

Have A Happy Holiday!

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'Tis the Season to be Jolly



SALEM, Oregon — For 77 years, unions affiliated with the Marion-Polk-Yamhill Counties Labor Chapter have hosted a free holiday party for children and their parents and grandparents (some of whom attended when *they* were kids). The party is held the first



weekend in December at the historic Elsinore Theatre in downtown Salem.

This Dec. 3, children sang holiday songs with Norman Sylvester and Friends (above), watched a movie, met Santa and Mrs. Claus, (left), then headed out with a goodie bag filled with union-made products purchased at the local unionized Fred Meyer store.

Sylvester is a member of

Musicians Local 99, and Santa is played by Jack Rusen of Albany Steelworkers Local 6163 (Mrs. Claus is his wife). The emcee is Jeff Anderson, secretary-treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555. Anderson has played the part of “Elfie” for nearly 30 years.

The event is funded by local unions and unionized businesses in the tri-county area.

UNION ORGANIZING

New Seasons deploys same union-busters used by Trump Las Vegas hotel

After a second pro-union worker is fired, union supporters question the grocer's 'B Corp' status

By Don McIntosh

New Seasons Markets, after spending decades cultivating a feel-good image as a progressive employer, is now engaged in a full-fledged anti-union campaign led by a well-known union-busting firm. The campaign follows classic union-busting template: holding anti-union meetings in the workplace, enlisting managers as anti-union ground troops, and, according to charges filed by United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555, violations of federal labor law.

Three charges against New Seasons are now being investigated by the National Labor



After 11 years working at New Seasons, grocery clerk Terra Bosart was terminated Nov. 28. She's the second open union supporter to be fired there.

Relations Board. In the charges, Local 555 alleges that New Seasons violated the National Labor Relations Act when it fired union supporters Adrian Mendoza on Oct. 4 and Terra Bosart on Nov. 28. A third charge alleges that man-

agers are interrogating and coercing workers, and telling them not to talk about the union organizing campaign.

A 2009 Oregon law says employers can't require workers to attend anti-union meet-

NATIONAL

Furor over GOP tax bills

In the dead of night, Senate Republicans passed a sweeping package of tax changes Dec. 1. The bill reduces taxes dramatically on corporations and high-income taxpayers, while raising them slightly on many working people. It was rushed to a vote without a hearing, and passed 51-49 with no support from Democrats. The U.S. House passed a separate version of the bill in a 227-205 vote Nov. 16. At press time Republican leaders in the two chambers were trying to modify and reconcile the two versions and bring a harmonized bill back for final approval.

No Oregon or Washington senators voted for it, and Oregon's Ron Wyden called it a “scam,” in a press conference call: “They started out promising a substantial tax cut to the middle class,” Wyden said, “but they produced a multi-trillion handout to the wealthy that will

raise taxes on hardworking Americans.”

Signs are the public is not pleased: Polls show just 31 percent of Americans support the tax changes, and 64 percent said the wealthy will reap the most benefits from the overhaul.

“The GOP tax bill that passed the Senate by one vote is nothing but an attack on America's workers,” said national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “We will pay more, corporations and billionaires will pay less.”

Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation estimates the Senate version of the plan to cut taxes on the rich would add \$1 trillion to the federal debt. That's if Republican leaders don't then cut spending. But House Speaker Paul Ryan already is talking about cutting Medicare, Medicaid and welfare when Congress returns to work in 2018 — *to try to lower the deficit.*