

USW officials warn continued BP lockout brings investor risk

By Maya Wilkins
POST-TRIBUNE

United Steelworkers leaders said Wednesday that BP's more than four month long lockout at its Whiting refinery reflects broader environmental, social and governance concerns with the company. USW, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations and IndustriALL Global Union all called on investors to talk with BP's leadership and end the lockout during a Wednesday morning webinar.

"Understand that this is not a strike," said Carin Zelinko, director of capital strategies for AFL-CIO. "The company chose to lock out experienced refinery workers on March 19, even as global energy markets were experiencing extreme turmoil from a war in Iran that began only three weeks earlier. At that time, national average retail gasoline prices were already soaring."

The groups also published an online brief detailing their concerns that can be found on the

USW's website. In its brief, the groups outline their governance and environmental concerns. According to the brief, BP has had three CEOs and three board chairs in the past three years, and it's faced criticism from major investors and proxy advisors. It also claims that the company has received criticism for restricting shareholder rights, and the lockout demonstrates "a willingness to ignore the concerns of employees."

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Looking toward the Whiting BP refinery from the seventh floor of Calumet College's main academic building after a grand opening was held in Whiting on June 4. **ANDY LAVALLEY/FOR THE POST-TRIBUNE**



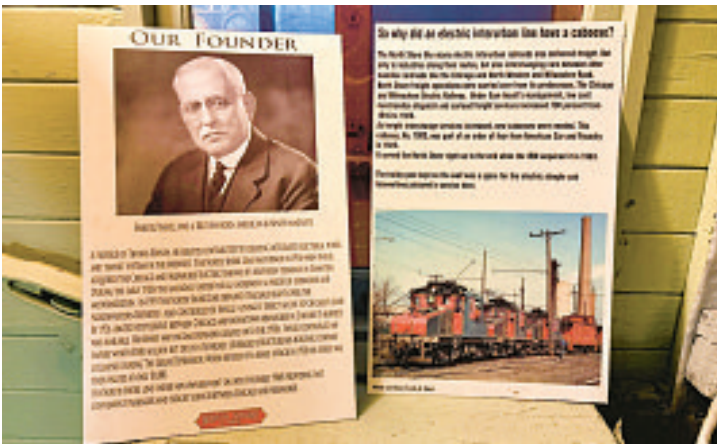
Illinois Railway Museum President Zachary Ehlers, left, discusses Illinois Central car 1380, built by Pullman in 1926, with Cesar Guajardo, of Calumet City, Illinois state legislative representative for the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen. "This is the only intact set from the electrification in 1926," Ehlers said. The museum plans to run the cars in September. They were purchased for \$3,000 in summer 1972 after they were retired that March. **DOUG ROSS/FOR THE POST-TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

Century of power

Illinois Central electrification still drives South Shore 100 years running

By Doug Ross
FOR THE POST-TRIBUNE

This weekend's Pullman Railroad Days event marks a celebration of a century-old decision that brought about a boom in ridership for the South Shore Line. The railroad is participating in an event at Pullman National Historical Park in Chicago that marks the 100th anniversary last Tuesday of the electrification of the Illinois Central trains. South Shore Line riders are used to the shiny silver trains with orange stripes built by Nippon Sharyo after the North-



Samuel Insull transformed the South Shore Line a century ago, switching its cars from AC to DC power so they could run all the way to downtown Chicago via the Illinois Central, now Metra Electric, tracks. ern Indiana Commuter Transportation District was created in 1977 to rescue the commuter rail line. Longtime riders will remember the orange cars that rattled along the rails before that. Those cars were built as a direct result of the Illinois Central electrification. Norman Carlson, president and

managing editor of the Shore Line Interurban Historical Society, is the unofficial historian for the South Shore Line. "I'll be either here, there or everywhere" at the Pullman event, he said. Before the Illinois Central cars were electrified to run on 1,500 volts of DC power, the South Shore Line ran on 660 volts of AC power. Electricity was the driving force, in more ways than one, of those trains. Carlson interviewed Samuel Insull Jr. in 1978 to get perspective on Insull's father's imprint on the railroads and Northwest Indiana. The railroads were part of Insull's plan to build demand for electricity, which Insull provided. Insull's Commonwealth Edison acquired Chicago Rapid Transit Co. after it couldn't pay its electric bills.

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NWI loses civil rights champion

Chubb remembered as fighter for justice

By Doug Ross
FOR THE POST-TRIBUNE

Political activist Deborah "Deb" Chubb, 63, who died Tuesday of cancer, is being remembered as a vigorous champion of civil rights. "I've probably known her for about nine years. She was a fabulous person, but she was also one of the fiercest fighters for women's rights that I've even known," Indivisible NWI President Kim Eldridge said. "Anything going on with women's rights and civil rights, she was a fountain of information," she said. "She countless times did workshops for us or spoke for our events about women's rights."

Even during Chubb's cancer journey, she would reach out to see how things were going, Eldridge said. "She was just a fabulous person and a tireless person for civil rights," she said. "She was a role model, and she was a mentor," Eldridge said. "I knew it was coming, but it doesn't make it any easier."

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Deb Chubb, of Michigan City, executive director at Indiana Women's Action Movement Inc., attends an abortion rights rally at the statehouse in Indianapolis in 2022. Chubb died Tuesday. **MICHAEL GARD/POST-TRIBUNE**

INDOT, Porter looking at safety improvements

By Jim Woods
FOR THE POST-TRIBUNE

U.S. 12 and 20 present some challenging intersections for motorists as they wind through the town of Porter. For those who drive to Porter Beach on Waverly Road, crash data supports that the crossing at U.S. 12 is the most dangerous intersection in town. Sightlines for motorists traveling north on Waverly Road are difficult because eastbound traffic on U.S. 12 is coming fast out of a curve. Traffic

from the Cleveland-Cliffs plant off U.S. 12 can be heavy at times during the day. The Indiana Department of Transportation recognizes the issue and is in the midst of installing flashers, officially known as an Intersection Conflict Warning System, said Cassie Bajek, an INDOT spokeswoman. The way it works is that the flashing lights on both sides of Waverly Road will alert motorists about approaching vehicles on U.S. 12.

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A new warning sign is being installed at the intersection of Waverly Road and U.S. 12. **JIM WOODS/FOR THE POST-TRIBUNE**

East Porter mourns school board member

By Alexandra Kukulka
POST-TRIBUNE

East Porter County School Corporation Board member Natalie Bowersock was remembered by colleagues on Thursday as "deeply committed" and "passionate" about education and her family. Bowersock died Wednesday, her family and school officials confirmed. Her cause of death wasn't immediately known. She is survived by her husband, Scott, and four young children.

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The family has set up a fund-raising page to help Bowersock's husband pay for funeral costs and outstanding medical expenses. "Natalie was a beautiful light in the lives of her family and her many wonderful friends. Her loss has left all who knew and loved her heartbroken," according to the GoFundMe page. "The days ahead will be challenging as Scott and his family navigate the emotional and financial burdens that come with such a sudden loss."