

# DESERT EDGE

## UFCW LOCAL 1167

a VOICE for working America

Official Publication of Local 1167, United Food and Commercial Workers Union

July 2010

## Boron miners ratify contract ending bitter labor dispute

**M**iners in Boron, Calif., who had been locked out of their jobs for three and a half months returned to work on May 24 after voting to ratify a six-year labor contract.

The agreement, approved on May 15 by 75 percent of the voting members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 30, includes a \$5,000 signing bonus and wage increases of 2.5 percent a year, in addition to seniority protections and other workplace guarantees.

"I think we got a really, really good contract," Local 30 member Kevin Martz told the *Bakersfield Californian* after the ratification vote.

The bitter labor dispute pitted 560 union workers at the world's second-largest borax mine against the Rio Tinto Group, a British-Australian conglomerate that had demanded drastic concessions in benefits and working conditions.

On Jan. 31, immediately after the mine workers rejected Rio Tinto's

Please see page 3

### Our next Quarterly Membership Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the UFCW Local 1167 Auditorium,  
855 W. San Bernardino Ave., Bloomington

**UNION OFFICE CLOSED  
MONDAY, JULY 5  
IN HONOR OF  
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Our right to pursue happiness

**A** year ago, while writing about the freedoms we celebrate on Independence Day, I referred to the turmoil in Iran, where thousands of people took to the streets to protest a rigged election.

As if we needed a reminder, those protests dramatized how millions around the globe sorely wish they had the freedoms we take for granted.

The streets of Teheran, Iran's capital, are quieter these days. But the people still yearn for honest elections, the rule of law and a government that isn't dominated by religious extremists.

Elsewhere on the planet, the ages-old struggle for human dignity continues, occasionally erupting into civil unrest.

In Thailand, protestors who support a former prime minister who was ousted in a military coup four years ago were routed from their encampments in a bloody military operation. The government also shut down opposition radio and TV stations.

In Burma, a brutal, repressive military dictatorship holds sway over the country. The courageous pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, was sentenced to 11 and a half years of house arrest for exercising her right to speak freely and criticize the government.

We see broken countries like Somalia, where there is effectively no government control and armed militias run the country.

None of these countries has free speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble, free and fair elections or the right to a fair trial by one's peers, among the many other rights we enjoy.

Our Declaration of Independence, signed officially on July 4, 1776, cites "certain inalienable rights" that are shared by all. Among these are the rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

This list is similar to another that was drawn up by the First Continental Congress in 1774, except for one big difference. The first list included "life, liberty and property."



By Bill Lathrop

Please see page 6

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# MAP

## Membership Assistance Program

Eligible active or retired Food and Meat participants can call the toll-free MAP number at the Health Management

Center at any time,

DAY OR NIGHT, 24 HOURS A DAY,

SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.

Food Division, call

(800) 461-9179

Drug Division, call

(866) 268-2510

(All calls are confidential.)



YOUR UNION

## What's Happening

by Maureen McCabe

### You are interesting!

#### Tell us about yourself.

You are the most interesting thing about our union! If there's something unusual or newsworthy about your life, hobbies, abilities or talents, call us at the office and tell us about it so that we may consider doing a feature about you in the *Desert Edge*. Just ask for Kathleen Franks or your Union Rep.

**President Bill Lathrop**

### Just married

**Elizabeth Lynn Kelley** from Vons married Christopher Kelly Waters on Feb. 12 in Maricopa County, Ariz. The honeymoon is on hold for now. ...

**Vanessa Barnett**, also of Vons, married Christopher J. Walls on March 27 at the Doubletree in Claremont. They honeymooned at Coronado Island. ...

**Cameron Hall** of Stater Bros. married Jeff Korbett in Las Vegas on April 1 and honeymooned in Thailand. ...

**Veronica Orozco** from Pavilions married Steve Guerra on April 10 in Palm Springs. ...

**Jessica Marie Urrutia** of Stater Bros. married Anthony Ulloa. The wedding was in San Bernardino on April 24 and the couple drove up the coast to San Francisco for the honeymoon. ...

**Bradley Beavers** of Alberstons married Constance Kofford on May 7 in San Bernardino. ... **Adam Prohoroff** of Vons married Julianna Hernandez on May 20 in Hacienda Heights.

Congratulations to the newlyweds!

### Just retired

Quite a few more members have retired

in the past few months. First and foremost, with an apology for missing the announcement previously, **Paula Gorges** retired in April. Paula worked at Ralphs for 19 years. ... **David Arteaga** retired in May after 35 years in the industry. David started with GEMCO and was there from 1976 to 1985. He then worked for Alpha Beta until 1991, and then for Lucky until 1999, before moving to Albertsons, where he worked until retirement. ... **Heriberto Casillas** of Stater Bros. retired on June 1. Heriberto had 30 years in the industry. He started with FedMart in 1979 for a few months and went on to Mayfair until 1980. In 1981 and 1982 he worked at Safeway and then returned to Mayfair. From 1989 until retirement he was at Stater Bros. ... **Robert Cunha** of Vons chose to retire in May. Robert accrued 41 years in the industry! ... **Irene Gillentine**, also from Vons, retired effectively in June after 35 years in the industry. Irene started with Albertsons in 1977 and went to Vons in 2008. ... **Eric Jefferson** also retired in June. Eric worked for Stater Bros. since October 1989 and decided after a little more than 25 years that it

was time to retire. ... June also brought the retirement of **Bobby Lindsey** after 39 years. Bobby started with Vons in 1971 and worked a majority of his years with Vons and some with

Stater Bros. He retired from Vons in 1997. ... **Arturo Lopez** retired in May after 36 years with Vons and Safeway. ... **Julie Moffett** of Stater Bros. also retired in May, after 25-plus years with the company. ... **Dennis Moffett** of Stater Bros. also retired in May. Dennis had worked for the company since 1979, accumulating 34 years in the industry. ... **Nancyann Rodriguez** retired in June after working 18 years for Albertsons. ... **Joan Sanders** of Ralphs retired in May. Joan started in June of 1970 with FoodFair-Super A Foods until going to Ralphs in June of 1977. She remained with Ralphs until retirement. ... **Jacqueline Taylor** retired on May 1 after 34 years with Vons. She started with the company in February 1977. ... **Cesar Vazquez** retired in June after working for 20 years with Food 4 Less. Congratulations to you all! Enjoy!

### Just born

**Elissia Borrego** of Stater Bros. announces the birth of Rylee Alyssa Gonzales. Born March 19, she weighed 3 lbs. 15oz. Mom says that Rylee was "born strong and healthy, six weeks early." ... **Vanessa Alvarado** of Ralphs announces the birth of Audree Jayde Dominguez on March 31, weighing 6 lbs. 15 oz. ... **Jessica Dominguez** of Stater Bros. gave birth to Abel Salas Jr. on April 7. Abel weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. ... **Christy Hernandez** of Rite Aid tells us of the birth of her daughter, Chloe Eilene, on April 10. Chloe weighed 8 lbs. 3.2 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. ... **Lindsay Kristine Martin**, also of Rite Aid, gave birth to Connor Jacob on May 12. Connor weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 21 inches long. ... **Amanda Danielle Palacios** of Stater Bros. gave birth to Marley Monroe Lopez on May 19. Marley weighed 8.6 lbs. ... **Leticia Guerrero** of Stater Bros. has a new daughter, Nature Divine, who was born May 21 weighing 7.2 lbs. ... **Trisha Waddell** of Rite Aid announces the birth of Annalynn Noelle on June 3. Annalynn weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. ... **Eliseo Urquidies** of Stater Bros. has a new son, Devin Rion, who was born on June 4 weighing 7 lbs. 11.5 oz.

Congratulations to all of the families and their new children!

## IN MEMORIAM

**Eula Coble**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Safeway, died May 8, 2010, at the age of 84. She had been a member since May 1952.

**Eva Ferer**, a retired manufacturing employee formerly employed by Theodor, died Jan. 27, 2010, at the age of 106. She had been a member since April 1955.

**Luteal Earl**, an affiliated member formerly employed by Del Rosa Convalescent Hospital, died June 6, 2010, at the age of 81. She had been a continuous member since November 1981.

**Mary Thompson**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Mayfair Markets, died June 6, 2010, at the age of 84. She had been a member since July 1964.

*We express our condolences to the families of these deceased members.*

### Your dues are now payable!

If you are one of the few members of the local who are not yet signed up for dues checkoff: **JULY DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID ON OR BEFORE SEPT. 1, 2010, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY SUSPEND YOURSELF.**

With dues checkoff, all future dues can be deducted automatically from your pay check. If you do not have an authorization form, call the local and one will be sent to you immediately.

Non-payment or payment of the incorrect amount will automatically suspend you — a costly and inconvenient mistake. Although not required, the local, as a courtesy, normally sends billing notices by first-class mail to those not on dues checkoff. It is the member's obligation to pay dues in a timely manner. Not receiving a notice is not an excuse for failure to pay dues on time.

**Avoid suspension.**

**Authorize dues checkoff today!**

**UFCW LOCAL 1167**  
a VOICE for working America

### DESERT EDGE

**Bill Lathrop**

Editor

Official monthly publication of Local 1167, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties, California.

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Publisher

## Boron miners' contract ratified

(Continued from front page)

contract offer, the company barred them from entering the mine and started hiring replacement workers.

UFCW Local 1167 and other labor unions throughout California rallied to the workers' aid, contributing food and supplies that were delivered to the miners in a convoy of trucks coordinated by the Food & Drug Council.

In 1974, the mine at Boron was the site of a five-month strike against the Rio Tinto-owned US Borax and

Chemical Corporation. Several mine workers were injured in clashes with scabs and security guards and police made 110 arrests.

"Once again, labor unions have demonstrated the power of solidarity," UFCW Local 1167 President Bill Lathrop said following the recent contract settlement in Boron.

"This victory was made possible by the unity of workers in Boron and by the solidarity of their allies in many other unions and industries," President Lathrop said.

## Walmart sets up shop in India

**W**almart is circumventing legal restrictions in India by sponsoring farmers directly to sell produce on the wholesale market.

Many Indians, some in high government offices, are wary of the company's intentions.

Most retail purchases in the country are made at small shops that would be endangered by the presence of Walmart-style big-box stores. For this reason, the Indian government has banned Walmart

and other foreign corporations from selling directly to the public.

To get around this limitation, Walmart has begun sponsoring farms that grow produce to sell in local stores. The company pays the farmers more than the regional distributors can afford, then delivers their crops directly to local outlets.

Walmart uses similar means to distribute clothing, electronics and other items in India, but food production is at the center of its strategy.

### LAST 7 DAYS OF JULY

## Be aware of your availability status

If you have been in the industry for more than a few years, you probably don't remember whether your status with your employer is "available" or "self-restricted."

According to the Master Food Agreement's Article 4A, an employee may change his or her availability twice a year, during the last seven days of January and July.

Many members mistakenly think if they list themselves as "restricted" then their employer must accommodate any restrictions they have. This is not true. Being on the "self-restricted" list only means that you

are unavailable to work 40 hours over five days in any given week.

A member can be on the "available" list and still request days off.

We always encourage our members to place themselves on the "available" list. The two lists are kept separate. In the event a company does layoffs, the first list it will start with is the "self-restricted" list.

July is right around the corner. Check with your employer and, if necessary, change your status!

If you have questions, contact your Union Representative or the representative on duty at (909) 877-5000.

### UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

## Avoid insubordination — do what you're told!

**E**very employee at one time or another has a problem with a supervisor relating to a job assignment.

An employee might accept a task grudgingly and then gripe about it to anyone who will listen.

Such reactions usually aren't a problem, as long as they are infrequent and kept under control. But one thing you should not do is refuse to perform the task you were told to do. That's called insubordination and it can lead to termination.



By Pete Waasdorp

Arbitrators have consistently upheld managers' right to manage and supervise their workforces. They generally will not tolerate worker actions that undermine a supervisor's authority or ability to manage.

The best way to deal with insubordination is to do what your supervisor says, as long as it's not immoral, illegal or unsafe.

If a manager or supervisor asks you to do something you think violates your union contract, you should still do it and then notify your Union Representative right away!

Your Union Representative is the one to determine whether the rules, regulations and protections of the contract are followed. If there is a violation of the contract, a grievance will be filed on your behalf.

### The grievance process

The grievance and arbitration provisions of the union contract are essential tools used by the union to enforce the contract and protect its members.

As a union member, you have the right to use these provisions to address violations of the contract.

When the union carries a grievance from an individual worker, it becomes the union's grievance. This makes the union a buffer between the aggrieved worker and the company so the worker is protected from any management retribution.

Many grievances involve only one worker. For example: an employer fails to pay overtime or denies a request for sick leave. Handling this type of grievance usually involves getting the facts to enforce a contract provision that is easily interpreted.

Many contract protections, however, are open to interpretation. They may reflect a general understanding or agreement between the union and the company, but such understandings must be clarified when they are applied on the job.

A grievance on a contract interpretation that is won by the union has the effect of a precedent and may be used in any future disputes that may arise over the same issue.

Never hesitate to contact your Union Representative if you feel the union contract has been violated in any way.

## It PAYS to be UNION!

	JUNE 2010	2010 TOTAL
Back pay and benefits restored to members	\$369.78	\$42,964.48
Members reinstated	21	144
Grievances settled	85	609

**(909) 877-5000**

# Randy McLaughlin's signat

**Y**ou never know where the road of life will take you," said Randy McLaughlin of Stater Bros. 92 in Lake Arrowhead. "Just be ready for anything."

That road has taken McLaughlin, 55, through some amazing twists and turns, as well as some spectacular scenery.

Along the way McLaughlin has sketched, designed and created costumes and gowns for some of the most famous people in the entertainment world.

McLaughlin and his partner, Jerry Skeels, achieved renown status in 1983 when actress Joan Collins wore their



**Randy McLaughlin**

red poinsettia gown for the December/Christmas issue cover of *Playboy* magazine. That cover became known as "The Lady In Red."

Over the next three decades, their company, Jeran Design, was the design company of choice among the Hollywood elite.

McLaughlin and Skeels created garments for Lana Turner, Kim Novak, Donna Mills, Lindsay Wagner, Tina Turner, Natalie Cole, Little Richard, Liberace and many others.

Jeran Design earned two Emmy nominations for best design and won the United Nations International Spirit Award in 1984, as well as the Golden Needle Award in 2003, among other honors.

McLaughlin and Skeels moved to Lake Arrowhead on Dec. 1, 2005, and within two months McLaughlin was selected as "ambassador" of the community. Previous ambassadors of Lake Arrowhead included Olympic figure

skater Michelle Kwan and actress Jennifer Love Hewitt.

"To be ambassador, you have to be able to give back worldwide," McLaughlin said. "Our Hollywood Graffiti Gown (see sidebar at right) opened that door because of the recognition I was receiving."

When his partner passed away in 2007, McLaughlin decided to go back to work.

"What better way to give back and become an integral part of the community than at the local grocery store?" he said.

At Stater Bros. he began working in the Produce Department, but his celebrity status as ambassador quickly led to another opportunity within the store. Stater Bros. couldn't be happier about it.

"We needed someone to demo the products in the store," McLaughlin recalled. "Everyone in the store told our manager that I know 95 percent of the people on the mountain, so it was a perfect fit."

As a GM Clerk, he sold 265 units in one day and set a record of 5,500 units over a 28-day period. After that, the Lake Arrowhead store's produce and bakery departments were ranked first in Stater Bros.' chain of 177 stores.

"I love the family here — at Stater Bros. and in the Lake Arrowhead community," he said.

McLaughlin also loves the family that comes with union membership.

"Unions are here to stand up for working people," he said. "I'm glad the union is here... for peace of mind, if anything. There is only one entity looking out for the working people these days, and that is the union."

He recalled with pride the respect his father earned as head of the construction workers' union in Michigan. And when McLaughlin established his own career, he was sure to join the Costume Designers Guild.

Now McLaughlin plans to get back into the glamour industry.

"Hollywood is missing glamour," he said. "I need to do my part to bring it back."

His memoir, *The Glamour Kings of Hollywood*, covering his more than 30 years in the industry, is expected to be in bookstores by Christmas. A worldwide publicity tour will follow.

Does this mean McLaughlin will have to take a leave of absence from Stater Bros. and the union?

"I'll have to see where the path of life takes me," he said.

## Graffiti gown on display!



**The Hollywood Graffiti Gown**

The McLaughlin-Skeels masterpiece is further accessorized with five-carat diamond and topaz earrings.

The gown was first unveiled in 2004 at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in North Hollywood. It has since been presented in Los Angeles, San Francisco and La Paz, Bolivia.

The gown contains more than 350 signatures of influential females, including Bette Davis, Rita Hayworth, Carol Channing, Elizabeth Taylor, Halle Berry, Cate Blanchett, Whoopi Goldberg, Mother Teresa and the cast from *Desperate Housewives*, among others.

It is currently displayed in a glass case so guests can view it in its entirety until Nov. 28.

The Hollywood Graffiti Gown will be auctioned during the first quarter of 2011, with the proceeds going to AIDS awareness charities. The starting bid will be \$1 million.

In a pre-Mother's Day event on May 6, the Hollywood Graffiti Gown created by Randy McLaughlin and Jerry Skeels of Jeran Design was unveiled at the Hollywood History Museum, where it is currently on display.

Celebrities Florence Henderson of *The Brady Bunch*, Ilene Graff of *Mr. Belvedere*, Kim Rhodes of *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody* and Dee Wallace of *E.T. the Extra Terrestrial* were there to celebrate.

Other celebrities in attendance included Stefanie Powers of *Hart to Hart*, Alison Arngrim of *Little House on the Prairie*, Donna Mills of *Knotts Landing*, Eve Plumb of *The Brady Bunch*, Kate Linder of *The Young & the Restless*, Jo Anne Worley of *Laugh In*, Rose Marie of *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, Margaret O'Brien (Academy Award winning child star), and comedians Rip Taylor and Judy Tenuta.

### The gown

The Hollywood Graffiti Gown incorporates a list of female stars' names beaded into plush fabric.

Over a 24-year period, Jerry Skeels created the gown out of Black German Velvet while the signatures were hand-sewn by McLaughlin with bugle, seed and platinum beads.

# ure creations

## Scenes from the press event...



From left: Celebrities Dee Wallace, Stefanie Powers, Ilene Graff, Alison Arngrim, Margaret O'Brien, Randy McLaughlin, Florence Henderson, Judy Tenuta, Brenda Dickson, Kate Linder. In front, from left: Rose Marie and Edith Shain.



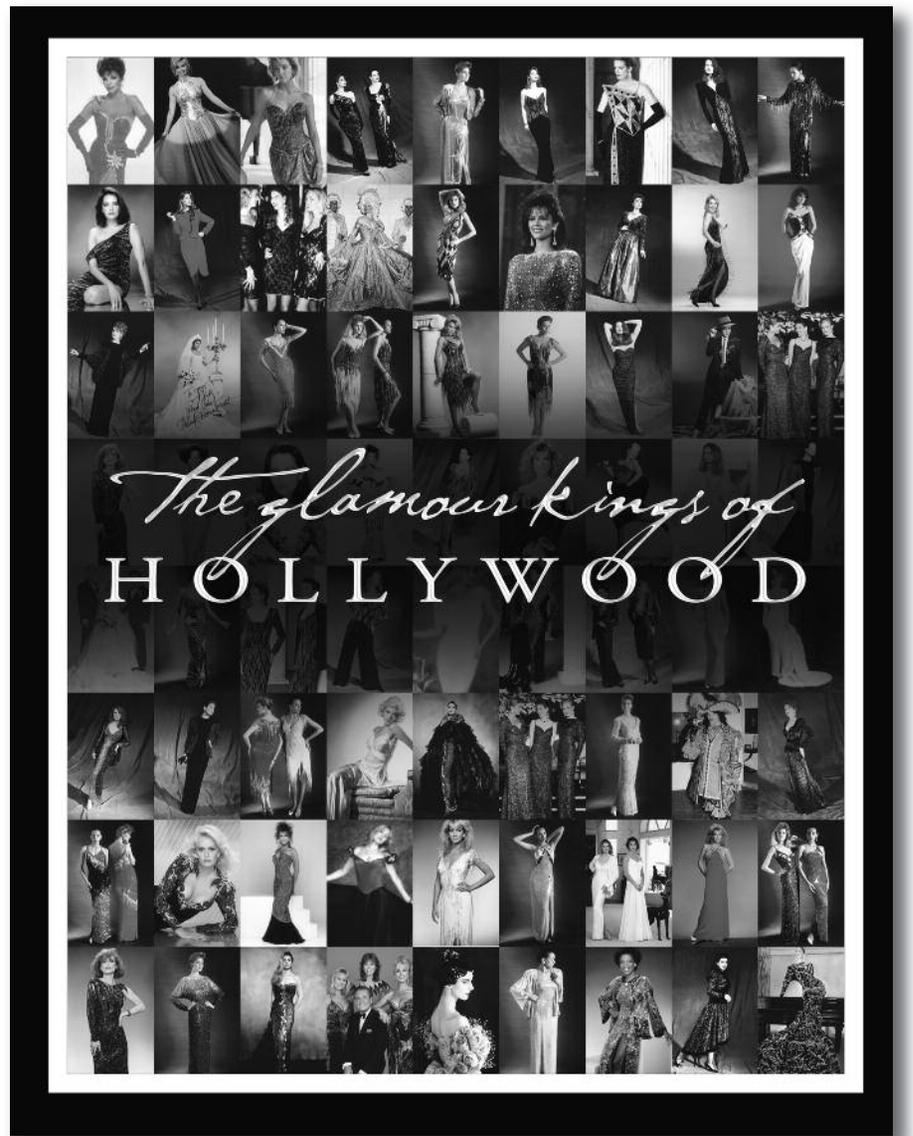
Florence Henderson of *The Brady Bunch* and McLaughlin open the press conference.



Donna Mills, *Knotts Landing*, and the gown



Dee Wallace, *E.T. the Extra Terrestrial*, and McLaughlin



McLaughlin's book



Kim Rhodes, *Suite Life of Zack and Cody*



Comedienne Jo Anne Worley



Rose Marie, *The Dick Van Dyke Show*



Comedian Rip Taylor



ABC 7's "On the Red Carpet" reporter interviews McLaughlin

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# Our right to pursue happiness

(Continued from front page)

When they prepared the Declaration of Independence for the Second Continental Congress to consider in 1776, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin deliberately struck out "property" and replaced it with "pursuit of happiness."

## Why did they do that?

Jefferson and Franklin were fans of a philosopher named Francis Hutcheson who wrote about a public form of happiness. Hutcheson measured this happiness in terms of "the greatest happiness by the greatest number."

Our Founders were intelligent people.

When they voted to ratify the Declaration of Independence, they knew they were exalting the notion of "public happiness" above the accumulation of property.

A few years later, the French adopted the phrase *liberte, egalite, fraternite* — "liberty, equality, brotherhood" — as the motto of their revolution. In doing so, they honored the virtue of brotherhood above the amassing of material wealth.

As a brotherhood of working people, our union exists to ensure the pursuit of happiness for the greatest number of people. Whenever we fight for better wages, working conditions, vacation days and benefits,

we're not fighting for personal greed — the sort of "every man for himself" fantasy some folks have — but for the ability of regular people to reach for their dreams.

Through collective bargaining with our employers, our union makes it possible to have the time and the resources that enable us to pursue happiness along our own unique paths.

The Fourth of July is a good time to marvel at the wisdom of our country's Founders. If those Founders were alive today, they would surely agree that there is nothing more American than a labor union.

Happy Fourth of July!

## Know your politics:

### Jerry Brown for governor

#### A lifetime fighting for working families

On April 14, the California Labor Federation voted to endorse Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown for governor. For more than 40 years, Brown has remained steadfastly committed to improving the lives of California's working families.

#### Workers' rights

- Established the right to collectively bargain for teachers, school employees and other state workers (SB 160, 1975).
- Established the right to collectively bargain for firefighters, police and other local government workers (AB 1693, 1981).
- Gave farmworkers the right to join unions and bargain collectively (SB 1, 1975). Strengthened the state's equal pay law (SB 1051, 1976).

#### Good wages

- Required the University of California to pay prevailing wages on construction projects (SB 394, 1975).

#### Worker safety

- Signed a law to protect workers from toxic substances in the workplace (SB 1874, 1980).

#### Strengthening the safety net

- Increased unemployment benefits for laid-off workers (AB 91, 1975).
- Increased workers' compensation for those who were injured on the job (SB 469, 1975; AB 467, 1976; AB 3028, 1978).

#### Standing up to large corporations

- Fought large corporations who exploit their workers, winning settlements for construction workers and others whose rights have been violated.

## WALL STREET WHITMAN

WWW.WALLSTREETWHITMAN.COM

### BREAKING NEWS

Meg Whitman's Plan for Jobs:

## Layoff and Downsize

### Whitman Plans a Hostile Takeover Attempt of California.

The centerpiece of Meg Whitman's plan for California is cutting 40,000 state jobs or 10% of the state's workforce. (San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 23, 2009)

Whitman says she's a "huge fan" of increasing H-1B visas to foreign workers to take U.S. jobs.

Under Whitman, nearly 40% of eBay's workforce was sent overseas. (Associated Press, March 20, 2008)



Meg Whitman's Hostile Takeover Attempt: \$59 million and counting...



### Special Report:

#### The Truth About Whitman's Goldman Sachs Past

Whitman teamed up with Wall Street giant Goldman Sachs to make nearly \$2 million by cashing in on perks available only to wealthy clients. Congress has since made what Meg did illegal. (Sacramento Bee, December 31, 2009)

#### Profiting from Loss

Despite driving eBay's share price down by 43% before she left the company, Meg used a CEO perk to make more than \$500 million in stock options. (Fortune, March 16, 2009; Securities and Exchange Commission, eBay filings, 2003-2008)

#### Flying High in Style

From 2002 to 2007, Whitman charged eBay more than \$3.2 million to fly in a corporate jet. (eBay reports filed with Securities and Exchange Commission, 2003-2008)

For more information:

WWW.WALLSTREETWHITMAN.COM

### MEG WHITMAN On the issues

#### OVERTIME PAY AND MEAL BREAKS



Meg said: It's time to take away the 8-hour day and and guaranteed meal breaks. (Whitman speech, Commonwealth Club, February 16, 2010)

#### RETIREMENT

Whitman proposes cutting worker pensions, while leaving CEO golden parachutes untouched.

#### UNIONS

Whitman plans a full frontal assault on union workers' jobs, wages and pensions. (SF Chronicle, Public employee unions in Whitman's crosshairs, March 15, 2010)

#### CUTTING WAGES

Whitman keynotes anti-union "ABC" conference to fight Project Labor Agreements. (Whitman speech, Associated Builders and Contractors, September 18, 2009)



#### Whitman Vows to Block Health Care Reform

Whitman said she would undo President Obama's health care reforms and instead protect insurance company profits. (Los Angeles Times, March 31, 2010)

#### Cashing In On Job Layoffs:

All in a Day's Work for Whitman  
As head of eBay, Meg was behind layoffs that boosted corporate profits, but put workers out on the street. She made millions. (NBC Bay Area, February 17, 2010)





# Members at Work

Stater Bros 123  
Victorville



## STEWARD FEATURE

# Steward: Solidarity key to success in negotiations

**A**s a car enthusiast, Gabe Hernandez knows something about traveling on tough roads.

Hernandez, who is a meat cutter and steward at Stater Bros. 123 in Victorville, sees a “tough road” ahead in negotiations for a new Master Food Agreement.

“It’s nothing we can’t navigate successfully,” Hernandez said. “If we stick together and we all do our part, we can meet the challenge.”

Solidarity is the key, Hernandez said.

“Solidarity means demonstrating our strength at every opportunity,” he said. “It’s our duty as union members.”

Hernandez said that means

going to union meetings, ignoring rumors and relying on stewards and Union Representatives for accurate information.

Hernandez is a 15-year union veteran and has been a steward for three years.

“I wanted to do something for the union and the members at my store,” Hernandez said. “It’s important to have a liaison with the union so we can be better informed about what is going on. That’s especially important during negotiations.”

Hernandez comes from a union family. His grandfather worked for the Santa Fe Railroad. He has several uncles who are members of the cement masons union and other relatives who are members

of teachers’ unions.

“I remember many family discussions around the dinner table talking about unions,” he said. “I learned early on that the only way to get the best pay and benefits is to work at a union job.”

When Hernandez is not at work or spending time with his two adult sons, he works on old cars. He does everything from simple refinishing to rebuilding the car from the frame up.

He drives a ’63 Chevy Short Bed pickup with more than 300,000 miles on it and is a proud member of the Ol’ Skool Wayz car club.

“We meet once a week in front of the Lowes in Hesperia for our cruise night,” Hernandez said.

“We get about 200-300 car restoration enthusiasts from throughout the High Desert.

“It’s a lot of fun to not only restore the cars but also to drive them.”

His favorite car is his son’s 1979 Oldsmobile Cutlass.

“It’s a car I grew up with,” he said, “and as I get older, many of

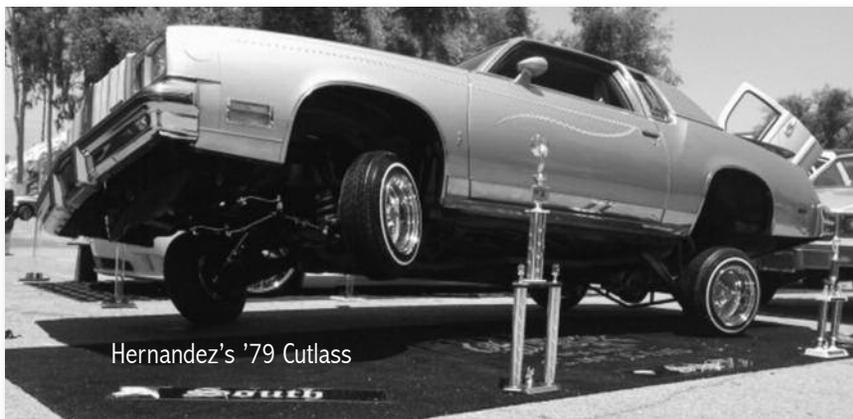


**Gabe Hernandez**

those cars have become classics.”

Hernandez said he is optimistic that negotiations for a new contract can be resolved successfully.

“We have met challenges in the past,” he said. “The key is to make sure the companies see we are united and they know we will do whatever it takes to get a fair contract.”



Hernandez's '79 Cutlass

See pictures from Stater Bros. 123 on page 7.



## Be careful around fireworks!

### Even sparklers can cause serious injuries

**W**hen people think of summer, they often think of outdoor activities and good times with family and friends.

These activities include getting together for barbecues, family reunions, games and Fourth of July celebrations.

Whether legal or illegal, an integral part of many Independence Day celebrations is fireworks, which are exciting and spectacular to watch as colors explode across the night sky. Children of every age stand in awe of the fabulous displays. But with explosives comes the potential for injury.

Hot enough to melt gold

Seemingly harmless, sparklers pose the greatest threat to small children because parents view them as non-explosive and relatively safe. However, most people don’t realize that sparklers

spew arcs of light and molten metal at temperatures that can reach 1,800 Fahrenheit — hot enough to melt gold. Sparklers account for three-quarters of all fireworks injuries to children under the age of five.

The typical victims of fireworks are teen boys between the ages of 13 and 15. They sustain three-fourths of all fireworks-related eye injuries, mainly caused by bottle rockets. Rockets are one of the most dangerous types of fireworks as they fly erratically and frequently injure bystanders.

If a firework eye injury should occur, do not rub the eye. Shield the eye from pressure or rubbing action and do not try to rinse out the eye or apply ointment or medication to the eye. Seek medical attention immediately.