

Minimum Wage Increase Coming

continued from A13

ing Washington, Vermont, Nevada, Montana, Missouri, Florida, Colorado, and Arizona, annually adjust their minimum wage based on inflation and the CPI. The CPI, which is published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed "market basket" of goods and services, such as food, shelter, medical care, transportation fares and other goods and services people purchase for day-to-day living.

Washington, which already has a higher rate, will continue to have the highest state minimum wage in the nation.

State Rep. Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland), who was the Chief Petitioner for Ballot Measure 25, said "Thou-

Thousands of Oregon families are struggling to escape poverty while working full-time at minimum wage jobs. This increase helps low-wage workers put food on the table and a roof over their heads.

— State Rep. Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland)

sands of Oregon families are struggling to escape poverty while working full-time at minimum wage jobs. This increase helps low-wage workers put food on the table and a roof over their heads."

The Bureau of Labor and Industries works to protect the rights of workers and citizens to equal, nondiscriminatory treatment and encourages and enforces compliance with state laws relating to wages, hours,

terms and conditions of employment.

In addition, the Bureau works to promote the development of a highly skilled, competitive workforce in Oregon through the apprenticeship program.

The Bureau's Technical Assistance for Employers Unit exists to train employers to understand and comply with the law both wage and hour and civil rights law.

Local Electrician Builds Own Business

continued from A13

tion. He obtained the project schedule and became a registered training agent in anticipation of hiring apprentices. As the bidding process for electricians opened, Malary was ready.

Meanwhile, Stacy and Witbeck Northwest Area Manager Bill Bruce had been watching Malary work on the field office electrical system.

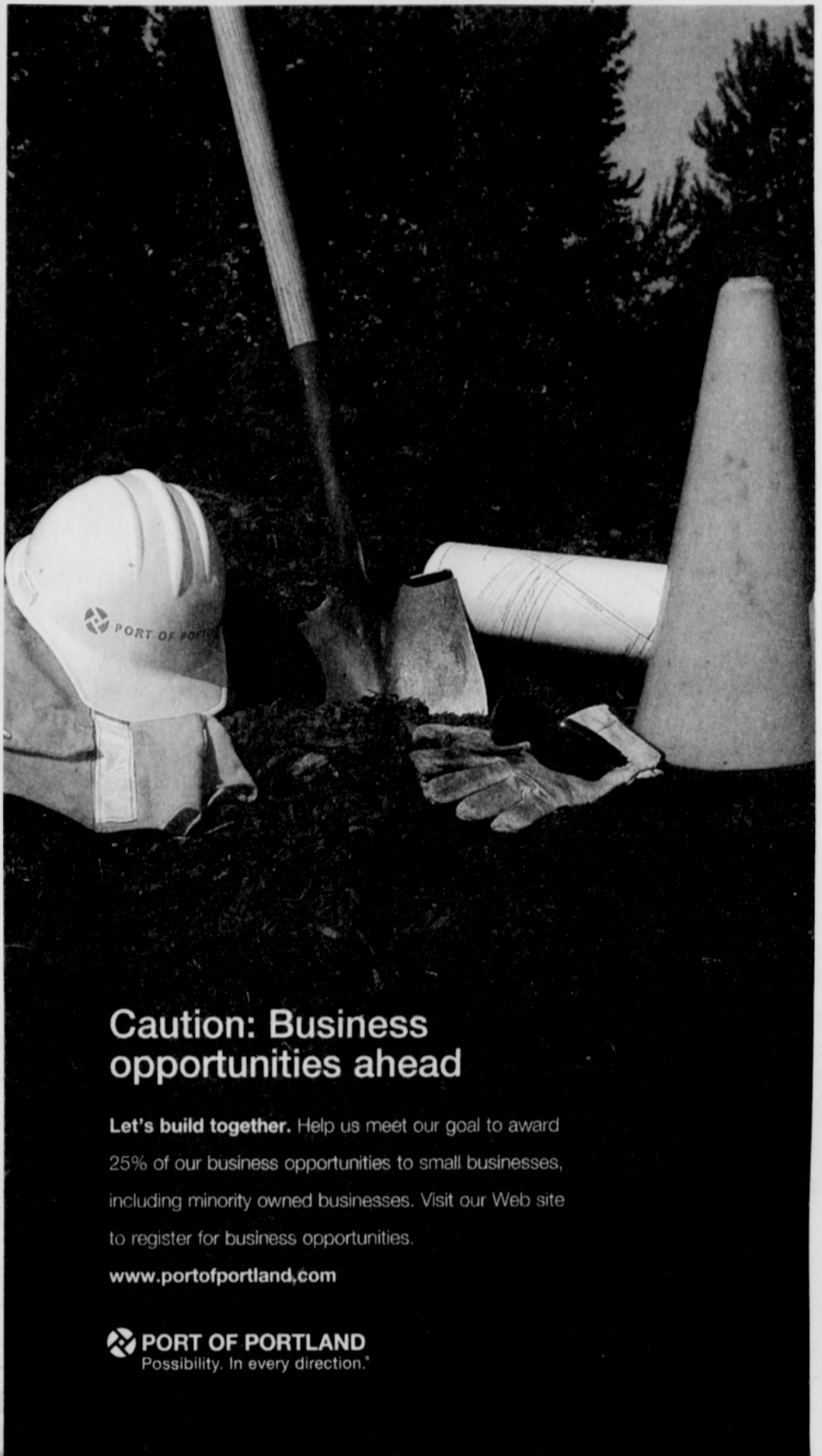
"I was impressed, watching him day to day. One thing

I noticed was the quality of the work. The other factor was Jean's ability to bring a diverse workforce to the project in the electrical field."

Malary was awarded a \$2.3 million contract for work vital to the operation of Mall light rail. "We do the ductbanks," he explained, "the underground conduits that will supply wiring for signal communication and also power for the trains, shelters and ticket vending machines."

"He's done an excellent job—there's not another word for it," Bruce said. "What's more, Jean brought together a crew that is entirely African American. That's a coup in the Portland construction world."

The contract has changed Malary's business and life. "I've grown my company by 900 or 1,000 percent," Malary smiled. "Now I have a total of 12 employees, a majority of which are on the Portland Mall."



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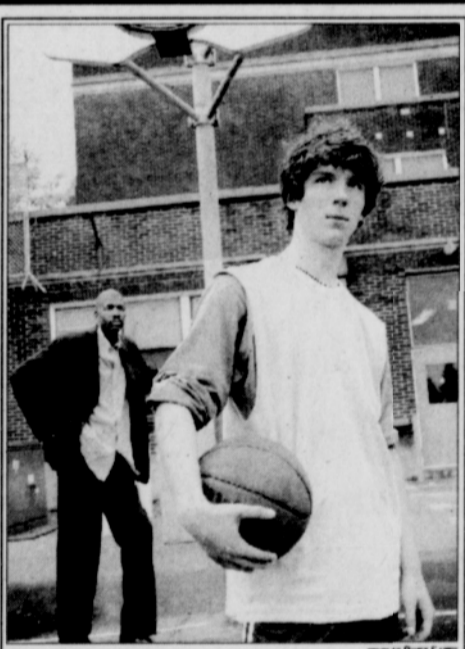
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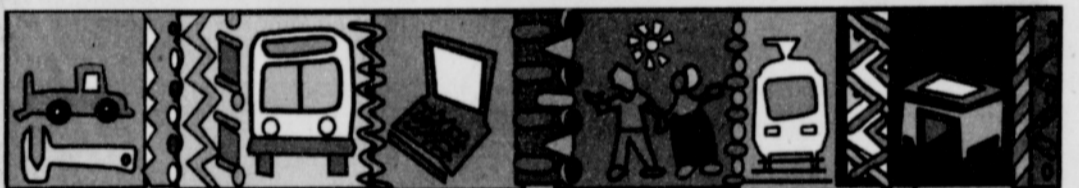
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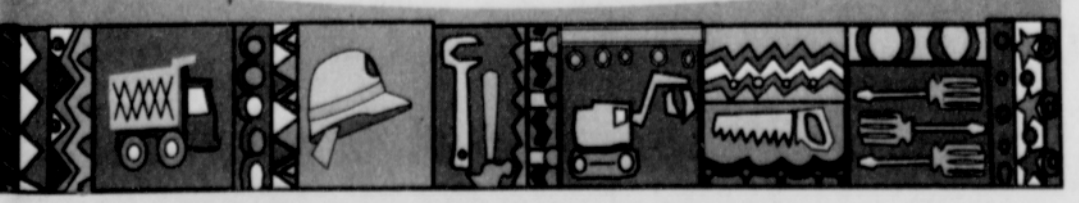
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