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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Chuck Parker, President | John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer | Justin Williams, Director

Vehicle Damage, Injury at Nonunion Bridge Project

Last month, two separate incidents occurred, involving more than ten vehicles total, which were struck and damaged by unsecured cables on a nonunion bridge painting project in Kanawha County.

The incidents occurred on Thursday, July 13 and Monday, July 17 on the Chuck Yeager Bridge in the Kanawha City area of Charleston, West Virginia.

Reports suggest two of the vehicles were so badly damaged, during the second incident, that towing services were required to remove them from the scene.

In addition, as a result of one of the incidents, an injury was reported by a driver who was transported to a local hospital due to windshield glass that had become lodged in their eye.

According to a press release by the West Virginia Department of Highways (WVDOH), the bridge painting project was awarded to nonunion contractor Southern Road and Bridge in a contract for \$16,267,273.80.

The contract requires the “complete repainting of the northbound and southbound spans of the bridge.”

In response to the incident, the West Virginia Parkways Authority made a statement, explaining new

safety measures were being implemented in the meantime to ensure
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The Chuck Yeager Bridge in Kanawha County, WV was the site of two separate incidents, involving more than ten vehicles, which were struck and damaged by unsecured cables on a nonunion bridge painting project last month.

WV House and Senate Meet for the First Special Session of 2023 at the Capitol

Last month, the West Virginia Legislature was called into Special Session by Governor Jim Justice, during regularly scheduled monthly interim committee meetings, and included consideration of more than 40 pieces of legislation.

The session was primarily focused on a bundle of bills dealing with the

WV Corrections system, with an emphasis on a pay package that aims to address worker vacancies in West Virginia jails and prisons.

However, there were some items related to construction as well.

In the WV House of Delegates, one of the longest debates related to a bill that allocates \$25 million to Pier-

pont Community and Technical College for the construction of an aviation maintenance hangar, which will be located at the North Central West Virginia Airport in Harrison County.

Some members of the House of Delegates expressed their concerns that the main priority of the body being called into special session was

to address the worker shortage in the corrections system.

Furthermore, delegates argued that this bill could have been dealt with at a later date.

“The Pierpont CTC hangar funding was mainly controversial because of the immediacy of the need to ad-

Cont. on p. 2>>

140MW Installation

Building Trades Sign MOU for Solar Project with Berkshire in Jackson County, WV

On July 27, the Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council, and the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Berkshire Hathaway Energy Renewables Ravenswood (BHER) for the construction of a solar installation, which will support a battery microgrid and titanium melt facility in Jackson County, West Virginia.

According to the MOU, a project labor agreement will take effect if BHER agrees to construct the installation, which hinges on the award of grant funding the company has ap-

plied for through the federal government.

If the project is built, it will include a 140MW solar installation and a 30MW battery storage hub to power a titanium melt facility, being built by Precision Castparts Corporation and Our Next Energy Inc. (ONE Inc.).

However, the terms of the MOU signed on July 27 only apply to the construction of the solar installation.

The entire project will be located on 2,000 acres of Jackson County land at the former Century Aluminum site and amounts to an approximated \$300 million investment.

The titanium melt facility will em-

ploy about 200 people to manufacture titanium aerospace products as well as products for other industries.

In addition to the microgrid and titanium melt facility, ONE Inc. announced it will build an Aries Grid battery factory, to manufacture utility-scale battery storage systems using lithium-ion phosphate battery cells.

The additional announcement from ONE adds another \$22 million to the investment in the area and creates another 105 full-time jobs.

West Virginia State Building

and Construction Trades President Chuck Parker says projects like this wouldn't be possible without federal legislation, which has paved the way.

"The Inflation Reduction Act, sponsored by Senator Manchin, paved the way for this project," said Parker.

"Tax incentives for advanced renewable forms of energy, which were included in the bill, make projects like these possible and can create good paying jobs for our members." ■

Vehicle Damage

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security for motorists.

These measures include "additional message boards alerting drivers to height restrictions for the project, West Virginia State Police stationed before the bridge for speed reduction and to monitor oversized loads...and speed reduced to 50 miles per hour" among others.

In addition, the West Virginia Parkways Authority said they are requiring extra monitoring requirements from the contractor during and after work hours to ensure civilian safety.

An analysis of the incident by

the West Virginia Department of Highways reported that several factors could have contributed to the incidents, including a truck that had previously struck part of the bridge as well as inclement weather and increased traffic on the bridge.

However, reports suggest the company also has a recent record of OSHA violations in Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana.

At the time of the contract award, the WVDOH said they expected the work to be completed by June 2023.

However, at the time of this story, the work is still ongoing. ■

First Special Session

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dress the corrections crisis," said George Capel, Government Relations Director for the WV Building and Construction Trades. "However, the bill passed with a majority of delegates believing that this economic development project is also an important issue."

Other items of note included: the approval of a bill allocating \$150 million to the state Division of Highways, including \$100 million for road maintenance projects and \$50 mil-

lion for equipment; the creation of a \$15 million funding stream for deferred maintenance projects at WV regional jails; and the approval of \$85 million to the Governor's Civil Contingency Fund for water and sewer projects.

For more information on the bills passed and items discussed during the 2023 WV Legislative Interim Committee Meetings and the 2023 WV Special Session, log on to www.wvlegislature.gov. ■

Boilermaker Bike Run Raises \$1300 for Charity



Members of Boilermakers Local 667, Fitters Local 565, Operators Local 132, AFT, Steelworkers 5668, and IBEW retirees pose for a picture at Rinard Covered Bridge in Washington County, OH during the annual Boilermaker 667 Charity Bike Run for Oldman Rivers.

This year's event kicked off at American Legion Post 15 in Parkersburg, West Virginia and ran through Washington County, Ohio. With 27 bikes participating, the event raised more than \$1300 for Oldman Rivers, an organization dedicated to feeding individuals and families in need.

"This is the second consecutive year we have held this event, and we plan to do it again next year," said Kurt Tabor, Assistant Business Manager with Boilermakers 667. "We take every opportunity we can to give back to the community, and we look forward to working with Oldman Rivers for years to come."

\$6.8 Million Project Union Contractor Selected for Demolition of Ohio Valley Medical Center Facility

In late July, WVU Medicine announced that a contractor had been chosen to begin demolition of the former Ohio Valley Medical Center (OVMC) facility in Wheeling, West Virginia.

According to the press release, union contractor F.R. Beinke Wrecking, Incorporated, based in Swedensboro,

New Jersey, won the contract to de-

molish the building with a budget bid of approximately \$6.8 million.

“F.R. Beinke Wrecking is a great company that hires local workers,”

Eran Molz

Business Manager

*Upper Ohio Valley Building
and Construction Trades*

Demolition of the facility is planned to commence this month and will take approximately 14 months to reach completion.

Upon completing the demolition of the old building, Wheeling Hospital plans to break ground

on a new, \$90 million state-of-the-

art cancer center. The new center is planned to be a four-story structure with between 75,000 and 90,000 square-feet of space. WVU Medicine says the building will have room for nearly 150 workers and they expect to have approximately 40,000 patient visits per year.

The City of Wheeling currently owns the property on which the OVMC facility is located, completing the purchase of the property in June 2020. However, WVU Medicine has agreed to pay for the demolition services required for the old facility. In exchange, the City of Wheeling plans to donate the property to WVU Medicine for the construction of the new cancer center.

“F.R. Beinke Wrecking is a great company that hires local workers,” said Eran Molz, Business Manager for the Upper Ohio Valley Building and Construction Trades. “I want to thank WVU Medicine for making the right choice in using them for this job. We believe they, and the City of Wheeling, will be happy with the result.”

F.R. Beinke Wrecking, Incorporated, the company completing the demolition work, is a full-service, woman-owned demolition contractor with a long history of successful work, totaling over 100 million square-feet of demolition projects. In addition, they also offer heavy rigging, excavation, and other services. ■

Boilermaker 667 Welding Bootcamp



An apprentice with Boilermakers 667 completes an overhead plate weld test as a part of the Boilermakers annual Welding Bootcamp event. This year's event ran from July 10-28 and gave 16 apprentices, and 2 journeymen, the opportunity to enhance their skills related to multiple types of welds.

At the end of the camp, a test was held for each weld for individuals who wished to receive their certifications. Certifications were offered for stick plate, flux cored, carbon tube, stainless tube, and Inconel tube welding.

“This is an opportunity for apprentices and journey workers to improve their skills,” said Matthew Kennedy, Training Coordinator for Boilermakers 667. “Continuing education events like this are important to make sure our members have all the skills contractors and developers need to get any job done—no matter when or where that is.”

Job Fair at Mountaineer Challenge Academy



Cadets with the Mountaineer Challenge Academy in Montgomery, West Virginia meet with members of the Charleston Building and Construction Trades about construction craft apprenticeship programs.

During the event, more than 50 cadets met with members of the trades to learn more about their apprenticeship programs and how to apply for them after their graduation.

Representatives from the Plumbers and Pipefitters, Insulators, Operating Engineers, Laborers, and Carpenters participated in the event.

“I want to thank everyone for their participation in working to expand our manpower numbers and offer quality career opportunities for the graduating Cadets,” said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades.

Fundraiser Record Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly Raises +\$4,500 with Charity Dunk Tank

Last month, the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly hosted a Dunk Tank for Charity as a part of the Undo's Ohio Valley Italian Heritage Festival, raising more than \$4,500 for charity organizations.

In attendance were members from Boilermakers 667, Bricklayers 1, IBEW 141, Iron Workers 549, IUPAT 91, Laborers 1149, Operating Engineers 132, Plumbers and Steamfitters 83, Roofers 188, Sheet Metal Workers 33, and Carpenters 436.

Participants in the dunk tank included local public officials, workers, and members of the trades. Participants were asked to choose their charity of choice, to which the funds from their time slot would be donated.

The funds raised this year are the most that have ever been raised during a single charity dunk tank event.

This year's proceeds are going to 13 different charities including: Easter Seals, Augusta Levy Learning

Center, Shop with the Sheriff Cops & Kids Project, Seeing Hand Association, Adopt a Student at St. Vincent School, Wheeling Hospital Schiffler

Dave Cantrell, a member of IBEW 141 and Treasurer for the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly explained the significance of this event

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Trades at County Commission Assoc. Conference



Dan Poling and John Sloan with the International Brotherhood of Painters DC 53 speak with an attendee of the 2023 West Virginia County Commissioners Association Conference in Daniels, WV.

In addition to the Painters, the WV Building and Construction Trades Council (WVBT) also hosted an exhibit to promote all construction apprenticeship programs.

The exhibits were part of a larger, ongoing initiative to educate public officials about the benefits of craft apprenticeship programs and the federal funds that have become available for public construction projects through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

"There is an incredible opportunity in front of us with these federal funds," said Capel. "We plan to do everything we can to take advantage of that opportunity and increase the numbers in our apprenticeship programs to address the need for skilled workers that it creates."

Cancer Center, Shriners Childrens Hospital, the YMCA, the YWCA, the United Way, Road Home Animal Project, Miracle League Field, and Undo's Italian Festival Scholarship Fund.

to the local area.

"This is a way for labor to give back to the community," said Cantrell. "It's also good way for us to show people that we care and why they should hire local workers." ■



Doug Giffin, Business Manager for IBEW 141 in Wheeling, sits in the Dunk Tank for Charity at this year's Undo's Italian Heritage Festival.