



Kathy McUne, secretary-treasurer of the Southern Oregon Central Labor Council, serves cupcakes at union-sponsored Labor Day picnic at TouVelle State Park in Medford. McUne is a member of IBEW Local 659.



U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (in baseball cap) shares a laugh with Congressman David Wu (to his left) during Labor Day political speeches at Oaks Park. Also pictured from left to right are U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, Clackamas County Commissioner Bob Austin, and Loretta Smith, a candidate for Multnomah County commissioner. An estimated 20,000 people attended the picnic, sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council. With the large crowd came a record donation to the Red Cross Blood Drive — 60 units of blood from 75 volunteers. The blood drive was named in honor of Tracy Ellerbroek of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, who is recovering from a heart transplant.

Large crowds flock to Labor Day picnics in Oregon

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Record crowds turned out at union-sponsored Labor Day picnics in Portland, Salem, Eugene/Springfield, Bend, The Dalles, North Bend/Coos Bay, and Medford.

An estimated 20,000 people were on hand at Oaks Park in Southeast Portland, for a picnic sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council. Another 950 attended the Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council picnic at Ferry Road Park in North Bend. At Jasper Park in Pleasant Hill, more than 100 people celebrated the day with the Lane County Labor Council. And in Salem, the Marion-Polk-Yamhill Central Labor Council hosted its first Labor Day picnic in over 25 years.

Many state and local politicians and candidates used Labor Day to mingle and introduce themselves to union members.

Among the crowd in Portland were U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and Congressmen Earl Blumenauer, David Wu, and Kurt Schrader. Democratic candidate for governor John Kitzhaber also stopped by, as did Denny Heck, who is running for Congress in Washington's Third District.

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley cooked hamburgers for union members in North Bend while Republican gubernatorial candidate Chris Dudley and Democratic U.S. House candidate Joyce Segers made campaign stops at the Central Oregon Labor Council picnic at Pioneer Park in Bend.



U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (right) and Oregon State Rep. Arnie Roblan cook hamburgers at the Labor Day picnic in North Bend/Coos Bay hosted by the Southwestern Oregon Labor Council. To the left is Gary Marconi of Teamsters Local 206. A reported 950 people attended the event, which also included a canned food drive and donation to the South Coast Food Share.