

Paid sick leave could be coming soon to Eugene

EUGENE — The City of Eugene is considering a sick leave ordinance modeled on the ordinance Portland passed last year.

Eugene City Council has held several work sessions on the concept, and in April appointed a task force to gather information. The task force met May 8 for the first time and will report back to City Council in mid-June. It has representatives of business, and two representatives from labor: United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 Staff Director Kevin Billman, and Painters Local 1277 Business Representative Pat Smith, who is also secretary-treasurer of the Lane, Coos, Curry, Douglas Building Trades Council.

Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy led the kickoff meeting of the task force, which also includes Eugene City Council members Claire Syrett and Alan Zelenka.

Lili Hoag, policy director for the

group Family Forward Oregon, said there appears to be majority support on Eugene City Council for an ordinance.

On April 28, about 40 Eugene residents turned out to City Council for what she described as a “show of gratitude.” One worker told City Council about his experience recovering from surgery without the help of his wife, who had no paid sick days. Behind him stood eight activists holding petitions from each of the eight City Council wards. The petitions, signed by over 3,200 Eugeniens, were gathered in a door-to-door canvass by Oregon Working Families Party.



Supporters of paid sick leave turn up April 28 to thank Eugene City Council for moving forward on a City ordinance. Photo by Lisa Frack, courtesy of Family Forward Oregon

Portland Jobs with Justice annual dinner May 31

Portland Jobs with Justice is holding its 23rd anniversary celebration and dinner at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 31, at the Teamsters Joe Edgar Hall, 1860 NE 162nd Ave., Portland. Tickets are \$70 each and can be purchased online at jwjpgdx.org.

Jobs with Justice is a coalition of labor organizations and community groups dedicated to protecting the rights of working people. The Portland chapter has 96 member organizations and 5,000 individuals who pledge to be there five times a year for other people's struggles.

For more information, call 503-236-5573.

National LERA confab expects to draw 400 people to Portland

The Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA) will hold its national conference in Portland May 29-June 1 at the Hilton Portland and Executive Towers. The event is expected to draw 400 representatives from labor, management, government, academics and neutrals to Portland.

The keynote luncheon speaker on May 29 will be Dr. David Weil, newly appointed administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor. It will be Weil's first policy speech as the new head of the agency. He was sworn in as the administrator of the Wage and Hour Division

on May 5. Weil is the first Senate-approved administrator since Tammy D. McCutchen resigned in 2004, serving in the Bush Administration from 2001 to 2004.

The theme of the conference is “Renewing Employment Relations for Shared Prosperity: Research, Practice and Policy.” It features over 70 sessions. Some of the topics include: “Security, Surveillance and Implications for Labor Relations;” “New strategies for Low-Wage Workers?;” “What a Reimagined Labor Movement Means for Employer/Employee Relations?”

LERA is an organization that provides a forum for professionals interested in all aspects of labor and employment relations to network and share ideas. It has a local chapter in Portland.

For more information or to register for the conference, go to: www.LERAweb.org/66thAnnualMtgProgram, or contact Michael Lillich at clearlyexpressedllc@gmail.com.

Grants Pass firefighters victorious in OT ruling

GRANTS PASS — The Oregon Court of Appeals ruled May 7 that the City of Grants Pass must pay back wages and overtime to city firefighters.

In June 2011, the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3564 petitioned the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) for a ruling about whether the City of Grants Pass must include authorized vacation and sick leave time when calculating the overtime wages of its members.

The union filed the wage claim after discovering state statutes that set working hours and that established a method of computing overtime for firefighters.

Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian said it did, and he ordered the city to correct up to two years of miscalculated pay for 24 firefighters. At that time the cost was estimated to be \$30,000. (See NW Labor Press, “Labor commissioner sides with Fire Fighters in overtime pay dispute,” March 16, 2012.)

The City of Grants Pass appealed, arguing that enactment of the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA) in 1973 created a collective bargaining exception to the overtime requirements cited by the union.

On May 7, the Court of Appeals upheld BOLI's ruling, which will result in the payment of more than \$100,000 in back wages and overtime for the firefighters.

On its Facebook page, Local 3564 called it “a big win for all Oregon firefighters.”

The City of Grants Pass has 35 days to appeal the ruling to the Oregon Supreme Court.

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CATHLEEN CALLAHAN FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE POSITION 1



“Please join me and our local labor community in voting for Cathleen Callahan, Columbia County's choice for Circuit Court Judge.”

- Representative Brad Witt

Also endorsed by

Northwest Oregon Labor Council
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555
Teamsters Joint Council 37
Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers

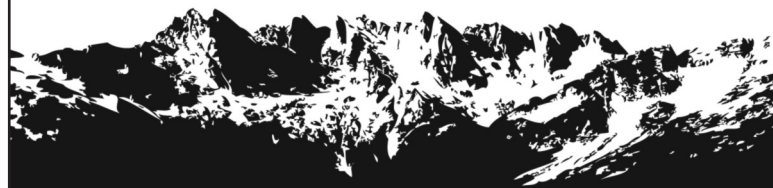
VOTE by May 20th, VOTE CATHLEEN CALLAHAN.

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Paid for by Committee to Elect Cathleen Callahan for Circuit Court Judge



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