

# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council



VOL. 73, NO. 19

Since 1952 • Serving the highly skilled men and women in Michigan's building trades unions 65 Cents September 20, 2024

## SHORT CUTS



### UA Local 85 agent Badour mourned

The building trades community sends its condolences to the family of James Badour, a business agent for Saginaw-based Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 85. Jamie passed away on Sept. 7, 2024.



Jamie Badour

The 45-year-old, from Essexville, is survived by his significant other for 16 years, Kristin Rousseau, his mother Kathleen, brother Nathan, and a large extended family.

"Brother Jamie Badour embodies the values of organized labor," said Local 85 Business Manager Justin Pomerville. "He believed in the good of the whole and fairness. He always carried himself with great class and dignity. Jamie was the first one to show up and lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Respect, benevolence, and solidarity were truly part of his DNA. Everyone who knew him knew him as a friend.

"UA Local 85 lost an amazing leader and one of the finest craftsmen the plumbing and piping industry has ever known. Jamie made every decision and performed every action with intent and care; our Local is in a better place and stronger because of his leadership. Brother Badour was loved and will be missed by all. Godspeed Jamie!

"God bless the Badour family, organized labor, and the building trades."

### AFL-CIO to push organizing in South

(PAI) – The AFL-CIO is sending dozens of new organizers to live and work full-time in aiding workers in the deep South states of Georgia, Florida and South Carolina as part of its drive to add a million new members within the next several years, federation President Liz Shuler said.

In a brief interview last month, Shuler listed several reasons for the emphasis.

"We feel unions are taking root there" despite the decades-long hate of unions by the Southern ruling class of both corporate heads and politicians, she said. Shuler also noted it's ripe for organizing, as the fastest-growing, but also the poorest U.S. region.

And the Biden administration has awarded millions of dollars in federal "seed money" to construction of semiconductor factories in swing state Arizona and reddish Ohio, as well as deep blue New York.

"And we'll go after unionizing wind farms and solar energy" creators, Shuler said. "That's where the jobs are under other legislation Congress approved.

The federation and other unions still face regional hatred, despite some recent wins, notably the Steel Workers unionizing the Blue Bird school bus construction company in rural Georgia.

But much more common is the politicians' anti-union unity when the UAW unsuccessfully campaigned to unionize the Mercedes-Benz plant in Alabama. Five other Deep South governors joined Alabama Republican Kay Ivey, signing a letter declaring unions an economic threat to their states. It was an unprecedented show of animus by public officials.

### Quotable

"When you're good at something, you'll tell everyone. When you're great at something, they'll tell you."

– Walter Payton (1953-1999)



BAY CITY'S INDEPENDENCE BRIDGE, which was erected over the Saginaw River in 1973, is undergoing a complete rehabilitation project. The 1,210-foot-long bascule bridge has four independent leaves that rise and drop for ship traffic. This photo was taken in 2023.

## Trades lauded for work on Independence Bridge rehab

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

BAY CITY – After a half-century of carrying vehicular traffic over the Saginaw River, upgrades to the Independence Bridge have been overdue.

Not anymore: Work to rehabilitate and renovate just about the entire bridge has been underway since last year. When the work is completed as expected next spring, motorists above and mariners below the bascule bridge will have a de-

pendably operable span for years to come.

"We're doing great, we're on time and we haven't had any major difficulties or hurdles," said Louis Taylor of TransSystems, the project's owner's representative. "The tradespeople, the subcontractors out here, they been doing a great job. You can tell the difference with union workers. They just know what to do and they take headaches away from me."

The project team includes

Bay City Bridge Partners, TransSystems, and prime contractor Granite Kraemer Joint Venture, and anywhere from 15-45 trades workers on site employed by several subcontractors. They have an extensive to-do list on the 1,210-foot-long bridge, which includes a pair of rolling-girder-lift double-leaf bascule sections split down the middle, which makes for four independent leaves.

(Continued on Page 2)



FEEDING WIRE for pump and generator controls at the Independence Bridge in Bay City is Matthew Balcer of IBEW Local 692. He's employed by Clements Electric.

## Boom times continue for construction

Here's a happy pair of headlines about the state of the U.S. construction industry.

"Dodge Momentum Index rises 3 percent in August," said the Dodge Construction Network on Sept. 10.

"Construction firms add 34,000 jobs in August with gains in all subsectors, as industry unemployment hits record August

low of 3.2 percent," said the Associated General Contractors of America on Sept. 6.

The two leading watchers of the U.S. construction industry found little wrong with the latest economic trends.

"Construction job growth was the strongest in five months in August," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist.

"But the record-low unemployment rate for jobseekers with construction experience shows how much difficulty contractors face in finding qualified workers."

U.S. construction employment in August totaled 8,280,000, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 34,000 compared to July. The sector has added 228,000 jobs, and was up 2.8 percent during

the past 12 months, nearly double the 1.5 percent increase for total nonfarm employment.

All that added into the Dodge Momentum Index, a monthly measure of the value of nonresidential building projects going into planning.

"Owners and developers continued to prime the planning (Continued on Page 12)

## Good vibes abound for U.S. unions, latest Gallup survey says

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

Americans continue to like labor, a lot.

The annual survey by the Gallup organization that monitors the nation's attitudes toward labor unions found that 70 percent of Americans support unions – nearly tying the 71 percent reading in 2022 that was the highest since 1965.

Gallup first measured the

public's approval of labor unions in 1936 and found the highest support (75 percent) in the 1950s. Approval of unions has only fallen below 50 percent once – a 48 percent reading in 2009 after the Great Recession. The latest numbers, released Sept. 9, marks the eighth consecutive reading above 60 percent, the longest streak at this level since the 1960s.

"Gallup shows 70 percent of Americans support unions in

2024.," said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. "Why? Because unions empower workers to make our jobs and lives better – and we help everyone, whether you're in a union or not. That trust makes the labor movement the most powerful force in America to deliver real change."

Gallup simultaneously released the results of a survey question they have asked only (Continued on Page 3)

## 'Biden's 'Good Jobs' order is yet another bouquet for U.S. labor

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

ANN ARBOR – A president whose self-described mission is to have "the most pro-union administration in history" decided to run up the score during a Sept. 6 visit to the United Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 190 Training Center.

President Joe Biden chose the union hall to make a speech and conduct an executive order signing ceremony before a coterie of union presidents, lawmakers, union apprentices and journeymen. Biden's "Executive Order on Investing in America and Investing in American Workers" further intertwines pro-worker and pro-union standards into government operations from an administration that has indeed been historically pro-labor. Although another president can cancel the Executive Order – Biden suggested his "Good Jobs Agenda" rules are so beneficial

that he dared a successor to cancel them.

"For the first time in our history, the official policy of a presidential administration is to specify a clear list of higher labor



PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN, after speaking at the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 190 Training Center in Ann Arbor, flashes a smile and an honorary union card from the union. With him (l-r) are Local 190 Business Manager Randall Whitaker and United Association of Pipe Trades General President Mark McManus.

standards for jobs created through my Investing In America Agenda," said Biden, speaking before a crowd of about 200. "With today's executive order Kamala and I are setting a policy across the board in support of good job standards. And from this point on any president who disagrees with that is going (Continued on Page 3)

## IBEW president: Order sets Biden-Harris as 'most pro-worker administration ever'

IBEW International President Kenneth Cooper accompanied President Biden and administration officials to the signing ceremony at Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 190, in recognition of the IBEW's work in helping get much of the president's pro-labor agenda passed into law.

His related comments follow:

"With this executive order, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have further cemented their legacy as the most pro-worker administration

ever, ensuring that their Investing in America agenda will create good-paying, family-sustaining union jobs for years to come.

"The executive order builds on legislation previously passed by Congress and signed into law by Biden. It strengthens the labor standards that federal agencies use when hiring companies for public projects, leading to better-paying jobs and protecting taxpayers with high-quality work.

"Those standards include prioritizing contractors recognizing an employee's right to join a union, supporting apprenticeships and other career training, having equitable hiring plans, increasing the emphasis on workplace safety, and promoting family-sustaining wages and benefits.

"The order calls on agencies to prioritize project labor agreements and voluntary union recognition and neutrality from companies during union organizing campaigns. PLAs are agreements between contractors and workers that define terms of employment, including wage rates reflecting the local prevailing standard. They protect taxpayers by ensuring that work is done on time and apply to both union and nonunion contractors.

"Federal agencies also will prioritize companies bidding for projects that provide child and dependent care, paid leave, retirement benefits, and health insurance to employees.

"The order stands to benefit (Continued on Page 13)

## Latest trades' recruiting tool: old-school signage

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

GRAND LEDGE – In an era of communication dominated by smart phones and social media, maybe there's another, old-school method to get a message out to high school students, using a medium that's staring at them right in the face every day.

The message: after graduation, if you're thinking that a college path and paying tens of thousands of dollars in tuition might not be in your best interest, a career in one of the 14 earn-while-you-learn building trades unions might be a better option for you.

The medium: at Grand Ledge High School, it's a formerly blank hallway wall located outside the cafeteria. Now adorning it are signs, collectively 18 feet long by 7.5-foot tall, that each have brief teasers for careers in all the building trades, some with starting pay, and all with a QR code that can be scanned by student's phones if they want to pursue getting more information about a particular trade. "Well this is just a fabulous resource all in one place" said Kris Dykstra, career development coordinator at Grand Ledge High School, to Fox 47 News.

The wall's creator is Betsy Mauk, wife of United Association International Training Specialist Trent Mauk, formerly the training director at Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333. Betsy was spurred to become a volunteer advocate for promoting careers in the building trades by a comment made by one of

her daughter's high school teachers, who suggested that her stated career goal to enter a union apprenticeship should instead be a backup plan.

"My daughter Ryleigh didn't want to go to college, and she didn't want the debt that goes along with the tuition," Betsy said. "It made me think, if teachers are telling students that a career in the trades should be Plan B, then that needs to change. Especially (Continued on Page 13)



# Viewpoints



## Labor's choices

Reaction to the Sept. 10 presidential debate...

This election is a fundamental choice between the vice president, a principled, tough fighter who'll work to create opportunity for all of us, and Donald Trump, an unhinged serial union buster who betrays working people.

Tonight, the American people heard exactly why we need Kamala Harris in the White House. She's laser-focused on moving this country forward with working people driving our nation's success. In stark contrast, Donald Trump offered more of the same tired lies, personal attacks and empty promises he's spewed on the campaign trail for months and in the White House for years.

As we heard on that stage, Vice President Harris has decades of experience defending workers and holding big corporations accountable. Her entire career in public office has been focused on making sure workers have a fair shot. When it comes to our priorities—like the freedom to join a union, affordable quality health care, a secure retirement and good jobs—a Harris-Walz administration will move our nation forward, defend our freedoms, and build an economy that works for all of us.

And as tonight's debate reminded us, a second Trump term would be a corporate CEO's dream and a worker's nightmare. Trump and Vance are ready to make their Project 2025 agenda a terrifying reality: eviscerating unions, slashing millions of union jobs and making it nearly impossible for workers to organize, while cutting wages and benefits and threatening health and safety on the job. They're running a campaign based on division and fear to cover up the fact that they are in this for themselves and their rich donor friends—not the workers who make this country run.

The labor movement is mobilizing to elect Harris and Walz because the future of our country—and our unions—is on the line. We're organized and we can mobilize like few others can. With union voters making up 20 percent of the electorate in key battleground states, workers are pivotal in this election. This election, the Blue Wall will be built by labor and the path to victory runs through America's union halls. We know Kamala Harris and Tim Walz have working people's backs—and in the final weeks of this campaign, we're the boots on the ground who have theirs.

Liz Shuler  
President, AFL-CIO

To the Editor,

Why are you posting articles in *The Building Tradesman Newspaper* that promote the most woke, radical, dangerous Marxist, Chinese Communist Party-compromised, treasonous traitor and serial pathological-lying vice president to ever step foot in the White House?

By promoting her extreme left-wing Communist lunatic open-border policies you are indirectly aiding and abetting the violation of every single federal immigration law on the books, which is a traitorous act against the sovereignty of every legal U.S. citizen.

Shame on you and the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council. Apparently, you and the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council would prefer to live in a country that has a one-party rule socialist communist government.

Michael McClurg  
Onondaga, Mich.

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor.

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# Independence Bridge rehab lauded

(Continued from Page 1)

The "complete rehabilitation and modernization" of the span, according to the Bay City Bridge Partners, includes: repairs and improvements to the footings and foundations, substructure, and superstructure; bridge deck/roadway connections; scour protection; bascule electrical and mechanical systems; bridge performance monitoring; remodel and upgrade of the operator house; upgrades to warning gates and operator houses; work on the architectural handrail and decorative lighting, and an open road all-electronic tolling system with closed system video and cameras.

The bridge's eight 25 hp motors which lift the bascule leaves have been retained, but were extensively refurbished.

The Independence Bridge was erected in 1973 and carries drivers on Harry S. Truman Parkway. As it deteriorated and its mechanical systems became less dependable, Bay City officials had discussed demolition of the bridge and then building a replacement as an option, but chose to rehabilitate it instead.

Kevin Kruger, project manager for Granite Kraemer, said the work on the Independence Bridge became necessary "when the number of service calls" for mechanical repairs related to the raising and lowering of the bridge, "exceeded the public's patience for service calls." In



A TEAM OF IRON WORKERS Local 25 members, Jorge Willis, Kevin Palazzolo, Charles King and Eric Brecker, set guard rails on the southern approach to the Independence Bridge in Bay City. They're employed by Future Fence.

short, the bridge had been suffering mechanical breakdowns.

"It was time for the bridge's rehabilitation," Kruger said. "We're all proud to be part of this. And the trades have been awesome. We have the best tradespeople in the country. And the unions have been great to work with and have lent their support to get this project underway."

With the city unable to afford work on the spans, Bay City Bridge Partners entered into an acquisition and development agreement with the City of Bay City for work on both the Independence Bridge and the Liberty Bridge, which also spans the Saginaw River and was rehabilitated two years ago. As part of the agreement, BCBP will also

assume financial responsibility for tolling and operations and maintenance of both bridges.

Kruger said much of the construction team "learned so much from the Liberty Bridge

(rehabilitation) project and were able to roll right into the Independence Bridge project."

For the most part, two lanes on the bridge have remained open during the project.

## Just joking

Reaching the end of a job interview, the human resources officer asks a young engineer fresh out of college, "and what starting salary are you looking for?"



The engineer replies, "in the range of \$150,000 a year, depending on the ben-

efits package."

The interviewer replies, "well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?"

The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

## Maybe higher prices come from greed, monopolies?

By Jim Hightower

"I've got those payday-Friday grocery store blues."

That working-class lament is from an old bluegrass song, but millions of working stiff are singing it today. While many workers have finally seen an uptick in their paychecks, they've been dismayed to see the increase quickly gobbled up by jacked-up grocery prices. What the hell?

Kamala Harris has had the

honesty to call it what it is: gouging. And, to put some bite in her bark, she's proposing a long-overdue, national ban on rip-off pricing by food giants.

Of course, this produced outraged squeals by corporate functionaries. But some of the most furious squealing is coming from a supposedly unbiased corner of America's economic structure: Economists.

A little-known secret of this occult profession is that most economists are schooled by and working for the corporate order, generally hostile to consumers, workers and other competing interests. One absolute rule they learn is that NONE of the inequities and iniquities of America's

laissez-fairlyland economy are to be blamed on corporate greed.

Thus, a whole pack of mainline economists raced to poo-poo Harris' price-gouging charge, asserting that grocery prices have naturally surged due to what they benignly call "price pack architecture." Technically, price pack architecture refers to a strategy in which a company adjusts a product's packaging—"portion control" snack sizes, for example, or stay-fresh features like zipper bags—to offer consumers more options.

But companies have recently used the phrase almost exclusively euphemistically, to describe shrinking products, with price tags that are the same or higher.

Bovine excrement! Price gouging cannot be perfumed by semantics—it is mass swindling, and people can detect it by its stench. So, let's follow that stench to its anti-free enterprise source: Monopoly. For the past half century, economists in both Republican and Democratic administrations have looked the other way, allowing food giants to consolidate and conglomerate, shut out competitors, monopolize every aspect of the food economy... and steal.

It's that theft that Harris is daring to challenge, and Americans will cheer her on—no matter how furiously establishment economists squeal.

(via [www.otherwords.org](http://www.otherwords.org))

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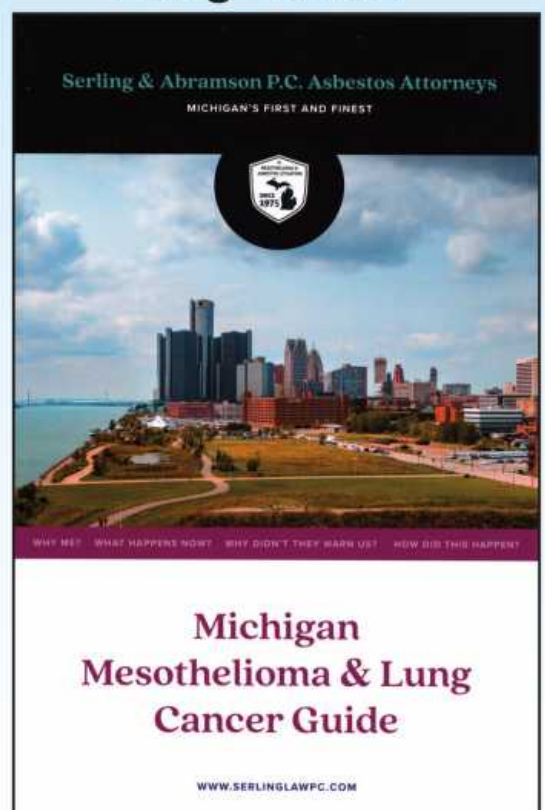
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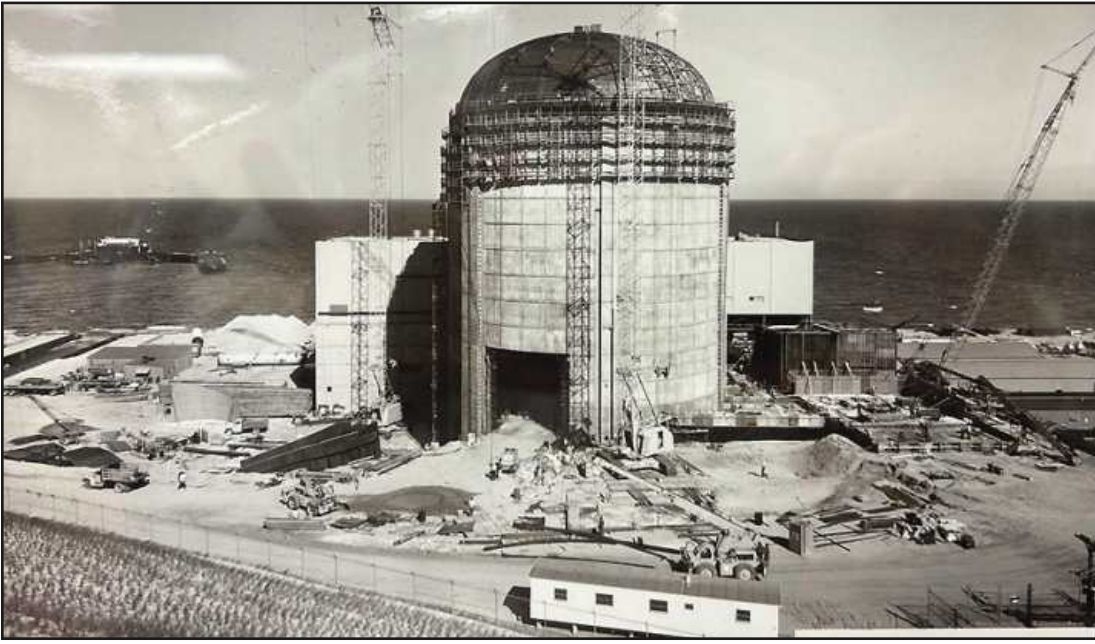
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## BUILDING MICHIGAN!

### Palisades plant's unlikely resurrection HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



CONSTRUCTION OF the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant's 189-foot-tall concrete containment structure is shown on July 2, 1968. Built on the shores of Lake Michigan in Covert Twp. in Van Buren County, the 800-megawatt plant was powered-up on Dec. 31, 1971, and provided decades of power production to Southwest Michigan until it was shuttered in 2022. No cooling tower here – the plant was cooled by the flow of 390,000 gallons-per-minute of Lake Michigan water. The plant is currently in the process of being the first nuclear facility in the nation to be re-started after being closed.

Photo credits: Holtec

The Palisades Nuclear Power Plant is currently down, but it's making history by getting up off the mat.

Until now, nobody, but nobody, has re-started a dead nuclear power plant in the Western Hemisphere. Nuke plant shutdowns have come for various reasons: the designed life of a plant comes to an end, public fears of a catastrophic accident, or needed repairs and maintenance to a plant make the facilities too costly to keep open. Entergy, the former owner of the Palisades plant, shut down the facility on May 20, 2022 because its operation was no longer "economically viable."

The shutdown was followed a month later by Holtec's purchase of the plant – although it's a company that specializes in nuclear waste management and mothballing nuclear plants, rather than operating the facilities.

"The shutdown completes a respectable operating history for the 800-megawatt facility," said *Power Magazine* just after the Palisades shutdown. "In fact, the plant's most-recent run set a site and world record for a plant of its kind, continuously generating electricity for 577 days since its last refueling. Palisades remains ranked in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's highest safety category, and Entergy claims the station is regarded by its peers as one of the top performers in the industry." While that's true, the plant also previously had a highly checkered history of important equipment failures and shutdowns.

Holtec's original plans after purchasing the dead plant didn't include splitting atoms any more at the site – until the state and federal governments saw an opportunity to re-start production of a whole lotta lost green, carbon-free energy. In July 2023, the State of Michigan's FY 2024 budget provided \$150 million in funding for the nuclear plant's restart.

Then on March 27, 2024, the Biden Administration's focus on green energy production sprung an announced deluge of money for the plant's re-start. "We are pleased to announce that Holtec has received a conditional commitment for a loan guarantee of up to \$1.52 billion from the U.S. Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office to support the historic re-powering of the 800-megawatt Palisades Power Plant in Covert Twp.," Holtec said that day. "This announcement brings Palisades one giant step closer to becoming the first successfully re-started nuclear power plant in the United States."

In fact, when the plant is re-powered, it would be just the second reactor to restart in the history of global civil nuclear power, according to Mycle Sch-



CONSTRUCTION OF the Palisades containment building's base is shown on May 10, 1967. The 116-foot diameter structure would have reinforced concrete walls 3.5-foot thick.

neider, lead author of the *World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2023*, in an interview with *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.

"To my knowledge, the only time that a closed nuclear power plant has been restarted was in Armenia, after the two units had been closed (in 1989) after a massive earthquake," said Schneider in the interview. "That Palisades would restart is unique, in Western countries at least. For a plant that has been set to be decommissioned to restart, this has never been done."

And this from the U.S. Department of Energy, which has no small stake in the project: "But that's not the only groundbreaking work happening there. (Holtec) also plans to build its first two small modular reactors (SMRs) at the plant by 2030 to nearly double the clean power generation at the site."

Taking advantage of the infrastructure at the Covert site, Holtec said the twin SMR-300 reactor units would add a total of 600 megawatts at Palisades, nearly doubling the plant's power production. They will join the existing single 805 MW pressurized water reactor at the site. The target commissioning date for the site's first SMRs is set for mid-2030.

Those SMRs would be the first constructed by Holtec, and apparently the first constructed in the nation. The plug was pulled last year on the nation's first planned SMR project in Idaho because the operator didn't recruit enough additional customers to buy its power.

Holtec plans on rehiring or hiring up to about 470 people to work at the plant. Building trades unions will enjoy continued employment at the plant, with more than 1,000 jobs expected to be created with the ongoing rehabilitation project, and then on future maintenance and regular refueling outage projects.

"Holtec is also reconstituting training facilities, including rebuilding the control room simulator, submitting regulatory documents, securing a power purchase agreement and is ordering new fuel and long-lead components," says

the World Nuclear Association. The group said plant work is also underway, including the offsite refurbishment of the generator exciter and restoration of reactor vessel's operational integrity in preparation for a deep chemical cleaning of the plant's reactor cooling system. Upcoming actions include inspection of the reactor vessel internals and steam generators.

The resurrection of the Palisades plant has opened eyes – and raised eyebrows – nationwide due to the rarity of re-starting a shuttered nuke plant. As of June 2024, there have been 210 nuclear reactors permanently shut down worldwide, with 41 of those taking place in the U.S. Twelve nuclear reactors have been shut down in the U.S. since 2012.

When it's again producing power, the Palisades plant will join the 1,100-megawatt Fermi II plant near Monroe, and the 2,110-MW Donald C. Cook plant in Bridgman, south of St. Joseph, as Michigan's only operational nuclear power plants. There are 21 states that have zero nuclear power plants.

Michigan ranks 11th among the states in total energy use, with nuclear-electric power as the state's fourth most-consumed energy source after natural gas, gasoline and coal.

"Holtec plans to get the power plant restarted by the end of 2025, a breathtakingly aspirational target given nuclear's history of missing construction and cost targets," writes Eric Wesoff for *Canary Media*, a publication covering the nation's transition to clean energy. He pointed out various headwinds for the plant's re-start, including making needed repairs, addressing deferred maintenance and working with a Nuclear Regulatory Commission that has never considered reauthorizing a license for a shuttered plant.

"If successful, the Palisades restart could provide the American nuclear renaissance with a much-needed win," wrote Wesoff, "even if that means rousing an old reactor from its nap rather than starting up a shiny new one."



A MODERN VIEW of the Palisades plant before it was shut down in 2022. Consumers Power announced construction of the \$149 million plant in 1966. It was located on a 600-acre site known as "the Palisades," five miles south of South Haven. It would be the 20th nuke plant announced in the U.S., and "would be one of the nation's largest generating facilities," the *Kalamazoo Gazette* reported at the time. Palisades, featuring a 328-ton reactor, was constructed on-site by five different companies, led by architect/engineer/constructor Bechtel Power Corp.

## 'Biden's 'Good Jobs' order

(Continued from Page 1)  
to have to say so out loud – and say it to your face and repeal that order. And I want to see them try to do it."

The White House said in broad terms, the executive order "promotes strong labor standards such as family-sustaining wages, workplace safety, and the free and fair opportunity to join a union, and encourages agencies to implement these standards through their Investing in America programs." Their fact sheet said "the Biden-Harris Administration is the first in history to specify a clear list of labor standards that all federal agencies should look to prioritize."

The Executive Order comes three years after passage of the \$1.3 trillion Infrastructure Act, and provides guidance on the strings attached to spending that and other federal money. "These instruments, which agencies are encouraged to prioritize where appropriate and consistent with law, mark the strongest package of priorities that any Administration has taken to help promote the free and fair choice to join a union through federally funded and federally supported projects," the White House said.

Among the new rules for federal agencies should set for companies seeking federal contracts:

- The use of pro-union project labor agreements should be used where appropriate and "neutrality with respect to union organizing" should be observed.

- Broadening prevailing wage laws for the building trades, Biden's order directs federal agencies to "consider incentivizing specific high-wage standards for manufacturing grants – going beyond long-standing Davis-Bacon requirements that only apply to construction jobs."

- Federal agencies should consider hiring companies that "supply the benefits that workers need – including child and dependent care to health insurance, paid leave, and retirement benefits."

- Support workforce development through registered apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, labor-management partnerships, and partnerships with training organizations including community colleges and public workforce boards.

- Supporting workplace safety by encouraging agencies to

prioritize reporting structures that help ensure company compliance with all workplace health and safety laws.

To oversee agencies in their implementation of these labor standards, Biden's order creates a new "Good Jobs Task Force" to ensure compliance.

On hand for the Executive Order signing were North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey, United Association General President Mark McManus, IBEW President Ken Cooper and Laborers General President Brent Booker. Before he took up his pen, Biden pointed out the other things the Biden/Harris Administration has done for organized labor.

Their administration's record has included 42 straight months where jobs have increased, the creation of 16 million new jobs helped by passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and passage of the American Rescue Plan, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act. The Biden/Harris Administration has overseen the implementation of extensive "buy American" requirements for federal contracting. Foundering union pension systems saw their benefits restored, providing a literal lifeline for 450,000 retirees (including

40,000 in Michigan). Rulemaking at OSHA has been pro-worker. Stronger prevailing wage standards are putting more money in construction workers' pockets.

"One of the most significant things that we've done," Biden said, "is appoint National Labor Relations Board members who actually believe in unions and the right to negotiate. When Trump was president he appointed union busters to that organization."

Biden, the first president to walk a picket line, told the union crowd that "a lot of politicians have trouble saying the word union. Kamala and I know how to say the word. Wall Street didn't build America. The middle class built America. And you built the middle class. Labor unions built the middle class."

McGarvey of North America's Building Trades Unions said "this signing marks another major milestone by the Biden-Harris Administration in their fight for higher labor standards across federal government funded programs. This Executive Order solidifies the Administration's ongoing efforts to embed worker protections for our nation's workforce, ensuring federal funding prioritizes projects that adopt fair wages, safe working conditions, and respect for workers' rights."

## Good vibes abound for U.S. unions, Gallup says

(Continued from Page 1)

periodically, in 1981, 1984 and 1990: which party best serves union members?

In 2024, "as Donald Trump and Kamala Harris continue to court labor union voters," Gallup said, "Americans are much more likely to say the Democratic Party best serves the interests of union members (62 percent) than to say the Republican Party does (27 percent)."

The latest 35-percentage-point gap between the parties, Gallup said, is similar to the gaps in 1990 and 1984 but 10 points lower than in 1981, when the Democratic Party held a 45-point advantage on serving union members.

The Gallup data joins other evidence of union popularity. That data includes record numbers of union election filings with the National Labor Relations Board and overwhelming support for the Auto Workers in their strike against the Detroit auto firms last year.

"We have an opportunity in 2024 to elect pro-worker leaders to the White House, Congress, governorships, state legislatures and beyond who believe unions are essential to growing the middle class and will pass legislation to guarantee workers a seat at the table," said AFSCME union President Lee Saunders. "With public support for unions near an all-time high, we know a better future for all working families is within reach. And we're ready to organize and mobilize to realize that future."

You and your health . . .



## The Never-Ending April Fools': Navigating the Misinformation Maze

Scholars who study deep fakes have coined a phrase to describe the influence of disinformation: *the liar's dividend*.

of someone who has lost the ability to speak. The computer can "learn" to speak in the voice of that person, saying what the person wants to say in real time.

That last example should also immediately raise a red flag about the dangers of AI. While it's absolutely wonderful to restore a voice to someone who has lost theirs, bad actors can literally put words in peoples' mouths that they did not say.

A high-profile example of this was the January 2024 New Hampshire primary in which an AI-generated robo-call used Joe Biden's voice to urge voters not to vote in the primary, but wait to cast a ballot in November.

### Liar's Dividend

Fortunately, some research and intensive fact-checking usually reveals what's fake or fact. But sometimes an initial false claim is enough to cast doubt and cloud someone's thinking in the long- and short-term. There's a phrase that scholars who study deep fakes use to describe the influence of disinformation: *the liar's dividend*. Simply put, planting a seed of doubt, and repeating that doubt on a massive scale through social media or AI-generated tools, makes people open to accepting everything that aligns with their beliefs as truth, and rejecting the rest.

### Truth Through Scrutiny

To get to the bottom of what's accurate, we need curiosity and critical thinking. This means

examining information closely before we accept or share it. By doing this, our beliefs will be based on the truth instead of just the illusion of being right.

Importantly, we don't have to change our beliefs when we seek out the truth, we just need to be honest. Half-truths or cherry-picking facts won't make your beliefs any more credible, but just the opposite.

In our digital age, separating fact from fiction is more challenging than ever. Algorithms amplify content, and AI-generated images can make false information look strikingly authentic. Navigating this complex landscape requires strong media literacy skills and a vigilant approach to verifying sources.

Fortunately, there are many independent, non-partisan fact-checking resources available to help us to quickly sift through the noise. Websites like these provide valuable tools to verify information and combat misinformation:

- FactCheck.org
- SciCheck
- Misinformation Dashboard: Election 2024
- RumorGuard
- AP Fact Check
- Reuters Fact Check

It's always a smart move to double-check your facts before sharing them. By consulting at least two fact-checking resources, you can help ensure the accuracy of the information you're passing along!

### AI = Easy Fakes

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the use of computers to perform tasks resembling what only humans used to be able to do. There are many examples of AI already in everyday use: you ask a smart speaker to answer questions as varied as the weather forecast for next Friday or to tell you who wrote the song being played.

On a more complex level, AI can reconstruct the actual voice

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**IBEW Local 58**  
**DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting:** the next general membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project well under way. Your patience is appreciated!

**Electrical Industry Training Center** is offering Continuing Education classes. Please check them out at <http://www.detroit-etc.org/continuing-education/>. We will start to cancel classes if they don't meet the minimum enrollment requirements, or more hopefully we will order books for those of you who've signed up. Members on the Storm Book must secure their training through the Continuing Education Program offered by the school. If you need assistance in registering for a class, please call the Training Center at 586-751-6600.

**The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Please Call, Text, Chat! IBEW Local 58 Cares! Call 988!

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS INFORMATION:** Local Union 58 held a runoff election by mail ballot for the offices of Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Delegate to the 2026 Convention, President/Delegate to the 2026 Convention, and Vice President. Ballot results were tallied on July 12, 2024. A timely election protest was filed with the Sixth District International Vice President challenging solely the election for Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Delegate to the 2026 Convention.

After an investigation, the International Vice President determined that the ballot instructions for the runoff election were defective, upheld the protest, voided the protested results for Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Delegate to the 2026 Convention, and directed a rerun of the runoff election for that office. Election of Officers ballots were mailed on **Friday, August 23, 2024.**

Please notify the hall of any recent address change to make sure you get your ballot in time to return it for counting on **Friday, September 20, 2024.** If you have not received your ballot, please call Election Judge Tremayne Bright at the Union Hall during regular business hours to request a "Duplicate Ballot" (313.963.2130 ext 3066). All duplicate ballots will be MAILED OUT.

Your ballot must be received at the designated Post Office box by 9:00 AM on Friday, September 20, 2024, in order to be tallied at the Local Union Hall on that date and at that time. *Do not turn in your ballot to the Union Hall.* EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!

**IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers** - are Available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line, \$100.00 Donation per Brick. NOTE: No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, extension 3015.

**Local 58 Dues Department** - We are transitioning to a new system. Your dues statements will now come in a letter form and dues receipts will be a bit different-we are working on them-if you don't receive a statement, you can look at your dues receipt and see what you are paid to or you can call the dues department and we can let you know. Please be patient during this transition. It is Your responsibility to pay your dues on time - this could affect your retirement and death benefit. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number. Thank you!

**Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF):** The next meeting will be October 1, 2024. Our next event is

the Brad Ballard memorial golf outing on Friday, September 27, 2024. This year it will be held at Pine Valley Golf course. This is a bigger course and will allow for more golfers. If you are interested in a foursome or a sponsorship, please contact Michael Bellhorn at 586-612-5964.

**Members of the Community Service Committee:** The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 5:30p.m. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering or participating.

**Members of the Entertainment Committee:** The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, October 8, 2024, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

**EWMC of Southeastern MI** - The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2024, at 6: 00 pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement. We have a lot of events and projects on the horizon this year and we need all hands-on deck. Tickets are available for our quilt raffle. Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities soon. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with our efforts.

**The RENEW Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, September 23, 2024, at 5:00 PM. **The Safety Committee meeting** will be on Monday, October 14, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

**The Veterans Committee** - will now be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm.

**The Political Action Committee (PAC)-** If you have any questions or concerns or would like to attend our next PAC meeting you can reach out to our registrars at [registrar@ibewlocal58.org](mailto:registrar@ibewlocal58.org). Political Action Committee Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the hall at 5:30 PM.

**Local 58's Women's Committee-** Our next meeting will take place on September 26, 2024, 5:30pm at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at [58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org](mailto:58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org)

**Local 58 Motorcycle Group:** Open to everyone and all riders are encouraged to join us! Requirements need to be met for patched membership. For more information, please visit our Facebook page for planned rides and updates @ IBEW Local 58 Motorcycle Group. Contact Vice President Anthony Anderanin @ 313-999-3829, [aanderanin@gmail.com](mailto:aanderanin@gmail.com) or Grace Trudell @ 517-715-7563 for more info. Join us at our upcoming meetings to plan for next year's events and rides.

**IBEW LOCAL 58 Retirees Association:** The September luncheon will be on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at Corsi's Banquet Center, 27910 W. Seven Mile, in Livonia. Doors open at 11 and lunch is served at 12:30 p.m. Send your reservations with a check (made payable to the Retirees Association) for \$25 per person to IBEW #58, Attention Retirees, P.O. Box 32756-0756, for questions or reservations call Elaine Crawford, 313 408-5885. Our next board meeting will be Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 10 a.m. in the main conference

(Continued next column)



**Local 275**

**IBEW Local 275 COOPERSVILLE** - Work in the jurisdiction is very busy. There have been multiple calls for Fish Creek Solar, Muskegon Solar, and LG Chem, as well as calls for various local contractors. Call the recorder each night to avoid missing a call you may be interested in.

E-mail addresses have changed, please note the following changes. If you happen to e-mail the old addresses, they will be forwarded to our new ones. [Jonas-jonas@ibew275.org](mailto:Jonas-jonas@ibew275.org)  
[Walter-walter@ibew275.org](mailto:Walter-walter@ibew275.org)  
[Geoff-geoff@ibew275.org](mailto:Geoff-geoff@ibew275.org)  
[Nicole-nicole@ibew275.org](mailto:Nicole-nicole@ibew275.org)

Please note that phone issues are still ongoing. We are in the process of working with Lakeland to get the new phone system installed. If you are having issues getting through to the job hotline, we recommend bidding online at [www.ibew275.org](http://www.ibew275.org). Username is your card number and password is your last name (ALL CAPS) and the last of your social security number (ie: SMITH1234). Code update classes will continue to be scheduled throughout the year until there is no longer a need. The cost for members is \$20. There is an online version available for \$40. To register for this class and/or to keep an eye out for future classes go to the JATC website at [www.wmejatc.org](http://www.wmejatc.org) and click the Code Update

(Continued next column)

**Local 58 cont'd**

room at the union hall. Our October luncheon will be at the Gazebo Banquet Center, 31104 Mound Road, Warren. Mark these dates on your calendar, we look forward to great food, good company and a chance to catch up with old friends, and to make new ones. Come on out and join us!

**Local 58 IBEW Senior Golf Outings 2024** will be on Thursday, October 3, 2024, Tanglewood Golf Course, 22805 Country Club Dr, South Lyon, MI 48178, tee time 9:30 am. Call Art DeCoste at 248-887-3396, two weeks in advance for a headcount due to the security deposit at most of the golf courses. Come on and join the golf outings! This is a great opportunity to catch up with some old friends, to make new friends, and to go out and enjoy the camaraderie! Remember, All IBEW Local 58 members are welcome to participate!! Call Art with questions or concerns.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings** take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6:00 pm. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

**Electrical Workers Credit Union** - Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060. In the market for a loan? Check out our low rates! New auto as low as 5.99%. Give us a call today to find out how to apply or go online at <http://www.ewcu.net>. Who's your Beneficiary? Here are some tips to help make sure your account is up to date with us. Review your beneficiaries periodically, especially if a life change occurs. Be sure the wording is correct, especially if you name more than one beneficiary. Give us a call and we can check who you have listed. State of Michigan Escheat Law: The law states that any deposit account with no activity for 3 years must be turned over to the State. What can you do? Contact us today to find out your account status. Conduct a transaction by either deposit or withdraw (any amount). Close account.

**Be sure to keep the Union Hall** updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and email.

**Members that have Passed Away:** Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our fallen brothers and sisters. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

Salvatore "Sam" Cracchiolo, pension member, 26 year IBEW membership; Blair Dodd, pension member, 57 year IBEW membership; Herbert Nannah, pension member, 60 year IBEW membership.

Course link.  
 At the time of this writing, anyone working in Local 275 should have received their vacation fund deposit. If you have not received it, you most likely have not gotten your vacation fund account info into Wilson McShane. Please contact Nicole at the Union Hall for more information.

*"One of the joys we have in being human is in exercising our freedom to choose and to take each case as it comes to us. We are not robots who are forced into behaviors by their programming. We see things; we think about things; and we choose our course of action or beliefs appropriately. And as long as that remains true of us, we will live every day of our lives on one slippery slope or another. There is no reason to fear this."*  
 - Gordon Atkinson

*"It is a common delusion that you make things better by talking about them."*  
 - Dame Rose Macaulay (1881 - 1958)

*"There are two things that will be believed of any man whatsoever, and one of them is that he has taken to drink."*  
 - Booth Tarkington (1869 - 1946)

*"Have you learned the lessons only of those who admired you, and were tender with you, and stood aside for you? Have you not learned great lessons from those who braced themselves against you, and disputed passage with you?"*  
 -Walt Whitman (1819 - 1892)

*"Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing."*  
 -Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

*"When there is no peril in the fight there is no glory in the triumph."*  
 -Pierre Corneille (1606 - 1684)

*"Whenever you commend, add your reasons for doing so; it is this which distinguishes the approbation of a man of sense from the flattery of sycophants and admiration of fools."*  
 -Sir Richard Steele (1672- 1729)

With political activities for the 2024 election ramping up, we are looking for anyone interested in volunteering in the effort. Please reach out to Walter at the Union Hall for more information about volunteering.

If you want to get added to our blast email list, please reach out to Nicole at the Hall to get on the list.

At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Devon Adair, Ruben Cortez, Timothy Davis, Matthew Dejong, David Doxey, Damien Keglavit, and Fred Wohlfer. Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

**Construction's boom times**

(Continued from Page 1)  
 queue in August, ahead of next year's anticipated stronger market conditions," said Sarah Martin, associate director of forecasting at Dodge Construction Network. "With the Fed's September rate cut all but finalized, the influence of selective lending standards and inflation should moderate next year, alongside a modest upgrade to consumer demand. As a result, stronger planning activity was widespread in August, with most nonresidential sectors seeing growth."

Even the anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors chimed in, mostly positively. But their economist also preached caution. "August's employment report is perfectly consistent with the notion of a soft landing," for the U.S. economy, said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu, on Sept. 6. "Unemployment fell both economywide and in the nation's construction sector. Job growth in nonresidential construction was both brisk and broad-based. Moreover, Federal Reserve officials continue to indicate that they are ready to reduce interest rates, which is expected within the next two weeks."

Basu cautioned interest rates may not fall as fast as contractors hope. "The economy remains too strong to warrant rapid declines in interest rates implemented by the Federal Reserve," he said. "Moreover, average hourly earnings expanded more rapidly in August than anticipated, suggesting that inflation remains sticky and that Fed officials may only be able to reduce rates gingerly."

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## Local 149 Roofers and Waterproofers

### Roofers Local 149

DETROIT – Attention. This paper is to serve as an official notice to the membership.

**General Membership Meeting.** The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**Executive Board Meeting.** The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**Mid-Michigan.** The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Oct. 8, 2024 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420

**Condolences.** It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brothers.

Brother Patrick Feys was 72 years old and a 23-year member. Brother Feys passed away on

8/8/2024.

Brother Timothy Wilt was 47 years old and a 10-year member. Brother Wilt passed away on 9/10/2024.

Rest in Peace Brothers, thank you for your years of service.

**Vacation and Holiday Check Direct Deposit**

Members have the option to have their Vacation and Holiday check direct deposited in their bank account. This includes all contracted areas.

To get your Vacation check direct deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall. Members will need to know the following Financial Institution information, Routing No., Account No., and name of Financial Institution.

**Labor Day 2024.** The 2024 Detroit & Mid-Michigan Labor Day Parade and Picnic was a huge success!

Business Manager Brian Gregg thanks all volunteers who busted their butts on Saturday and on Labor Day to make this Labor Day Parade and picnic was a huge success. We could not have this event without the help from our volunteers, and our generous sponsors.

A special thank you to the 2024 Labor Day Gift Sponsors: AsherKelly Attorneys at Law, Benesys Inc., Christen Detroit, Dencap Dental Plans, Detroit Roofers Training Center, Lutz Roofing Co., Inc., McKnight, Canzano, Smith, Radtke & Brault, P.C., PRO, RAM Construction Services, Royal Roofing, Schreiber Roofing Corp., T.F. Beck, Wrubel Wesley & Co CPA's, Members of LU 149, Office Staff of LU 149. Congratulations to ALL of our winners and participants!

Pictures of the 2024 Labor Day Picnic are posted on Facebook @ United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers Local 149

**Detroit Training Center Information.** Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

**Are you moving?** If you have a new address please make sure to let the Union Hall know. We will take care of your account with the Union Hall that includes the Building Tradesman Paper, International Union, and Trust Fund.

**Reminder.** Members please call the Hall when you see a roofing project whether it is one of our signatory companies or not. The Hall needs this information for recruitment purposes, and hopefully to get a picture of our members for Facebook.

**CLEARANCE CARDS.** Are you scheduled to go out of town for work in another Local's territory? Clearance cards are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and call the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

**Outdoor Life.** If you have any hunting and fishing pictures that you would like to see in the Journeyman Roofing & Waterproofing magazine, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093

(Continued next column)



## Local 169 Boilermakers

### Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place **Oct. 11, 2024.** This meeting will be at IBEW All located at 1300 W. Thomas St., Bay City, MI. 48706.



BOB  
HUTSELL

Area 2 picnic in Muskegon was on Labor Day following the parade. If anyone has pictures that you would like to add to the website, please email them to lynn@boilermakerslocal169.com

Area 3 picnic was June 22, 2024, at Sanford Lake. If there are any pictures that you would like to share, please send them to lynn@boilermakerslocal169.com and they will be added to our

website and the Facebook page.

Area 4 picnic was on July 13, 2024, at Pioneer Park from 1-5PM. If there are any pictures, please send them to lynn@boilermakerslocal169.com and they will be added to our website and Facebook page.

Thank you to all that attended the Labor Day Parades throughout the state.

Current Union dues for 2024 are \$55.85 in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution. The Union Hall accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union Hall and over the phone.

In an effort to assist our active members, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has waived any increase in dues for the 2024 year. Dues for the 2024 year will remain at \$55.85.

OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – www.boilermakerslocal169.com- for more information.

Any member interested in taking the Great Lakes Safety for Corteva please contact Area 3 Business Agent, Mike Card at 989-662-6491.

Any members interested in EPRI Rigging, which is required for working in the Nuclear Plants. Please contact Tony Herrera at 616-296-9131, or Jamie Ratliff at 313-584-8520. Your name will be added to the list.

Once we have a full class, you will be notified when and where to attend. Per your International, any member with EPRI training will not be required to have Rigging 1 through 4 for placement on the BDS.

**Retirees:** Retiree luncheons. **Area 1** Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am at the Brown Derby Bar, 10661 West Jefferson, River Rouge, MI.

**Area 2** Retirees hold luncheons on the first Thursday of every month at 11am at Whitlow's Forerunner Restaurant located at 4610 Airline Rd, Muskegon MI.

All retirees and members

from all areas are welcome to attend.

**Area 3** Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next lunch will be September 18, 2024, at 11am.

The location is Beaverton Tavern, 102 W. Brown Street, Beaverton, MI. 48612. Retirees from all areas are welcome.

**Area 4** Retirees' lunches are on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am in Rapid River at Jacks Restaurant 7898 S. Main Street, Rapid River, MI.

Area 4 retirees also meet in Marquette on the second Tuesday of the month at 11am at Crossroads Bar on the corner of County Rd 553 and County Road 480.

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$45.00. Payments can be made with cash or check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall.

Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details. The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169 or on our Facebook page.

The cost of your T.W.I.C. card is reimbursable from the M.O.R.E. Fund. Contact the Union Hall for reimbursement.

Any member needing the services of a Notary Public can do so at no charge at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. Please call ahead to ensure availability.

Any current apprentice that is eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your apprenticeship training qualifies for reimbursement under the terms of the G.I. Bill. I advise all apprentices who qualify to take advantage of this well-deserved benefit.

Please keep the family of Eli Vermeesch in your thoughts during this difficult time. Eli passed away suddenly Sept. 3, 2024. Services were held on Sept. 11, 2024. Eli is survived by brother and boilermaker Brandon Vermeesch.

# Latest trades' recruiting tool: old-school signage

(Continued from Page 1)

knowing how much the trade has meant to my husband and our family. So I decided to do something."

Ignoring her teacher's advice, Ryleigh Mauk graduated high school in May and has entered a pipe trades union apprenticeship. Meanwhile, Betsy has picked up the union label and run with it, becoming an unofficial and unpaid advocate for building trades union apprenticeships as a career choice.

Betsy said she borrowed the concept of creating the high school wall display from one of Trent's contacts at a pipe trades union in Illinois. Getting an OK to put up the sign display at Grand Ledge High School, she approached Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council Business Representative DeShon Leek about accumulating information and QR codes from the various trades to print on the signs. After union reps signed off on the signs and provided money for the printing at a union shop, Betsy adorned the wall.

"The school's reaction was, 'yes, we would love to have that,'" Betsy said. Grand Ledge students are exposed to the display every day, and one school representative told her that the wall is a reminder for both students and staff that college isn't the only path for graduating students. "Now we have a place to send students" who don't want to go to college, Betsy was told by a school rep.

She said two other high schools have similar plans for putting up the displays, with funds provided by the Michigan AFL-CIO Workforce Development Institute, and others have expressed interest. "Stay tuned for more, this could just be the beginning," Betsy said, as she was about to participate in a local television interview about the display, and social media was also spreading the word.

While the signs are a passive way to reach students, Betsy has also decided to take on a more active role in promoting apprenticeships. Her son is being home-schooled, and over the past year Betsy has made a number of contacts with other home-schooling parents. She said she could see the lack of knowledge they and their children have about careers in the building trades – and that prompted more action.

Through her contacts with the building trades, Betsy over the past year has arranged for sign-ups and tours of building trades apprenticeship schools for home-schooled students and their parents. She said she is hoping to arrange one tour a month during this school year.

"There is a lot of interest in the home-school community in the trades, once they learn about what's out there," Betsy said. "I am passionate about this. Trent has made his career in the trade, and my college degree was paid for with union wages. A lot of kids don't know where to go after they graduate. They can maybe try to find their own way; they can go to college and have crippling debt, or they can try an apprenticeship in the trades. Being in a trade apprenticeship can be a life-changing experience, people just need to know how to find them."

## IBEW president: Order sets Biden-Harris as 'most pro-worker administration ever'

(Continued from Page 1)

not just union workers, but also the National Electrical Contractors Association, the IBEW's longtime national management partner in construction, and many other companies and partners that employ IBEW members in manufacturing, broadcasting, utilities, telecommunications and railroads.

"Today's executive order instructs federal agencies to incentivize employers to meet high labor standards and support good jobs by promoting the use of project labor agreements, following prevailing wage rates, and respecting the right of workers to organize and collectively bargain. It also prioritizes supporting companies and contractors that use registered apprenticeship programs, like those offered by the IBEW and our employer partners."

"The Good Jobs Executive Order puts an exclamation point on Biden's promise to be the most pro-union president in U.S. history. Vice President Kamala Harris worked side-by-side with Biden, casting deciding votes in the U.S. Senate on many of the administration's signature achievements, and has been endorsed by the IBEW in November's presidential election.

"Joe Biden and Kamala Harris understand that our nation's strength is tied directly to the well-being of its working people, and the Good Jobs Executive Order will ensure that the federal government continues to raise the bar by centering workers and high quality jobs – opening pathways to the middle class for millions of working Americans."

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For more information go to: [bricklayers.org](http://bricklayers.org)

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# Outdoors Michigan's Elk



**TIPSTERS MAY BE awarded \$2,500 for providing information that leads to arrest and conviction for illegal elk activity. Call or text the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Report All Poaching hotline at 800-292-7800.**

(From the Michigan DNR) Michigan's first 2024 elk hunt is underway for those who were selected in this summer's elk license drawing. While the Michigan Department of Natural Resources wishes all hunters a safe, successful hunt, DNR law and wildlife officials encourage everyone to be alert to illegal hunting activity.

Once considered extinct in the state by the late 1800s, elk now are a protected and highly managed species in Michigan.

"Conservation officers rely on a collaborative relationship with the public to solve elk- and moose-related crimes, and we very much value those who report tips or suspicions of illegal elk or moose activity," said Sgt. Mike Mshar, DNR Law Enforcement Division.

The Safari Club International-Michigan Involvement Committee, instrumental in making the reintroduction of moose to Michigan a reality, has been a longtime partner in the effort to protect the state's small moose herd. SCI-MIC offers a \$1,000 reward to anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone who has illegally killed a moose in Michigan.

In 2019, that SCI-MIC offer was extended to cover the illegal killing of Michigan elk, and two

anonymous tipsters were each awarded \$500 for the information they gave DNR conservation officers that led to the arrest, conviction and 2021 arraignment of three northern Michigan relatives for the 2019 poaching of three cow elk in the Pigeon River State Forest. In 2022, the elk reward amount was increased to \$2,500.

Michigan's elk herd is a wildlife management success story. Historically, elk were found in southern Michigan, but they had disappeared by the late 1800s due to unregulated harvest and market hunting. Today's elk herd is the result of seven elk brought from the western United States and relocated to Wolverine, Michigan, in 1918. The first elk hunts, held in 1964 and 1965, were in response to the growing elk population and a desire to control elk numbers.

Though the hunts were a success, they were not immediately continued. Hunting began again in 1984 and has continued annually.

In general, the seasons during August, September and October target elk outside of the core elk management unit (EMU). The December elk seasons are used to manage the overall elk numbers, including those in the core EMU.

The EMU and quota system

was designed to focus the harvest in specific areas to meet management goals. For more information on elk management in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/Elk.

From that reintroduction in Wolverine, the number of animals grew steadily to about 1,500 elk in the early 1960s.

During the late 1960s, several factors kept the elk herd below its biological potential for population growth, including reduced habitat quality. The herd also was hard hit by poaching. There were about only 200 elk in the winter of 1975.

In the late 1970s, renewed public interest in the elk herd was spurred by oil exploration in the Pigeon River area of the elk range. Reduced poaching losses, habitat improvement and successful management of hydrocarbon development resulted in an increase in elk numbers to 850 by 1984.

As the herd grew, problems also increased with forest and agricultural damage. Elk hunting was resumed to bring the herd in better balance with its natural food supplies and with the needs of landowners. Today there are about 1,200 elk in Michigan, and they can only be found in areas throughout Otsego, Montmorency, Presque Isle and Cheboygan counties.



## Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

**NOVI – The September Union meeting** will be Monday Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and will be in person and zoom. All are invited to join us! We continue to communicate through the **PUSH NOTIFICATIONS for alerts & emails**. You can download our APP for android on google play or for iPhone at the APP store just search "Iron Workers Local 25" Martinez web shop. Or sign up via our website ([www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org)).

The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 26 at 6:00 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday Sept. 30 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome!

**Anyone who was not able to attend Awards Night** your pin will be mailed to you. We are aiming for the end of September 2024. Thanks to all who were able to join us!

**FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:** 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 and follow the prompts. Hours 7:30am to 4:30pm. The mailing address for member BENEFIT related matters is: Iron Workers Local 25 Fringe Benefit Funds, PO Box 99219, Troy MI 48099-9219. Blue Cross Health Claims and Customer Service 877-790-2583. Delta Dental Claims and Customer Service 800-482-8915.

If any member is having problems with the HRA substantiation letters please call Dennis Aguirre.

Check your HRA/Benny Card Balance: [my.wexhealthcard.com](http://my.wexhealthcard.com) (where you can create a login)

Check your online benefit information: [ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/](http://ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/)

**HRA/Benny Card Audit is continuously under way via US Mail – please respond if you have been contacted.**

**BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD:** Any member who has a newborn child, or a new dependent child through marriage **MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).**

**BENEFIT FOR LIFE**

**CHANGE:** Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse **MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).**

**New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to ironworkers25.org where you can now make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in your application. No walk-in foot traffic.**

**24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues:** Pay via our APP or website [www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org). **The phone number is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order** and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

**The Iron Workers' Local 25 Retirees' Club.** The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 8:30 am in Novi. The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday October 15, 2024 at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

**The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast** will meet Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will be October 17<sup>th</sup> 2024; at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw MI 48604 at **12:00 pm**. All are welcome.

**The Downriver Chapter** The next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be 9:00 am on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

**The IRONWORKER Magazine.** To subscribe to the digital edition please use the following link: <https://www.ironworkers.org/s/ironworker-digital-sign-up>

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan: [www.bcbsm.com/](http://www.bcbsm.com/)**

**behavioral-mental-health/** Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options in many locations throughout the state. BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041, Blue Care Network 800-482-5982 for Substance-use-disorder.

**FindTreatment.gov** where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357. **MentalHealth.gov** provides information & programs about mental health. **Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline)** For help 24/7 in a Time of Crisis. Call 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential.

**Suicide Prevention Resources on IMPACT:** <http://www.impact-net.org/safety/suicide-prevention-resources>. US Crisis Text Line: Text **HOME** to 741741 from anywhere in the United States, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from our secure online platform. A volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

**In Memory:** Ronald Morse #1203501 passed away August 26, 2024 at the age of 78. He was a member of Local 340 for 35 years prior to withdrawing in 2003. JIW Glenn Nash #1350418 passed away on September 1, 2024 at the age of 85. He was a member of Local 25 for over 50 years. Glenn is survived by many friends and Nash family members in the ironworking industry. Services were held out of State. Frank Austin #685880 passed away on August 14, 2024 at the age of 84, just a few days shy of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was a member of Local 340/25 for 62 years. Raymond Heiple #1213046 passed away September 2, 2024 at the age of 78. He was a member of Local 25 for about 48 years.

**Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!**

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (Sept 16, 2024 12:00 pm E.S.T.).

## ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

### Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

**BRICKLAYERS BOILERMAKERS ELECTRICIANS INSULATORS PIPE FITTERS  
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- ◆ Mesothelioma
- ◆ Lung Cancer
- ◆ Asbestosis
- ◆ Pulmonary Fibrosis
- ◆ Throat Cancer
- ◆ Colon Cancer

As pioneers in asbestos litigation, GPW has filed asbestos lawsuits since 1984, defending the rights of hardworking men and women throughout Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

**Exposure to asbestos can cause deadly diseases such as MESOTHELIOMA, LUNG CANCER, ABESTOSIS, PULMONARY FIBROSIS, THROAT CANCER, and COLON CANCER.**

**Many building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Some are not aware they were even exposed. Family members may be at risk of bystander exposure.**

#### \$1.8 MILLION VERDICT

GPW obtained a **\$1.8 million** verdict in a Lung Cancer claim, the **largest Asbestos Verdict in the history of Michigan Asbestos Litigation.**

For more than 30 years, GPW has helped thousands of Michigan workers. We have represented mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestos disease victims, obtaining over \$1 billion in compensation for our clients.

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**Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late.** You may be entitled to claim money damages from the responsible members of the asbestos industry. Call for a FREE consultation.