

# THE ACT REPORT

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TRADES

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

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## UNION TRADES GET COMMITMENT

# \$2.5 BILLION COAL-TO-GASOLINE PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

A \$2.5 billion coal-to-gasoline project being developed in Mingo County by TransGas Development Systems took a major step forward on October 28.

The developer announced that Korean company SK Engineering & Construction America will partner on the project. SK is one of the largest construction companies in the world specializing in refineries. They will not only be the project contractor but will undertake the up-front engineering work as well.

Also announced was the company's commitment to use local union building trade's workers to construct the project. A letter of intent has been signed committing the project contractor to ne-

gotiating a project agreement. Negotiations are currently underway.

The plant will use 3 million tons of coal per year and

produce 756,000 gallons of 92 octane gasoline per day.

A German company, Uhde, will provide the technology needed to transform the coal

into a gas.

Then an ExxonMobile company will provide the technology to convert the

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GOVERNOR JOE MANCHIN addresses TransGas developers, contractors, labor representatives and government officials during the TransGas project announcement.

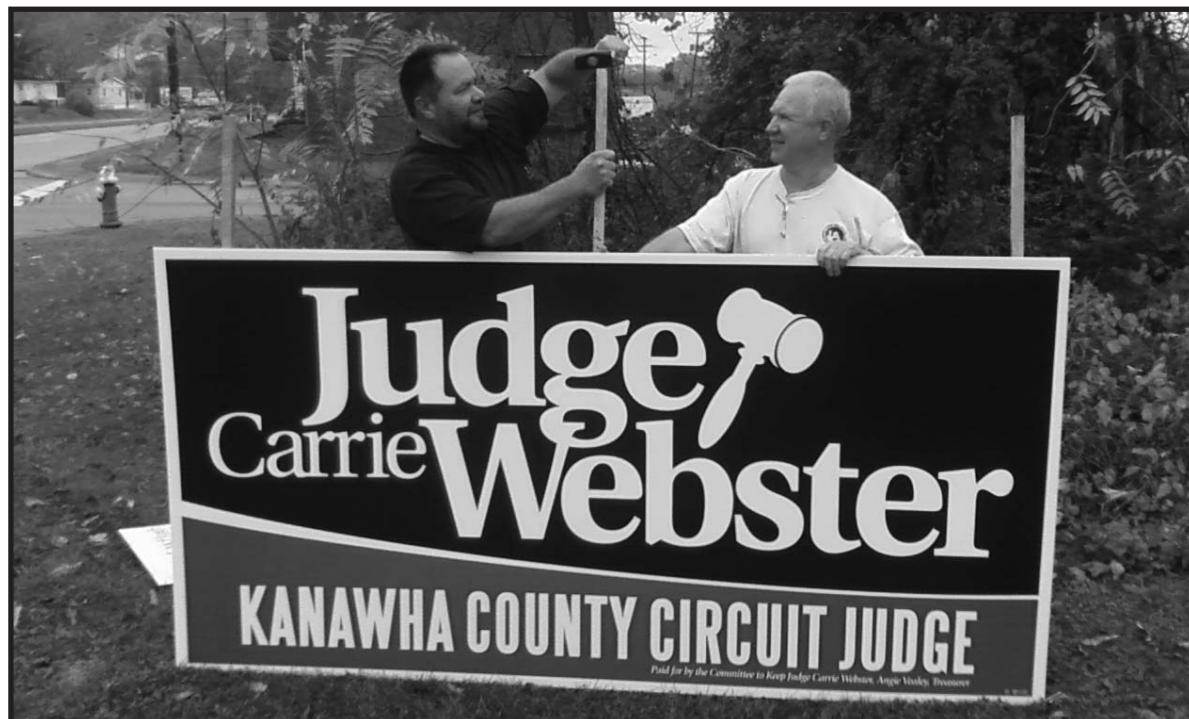
## 2010 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

Governor Joe Manchin will be the next U.S. Senator from West Virginia after he easily beat challenger John Raese. The special election was to fill the remaining two years of Senator Robert C. Byrd's term.

While news reports and polls said the contest would be close Manchin won by more than 51,000 votes.

Congressman Nick Rahall won by an even larger margin, 56 to 44 percent, over his opponent Elliot 'Spike' Maynard. Maynard, a former Supreme Court Justice, had backing from the Coal Asso-

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BRETT MATTHEWS (left) and Danny Rose, both of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 625 in Charleston, put up a large yard sign at their union hall for labor endorsed candidate Carrie Webster. Union members across the state volunteered on many campaigns and worked to encourage other union members to vote.

## MARCELLUS SHALE MEETING HELD

Contractors and labor representatives met in Parkersburg on November 5 to continue their efforts to secure work related to the Marcellus Shale natural gas fields.

The groups discussed ways to use a project agreement designed for Marcellus related construction as a tool to get more work opportunities.

"We heard a statewide agreement for Marcellus Shale would help our contractors be more competitive so we started the ball rolling," said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

Efaw went over a draft proposal which was very similar to other industrial project agreements of the area. The group decided to form smaller contractors and labor committees to work on the agreement.

In addition Kelly Moss, President of Apex Pipeline Services led a discussion about contacts with major gas industry construction buyers. Apex has been successful getting a variety of pipeline projects and Moss went over suggestions contractors might follow to get opportunities to bid.

"Right now they are not looking for contractors and they don't know who you are," said Moss speaking about gas industry construction buyers. "Local union contractors need to get involved in gas industry meetings so they can make personal contacts and get their company names recognized."

Marketing approaches were also discussed. Many of the companies coming for the Marcellus Shale gas are from outside of the area and don't know about the value union workers and contractors bring.

It was agreed more information about skills, productivity, apprenticeship and training, alcohol and drug free programs and initiatives

like Helmet's to Hardhats need to be developed.

According to a U.S. Department of Energy report \$200 billion of natural gas

will be extracted from the Marcellus Shale gas fields in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York in the next ten years.



*MORE THAN 60 contractor and labor representatives met in Parkersburg to discuss ways they can work together and get more opportunities for local construction workers and contractors.*

### \$165 MILLION IN CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED

## FOUR OF FIVE SCHOOL BONDS PASS

Four of five school construction bonds proposed in West Virginia Counties passed on Election Day.

Preston, Marion, Pleasants, and Hancock County all passed bonds while Gilmer was the only one where voters defeated a school bond.

The results mean good news not only for children and their communities, but for the construction workers who will get much needed job opportunities.

Preston County voters approved a \$39.6 million school construction bond.

In addition the State School Building Authority will give the County \$8 million.

A combination of renovation and new construction will follow.

Two years ago voters narrowly defeated a bond.

Jason Hershman of Laborers Local 379 recently won election to the County Board of Education and was a big supporter of the bond.

"We have run down facilities and our kids deserve better," said Hershman.

"The voters agreed and now we look forward to building some quality projects for our county with local

labor."

Hancock County passed a \$37 million bond by a slim margin of 180 votes.

The SBA will add \$19 million for a total of \$56 million in construction.

Plans include a new \$26.6 million elementary school in Weirton and two new athletic facilities at the Weir and Oak Glen high schools as well as numerous other improvements at existing schools.

Pleasants County voters approved an \$18 million bond and will get another \$13 million from the SBA.

A new St. Marys High School will be built and reno-

er than funding, may have been the issue that voters rejected.

In Marion County 54 percent of voters approved a \$15.7 million bond.

The SBA approved an additional \$14.4 million which brings the total to \$30.1 million for construction.

A new \$22 million East Fairmont Middle School and renovations at Fairmont Senior High are planned.

Gilmer County voters were the only ones who defeated a school bond this election.

By a vote of 1,378 to 819 the \$12 million bond issue failed.

School consolidation, rath-

er than funding, may have been the issue that voters rejected.

Four elementary schools were to be closed and consolidated into two new schools.

The SBA had committed \$8.8 million in additional funding but only if the county passed a bond.

The SBA funds will likely be reallocated to another county.

Bond votes need a simple majority to pass.

All totaled around \$165 million will be spent on projects in these four counties.

Design work must be complete before projects bids.

# CANDIDATES WANTED FOR HEAVY DUTY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR APPRENTICESHIP

Operating Engineers Local 132 wants qualified candidates for their heavy duty equipment operator apprenticeship program.

The three year program focuses on all aspects of operating heavy equipment including bulldozers, backhoes,

cranes, and excavators.

"We focus on safety and productivity," said Charles Parker, Training Director.

Each year an apprentice spends five weeks at the training center located south of Parkersburg, most of which is during the winter months.

Apprentices must also get at least 1,000 hours of paid on

the job training each year.

Applications will be accepted at any Workforce West Virginia Center starting December 6 through December 17, between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

In order to qualify a person must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma

or GED and have been a resident of West Virginia for at least one year.

In addition, a successful applicant will have a valid WV drivers license, and be physically able to perform the work of the trade.

An aptitude test will be given at the Workforce Center and a drug test may be re-

quired at a later date.

The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices shall be without discrimination because of age, race, color, religion, national origin, or sex and will conform to ADA regulations.

For more information call training Director Charles Parker at (304) 273-4852.

# IRON WORKERS 301 WANTS APPRENTICES

The Iron Workers Local 301 Apprenticeship Training Program in Charleston is accepting applications for their Winter term.

Applications are taken year round, Monday thru Friday, at 2425 Hampshire Drive in Charleston, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

To be considered in the upcoming class you must submit your application no later than Friday, December 3, 2010.

An aptitude test will be given on Saturday December 4 and interviews on Saturday December 11.

The Iron Workers Joint Apprenticeship Training Pro-

gram teaches in the classroom as well as on the job.

Classes are held two nights a week, allowing on-the-job learning while getting paid.

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

Class consist of a variety of applications including structural, ornamental, and reinforcing, as well as mathematics, welding, and rigging.

The Apprenticeship is a three year program starting out at 60% of Journeyman wage scale with full benefits.

Increases are given every six months until training is complete.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, have a high

school diploma or GED, and live, for at least the last year, in the area covered by Local 301 which includes the WV Counties of Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Webster, Wyoming

and the southern half of Randolph.

Also included are the Virginia Counties of Buchanan, Dickerson, Russell, Tazewell, Wise and Washington, and Pike County Kentucky.

If selected, a drug test will also be required.

All applications will be received without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, or sex.

For more information contact Rick Barker, Apprenticeship Coordinator, at 304-342-5343 or visit their web site at [ironworkers301.com](http://ironworkers301.com).

## TRANSGAS

*CONTINUED FROM P. 1*

gas into methanol and then to gasoline.

The company received an air permit from the state DEP earlier this year.

However the permit is currently being challenged.

Making gasoline from coal is not new and has been done since World War II.

This project would be the

most advanced technology and when built would be the largest coal to gasoline producer in the world, according to developer Adam Victor.

"It's an ambitious plan and we fully support their efforts," said Steve Burton, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Significant engineering work must now take place in order to get project financing.

## RELIABLE ENERGY FORUM



MEMBERS OF THE North Central WV Building Trades attend a meeting on Reliable Energy in Clarksburg in late October. The event focused on the need to improve the electric transmission grid in West Virginia and surrounding areas. A proposed \$2 billion PATH transmission line is being considered by various state agencies. If approved by state regulators the 765KV line will go from the John Amos plant in Putnam County, to a major new substation in Hardy County and then into Maryland. The project developers have committed to build with local building trades workers.

# SBA ASKED TO SUPPORT LOCAL WORKERS

Frustrated with the lack of support for local workers members of the Building Trades protested last month at the State School Building Authority headquarters in Charleston.

The group, led by representatives from the Roofers and Sheet Metal Workers unions also questioned the apparent reversal on quality contracting requirements by the SBA.

The protest took place on October 21, a month after ACT representatives ap-

peared before the SBA with evidence of identity documentation problems for workers of Frye Roofing Inc. Although Frye is located in Bluefield, WV, the majority of their workforce comes from North Carolina.

ACT gave the SBA evidence showing 25 of 31 workers on Frye payroll documents has some sort of problem with their identification. Either with numbers that did not match names or could not be verified as the same person.

ACT had also brought to

the SBA's attention months earlier the issue of out-of-state workers, evidence of late project completion, a settlement agreement between Frye and the WV DOL for \$113,000 in back wages, the lack of apprenticeship or benefit funds, and numerous potential payroll violations.

"Local workers and companies need the jobs created with our tax funds," said Joe Strain, Business Agent for Roofers Local 242 in Parkersburg.

"We want to compete on a level playing field and asked

the SBA to look into a variety of problems, but we have heard very little."

The SBA has asked the WV DOL to investigate the identity questions however the DOL has no authority nor the tools to do so.

In addition, the SBA has refused to initiate any investigation through the US Social Security office, instead they

suggested ACT do so.

"They have access to all the payroll documents but chose to ignore the problems on their own projects," said ACT Representative Wayne Rebich. "This is not the SBA we are used to, they have been a leader in quality contracting and we just don't know why they now settle for the minimum."

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PROTESTING THE STATE SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY and Executive Director Mark Manchin's lack of support for making sure quality contracting policies are followed are members of the Roofers and Sheet Metal Workers.

## ELECTION

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

ciation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and many other outside groups who spent millions of dollars in attack ads against Rahall.

Despite the attack ads and out-of-state money voters

stuck with Rahall who now will start his 18th term in the House of Representatives.

Supreme Court Justice Tom McHugh won the unexpired term of former Justice Joe Albright. McHugh had been appointed to fill Albright's place, until this next election, after Albright

passed away in 2009. The term will end in 2012.

In the state legislature four Building Trades members all won their election bids. Orphy Klempa of the Carpenters will become State Senator in the First District.

Klempa had been a member of the House of Delegates



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from Ohio County.

Dan Poling from the Painters won his re-election bid to represent Wood County in the House of Delegates, Dave

Walker (D-Clay) and Greg Butcher (D-Logan) both members of the Operating Engineers won their House races as well.