



High school students get lesson running big rigs

Reynolds Learning Academy sophomore Cody Jensen receives some guidance on how to operate an excavator from Operating Engineers Local 701 instructor Leland Smith. Jensen was one of six students from Portland who took part in a two-day workshop at Local 701's Training Center in Eugene. The Training Center is actively recruiting high school students to join 701's apprenticeship programs after they graduate. At the workshop, students are introduced to the construction industry and shown the art of operating heavy equipment. "The Local 701 Training Center is thrilled to be a part of their educational experience. We are always excited when young people show an interest and talent," said Training Center Executive Director Quint Rahberger. "We've hosted many site visits in the past, but this is the first school to commit to an in-depth experience for its students." The Training Center will host similar workshops to other high school trades programs in the future.

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Hit-and-run driver kills Eugene labor activist

EUGENE — The labor movement mourned the loss of a Eugene activist leader last month. Lucy Lahr, age 45, was killed Oct. 18 by a hit-and-run driver as she was crossing a street in Eugene with her long-time partner Susan Wehner outside Sacred Heart Medical Center. Wehner was also seriously injured in the accident, but was released from the hospital after three days.

Lahr is described by those who knew her as an energetic figure who inspired others with her passion for justice. A 22-year employee of the Oregon Department of Human Services, Lahr was active in her union, the Service Employees International Union Local 503, and helped found the Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network, which is now a chapter of the workers' rights group Jobs with Justice.

Lahr was also chair of SEIU sublocal 205, and served as a labor representative on the local Workforce Investment Board.

Police arrested Robert T. Berryhill, 39, two days after the incident and charged him with felony hit-and-run and driving with a suspended license. Berryhill had earlier convictions of reckless driving and



LUCY LAHR

driving under the influence.

Lahr was born Aug. 23, 1962, in Bakersfield, Calif. She graduated from Southern Oregon State College in 1984. She and Wehner held a commitment ceremony in 1997, and exchanged vows on March 11, 2004, in Portland during the brief period of time when Multnomah County was issuing marriage licenses to same-sex partners.

Remembrances can be sent to the Lucy Lahr Memorial Fund at Oregon Community Credit Union.

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