



## Iron Workers compete

Russell Tennis (above, left), a fourth-year apprentice at Portland-based Iron Workers Local 29, competes in rod tying competition June 2 at the Pacific Northwest Iron Workers Apprenticeship Contest hosted by Local 29. Judging is Ethan Legrand, apprenticeship coordinator of Spokane, Wash., Local 14. Locals from Portland, Seattle, Spokane, and Anchorage, Alaska, sent their top two apprentices to compete in a multitude of written and timed skillsets that included welding, rigging, ornamental, and climbing a steel column. Apprenticeship coordinators and instructors from the four locals time and judge the quality of work. After scores from all the disciplines are tallied, the top three finishers advance to the national finals Sept. 20-23 in Indianapolis, Indiana, said Local 29 Apprenticeship Coordinator Keith Kordenat. Tennis will move on to the finals after finishing third. The winner was Ron Ohlenkamp of Local 14. Second place went to Daniel Biggers of Anchorage Local 751. Also representing Local 29 at the contest was Fenton Mayes (below right). He finished fourth.



# U.S. Senate Republicans again block pay equity for women

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — For the second time in three years a Republican Senate filibuster threat killed the Paycheck Fairness Act, legislation designed to bring the United States towards the goal of equal pay for equal work.

The June 5 party-line vote was 52-47 on a motion to start regular debate on the bill, but supporters needed 60 votes to end the filibuster. Had it been allowed to move forward, the bill would have passed with a majority of senators supporting it.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., voted “yes” at first, then switched to “no” at the last minute to preserve his right to bring the bill up again in the future.

“This was very disappointing,” said Carol Rosenblatt, executive director of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). The group was one of a coalition whose members mounted a three-week phone and e-mail blitz of senators urging them to debate and pass the legislation and not bury it under a filibuster.

But no Republican, male or female, voted to start debate. All the Democrats — before Reid’s tactical switch — and two independent senators, voted for it.

“The fight continues. Equal pay is not something we’re going to let die,” said Rosenblatt. “Discrimination and economic inequities are not something

we’re going to live with. This is an important issue on which to evaluate candidates.”

Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), a former social worker who is the longest-serving woman ever in Congress, was a top proponent of the Paycheck Fairness Act. The legislation would ban employers from disciplining or firing workers who ask questions about wages, allow triple damages for pay discrimination violations, and narrow the scope of excuses that employ-

ers use to justify pay discrimination.

More than 12 million families with children rely primarily on women’s earnings, and over a third of mothers in working families in all but two states are the families’ primary breadwinners. Yet women still earn on average 77 cents to each dollar earned by a man. It is estimated in real terms that over a lifetime of work this adds up to a loss of anywhere from \$700,000 to \$2 million in lost wages. This hurts women, families and the economy.

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HISTORICAL INFO, photos, memorabilia, pioneer stories from Lincoln County area, Central Oregon coast, need before Aug.10. 971-235-6732, Sandy

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