

GENERAL ELECTION

Endorsements of the NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

U.S. SENATE

JEFF MERKLEY

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

First District: **SUZANNE BONAMICI**

Third District: **EARL BLUMENAUER**

Fifth District: **KURT SCHRADER**

GOVERNOR

JOHN KITZHABER

STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES

Measures 88 (Driver Cards)

SUPPORT

Measures 89 (Equal Rights Amendment)

SUPPORT

Measure 90 (Top Two Primary)

OPPOSE

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Clerk: **DAVID ROBINSON**

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Commissioner, District 2: **HENRY HEIMULLER**

Circuit Judge, Position 1: **CATHLEEN CALLAHAN**

CITY OF HILLSBORO

City Council: **KYLE ALLEN**

CITY OF PORTLAND

MEASURE 26-159 (Fix Our Parks)

SUPPORT

Oregon State Senate

Dist. 16- **BETSY JOHNSON**; Dist. 17- **ELIZABETH STEINER HAYWARD**;

Dist. 20- **JAMIE DAMON**; District 23- **MICHAEL DEMBROW**;

District 24- **ROD MONROE**; District 26- **ROBERT BRUCE**

OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dist. 18 - **SCOTT MILLS**; Dist. 27 - **TOBIAS READ**;

Dist. 28 - **JEFF BARKER**; Dist. 29 - **SUSAN McLAIN**;

Dist. 30 - **JOE GALLEGOS**; Dist. 31 - **BRAD WITT**;

Dist. 33 - **MITCH GREENLICK**; Dist. 34 - **KEN HELM**;

Dist. 35 - **MARGARET DOHERTY**; Dist. 36 - **JENNIFER WILLIAMSON**;

Dist. 38 - **ANN LININGER**; Dist. 40 - **BRENT BARTON**;

Dist. 41 - **KATHLEEN TAYLOR**; Dist. 42 - **ROB NOSSE**;

Dist. 43 - **LEW FREDERICK**; Dist. 44 - **TINA KOTEK**;

Dist. 45 - **BARBARA SMITH WARNER**;

Dist. 47 - **JESSICA VEGA-PEDERSON**; Dist. 48 - **JEFF REARDON**;

Dist. 49 - **CHRIS GORSEK**; Dist. 50 - **CARLA PILUSO**;

Dist. 51 - **SHEMIA FAGAN**; Dist. 52 - **STEPHANIE NYSTROM**

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MEETING NOTICES

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**NORTHWEST
LABOR
PRESS**

Portland



A LABOR VOICE FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE. On stage in Portland's Waterfront Park, Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain brought a labor union perspective to the Sept. 21 Portland People's Climate march. "We are brothers and sisters, joined together by common values, believers in scientific data and a faith that we can create a better world," Chamberlain declared. "That commitment and determination must begin today at an earth-shaking pace." (See story on Page 16)

Union uncovers wage theft at Pearl District apartment

General contractor Lorentz Bruun pays \$85,000 to settle DOL case against woman-owned paint subcontractor

By **DON McINTOSH**
Associate Editor

The U.S. Labor Department is investigating prevailing wage violations at four Portland-area construction projects that received loan guarantees from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). That government help came with conditions: The apartments must be affordable for moderate-income families or the elderly or handicapped, and construction workers must be paid local prevailing wage rates as determined by govern-

ment surveys.

But an investigation by Painters District Council 5 found that a painting subcontractor at the Parker Apartments construction project paid workers as little as half the amount they were entitled to. Workers who complained about the violation were let go.

The story begins in March, when Painters union organizer Roman Ramos asked out-of-work union member Marcos Jimenez to go undercover as a painter at the Parker Apartments — a six-story 177-unit apartment building under construction in the Pearl District — and report back any illegal practices he found.

The Parker is named after the toddler son of Bob Ball, a prominent developer who ran for Portland mayor in 2008. To build it, Ball teamed up with Eugene developers Don Woolley and

Tom Connor, and with a HUD loan guarantee, they obtained a \$35.7 million loan from CBRE, the world's largest commercial real estate services firm.

Painters District Council 5 has been investigating HUD-sponsored construction projects in the Pacific Northwest, starting in Seattle, says organizing director Jeff Kelley. The goal is to clean up the industry, making it harder for companies to win contracts by cheating workers out of wages.

"Every project we've looked at in Washington and Oregon has had issues," Kelley said. And the biggest issue has been violations of the prevailing wage law, known as Davis-Bacon.

Davis-Bacon is meant to level the playing field on taxpayer-funded construction projects, explains Rebecca

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