were both active members of Local 555.

A graduate of Portland's Franklin High School, Kossak joined the union as an apprentice in September 1994. He was elected to the Executive Board in 1999 and as vice president in 2002. He was elected president in 2006. He had to resign from that post to take the business manager's job. Jeremy Kendall succeeded him as president.

Noah Jones and Cliff Johnson are business agents/organizers at Local 555, which covers Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Huge tenant win at Portland City Council

It's the closest thing to rent control: All but the smallest landlords will pay tenants a relocation fee of up to \$4,500 if they raise rent more than 10 percent or issue a no-cause eviction

comes amid a rapid rise in rents that is fast turning Portland into a city where working people can't afford to live. Portland rents have risen on average 30 percent since 2012. City Council declared an official housing emergency on Oct. 7, 2015, and later extended that for another year. The new ordinance took effect immediately, and will remain in effect at least until Oct. 6, 2017, when the official housing emergency is currently set to expire.

On Feb. 2, Portland City Council showed just how serious it is about fighting the city's crisis of housing affordability. In a 5-0 vote, it passed an emergency ordinance that comes as close as legally possible to rent control. [Outright rent control is banned for now under a state law the landlord lobby got the legislature to pass in 1985.]

The new city ordinance requires landlords to provide "relocation assistance" if they increase rent more than 10 percent in a year, and that causes a tenant to move — or if landlords evict a tenant without cause, which they're legally allowed to do. The relocation assistance is \$2,900 for a studio, \$3,300 for a one-bedroom unit, \$4,200 for a two-bedroom, and \$4,500 for three bedroom or larger unit. The figures are based on two months rent plus deposit at the city's average rent for similarly sized units. The ordinance doesn't apply to landlords that have only one rental unit in Portland, or who live with their tenants.

The emergency ordinance

The ordinance was sponsored by newly-elected Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who defeated incumbent Commissioner Steve Novick after making housing affordability her number one issue. Newly sworn-in Mayor Ted Wheeler co-sponsored the ordinance. The vote took place after six straight hours of public testimony, including heated opposition from landlords, and impassioned support from tenants mobilized by the group Portland Tenants United. Portland Tenants United — which has been endorsed by Northwest Oregon Labor Council, the Oregon AFL-CIO, and other labor groups — will next campaign for the state Legislature to lift the ban on rent control. Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek has said she's in favor of that.



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UNION MEETING NOTICES

AFSCME 88

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 1. Any member in good standing may attend as a non-voting visitor.

General membership and stewards meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 15. Meeting agendas may be viewed on the AFSCME Local 88 webpage on the Monday prior to the Wednesday meeting.

Meetings are held at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

AFSCME 189

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 14. General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Meetings are at 6025 E. Burnside, Portland.

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers 114

General Membership and Executive Board meets 9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, in the meeting room, at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 300, Portland.

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers 1

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

Cement Masons 555

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 16, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 9, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12067 NE Glenn Widing Dr. #108, Portland.

Fire Fighters 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

Fire Fighters 1660

Members meet 8 a.m. Thursday, March 9, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego.

Glass Workers 740

Executive Board members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, March 2, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 2 at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, March 6, at CIAO Pizza, 3342 Gateway St., Springfield. **PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE.**

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, at Best Western Plus, Mill Creek Inn, 3125 Ryan Drive SE, Salem.

IBEW 48

RENEW meets 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month in the Executive Boardroom.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month in the Executive Boardroom.

Coast Unit meets 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus meets 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month in the Meeting Hall.

Sister's in the Brotherhood meets 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month in the Meeting Hall. You are welcome to attend the EWMC meeting beforehand.

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month in the Dispatch Lobby.

Sound and Communication Unit meets 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month in the Meeting Hall.

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Northern Wasco County PUD, 2345 River Road, The Dalles.

Washington Unit meets 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at the Longview Meeting Hall, 1145 Commerce Ave., Longview, WA.

Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month in the Meeting Hall.

General Membership Meeting meets 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month in Local 48's Portland Meeting Hall and at the Local 48 Longview Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

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

DEATH ASSESSMENT: No. 2519, Thomas A. Davis III; No. 2520, Norman L. Conser; No. 2521, Paul W. Peterson; and No. 2522, Ronald R. Stuck. The March 2017 assessment is \$1.50.

IBEW 280

Executive Board meets 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 9, at the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Redmond.

Eugene Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, at the LU 290 Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Salem Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 16, at Lancaster Mall, next to Fred Meyer Jewelers, Salem. Please call the Union office for more details.

Insulators 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 8. Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, March 10.

Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Iron Workers 29

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 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 9.

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 23.

Meetings are at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland.

Laborers/Vancouver 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, March 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 21, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

Linoleum Layers 1236

Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Monday, March 6.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, March 23.

Meetings are at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Machinists 1005

Executive Board meets Wednesday, March 15, at 4:30 p.m.

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 preceded by a 9 a.m. shop steward training class. Shop stewards must attend training class and regular meeting to be compensated.

All meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

Machinists 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 8. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, March 11. **PLEASE NOTE:** Nominations for 2 open seats for District Delegate, 2 open positions at the SW Washington Central Labor Council, and 1 position at the NW Oregon Labor Council will be held at the April meeting. Election to follow at the May meeting.

Meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

Machinists 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at 11 a.m. Monday, March 6.

Executive Board meets at 6 p.m., and regular membership meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 8.

Meetings are at 25 Cornell, Gladstone.

Molders 139B

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 16, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

Office and Professional Employees 11

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the OPEIU LOCAL 11 meeting hall, 3815 Columbia Street, Vancouver, Washington. **PLEASE NOTE: Notice of Nominations for Local 11:** Nominations to be accepted for the following positions: Executive Secretary-Treasurer (3 year term); Vice President (2 year term); Recording Secretary (2 year term); Sergeant-At-Arms (2 year term); Utilities (2 year term); Public Employees (2 year term); At-Large (2 year term); At-Large (2 year term); Trustee (3 year term).

Nominees must be present to accept, or have written acceptance of nomination submitted at this meeting. Nominations will be held in accordance with Article VII, Sections 1-4 of the Constitution of the Office & Professional Employees International Union, Local No. 11 which states the following:

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS
Section 1. Nomination of officers shall take place on the second Tuesday in March at the General Membership meeting of each year. No person may be nominated, appointed or elected, or in any way represent the members of this Union unless he or she has been a member of this Union in continuous good standing for at least twelve (12) months preceding the election.

Section 2. No member shall be a candidate for more than one (1) office. Section 3. Members need not be present to be nominated for any union office. Those members, who by virtue of geography are unable to either attend or have other members from their area attend to place their name in nomination, may notify the Union office of their desire to be nominated. The Executive Secretary Treasurer shall nominate or cause to be nominated those same members. The members, who are not present at the nomination meeting to accept the nomination, must have their acceptance of the nomination in writing, available at the nomination meeting. Only those candidates who accept the nomination shall be considered valid candidates. Section 4. Except as provided for in Section 3 above, write-in nominations or nominations by proxy shall not be allowed.

*only members that reside outside of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties in Oregon, and Clark County in Washington may utilize the geographical exception in Section 3.

Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. Website: www.iupatlo.org

Sign Painters & Paint Makers 1094

Members meet 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 20, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Plasterers 82

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

Plumbers and Steamfitters 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, 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, Feb. 23,

at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane, Astoria.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21. Please contact Craig Spjut at 707-496-1767 for location information.

Coos Bay area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 4816 S 6th St., Klamath Falls.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall, The Dalles.

Roofers & Waterproofers 49

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

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, March 9.

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

Sheet Metal Workers 16

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Medford area members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 8. Please call Dennis Dover for location - 541-517-9644.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at 1887 Laura St., Springfield. **PLEASE NOTE:** Meeting to be broadcast with the Portland meeting.

Coos Bay area members meet 4 p.m. Thursday, March 16, at Abby's Pizza, 997 First St., Coos Bay.

Women of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 (WOSM) meet 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 17, at Beaulahland, 118 NE 28th Ave., Portland. Children are welcome.

CENTRAL LABOR CHAPTERS

Central Oregon

Delegates meet 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 27, at the Social Justice Center, 155 NE Irving Ave., Bend.

Lane County

Delegates meet 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the AFSCME Council 75 office, 688 Charnelton St. Eugene. **PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION.**

Linn-Benton-Lincoln

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, preceded by a 6:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

Marion-Polk-Yamhill

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at 4735 Liberty Rd, Salem.

Southern Oregon

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS

Northwest Oregon

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, March 27, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, at Laborers Hall, 2212 NE Andresen, Vancouver.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

TRADES COUNCILS

Columbia-Pacific

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, March 7 and March 14, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland

Lane, Coos, Curry & Douglas

Delegates meet at noon Wednesday, March 22, at the Springfield Training Center, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield.

Salem

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

METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Portland & Vicinity

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, March 9. Meetings are at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

HAPPENINGS

Faith Labor Breakfast Feb. 21 at St. Andrew Church

The 15th Annual Jobs with Justice Faith Labor Breakfast will be held at 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at St Andrew Catholic Church, 806 NE Alberta Ave. Cost is \$15. The theme this year is "Showing Up for Each Other: Faith in Action." In the wake of the 2016 election, many communities are justifiably concerned for their health and safety. This year's theme highlights the stories of marginalized communities and the actions they can take together to create positive solutions to show up for each other and protect and strengthen their communities. For more information, call Jobs with Justice at 503-236-5573.

Rally and march on President's Day

The Oregon AFL-CIO — the state labor federation most Oregon unions are affiliated with — is sponsoring a President's Day rally and march in downtown Portland to show collective opposition to threats to people's rights. The event, entitled "We the People: Marching United in Resistance" is co-sponsored by Basic Rights Oregon, Causa Oregon, Northwest Oregon Labor Council, Oregon AFSCME, Service Employees International Union, Portland Jobs with Justice, and Unite Oregon.

- **Time:** Monday, February 20 at 12 p.m.
- **Place:** Director Park, 815 SW Park Ave., Portland, Oregon

WANTED: Central Oregon unionists interested in running for office

Oregon Labor Candidate School is looking for union members and leaders who are interested in running for public office — hard workers ready to fight for all working people from the inside of city hall or the State Capitol. An intensive two-day training in the nuts and bolts of getting elected is scheduled for March 4-5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Bend at the Common House at Higher Ground Community. Apply online at <http://bit.ly/2jE4cXN>. Contact Sara Ryan at sara@oregonlaborcandidate.school.org or 503-957-0306 for more information or for help with the application.

RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21 at the AFSCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 1-800-521-5954 ext. 226.

Bakers 114

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at Izzy's, 1307 NE 102nd Ave., Portland.

Elevator Constructors 23

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 8, at Home Town Buffet, 10542 SE Washington St., Portland.

Insulators 36

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

Iron Workers 29

Retirees meet 12 noon Wednesday, March 8, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir, Portland for a catered lunch.

Plumbers and Fitters 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, March 16, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin. The topic is "The Facts about Fats."



HANDS OFF OUR HEALTH CARE! Shannon Walker (right), executive secretary of the Southwest Washington Labor Council, Judy Kuschel, (left) vice president of the Washington Federation of State Employees/AFL-SCME Council 28, and Elizabeth Uelmen, a former member of the Washington Education Association, joined with a hundred others Feb. 7 at the Vancouver office of U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler for a rally to protect the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, and Medicaid. The health care system is on shaky ground following the election of Donald Trump as president, and the middle-of-the-night confirmation of U.S. Rep. Tom Price (R-Georgia) as Secretary of Health and Human Services. Price was confirmed at 2:11 a.m. Feb. 10 on a party line vote. Republicans now are looking to Price to carry out their plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA or Obamacare), and to gut Medicare. Price is an architect of Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-Wisconsin) plan that calls for raising Medicare's eligibility age to 67 and replacing guaranteed benefits with a voucher program. Raising the eligibility age will deny 5 million seniors insurance beginning in 2020. Vouchers will put the healthcare of the nation's retirees at great risk by leaving them to profit-driven insurance companies and healthcare providers. Congress is expected to move on Medicare cuts by mid-year 2017, and the clock is ticking on repeal of the ACA.

Airline pilots, carriers, complain to Trump about Norwegian Air

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — The nation's largest airlines and their unionized pilots want President Donald Trump to reverse an Obama Administration ruling and ban low-cost, low-standard "flag-of-convenience" Norwegian Air International (NAI) from flying in U.S. airspace.

They took that argument to a White House meeting with Trump on Feb. 9.

The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) and other airline unions have waged a long campaign to keep NAI from flying in the United States. They say NAI evades U.S. and European air transport treaties and labor standards by hiring low-paid workers from Singapore and Thailand, and allow them to fly under lax labor laws and inspection rules from other nations.

Over time, ALPA says, more "flag of convenience" carriers will destroy the industry, similar to what happened in the maritime industry.

Overtaking NAI's flying permit and actions to stop Middle

Eastern countries from subsidizing their airlines would send a strong signal to U.S. aviation workers that the Trump Administration is committed to putting America first, said ALPA President Tim Canoll, a captain at Delta Airlines.

Besides the White House meeting, ALPA has launched an online campaign to get Trump to reverse the Obama Administration ruling that allows NAI to fly in the United States.

It's also lobbying Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao to overturn it. Specifically, the union wants Chao "to uphold the Trump Administration's 'America First' governing philosophy," and immediately examine NAI's flying permit "in order to revoke or suspend" it, Canoll said.

AFL-CIO Transportation President Edward Wytkind told Business Insider magazine that the "low-road air carriers' operating plan will destroy fair competition and extinguish middle-class airline jobs here (U.S.) and in Europe."

Construction union leaders cheer Trump's pro-pipeline executive orders

By Mark Gruenberg
Press Associates Inc.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Construction union leaders praised President Donald Trump's two executive orders giving "go" signals to completion of the controversial Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines. Trump issued the orders on Jan. 24, the day after he met four building trades leaders at the White House.

The meeting took place 11 days after a pre-inauguration talk between Trump and AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka at Trump Tower in New York on Jan. 13. Trumka tweeted they had "a very honest and productive conversation," but did not elaborate.

As for the Jan. 24 meeting, Paul Pimentel, spokesman for the Sheet Metal Workers International Union, said, "We're cautiously optimistic about what happened."

Pimentel said the meeting, which included Sheet Metal Workers President Joe Sellers, North America's Building

Trades President Sean McGarvey, Laborers President Terry O'Sullivan, and Carpenters President Doug McCarron, revolved around infrastructure.

"Infrastructure is important to all our members—pipelines, hospitals, schools, railroads, even bringing back coal jobs. There's a lot out there. And Trump's familiar with the (construction) industry" from his decades as a builder and developer, "so that helps," Pimentel said.

The construction union leaders were both optimistic about future infrastructure legislation under Trump, and cheered by the pro-pipeline announcements. Trump predicted the two projects, combined, would generate 28,000 construction jobs.

Trump's Keystone order told its owner, TransCanada, to re-submit its construction permit application to the State Department to okay the Alberta-Oklahoma Keystone segment. He also said it should use U.S. steel, but all the steel for the pipe has been manufactured and currently sits in storage, TransCanada

said.

And Trump told the Army Corps of Engineers to drop its delay of construction of the last 1,100 feet of the Dakota-Illinois Dakota Access line.

Native Americans, environmental groups and some unions and AFL-CIO constituency groups strongly oppose construction of the pipelines.

The national AFL-CIO has endorsed the pipeline projects.

Construction union leaders have been campaigning for Keystone ever since six of their unions — including the Operating Engineers, Laborers and Teamsters — signed a project labor agreement (PLA) for the multimillion-dollar project more than seven years ago.

Union workers built Keystone's southern leg, from Guthrie, Okla., to Gulf Coast oil refineries, but former President Barack Obama blocked the northern leg. He said its "dirty oil" from Albertan tar sands and the fuel used to extract it would add to pollution that causes global warming.

IN MEMORIAM

LYNN R. LEHRBACH

Sept. 22, 1937 - Jan. 5, 2017

Lynn Lehrbach, a longtime representative of Teamsters Joint Council 37, died Jan. 5 from liver cancer. He was 79.

Lehrbach served as political director for the Joint Council from 2005 until his retirement in November 2012. He also was the construction representative for the Teamsters international union. He held the seat of first vice president of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council for many years. After retiring, he served as president of the Teamsters Retirees Club.

LYNN ROGER LEHRBACH was born on Sept. 22, 1937, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. His two brothers and sister grew up in a union family. As a young boy Lehrbach delivered sandwiches that his mother and other volunteers made, to workers on strike at International Harvester. Lehrbach witnessed confrontations between thousands of striking workers and the police during the strike. It was a moment in his life that he said in-



spired him to stand up for what he knew to be right.

Following a stint in the U.S. Air Force, Lehrbach began

his union career in 1959 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with the United Auto Workers (UAW). In the eight years that he worked there, Lehrbach was a chief steward and a member of the Executive Board. He helped negotiate contracts, sitting alongside UAW President Walter Reuther and across the table from American Motors President George Romney. In 1961, Reuther assigned Lehrbach to the UAW's Fair Employment Practice Committee. Following that, Reuther assigned Lehrbach to work as a UAW representative to the civil rights movement. In that capacity Lehrbach assisted in the passage of the Civil Rights Bill of 1964. During that time he met Dr. Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy, and he worked closely with Ralph Abernathy.

After moving to Portland, Lehrbach became a line driver for Crown Zellerbach and a member of Teamsters Local 162. He served as president of the local from 1983-86. From there he became a business representative for Local 582 in Spokane (now Local 690), and three years later he was hired by Local 58 in Vancouver, Washington, as its business rep.

In 1995, then-president Al Panek hired Lehrbach as a union rep for the Teamsters Joint Council No. 37.

Lehrbach was appointed by Gov. Ted Kulongoski to the Tri-Met board of directors. He served one term, from 2011-15. In 2015 he was the lone "no" vote on the seven-member board when the transit agency ended Fareless Square in downtown Portland.

Lehrbach was married three times. He is survived by seven children and numerous grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Teamsters Joe Edgar Hall, 1870 NE 162nd Ave., Portland.

The Strike: U.S. labor's long-lost weapon

Every February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics releases its annual report on the number of work stoppages — strikes or lockouts — involving more than 1,000 workers. Since the annual report began in the late 1940s, the annual incidence of major work stoppages has declined over 95 percent. Last year, there were 15 major work stoppages, involving 99,000 workers.

The largest was the 33-day

strike at Verizon's East Coast landline operations by 36,500 members of Communications Workers of America and IBEW.

The second largest was a one-day strike by 27,000 members of the Chicago Teachers Union at City of Chicago Public Schools.

Three other stoppages lasted just one or two days, including a walkout by 1,500 teachers at Detroit Public Schools and a walk-

out by 1,000 members of International Longshoremen's Association at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The year's longest strike was at Allina Health in Minneapolis-St. Paul, where 4,800 members of Minnesota Nurses Association (National Nurses United) stayed off the job for 38 days.

Nurses also struck at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center for six days.

...UNDER THE BRIDGE

From Page 2

Svoboda was in charge of a \$21.8 million renovation of the Hawthorne Bridge, the Painters and Iron Workers unions collected evidence showing that lead-contaminated debris was falling into the Willamette River and grounds near the jobsite, and the Columbia-Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council sued the company for failing to hire local construction workers and for not being a registered training agent, as required by a Multnomah County ordinance.

On Feb. 1, 2017, Oldham emailed an ODOT manager with details and photo evidence of his concerns about paint, environmental, safety, and work culture problems on the Ross Island

Bridge project. ODOT's Metro East Area Manager Rich Watanabe responded by email Feb. 8, addressing the concerns point by point. Any performance problems will be caught by qualified ODOT project inspectors, Watanabe said.

"ODOT makes special efforts to ensure projects are being constructed safely and in a manner that meets our requirements to deliver a quality product for our stakeholders," Watanabe wrote.

That was six hours after the accident.

Oldham felt that wasn't good enough, and wrote back: "I stated in previous emails that we have additional information, daily logs from workers on the site, statements, pictures, video documentation and direct contact with the

painters onsite. I am disheartened by your choice to not take these sources into consideration."

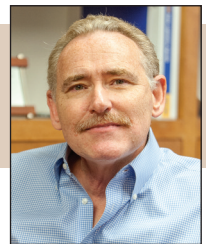
As for the accident itself, Oregon-OSHA spokesperson Aaron Corvin told the Labor Press he couldn't discuss details of the agency's active investigation, but promised to share the results when the investigation is complete.

In fact, OSHA had been out to the Ross Island project at least once before, on June 8, 2016, but found no violations and issued no citations. The complaint they were investigating? That there were holes employees could fall through while sandblasting and painting the bridge.

Abhe & Svoboda did not immediately respond to a call from the Labor Press.

Who's on our side?

By Tom Chamberlain Oregon AFL-CIO President



It's been four weeks since Donald Trump was sworn into office. America is in shock as Trump tries to run the country like a corporation. He's appointed a Cabinet reflecting his vision of America — one that is white, rich and privileged, that believes what is good for big business is good for our citizens. An America without a social safety net, from the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) to defunding Medicaid and denying benefits to the poor and disabled. An America that is very conscious of the color of one's skin, the God we choose to pray to, and an America that turns its back on the notion that we are a nation of immigrants, denying tens of thousands who come to our shores in a thirst for justice, dignity and opportunity. His is a white man's America that turns back the clock to a time when women are denied opportunity and are objectified; an America that rolls back programs and policies that eliminate barriers to the LGBTQ community.

What a turnaround from just eight years ago, when President Obama was handed an America in the grips of a great recession, with millions without healthcare. His presidency focused on lifting Americans up: Creating infrastructure projects to rebuild America, providing tens of thousands of jobs driving America out of an economic ditch to the road to recovery while providing healthcare to millions. His policies and advocacy provided greater opportunity for women and communities of color, took major strides in bringing undocumented workers out of the shadows, and broke down barriers for the LGBTQ community.

For too many, electing America's first black president and implementation of programs and policies that were in stark contrast to their beliefs, gave rise to a new movement, the Tea Party. State by state, their movement grew, passionate and aggressive in their tactics. Their agenda is small government and turning back the clock to the 1950s where women were in the kitchen, communities of color "knew their place," and if you were LGBTQ, your voice, rights and identity were stifled by a closet door. They gained power, dominating the 2010 election by defeating establishment Republican candidates in primaries, and electing them to the 2011 Congress.

What we see today in the streets, on the steps of state capitols, and in Washington, D.C., is an insurgency of epic proportions. People from all walks of life have created a grassroots movement that within one day of Donald Trump being sworn in as president, marched in millions through the streets of America.

When Trump issued an executive order banning immigration from selected countries, thousands of people expressed their outrage at airports across America. When a federal judge issued an injunction halting the executive order, thousands went to airports again — this time welcoming immigrants and refugees.

This new movement is the opposite of the Tea Party, which wanted to restrict government and limit human rights. This is a movement of compassion and love, strong, powerful, and quick to react.

If this grassroots movement can be maintained and grow, the 2018 election will bring change. We will elect candidates to local, state, and federal offices who share a vision of an America that takes care of its people, welcomes immigrants and refugees as an American asset, and eliminates barriers to women, communities of color and the LGBTQ community; an America that provides a quality education for our children and grandchildren, and reestablishes the American Dream, where each generation achieves greater prosperity than the last.

It is within our grasp if we seize it.

Thank you, President Trump. You have accomplished in a few days what others couldn't have accomplished in a lifetime when you awakened the American Peoples' Movement and filled us with resolve and purpose.

Tom Chamberlain is president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, a 130,000-member-strong federation of labor unions.



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Photos courtesy of Keep Washington Competitive



(Photo Above) NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center Executive Director Rod Belisle (left) shows one of the hands-on classrooms during a tour of the NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center in Northeast Portland. To the right, Gary Young, IBEW Local 48 business manager, looks on.



(Photo Right) Port of Vancouver Commission President Brian Wolf (right) talks with Vancouver Energy's Jared Larrabee at the NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center. Standing to the left is Nate Stokes, field rep coordinator for Operating Engineers Local 701.

Apprentices can benefit from energy infrastructure projects

Energy infrastructure projects are not only an important source of family wage jobs for construction workers, they provide real-world projects that help train apprentices and sharpen the skills of journeymen and women.

That's what lawmakers, port commissioners, and business and union leaders heard during a recent tour of the NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center in Northeast Portland. The center, considered one of the nation's best apprenticeship training facilities, is responsible for training thousands of electrical workers for projects in the Portland metropolitan area, and in Southwest Washington.

The tour was arranged by Keep Washington Competitive, a coalition of business, labor, agriculture, and trade representatives that support energy infrastructure projects. The focus was the need for more skilled labor on both sides of the Columbia River, and how energy infrastructure projects can help meet that need.

Among those taking the tour were Brian Wolf, president of the Port of Vancouver Board of Commissioners; Mike Bomar, executive director of the Columbia River Economic Develop-

ment Council; Matthew Hepner, executive director of Certified Electrical Workers of Washington; Washington state Rep. Jim Walsh (R-19th); executives from Vancouver Energy, and construction union leaders from Oregon and Washington.

Energy infrastructure projects, like the Vancouver Energy terminal being proposed at the Port of Vancouver, would provide significant training opportunities and apprenticeships for electrical workers and other skilled tradesmen and women, said Jared Larrabee of Vancouver Energy.

"The IBEW Training Center is a world-class facility for electricians of all levels of experience. But they need real-world experiences to fine-tune their skills," said Gary Young, business manager of IBEW Local 48 and a Port of Portland commissioner. "We don't expect other professionals to learn everything in the classroom. We want new doctors to actually see patients and develop their clinical skills. The same can be said for electricians and other people in the trades. We need them to work on real projects, and the reality is, major energy infrastructure projects like Vancouver Energy provide excellent training opportunities."

Buffet-owned Precision Castparts busts union drive in California

Precision Castparts, the Portland-headquartered metals company that's now owned by the world's second richest man, paid a union-buster last year to defeat a union campaign at a California subsidiary.

According to a required federal disclosure filed in December 2016, PCC Structurals human resources vice president Brian Keegan contracted with Labor Information Services, Inc., of Malibu, California to conduct anti-union meetings with employees of Permaswage.

Permaswage is a PCC subsidiary in Gardena, California, that makes fluid fittings for aerospace companies; it's also known as Designed Metal Connections.

Machinists District Lodge 725 in Huntington, Beach, California, was seeking to represent workers there, and on Sept. 17, filed a request for a union elec-

tion. The National Labor Relations Board set an election date of Oct. 21. Then "union avoidance" consultants Chuck Ahern and Miriam Navarro got to work, on Oct. 10. Nine days later, the union withdrew.

It's not the first time Precision Castparts fought unionization; some of its subsidiaries have union contracts, but at its Portland main campus, the company defeated union campaigns in 1995, 1996, and 2013.

Precision was bought in January 2016 by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway holding company. Billionaire Buffett has garnered great press for expressing concern about rising economic inequality, and some of his companies have unionized workforces. But he's also spoken out against calls for a \$15 minimum wage. Now, a Buffett company fought an effort by workers to unionize.

TOP 10 REASONS

PACIFIC NW IRONWORKERS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ROCKS!

- #10 We LOVE to make loans - We make it easy!
- #9 Our rates are better - Saves YOU money.
- #8 We are easy to join - Takes less than 5 minutes.
- #7 We are convenient - 100s of ATMs in YOUR area.
- #6 We are insured - YOUR money is safe.
- #5 We are non-profit - YOU are our top priority.
- #4 You're not just a number...we know our members!
- #3 We give back to the community.
- #2 We have fewer & lower fees
- #1 You're union. We're union. - We get it.

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