



Laborers #296 gun raffle nets big cash for LCSA

Portland-based Laborers Local 296 held a gun raffle fundraiser to benefit Labor's Community Service Agency and the Union Sportsmen's Alliance. The local sold 200 tickets at \$20 each for a chance to win a Remington semi-automatic pistol. The raffle netted each organization \$1,315. Vickie Burns, executive director of LCSA (pictured above with Local 296 Business Manager Ken Morgan), said the money will go into its Helping Hands fund. The grand



prize winner was Casey Scott of Scott Wealth Management Group.

Paratransit workers ratify first contract

Paratransit workers at First Transit-Region 3 had a little more to be thankful for on Thanksgiving, and they're looking forward to a holiday season where money is a little less tight.

That's after workers — members of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 757 — voted 110-11 to ratify their first contract with First Transit, a contractor TriMet uses to provide paratransit services. The vote was held Nov. 21.

TriMet divides the service area into three paratransit regions. For years, two of those regions have worked under union contracts for significantly higher wages, better benefits, and with consistent workplace policies in place.

Last year, by an overwhelming vote of 110-31, workers in Region 3 voted to join ATU. After a year of negotiations they came to terms on a contract just in time for the holidays.

Major workplace improvements include raises that bring Region 3 pay closer to pay at the other two regions, benefits for part-time workers who are driving full-time hours, and a consistent disciplinary policy, which some workers say is the most important piece of the contract.

Most drivers saw the contract as a major step forward that can be improved upon in the future.

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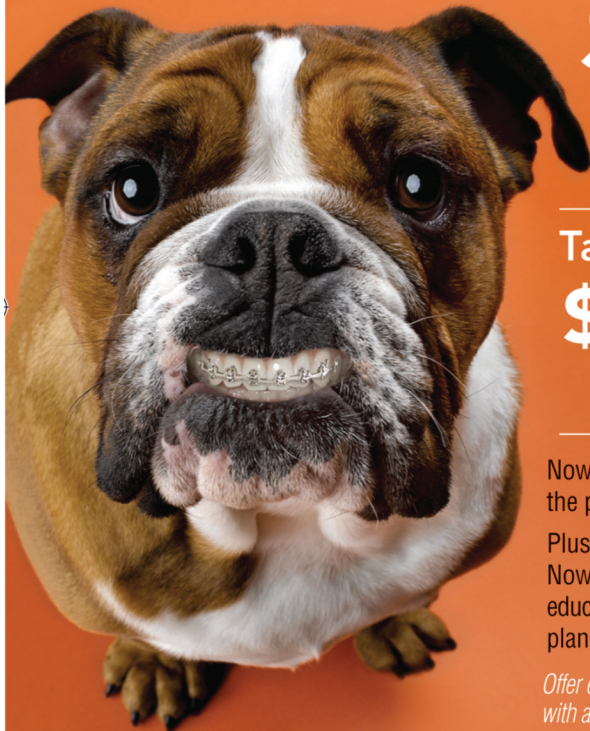
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