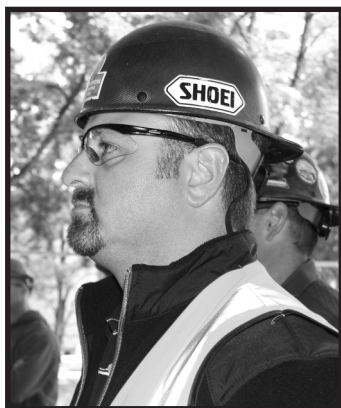


Merkley visits trades job site



Above, members of United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) Local 290 get a visit Sept. 1 from U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley. Merkley was given a tour of the Edith Green Wendell Wyatt Federal Building, which was stripped down to girders and is being reconstructed as one of the most environmentally sustainable federal office buildings in the country. Work on the 512,400 square foot project is being performed under the terms of a project labor agreement signed by 24 local unions. At the time of the visit, 17 plumbers, 17 pipefitters, at least 12 ironworkers, and smaller numbers of other craftworkers were employed on the project. At the end of the tour, Merkley was on hand as Iron Workers Local 29 member Barney Volk (right) was honored for outstanding work.



Oregon AFL-CIO convention to include congressional debate

Delegates from labor unions around Oregon will convene in Eugene Sept. 26 for the Oregon AFL-CIO biennial convention. Oregon AFL-CIO is the state's premier labor union federation, made up of affiliated locals from about 40 international unions with a total of about 112,000 members.

Highlights of the three-day meeting will include a 45-minute debate among candidates for the 1st Congressional District seat vacated by David Wu, a visit from Gov. John Kitzhaber, and a presentation from Karen Nussbaum, executive director of the national AFL-CIO's community affiliate Working America.

Other guest speakers include U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, AFL-CIO Industrial Council Director Bob Baugh, Oregon House Democratic leader Tina Kotek,

British Columbia Labor Federation President Jim Sinclair, and national AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt-Baker.

Delegates will vote on policy resolutions, and will choose the state labor federation's officers for the next four years. As of press time, President Tom Chamberlain and Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Byrd were expected to run for re-election. No other candidates are expected to run.

The convention will take place at the Eugene Hilton Hotel & Convention Center. Workers there are not union-represented, but the Portland-headquartered hotel workers union UNITE HERE Local 9 has no objection to meeting there; for now only three hotels in Oregon are union-represented, all in Portland.

... Clash in Longview

(From Page 3)

The fracas did get the attention of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), a global federation of 779 unions representing over 4.6 million transport workers in 155 countries. ITF condemned the police action and called on EGT to live up to the work agreement the ILWU has at the Port of Longview.

"EGT are playing with fire, and they know it," said ITF President Paddy Crumlin in a press release. "They need to take a big step back and think about what they are trying to force through, then see sense and talk to the ILWU about how to resolve this issue before it escalates even further."

Also on Sept. 8, U.S. District Court Judge Ronald Leighton in Tacoma issued a preliminary injunction to stop acts of picketing misconduct. The Na-

tional Labor Relations Board had sought a motion to ban all picketing at the EGT facility.

The injunction prohibits the ILWU from blocking rail lines, impeding business, making threats or engaging in violence. The injunction applies to all trains or ships headed to or from EGT, no matter where the trains or ships are at the time. A violation of the injunction could result in federal civil contempt charges and fines of up to \$25,000 per violation.

Judge Leighton had issued a temporary restraining order the previous week, and scheduled a contempt hearing for Sept. 15.

On Aug. 29, the NLRB issued a complaint against ILWU Locals 21 and 4 alleging that their acts prior to Sept. 7 violated federal labor law. A hearing is scheduled on that complaint before an administrative law judge on Oct. 11.

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