

THE ACT REPORT

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The ACT Foundation is a division of The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council. Steve Burton, President; Roy Smith, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve White, Director.

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CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER FIGHTS STATE PREVAILING WAGE RATES

After losing a challenge to the state prevailing wage process before a Division of Labor Hearing Examiner, Father Tom Acker has filed a Circuit Court appeal.

The appeal was made in Raleigh County Circuit Court on May 30.

Acker is a Jesuit Priest working as Executive Director for a group called Forward Southern West Virginia Inc., based in Beckley.

The group is acting as a developer for projects in the Raleigh County area.

ACT has challenged the group's lack of bidding and prevailing wage requirements on a number of publicly funded projects.

In his appeal Acker argues the wage rates set for public works projects are "as much as 40% to 50% higher than the actual prevailing wage rate."

He also claims "the DOL is an offshoot of organized labor" and accused the DOL of "dishonesty, fraud, deceit, and misrepresentation."

Having prior arguments to DOL Hearing Examiner James McNeely rejected, Acker hopes to find a more sympathetic ear in his home county of Raleigh.

"Acker thinks construction workers are paid twice as much as we are worth and wants to cut our wages in half," said Roy Smith, Secretary Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

"He is on a crusade against working families in the construction industry, not what we expect from a church leader."

The WV State Building Trades plans to participate in the court action as it did before the

Hearing Examiner.

In a response to Acker's appeal Building Trades Lawyer Vince Trivelli wrote, "Thomas Acker's *Petition*, without any support whatsoever, makes a series of extraordinary and outlandish statements and charges against the Division of Labor and the Hearing Officer...Acker's *Petition*, utterly fails to present any support for any basis for reversing or vacating the Division's actions.

"Like all other aspects of Acker's arguments and his *Petition*, saying something doesn't make it so."

IRON WORKERS 787 VOLUNTEER ON MARIETTA BRIDGE PROJECT

Thanks to a volunteer effort by union Iron Workers and Pipefitters in Marietta an important pedestrian bridge was re-opened last month.

The historic Harmar Railroad bridge was closed last September because inspectors were concerned about safety.

The walkway connects two ends of downtown Marietta and closing it cut off an important access way.

The bridge is owned by the nonprofit Harmar Bridge Company which was formed in 1983.

Estimates to repair the bridge were \$80,000 and there was no money in the city budget for the project.

Members of the Marietta City Council approached Bill Hutchinson, Business Manager for Iron Workers Local 787, looking for help.

Hutchinson agreed to take the

project on and got together with Pipefitters Local 168, who's union hall is located at one end of the bridge, and local businesses Pioneer Pipe Inc., and Leasco Equipment Services.

The main work consisted of

welding new plates to strengthen the bottom truss girders.

Pioneer Pipe Inc. donated material and did some fabrication.

Leasco Equipment Services, a local equipment rental com-

pany, donated all the tools needed to weld and fix the bridge.

Hutchinson estimates about 400-500 volunteer hours went into the project.

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HOLDING SCISSORS TO cut the ribbon at the re-opening ceremony of the Harmar Bridge in Marietta are Cory Queen, member Iron Workers Local 787 (left) and Bill Hutchinson.

BRICKLAYERS HOLD STATE APPRENTICE CONTEST IN NEW TRAINING CENTER

The first Bricklayers Apprenticeship competition staged at the union's new 14,500 square foot training center drew 32 competitors from across the state.

The event was held May 31 in Harrisville, Ritchie County, and sponsored by the Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers District Council of WV.

The competing apprentices were divided into and judged in three divisions, each based on the respective percentage of journeyman's wage earned by the participant, 50-60%, 70-80% and 90% rates.

The contest consisted of a written examination and practical demonstration in skill areas reflecting productivity and quality, together with neatness and attitude.

First and second prizes were awarded to the apprentice with

the highest score in their respective division.

First prizes were a 4' Crick level and a large engraved recognition plaque. 2' Crick levels were presented to second place finishers in each division.

In observing the competition spread out over the expansive training center, Bricklayers Director Leroy Hunter, Jr. said, "This is the first competition we've had in our new facility.

"And we're seeing some very positive results. The quality of our apprentices is high and it is very difficult to choose one over another."

Precision is the focus throughout the practical demonstrations, and according to competition organizers, contests have won by tiny margins such as fractions of an inch while the winner is right on.

This year's winners for each division are:

Apprentices at the 90% level

B.J. Williams, Local 9
First Place

Kenny Jarrett, Local 5
Second Place

Apprentices at the 70-80% level

Chris Shields, Local 6

First Place
Ernie Bart, Local 15
Second Place

Apprentices at the 50-60% level

Jeremy Snyder, Local 15
First Place

David Ball, Local 9
Second Place

Each apprentice will complete 6000 hours of on the job training and three years of related classroom training before becoming a journeyman.



APPRENTICE COMPETITORS AND Judges fill the new 14,500 Square Foot Bricklayer Training Center in Harrisville during the state wide apprentice competition held on May 31.

PLUMBERS/PIPEFITTERS, IRON WORKERS, MILLWRIGHTS WANT NEW APPRENTICES

The Parkersburg Plumbers Joint Apprenticeship will issue applications June 16 through July 3.

Applications can be picked up from 9:00 am to Noon, Monday through Friday at 593 Cedar Grove Road, Parkersburg - two blocks from WVU-P.

The five year program teaches all aspects of the plumbing and pipefitting trade including, pipe welding certification, medical gas certification, instrument technician, blue print reading, plumb-

ing, heating and cooling.

To qualify an applicant must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or GED, and have a drivers license.

If recently in the military a DD214 form will be beneficial.

The program accepts WV residents of Wood, Wirt, Pleasants, Jackson, Tyler, Calhoun, and Ritchie Counties and Ohio residents of Washington, Meigs, Monroe and Morgan County south of Route 78.

For more information call Jim Lewis, Training Coordinator, 304-485-1565.

The Iron Workers Joint Apprenticeship Training Program is extending hours to take applications for their program.

On Monday July 7 and Tuesday July 8 the office will be open an extra two hours, till 6 pm. Applications are taken year round at Local 301, 2425 Hampshire Drive, Charleston. Normal office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm.

The three year program has classes two nights a week as well as paid on-the-job training.

Classes consist of a variety of

applications including structural, ornamental, and reinforcing work, as well as mathematics, welding, and rigging.

Apprentices start at 60% of Journeyman pay scale with benefits. Increases are given every six months until training is complete.

The goal is to educate new workers how to safely, efficiently and effectively perform all aspects of the trade.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a high school degree or GED, and live for at least one year within the follow-

ing WV Counties; Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Webster, Wyoming, and the southern half of Randolph or the following Virginia Counties; Buchanan, Dickerson, Russell, Tazewell, Wise and Washington.

For more information call 304-342-5343 or visit their web site ironworkers301.com.

Millwright Local 1755 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee will be recruiting a

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TV COMMERCIALS CRITICAL**TRADES MAKE DIFFERENCE IN ELECTION**

Commentary by Steve Burton, President, WV State Building and Construction Trade Council.

Elliot 'Spike' Maynard lost his bid for re-election to the WV Supreme Court in part because members of the WV State Building Trades took a stand, and backed it up with money.

We ran TV commercials reminding voters about Maynard's vacation meeting with Massey Coal CEO Don Blankenship right before Maynard presided over a multi-million dollar case involving Massey.

No other group ran ads about this important point.

Most lawyers were either in the Maynard camp or afraid to take on a Supreme Court Judge. Other labor groups either didn't have the resources or the interest.

Big business spent more than \$1 million to support Maynard because of his long track record supporting corporations.

His record opposing workers interest was equally clear.

When the ACT Foundation went to court in the late 1990's to force the state to collect un-

paid workers compensation premiums from coal companies Maynard repeatedly voted against our efforts.

In fact he told us from the bench if we didn't like what Governor

Underwood was doing [to drop the cases] then we should not go to the Court but to the ballot box.

We took his advice, not only for the next Governors race but for Maynard's re-election as well.

When ACT sued WVU, and the WVU Foundation won in December 2001, for not following state law on bidding and prevailing wage during construction of a new administrative office Justice Maynard dissented.

Speaking about his concern for contributors Maynard wrote "When they contribute, they anticipate that the money will be spent on education rather than on inflated costs of building projects."

Inflated costs? That's how he thinks about your work and the important bidding and prevailing wage laws we value.

Without the support and commitment building trades members and leaders make to ACT and

the State Building Trades we would be just like other groups

As a member of the WV State Building and Construction Trades you should be proud of the critical role you played in this election.

Our labor endorsed candidates, Menis

Ketchum and Margaret Workman, won the Primary election and now must face Beth Walker

in the General election.

The race in the fall will be very tough. Rest assured big business groups will spend millions to put Republican Beth Walker on the court.

We will never out-spend our opponents, but know as a building trade's member you will not be left defenseless on the political field of battle.

I am proud to be a building trade's member, you should be too.

AS A MEMBER OF THE WV STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE CRITICAL ROLE YOU PLAYED IN THIS ELECTION.

who represent working families, fighting with one hand tied behind our back.

CARPENTERS USE BANNER TO THANK SOME, SHAME OTHERS



CARPENTER REPRESENTATIVES RANDALL May and Mike Jenkins placed a banner along Route 705 in Morgantown to publicly thank the Kroger Company for being a good corporate neighbor.

"The new Kroger store was contracted to BBL-Carlton, a construction company that pays area standard wages and benefits to local Carpenters and other trades people," said Jenkins.

The banner effort started in May. A few weeks later the Carpenters added a different banner which read "Shame on 705-Five Development Group" because of low wage carpentry contractors used on the mixed-use project.

"Kroger used local workers and the community in turn supports them," said May. "But when companies try to drive down our living standards with low wage policies we need to stand up and let the public know."

Correction & Thanks

We forgot to give photo credit for last months cover shot of Darwin Snyder at the AES Laurel Mountain-PSC public hearing in Elkins. Thanks and credit go to Anthony Gaynor/The Inter-Mountain for allowing us to use the photo.

BRIDGE

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Work began in early May and the formal opening took place on May 19.

"We had apprentices helping out and some dedicated union members," said Hutchinson.

"We've received a lot of recognition and are just happy to be able to give back to the community."

PIPE TRADES HOLD APPRENTICE CONTEST

The WV State Pipe Trades held their annual apprenticeship contest May 20 through 23 in Parkersburg.

A total of 20 contestants from Locals based in Wheeling, Morgantown, Parkersburg, Huntington, Charleston,

Cumberland, MD and Baltimore competed.

Jason Dean, from Local 83 Wheeling, won the best Plumber category.

Jason Fridley, Local 152 Morgantown, won the Pipefitter class.

Josh Engle, Local 625 Charleston, won the Welder

competition.

Joel Diaz, Local 486 Baltimore, won best HVAC Technician.

First place winners receive \$750 and can get additional prizes for winning sub-categories.

The competition includes a combination of written and

hands on testing in a variety of tasks.

"These are fifth year apprentices showing what they have learned at the trade," said Jim Lewis, Training Coordinator for Parkersburg Local 565 which hosted the state event. "All the contestants were impressive."

Lewis explained that all four went on to compete in the re-

gional contest at Indianapolis in early June.

At Indianapolis Dean placed third in Plumbing, Fridley was second in Pipefitting and Engle came in at fourth in Welding.

"Our guys did really well, especially when you take into consideration they are competing against some big programs," said Lewis.



CONTESTANTS WORK ON a screw pipe project for the Pipefitter contest during the WV State Pipe Trades competition held in Parkersburg last month. Competitions for welding, plumbing and HVAC were also held.

APPRENTICES

CONTINUED FROM P. 2

new class of Apprentices.

The five year program includes paid on-the-job training as well as classroom instruction in mathematics, welding, a working knowledge of hand, power, bench and machine tools, engineering principles, optical instruments, safety and blueprint reading.

Applications can be filled out on the following dates, times and locations only. There is a \$10 application fee. Bring a birth certificate, school transcripts or GED, if military a DD214, and drivers license.

Charleston at 205A Tennes-

see Ave.

Monday, July 7

9 am - 4:30 pm

Wednesday, July 15

1 pm - 7:00 pm

Bridgeport at 609 Broadway

Tuesday, July 9

9 am - 4:30 pm

Thursday, July 16

1 pm - 7:00 pm

Parkersburg at 4600 Camden Ave.

Thursday, July 10

9 am - 4:30 pm

Friday, July 17

1 pm - 7:00 pm

Applicants must be at least eighteen years of age, show they have sufficient education to take the related instruction, be physically able to perform the work

and have proof of residency in one of the following counties, in WV: Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Greenbrier, Harrison, Jackson, Kanawha, Lewis, Logan, Marion, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Nicholas, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming; and in Ohio: Athens and Washington.

All applicants must pass a math and mechanical aptitude test in order to be scheduled for an interview.

A physical examination, and

a substance abuse test will also be required.

For more information call Training Director Bill Boso at 304-422-7637.

For **each of the apprentice programs** all applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, national and ethnic origin or sex.

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