

# ...Wyden warns against 'unfettered export of natural gas'

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ments. "If any one of those facilities is going to be built, I'm going to lead the way to see that it's union jobs that are building it," he said. "But we need jobs right now, not 10 years from now."

Keynote speaker U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) said he wants to work closely with labor on U.S. energy policy that results in a win, win, win for everyone. "Energy is what drives our ability to manufacture and create good family-wage jobs," he said.

Wyden, who will chair the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee next year if Democrats retain control of the chamber, cited a "hot off the presses" report showing carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S. have fallen to their lowest levels in 20 years. He said all the evidence points to increased use of natural gas as the reason why.

"Natural gas has become a strategic American advantage for us in the last

year and half. We got it and the world wants it," he said.

"So, if we go with unfettered exports, for example to Asia, I'm really concerned about what that means for our big industries here, for equipment, and manufacturing, and construction, and food processing, and the like."

[OSBCTC passed a resolution at the convention calling for an expedited review of proposed coal and liquefied natural gas export terminals in the state. Regional building trades councils have signed letters of understanding with several companies to build the terminals with union labor. ]

"We're going to have to work through the various issues on natural gas exports, and also work through the issues on coal exports that I know all of you care a great deal about," Wyden said. "I think if we think it through together — and working families and the coalition of progressive voices deal with this right, we can strike that balance be-

tween having affordable energy, which is important for all of us for good-paying jobs, and we can protect our treasures (land, air and water)."

On Medicare reform, Wyden said steps must be taken to hold down costs to protect the Medicare guarantee. "Anyone who thinks we don't have to do anything about Medicare needs to think about just one statistic: 10,000 Americans will turn 65 every single day for the next 20 years." Wyden said President Obama started the process with the Affordable Care Act, and it's important that it not be repealed. "But there's a lot more to do," he said.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum told delegates that she is a strong supporter of project labor agreements and prevailing wage laws, and that PLAs should be standard on all public pre-bid construction contracts. "Prevailing wage laws are critical to supporting working families," she said. "I will work aggressively to defend them."

Rosenblum won the Democratic primary for attorney general in May and was appointed to the post by Gov. John Kitzhaber in June, following the resignation of John Kroger. She is serving in the appointed position until January and must win the general election in November to retain the position. She is Oregon's first female attorney general.

In convention business, delegates passed a handful of resolutions, elected officers, and handed out two \$1,000 college scholarships.

Kevin Jensen of Iron Workers Local 29 was re-elected president and John Mohlis of Bricklayers and Allied Trades Local 1 was retained as executive secretary. Also elected by acclamation were Calvin McKinnis of Plasterers Local 82, vice president; Cliff Davis of

IBEW Local 48, guard; Bud Bartunek of Painters and Allied Trades District Council No. 5, conductor; trustees Al Shropshire of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290; John Candioto of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16; Stan Danielson of Insulators Local 36; Matt Eleazer of Bricklayers Local 1; Brett Hinsley of Cement Masons Local 555; Russ Garnett of Roofers Local 49; Jeff Gritz of Laborers Local 121; and Board members Pat Smith of Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas BCTC; Jon Flegel of Southern Oregon BCTC; Jodi Guetzloe Parker of the Columbia Pacific BCTC; Dave Burger of Central Oregon BCTC; Leroy Marney of the Salem BCTC; and Chuck Little of the Pendleton BCTC.

Scholarships were awarded to Taylor Rice and Courtney Hamer. Taylor is the daughter of Laborers Local 296 member Dusty Rice. The Gresham High grad will attend Linfield College this fall where she will study athletic training. Courtney is the daughter of Glenn Sandstrom of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290. She lives in Laurelwood, Colorado, and attends the Denver School of Nursing.

The scholarships were funded by \$1,000 contributions from Ferguson Wellman Capital Management and Quest Investment. Recipients were picked by Duke Shepard, a policy adviser to Gov. John Kitzhaber.

## Developers agree to build proposed casino in Wood Village 100% union

Developers of a proposed \$300 million entertainment center in east Multnomah County have signed a letter of understanding with the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council to build it with union labor.

The LOU was signed Aug. 23, the day developers unveiled The Grange, a multi-use entertainment center featuring local restaurants and pubs featuring local wines and beers, a four-star hotel with a water playground, an outdoor plaza for farmers markets and other community events, a bowling alley, movie theater, concert hall, and an upscale, smoke-free casino.

The Grange will be located between Halsey and Glisan streets in Wood Village, where the abandoned Multnomah Kennel Club operated a greyhound racetrack for nearly 50 years.

But before ground can be broken, voters must approve two statewide Ballot Measures — 82 and 83 — in the November general election. One measure amends the Oregon Constitution to allow privately owned casinos to operate in the state. The companion meas-

ure gives specific approval to build a casino in Wood Village. If both measures pass statewide, voters in Wood Village still would have to approve it.

At the LOU signing, developers emphasized that the complex will use only private money with no public subsidies, and will be operated by an Oregon company that pays all state and local taxes. They pledged also to recruit and prioritize Oregon companies for the materials, supplies, and labor to build and operate it.

The ballot measures are endorsed by Wood Village City Council, the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

"The Grange will be a sustainable development, generate thousands of jobs, millions of dollars a year for schools and other services and without a cent of taxpayer dollars," said Wood Village Mayor Patricia Smith. "It will be a fun destination for Oregonians and good for Oregon's economy."

For more information, go to: [www.thegrangeoregon.com](http://www.thegrangeoregon.com).

## ...More NOLC endorsements

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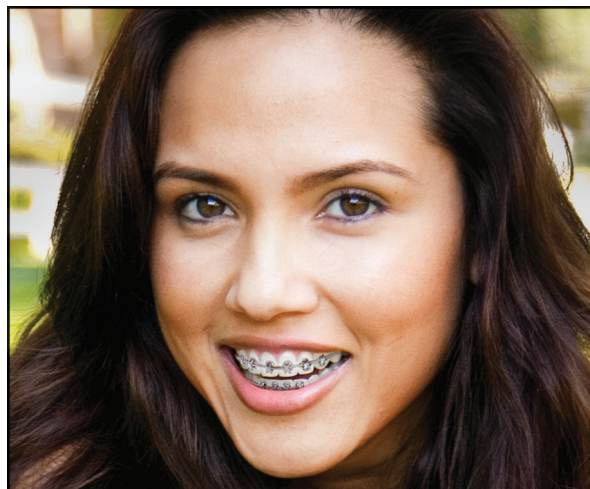
natural resource businesses. Opponents of the measure say ending the estate tax would impact approximately 1,000 of the richest estates each year and cost the state's general fund around \$200 million every budget cycle.

NOLC delegates also took action opposing Measure 3-401, the only issue that will appear on a special election ballot in Clackamas County on Sept. 18.

Measure 3-401 was submitted by the Tea Party and would require voter approval before spending county resources on any passenger rail projects.

The measure is being funded mostly by out-of-state conservatives, including Nevada millionaire and self-described sex hypnotist Loren Parks. Also involved is the Oregon Transformation Project PAC, whose treasurer is Rob Kremer, a leader of the Oregon Republican Party.

In other action, a vote of "no confidence" in Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe passed unanimously (see Page 1). And a motion to endorse HR 3591, a bill sponsored by Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio to save the United States Post Office, also received unanimous support.



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