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

Grand Opening Held for Sandy's Racing & Gaming

On October 26, a grand opening ceremony was held to commemorate the official completion of the Sandy's Racing and Gaming facility in Ashland, Kentucky.

After the opening ceremony, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear placed the first bet before Sandy's officially opened their doors to the public.

The Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council partnered with Revolutionary Racing Kentucky to build the project, and contractor D.W. Wilburn Construction served as general contractor.

The 74,000 square foot facility includes a 5,000 square foot sportsbook center, over 700 slot racing games, three movie theaters, and two stages for live music performances.

Recently, a new partnership was also announced between Sandy's Racing and Gaming and BetMGM, which will provide services in the sportsbook area of the facility.

The project cost more than \$75 million, funded by private investors,

and required approximately 300 local union workers to build.

In addition, Sandy's Racing and

Gaming representatives say that 90% of the materials used to build the project were manufactured here in

the United States.

"Thank you to all that helped

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John Holbrook, Business Manager for the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council, addresses the crowd at the grand opening of Sandy's Racing and Gaming in Ashland, Kentucky on October 26.

Wheeling Nailers Hockey Team Held Union Appreciation Night at Wesbanco Arena

On Saturday, November 4th Opening Night was held for the Wheeling Nailers at Wesbanco arena.

In addition, the franchise held Union Appreciation Night.

The event was host to a sold-out crowd, with 600 tickets being purchased for members of the trades.

During the event, Clint Powell (LiUNA 809), Secretary Treasurer of the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades; Eric Starkowicz, Executive Director OVCEC; and Rob Shough, MPLX, performed the ceremonial puck drop.

Also, members of trades unions

were asked to stand and be recognized and a statement from Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades President Eran Molz (IUOE 132) was read over the PA system.

"We are so proud of our building trades," said Eran Molz, Business Manager for the Upper Ohio Valley

Building and Construction Trades Council.

"This night is for you and your families and for all the hard work and amazing skills you provide for our local contractors in the valley!"

The event was held to showcase

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Nucor Steel Holds Groundbreaking Event for Mason County Sheet Steel Facility

On October 20, Nucor Steel held a groundbreaking ceremony for its \$3.1 billion sheet steel plant, which is currently being built in Mason County, West Virginia.

The project, located at Apple Grove, is set on a 1700-acre site and the project is expected to take 2-3 years to complete.

According to company representatives, the project will require as many as 2,000 construction workers and, once completed, the facility will be home to more than 800 full-time employees to operate the plant.

The plant will also feature a docking facility which will be built on the Ohio River near the plant site.

Nucor Steel originally announced its decision to locate the facility in West Virginia in January 2022, following a Special Session held by the West Virginia Legislature in late

2021.

During the special session, an exclusive deal was made for the company to locate in West Virginia, which included the authorization of \$315 million in state funding incentives.

The deal passed by the legislature amounted to the largest public-private partnership agreement in the state's history.

Since that time, Nucor has awarded multiple contracts to union construction firms.

These include contracts with Nitro Construction for the electrical work on the melt shop as well as two separate contracts with Beaver Construction and Goettle for piling work.

"We remain excited about the Nucor project and look forward to partnering with them," said Justin Williams, Director of the WV Affiliated Construction Trades.

"We believe the Nucor company will be more than satisfied with the quality of work that will be com-

pleted by our skilled tradesmen and women on their new facility in Mason County." ■



Nucor Steel holds a groundbreaking ceremony on October 20, celebrating the commencement of construction on a \$3.1 billion sheet steel facility located in Mason County, West Virginia.

Minority Business Exposition



Jacob Hively, intern for the WV Building and Construction Trades Council, works a booth at the annual Minority Business Expo at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center last month.

This year was the 9th annual event, hosted by the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, which aims to bring together minorities, women business owners, and veterans to promote economic growth and innovation in the Mountain State.

More than 50 vendors held exhibits, plus other members of the trades including the West Virginia and Appalachian Laborers District Council and the IBEW 466 from Charleston.

Wheeling Nailers

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union support in the greater Wheeling area, which has a long history with the labor movement, and spread awareness of the benefits of a career in the skilled trades.

"Nearly every lifelong resident of the area has a friend or family that is a union member," said Kyle Kull, rep-

resentative for the Laborers Union local #1149 in Wheeling, West Virginia.

"Events like these give the public a better idea of who we are, and that awareness will undoubtedly lead to more people considering the trades as a career choice." ■

Grand Opening Held

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make this happen," said John Holbrook, Business Manager for the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council.

"From state and local government to the Revolutionary Racing team that committed to using local building trades members and our contractor partners to build it."

In addition to the gaming facility, Sandy's Racing and Gaming also has

plans to build Kentucky's first-ever quarter horse racing track adjacent to the gaming facility on the full 177-acre property.

Ground was broken and work started on the new 600-yard sprint racetrack in late October.

Representatives from Sandy's Racing and Gaming expect that the work on the racetrack will be completed in Spring 2025. ■

High School Football Player of the Week



Week 1: JacQai Long, Hurricane High School



Week 2: Josh Moody, Nitro High School



Week 3: Abe Fenwick, George Washington High School



Week 4: Preston Bonnett, Pocahontas High School



Week 5: Dane Hatfield, Herbert Hoover High School



Week 6: Avonte Crawford, Huntington High School



Week 7: K-Juan Pearson, Winfield High School



Week 8: Colton Mathis, Wayne High School



Week 9: Curtis Jones, Cabell Midland High School



Week 10: Matthew Frye, Scott High School



Week 11: Keegan Sack, George Washington High School



This QR code was placed on the shirts given to all players of the week. The code leads to a WV Building Trades recruitment video. Through this sponsorship, the video was viewed numerous times by students, school officials, and spectators who watched the games on HD media and RSN Sports Network.

PKB-Marietta & Tri-State Trades Receive Awards for Zero Injuries on NMA Work

Last month, representatives from WV Building Trades Councils attended the annual National Maintenance Agreement (NMA) Zero Injury Safety Awards (ZISA). This year, the Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council and the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council received awards for exemplary work on NMA jobs with zero injuries.

The Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council received a bronze start for more

than 754,000 hours over 7 projects that were included for the award, and the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades received a silver start for their performance on 14 projects with more than 3.2 million hours of no injuries.

The annual event is the most prestigious safety award ceremony in the construction and maintenance industry, which recognizes an elite group of union contractors, labor representatives, and customers from across the country each year.

The awards are open to all contractors, industrial business owners/clients and building trades crafts on projects performed under the terms of the National Maintenance Agreements or National Power Generation Maintenance Agreements program.

tional Maintenance Agreements Policy Committee, Inc. (NMAPC), the Zero Injury Safety Awards® (ZISA) is an annual recognition program celebrating those union contractors, labor representatives and owners/clients who work together to create

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Boone County Tech Center Advisory Council Meeting



Dustin Vaughan (left), Apprenticeship Training Director for IBEW 466, and Chris Tincher (second from right), Organizer for IBEW 466 meet with a representative from AEP at the annual Advisory Meeting at the Boone County Technical Center.

During the meeting, members of the trades and businesses provided input on the curriculum and programming offered at the Boone County Technical Center. (BCTC).

The BCTC is separate from the WV Building and Construction Trades, but many local crafts engage with the BCTC to find potential applicants for apprenticeship programs.

"These programs help young people take an interest in the trades," said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council. "It would be great to see their programs get more funding to help them reach more young people who could become future apprentices in our programs."

Furthermore, to be eligible for an award, you must have a written company safety program; all work hours submitted must be under the terms of the National Maintenance Agreements; work hours must be comprised of at least 80% direct hire craft hours on a single NMAPC project for a specific owner; and your project must have zero OSHA recordable injuries.

Established in 2000 by the Na-

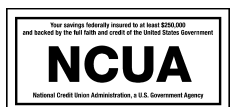
injury-free job sites.

ZISA is recognized nationwide as union construction and maintenance's premier award for industrial safety.

It is a showcase for the best our industry has to offer and reaffirms the union commitment to sending craft workers home safely.

For more information on the awards and this year's ceremony, log on to www.ZISA.org. ■

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