



ON THE JOB | How to read a rigger's hieroglyphics

Using a laser distance measurer, lead rigger Joel Gburek arrives at the Moda Center before the other riggers and makes chalk markings on the floor (or, "deck") of the arena. The marks tell other riggers how and where to set up each point where a piece of equipment will be hung. Most of the numbers refer to the lengths of braided wire ropes (known as aircraft cable) that have an eye at each end. The eyes are color coded: red for a 5' cable, white for 10' and blue for 20'. Within the chalk diagram, the upper numbers are for the 'baskets' — the cables that will wrap around the beam above and then be connected to themselves by fastening the eyes together with a "shackle" (technically, a screw-pin anchor shackle — those little metal objects on the right). The middle numbers are for the 'bridle legs' which attach to the

baskets and join at the apex (or shackle junction) of the bridle. The lower number is the 'stinger' length which connects the bridle apex to the chain hoist, the motor that will lift the object. Meanwhile, the chalk X on the right is the actual point on the floor that riggers will aim for. If the X is within a diamond, as above, that means it will need a hoist capable of lifting a quarter ton; a triangle means a half-ton hoist, a circle means one-ton, and a square two-ton. The black chain is a STAC chain (special theatrical alloy chain) or simply "deck chain"; it's used for fine adjustment of the bridle legs: "3L" means that riggers will want to add 3 links to the bridle leg. It's at the top of the leg so that if the point needs to be adjusted, the rigger on the beam above can add or subtract links to move the rigging point on the floor.

READER POLL RESULTS

In our Feb. 15, 2019 issue we asked:
SHOULD U.S. SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY RUN FOR PRESIDENT?

57% Yes

43% No

23 votes • Final results

Teachers extend contract at Portland Public Schools

Portland Association of Teachers reached tentative agreement with Portland Public Schools Feb. 22 on a one-year contract extension that includes a 3 percent cost of living increase for the 2019-2020 school year. PAT represents 4,000 teachers, counselors and other faculty who serve over 49,000 students at the state's largest school district. If ratified by teachers, the collective bargaining agreement will extend through June 30, 2020.

Lafer runs for school board

University of Oregon labor educator Gordon Lafer is running for Eugene School District Board. Lafer is a professor at UO's Labor Education and Research Center (LERC). His daughter is a seventh grader in the district. Thus far, he's running unopposed, but candidates have to March 21 to file. Eugene School District 4J serves 16,000 K-12 students. Ballots will be mailed out May 2 and are due back May 21. Find out more at laferfor4j.com

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