

Crisis Team at Local 701 training center

Operating Engineers Local 701 made its 87-acre training facility available last month to the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department for its Crisis Negotiations Team to train. The Team deploys with SWAT on calls, and one of its responsibilities is to operate armored vehicles. The training — which took place at the Mark Holliday Operating Engineers Training Center in Canby — was to familiarize them with operating in a variety of terrains and to teach them how to pull their own vehicles out when stuck. Local 701 heavy equipment operators were standing by in case



they needed a little extra help ... and they did.

Last year, the Clackamas County K-9 Unit used the facil-

ity for training. Clackamas County Search & Rescue also has expressed interest. Local 701 Business Manager Jimbo

Anderson said fire, police, or special rescue departments from any jurisdiction are welcome to use the facility for any

training they need to do, at no charge.

"After all, it's all about public safety," Anderson said.

Oregon minimum wage will rise again on July 1

Oregon's minimum wage will rise \$0.50 an hour July 1, part of a phased-in series of annual increases. The 2019 raise will bring the minimum wage to \$12.50 an hour within the Portland metropolitan area's urban growth boundary, \$11.00 an hour in the predominately rural counties of eastern Oregon and the southern Oregon coast, and \$11.25 an

hour everywhere else. Under the minimum wage law passed in 2016, the geographically-tiered wage will reach \$14.75, \$13.50, and \$12.50 in July 2022, after which it will increase annually according to inflation.

Multnomah County approves wage theft pilot

By unanimous vote, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners approved a budget

May 31 that includes funding for a new program to combat wage theft. Starting July 1, the County will let knowledgeable members of the public, such as union reps, volunteer to help enforce prevailing wage and wage and hour laws on County construction projects. Volunteers will have access to the certified payroll records that contractors submit to the County — and be allowed to visit worksites to interview workers.

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