

...Flushing the TPP

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Unions have made defeating the TPP a top priority. At the Nelsons' suggestion, Local 290 paid for "Stop the TPP" hardhat stickers. Union reps distributed the stickers to members at Intel and other job sites.

The TPP would bind the United States to a bloc of 11 other Pacific Rim nations, including Japan and New Zealand, but also human rights abusers like Malaysia, the Sultanate of Brunei, and Vietnam. But don't call it free trade. Farmers markets like the one at Esther Short Park are free trade. Deals like the TPP are the opposite: They're really about getting other countries to give corporations longer government-enforced monopolies on drug patents, copyrights and trademarks. And they're about giving investors special rights, like the right of foreign investors to sue governments in special trade tribunals if new laws reduce their expected profits.

The TPP was negotiated in

secret, and its backers would like to ratify it in secret as well — in the lame duck session of Congress after this November's election. But the TPP has become politically toxic. With both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump opposed to it, the agreement will be considered dead on arrival if it's not passed before January.

The Nelsons blame NAFTA-style trade agreements for sending good jobs overseas, and they say the TPP — NAFTA times four — will only make it worse. The United States hasn't had a trade surplus in over 40 years — since 1975. Last year, the United States trade deficit was just over \$500 billion. That means the United States imported \$500 billion more in goods and services than it exported.

"The TPP is the further destruction of this country," says Linda Nelson. "To me it's like the nail in the coffin."



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NALC food drive sets new record

Responding to the needs of the hungry, Americans set a new record by donating 80 million pounds of food to the National Association of Letter Carriers' (NALC) annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

The food drive's old donation record was 77 million pounds.

In Oregon and Southwest Washington, Letter Carriers collected 970,000 pounds of food, which actually is lower than normal.

The food is distributed to local food banks, soup kitchens, pantries and other enterprises that feed the needy. Many of those enterprises had exhausted the food they had collected during the winter, said NALC President Fredric Rolando.

Federal data show that one of every seven U.S. residents — 50 million people — go to bed hungry each day.

Preliminary collections data show that eight NALC branches collected more than 1 million pounds of food each. Tops on the list was Branch 1091 in Orlando, Florida. The 1,613-member local collected 2.233 million pounds of food.

2016 SW Washington Central Labor Council Endorsements



These are the 2016 primary election endorsements of the SW WASHINGTON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL and the WASHINGTON STATE LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO. Mail ballots are out for the Aug. 2, 2016 primary election.

U.S. HOUSE

3rd CD — **Jim Moeller**

STATEWIDE

Governor — **Jay Inslee**
Lt. Governor — **Cyrus Habib**
Insurance Comm. — **Mike Kreidler**
Attorney General — **Bob Ferguson**
Lands Comm. — **Dave Upthegrove**
Sec. of State — **Tina Podlodowski**
State Auditor — **Jeff Sprung**
Sup. of Public Instruction — **Chris Reykdal**

JUDICIAL

STATE SUPREME COURT
Pos. 1 — **Mary Yu**
Pos. 5 — **Barbara Madsen**
Pos. 6 — **Charles Wiggins**

CLARK COUNTY

Commissioner Dist 3:
Tanisha Harris

Commissioner Dist 4:
Roman Battan

BALLOT MEASURES

YES on **Initiative 1433** on minimum leave/sick leave

NO on **Initiative 732** on carbon taxes

YES on **Initiative 735** to repeal Citizens United

YES on **Initiative 1501** to protect vulnerable individuals and in-home caregivers

STATE LEGISLATURE

17th LD
Senate — **Tim Probst**
House 1 — **Sam Kim**

18th LD
Senate — **Eric Holt**
House 1 — **Justin Oberg**
House 2 — **Kathy Gillespie**

49th LD
Senate — **Annette Cleveland**
House 1 — **Sharon Wylie**
House 2 — **Monica Stonier**

The deadline to register online or by mail has passed, but you may register in person at your county elections department through July 25, 2016.

July 15
Start of 18-day voting period. Ballots are mailed out and Accessible Voting Units are available at voting centers.

Your ballot must be:
Postmarked no later than Election Day, Aug. 2; or returned to a designated ballot drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day; or returned in person to your county elections department by 8 p.m. on Election Day.