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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Bill Hutchinson, President | Dave Efav, Secretary-Treasurer | Steve White, Director

# Florida Bridge Painting Company Guilty of Fraud

At the same time owners of a Florida bridge painting company plead guilty to fraud on one West Virginia project, their other company is working on a new bridge painting project.

Nomiki Vavlas, 50, and Michael Vavlas, 52, of Tarpon Springs, Florida, pled guilty to committing fraud against the United States on Wednesday, August 31 according to a release from U.S. Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II.

Nomika and Michael Vavlas own and operate VHP Enterprises, Inc, a company that specializes in painting and sandblasting.

Nomika Vavlas is also listed as a Member of International Rigging Group LLC which was awarded a \$980,000 contract by the West Virginia Parkways Authority to paint the Yeager Bridge on Interstate 64 in Kanawha County at the end of April this year.

Painters District Council 53 representative Brian Stanley has been

monitoring the job and believes International Rigging is in violation of the West Virginia Jobs Act, which requires 75 percent local hiring.

Stanley was also the one who pointed out payroll violations by VHP to the WV Division of Labor back in 2012.

"A fair company from Ohio lost the bid for the Yeager bridge by only \$7,000," said Stanley. "I was sick when I saw the very same people we caught defrauding the government getting another project simply under a

different company name."

Nomika Vavlas was listed as one of the original Members of International Rigging when the company was formed in Florida in in 2006. In

2013 her name was removed from the Florida LLC records, but remains on the West Virginia listing.

In the fraud case VHP Enter-

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The Chuck Yeager Bridge in Kanawha County is being painted by Florida based International Rigging Group, a company which is owned by the same people who just plead guilty to fraud on a similar project being done in West Virginia under a different company name. The company is not in compliance with the West Virginia Jobs Act which requires local hiring for tax funded projects.

## WVBrokenPromise.com - New Web Site

A new web site has been set up to get more facts out about prevailing wage and the effects of its repeal.

The site - WVBrokenPromise.com - will document tax funded projects that no longer have a prevailing wage requirement.

"Instead of the 25 percent savings promised by politicians, we are finding no savings at all," said Steve White, ACT Director.

"Unfortunately we are finding plenty of lost jobs and problems."

Proving the lack of savings is relatively easy because public projects are still subject to the Freedom of Information law, so bid results are public documents.

According to White, the site will also be used to expose the many lies being told about supposed savings due to the repeal of prevailing wage.

"Every single time we investigate a story about savings we find exactly the opposite," said White.

An example is a claim of a million

dollar savings for a Morgantown paving contract.

The claim was made by a city engineer and widely reported.

However, the bids tell a very different story.

If the claim were to be true, with two nonunion and one union bidder, it might be expected that the two nonunion bids would be a million dollars less than the union bid.

However, the biggest difference was between the two nonunion bid-

ders, meaning wages had little to do with the bid difference.

Further, none of the bids had anywhere near a million dollars in labor costs, so saving a million dollars would be impossible.

The news story and bid tabulations are all found at the web site.

"We plan on continuing to document the facts about no savings, job loss, poor quality, out-of-state workers and contractors, and other problems," said White. ■

# Ten Building Trades Candidates on Ballot

Among some very talented candidates for State Senate and House of Delegate offices in November are a record number of trades' members.

Ten members of the Trades are on the ballot and two wives of Trades members as well. Below is a list in district order, with Senate then House of Delegates candidates.

Brad Vanzile is a candidate for the State Senate in the 3rd District and a member of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 565 Parkersburg. The district covers the Counties of Pleasants, Wirt, Wood and part of Roane.

Glenn Jeffries is running in the 8th Senate District and is a member of the Carpenters as well as owner of Cornerstone Interiors, a union interior systems construction company. The district includes parts of Putnam and Kanawha Counties.

Phil Diserio is a member of Electricians Local 246 and running for the House of Delegates in the 2nd District, parts of Brooke and Ohio Counties. Diserio was appointed in 2011 and won election in 2012 but lost in his reelection bid in 2014.

Mark Harper is a member of

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 565 Parkersburg and is on the ballot for the 7th District including Ritchie and parts of Roane Counties.



Mark Harper

Chris Combs, a member of IBEW 596 is running in the 6th District of Tyler, Doddridge and parts of Pleasants County. (Note: Labor did not make an endorsement in this race because the incumbent voted with Labor on critical issues during recent legislative sessions.)



Chris Combs

Dave Bland, a 15 year member of Painters Local 1144, is running for the 8th District which is part of Wood County.



Dave Bland

Andy Daniel is an 18 year member of the Carpenters and owner of 3D Construction, a union general contracting firm based in Parkersburg. Daniel is running for the 10th District, part of Wood County.



Andy Daniel

Scott Brewer is a 38 year member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and is running in the 13th District which includes parts of Putnam, Mason and Jackson Counties.



Scott Brewer

Gary McCallister is a member of the Carpenters and on the ballot for the 22nd District of most of Lincoln, Logan and Boone.



Gary McCallister

Dave Walker, is a retired member of Operating Engineers Local 132. Walker represented the 33rd District which includes Calhoun and parts of Clay and Gilmer Counties for a number of years but was defeated in the 2014 election.



Dave Walker

Two new candidates are related to the Trades. Samantha Fooce is married to Kevin, a member of Electricians Local 317,



Samantha Fooce

and is running in the 14th District, parts of Mason and Putnam.

Melissa Riggs Huffman is a teacher and married to Neil, the assistant business manager of Operating Engineers Local 132, and is running in the 40th District, part of Kanawha County.



Melissa Huffman

Many more members chose to run in the primary, which is evidence of a great response by members of the Trades, according to Bill Hutchinson, President of the WV State Building Trades.

"That so many of our members have stepped up to try and change the system is something we greatly appreciate," said Hutchinson.

"Now it is the job of all members to make sure they and their family members help in the weeks leading up to the election and go to the polls in November." ■

## Florida

**Continued from Page 1**

prises was awarded a federal contract to paint bridges in Braxton County from August 2011 through September 2012.

The project was subject to the Davis-Bacon Act, which requires employers to pay a minimum hourly wage rate to all employees.

According to the press release, the Vavlas' did not pay the full wage rate for overtime hours worked by project employees and falsified payroll reports that were delivered to the WV Division of Highways Office by the US Postal Service.

They each plead guilty to one count of "Conspiracy to Defraud the United States and Commit Mail Fraud."

They face up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. ■

# 2016 General Election COPE Endorsements

|                                      |      |                             |      |                         |      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| <b>U.S. House of Representatives</b> | 12th | Missy Morris (D)            | 49th | Dave Gobel (D)          | 57th | Beverly C. Keadle (D)         |
| David McKinley* (R) - 1st District   | 13th | <b>Scott Brewer</b> (D)     | 50th | Mike Caputo (D)         | 59th | Cat Webster (D)               |
| Mark Hunt (D) - 2nd District         |      | Rosalee Juba-Plumley (D)    |      | Linda Longstreth (D)    | 60th | Gary "Peanut" Collis (D)      |
|                                      | 14th | Samantha Fooce (D)          |      | Tim Manchin (D)         | 61st | Jason Barrett (D)             |
| <b>Governor</b>                      | 15th | Jeffrey Smith (D)           | 51st | Barbara Fleischauer (D) | 62nd | Christy Santana (D)           |
| Jim Justice (D)                      | 16th | Joe Akers (D)               |      | Evan Hansen (D)         | 63rd | Kenny LeMaster Jr. (D)        |
|                                      |      | Sean Hornbuckle (D)         |      | Nancy Jamison (D)       | 64th | Barby Frankenberry (D)        |
| <b>Attorney General</b>              |      | Matt Spurlock (D)           |      | Rodney Pyles (D)        | 65th | Sammi Brown (D)               |
| Doug Reynolds (D)                    | 17th | Chad Lovejoy (D)            |      | John Williams (D)       | 66th | David Dingess (D)             |
|                                      |      | Matthew Rohrbach (R)        | 52nd | Steven Shaffer (D)      | 67th | Rod Snyder (D) ■              |
| <b>State Auditor</b>                 | 18th | Billy J. Chaffin II (D)     | 53rd | Al Tomson (D)           |      | * Building Trades Endorsement |
| Mary Ann Claytor (D)                 | 19th | Ken Hicks (D)               | 55th | Isaac Sponaugle (D)     |      | <b>Bold</b> = Trades Member   |
|                                      |      | Robert Thompson (D)         |      |                         |      |                               |
| <b>Secretary of State</b>            | 20th | Justin Marcum (D)           |      |                         |      |                               |
| Natalie Tennant (D)                  | 21st | Phyllis White (D)           |      |                         |      |                               |
|                                      | 22nd | Jeff Eldridge (D)           |      |                         |      |                               |
| <b>State Treasurer</b>               |      | <b>Gary McCallister</b> (D) |      |                         |      |                               |
| John Perdue (D)                      | 23rd | Rodney Miller (D)           |      |                         |      |                               |
|                                      | 24th | Ralph Rodighiero (D)        |      |                         |      |                               |
| <b>Agriculture Commissioner</b>      | 25th | "Bucky" Blackwell (D)       |      |                         |      |                               |
| Walt Hemlick (D)                     | 26th | Ed Evans (D)                |      |                         |      |                               |
|                                      | 27th | Carol Bailey (D)            |      |                         |      |                               |
| <b>State Senate</b>                  |      | Sabrina Shrader (D)         |      |                         |      |                               |
| 1st Jack Yost (D)                    |      | Lacy Watson (D)             |      |                         |      |                               |
| 2nd Lisa Zukoff (D)                  | 28th | Bill O'Brien (D)            |      |                         |      |                               |
| 3rd <b>Bradley Vanzile</b> (D)       |      | Wayne Williams (D)          |      |                         |      |                               |
| 3rd Greg Smith (D)                   | 29th | Ricky Moye (D)              |      |                         |      |                               |
| Unexpired Term                       | 30th | Mick Bates (D)              |      |                         |      |                               |
| 4th Brian Prim (D)                   | 31st | Kristen Ross (D)            |      |                         |      |                               |
| 5th Bob Plymale (D)                  | 32nd | Shirley Love (D)            |      |                         |      |                               |
| 6th Rocky Seay (D)                   |      | John Pino (D)               |      |                         |      |                               |
| 7th Richard Ojeda II (D)             |      | Margaret Staggers (D)       |      |                         |      |                               |
| 8th <b>Glenn Jeffries</b> (D)        | 33rd | <b>David Walker</b> (D)     |      |                         |      |                               |
| 9th Mike Goode (D)                   | 34th | Brent Boggs (D)             |      |                         |      |                               |
| 10th Dave Perry (D)                  | 35th | Ben Adams (D)               |      |                         |      |                               |
| 11th Denise Campbell (D)             |      | Andrew Byrd (D)             |      |                         |      |                               |
| 12th Doug Facemire (D)               |      | Ben Sheridan (D)            |      |                         |      |                               |
| 13th Roman Prezioso (D)              | 36th | Nancy Guthrie (D)           |      |                         |      |                               |
| 14th Bob Williams (D)                |      | Andrew Robinson (D)         |      |                         |      |                               |
| 15th Brad Noll (D)                   |      | Larry Rowe (D)              |      |                         |      |                               |
| 16th Stephen Skinner (D)             | 37th | Mike Pushkin (D)            |      |                         |      |                               |
| 17th Corey Palumbo (D)               | 38th | Tom Tull (D)                |      |                         |      |                               |
|                                      | 39th | Wesley Holden (D)           |      |                         |      |                               |
| <b>House of Delegates</b>            | 40th | Melissa Riggs Huffman (D)   |      |                         |      |                               |
| 1st Ronnie Jones (D)                 | 41st | Adam Young (D)              |      |                         |      |                               |
| 2nd <b>Phil Diserio</b> (D)          | 42nd | Stephen Baldwin Jr. (D)     |      |                         |      |                               |
| 3rd Shawn Fluharty (D)               |      | Ray Canterbury (R)          |      |                         |      |                               |
| Erikka Storch (R)                    | 43rd | Bill Hartman (D)            |      |                         |      |                               |
| 4th Joe Canestraro (D)               |      | Phil Isner (D)              |      |                         |      |                               |
| 5th Dave Pethtel (D)                 | 44th | Dana Lynch (D)              |      |                         |      |                               |
| 7th <b>Mark Harper</b> (D)           | 45th | Bill Hamilton (R)           |      |                         |      |                               |
| 8th <b>David Bland</b> (D)           | 46th | Peggy D. Smith (D)          |      |                         |      |                               |
| 9th Jim Marion (D)                   | 47th | Ken Auvil (D)               |      |                         |      |                               |
| 10th <b>Andy Daniel</b> (D)          | 48th | Richard Iaquina (D)         |      |                         |      |                               |
| J. Morgan Leach (D)                  |      | Derek McIntyre (D)          |      |                         |      |                               |
| Bill Merriman (D)                    |      | Tim Miley (D)               |      |                         |      |                               |
| 11th Jim Crowder (D)                 |      | Wayne Worth (D)             |      |                         |      |                               |

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>NAME OF PROGRAM:</b>                                      | Charleston JATC of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 625   |
| <b>WHERE TO APPLY:</b>                                       | 3601 James Ave, Charleston, WV  |
| <b>WHEN TO APPLY:</b>  | October 4th, 5th and 6th 2016<br>October 11th, 12th and 13th 2016<br>Applications only given out on listed days |
| <b>HOURS TO APPLY:</b>                                       | 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM, 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM<br>On listed days only  |
| (\$35.00 APPLICATION FEE, WHEN YOU PICK UP YOUR APPLICATION) |   |
| <b>MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AS FOLLOWS:</b>                    |   |
| <b>AGE:</b>  | 17 years of age at the time of application, and must be 18 years of age prior to being indentured by the JATC   |
| <b>EDUCATION:</b>  | High School Diploma or equivalent   |
| <b>PHYSICAL:</b>   | Must be physically able to perform the work of the trade. A Drug test will be required                          |
| <b>DRIVERS' LICENSE:</b>                                     | Must have valid Driver's license  |
| <b>APTITUDE:</b>   | Must score standard level on TABE test administered by Workforce WV   |
| <b>APPLICATION RETURN:</b>                                   | Application must be returned by October 26, 2016. No applications will be accepted after the cut off date.      |

A copy of the applicant's birth certificate, high school transcript of grades, high school diploma or equivalent, DD2-14 form if former Military, and valid driver's license will be requested at the time of application. {ONLY COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED}

The Recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices shall be without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin or sex. The JATC will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunities in apprenticeship and training and will operate the apprenticeship program as required under Title 29 of the code of federal regulations, Part 30.

# Walters Deceitful about RTW

## Legal Case Against RTW Advances

A scheduling order has been issued on Laborers' law suit against the so-called Right-to-Work law.

The scheduling order, dated August 23, states Discovery will close on September 30, Dispositive Motions are due October 4, with Responses by November 1, and final Replies by November 14.

Once those deadlines are met, Kanawha Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Bailey will likely have a hearing before deciding the case, and the WV Supreme Court will likely be asked to

review her ruling.

While the case moves forward in court the public debate also continues.

In a recent project announcement for a new \$100 million compressor stations in Kanawha County Delegate Ron Walters (R-Kanawha) was quoted as saying the passage of Right-to-Work helped the project move forward.

However when a company representative from Kinder Morgan was asked the same question he said

Right-to-Work had nothing to do with their decision to move ahead on the project.

In fact, corporate records show planning for the project began in 2014, before the last election cycle.

"Delegate Walters got caught

plain and simple," said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

"He tried to take credit for a project he had nothing to do with, rather than take responsibility for his votes against working families." ■

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Labor Day weekends events across the state included (top) a large group from Insulators Local 2 joined in the annual Paden City Labor Day Parade. The event attracts a large crowd and participation from all of the crafts.

In Charleston (bottom) more than a thousand people attended a Labor Day Weekend at the ballpark. The Charleston Building Trades joined with the Kanawha Valley Labor Council to sponsor the event. Many volunteers, including the cook-out crew from Operating Engineers Local 132, put together a tail-gate party before the game.

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www.actwv.org



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## Energy Infrastructure



Dan Poling (left), Business Manager of Painters District Council 53, represented the Trades during a congressional field hearing held in Morgantown on August 29. Poling testified about the importance of local skilled labor when looking at the economic impact from energy infrastructure.

Senators Joe Manchin and Shelly Capito held the field hearing for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The purpose was to examine the economic importance of modern, reliable energy infrastructure to West Virginia and the United States.