



THE GOOD OLD DAYS: Family time, fun, and fellowship at ATU Local 757's picnic in Blue Lake Park.

TriMet pulls plug on annual picnic

Amalgamated Transit Union's annual picnic at Blue Lake Regional Park was quite an event. As many as 7,000 people — ATU Local 757 members and their families — would attend the picnic, which was held in July or August each year. There were games for the kids, bingo for the grown-ups, and barbecue for all.

The \$50,000 event came courtesy of TriMet's collective bargaining agreement with the union, in which the transit agency contributed to a recreation fund overseen by the union — TriMet's own funds, plus proceeds from employee break room vending machines. It was one of a handful of perks in a contract that since the 1980s contained no across-the-board raises except cost-of-living allowances intended to keep pace with inflation (though it did also maintain generous health and pension benefits.)

But that bargained good-will gesture ended last year. Vending machine proceeds were diverted to a charity, and an arbitrator imposed TriMet's final contract offer, which included an end to its Rec Fund contribution. The 2012 picnic consumed the Fund's remaining balance.

So there will be no picnic at Blue Lake this year for union transit operators and mechanics.

Instead, Local 757 President Bruce Hansen said the union is trying to secure a spot at Northwest Oregon Labor Council's bursting-at-the-seams annual Labor Day picnic at Oaks Amusement Park. That location is also where ATU's retired members have their annual picnic, which will take place Wednesday, July 10, at 11 a.m.

Hansen said Local 757 is challenging the arbitrator's decision, and hopes in the end to get the Rec Fund contribution reinstated.

Wanted:

Union-made elephant ears

Zoo food workers want union rights and permanent work

Temporary food service workers at the Oregon Zoo want a union. Laborers Local 483, which represents about 188 other zoo employees, says over 80 percent of the 160 food service employees have signed union authorization cards seeking to join them.

The workers have no beef at all with their front-line managers, said Local 483 spokesperson Megan Hise. It's the wages and working conditions they're objecting to. Nearly all are part-time and temporary, limited to 1,040 hours a year (the equivalent of 30 hours a week for nine months of the year). They make minimum wage and have no benefits. They start shifts without knowing when they'll leave, because they are routinely sent home when sales are slow. They're not allowed to accept tips — even when customers holding meetings at zoo event spaces pay a "gratuity" charge. And many zoo food service

workers are on food stamps and rely on unemployment between layoff and rehire, Hise said.

The Oregon Zoo is managed by Metro, the regional government for the Portland metropolitan area.

Local 483 organizer Toby Green said the union campaign began when a zoo food service worker found out about an internal survey that was aimed at Local 483's existing members, and filled it out online. Six months later, a 25-member worker committee is ready to proclaim "Zoolidarity" forever — and petition with the Oregon Employment Relations Board to be added to the existing group. Local 483 has had some success getting benefits for temporary and seasonal workers at the City of Portland.

"We want a chance to do work that we're proud of," one zoo food service worker told the Labor Press.

Low Prices!

WHITE & WESCO
"Always the best Quality"
10" SMOKE JUMPER
16" LINEMAN
SIZES IN NARROW,
MEDIUM & WIDE
AI's SHOES
5811 S.E. 82ND • 771-2130
Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9:30-5:30, Sun 12-6

2-1-1 can be a lifesaver

2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their communities. In Oregon, it is run by 211info, in partnership with United Way. It can be accessed on line at www.211info.org.



10 Convenient locations to serve you.

BEAVERTON
4655 SW Griffith Dr.

GRANTS PASS
1021 NE 6th St.

GRESHAM
443 NW Burnside Rd.

HILLSBORO
7206 N.E. Cornell Rd.

MILWAUKIE
17186 SE McLoughlin Blvd.

PORTLAND
3580 SE 82nd Ave.

SALEM
831 Lancaster Mall Dr. N.E.

WILSONVILLE
25700 SW Argyle Ave.
Northwest Dental Associates, P.C.

VANCOUVER, WA
Fisher's Landing
3250 S.E. 164th Ave.
Austin Phoenix, D.D.S., M.S.
Peter Vu, D.M.D.

Salmon Creek
2101 N.E. 129th St.
Austin Phoenix, D.D.S., M.S.
Jeff Pearson, D.M.D.
Mailiki Patterson, D.D.S.
Stirewall, P.C.

1. 877.34 BRIGHT NOW
1.877.342.7444
www.brightnow.com

Stay Connected



TEETH LOVE GETTING MORE.

MORE CARE

- General services plus dentures, orthodontics, implants, oral surgery, and digital X-rays¹

MORE VALUE

- All major insurance plans accepted
- Union members save 40% or more on all your dental needs

MORE CONVENIENCE

- With 10 offices, we're easy to find
- Same day emergency care

Expect more. Get more.

SPECIAL OFFERS

\$100 OFF

DENTAL SERVICES²

NO-CHARGE
CONSULTATION

\$500 OFF
BRACES³

Bright Now! Dental

¹ Services vary by office. ² Offer valid for every family member in same residence, but only valid once per person (\$500 per person minimum required for \$100 discount). Cannot be combined with other discounts. Offer is for patients not using insurance. Not redeemable for cash or credit. ³ Reg. Price \$5,418. Valid on new full orthodontic cases only does not include records and retainers. Valid for patients not using insurance. Offers are subject to change and expire on 12-31-2013. © 2013 Smile Brands Inc. All rights reserved.