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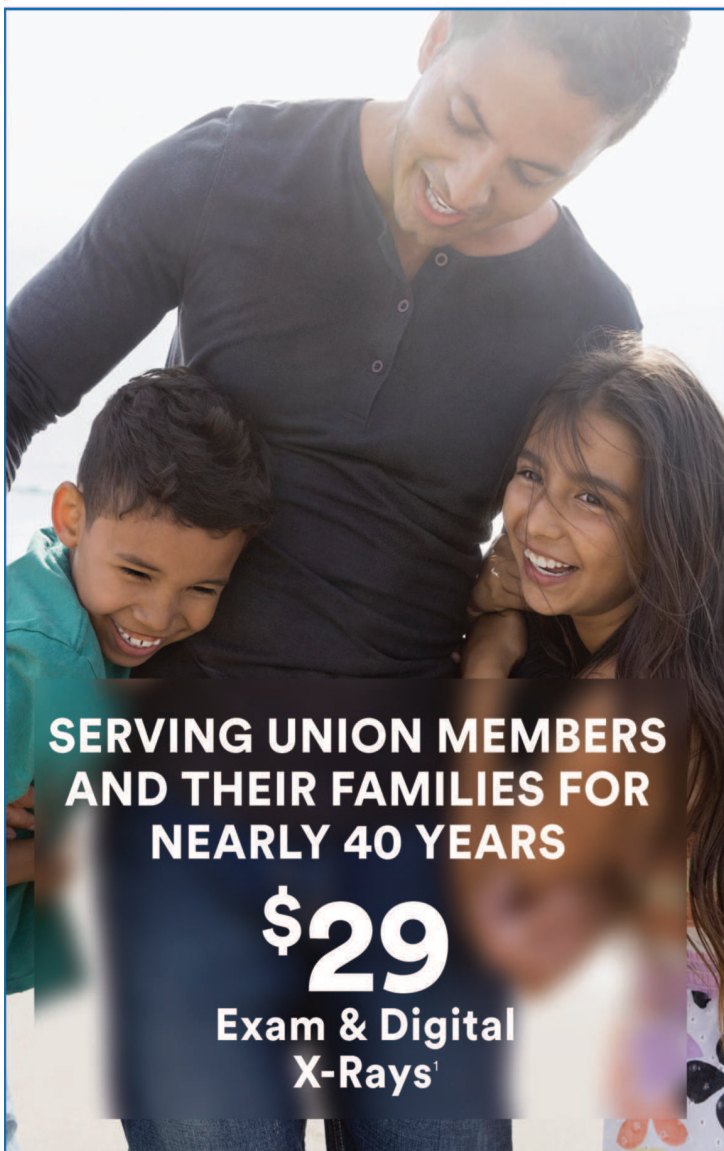
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PASSENGERS SUPPORT UNIONS TOO. Allies of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 members employed at First Transit gathered June 25 for a “Speak Out for Accessibility in Public Transit and Housing” organized by the Workers’ Rights Board of Portland Jobs with Justice. First Transit is a private subcontractor that provides TriMet LIFT service for seniors and people with disabilities. Workers are bargaining for a new contract, but it’s not going well. Final offers in May were soundly rejected by drivers and dispatchers in Multnomah and Washington counties. The Workers’ Rights Board has been gathering testimony from LIFT riders and drivers about labor and human rights violations they’ve experienced since First Transit contracted with TriMet. At the event they talked of the challenges they face and what might be done to fix them.

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Oregon minimum wage rose on July 1

The Portland-area wage is now \$12 an hour.

An estimated 270,000 Oregon workers earning minimum wage got a raise on July 1.

Within the Portland Urban Growth Boundary pay went from \$11.25 per hour to \$12; in rural counties it went from \$10 an hour to \$10.50; and for the rest of the state it went from \$10.25 to \$10.75.

The annual increases, which run through July 2022, were approved by the Legislature two years ago.

Workers earning the minimum wage should check their pay stubs and contact Oregon’s Bureau of Labor and Industries Wage and Hour Division if they have any questions about the increase or to report an employer who is not increasing wages in accordance with the law.