

Cowlitz Tribe casino will be union built

LA CENTER, Wash.—The Cowlitz Indian Tribe has signed a project labor agreement (PLA) with the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council, Operating Engineers Local 701, and the Carpenters to build its new casino here. The PLA requires general contractor Swinerton Construction to use union contractors and subcontractors.

According to the Cowlitz Resort project website, the resort—located just west of Exit 16 off of Interstate 5—will consist of a casino of up to 134,150 square feet, restaurants and retail stores comprising up to 260,225 square feet, up to 147,500 square feet of convention and entertainment space, and a hotel with 250 rooms. There will be parking structures

for 7,250 vehicles and an RV park for 200 recreational vehicles.

The PLA covers just the first phase of the project, which is the \$160 million casino. The tribe wants to break ground early next year. It is expected to create an estimated 250 to 300 construction jobs.

Willy Myers, executive sec-
Turn to Page 11

...Uber unleashed in Portland

From Page 12

the placards that until last week they were required to post—and leave the price-gouging, aka “surge pricing” to the company that invented it, Uber. [Uber has applied for a patent on its method of “dynamically adjusting prices for service.”]

Fish, meanwhile, objected to Uber’s user agreement, which says the company is legally responsible for nothing that happens to drivers and passengers who connect via its service. The ordinance at least takes a stand against that, saying Uber’s waivers of legal responsibility will have no force or effect in the City of Portland. [Thus Uber passengers can sue the company if they’re injured in Portland.]

The ordinance says all TNC drivers must have a city business license, so Fish asked Uber and Lyft representatives whether they’d bar drivers who don’t have the business license.

“That’s something we would work on,” hedged Uber general manager Brooke Steger, to audi-

ble shock from the crowd.

“I didn’t realize that was a squishy,” Fish replied.

Even the representative of Lyft—the TNC that plays the role of lawful and eco-conscious good guy to Uber’s bully-boy—waffled in her answer. But when pressed by Saltzman, she pledged that drivers wouldn’t be allowed to operate on its platform in Portland without a business license. [The issue is an especially sensitive one for Portland: Just 5 percent of those listing rentals on Airbnb have obtained the required city permit nine months after the city legalized it.]

At the final hearing, taxi company representatives criticized many instances of unequal treatment under the proposed rules: Taxis have to have cameras installed, for the safety of drivers and passengers; TNCs don’t have to. TNC drivers can start right away, with four months to complete training and certification after getting a permit; not taxi drivers. TNC companies like Uber and Lyft get unlimited

entry into the market for a flat \$20,000 permit fee; taxi companies like Radio Cab pay per-vehicle and per-driver, totaling up to \$150,000.

Will the extra fee money buy extra enforcement, Fritz asked? No plans for that, said Novick aide Bryan Hockaday. “So we’ll have a thousand more drivers,” Fritz said, “and no more enforcement.”

Fritz, whose husband was killed in a car crash last September, was especially fierce criticizing the ordinance for inadequate insurance requirements: Taxis have to have at least \$500,000 in liability coverage, but TNC vehicles as little as \$50,000.

In the end, Fritz and Fish voted no, but Saltzman joined Novick and Hales to approve the resolution 3-2.

“Nobody has assured me this isn’t a race to the bottom on wages,” Saltzman said as he declared his vote. “That said, we’re just going to have to find out in the next 120 days.”

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Nickum

Feb. 4, 1928 - March 29, 2015

Helen Nickum, who worked 18 years as a secretary for Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 757, died March 29 at the age of 87.



Congresswoman Edith Green and for the Democratic National Committee.

She opened a temp secretarial agency in the 1960s, doing work and printing jobs for govern-

ment agencies. She closed the business in 1971 and returned to Portland. She took a job at U.S. Bank, but after three years, left and joined a successful class action gender discrimination lawsuit. She became active with the local women’s movement, and with groups like Common Cause and Friends of the Columbia Gorge. After a seven-year stint at CH2M Hill, she was hired at ATU in August 1987, working first for financial secretary-treasurer Tony Bryant and then, for Ron Heintzman.

Nickum was on a field trip at Maryhill Museum on March 27, when she fell on some stairs and hit her head, and lost consciousness. She was life-flighted to Emanuel hospital, but never regained consciousness, and died two days later.

Nickum was born to a union family in Portland in 1928. Her father was a union ironworker and her uncle was a Painters Union business agent.

After graduating from Jefferson High School in 1945, Nickum got a job in the Portland shipyard as a secretary for the son of local ship and steel magnate Henry Kaiser.

She studied business and mathematics at the University of Oregon, and later earned a bachelor’s degree in secretarial science at Oregon State College in 1950.

She worked as a legal secretary, and became active in the Democratic Party as a precinct committee-person, volunteering for Adlai Stevenson’s unsuccessful presidential campaigns, and for the successful campaign of Richard Neuberger for U.S. Senate. When Neuberger won, Nickum asked him for a job and was hired. That assignment began nearly two decades of life and work in Washington, D.C., where she worked for Oregon

At Local 757, Nickum was a member of Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 11. She retired in March 2006 with a union pension and health benefits.

In retirement, she volunteered for the Oregon Historical Society, and transcribed 267 hours of recorded interviews for the Oregon Labor Oral History Program of the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association.

She is survived by nephew Phil Rudolph, a retired TriMet bus operator; two grand nieces, and a cousin.

Broadway Floral

for the BEST flowers call

503-288-5537

1638 NE Broadway, Portland

Home Financing for Union Members & Families

\$750 Savings for Purchases and Refinances

Now, active and retired **union members**, as well as their children and parents, can take advantage of this exclusive offer.

For more information, please contact my team:

bkrueger@guildmortgage.net

503.490.0459



Bob Krueger
Guild Mortgage Company
Mortgage Loan Officer

Lake Oswego Branch
4500 Kruse Way Ste. 250
Lake Oswego, OR 97035
NMLS 476844 - Company NMLS 3274 - OR ML-176

Guild
MORTGAGE COMPANY
www.bobkrueger.net

Opening Doors - Impacting Lives...



Terms and conditions apply. Offer is valid only at Wilsonville Branch. Offer expires 10/31/15.

SIOBHAN BURKE **MESD**
DIRECTOR
Position 7
SE/SW Portland

FIGHTING FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR STUDENTS DESERVE

“I am running because I work with students with disabilities every day and I want to bring that experience to the Board. Bringing the voices of teachers, staff and students to decision-making will be my top priority.”



Endorsements:

Northwest Oregon Labor Council
AFT Oregon
MESD Education Association
Portland Association of Teachers PAC
Portland Federation of School Professionals, AFT Local 111
PCC Federation of Faculty & Academic Professionals, AFT Local 2277

(Authorized and paid for by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council)