

Portland dock work wanes, but pay doesn't

PORTLAND — You work, you get paid. You don't work, you still get paid. It's a deal that helped longshore union members at the Port of Portland collect more than a million dollars in salaries last year...

of Portland barely took a hit. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union has a pay guarantee plan that assures many longshore workers will be paid for nearly a full week of work at nearly four times minimum wage...

Oregon Board of Agriculture meeting in December. The Portland chapter of the union has been found guilty by the federal labor board and judges several times in the past few years of intentionally slowing work on the docks...

BRIEFLY

Oregon nears health insurance deadline

PORTLAND — Oregonians have a few more weeks to get their health insurance plans locked down for 2016. Sign ups, renewals and changes to existing plans through Healthcare.gov can be made until Jan. 31...

represents the irrigation districts named in the lawsuit.

Judge rules Gresham woman must give up aggressive guide dog

PORTLAND (AP) — A Multnomah County Circuit Court judge has ruled that a blind woman must give up ownership of her guide dog as it has bitten three strangers. The Oregonian reports that last week Judge Thomas Ryan agreed that the hearing officer's decision to remove the German shepherd mix "Noni" from Connie Walker's home was correct.

Fatal fall at University of Portland leads to \$13M lawsuit

PORTLAND (AP) — The family of a worker who died from a fall has filed a \$13 million lawsuit against the University of Portland, alleging its faulty equipment caused the accident. According to the suit, Thomas Smith was working at the university arena in 2014 when the lift he was using to reach speakers and lights tipped over...

Oregon conservation group sues on behalf of spotted frog

BEND — A new lawsuit argues that state and federal agencies are harming the Deschutes River and its native Oregon spotted frogs. The Bulletin reports that WaterWatch of Oregon filed the suit Monday. It says the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and three state irrigation districts are treating a portion of the river as an irrigation ditch rather than a natural resource.

Oregon labor unions fear setback in Supreme Court case

SALEM — Oregon is one of more than 20 states that could feel significant impacts from a U.S. Supreme Court case that seeks to strip a long-standing power of public sector labor unions to collect fees from workers who decline to join. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments Monday, Jan. 11, in a case brought by a group of 10 California teachers...

Other states already prohibit that practice. Public sector employees' union membership averages 17 percent in states that ban mandatory fees compared with 49 percent in states, such as Oregon, that allow mandatory fees, according to an amicus brief by a group of social scientists in support of the labor unions.

labor officials said. Oregon's public sector workers are under no obligation to join the union, but they often have to take action to opt out of paying full dues in favor of paying lower "fair share" fees, Cunningham-Parmeter said.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY: Map of the US showing weather systems and precipitation. Includes National Summary, Yesterday's National Extremes, and a table of National Cities with Today and Thursday forecasts.