

Tacoma voters may get to decide \$15 minimum wage

The activist group 15 Now Tacoma filed a local initiative last month to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and index it to inflation. If they collect at least 3,160 valid signatures by mid-June, voters would decide the issue next November. Under the proposed ballot measure, small businesses making gross revenues of under \$300,000 per year would be exempt. But employers who violate the law would face tough penalties: Employers who withhold more than \$5,000 from an employee would be charged with felony first-degree theft, facing possible jail time and fines of \$100 per day per employee.

Getting books into the hands of kids



Portland Federation of School Professionals (PFSP) Local 111 sponsored a book giveaway for students of North Portland's Boise-Eliot School Dec. 9. Each student at the K-8 school got to take home a brand-new book, choosing from piles arrayed on tables in the school library. The event is part of a campaign by the non-profit group First Book to encourage reading by getting books in the hands of kids. PFSP, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, represents classified support staff at Portland Public Schools, including Boise-Eliot library assistant Carol Whiteside, who oversaw the giveaway. Pictured left is first grade teacher Diana Peters.

Season's Greetings

from the

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135 Second Avenue North, Suite 202,
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(425) 582-8935
Email: mikek@korpilaw.com



At annual holiday gathering

Trowel trades recognize longtime members

Victor Marquez (pictured) received a 50-year Gold Card and plaque from Cement Masons Local 555 at the local's annual holiday Christmas Party Dec. 6.

Local 555 and Plasterers Local 82 presented pins and Gold Cards to longtime members, and they recognized graduates of their respective apprenticeship training programs at the event.

Local 555 member John Garnek also was recognized for his 50 years of

membership. He was unable to attend.

Forty-year cards were awarded to Abner Childress, Larry Richardson, Jeff Thorgerson and William Wynn.

Thirty-year recognition pins went to Robert Childers, Mark Farley, James Hagler, Jeff Morrison and Greg Peterson.

Twenty-Five-year pins were presented to David Barnd, Dennis Brown, William Burdick, Ron Chambers, Mike Fultz, Kenneth Johnson, T. Lynn

Jones, Bud Peterson and Ivan Taylor.

Shane Jennings

was recognized as a new journeyman,

having completed

the Cement Masons apprenticeship training program.

Plasterers Local 82 recognized James McCarty and Mike Phengsynath for 30 years of membership. Twenty-five year pins went to Rance Danielson, Tony Jackson, Joe Rask and Mike Whitney.

Graduates of the 2014 apprenticeship class and new journeymen are Mario Espinoza and Bryant Mikkola.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association of the United States and Canada.



Victor Marquez

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Lewis & Clark grad joins Portland labor law firm

Sydney Montanaro has joined Swanson, Thomas, Coon & Newton as an associate representing injured workers in workers' compensation claims.



Montanaro graduated from Lewis & Clark law school in Portland in May 2014. During law school she focused on public interest law and clerked for various non-profit organizations and offices dedicated to representing low income people and advocating for employment rights.

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Jeffrey Goss / Catherine Gardner
971.255.0546
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