For three weeks in a row union construction workers have protested the use of out-of-state companies and workers at a New Martinsville site in Wetzel County.

The site of the protest is a staging area used by Holloman Corporation of Texas. Holloman is working on two compressor stations for Chesapeake Energy.

One project is in Wetzel County and the other is nearby in Marshall County.

Two crafts unions, Ironworkers Local 549 and Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 83 have taken the lead to set up the protests.

But members from most, if not all, of the crafts affiliated with the Upper Ohio Building Trades Council have participated.

“Our message is simple,” said Keith Hughes, Business Manager of Iron Workers 549.

“We want Local workers to be doing the construction work building the Marcellus shale projects in our area.”

According to Hughes the public support has been outstanding.

And many people are joining the demonstrations and asking what they can do to help.

The first protest was held on August 26 with just a handful of members. The

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**EXECUTIVE PAY SKYROCKETS AS LABOR APPROVAL DECLINES**

PUBLIC STILL APPROVES OF LABOR UNIONS BY SLIM MARGIN ACCORDING TO GALLUP

A recent Gallup poll shows American still approve of Labor Union, but only by a slight margin. According to a national poll conducted August 5-8, 52% of Americans say they approve of labor union. While the number is up from 48% last year it is a far cry from the 72% approval rate unions had when the poll was first taken in 1936. Not surprising, unions fair better when talking to Democrats – 71%, as compared to Republicans – 34%.

While public approval of
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**PROTEST CONTINUED FROM P. 1**

most recent protest, Thursday, September 9, had more than 50 craft workers and a dozen members of the general public.

Holloman has over 100 construction workers employed at the two sites and, according to ACT Representative Walter “Fuzz” LaRue, most from out-of-state.

“We’ve built industrial facilities all across the state for years,” said Jeff Beresford, Business Manager for Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 83. “We have the workers right here with the skills to do these jobs, and with high unemployment these jobs are needed now more than ever.”

The protest follows actions taken by the Operating Engineers and Laborers in Harrison County during the Spring and Summer of this year. Leadcor of Canada was hired to install 14 miles of 20 inch pipeline for a Texas company Energy Transfer. More than 250 out-of-state workers were brought in for the project. The Operating Engineers and Laborers, along with Pipeline Welders manned a protest daily for many months.

ACT has created a new TV commercial calling for local workers on the Marcellus projects. In addition newspaper ads in the protest areas are drawing attention to the jobs lost to local workers and given instead to out-of-state companies and workers.

A March study by the US Department of Energy estimated the value of gas extracted from the Marcellus Shale area by the year 2020 will be around $200 billion.

实际 they won’t be your neighbors for long. Not long enough to enroll their kids in school, join a church or get a frequent shopper card at the local grocery store.

They’re in Wetzel and Marshall Counties to build two compressor stations for natural gas. These workers could move from here to another spot in West Virginia because our state sits on top of a huge source of natural gas called the Marcellus Shale.

Holloman Corporation of Texas has imported a majority of the projects’ workers from places as far away as Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

How many jobs are we losing in West Virginia?

With more than 13 percent unemployment in our area, those local jobs should go to skilled, local workers who are ready, willing and able to do this work.

**Say “hello” to your new neighbors**

We have a chance to do this right.

Let West Virginia workers build the natural gas industry of the future – today.

www.actwv.org

THIS AD AND one similar is being published in protest area newspapers to draw attention to the out-of-state workers taking jobs local workers can do and need.
Despite a low voter turn-out Governor Joe Manchin easily won the special Democratic Primary election held on Saturday, August 28.

Labor endorsed-Manchin will face Republican John Raese in November to see who will replace Senator Robert C. Byrd as U.S. Senator. The winner will serve until 2012, the end of Byrd’s term.

A number of other political races are starting to heat up as Labor Day has passed.

Democratic Congressman Nick Joe Rahall is under fire from former Supreme Court Justice Elliot ‘Spike’ Maynard. Maynard is attacking Rahall claiming he has not supported coal enough.

But Rahall has shown his track record for supporting not only the coal industry but workers and their families.

Maynard lost his re-election bid for the WV Supreme Court in 2008 when his close relationship with Massey Energy executive Don Blankenship was revealed.

The two had taken a vacation together on the French Riviera but Maynard had declined from standing aside when a $70 million case involving Massey came before the court.

Only when photos of the two became public did Maynard remove himself from further Massey cases.

“On important issues like Davis-Bacon and prevailing wage, a workers right to join a union, and supporting investment in clean coal technology Congressman Rahall has always been a true friend of the Trades,” said Steve Burton, President of the WV State Building Trades.

On the state level all 100 House of Delegates position are on the ballot as well as 18 Senate races.

A two-year term for Supreme Court, the position held by former Justice Joe Albright, is also on the ballot.

After Albright passed away Governor Manchin appointed former Supreme Court Judge Tom McHugh to the position until this next election cycle.

McHugh has been endorsed by Labor and if elected would serve until 2012, the remainder of the term Albright had been elected to.

October 12 is the last day to register to be able to vote in the November 2 election. Early voting begins on the following day, October 13.

Their retirement benefits alone increased 23 percent.

Since 1980 the gap between the average worker’s pay and top executive pay has increase from around 40 times to over 300 times.

“The gap between the pay of average workers and top executives has grown as public opinion of labor unions has declined,” said Dave Efw of the State Building Trades.

CARRYING A “Local Jobs for Local Workers” banner in the Paden City Labor Day Parade are family members of Insulators Local 2. The Paden City event in Wetzel County is one of the oldest Labor Day events in West Virginia.
ELECTION ENDS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

2010 SPECIAL AND GENERAL ELECTION
WV AFL-CIO COPE ENDORSEMENT RESULTS

The West Virginia AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE) met in August to complete endorsements for candidates in the November elections.

Candidates must first complete a questionnaire regarding labor issues. Candidates are then interviewed by local committees, organized by Central Labor Councils, about their questionnaire response and, if already in office, their voting record. If a candidate does not fill out the questionnaire they are not eligible for an interview or endorsement. The interview committees are volunteers from various unions of the area.

Some examples of issues on the Labor questionnaire ask a candidates position on prevailing wages laws, health care, workers compensation, a workers right to join a union, issues effecting public employees such as teachers, state troopers and others.

In addition the WV AFL-CIO keeps a voting scorecard on Labor issues for all legislators while they are in the Legislature. A score-card issue must be approved by the COPE executive committee before being considered a Labor vote.

The Central Labor Councils then report their recommendations to State COPE where delegates vote to endorse, not endorse, or take no action. A vote to take ‘no action’ means the WV AFL-CIO will not endorse but member unions are free to do so if they want.

It takes a 2/3 vote for an endorsement. Below are the results.

WV AFL-CIO COPE Endorsed Candidates

U.S. Senate Special Election
Joe Manchin III

U.S. House of Representatives
2nd District ... Virginia Graf
3rd District .... Nick Rahall

Supreme Court of Appeals
Thomas E. McHugh

State Senate
1st .... Orphy Klempa
2nd .... Larry Edgell
6th .... H. Truman Chafin
9th .... Mike Green
10th ... Ron Miller
12th ... Joe Minard
14th ... Steven Shaffer
16th ... John Unger
17th .... Brooks McCabe

House of Delegates
1st .... Randy Swartzmiller
2nd .... Tim Ennis
Roy Givens
3rd..... Shawn Fluhaft, Erika Storch
4th...... Michael Ferro, Scott Varner
5th.... Dave Pethel
9th.... Jim Marion
10th... Dan Poling, John Eleem

House of Delegates
12th.....Jo Boggess Phillips
13th.....Dale Martin,
Brady Paxton
14th.....Cathy Lark
15th... Jim Morgan,
Matthew Woeifel
16th... Dale Stephens,
Doug Reynolds
17th ... Don Perdue,
Richard Thompson
18th ... Larry Barker
19th ... Greg Butcher,
Josh Stowers
21st.....Harry Keith White
22nd....Daniel J. Hall
Linda Goode Phillips
23rd.....Cliff Moore
25th.....John Frazier,
Bill Moorefield
27th...Virginia Mahan,
Mel Kessler,
Ricky Moe,
Sally Susman,
Bill Wooton
28th....Thomas Campbell,
Ray Canterbury
29th......David Perry,
Margaret Staggers
30th.....Bonnie Brown,
Doug Skaff Jr,
Nancy Guthrie,
Bobbie Hatfield,
Mark Hunt,
Sharon Spencer,
Danny Wells

House of Delegates
31st......Meshea Poore
32nd... Scott Lavigne
33rd......David Walker
34th......Brent Boggs
35th......Sam Argento
36th......Joe Talbott
37th......Denise Campbell
38th ... Peggy Donaldson Smith
39th......Bill Hamilton
40th......Mary Poling
41st......Ron Fragale,
Richard Iaquinta,
Tim Miley
42nd ......Michael Manypenny
43rd......Mike Caputo,
Linda Longstreth,
Timothy Manchin
44th......Barbara Fleischauer,
Charlene Marshall,
Steve Cook,
Anthony Barill
45th ......Larry Williams
46th......Stan Shaver
49th ......Charles Messick
50th......Ruth Rowan
52nd ... Mike Roberts
53rd ... Robert V. Mills
55th .... Donn E. Marshall
56th .... Terry L. Walker
58th .... Tiffany Lawrence

Last day to register -
Tuesday, October 12
Early voting begins -
Wednesday, October 13