



## DOL News Brief

May 26, 2011

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### Secretary Addresses Scorpions

During a visit to Brownsville, Texas, last week, Secretary Solis spoke to the graduating classes of the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College in a joint ceremony. She touched upon the Hispanic heritage and history of UT Brownsville,



which is ranked in the top 20 schools nationally for Latinos. Her words were even more poignant because she delivered them alongside Dr. Juliet García — the first Hispanic president of an American university. Solis also addressed the importance of students following their dreams, speaking as a daughter of immigrants who worked her way up to become the secretary of labor.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

### Attorney General, Dignitaries Visit San Jose Job Corps Center



The Job Corps center in San Jose, Calif., and its students played host to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and other dignitaries last week. Holder,

accompanied by Mayor Chuck Reed and local officials, was in San Jose to review the city's successful gang violence prevention program. He toured the center to learn firsthand about how Job Corps is making a positive impact on the lives of its students. Holder later held a press conference in the center's student-built community fresh vegetable gardens.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

### WB Sponsors Girls' STEM Summit

In collaboration with several prominent local organizations, the Women's Bureau's

### What's Hot

#### White House Announces Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge

Late last week, the White House announced a \$33 million Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge to spur economic growth through public-private partnerships around the country. The initiative leverages resources of 16 federal agencies – including the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration – to accelerate innovation-fueled job creation and global competitiveness. Up to \$20 million of the total funding will come from DOL for technical skills training. The deadline to apply is July 7.

- [View Details on the Application Process](#)
- [Read the White House Blog](#)

#### More Help with Storm Clean-up for Southern States

The Labor Department announced National Emergency Grants for Tennessee and Arkansas this week to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts in the wake of last month's severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and associated flooding. Tennessee received an increment of \$3,589,704, and Arkansas was awarded a \$3,758,327 grant. "The devastation caused by recent storms across the Southeast has been heart-wrenching," said Secretary Solis. "While the hard work of clean-up and repairs is only one part of the recovery, these grants will help people get back on their feet."

- [Read the Tennessee News Release](#)
- [Read the Arkansas News Release](#)

### Around DOL

#### Job Corps Expands Training Programs

Solar photovoltaic and thermal system installations are an increasing part of energy production due to the growing need for electricity from nonpolluting, renewable sources of energy. Job Corps has launched a solar PV and thermal system installer advanced training program to prepare students to help meet that need. Graduates of the new program will know how to install and maintain both solar PV and thermal systems, and will be well-equipped to fill jobs created in the expanding solar power industry. Job Corps also recently launched a weatherization technician advanced training program, furthering its commitment to training students in the concepts of energy efficiency and sustainability. This new program teaches students weatherization building science, ducting, venting and methods to identify building efficiency weaknesses.

#### Celebrity Chef Ming Tsai and Solis Celebrate AAPI Month at DOL

In celebration of Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, DOL welcomed celebrity chef Ming Tsai to its headquarters in



Region IV held an all-day STEM summit at Georgia Tech aimed at encouraging middle and high school girls to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and math. More than 200 girls from the Atlanta metropolitan area were engaged in hands-on workshops, including teaching robots how to dance; building suspension bridges from cups, straws and string; and even working with their own DNA. "It was wonderful to see the girls so excited and engaged," said Paulette Norvel Lewis, the bureau's regional administrator. "They are now in the pipeline leading to exciting, rewarding and financially lucrative careers, and parents learned how to support their daughters' ambitions and dreams."

- [View the Slideshow](#)



Washington on Monday. Secretary Solis and Chef Ming engaged in a one-on-one discussion about his passion for cooking, the legacy he hopes to leave and advice to Job Corps students that were in attendance about

how to succeed in the culinary world. With chef hats on, Tsai and Solis concluded the event with a live cooking demonstration featuring Tsai's specialty: black bean orecchiette with spicy pork and broccoli.

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Watch the Video](#)

### Job Clubs: A Blessing to Job Seekers

In communities across the country, job clubs help the unemployed regain self-esteem and expand their professional and social networks to land another job or launch a new career.

These clubs, also known as career or employment ministries, are typically run out of churches, synagogues and libraries by enterprising volunteers. On Tuesday, Secretary Solis hosted a group of job club coordinators and faith leaders, as well as their partners from the workforce investment system, for a roundtable webcast on the important role these groups are playing in getting Americans back to work. The event was organized by the department's Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, which has launched a new project to support the work of job clubs through technical assistance, networking and partnership development with the One-Stop Career Center system. Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Jane Oates participated in the roundtable as well, highlighting a training and employment notice that she recently issued to the workforce investment system encouraging partnership building at the local level.



- [Watch the Video](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Visit the Community of Practice Website](#)
- [Read the Training and Employment Notice](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Blog Entry](#)

### Trafficking in Troubled Times



"Labor Trafficking in Troubled Economic Times: Protecting American Jobs and Migrant Human Rights" was the topic of discussion as Dr.

Gabriela Lemus, senior advisor and director of the Office of Public Engagement, testified before the U.S. Helsinki Commission on Monday. Lemus highlighted the administration's commitment to fight labor trafficking both domestically and internationally. "Under the secretary's leadership, the Wage and Hour Division, the Bureau of International Labor Affairs and the Employment and Training Administration work collaboratively to ensure that the department uses all available tools in the most efficient and effective manner to protect vulnerable populations," she said. Ambassador-at-Large Luis deBaca, U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and actress Julia Ormond, founder of the nonprofit organization Alliance to Stop Slavery and End Trafficking, also testified.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

### Borzi at International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans

Getting the word out about proposed finance-related rules to people who will be impacted is important.

## News You Can Use

### Remember: Mines are Not Playgrounds



With summertime looming, no excuse is too trivial for spending time outside. Consequently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration has issued its annual warning to outdoor enthusiasts about steering clear of mine property. Each year, children and adults are

injured or killed while engaging in recreational pursuits at active and abandoned mine sites around the country. "Stay Out-Stay Alive," a public safety campaign, strives to educate people about the hazards. NFL running back Thomas Jones, the official spokesman for SOSA and a product of a coal mining family, knows personally about these dangers. "When you're a kid, you're adventurous and want to check out places like old mines and quarries," he said. "We didn't realize the dangers, and there were some close calls." MSHA Assistant Secretary Joseph Main added: "As schools begin letting out for the summer, there are more opportunities to explore the



This week, Phyllis Borzi, assistant secretary of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, addressed the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans during the group's Washington Legislative Update. She talked about the department's proposal to redefine who is a fiduciary as someone who has a legal responsibility to give unbiased investment advice to retirement plan sponsors and participants, and those saving for retirement through individual retirement accounts. As things stand, it is far too easy for financial advisers to avoid fiduciary duty based on the current rule that was issued in 1975.

### OFCCP and EEOC Partner to Celebrate Mutual 45th Anniversary

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission collaborated to host an event at the Western Justice Center in Pasadena, Calif., on May 19 celebrating the 45th anniversary of both agencies. More than 150 people representing civil rights advocacy, unions, local bar associations, employer groups, government agencies and community-based organizations, as well as past claimants, turned out. Alicia Villarreal, regional representative to the secretary, shared a special message from Secretary Solis. OFCCP Director Patricia Shiu followed with highlights from the history of her agency in promoting civil rights and nondiscrimination in employment. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa contributed a proclamation recognizing the agencies for their outstanding efforts in enforcing laws against employment discrimination. The following day, Shiu headlined a civil rights enforcement forum for Asian-American and Pacific islander community leaders hosted by OFCCP's Los Angeles District Office.

- [Read the Secretary's Statement](#)
- [Read More About OFCCP's 45th Anniversary](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)

### Solis Joins Forces With JROTC



Marking Armed Forces Day last Saturday, Secretary Solis moderated a roundtable discussion with more than 150

great outdoors. We want our kids to stay safe and be aware that mines are not playgrounds."

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Learn more about "Stay Out-Stay Alive"](#)
- [View "Stay Out-Stay Alive" Poster](#)

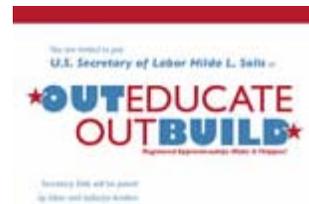
### OSHA National Survey on Employer Safety and Health Practices

On Monday, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration launched a survey of private sector employers as a tool toward better designing future rules, compliance assistance and outreach efforts. As many as 19,000 employers of all sizes and across all industries are receiving the Baseline Survey of Safety and Health Practices. Questions include whether respondents already have a safety management system, whether they perform annual inspections, who manages safety at their establishments and what kinds of hazards they encounter at their facilities. Participation in the survey is voluntary. The agency expects data collection to be completed by August.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Save the Date: Celebrating 100 Years of Registered Apprenticeships

Labor and industry leaders will join Secretary Solis to highlight the state-of-the-art worker training provided by joint apprenticeship programs on Monday, June 6, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Please join the Labor Department on the National Mall to tour a creative display of mobile training units and celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Registered Apprenticeships in the U.S. The event will be located between 3rd and 4th Streets, and Madison Drive NW and Jefferson Drive SW in Washington, D.C. RSVP to Laura Tatum at [tatum.laura@dol.gov](mailto:tatum.laura@dol.gov).



- [Open Your Invitation](#)

### OSHA Announces Final Rule to Reduce Employer Burdens

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced Thursday the forthcoming release of a final rule that will streamline and simplify the agency's standards while reducing employer burdens. "The final rule is the third in OSHA's Standards Improvement Projects initiative that periodically reviews OSHA regulations with the goal of improving and eliminating those that are confusing, outdated, duplicative or inconsistent," said Assistant Secretary for OSHA Dr. David Michaels. "OSHA estimates that the final rule, without reducing employee protection, will result in annual cost savings to employers exceeding \$43 million and significant reductions in paperwork burden hours."

- [Read the News Release](#)

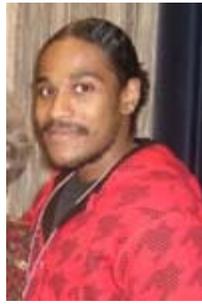
## DOL Working for You

### YouthBuild Grad Looks Toward Business Start-up

The Labor Department-funded YouthBuild program has helped Massachusetts native Patrick Breton put troubled teen years behind him and focus on graduating from a local university and starting his own business. Through the Brockton program, Breton, now 25, learned life skills

Junior ROTC students from local high schools in Brownsville, Texas. The event was part of first lady Michelle Obama's "Joining Forces" campaign on behalf of military families. During the panel, Solis touched upon many themes, including education, the military, team work and giving back. She also stressed the critical role that the JROTC program serves in improving young people's lives.

- [View the Slideshow](#)



such as how to write a resume and speak in public. He also was taught green construction techniques in framework, carpentry and plumbing that helped him build two houses from the ground up. He earned a GED diploma through YouthBuild, graduating with a construction certificate, then an associate degree from a community college. Now working toward a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts with a major in international marketing, Breton expects to graduate in 2013. He plans to start a graphic design and Web development business. YouthBuild, he said, "made me explore my hidden talents and boosted my confidence."

- [Learn More about YouthBuild](#)

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## ETA Hosts Virtual Action Clinic

The Employment and Training Administration's Office of Apprenticeship brought together teams from eight states last week to host a large-



scale virtual conference. More than 240 members of the public workforce, education and Registered Apprenticeship systems attended the Collaborate for Success Action Clinic to promote partnerships that utilize apprenticeship in training workers for 21st century careers. Speakers conducted presentations via webcam from locations throughout the country, including Michigan, South Carolina, Kansas and even Alaska. State teams developed action plans focused on collaboration among systems to offer seamless career pathways that include on-the-job training and related classroom instruction opportunities.

- [Learn more about the Action Clinics Registered Apprenticeship Online Community of Practice](#)

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## VETS Employment Expo a Success



More than 1,000 Colorado veterans and military personnel took advantage of a three-day employment expo and job fair May 23-25 in Golden, Colo.

Hosted by the department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the event was part of a nationwide effort to host 100 mega hiring fairs. "We know that for some veterans and military personnel, not being hired is due in part to their inability to market themselves to employers," said Josh McDaniel, director for VETS in Colorado. The expo featured professional development classes covering

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## Worker Shifts from Auto Manufacturing to Medical Assistance

After working for 20 years overseeing trim panel production for an automotive supplier in Michigan, Lilia Carlson suddenly found herself out of work due to the economy. With a determination to "do something more professional," she enrolled in medical assistant training classes thanks to the Labor Department-funded Michigan Works! program. Carlson immersed herself in the difficult seven-month program, eventually graduating with a 3.5 grade point average. She accepted a position as a medical assistant at the University of Michigan Nurse Managed Centers in Ann Arbor. There she administers vaccines, calls in prescriptions and fulfills her passion caring for patients. The training program, Carlson said, "helped me reinvent myself" and work in a totally new profession.



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## DOL in Action

### EBSA Sues to Restore More Than \$135,000 to 401(k) Plan

The Employee Benefits Security Administration has sued fiduciaries of architectural company Milton Pate and Associates seeking to recover \$135,516 for participants and beneficiaries of the company's 401(k) profit-sharing plan. The lawsuit alleges that the defendants violated the Employee Retirement Income Security Act by taking prohibited loans from the plan and not forwarding employee contributions to it in a timely manner. "Retirement assets are not a piggy bank to be raided whenever the principals of a company need extra cash. Employees contributed the assets for their future retirement needs, and the Labor Department will not allow fiduciaries to disregard their responsibilities," said Isabel Colon, EBSA's acting regional director.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Assistance for Workers Affected by Fort Monmouth Base Closure

The Labor Department provided a \$1.5 million National Emergency Grant incremental award to assist about 1,345 workers affected by the closure of Fort Monmouth in New Jersey. The grant will provide training and re-employment services over the next year for workers who are dislocated between now and September. "The Labor Department is committed to providing the funding necessary for individuals affected by base closings to update their skill sets and find new employment," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

private and federal job resume writing, dressing for success, landing the interview, networking and jobs in Colorado.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

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## DOL Hosts Houston Forum

More than 120 employers and advocacy groups in the Houston area participated in the Labor Department's free informational and outreach forum at Rice University to learn about wages, health benefits, job safety, affirmative action and veterans' re-employment rights. Agencies and offices that offered workshops on these topics included the Wage and Hour Division, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Women's Bureau, the Veterans' Employment and Training Service, and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. "We are hopeful that this outreach effort has increased awareness about employer responsibilities and provided workers with knowledge of their rights, as well," said Melissa Speer, regional director for the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

- [Read the News Release](#)

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## Rally for Youth Investment

Nearly 500 students assembled for a national rally last Thursday to raise awareness of the need for investments in youth education and



employment. Participants gathered at the U.S. Department of Education building in downtown Washington before marching to the headquarters of the Labor Department. Secretary Solis and Assistant Secretary for Policy Dr. William Spriggs addressed the group, highlighting a number of Labor Department programs. Speaking about the importance of making investments in America's young people, Solis said, "An education changes everything. In today's world, it's no longer just a pathway to opportunity and success, it is a prerequisite." The rally was organized by a coalition of nonprofit groups and included Illinois Rep. Bobby Rush.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

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## NAVFAC NW Certified as VPP 'Star'

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has recognized the management and employees at Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest headquartered in Silverdale, Wash., for their achievement in employee safety and health programs in Bangor, Naval Station

## Naval Air Station Contractor to Pay \$52K+ in Back Wages

The Wage and Hour Division recovered \$52,370 in back wages for 13 employees of Mansfield Industrial Inc. in Pensacola, Fla., following an investigation that found violations of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. The company failed to pay employees the required prevailing wage rate for regular work hours as well as paid them overtime compensation below the prevailing wage rate. "Contractors and subcontractors hired to perform services on federally funded projects have an obligation to comply thoroughly and consistently with federal law," said Michael Young, WHD district director.

- [Read the News Release](#)

## Nearly \$30K Recovered for Liquor Store Employees

The Wage and Hour Division has recovered \$29,850 for 25 employees of Old Mac's Package, Watering Trough and Riverside Grill in Bryson City, N.C., following an investigation that found two employees had been improperly classified as Fair Labor Standards Act-exempt managers. "Putting someone on salary does not automatically exempt him or her from coverage by the minimum wage and overtime compensation requirements of the FLSA," said Richard Blaylock, WHD district director.

- [Read the News Release](#)

## Former Iron Workers Employee Sentenced for Embezzlement

Labor union officials have an obligation to use union funds solely for the benefit of the union and its members. When they do not, the Labor Department takes action to make things right. On May 13, Heather Hill of Little Rock, Ark., former office secretary for the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers Local 321, was sentenced to three years' probation and ordered to pay \$59,142.12 in restitution and a \$100 special assessment. On Jan. 6., Hill had pleaded guilty to charges of embezzling and willfully converting employee welfare benefit plan funds, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 664. Hill wrote checks to herself, using union funds to pay personal bills. The Office of Labor-Management Standards initiated an investigation after receiving information from a Local 321 official. The investigation leading to Hill's indictment and conviction was conducted by the OLMS Dallas District Office and the department's Employee Benefits Security Administration.

## Security Guards to Receive Back Wages Exceeding \$118K

The Wage and Hour Division has recovered \$118,465 in back wages for 44 security guards of Appalachian Security Inc., which provides guard services to coal mines and businesses in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia. An investigator found that employees had been improperly classified as exempt from federal overtime pay provisions, and the company illegally paid workers straight-time wages for overtime hours worked. "A job must clearly meet the salary and duty requirements outlined in the Fair Labor Standards Act in order to qualify as exempt from overtime compensation, and management cannot make deals with employees to circumvent the law," said Karen Garnett, WHD district director.

- [Read the News Release](#)

## Coal Mine Operation Penalized for Failing to Report Roof Fall

Waiting four days to notify the Mine Safety and Health Administration about a roof collapse at its Big Mountain No. 16 mine will cost Pine Ridge Coal Co. LLC \$6,000 in fines. The Seth, W.Va.-based underground coal mine failed to contact MSHA within the required 15 minutes of the accident. Consequently, MSHA issued an order charging Pine Ridge with an unwarrantable failure to comply with the law. The company contested that violation, but an administrative law judge upheld it, finding the operator's delay unreasonable and resulting from reckless disregard for its obligations

Kitsap, Keyport, Everett, Indian Island and Whidbey Island. NAVFAC NW has been designated as a "star" site, the highest honor available, in OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs. NAVFAC NW operates Navy public works departments that plan, design and contract construction projects and engage in warehousing, steam production, facilities maintenance, waste collection and disposal.

- [Learn More about VPP](#)

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## Upcoming Deadlines & Events

Check out the grant opportunities with DOL.

- [Open Funding Opportunities](#)

### EVENTS SPOTLIGHT: OFCCP Helps Contractors Build Diverse Workforce

On June 9, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs will host an event at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to discuss how community-based organizations can partner with federal contractors to help build a diverse workforce. Rep. John Lewis and OFCCP Director Patricia Shiu are scheduled to participate. Registration is required, and space is limited. Notify Christopher Seely at [Seely.Christopher@dol.gov](mailto:Seely.Christopher@dol.gov) or 404-893-4564 by June 1 to attend.

### EBSA — HIPAA and Other Health Benefits Laws: Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [June 7-8 — Dover, DE](#)
- [June 28-29 — Raleigh, NC](#)

### MSHA — Joseph A. Holmes Association 2011 National Meeting and Training Seminar

- [June 21 - 23 — San Antonio, TX](#)

### OFCCP — AAP Development and Preparing for a Desk Audit

- [June 23 — Los Angeles, CA](#)

### OFCCP — AAP Development Workshop for Supply and Service Contractors

- [June 1 — Pittsburgh, PA](#)

### OFCCP — Building a Diverse Workforce Together

- [June 9 — Atlanta, GA](#)

### OFCCP — Building Partnerships for the Community

- [May 29 — Charlotte, NC](#)
- [May 29 — Raleigh, NC](#)
- [June 1 — Charlotte, NC](#)
- [June 1 — Raleigh, NC](#)

under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977. Moreover, the judge tripled the penalty proposed by MSHA.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Lawsuit Filed Against Paradigm Machine Works in Stafford, Texas

The Labor Department has sued oil field equipment and machine parts manufacturer MWDAY Group Inc., doing business as Paradigm Machine Works Inc. in Stafford, Texas, and its owner and president, Michael W. Day. The lawsuit alleges that the defendants failed to forward employee contributions and matching employer contributions to the company's 401(k) plan in violation of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. The suit seeks a court order to require Paradigm to restore to the plan all losses with interest, termination of the plan, removal of Day as president after assets are disbursed and to permanently bar him from serving as a fiduciary or service provider to any plan governed by ERISA in the future.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Judge Rules MSHA has Right to Review Mine Operators' Records

In spite of efforts by Peabody Energy and Massey Energy to withhold pertinent data from the Mine Safety and Health Administration, an administrative law judge ruled that the agency has a right to review those records. The two controlling companies had refused to allow MSHA auditors to inspect accident, injury and illness data from October to December 2010. Audits were being conducted in an effort to determine if specific mines met the criteria that would make them eligible to receive notifications of a potential pattern of violations, which is one of the agency's toughest enforcement tools. "Mine operators should be aware that we are not going to rely on what they report to make critical determinations about pattern of violations eligibility. We will check those records ourselves," said MSHA Assistant Secretary Joseph Main.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Illinois Employer Fined \$1.2 Million for Exposing Workers to Asbestos

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued penalties of \$1,247,400 to AMD Industries Inc. in Cicero, Ill., after five unprotected and untrained workers allegedly were required to conduct asbestos removal. The company received 19 willful and eight serious health citations following an OSHA inspection at its facilities in response to a referral from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. "AMD failed in its duty to protect the health and safety of its workers," said Secretary Solis. "Such disregard will not be tolerated by the Labor Department. No one should risk serious illness or death to earn a paycheck."

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Albuquerque Company Sued to Recover Back Wages

The Labor Department has filed a lawsuit against Albuquerque-based Supporting Hands and its owner, Mark DuBois, for failing to pay 45 care providers \$23,363 in minimum wage and overtime compensation in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Supporting Hands, which maintains five residential treatment homes throughout New Mexico, paid employees "straight time" wages for all hours worked, rather than time and one-half their regular rates for hours exceeding 40 in a workweek. The suit seeks to recover the back wages, along with an equal amount in liquidated damages.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### Pipe Manufacturer in Little Rock Cited Following Worker Death

Welspun Tubular in Little Rock, Ark., was cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for three violations following an investigation that determined a worker was crushed to death after being caught between two

#### **OFCCP — Community Outreach and Education Event**

- [June 9 — Richmond, VA](#)
- [June 23 — Richmond, VA](#)

#### **OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction Contractors**

- [June 16 — Nashville, TN](#)
- [June 30 — Memphis, TN](#)

#### **OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction and Supply and Service Contractors**

- [June 29 — San Diego, CA](#)

#### **OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Supply & Service Contractors**

- [June 1 — Nashville, TN](#)
- [June 8 — Nashville, TN](#)
- [June 8 — Birmingham, AL](#)
- [June 9 — Memphis, TN](#)

#### **OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Reasonable Accommodations**

- [June 16 — Miami, FL](#)

#### **OFCCP — Compliance for Construction Contractors**

- [June 2 — Memphis, TN](#)
- [June 15 — Nashville, TN](#)

#### **OFCCP — Houston - Construction**

- [June 15 — Houston, TX](#)

#### **OFCCP — Nuts & Bolts of OFCCP Compliance**

- [June 8 — Webinar](#)

#### **OLMS — Compliance Assistance Seminar**

- [June 1 — Perth Amboy, NJ](#)
- [June 6 — San Francisco, CA](#)
- [June 23 — Birmingham, AL](#)

#### **OSHA — Federal Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health Meeting**

- [June 7 — Washington, DC](#)

#### **OSHA — Southern New Jersey Action Summit for Latino and Immigrant Workers**

- [June 5 — Bridgeton, NJ](#)

#### **WHD — Focus on Hospitality Seminar**

- [May 31 — Virginia Beach, VA](#)

pipes on a conveyor. One willful citation is for the employer's failure to provide required machine guarding to ensure workers were protected from such accidents. "This company has been cited by OSHA twice in a six-month period for jeopardizing the safety of its employees," said Carlos Reynolds, the agency's area director.

- [Read the News Release](#)

#### **ALJ: Musculoskeletal Disorder Should be Recorded on OSHA Log**

An administrative law judge has affirmed a safety citation issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to Caterpillar Logistics Services in Peoria, Ill. The company failed to record a worker's musculoskeletal disorder on the OSHA 300 log and was assessed a penalty of \$900. "Musculoskeletal disorders are very prevalent and are significant workplace injuries and illnesses," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Dr. David Michaels, who praised the decision. "It is imperative that these types of work-related illnesses are logged appropriately so workers and managers are made aware of them as well as their causes, and so that we can all learn how to better protect workers."

- [Read the News Release](#)

#### **Texas Meat Processing Facility Cited for Serious, Repeat Violations**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued four serious and one repeat citation to Sam Kane Beef Processor Inc. after an investigation found multiple workplace safety hazards, including failing to ensure the safe and proper use of step ladders, keeping floor surfaces free of water and failing to provide an adequate and timely emergency response plan. "This company exposed its employees to preventable workplace safety hazards," said Michael Rivera, OSHA's area director. The company employs about 800 workers in Corpus Christi who slaughter cattle and process beef for sale. Proposed penalties total \$61,000.

- [Read the News Release](#)

#### **St. Petersburg Excavation Company Cited Following 2 Worker Injuries**

All American Concrete Inc. has been cited for two safety violations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration following an incident that injured two workers who were installing a storm water culvert in St. Petersburg, Fla. In February, a bucket was removed from a back hoe and placed at the edge of an excavation. Two employees were working in the excavation when the bucket fell into the trench, crushing the leg of one worker and bruising the back of another. Proposed penalties total \$53,900.

- [Read the News Release](#)

#### **Restaurants Liable for \$1 Million + in Back Wages, Damages**

A federal judge has ordered Dolores Onate, owner, and Ricardo Onate, manager, of the El Matador Inc. and El Caporal Inc. restaurants in Decatur, Ill., to pay a total of \$1,149,702.50 in back wages and damages to 64 workers employed as servers and kitchen staff. "The defendants in this case willfully and repeatedly violated federal labor standards, including forcing their employees to repay wages in an effort to conceal their own violations," said Secretary Solis. "As a result of the Labor Department's enforcement efforts, these vulnerable workers will receive their rightful pay."

- [Read the News Release](#)

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