

Hughes, Smith pick up union endorsements

Metro Council candidate for president Tom Hughes last month picked up endorsements from the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council.

Hughes was the top vote-getter in a three-person non-partisan primary election May 18. The former mayor of Hillsboro captured 37 percent of the vote to runner-up Bob Stacey, an environmental activist, who received 35 percent. Coming in third was Metro councilor Rex Burkholder, whom the labor council and building trades council had supported.

Additionally, Loretta Smith has been endorsed by both councils in her

bid for Multnomah County commissioner. Smith has spent the last 20 years working for U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden in Multnomah County, where she serves as his field representative.

Smith captured 18 percent of the vote in an eight-person primary, finishing second behind Karol Collymore, who garnered 36 percent of the vote. Both the labor council and building trades council backed Tom Markgraf in the primary. He finished third.

The building trades council also endorsed Shirley Craddick for Metro Council, District 1. Craddick is a Gresham city counselor and was the top vote-getter in a four-person race for an open seat on the regional council.

UFCW Local 555 to hold job actions at Fred Meyer stores

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 will hold a "Freedom Solidarity Shop Week" July 5-12 at various Fred Meyer stores to support non-food employees who have been bargaining for months for a new contract.

The Freedom Shop will run from

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Supporters are asked to buy non-perishable items during that time, while letting non-food employees know they have community backing. Purchases will be donated to local food banks.

Freedom Shop events will take place July 8 at the Portland Interstate Fred Meyer, 7404 N. Interstate; and July 9 at Beaverton Fred Meyer, 11425 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy.

For other dates and locations, call 1-800-452-UFCW.



Hawg heaven

Jim Tosh, a member of IBEW Local 46 in Auburn, gets the keys to a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle from Jason Rodgers, owner of Columbia Motorcycle. Jim was the winner of this year's Union for Kids Motorcycle Poker Run and Chili Cook-off. The fundraiser brought in \$50,000 for Doernbecher Children's Hospital. With Jim is his wife Robin.

Food service workers at Convention Center authorize strike against Aramark

Food service workers at the Oregon Convention Center rejected a final contract offer by Aramark, and authorized the union to call a strike at any time.

The unit of 200 banquet servers, kitchen and concession workers is represented by UNITE HERE Local 9.

Union officers are looking at the possibility of a rolling strike, in which

workers could strike certain high-volume events, such as upcoming conferences by Amway and Intel.

In ballots cast June 23, members agreed with the union's bargaining committee recommendation for a "no" vote on the contract, on the grounds that it would have reduced access to health insurance benefits.

AFL-CIO's Shepard exits Metro race

Oregon AFL-CIO Political Director Duke Shepard has withdrawn from the non-partisan race for Metro Council, District 1. Shepard finished second in a four-person primary election May 18.

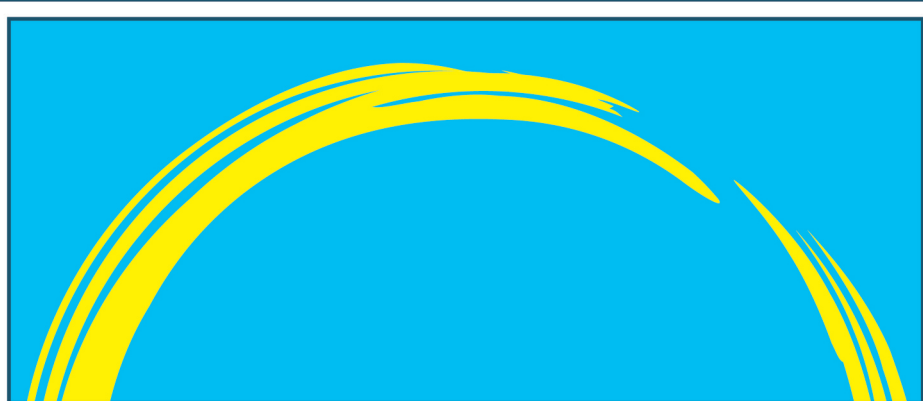
Shepard raised more money from more donors than any other candidate in the primary, and during the last week of the election more than 100 volunteers knocked on over 4,000 doors. Despite that effort, Shirley Craddick, a Gresham city councilor, collected 47 percent of the vote to Shepard's 22 percent.

In a blog on his campaign website, Shepard said after examining the election data, "I do not see a realistic or acceptable path to victory."

Shepard wrote that past history in similar local elections suggests that being competitive in November would require a massive amount of money and a toxic negative campaign.

"I have no interest in running a desperate and personally negative campaign against a good person on issues that are not at the core of why I ran," Shepard wrote. "So while there may indeed be a long-shot path to victory in theory, there isn't one that works for me in reality. This campaign started with integrity, and that is how it will end."

Craddick will not have an opponent on the November ballot. She will take office in January 2011.



SUNRISE DENTAL

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