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

PKB-Marietta Trades Hold Pre-Apprenticeship Week

Last month, the Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council, in partnership with the City of Parkersburg and the Mid-Ohio Valley Workforce Development board, held the second annual Apprenticeship Readiness Week in Wood County.

During the week-long event, Mid-Ohio Valley high school students participated in a camp that gave them the opportunity to get hands-on experience and training with different trades such as Carpenters, Laborers, Pipe Fitters, Cement Masons, Electricians, Roofers, Sheet Metal Workers, Operating Engineers, Millwrights, Iron Workers, Bricklayers, and Painters,

This year, 16 students visited training centers from WV Building and Construction Trades-affiliated construction craft apprenticeship programs and even had the opportunity to declare which craft program they were going to apply for at the end of the week.

Buddy Malone, Business Manager for the Parkersburg-Marietta Build-

ing and Construction Trades, shared his excitement around the success of the event.

"Events like these are how we meet the future generation of craft-

workers where they are," said Malone. "We plan to have many more of these types of events and hope they will grow in the years to come."

At the end of the week, a luncheon

was held to cap off the week's events and honor the students and WV Building and Construction Trades crafts that participated in the event.

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Justin Williams, Director of the WV Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT WV), speaks at the Apprenticeship Readiness Week luncheon in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Trades Sign MOU with Competitive Power Ventures on Capon Springs Wind Project

The West Virginia Building and Construction Trades and North Central Building and Construction Trades Council has entered into an MOU with Competitive Power Ventures to build the CPV Springs Wind project.

Located in Hampshire County, West Virginia, CPV Springs Wind will be a 150 MW wind project by Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) built on private land with a new switchyard constructed on site to avoid the need for additional trans-

mission lines. By using highly efficient state of the art turbines, the project will generate more power using fewer turbines.

The project will consist of 18-25 highly efficient, state-of-the-art turbines. The final turbine models are

still being determined, but current estimates indicate a maximum height of approximately 590 ft to 656 ft.

As a part of the project, more than 100 jobs will be created during the construction phase, and the project

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12th Annual Operating Engineers Local 132 Holds 10th Annual Equipment Rodeo in Medina, WV

Earlier this summer, the Operating Engineers Local 132 held their 12th annual Equipment Rodeo event at their training center in Medina,

West Virginia.

The annual Equipment Rodeo is held as a way to show appreciation for members and their families and

also to give IUOE 132 members an opportunity to compete in certain equipment-related events.

Each year, the equipment rodeo is held as a way for members of IUOE 132 to show off their skills in five different competitions.

These competitions include events in dozers, rubber tire backhoes, cherry pickers, excavators, and mini excavators.

In addition to the competitive

events for members, a fishing competition was held for kids and lunch was prepared for those in attendance.

"We look forward to holding this event every year," said Chuck Parker, President of Operating Engineers Local 132.

"The Rodeo gives our new members a chance to reconnect with the old, and it gives us an opportunity to show appreciation for everyone who makes our organization great." ■

PKB-Marietta Trades

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Malone and the leaders of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades plan to build on this event by beginning to offer the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) at their headquarters in Parkersburg, WV.

The MC3 is a pre-apprenticeship program, approved by the North American Building Trades Unions

(NABTU), designed to prepare individuals for careers in organized construction.

The first set of MC3 sessions were held from August 4-29th and more will be planned in the future.

For more information on WV Building and Construction Trades apprenticeship programs, log on to www.WVtrades.org. ■

Laborers Hold First Scholarship Fundraiser



Members of the Laborers Appalachian Regional Council, contractor affiliates, friends, and family members gather before teeing-off at the Laborer's first Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament.

Jessie King, President of the Appalachian Laborer's Regional Council speaks ahead of the event.

"I want to thank all of our members, contractors, and other affiliates who made this year such a success," said King. "We look forward to continuing this event for many years to come."

The event raised more than \$40,000 for the Laborer's Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship fund will pay tuition and other costs associated with the recipient's college expenses.



A member of International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 132 competes in a skills competition at the 12th annual IUOE Equipment Rodeo, held at their training center in Medina, West Virginia.

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Inaugural Event

Trades Win Vandalia Dragon Boat Race

Last month, members of the North Central Building and Construction Trades Council competed in the first annual Vandalia Health Dragon Boat race and won first place.

The team, named “The Union

Current,” beat 10 other teams to win the event.

The inaugural Dragon Boat Festival supports Vandalia Health whose mission is to enhance the health of our communities through clinical

excellence one person at a time; specifically the clinical expansions at Preston Memorial Hospital and Stonewall Jackson Hospital.

The event brings together the multiple communities for a unique experience that promotes team spirit, celebrates community, supports a wonderful cause and allows people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to compete.

The dragon boat is a long, narrow canoe with an ornately carved dragon’s head and tail. The boats are 46 feet long and seat 20 paddlers, a drummer, and a steerer. The paddlers sit two by two on ten benches on the boat.

The course at Stonewall Lake was 200 meters long and the average time for each race was just over 1 minute. The teams competed in heats, semi-finals, and finals to determine the

overall winner.

While the conditions were hard in the summer heat, Secretary-Treasurer John Epperly spoke to the significance of the event.

“Through sweltering heat and fierce competition, it was more than a race,” said Epperly. “This was a powerful testament of uniting behind a vital cause.”

Shawn Young, President of IBEW Local 596, and a team organizer for the event also had high praise for the team and the inaugural event.

“Dragon boat racing is all about working together in unison to achieve a common goal,” said Young. “Who better for such an event than a group of union brothers and sisters? We proved that no one can get the job done better for faster than the Building Trades and had a lot of fun along the way.” ■



Members of the North Central West Virginia Building and Construction Trades, family, and friends pose for a photo after bringing home the gold at the First Annual Vandalia Health Dragon Boat Festival Race, held at Stonewall Lake.

Trades Sign MOU

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is expected to generate more than \$20 million in tax revenue over its life, with over \$13 million injected directly into the Hampshire County School system.

Once built, CPV Capon Springs Wind will deliver enough electricity to power approximately 37,000 average West Virginia households.

Furthermore, the reduction in CO2 emissions per year will be equivalent to taking approximately 33,000 cars off the road, expanding renewable resources and sustaining the quality of the local environment.

“We appreciate our partnership with Competitive Power Ventures and look forward to providing them with the highest skilled craftworkers to build this project,” said Justin Williams, Director of ACT West Virginia.

According to their website, CPV Capon Springs Wind is planned to begin construction in the first half of 2027 go into operation by 2028.

For more information on the CPV Capon Springs Wind project, log on to www.cpv.com/our-fleet/cpv-springs-wind/. ■

IUPAT Creates New Pre-Apprenticeship



IUPAT DC 53 is partnering with Lewis County Schools on a repainting project at Lewis County High School, starting with the locker rooms.

DC 53 Business Manager-Secretary Treasurer Brian Stanley and IUPAT General Vice President (Eastern Region) Paul Canning were also on hand to support the continued partnership between the FTI and Lewis County Schools.

Together, they’re preparing to launch a Pre-Apprenticeship Exploration Class for high school juniors, running from January through May 2026.

The program will introduce students to all five trades offered by the IUPAT training center.

Charleston Trades Raise \$12K for Salvation Army Through Red Kettle Classic Fundraiser

On August 15, the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council took part in helping to hold and fundraise for the 2nd Annual Red Kettle Classic, a charity golf tournament for the benefit of the Charleston Area Salvation Army.

The charity golf tournament, held at Little Creek Golf Club in Charleston, West Virginia, raised \$22,906.78 for the Charleston Area Salvation Army charity organization.

Of the total raised, roughly \$12,000 was raised by members, contractors, or affiliates of the Charleston

Building and Construction Trades Council.

The fundraiser is part of a multi-year, ongoing partnership between the Charleston Building Trades and the Salvation Army.

"We appreciate the partnership we have with the Salvation Army," said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades. "Working with them gives us an opportunity to give back to the community that has given so much to us, and we hope to be able to continue to do so for many

years to come."

Chandler went on to thank members and affiliates of the trades as well.

"I also have to give a shout out to all our crafts and signatory contrac-

partners with the Charleston Area Salvation Army for other fundraisers throughout the year.

During the holiday season, the Charleston Building and Construction Trades take part in the Red



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Sprinkler Fitters Educate Emergency Response Personnel



Sprinkler Fitters 669 holds a class to educate local firefighters about complex sprinkler systems as a part of a larger effort to help prepare and support emergency response personnel.

Two classes were held: one in Fairmont, with attendees from Fairmont, Clarksburg, Bridgeport & Morgantown fire stations; and one in Martinsburg with members of Martinsburg FD, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center FD, and a soldier from the 167th Air Force Base.

The instructors from Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 were Rob Starcher & Noyal Wayne Aldridge.

"This initiative aims to build a collaborative relationship and establish a reliable resource for them in the fire sprinkler industry," said Ed Suiter, Business Agent for Sprinkler Fitters Local 669. "The firefighters gained valuable insights on how to navigate fire sprinkler systems effectively during emergency responses and discovered that they have a supportive ally in Local 669."

tors who helped contribute to this fundraiser," said Chandler. "There is no way we would have been able to do this without everyone's support."

In addition to the Red Kettle Classic, the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council also

Kettle Drive by holding bell ringing locations throughout the greater Charleston Area. In addition, an Angel Tree is placed at the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades headquarters, which collects gifts for West Virginia children in need. ■



Members of the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council pose for a picture with representatives of the Charleston Area Salvation Army at the second annual Red Kettle Classic, held at Little Creek Golf Club in Charleston, West Virginia.