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

# WV Pipe Trades Sponsor Regional Apprenticeship Contest in Charleston

The West Virginia Pipe Trades hosted a regional apprenticeship competition at the Charleston Civic Center Tuesday thru Thursday, June 12 - 14.

Contestants from WV and surrounding states competed for top honors in five skill areas - welder, pipefitter, plumber, HVAC service worker, and sprinklerfitter.

Contestants came from nine states including WV, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

"Each state has already had their own competition and sent their winners here," said Brett Matthews, Training Director for Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 625, Charleston.

"The winners from this contest will go on to Ann Arbor, Michigan for the international competition later this year."

(At the time the ACT Report went to press the competition was underway and the winners had yet to be

determined.)

The event was open to the public and on Tuesday Kanawha County

Commissioner Kent Carper, Delegate Scott Brewer (D-Mason) and Senator Glenn Jeffries (D-Putnam)

made some brief remarks. A dinner was held on Thursday evening where the winners were announced. ■



Sparks are flying from Apprentice contestant Adam Peters (left) from Local 636, Farmington, Michigan while Contest Judge Bill Coleman from Local 420 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania spot welds a pipe for contestant Drew Pharham, Local 633, Owensboro, Kentucky. A total of 45 contestants from nine states competed for top honors in five areas at the Pipe Trades Regional Apprenticeship Contest held in Charleston June 12 - 14.

## Greenbrier Wind Project Suffers Set-Back

State regulators denied a request from American Electric Power to purchase a proposed wind energy project in Greenbrier County.

The Public Service Commission issued an order on May 30 in part stating "... the Companies do not have a

need to own or bi-laterally contract for additional energy to meet their internal load requirements."

The project, known as Beech Ridge II, has already been approved by the PSC for a siting permit. However the develops want to secure a

power purchaser before construction begins.

The PSC refused to allow the purchase after the project was turned down by the state of Virginia utility regulators. A companion project in Ohio was also turned down.

Already at the location is the first phase of the project built in 2010 by local union construction labor.

A total of 67 turbines were erected, however the project was held up due to federal order regarding an en-

**Cont. on p. 2>>**

## Fluor and Keiwit in the Running

# \$1.5 Billion Braidy Industries Aluminum Mill has Ceremonial Groundbreaking

Plans for a new \$1.5 billion rolling aluminum mill in Ashland, Kentucky advanced one step further when a ceremonial ground breaking event was held on June 1.

The project was announced a little more than a year ago and has been moving through the planning and design stages.

According to Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Business

Manager Mark Johnson there are two construction firms, Fluor and Keiwit, in the running and he has had positive discussion with both.

“Braidy Industries has been very willing to talk and have their contractors talk about securing the needed local skilled construction labor to make this project a success,” said Johnson.

According to news reports the

mill’s production capacity could reach 300,000 tons of aluminum alloy sheet and plate a year, mainly for the automotive industry.

Braidy’s CEO also suggested production expansion opportunities are possible, as well as plans to supply the aerospace and defense industries.

The mill has already sold out all

of its production capacity for the first seven years.

The company renovated office space in downtown Ashland using local union contractors and workers last year.

The plant is scheduled to be running end of 2020 however a construction start date has yet to be set. ■

## WVU Medicine Plans New Children’s Hospital in Morgantown

A new \$150 million hospital in Morgantown aimed at serving children took a step forward with a June 4 ceremony.

According to Natalie Stone, Executive Secretary of the North Central WV Building Trades Council, the eight story tower with 155 beds will bring a new level of expertise to the region for children’s medical services.

While the contracts have not yet been awarded it is expected that local union construction workers will build the facility.

Construction should begin early fall of this year and will take around three years to complete.

The West Virginia Health Care Authority approved a Certificate of Need for the project last month. ■



Attending the Braidy Industries groundbreaking event was John Taylor (right), and Bryan Spry (left) both from union contractor Hatzel & Beuhler Electric; and Mark Johnson, Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council, based in Ashland, KY.

Photo Credit Ashley Quinn.



This rendition of the new eight story Children’s Hospital in Morgantown will cost \$150 million and should begin construction by the end of this year.

## Wind Project Suffers

**Continued from Page 1**

dangered bat.

After many years in 2014 the developer, Invenegy based in Chicago, was able to get an additional 33 turbines approved.

At the time the project was announced in 2013 it was estimated to cost \$115 million.

A battery storage unit was installed in 2014 at a cost of approximately \$20 million.

During phase one a 14 mile transmission and a substation were built. The new turbines will use the same substation and transmission line.

The developers have agreed to require their contractor to use local union construction labor for the second phase of the project.

“We have been looking forward to building these additional windmills for many years,” said Paul Breedlove, Business Manager for the Charleston Building Trades Council.

“It is frustrating to have yet another delay, especially in a part of the state that really needs the work.”

The project still remains alive and the developers are considering their options. ■

# Trade Endorsement 2018 General Election

<b>U.S. Senate</b> - Joe Manchin									
<b>U. S. House of Representatives</b>									
1st District	David McKinley	6th	<b>T. Chris Combs</b>	28th	Andrew Evans	47th	Ed Larry	48th	Tim Miley
2nd District	Talley Sargent	7th	Lissa Lucas	29th	Sandy Shaw		Richard Iaquinta		Robert Garcia
3rd District	Richard Ojeda	8th	<b>David Bland</b>	30th	Ricky Moye		Derek McIntyre		George Abel
<b>State Senate</b>		9th	Jim Marion	31st	Mick Bates	49th	Mike Caputo		Linda Longstreth
1st	William Ihlenfeld	10th	<b>Andy Daniel</b>	32nd	Richard Snuffer	50th	Michael Angelucci		Guy Ward (R)
2nd	Denny Longwell		Harry Deitzler		Luke Lively		Danielle Walker		John Williams
3rd	James Leach		J. Morgan Leach		Margaret Staggers		John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
4th	Brian Prim	12th	Missy Morris	33rd	Mel Kessler		John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
5th	Mike Woelfel	13th	<b>Scott Brewer</b>	34th	<b>David Walker</b>		John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
6th	Charles Sammons	14th	Brianne Solomon	35th	Brent Boggs	51st	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
7th	Ron Stollings	16th	Sean Hornbuckle		Andrew Byrd		John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
8th	Richard Lindsay		Matt Spurlock		Renate Pore		John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
9th	William 'Bill' Wooton		Vera Miller (R)		<b>James Robinette</b>		John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
10th	Stephen Baldwin	17th	Chad Lovejoy	36th	Doug Skaff Jr.	52nd	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
11th	Bill Hamilton (R)		Matthew Rohrbach (R)		Andrew Robinson	53rd	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
12th	Mike Romano	18th	Karen Nance		Larry Rowe	54th	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
13th	Bob Beach	19th	Ken Hicks	37th	Amanda Estep-Burton	55th	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
14th	Stephanie Zucker		Robert Thompson	38th	Mike Pushkin	56th	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
15th	Jason Armentrout (I)	21st	Phyllis White	39th	Tom Tull	58th	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
16th	John Unger	22nd	<b>Gary McCallister</b>	40th	David "Woody" Holmes	59th	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
17th	Terrell Ellis		Zack Maynard (R)	41st	Melissa Huffman	61st	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
<b>House of Delegates</b>		23rd	Rodney Miller	42nd	Paul O'Dell Jr.	63rd	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
1st	Diana Magnone	24th	Ralph Rodighiero	43rd	Jeff Campbell	64th	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
	Randy Swartzmiller		Timothy Tomblin	44th	Cindy Lavender-Bowe	65th	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
2nd	<b>Phillip Diserio</b>	25th	Tony Paynter (R)	45th	Bill Hartman	66th	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
3rd	Shawn Fluharty	26th	Ed Evans	46th	Cody Thompson	67th	John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
	Erikka Storch (R)	27th	Carol Bailey		Dana Lynch		John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
4th	Joe Canestraro		Lacy Watson		Matthew Kerner		John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>
					Robert "Bob" Stultz		John Williams		<b>Gary Knotts</b>

**Bold** = Trades Member

## Operating Engineers Local 132 Holds 6th Annual Equipment Rodeo for Members

Operating Engineers Local 132 recently held the 6th annual Equipment Rodeo at their apprenticeship and training center in Medina, south of Parkersburg.

According to Local 132 Business Manager Chuck Parker around 450 members, families, and friends attended.

The event was held on Sunday, June 3.

"It's our members who make this Local great

and the equipment rodeo is a way to thank everyone for their hard work," said Parker.

**"It's our members who make this Local great and the equipment rodeo is a way to thank everyone for their hard work,"**

**Chuck Parker,**

*Business Manager  
Operating Engineers Local 132*

"We also appreciate the contractors support for the event."

Members competed on a backhoe, bull dozer, crane and two excavators.

In addition to the member competitions there was a cook-out, a fishing competition for kids, games and prizes.



One of five competitive events for members of the Operating Engineers Local 132 was painting with an excavator.

# IBEW Local 968 Parkersburg Helps YMCA

Members of IBEW Local 968 Parkersburg are volunteering their time to help install new lighting at the Parkersburg YMCA.



Members of IBEW Local 968 Parkersburg (on ladders from left) Rocky Griffin, Dave Lamp Jr., Ethan Mills and Levi Mills (standing) help replace light fixtures at the Parkersburg YMCA. Other members who volunteered were Dakota Hunt, Brye Mullenix, Jarred Smith, Lorne Mills, Chris Smith, Lyn Lovell, and Clayton Griffin.

According to Local 968 Business Manager Lyn Lovell the existing fixtures needed to be rewired to eliminate the ballast and to power the lamp holders.

An 11 person crew volunteered on May 20 and completed half the project.

Pro-1 Electric and Davis Pick-

ering sent over ladders and service trucks for the volunteers to work out of.

“This was an opportunity to learn about the new Dual Ended Power LED bulbs and help a worthwhile organization,” said Lovell.

Lovell expects to complete the project later this month. ■

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## Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project Underway



Local union workers are pictured clearing the right-of-ways in Upshur County for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline project.

The \$5 billion project is underway and will soon be installing 42 inch pipe - the largest pipeline in West Virginia.

The project is being let in sections all under the National Pipeline Agreement, a project labor agreement ensuring the pipeline portion will be all union.

  
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