



DOL News Brief

October 27, 2011

[Subscribe](#) | [Send Feedback](#) | [PDF Version](#)



Solis Talks Education at Town Hall



Univision Television hosted a Town Hall at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., last Friday. Secretary Solis was one of five guests on "Your Education is

Our Future" (Tu Educación es Nuestro Futuro), a panel that focused on educational attainment for Latinos. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, President of Miami Dade College Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón, Harvard professor Dr. Fernando Reimers and Raul Romero, board chairman of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, were also participated. "How can we compete with other countries if we don't make education a priority?" Solis asked. She also spoke about the value of having mentors and shared personal anecdotes. Other topics included ways students could pursue a higher education, Latino students living in poverty, drop-out rates, scholarships and jobs.

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

Speaking Up for Women

Secretary Solis participated in a roundtable discussion Thursday with her former congressional colleagues and female labor leaders at the

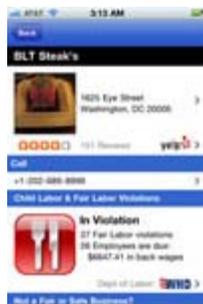


Library of Congress to highlight the department's efforts to help women in the workforce. Solis noted that public sector cuts have been especially hard on women, who are 50 percent more likely to work in the government than are men. She spoke out against efforts in some states to roll back collective bargaining rights and balance budgets on the back of working-class women. "Those who say we can't afford collective bargaining have it backward," Solis said. "We need to give workers a voice at the table now more than ever. The erosion of jobs and workers

What's Hot

App Winner Announced!

The mountains of data the department produces on a daily, weekly and monthly basis are used by researchers, academics and a wide variety of stakeholders. However, they are mostly out of reach for mainstream users. To solve this problem, the department launched two contests to spur the software developer community to create smart phone and computer applications. Winners of each were announced this week. The challenges were run using a free platform designed especially for the federal government.



[Where are the Jobs?](#) submitted by a software company in Sunnyvale, Calif., won the Occupational Employment Statistics challenge by enabling users to easily access the average salaries of different occupations by city, state and region, and to pinpoint the best wages for specific jobs. The winning submission for our InformAction App Challenge was [the Eat, Shop, Sleep App](#). It integrates publicly available enforcement data from the department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Wage and Hour Division with consumer ratings web sites like Yelp. For instance, it

allows users to track restaurant and hotel reviews and whether they pay their employees fair wages and provide safe working conditions.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Dep Sec's Blog Entry](#)
- [View all Occupational Employment Statistics Challenge Winners](#)
- [View all InformAction App Challenge Winners](#)

ODEP Feted for Helping Federal Workers, Job-Seekers

Kathy Martinez, assistant secretary for the Office of Disability Employment Policy, accepted the Champion in Leadership Award on DOL's behalf during last week's Mid-Atlantic Regional Collaborative of the Disability Workforce Consortium ceremony. The award recognizes federal agencies for creating supportive work environments for people with disabilities. ODEP was honored for Project SEARCH, a program that provides training in the District of Columbia to assist federal employees and job-seekers with disabilities. Also recognized was Carla Broddie of the DOL's Civil Rights Center, who received the Federal Hiring Champion Award for using creativity and innovation to hire individuals with disabilities.



rights are what these Occupy Wall Street protests are all about." Solis highlighted DOL efforts to help women veterans find jobs, promote equal pay for equal work, and train women for careers in science, technology and engineering fields. She also stressed the importance of extending unemployment benefits as a lifeline to six million Americans slated to lose them at year's end, noting that for every dollar in benefits given, two dollars of economic activity is generated. The roundtable was hosted by Congresswomen Betty McCollum, Rosa DeLauro and Lynn Woolsey.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Borzi On Fiduciary Rule



Phyllis Borzi, assistant secretary of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, joined federal colleagues Tuesday for the annual

conference of the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries at Maryland's National Harbor. She shared updates on government initiatives that impact retirement plans, and informed the audience that the department is moving forward on its re-proposal of the rule to define "fiduciary" for the purposes of providing advice to retirement accounts. "Some have been using 're-proposal' as a euphemism for 'kill,' but let me assure you we have no plans to drop this issue," she said.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Diversity = Strength

Speaking at the National Employment Law Institute's affirmative action briefing in Chicago, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs Director Patricia Shiu reflected on her childhood in nearby Hyde Park. "I learned at an early age that embracing diversity is a key to building strong families, healthy communities, successful schools and dynamic businesses," she said. Shiu provided updates to an audience that included employment law attorneys, human resource professionals and the media on recent developments at OFCCP, including inter-agency collaborations, regulatory reforms and enhanced outreach and enforcement efforts. "Diversity is our nation's greatest strength," she said.

OSHA Call: Injury Prevention

Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of Labor for Occupational

Hilton Customer Service Workers to Receive More Than \$715,000

Hilton Reservations Worldwide LLC has agreed to pay \$715,507 in overtime back wages to 2,645 customer service employees after an investigation by the department's Wage and Hour Division found violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Investigators of the Dallas District Office found that the company failed to pay employees for work performed prior to clocking in at the start of their scheduled shifts or for time spent opening computer programs required to assist customers. As a result, their wages fell below the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. Additionally, the company failed to maintain required recordkeeping. Workers in Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Texas have been affected.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the News Release](#) Español

OSHA Finds Hazards Again at N.Y. Corporate Bakery

Wegmans Food Markets Inc. has been cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for alleged repeat and serious violations of workplace safety standards at the company's corporate bakery and distribution center in Rochester, N.Y. The retail grocery chain faces a total of \$195,200 in proposed fines, chiefly for inadequate safeguards to prevent machinery from unexpectedly starting up during maintenance. Inspections by OSHA's Buffalo Area Office found that Wegmans failed to develop, utilize, follow and train workers in "lockout/tagout" procedures. OSHA cited Wegmans in 2007 and 2010 for similar hazards at locations in Rochester.

- [Read the News Release](#)

International Scene

Monitoring Child Labor in Ghana Cocoa Industry

This week, Bureau of International Labor Affairs staff joined Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) for the quarterly meeting of the Child Labor Cocoa Coordinating Group in Accra, Ghana. The group was launched as part of the joint declaration signed by Secretary Solis, the Ministers of Employment for Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, and the International Chocolate and Cocoa Industry in September 2010, to support implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol — a voluntary agreement signed by the Chocolate Manufacturers Association and the World Cocoa Foundation to address the worst forms of child labor in the cocoa sector of West Africa. Participants included Enoch Teye Mensah, Ghana's minister of employment and social welfare, and Raymonde Coffee-Goudou, the minister of family, women and children of Cote d'Ivoire. During a meeting of the World Cocoa Foundation, ILAB Deputy Director Kevin Willcutts gave a presentation about the department's anti-child labor efforts. ILAB staff also accompanied Harkin on visits to communities that benefit from DOL-funded, anti-child labor projects and to inspect and monitor other efforts linked to the joint declaration.

- [Read the Joint Declaration with Ghana](#)
- [Read the Framework](#)
- [Read the Interim Statement on Progress in Ghana](#)

News You Can Use

Mine Inspectors Act When Cigarette Lighter Found Underground

During special impact inspections conducted by the Mine Safety and Health Administration last month, federal mine inspectors discovered a cigarette lighter near a continuous mining machine at D & C Mining Corp.'s



Safety and Health, shared updates on the American Jobs Act and OSHA's Illness and Injury Prevention Program during a Midwest Regional conference call on Monday. More than 100 labor leaders and union representatives participated, including national safety and health directors, regional representatives and local union leadership, as well as several regional and state labor councils. The call was organized by Midwest Regional Secretary's Representative Ken Bennett. Michaels described the difference that effective safety and health programs can make in saving lives, reducing illness and injuries rates and saving money for employers. OSHA Deputy Assistant Secretary Jordan Barab and Chief of Staff Debbie Berkowitz answered numerous questions about developing effective safety and health programs, ranging from process safety management in refineries to accessing OSHA's online e-tools and other resources.

A New Strategy to Reduce Poverty



Center for American Progress President John Podesta welcomed Secretary Solis and nearly 200 attendees this week to the "Half in Ten"

campaign's inaugural report release event in Washington, D.C. The report presents a new framework to measure progress toward reducing poverty and expanding economic opportunities for Americans. Solis said, "I applaud 'Half in Ten' for not endorsing half-measures. You think big, and you challenge America's leaders to do big things. Cutting the poverty rate in half in 10 years is something we can do."

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Remarks](#)

Web Chat for SGA Feedback

Earlier this month, the Employment and Training Administration's Division of Strategic Investments held a series of web chats to solicit public comments about the first Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grants Program. More than 200 individuals joined the hour-long discussions, providing comments and feedback for future grant programs.

underground coal mine in Harlan County, Ky. Because smoking materials provide a potential ignition source in the presence of loose coal and coal dust, mine inspectors issued an imminent danger order requiring the immediate removal of miners from that area. The infraction was one of 374 violations found at the 18 coal and two metal/nonmetal mines targeted in the blitz. "The closure order is still one of the most effective tools inspectors have to bring about compliance, even during impact inspections," said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. "We will not hesitate to use this and other enforcement tools to protect the nation's miners."

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Impact Inspection List](#)

Simplifying Union Reporting for Transparency, Accountability

The Office of Labor-Management Standards has made final changes that simplify conflict of interest reports filed by union officials. The changes to the Form LM-30 will reduce paperwork and make it easier for union members and the public to access the information they need. As required by law, union officials must disclose payments and interests that involve actual or likely conflicts between the official's personal financial interests and his or her duties to the union. The change becomes effective on Nov. 25, 2011, and will apply to reports required by union officials with fiscal years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2012.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Learn More About LM-30](#)
- [Read the Blog Entry](#)

DOL/SEC Release No-Action Letter on 401(K) Rule

The Securities and Exchange Commission has released a "no-action" letter relating to the Employee Benefits Security Administration's participant-level fee disclosure regulation and SEC's Rule 482 under the Securities Act of 1933. The letter addresses concerns about potential differences between the department's participant disclosure requirements and the SEC rules on advertising that may apply to plan investment options. This is an example of the ongoing coordination among the agencies around current and upcoming rulemaking and regulatory activities related to pension plans.

- [Read the News Release](#)

DOL Working for You

Laid-off Worker Finds Legal Job through TAA



Having been laid off from several textile manufacturing jobs during her career, Anita Sheppard felt the title of her life story was "three strikes and you're out." Because of the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, that title now reads "the fourth time is the charm." With tuition help from the Virginia Employment Commission, Sheppard, 48, enrolled in the paralegal program offered by Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville, Va. She graduated with an associate degree in applied science and legal assisting. During her studies, Sheppard interned in the Henry County, Va., circuit court. Her hard work and determination led to a full-time position in her "dream job" as a deputy clerk. "I got to go to college and learn a whole new career because of TAA," Sheppard said.

Solis Makes a "One Stop" In Virginia

Secretary Solis and Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Administration Jane Oates toured the Falls Church, Va., SkillSource "One Stop"



Career Center last week. They met with job seekers taking advantage of the skills assessment, career training, job search and placement services available. They also met with staff members and CEO David Hunn of The SkillSource Group — the non-profit arm of the Northern Virginia Workforce System that administers "One Stop" Career Centers throughout Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Women's Bureau To Host Veterans Conference in Kansas City

The Women's Bureau will co-sponsor a regional conference to connect women veterans with resources, services and employment information from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT on Friday, Oct. 28, and from 8 a.m. to noon CDT on Saturday, Oct. 29. The conference will be held at Macedonia Baptist Church at 1700 E. Linwood Blvd. in Kansas City, Mo. The theme is "Women Veterans as Change Agents for the Future." There will be speakers, workshops, free legal services and health screenings, as well as explanations of veterans' benefits. The conference also will include a job fair, with job search and resume writing assistance.

PBGC Board Meets



Secretary Solis hosted the Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation Board of Directors' meeting Wednesday at the Department of Labor. The PBGC

protects the retirement incomes of more than 44 million American workers in more than 27,500 private-sector defined benefit pension plans. Its Board of Directors consists of the Secretaries of Labor, Commerce and Treasury, with Secretary Solis serving as chair.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Better Advice

The Employee Benefits Security Administration is

Self-Employment Program Helps Sculptor Mold New Business

Although Shawn Slother was "devastated" when his sculpting job of six years was eliminated by his company's move to Canada, the DOL-funded Self-Employment Assistance Program (SEAP) helped him create a successful small business crafting memorial portraits, sculptures and awards for private individuals and businesses. Through the New York State SEAP Program, Slother, 43, learned about accounting, marketing and business-plan writing. He received small business startup advice from volunteer entrepreneurs and his business, Sculpture Portraits, in Sanborn, N.Y., is thriving. Among Slother's recent work was the creation of gift medallions commemorating the recently dedicated Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial. Slother called the SEAP program "a hidden resource" which allowed him to successfully "start a business and establish a client base."



DOL in Action

Beef Packers to Pay \$600,000 for Hiring Discrimination

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs announced that federal contractor Caviness Beef Packers doing business as Palo Duro Meat Processing Inc. in Amarillo and Caviness Packing Co. in Hereford, Texas, has agreed to a settlement resolving findings of hiring discrimination. "The law is clear," said OFCCP Director Patricia Shiu. "Discrimination will not be tolerated by employers who profit from lucrative government contracts." Compliance reviews of both plants found that qualified applicants did not receive equal consideration for employment regarding their sex, race, color, religion or national origin, violating Executive Order 11246. Under a conciliation agreement, Caviness Beef Packers will pay \$600,000 to 746 identified class members, including back wages and interest, and extend at least 81 offers of employment as positions become available.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Grain Elevator Operator Cited Following Bin Entrapment

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Corpus Christi Grain Co. for willful and serious violations after an employee emptying grain from a storage bin became engulfed at the company's worksite. The willful violations include failing to provide personal protective equipment, such as a body harness and lifeline, and failing to perform "lockout-tagout" procedures for the energy sources for equipment, such as augers and conveyors. Due to the exceptional efforts of the Corpus Christi Fire Department, the employee was rescued. Proposed penalties total \$258,900.

- [Read the News Release](#)

4M Youth Services Security Officers to Receive Overtime Back Wages

Rockdale, Texas-based 4M Youth Services Inc. has agreed to pay \$159,412 in overtime back wages to 280 security officers who worked at the company's Rockdale and Granbury facilities. An investigation by the Wage and Hour Division found overtime and recordkeeping violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Investigators determined that the company failed to pay security officers for daily pre-shift safety meetings they were required to attend and failed to maintain required records.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Engineering Firm Cited for Trenching Hazards in Miami

American Engineering and Development Corp. has been cited for six safety violations including one repeat citation after the Occupational Safety and

enhancing retirement security by improving workers' access to high-quality fiduciary investment advice. A new regulation allows financial companies that manage 401(k) and similar plans, or individual retirement accounts, more flexibility in offering investment guidance to plan sponsors and workers. Such companies will be able to offer advice either by using unbiased computer models or by hiring advisers that are compensated on a "level-fee" basis, meaning that the fees do not vary based on investments selected. "Given the rise in participation in 401(k)-type plans and IRAs, the retirement security of millions of America's workers increasingly depends on their investment decisions," said EBSA Assistant Secretary Phyllis C. Borzi. "This rule will make high-quality fiduciary investment advice more accessible while providing important safeguards to minimize potential conflicts of interest."

- [Read the News Release](#)

Labor Solicitor Talks Labor Law

Solicitor of Labor M. Patricia Smith participated in the 38th Annual Robert Fuchs Labor Law Conference at Suffolk University Law School in Boston, Mass., last week. She spoke to an audience of nearly 200 labor lawyers about the department's policies and enforcement initiatives and how DOL is applying innovative solutions to address the challenges created by changing employment practices. Solicitor Smith was introduced by Michael Felsen, the department's Regional Solicitor in Boston.

The Future of Work Is Now

The AFL-CIO's Future of Work Forum in Washington on October 20, featured keynote remarks by Secretary Solis. There, she addressed a room



full of enthusiastic taxi drivers, domestic workers, nurses and writers who are helping to lead their fellow workers in the fight for more equitable workplaces. Secretary Solis urged them to continue their efforts to work together to help protect America's middle-class.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Oates Talks Up Green Jobs at GWU

The George Washington University School of Business played host this week to a roundtable discussion on sustainability and economic growth

Health Administration inspected the company's job site. OSHA opened its inspection following a referral about trenching hazards at the Miami site. Proposed penalties total \$69,300.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [More on Trenching and Excavation Hazards](#)

Department Obtains Back Wages for H-1B Visa Workers in 15 States

Health care staffing agency Jackson Therapy Partners, based in Orlando, Fla., has paid \$134,073 in back wages to 40 workers hired as physical and occupational therapists under the H-1B program. Wage and Hour Division investigators found that the employer failed to pay the workers the required wage rate between the time they arrived in the United States and when they reported to their temporary work sites in Alabama, California, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and West Virginia.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Western Municipal Construction Cited for Trench Cave-in Hazards

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Western Municipal Construction Inc. in Billings, Mt., for one willful and five serious violations following two separate inspections of work sites in Billings and Great Falls. In each instance, workers were exposed to possible trench cave-ins. Proposed fines for both inspections total \$73,920.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Former Union Officer Sentenced for Embezzling Union Funds

Nichelle Alstatt, former secretary-treasurer of the Professional Office Personnel Alliance in Las Vegas, Nev., was sentenced to five years probation and community service following her conviction on charges of embezzling union funds. Alstatt also was ordered to pay \$51,613 in restitution. Alstatt previously pled guilty to one count of embezzlement and two counts of making false entries in required records and reports. She misappropriated the money from the union's bank account by using her bank-issued union debit card for unauthorized personal purchases and cash withdrawals. To conceal her activities, Alstatt altered the union's financial records and created false reports for the executive board and members.

Campbell Road Sawmill Cited After Worker Killed

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Campbell Road Sawmill for nine safety and health violations in the fatal injury of a worker. The victim died after being struck on the head by a tree while performing logging operations in Archbold, Ohio. Proposed fines total \$27,500. The serious violations were issued for the company's failure to provide leg protection, as well as the failure to mandate eye protection, evaluate hazardous conditions and establish a clear retreat path during logging operations. The company was also fined for allowing trees to be cut down in a manner that created hazards for workers.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Central Transport International Cited for Repeat Safety Violations

Central Transport International Inc., was cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for two repeat safety violations at the company's Omaha, Neb., facility, including allowing workers to operate unsafe forklifts and failing to provide proper eyewash facilities for workers exposed to corrosive chemicals. Proposed penalties total \$114,000. OSHA's Omaha Area office initiated its inspection as part of a local emphasis program on the

featuring Employment and Training Administration Assistant Secretary Jane Oates. She was joined by other government leaders, industry representatives and advocates to discuss the role green industries are playing in the nation's economic recovery. Veteran journalist Frank Sesno led the discussion as part of Planet Forward, an innovative project designed to create a dynamic public square. The discussion will help guide a nationally televised Planet Forward special to be taped for Earth Day 2012.

- [Visit Planet Forward](#)

Inspiring Financial Empowerment



Women's Bureau Director Sara Manzano-Diaz participated in the first annual "Women's Economic Empowerment

Summit" hosted by U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand in coordination with New York University last week. The event attracted more than 500 women who ranged from experienced business owners to recent college graduates. Participants spoke with some of the nation's leading women about the opportunities and challenges faced in achieving financial security. Panelists and speakers from the White House Project, Chamber of Commerce, Glamour Magazine and Today Show shared insights on how women can strengthen their economic futures. The summit's goal was to inspire a new generation of leaders to help advance America's economic recovery.

- [Read the Women's Bureau Blog](#)

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

Check out the grant opportunities with DOL.

- [Open Funding Opportunities](#)

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: Help From OWCP

Honoring the service and sacrifices made by nuclear weapons workers across the United States, this Sunday will mark the third annual National Day of Remembrance. Next week, the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs will be visiting Albuquerque, N.M., and Cincinnati, Ohio, to provide former nuclear weapons workers of Sandia National Laboratories and General Electric Co. with information about new classes of employees recently added to the Special Exposure Cohort of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program

handling of motorized equipment in general industry and construction.

- [Read the News Release](#)

California Gets \$7.5 Million to Continue Storm Cleanup

The Department of Labor awarded a \$7.5 million National Emergency Grant to the California Employment Development Department to continue cleanup and recovery efforts in the aftermath of severe storms that struck California last December and January. "Last winter's storms wreaked havoc in California, causing floods, mud flows and damage throughout the state," Secretary Solis said. "Recovery does not happen overnight, and the Obama administration is committed to helping these communities rebuild. This continued assistance will fund temporary jobs for eligible dislocated workers who will help repair public facilities."

- [Read the News Release](#)

Mississippi Plant Cited for Amputation Hazards

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Grenada Stamping and Assembly Inc., doing business as Ice Industries Grenada, for 26 safety violations carrying proposed fines of \$113,400. In April, OSHA officials opened an inspection at the facility under the agency's national emphasis program on amputations after learning of a work-related amputation.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Child Labor Penalties Upheld After Underage Worker's Death

U.S. Department of Labor Chief Administrative Law Judge Stephen L. Purcell has upheld civil money penalties of \$100,000 assessed by the Wage and Hour Division against Progressive Protein LLC of Omaha, Neb., after a 17-year-old worker was killed in May 2009 at a company meat rendering plant. The minor was operating a forklift and working at the plant in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act's child labor provisions. This was the first hearing conducted as part of the Wage and Hour Division's Child Labor Enhanced Penalty Program. Established under the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, the law allows the Labor Department to assess greater penalties in cases involving violations of child labor provisions that cause the death or serious injury of a minor.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Commission Upholds OSHA Citations in Connecticut

The independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission has upheld citations for willful and serious violations and \$137,200 in fines issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to Sand Cut Properties LLC. The Danbury, Conn., company allowed an employee to work in a collapsing six- to nine-foot-deep excavation that lacked cave-in protection and had piles of excavated materials overhanging its edge, as well as water seeping into its bottom. The company contested the willful violations and accompanying fines to the review commission. Administrative Law Judge Dennis L. Phillips issued a decision affirming the citations and ordering Sand Cut Properties to pay the fines.

- [Read the News Release](#)

New Hampshire Hotel Workers Receive Back Wages

The Wage and Hour Division has recovered \$71,809 in minimum wage and overtime back wages for 48 workers jointly employed by GHM Wentworth LLC, doing business as Wentworth by the Sea Hotel in New Castle, and contractor Eco-Clean New England Inc., doing business as The Cleaning Crew in Londonderry. Wentworth contracted its housekeeping and kitchen work through Eco-Clean; consequently, the companies were jointly responsible for ensuring compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act. The wage recovery benefits low-wage and vulnerable workers, many of whom

Act. The EEOICPA provides compensation and medical benefits to workers who became ill as a result of working in the nuclear weapons industry. Town hall meetings will be held in Albuquerque for former Sandia employees on Nov. 1 and in Cincinnati for former General Electric workers on Nov. 2.

DEEOIC — Town Hall Meetings to Assist Nuclear Weapons Workers

- [November 1 — Albuquerque, NM](#)
- [November 2 — Cincinnati, OH](#)

CFBNP – Job Clubs Symposium: On the Front Lines of Getting Americans Back to Work

- [November 9 — Cleveland, OH](#)

MSHA — 6th Annual Southeast Mine Safety and Health Conference

- [November 8-10 — Hoover, AL](#)

OFCCP — The ABC's of the AAP

- [November 16 — Los Angeles, CA](#)

OFCCP — AAP Development & Preparing for a Desk Audit

- [November 18 — Los Angeles, CA](#)

OFCCP — Boston Career Fair

- [November 7 — Boston, MA](#)

OFCCP — Building Partnerships for the Community

- [November 4 — Charlotte, NC](#)
- [November 10 — Memphis, TN](#)
- [November 17 — Memphis, TN](#)
- [November 17 — Miami, FL](#)
- [December 1 — Memphis, TN](#)
- [December 1 — Charlotte, NC](#)
- [December 8 — Memphis, TN](#)
- [December 15 — Memphis, TN](#)
- [December 22 — Memphis, TN](#)

OFCCP — Coast to Coast Career Fairs

- [November 7 — Boston, MA](#)

OFCCP — Protecting American Workers

- [November 10 — Santa Barbara, CA](#)

OFCCP — Veterans Linkage Forum

- [November 16 — Los Angeles, CA](#)

OSHA — Informal Stakeholder Meeting on Occupational Hearing Loss

commuted more than 120 miles daily between the Boston area and New Castle. GHM Wentworth Inc. has agreed to pay all back wages due, maintain future compliance with the FLSA and ensure full compliance by all contractors with which it has a joint employment relationship.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the News Release](#) Español

OSHA Cites Boston Contractor for Cave-in Hazards

The department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Walsh Corp., a contractor based in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood, for alleged willful and serious violations of workplace safety standards for failing to protect an employee against cave-in and "struck-by" hazards at a Hanover work site. The contractor was installing a water main when an OSHA inspector observed an employee working in an unprotected straight-walled trench more than 5 feet deep that lacked protection to keep its walls from caving in. The pavement around the trench was crumbling and lacked support to prevent it from falling onto workers, and there was no ladder or other safe means of exit from the trench. Walsh Corp. faces \$161,000 in proposed fines.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Bridgestone Subsidiary Settles With MSHA Over Quarry Retaliation Suit

The Mine Safety and Health Administration has a long-established policy that employees should not fear retaliation for reporting safety concerns. MSHA has reached a settlement with GCR Tire Centers, a wholly-owned Bridgestone Tires subsidiary, after filing a formal discrimination complaint on behalf of an employee who was terminated by GCR Tire Centers when he complained about unsafe work practices at the Notasulga Quarry in Lee County, Ala. The settlement requires the company to pay an undisclosed amount in compensation to the employee and provide training to GCR employees on the applicable sections of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Surface Transportation Assistance Act. "Federal law and safe mining practices require that employees be free to file a complaint without fear of retaliation when they see unsafe working conditions," said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. "This settlement reaffirms those principles."

- [Read the News Release](#)

Citations Issued After Workplace Fatality at Kansas Plastics Firm

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Formation Plastics Inc. in Quinter, Kan., for one serious and three willful safety and health violations after a worker was fatally crushed between a press mold and the machine's outer structure. Proposed penalties for the violations total \$217,000. "It is unthinkable that an employer would allow employees to work in and around dangerous equipment that lacked machine guarding as well as appropriate 'lockout/tagout' procedures to control the energy source," said Charles E. Adkins, OSHA's regional administrator in Kansas City, Mo.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Oklahoma City Roofing, Construction Workers to Receive Back Wages

The Wage and Hour Division has recovered \$74,100 for 100 employees of Mid-America Roofing & Construction Inc. of Oklahoma City after an investigation found overtime violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Employees were paid "straight time" rather than time and one-half their regular rates of pay for time spent traveling from the company to the job

[November 3 — Washington, DC](#)

WHD — Thai Restaurant Worker's Rights Seminar

- [November 2 — Los Angeles, CA](#)

Follow USDOL on 

- Occupational Employment Statistics Challenge Data Visualization Winners Announced! <http://t.co/iOYUvFkv> [about 5 hours ago](#)
- Winners announced in DOL informACTION App Challenge! <http://t.co/ZnSN5UOx> [about 5 hours ago](#)

site, even if the travel time went beyond 40 hours in a workweek. "This company profited from having employees work overtime without paying proper wages. All employees, especially those performing difficult jobs for low wages, deserve full and fair compensation for all hours worked," said Cynthia Watson, regional administrator for the Wage and Hour division in the Southwest.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the News Release](#) Español

OSHA Cites Georgia Sewing Contractor for Serious Violations

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Dacorp Inc. for 17 safety violations at its Morganton, Ga., plant, including obstructed exit routes and electrical hazards. Proposed penalties total \$46,900. "Our inspection found serious hazards that reflect management's neglect of maintenance and safety procedures. Employees have the right to expect a workplace free of hazards that could endanger their lives," said William Fulcher, director of OSHA's Atlanta-East Area Office.

- [Read the News Release](#)

[Previous Issues](#) | [Follow us on Twitter](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Send Feedback](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

U.S. Department of Labor, Frances Perkins Building, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210
www.dol.gov | Telephone: 1-866-4-USA-DOL (1-866-487-2365) (1-866-487-2365) | TTY: 1-877-889-5627 | [Contact Us](#)