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

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UNION BUILT DORMS SHOWCASED

About 75 members of the Tri-State Building Trades Council were on hand to celebrate the opening of two new freshman dormitories on the Marshall University campus.

The combined 161,000-square-foot, 782-bed residence halls have been open since the start of the fall semester.

Mascaro Construction Company of Pittsburgh was the general contractor.

The dorms are part of an \$82 million public-private venture put together by Capstone Development Corp. of Birmingham, Alabama.

According to Tri-State Building Trades Business Manager Steve Burton the project was built with 100% building trades union members.

"The financing may have come from Alabama but the construction workers came from right here in the Tri-State area," said Burton.

"And we appreciate the relationship we have with Marshall, they have always recognized us

as a valuable partner."

Burton also pointed to legislation allowing the public-private venture that was crafted by Senator Bob Plymale (D-Wayne). "Senator Plymale was key to getting this job off the ground and making sure local workers had a chance."

Work began in May 2007

and was completed less than 15 months later on August 15, 2008. At the event Marshall President Stephen Kopp made a point of thanking the Trades.

"The buildings were completed two weeks early and within budget," said Kopp.

"I am pleased and proud of the members of the building

trades on this project."

Also on hand was Governor Joe Manchin.

Each building is four floors and includes a theater, conference room, laundry, study areas and a lounge/café.

The buildings will be turned over to Marshall in 2038 when the bonds have been paid off.



SHAKING HANDS In a crowd of building trades members are Marshall University President Stephen Kopp (left) and Tri-State Building Trades Business Manager Steve Burton. Business Manager for Insulators Local 80 Greg Kincaid (to left of Kopp) brought about 60 apprentices from Local 80 to the Saturday, September 13 event celebrating new dormitory construction.

ELECTION FOCUS TURNS TO ECONOMY

EFFECTS OF FINANCIAL CRISIS SHOW IN WEST VIRGINIA BONDS

With the November election days away, the collapse of Wall Street has all eyes on the economy.

Many parts of West Virginia have not felt the full financial shock because the key components, sub-prime housing bust and related effects on risky financing schemes, are not part of the West Virginia economy.

But shaky financial markets

have affected construction financing of at least two major initiatives.

The sale of \$75 to \$80 million in bonds to finance community and technical college projects in the state may be in doubt according to news reports.

The legislature earlier this year passed a measure to fund needed school projects across the state.

Similarly the sale of bonds to finance continued work on U.S.

Route 35 has been delayed.

A project recently bid for construction of a portion of Route 35 in Mason County went to a union contractor, Kokosing Construction.

But the sale of \$200 million in bonds used to finance the job has been delayed.

The funding method, a type of bond called a Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle, universally known as a GARVEE, was already in jeopardy because it re-

lies on promised federal funds that may not materialize.

Highways officials remain confident the bond sale will go through when the market 'settles down.'

The economy is also affecting the Presidential race with most polls showing concern over the financial crisis leading to Democratic candidate Barack Obama taking a lead over Republican John McCain.

Continued on p. 3

TWO SEATS, TWELVE YEAR TERMS**SUPREME COURT RACE KEY FOR WEST VIRGINIA'S WORKING FAMILIES**

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

This election has some important races, but perhaps the most significant for West Virginia is our State Supreme Court of Appeals.

I am urging members to vote for the two Labor endorsed candidates Menis Ketchum and Margaret Workman - and here's why.

Two seats are open on this five person court, and the term of office is twelve years for both people selected.

The choices you make will have a direct impact on your job, your ability to take care of your family, and your right to a fair court.

A recent decision by the court shows how important it is. Your ability to make a living took a hit, and the vote was 3 - 2 against you.

The case centered on fair wages and open bidding when tax dollars are used for construction projects.

It has long been the law that tax funded projects costing more than \$25,000 must be advertised for public bidding.

In Tucker County a project far in excess of \$25,000 was undertaken without any bidding.

The county chose to hire a number of workers to perform the project themselves, and then to get rid of those workers once the project was over.

The law clearly states a county can use its own **regular** workforce to perform projects but can't hire temporary work-

ers to do so when the job exceeds \$25,000.

Three of five Supreme Court Justices, Elliot 'Spike' Maynard, Brent Benjamin and Robin Davis chose to ignore the bidding law and have opened a potential flood of abuse for public contracts.

Their decision also effected the wages paid to construction workers like you.

Prevailing wage laws ensure wages paid on tax funded projects are common in the local area.

The law is aimed at protecting communities from low wage, imported employees and contractors.

Tax funded projects should never drive down local living standards.

In the Tucker County case, because the project never went to bid - contrary to state law - no wage protections were followed.

Allowing the County to lower community wage rates will hurt us all.

The Tucker County case is just one example of how imbalanced our Supreme Court has become.

Of course it is now well known the connection some Supreme Court Justices have with corporate interests such as Massey Energy and its CEO Don Blankenship.

If you vacation on the French Riviera perhaps this court will protect your interests.

But if you work for a living, pay attention to the candidates in this race.

Both Menis Ketchum and Margaret Workman have been endorsed by labor. Their actions

show they understand average folks and will judge the issues of working families in a fair manner.

Beth Walker, the lone Republican, is being supported by the

same crowd that put Spike Maynard and Brent Benjamin in office.

It is critical that each and every one of us, our families, friends and neighbors, get out and vote

this election.

I urge all Building Trades members and their families to vote. And before you do, please look at issues affecting the Trades.

WV AFL-CIO Endorsed Candidates**Barack Obama - President****Menis Ketchum, Margaret Workman - WV Supreme Court****Joe Manchin - Governor****Jay Rockefeller - U.S. Senate****Alan Mollahan, Anne Barth, Nick Joe Rahall - U.S. Congress****Darrell McGraw - Attorney General****Natalie Tennant - Secretary of State****John Perdue - Treasurer****Glen Gainer - Auditor****State Senate****1st Jack Yost****2nd Jeffrey Kessler****4th Rocky D. Holmes****5th Robert Plymale****6th John Pat Fanning****10th James McNeely****11th William R. Laird IV****12th Douglas Facemire****15th Clark Barnes*****17th Dan Foster****House of****Delegates****1st Randy Swartzmiller****2nd Roy Givens****3rd Orphy Klempa, Tal Hutchins****4th Michael Ferro****5th Dave Pethel****7th Ron Nichols****8th Charley Webb****9th Jim Marion****10th Dan Poling, John****Ellem, Brenda Brum****12th Jo Boggess Phillips****13th Dale Martin, Brady Paxton****14th Karen Coria, Jeff Martin****15th Carl Eastham, Jim Morgan****16th Amy Martin****Herrenkohl, Doug****Reynolds, Dale Stephens****17th Don Perdue, Richard Thompson****18th Larry Barker****19th Greg Butcher, Jeff Eldridge, Ralph****Rodighiero, Josh Stowers****21st Harry Keith White****22nd Daniel Hall, Linda Goode Phillips****23rd Clif Moore****24th Mike Vinciguerra, Jr.****25th John Frazier****27th Louis Gall, Virginia Mahan, Ricky Moye, Sally****Susman, Bill Wooton****28th Thomas Campbell, Ray Canterbury****29th Tom Louisos, David Perry, Margaret Staggers****30th Bonnie Brown, Nancy Guthrie, Bobbie Hatfield,****Mark Hunt, Sharon Spencer, Danny Wells****31st Carrie Webster****32nd Jon Cain Sr, Carmela Ryan-Thompson****33rd David Walker****34th Brent Boggs****35th Sam Argento****36th Joe Talbott****37th Bill Proudfoot****39th Bill Hamilton****40th Mary Poling****41st Ron Fragale, Richard laquinta, Tim Miley****42nd Mike Manypenny****43rd Mike Caputo, Linda Longstreth, Timothy****Manchin****44th Barbara Fleischauer, Charlene Marshall, Alex****Shook****46th Stan Shaver****48th Donna Kuhn****50th Ruth Rowan****52nd Mike Roberts****54th Walter Duke****58th Tiffany Lawrence**

* WV State Building Trades

EARLY NO-EXCUSE VOTING HAS STARTED

Starting October 15 West Virginia voters who want to cast their ballot early are able to do so.

“No excuse” voting takes place at each county clerks office during regular business hours.

Unlike absentee ballots, which are still available for people who just can't make it to the polls, no excuse voting allows any registered voter to cast their ballot early.

In Ohio early voting started even earlier, on September 30.

Ohio voters can go to their county board of elections office to cast their ballot.

For construction workers who are often on the road, working a late shift or unexpect-

edly called out of town, early voting can ensure their vote will be cast and counted.

“We are urging all Trades members to take advantage of early voting and make sure their vote is cast,” said Dave Efaw, newly elected Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia do not allow early, no-excuse voting. Maryland voters will decide in November whether to amend the state constitution to allow no-excuse absentee voting and early voting beginning in 2010.

Early voting will end in West Virginia and Ohio on Saturday, November 1 to give election workers time to prepare for election day on Tuesday, November 4.

CRISIS

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

At issue is the long-standing Republican push for less regulation of markets confronting revelations that lax regulations are partly at fault for the current financial meltdown.

In addition huge losses in the stock markets are clearly taking their toll on pension, annuity and other retirement funds.

The fate of health care funds is also a major debate between the candidates.

Both candidates have plans to address the rising cost of health care.

The Obama plan claims to provide affordable, accessible health care for all Americans, build on the existing health care system, and use existing providers, doctors and plans.

According to the Obama plan, patients will be able to make health care decisions with

their doctors, instead of being blocked by insurance company bureaucrats.

Under the plan, if you like your current health insurance, nothing changes, except your costs will go down by as much as \$2,500 per year.

McCain's plan gives single taxpayers a tax credit of \$2500 and married taxpayers \$5000 per year to purchase health insurance on the open market.

However the plan stipulates the amount paid by your employer for your health insurance shall be considered taxable income.

Currently health insurance payments are not taxed.

Making them taxable would increase federal taxes for a typical construction worker paying \$5 per hour into a health fund by \$1.40 per hour.

State tax increases would also follow since they are linked to the federal calculation.



ANNE BARTH, (third from right) candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives gets help campaigning from (to left) George Pinkerman, Business Manager, Boilermakers 667; Dave McComas, State Building Trades and Dave Holly, Operating Engineers 132. Also pictured are campaign workers Jennifer Underwood, Mark Ferrell and Gretchen DeJarnett. The crew greeted more than 2,000 union construction workers at an early morning shift change at John Amos Power Station.

CARPENTERS, LABORERS HELP



APPRENTICES AND JOURNEYMEN from Carpenters Local 302 and 1207 as well as Laborers Local 1353 helped install a dance floor for a local charitable event. The 220 by 80 foot floor was used for a September 19 fundraiser called "Starry Starry Night," to raise money for a new, \$20 million athletic complex at the University of Charleston. Actress Jennifer Garner and her husband Ben Affleck attended. Local contractors BBL Carlton and Cornerstone Interiors also helped in the effort.

ELECTRICIANS LOCAL 968 HOLDS SOLAR DAY EVENT IN PARKERSBURG

IBEW Local 968 in partnership with local contractors held a "Solar Day" event in Parkersburg on Saturday, September 27.

The purpose was to invite the public to watch an installation of a solar array on the Local's building and to show Solar Power is viable in the area.

About 40 members of the Local came by to volunteer their time helping on the installation.

The solar array consisted of 30 solar panels, each about three by five foot, that can produce

6000 watts of electricity.

"That's enough to cut our electric bill by approximately 25 percent," said Jeff Fox, Business Manager for Electricians Local 968.

When the system produces more power than the building needs the extra power is sent onto the power grid and a meter

At current energy prices the \$30,000 investment will pay for itself over the 25 year life of the panels, and sooner if energy costs go up.

The event was sponsored by Mid-Ohio Valley Electrical Solutions, MOVES, a partnership of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 968

and the West Virginia-Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association.

Local 968 will also host a

Solar Power training event in late October.

This train-the-trainer event will be aimed at preparing members, some from as far away as

New York, to become solar power instructors for rank and file members of their local unions.

According to Fox the IBEW is making big strides in becoming part of the emerging Solar Power industry.

"Our local contractors can offer very competitive services

because they can take advantage of special pricing offers through the National Photovoltaic Construction Partnership," said Fox.

The Partnership helps with design, material lists, and financing <http://www.npcpsolar.com/>.

For more information contact Fox at 485-7412.

"THAT'S ENOUGH TO CUT OUR ELECTRIC BILL BY APPROXIMATELY 25 PERCENT," JEFF FOX, BUSINESS MANAGER, ELECTRICIANS LOCAL 968

on site records the amount of extra power produced.

"We get credit for the extra power against our bill," explained Fox.



INTERVIEWING JEFF FOX, Business Manager of IBEW Local 968, about Solar Day is Leslie Cebula, reporter for local TV station WTAP.

Correction & Thanks

We forgot a photo credit in last month's ACT Report. The photo of members from Carpenters Local 1159 came courtesy of the Point Pleasant Register. Sorry for the omission, thanks for use of the photo.

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