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Union pension funds will finance new downtown hotel

Union pension funds will finance a new 12-story, \$50 million boutique lifestyle hotel in downtown Portland. The Moxy Hotel, a new brand by Marriott International, is expected to start construction in late October on a 7,500 square-foot lot at Southwest 10th and Alder.

The 140-foot-tall building will feature lots of brick, with aluminum composite material panels, fiberglass windows, and aluminum sliding doors and storefront. It will be built with all-union labor.

The hotel will have 197 guest rooms — most no more than 180 square feet in size. There will be no parking, and a street

level bar will double as the reception desk. Customers will check in with their cell phones at the bar. Cell phones also will serve as room keys. Within the open lobby will be a central kitchen and four restaurant tenant spaces intended for food-cart vendors. The upper floor will host a hospitality suite, and the roof will have an outdoor public patio.

Howard S. Wright is the general contractor. Financing is being arranged through Washington Capital Management. Representatives from both organizations met with the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council last month for a pre-job talk.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Teamsters get 20% raise at AMR

By an 86 percent margin, members of Teamsters Portland Local 223 and Vancouver Local 58 ratified a new four-year contract at American Medical Response (AMR). The deal raises wages 20 percent over the life of the agreement.

The 600-plus-member bargaining unit provides ambulance service to Multnomah and Clackamas counties in Oregon, and Clark and Cowlitz counties in Washington.

The previous contract expired June 30, but was extended to Aug. 24. In late July the union took a strike authorization vote, which passed by a wide margin.

With strike authorization in

hand, the sides met Aug. 20-21, along with a federal mediator. On Aug. 21 the union presented its "last, best, and final" offer to AMR.

"The other option was to hand them our 10-day notice to strike" said Local 223 Business Rep Dave Tully.

AMR took the deal.

The contract provides for raises of 3 percent on July 1, and 2 percent on Jan. 1, through 2022. The first raise is retroactive to July 1, 2018. The union preserved health care benefits, including a \$5 office co-pay at Kaiser Permanente, and maintained a 401 (k) retirement savings plan.

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