

...Governor brokers deal ending dispute at Port of Longview

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doesn't hold a jurisdictional claim to the work.

"We weren't notified of any secret negotiations," said Nelda Wilson, assistant to the business manager of Local 701. In fact, in October the union sent a

letter to Gregoire and other politicians asking that they not get involved.

"This is a pretty slippery slope having a governor intervene in a labor dispute," said Wilson, explaining that workers have protections under the National Labor Relations Act and union jurisdictional issues have remedies un-

der the constitution of the national AFL-CIO.

"Think about it, what if Washington had a Scott Walker (governor of Wisconsin, who recently stripped public employees of collective bargaining rights) in the driver's seat? I think this is a very dangerous precedent to have set."

Wilson said employees of General Construction were laid off Jan. 23, the day of the governor's announcement.

In a written statement to the Longview Daily News, Local 701 Business Manager Mark Holliday said: "Local 701 members will continue to work for General Construction as we have done for almost 90 years, whether at the EGT facility or somewhere else. Our labor contract is with General Construction. We have never had and still don't have a relationship or contract with EGT."

The Port's amended lease with EGT states that the multinational company is no longer bound by the Port's "working agreement" with ILWU. In exchange, EGT agreed that ILWU will provide the labor for EGT's facility, and agreed to a union card-check procedure. If a majority of workers choose to be represented by Local 21, EGT and the union will start bargaining on a labor agreement for all land-side and ship-side operations.

According to the Longview Daily News and confirmed by ILWU, the settlement agreement with the Port contains language that ILWU must request that all outside groups — including other labor unions and the Occupy movement — refrain from picketing at

EGT. The Cowlitz Wahkiakum Central Labor Council had called for mass pickets of the first incoming ship to load grain at the EGT terminal, which is expected any day.

The union is allowed to resume its picket if collective bargaining talks break down. At press time, a union vote had not been held and bargaining had not yet begun.

Architects recognize #290's David Roberts with craftsmanship award

David Roberts, a member of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290, received the 2011 Craftsmanship Award for steam and boiler pipefitters from the Southwestern Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

A second generation steamfitter from McMinnville, Roberts works for Gormley Plumbing & Mechanical. He was nominated for the award by SOLARC Architecture & Engineering of Eugene for his work on a difficult boiler retrofit improvement project at the City of Eugene's Echo Hollow and Sheldon swimming pools.

Roberts was the foreman on the project.

"Dave's work sequence and fine quality craftsmanship has been a pleasure to observe in the field," noted Steve Loges, project manager for the City of Eugene's Central Services-Facility Management Division.



DAVID ROBERTS

Gene Johnson, a principal at SOLARC, said Roberts displayed "a personal commitment to excellence in his work, which was an essential ingredient in the timely completion of the projects in these two facilities, involving tightly defined construction periods and critical pool re-opening dates."

Gormley project manager Douglas Mero called it "a great honor for both David and our company."

Roberts is a 39-year member of the union, starting out as an apprentice in 1973. He has worked for Gormley for approximately 18 years.

"It's nice to get the recognition from the architects and engineers," Roberts told the Labor Press. "For me personally, and for our company, it's just the way we do business. It doesn't take any more time or effort to do it right."



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Trade justice roadshow will talk about proposed Pacific Rim FTA

A massive new Trans-Pacific Free Trade Agreement currently being pushed by the Obama Administration will be the focus of a "trade justice roadshow" in February sponsored by the Oregon Fair Trade Coalition.

According to the coalition, the Trans-Pacific FTA is being negotiated behind closed doors between a dozen countries throughout the Pacific Rim at the behest of transnational corporations. Its targeted completion date is the end of this year.

Journalists, most members of Congress, and the people most likely to be impacted by the negotiations are barred from reviewing the U.S. proposals, but approximately 600 corporate lobbyists certified as official "citizen advisers" have regular access to both the negotiating documents and the negotiators, the Oregon Fair Trade Coalition said.

"Oregon cannot afford another trade deal that ships good-paying jobs overseas, reduces the tax base and puts a downward pressure on the wages and benefits in jobs we have left — all while handing new power to Wall Street to challenge financial, environmental and other public interest regulations," said coalition director Arthur Stamoulis.

The Trade Justice Roadshow is designed to inform citizens about the impact of past trade deals on communities and what actions they can take to help prevent the proposed FTA from becoming a "NAFTA of the Pacific."

The roadshow opens Sunday, February 12 in Redmond and concludes

Thursday, Feb. 23 in Salem. It will be in Portland Wednesday, Feb. 22.

For more info, or to get involved, contact Elizabeth Swager at elizabeth@oregonfairtrade.org or call 503-736-9777.

Following are dates, times and locations of meetings.

Sunday, Feb. 12
3 – 4:30 p.m.

UA 290 Training Center
2161 SW First
Redmond

Monday, Feb. 13

6:30 – 8 p.m.
Harris Hall
125 E. 8th St.
Eugene

Wednesday, Feb. 15

6:30 – 8 p.m.

Southern Oregon University
Stevenson Union's
Rogue River Room
1250 Siskyou Blvd
Ashland

Wednesday, Feb. 22

6:30 – 8 p.m.

AFSCME Building
6025 E Burnside St
Portland

Thursday, Feb. 23

6:30 – 8 p.m.

SEIU 503 Board Room
1730 Commercial St SE
Salem

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