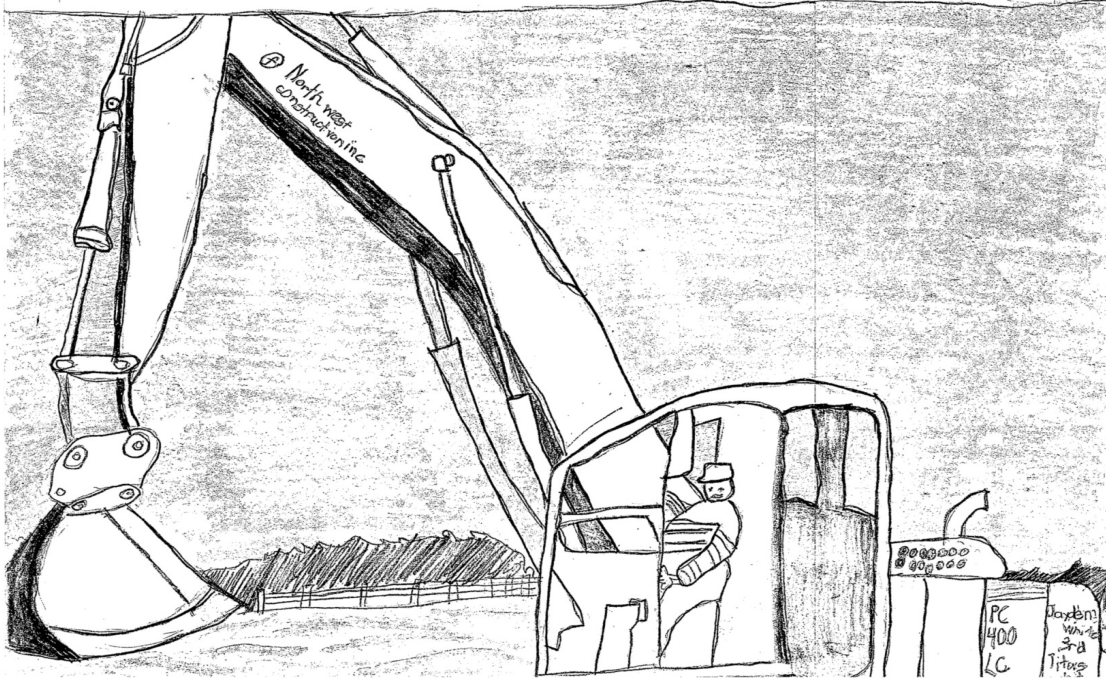




My dad digs better than your dad

Above, heavy equipment operator Titus White runs an excavator for Northwest Construction, Inc. — in this drawing by his eight-year-old son Jayden. Jayden, who attends third grade at North Shore Christian Academy in Everett, Wash., was one of 12 winners in the annual calendar contest at Gladstone-headquartered Operating Engineers Local 701. Every year, children and grandchildren of Local 701 members draw pictures of their parents on the job for the contest. The pictures that are judged best in each grade category get printed in a calendar. The calendar is mailed to all members and informs them of union meetings and holiday closures. This year, 59 children entered the contest for the 2011 calendar. Every participant received a \$10 Subway gift card, and each of the 12 winners received a \$100 savings bond. Titus White says his son's artistic skills come entirely from his mother.

Machinists allege more intimidation in Delta election

In ballots counted Dec. 7, a majority of Delta Air Lines' 15,436 customer service and reservations workers voted not to join the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM). The vote was 3,638 for the union, 8,746 against, and nearly 3,000 not voting. The election means 4,800 IAM members who were former employees of Northwest Airlines will now become nonunion workers.

The vote tally was IAM's third defeat at Delta Airlines in the space of three weeks, and the fourth major union defeat at Delta since heavily

unionized Northwest Airlines merged into largely nonunion Delta in 2008.

That merger triggered a series of elections to see if the merged groups of workers would be unionized. On Nov. 3, Association of Flight Attendants lost a vote among 20,000 flight attendants; IAM lost a Nov. 18 vote among 14,000 baggage handlers and a Nov. 22 vote among 700 stock and stores workers.

Altogether, the union movement stood to gain 34,000 new members, but instead lost 17,000 existing members.

Both unions have filed objections to the vote results. In a statement, the Ma-

chinists union alleges Delta "created an atmosphere of such widespread surveillance, coercion, and intimidation that a fair election was impossible."

Those claims will be adjudicated by the National Mediation Board (NMB), the federal agency that oversees airline union elections. NMB could overturn the results and hold a re-run election.

Earlier this year, NMB ruled that Delta had illegally interfered in a union election for a small group of flight simulator technicians. The company had illegally promised pay raises for nonunion workers just as the voting began. A re-run election was held, but IAM lost that election, too.

Pilots are the only group of Delta workers that have union representation.

AFSCME's Ridderbusch named to governor-elect's transition team

Randy Ridderbusch, a staff rep for Oregon AFSCME Council 75, has been named to one of Governor-elect John Kitzhaber's transition teams. Ridderbusch will work with the team regarding the Department of Human Services, the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Oregon Youth Authority.

Before coming to Council 75 in 2002, Ridderbusch spent nine years as an employee of the DOC. In his Ore-



**RANDY
RIDDERBUSCH**

gon AFSCME tenure he has represented DOC employees, as well as doctors and nurses at Oregon State Hospital.

"I am excited about the opportunity to work with these agencies and help with the transition to the Kitzhaber Administration," said Ridderbusch, a registered Republican. "Given these tough economic times, my own general personal political persuasion is irrelevant. These are not Democrat or Republican issues we're facing; they're citizen of Oregon issues. I'm just looking forward to doing what I can to help."

Kitzhaber will be sworn into office Jan. 10.

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