

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council

JOHN MOHLIS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



OREGON STATE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

Executive Secretary Bob Shiprack
3535 SE 86th Ave. Portland, Oregon
503-788-7153

Happy Holidays!

From the **Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO**

Rick Bender, President — Alan Link, Secretary-Treasurer



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...Climate talks in Copenhagen

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For the latter, a case in point occurred at the end of October, when a consortium announced plans for a \$1.5 billion West Texas wind farm, with 240 turbines producing enough power for 150,000 homes. The turbines would be made in China, creating 2,000 to 3,000 jobs there. U.S. workers would get 300 temporary U.S. installation jobs and 30 permanent maintenance jobs. It would be financed by Chinese banks, but get loan guarantees and cash grants from

the U.S. government, including \$450 million in stimulus funds. The plan was not well-received in Washington, D.C., Baugh said.

"It created a perfect learning moment," Baugh said. "This sure isn't what anybody intended to happen, and there's not a politician in the country that wants to be associated with sending half a billion dollars to China to buy wind turbines."

Another course might be for the United States and China to move from competition to cooperation. During Obama's November visit to China, the two sides made a series of announcements related to cooperation on climate change.

Those included: a U.S.-China Electric Vehicles Initiative designed to put millions of electric vehicles on the roads of both countries; cooperation on large-scale carbon capture and sequestration demonstration projects; and joint research and development on clean energy by teams of scientists and engineers from both countries.

Meanwhile, in Copenhagen, the

European Union, Argentina, and Norway have pledged to support elements of ITUC's "just transition" proposal. As of press time, even the U.S. negotiators were speaking in favor of it, but it wasn't clear whether the language would be included in any final agreement to come out of the Copenhagen meeting.

Oregon AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Byrd will report back on her experience at Copenhagen at a Jan. 8 workshop sponsored by the Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon. Entitled "Oregon Workers and Climate Change: Developing a Labor Agenda," the workshop will cover the economic costs of doing nothing, what policies are most effective at curbing global warming, and what unionists can do to make sure the new "green" jobs are good jobs. The event runs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Oregon AFSCME office in Salem, 1400 Tandem Ave. NE; call 503-412-3721 to register.

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Deal. His New Deal for a New Economy Act would create "a hybrid of Roosevelt's WPA and an expanded version of the conservation corps of the 1970s," Hare said in an op-ed column. Hare would have the Labor Department give multi-year grants to create resource management jobs on public lands, state and local public works projects, and public interest jobs with community-based non-profit groups.

The bill was introduced Dec. 11, and has 50 congressional co-sponsors.

AFSCME's Pat Riggs-Henson seeks Lane County board seat

SPRINGFIELD — Pat Riggs-Henson, executive secretary-treasurer of the Lane County Labor Council, is running for an open seat on the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

A 28-year member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 2831, Riggs-Henson retired from her longtime position with the Lane County Workforce Partnership earlier this year.

She is married to Rick Henson, a staff representative for Oregon AFSCME Council 75.

Riggs-Henson, 58, is seeking Position 2 on the five-person County Board. Bill Dwyer, who has held the seat since 1999, is not seeking re-election when his term ends next year.

Throughout her career, Riggs-Henson has been a union and community activist. She served AFSCME Local 2831 in various positions, including president and chief steward. She was on the Oregon AFSCME Executive Board for many years and, for the past several years, served as a Council 75 trustee. She's been on the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board for 10 years, and is the current vice president representing central labor councils.

Her résumé also includes 14 years as an elected member on the Lane Community College Board of Directors, 10 years on the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Board of Directors, plus stints on the boards of



RIGGS-HENSON

the Northwest Youth Corps, Lane Council of Governments, Democratic Party of Lane County, and the United Way.

She ran unsuccessfully for the County Commission in 1989.

"It's a commitment I made to myself 20 years ago," Riggs-Henson said.

"I did very well, though I didn't ultimately win, and I promised myself that once I retired and really had the time to run an all-out race, I would do it. It turns out that time is now."

Riggs-Henson has gained the endorsement of every Lane County-area legislator except State Rep. Nancy Nathanson, who has a policy not to make endorsements.

"I've spent the last 20 years helping all sorts of labor people run for public office, and now is the time for me to step forward and take that risk myself," Riggs-Henson said. "It's no secret who I am or what I stand for. I represent working families and the middle class — which makes me a very good fit for Springfield."

Several other candidates are considering the race or have filed to run. If any candidate captures over 50 percent of the vote in May, they win. Otherwise, the top two vote-getters would move on to a November 2010 general election run-off.

The primary election, which is non-partisan, will be in May 2010.

CORRECTION

The article "Umatilla chemical depot workers to get \$3.6 million back-pay" in the Nov. 20 edition of the Northwest Labor Press incorrectly reported the time period covered in the settlement. Members of the Demilitarization Trades Council will get back-pay for missed breaks and for time spent donning and doffing gear for the period February 2007 to February 2009.

Apprenticeship Opening

Masonry Trades Union Tile, Terrazzo, Brick & Tile Finisher

Must be at least 18 years old at time of application.

Applications being taken

Monday, Jan. 25,

Tuesday, Jan. 26 and

Wednesday, Jan. 27

from 8 a.m. to noon and

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at

12812 NE Marx St.

Portland, Ore. 97230