

# City of Portland contract in mediation

Nearly a month after the June 30 expiration of the contract between the City of Portland and the District Council of Trade Unions (DCTU) — and despite weekly meetings — the two sides appear no closer to reaching agreement. Terms of the expired contract remain in force until a new deal is reached or an impasse is declared.

For the 1,600 union members in the seven-union DCTU, the biggest item holding up agreement is a City proposal that would eliminate protec-

tion against contracting out and pave the way for increased privatization.

The City is proposing to gut Article 6 of the contract, "Job Security and Outside Contracting." Article 6 declares that work performed by bargaining unit employees won't be contracted out unless it results in reduced costs, and those lower costs can't come from lower wages, health care or pension costs. The City also agrees not to lay off bargaining unit members because their work was contracted out. And if the City is considering contracting out, it must notify the union and give the union a chance to discuss alternate methods of doing the work.

Instead, the City is proposing to notify the unions in advance of contracting out only if it results in layoff. There would be no restriction against contracting out bargaining unit work, except that the city would be obliged to bargain over the contracting out, if

the unions request it within two weeks.

Union officials said the City also refuses to agree to retroactive cost-of-living increases, insisting that any wage hikes take effect the day the new contract is ratified. Union workers, collectively, stand to lose \$4,000 for every day a settlement is delayed.

"Never before has the City denied union workers a retroactive COLA settlement. This is a dramatic incentive for the City not to bargain in good faith and reach a timely agreement," DCTU said in a statement on its website.

The seven unions are getting ready to take their case to the public with a rally Aug. 14 at 4 p.m. at Chapman Square, SW 3rd Ave. and Main St., near City Hall.

A mediated bargaining session was held July 30, after this issue went to press.

## CLC's choices for Aug. 6 primary

VANCOUVER, Wash. — The Southwest Washington Central Labor Council has issued endorsements for the Aug. 6 primary election in the state of Washington.

Ballots were mailed July 17.

The labor council endorsed the reelection of Tim Leavitt for mayor of Vancouver and the re-election of Jack Burkman for Vancouver City Council, Position 1.

Leavitt is being challenged by city councilor Bill Turlay.

Burkman faces three challengers in

the primary. The top two vote getters move on to the general election Nov. 5.

Union delegates issued dual endorsements for two separate Vancouver City Council races.

For Position 2, the labor council is backing political newcomers Alishia Topper and Ty Stober. They are challenging incumbent Jeanne E. Stewart.

For Position 3, the labor council has endorsed Anne McEnery Ogle and Galina Burley. They are among four candidates trying to unseat incumbent Jeanne M. Harris.

# IN MEMORIAM

**TOM GATES**, a leader in the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), died at his home along the Mohawk River in Springfield, Oregon, July 2. He was 69.



Gates had a 35-year postal career. He was a past president of NALC Branch 916 in Eugene, and served as education director for the Oregon State Association of Letter Carriers.

**THOMAS EUGENE GATES** was born Dec. 5, 1943, in Corvallis, Oregon. A graduate of North Eugene High School, Gates served in the U.S. Navy from 1961-1963. He received a bachelor of science degree in 1970 from the University of Oregon, where he later earned his master's degree in business administration.

Prior to working for the Post Office,

Gates was a supervisor for Ore-Ida Foods in the early 1970s.

Gates was hired as a letter carrier in 1978.

"Tom was a great NALC leader/mentor/advocate, a generous and caring friend, a successful rancher, and a stubborn crusader for justice for those unjustly treated," said Mary Martinez, Region 2 national business agent's lead assistant for the NALC.

Gates is survived by his wife, Jan, of 33 years; daughter Kristine Johnson of Tigard, Oregon; son, Jeff; three grandchildren; and brother William Gates of Eugene. His son, Randy Dix, pre-deceased him.

A memorial service and pig roast were held July 14 at his ranch outside Springfield.

Donations may be made in memory of Gates in care of NALC Branch 916 at: NALC Branch 916, 931 River Road, Eugene, Oregon 97404.

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## AFL-CIO Summer School Aug. 9-11 at UO in Eugene

EUGENE — The annual AFL-CIO Summer School will be held Aug. 9-11 at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

The weekend event, coordinated by the Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) of the UO, offers classes on labor history, labor issues and strategies, health care reform laws, stopping workplace discrimination, and more.

Participants also will have lots of opportunities to connect with union members from around the state to share insights and ideas. There will be a book exchange, labor film fest, a solidarity picnic, and music.

Summer school courses and workshops qualify for a maximum of eight

hours toward LERC's Union Leadership Education and Development (U-LEAD) certificate.

For more information or to register, go online to <http://pages.uoregon.edu/lerc/>

## Stamper tribute Aug. 10 in Eugene

EUGENE — A celebration of the musical and literary legacy of acclaimed songwriter, folksinger, longshoreman, and community and labor activist Harry S. Stamper Jr. will be held Saturday, Aug. 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the Wesley Center, 1236 Kincaid St., on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene.

The event will feature a screening of "We Just Come to Work Here: The Music of Harry Stamper," a short documentary film by Nathan Moore, and performances of Stamper's songs by local musicians David Rogers, Late For Dinner, and Low Tide Drifters.

The event marks the opening and exhibit of the Harry S. Stamper Jr. Papers, recently acquired by the University of Oregon's Special Collections and University Archives, housed in Knight Library. Stamper hailed from Coos Bay, Oregon.

For more information, go to: <http://library.uoregon.edu/node/3593>.



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