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ployees: invest in their 401(k)s, and go to college.

“We have to run a business that’s competitive with others,” Boyle explained. If the business is profitable, the stock price goes up. And Columbia employees are stockholders, if they’re investing in their 401(k)s, which “I hope everybody is here,” Boyle said (to warehouse employees his company pays less than \$20 an hour.)

The other path out of poverty, Boyle seemed to suggest, was for warehouse workers to get educations so they could come back as white collar workers at headquarters.

“Hopefully we’re working here to get employees in this population into the other parts of the business where wages are higher, doing other categories of work,” Boyle told warehouse workers. “We want to make sure that people have the opportunity to get a better salary and a better wage.”

Another worker wanted to know if Trump’s tariff trade war with China was hurting the company.

“We’ve moved a lot of production out of China in the last 10 years, primarily because China’s an expensive place to work these days. There are other countries in the world where we can produce products more competitively. We have to constantly be working on that.”

After 20 minutes of questions, Boyle was gone.

“To me it gave the impression that he doesn’t really care that much,” Mikhaylov said. “It almost seemed like he wasn’t really concerned.”

Of course, Rory Gatto got that impression the moment he found all those empty first-aid stations. But there’s always hope. Four years after his battle for band-aids, Gatto discovered first-aid kits restocked throughout the Columbia warehouse ... right after a surprise visit Oct. 30 from an Oregon OSHA inspector.

To get the company’s official public position on the union campaign, the *Labor Press* reached out to Mary Ellen Glynn, Columbia’s director of corporate communications. Glynn said the company would have no comment.

“This is going to be a battle,” said Davison. “But we committed to these employees that we’re not going to walk away. We’re going to stand by them.”

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Who won the Presents From Partners’ Toy Challenge? The results are in

Five unions competed for bragging rights in the annual Presents from Partners Toy Challenge, sponsored by Labor’s Community Service Agency (LCSA). The competition pitted union locals to see which one could bring in the most 32 to 45 gallon bags full of toys.

IBEW Local 48 defended their title with an “out-of-the-stratosphere” victory. (See photo right.) LCSA Executive Director Eryn Byram said their beyond expectation toy drive results earned the union their own station at the Presents From Partners giving

event on Dec. 14.

Southwest Washington Central Labor Council was awarded first place, and second place awards went to International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 5; Oregon Federation of Nurses and Healthcare Professionals Local 5017-American Federation of Teachers; and United Association of Plumbers and Fitters Local 290.

Of course, the real winners were all the kids who got gifts at the Presents From Partners event.



IBEW Local 48 members Aaron Watts, Josh Carter,, and Kat Smith go shopping.

Ham: Two pick-up trucks worth



What started over a decade ago as a modest joint donation to Lower Columbia CAP Meals on Wheels by the local Building Trades and the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Central Labor Council has grown 500%! This year, with extra help from individual unions and other community partners, local labor groups were able to purchase \$5,585 worth of hams from local grocer Cascade Select Market for the program, which delivers food to homebound and disabled seniors. There were enough hams to fill two full-

sized pickup trucks with eight-foot beds and side rails. Donating were Plumbers and Fitters Local 26, IBEW Local 48, Operating Engineers Local 701, Boilermakers Local 502, Laborers Local 335, Service Employees Local 925, Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers Local 633, Longview-Kelso Building Trades Council, Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Central Labor Council, Northwest Innovations Works Kalama, Millennium Bulk Terminals, and Sunrise Dental.



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