

Trades voice support for PPS construction bond

Portland Public Schools may ask district voters in May to approve \$548 million in bonds to upgrade school buildings.

District Superintendent Carole Smith presented the proposal Nov. 8 to the school board, which will hold a Dec. 1 hearing, and then vote Dec. 13 whether to refer the local bond measure to the May 2011 ballot.

Paul Riggs, executive secretary-treasurer of the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council, voiced support for the bond measure, calling it "long overdue."

"It will make the schools safer and more economical to operate, and put hundreds of people in the construction industry to work," Riggs said.

The bond would pay to completely rebuild eight schools, build new science labs in 38 elementary and middle schools, put up covered playgrounds at 33 elementary schools, and install new security systems for all 85 district

schools. Schools that would be rebuilt include Jefferson, Roosevelt and Cleveland high schools, and Marysville, Faubion, Laurelhurst, Rigler and Markham K-8 and elementary schools. The work would include electrical, HVAC, roofing, boiler replacement, and landscaping.

Work would begin summer 2011 if voters approve the bond issue. Bonds would be repaid over six years by a property tax of about \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed value, a cost of about \$25 a month for the median homeowner.

Portland Public Schools commissioned a study of the measure's impact on the local economy, including the number of jobs that would be created. The study had not been completed as of press time.

The Portland School Board will hold a public hearing on the proposal 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, in the board auditorium at 501 N. Dixon.

LERA's 'Maggies' go to Wilson, Avakian, Morrison, Nightingale

The Oregon chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA) presented the 2010 "Maggie Awards" at its annual conference Nov. 10 at the World Trade Center in Portland.

LERA is an organization that brings labor, management, neutrals and academics together to improve labor-management relations. Each year, awards are presented to recognize people whose accomplishments and approach to labor relations are widely admired by labor, management, and neutrals. The individuals honored have demonstrated commitment to the collective bargaining process, extensive experience in collective bargaining, integrity, and involvement in the labor relations community.

Recipients of this year's "Maggies"

LCSA's Yule party slated for Dec. 19

Labor's Community Service Agency and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council will hold its 14th annual "Presents from Partners" holiday toy drive. The annual event culminates in a toy distribution party for underprivileged children.

To participate, drop off a new, unwrapped toy to the Northwest Oregon Labor Council or Labor's Community Service Agency between now and Dec. 17. The offices are located at 1125 SE Madison St., Suites 110-D or 103-B, Portland.

The Presents from Partners Holiday Toy Party will be held at the event hall at 1125 SE Madison on Sunday, Dec. 19, from 1 to 4 p.m.

were Nelda Wilson, assistant to the business manager of Operating Engineers Local 701; Debbie Avakian, human resources consultant at Providence Medical Center; Brian Morrison, attorney with the law firm Garvey, Schubert & Barer; and Bob Nightingale, a conciliator for the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

The awards are in memory of Magdalena "Maggie" Jacobsen, founder of the Oregon chapter of LERA while assigned to Portland as a mediator for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. She also was a Clinton appointee to the National Mediation Board, where she served three terms.

The theme of this year's conference was "The Good, The Bad, and The Barely Satisfactory," and featured author and employment attorney Jathan Janove, who presented an interactive workshop based on his book "Managing to Stay Out of Court: How to Avoid the 8 Deadly Sins of Mismanagement."

Tesoro fined for deadly refinery blast

ANACORTES, WASH. — A deadly explosion in April at a Tesoro Corp. oil refinery here that killed seven workers — five of them members of the Steelworkers Union — could have been prevented if the company had tested its equipment properly and followed other safety regulations, state regulators say.

The Washington Department of Labor and Industries issued a record \$2.39 million fine, the largest in the agency's history, against Tesoro, following a six-month investigation into state workplace safety and health regulations. It cited the company for 39 "willful" and five "seri-

Shop for union-made goods this holiday season

(and the rest of the year!)

Why should you buy union? As plenty of union members know, just because an employer is union doesn't mean it's a model citizen. There are some very good union employers, and there also are union employers who'd become nonunion in an instant if they could figure out a way. But buying union isn't about rewarding union employers; it's about supporting fellow union members. It's about voting with your dollars to support enterprises that pay fellow workers a living wage with benefits — enterprises that set an industry standard that raises conditions for workers overall, or at least where employees have a voice, can't be fired without cause, and can bargain over wages and working conditions.

This year, the AFL-CIO is encouraging union members to look for union-made goods and services when they buy for the holiday season, and has designated the 10 days following Thanksgiving — Nov. 26 to Dec. 5 — as Buy Union Week.

To make that easier, the Northwest Labor Press has come up with 10 gift ideas that will help union members put presents under their fellow union members' trees when they buy.

- Hiking boots by Danner are top-quality and will last a lifetime. Check the label: If it's U.S. made, it's manufactured in Oregon by members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555. And you can buy them at the new Danner outlet store on 12021 NE Airport Way in Portland.

- Tillamook cheeses make a fine gift basket item, and are made by Operating Engineers and Teamsters at the Tillamook County Creamery.

- Tickets to the Oregon Symphony keep members of American Federation of Musicians Local 99 employed. And this year, they have three holiday concert offerings at Portland's Arlene Schnitzer concert hall: Gospel Christmas, Handel's Messiah, and Comfort and Joy.

- A Browning hunting rifle, made by union Machinists, could hit the target for big game hunters in the family. Gerber hunting and fishing knives are also union made in Tigard by Machinists members.

- Books and gifts at Powell's Books — online and at five Portland-area locations — are stocked, shipped, and sold by members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 5.

- Chocolates at See's Candies and Ghirardelli are union-made by members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco and Grain Millers in California.

- What gift is better than money? Gift cards purchased at your favorite union grocer will find their way into the paychecks of UFCW members.

- Fiesta ceramic dinnerware, colorful, lead-free and long-lasting, is made in West Virginia by members of Glass, Molders, Pottery International Union.

- Blankets under the Pendleton Woolen Mills label are made in Oregon and Washington by members of Workers United (formerly UNITE HERE) Local 118 and 1108-T.

- Columbia Crest wine, which last year won Wine Spectator magazine's "Wine of the Year" for its 2005 cabernet, is part of the Chateau Ste. Michelle winery, which employs members of United Farm Workers and Teamsters Local 117 in Washington state.

This list isn't meant to be comprehensive. If you think we've left a good gift idea off the list, let us know. Here

is a list of Web sites that promote union-made and American made products.

UNION LABEL & SERVICE TRADES, AFL-CIO
www.shopunionmade.org

UNION HOUSE APPAREL
www.unionlabel.com

How to Buy American
www.howtobuyamerican.com

MADE IN USA
www.madeinusa.org

BUY AMERICAN.COM
www.buyamerican.com

ALL AMERICAN CLOTHING CO.
www.allamericanclothing.com

UNION MADE CLOTHING
www.unionmadeclothing.com

POINTER BRAND
www.pointerbrand.com

Last but not least:

- If you're going to mail a present to a far-away relative, do it via solid-union United States Postal Service or UPS, not FedEx, which is entirely nonunion.

- And if the house is too full to accommodate out-of-town visitors, put them up at the Hilton, Benson, or Paramount hotel in downtown Portland, where workers are represented by UNITE HERE Local 9. These first-class hotels may not be as expensive as you think: Rooms start at \$95, \$109, and \$119, respectively.



**Quest
Investment
Management, Inc.**

**Serving Multi-Employer
Trusts for 25 Years**

Cam Johnson
Patrick Worley
Doug Goebel

Greg Sherwood
Monte Johnson
Adrian Hamilton

One SW Columbia St., Suite 1100 Portland, OR 97258
503-221-0158
www.QuestInvestment.com