

Labor Council backs several city, county incumbents

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council on Feb. 22 endorsed several incumbents seeking re-election at the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and Clackamas County.

The list includes: City Commissioners Nick Fish and Dan Saltzman; Multnomah County Chair Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Commissioner Jeff Cogen, and Clackamas County Commissioners Jim Bernard and Ann Lininger. Delegates also voted to support Rex Burkholder for president of Metro.

The labor council has already endorsed Duke Shepard for an open seat on the Metro Council. Shepard is political director of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

Saltzman and Burkholder face the stiffest challenges in the May primary. Six candidates have filed to run against Saltzman, who has served on the City Council since 1998. One opponent, Jesse Cornett, also interviewed with NOLC's Executive Board and turned in a candidate questionnaire.

Burkholder is one of three candidates vying for the open seat at Metro, where Burkholder currently serves as a commissioner.

During his endorsement interview, City Commissioner Fish made a pitch for building a baseball stadium for the minor league Portland Beavers in the Delta Park area. He described the location — which includes Portland International Raceway and the Portland Expo Center — as a “prime location for a new baseball stadium in Portland,” with easy access to the freeway and light rail.

Merritt Paulson owns the Portland Beavers baseball franchise. He recently reached a deal with the City to move the Beavers out of downtown's PGE Park to make room for a Major League Soccer franchise that he bought. PGE Park will soon undergo extensive renovations for the soccer team. Those renovations will be performed by union workers under a project labor agreement that Fish and Saltzman both supported.

Fish also talked about creating a recreation center at Delta Park similar to that of Tualatin Valley's. A large



Roofers say 'Shame on Walmart'

Russ Garnett, Travis Hopkins, and John VanEnige — members of Roofers Local 49 — staff an informational picket line Feb. 18 at the Walmart super store under construction in Cornelius. The anti-union retailer awarded the roofing contract to nonunion Mountain States Roofing of Idaho. “It’s bad enough they hired nonunion,” Hopkins said. Roofers handed out more than 850 fliers to drivers as they were stopped at the corner stop light to let them know that area standard wages were not being paid on the project. The picketers said the nonunion roofing crew is paid around \$15 an hour. “With so many Oregonians out of work, it just burns me up that they hire from out of state,” Hopkins said. Half of the 450 members at Local 49 are out of work, many of them for longer than six months. The Walmart job will provide two dozen jobs for nearly three months. “We’re trying to get work, but nobody seems to want to listen,” VanEnige added. So, for now, they continue collecting weekly unemployment insurance checks. Local 49 is asking union members to call Walmart and let them know they are unhappy with its use of out-of-state contractors and workers. The phone number is 1-800-925-6278.

chunk of land in that area is owned by developer Tom Moyer.

In Clackamas County, first-term Commissioner Bernard was asked about the crumbling Sellwood Bridge and what role the County will play in replacing it. Bernard said Clackamas County has the authority to increase its vehicle registration fee by \$10, with the increase dedicated to building a new bridge.

“We can pass it at the commission level — and we plan to do it,” Bernard told the Executive Board.

Replacing the Sellwood Bridge is estimated to cost \$330 million. Multnomah County has already increased its vehicle registration fee by \$19 (to raise \$127 million) and the City of Portland has committed \$100 million to the project. A \$10 increase in Clackamas County is expected to generate \$44 million toward bridge construction. The bridge is located in Multnomah County, but an estimated 60 percent of Clackamas County residents use it, the Execu-

tive Board was told.

During his interview, Multnomah County Commissioner Cogen said he supports a project labor agreement on the Sellwood Bridge project.

Marion, Polk, Yamhill Labor Council installs new officers

SALEM — McMinnville Steelworker Joe Munger was re-elected president of the Marion, Polk, Yamhill Counties Labor Council.

Munger, president of United Steelworkers Local 8378 and a melt shop worker at Cascade Steel Rolling Mills, will serve a second two-year term as president of the mid-Willamette Valley labor umbrella group, which consists of 21 local unions.

Other officers elected were: Vice President Kathy Bonogofski, Oregon School Employees Association Zone III director and chapter president at Willamette Education Service District; Secretary Treasurer Richard Swyers, a maintenance worker for the City of Salem Water Department and member of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2067; and Recording Secretary Judy Sugnet, a retired OR-OSHA librarian (and current legislative aide to State Rep. Brad Witt) and member of Service Employees International Union Local 503.

Elected trustees were Omar Avina-Trejo, a union representative at United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555; Greg Creal, Central Electrical Training Center instructor and member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 280; Monte Hansen, Cascade Steel crane operator and Steelworkers Local 8378 vice president; Rosalie Pedroza, Oregon State Hospital research analyst and SEIU Local 503

regional director; and Tim Roark, Social Security Administration employee and vice president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 3937.

Pedroza will also serve as the Labor Council's representative on the General Board and the Committee on Political Education for the Oregon AFL-CIO; Creal is the Labor Council's appointee to the Tri-County Enterprise Board.

The officers were sworn in at the group's Feb. 9 meeting.

For more about the labor council, go to or.aflcio.org/mpycle.

AFSCME Local 88 backs Multnomah County incumbents

Multnomah County Employees Local 88 has endorsed the re-election of County Chair Ted Wheeler, County Commissioner Jeff Cogen and County Auditor Steve March.

Local 88, an affiliate of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 88, represents nearly 2,800 county workers.

The union also endorsed Dan Staton for an open seat for County Sheriff.

“AFSCME Local 88 will work hard to see that all endorsed candidates become elected,” said Union President Michael Hanna.

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