

# The Tri-Cities Worker

Voice for a New Tri-Cities ★ Voice for a New Tri-Cities ★ Voice for a New Tri-Cities

## January: A Month of Fascism

It has only been one month since the start of 2026, and one year since the start of Trump's 2nd term, but the U.S. has already been plunged into new depths of Fascist depravity and terrorism. On the eve of the New Year, an ICE terrorist executed Keith Porter, a father of two. Three days into January, the U.S. illegally invaded Venezuela, kidnapped its president, murdered over one hundred civilians and combatants, and have since established direct corporate authority over Venezuela's oil. The U.S. has since begun targeting Cuba, Colombia, Mexico, and Greenland for similar invasions and occupations. U.S. interests in Greenland, in particular, threaten to destroy the last vestige of "international order" established by NATO, and between the U.S., Canada, and Europe. On the 7th of January, ICE executed Renee Nicole Good, a mother and lesbian, in front of her wife and neighbors, as she was defending her neighborhood against Operation Metro Surge, which began in the Twin Cities in December but has since expanded to all of Minnesota.

The state has erupted in spontaneous rebellion, just as it did when George Floyd was murdered in Minneapolis, a block away from Renee. And the Democrats are using the same tactics as before, simultaneously attempting to co-opt the movement into "peace," while not hesitating to employ their own Fascism against protesters in defense of ICE and the Trump regime. Riot police are being constantly mobilized in the streets, protecting ICE as they deploy internationally-banned chemical weapons against the masses. After Trump threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act, which was last used by Bill Clinton in response to the Rodney King Uprising, MN Gov. Tim Walz, Harris' former running-mate, has deployed the National Guard, and Trump is preparing to send in military police.

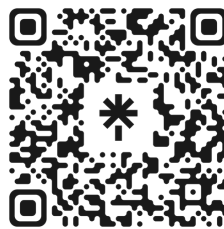
Just a day after Renee was executed by ICE terrorist Jonathan Ross, a CPB agent shot two Venezuelans in Portland, Luis David Nico Moncada and Yorlenys Betzabeth Zambrano-Contreras. Six days after that, on Jan. 14th, ICE shot another Venezuelan, Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis, in Minneapolis as he was attempting to flee an attempted kidnapping. The terror in Minneapolis has only become more widespread and indiscriminate, as the Trump administration pledges "absolute immunity" for DHS terrorists and their crimes. On Jan. 17th, a family of six were intentionally tear-gassed in their cars by ICE as they were simply driving down the road, which caused their infant baby to temporarily suffocate and stop breathing from the noxious fumes.

On Jan. 22th, the Trump administration and its international collaborators ratified the "Board of Peace," a U.S.-puppet replacement for the UN, which will rule over Gaza during its "ceasefire" and complete the ethnic

cleansing and genocide of Palestine. New reports have confirmed that over 600,000 Palestinians, including 400,000 children, have been murdered in the U.S.-Zionist genocide since Oct. 7th, 2023. Around the same time, the Trump regime announced its intention to invade Iran by sea, using the genocide of protestors by the Iranian State as justification, despite the fact that the U.S. is committing its own genocide against protestors, immigrants, trans people, and Palestinians. On Jan. 24th, yet another civilian and legal observer, Alex Pretti, was executed in broad daylight by ICE in Minneapolis. As he was defending a woman from brutalization, Pretti was dogpiled, disarmed, and then shot ten times in the chest.

In January alone, at least eight people have been murdered by ICE, including six detainees. More than 70,000 people are now being detained in ICE concentration camps. The National Guard remain deployed or on standby in four cities: Memphis, New Orleans, Minneapolis, and D.C. From December to January, DHS launched a staggering six ongoing, large-scale kidnapping and deportation operations: Operation Metro Surge in the Twin Cities and Minnesota, Operation Swamp Sweep/Catahoula Crunch in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Mississippi, Operation Salvo in New York City, Operation Buckeye in Columbus and Ohio, and most recently, Operation "Catch of the Day" in Maine.

What is to be taken away from these developments? The U.S. ruling class is planning to complete the transition to Fascism that has been ongoing in America for over a century, coinciding with the weakening of American hegemony of the world, on the one hand, and the revival of the revolutionary movement at home, on the other. It is now clear that the U.S. is rearing for a Third World War that can serve as pretext for the mass genocide of progressive and oppressed people, and the invasion and occupation of as many nations as possible. The entire world is heading into new eras of global Fascism, and revolution. Proxy wars occur incessantly in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and even Europe. The nation-state is becoming more divided, more decrepit, and incapable of surviving under its own weight.



The Tri-Cities Worker is a local working-class newsletter dedicated to exposing the oppression of the masses by the capitalist ruling class and its State in the Washington, Sullivan, Carter, Hawkins, Greene and Unicoi counties of East Tennessee and Bristol, VA. But above all else, we exist to voice the demands and path forward for a New Tri-Cities free from repression and exploitation. Our readers, supporters, and contacts are the backbone of this collaborative press organ, assisting us in distribution, outreach, and compiling grievances for us to report on. Your support and initiative goes directly towards launching campaigns of organization, class struggle, and mobilization that can concretely address our collective issues as oppressed people and members of the working class. We have nothing to lose but our chains!

Have a report on social issues? Want to join our support committee? Contact us at [tricitieworker@proton.me](mailto:tricitieworker@proton.me) or [@voiceoftricitie](https://www.instagram.com/voiceoftricitie) and scan our QR code!

Twelve billionaires now own as much wealth as the poorest half of the world's population. All the antagonistic contradictions inherent to world imperialism are advancing, but so too is the strength and will of the masses, the international working class and its progressive allies. As Fascism prepares to further assert itself, we must prepare to defend from and ultimately overthrow it. We must build up organizations capable of mobilizing the masses against reactionary violence, against destitution and poverty, against all forms of exploitation and oppression. Only by uniting in our millions and billions can we defeat this enemy once and for all.

The world-wide revolutionary situation that has existed since the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China is expanding and consolidating into the very core of imperialism. As the ruling class lashes out on all sides, attempting to preserve its weakening political and economic power, it becomes all the more vulnerable, over-extended, and exposed. The masses may be, at the current moment, out-organized and out-gunned, but we are nowhere near outnumbered by the ruling class and its collaborators. If only we dare to organize this numerical power, if only we dare to unite in the struggle for a better future, we will win.

In the Tri-Cities, we are surrounded by issues that need to be resolved. Homelessness has increased two-fold since the pandemic. Rent has only increased in the midst of broad inflation and wage-stagnation. Gentrification is threatening all remaining livability and affordability of our major districts. Police are allowed to get away with horrendous corruption. For a New Tri-Cities, and a New Society, we require organizations that can mobilize us anywhere and everywhere towards our common goals and interests.

### Statement Against BWXT Uranium Plant

The federal government is building a uranium processing plant in Jonesborough for *nuclear weapons*. You read that correctly. The National Nuclear Security Administration is contracting Babcock and Wilcox Technologies (BWXT), the successor of the corporation responsible for the Third Mile Island incident, the worst nuclear reactor meltdown in U.S. commercial history, to construct a 300-ton high purity depleted uranium plant in the highly-populated area of Jonesborough. It will be built in a floodplain directly connected to the Nolichucky River watershed, which risks contaminating our entire water-supply. In addition, it will contaminate a 50-mile airshed covering the entire Tri-Cities and will cause radioactive material to be shipped on the railroads running throughout our communities.

Johnson City People's Defense Committee is launching a campaign to establish neighborhood defense units and tenant unions that can mobilize in opposition to BWXT's nuclear warfare in the Tri-Cities, the U.S.'s warfare abroad, and against all forms of reactionary political and economic terror like ICE raids, gentrification, and unaffordable housing. The people of Tri-Cities must rise up, organize, mobilize, and oppose the ruling class of investors, corporate owners, and government officials who could care less about the impact their profits have on our neighborhoods and communities. Join them at their mass meetings and protests to voice your demands and get organized!

The Washington County Government can restrict BWXT's development by voting down the re-zoning of a portion of BWXT's land. But we cannot stop fighting until this entire project is shut down. Tell Washington County Commissioners: "Vote 'NO' on BWXT's M-2 rezoning. Protect our air, water, farms, schools, and families." Find the call-list, read more, and sign the petition at [protectjonesborough.com](http://protectjonesborough.com). Neither *The Tri-Cities Worker* or PDJC is affiliated with the Protect Jonesborough organization.

### Tri-Cities Workers Get Organized

In January, two new shop committees affiliated to the New Labor Committee (NLOC) and organized by the Johnson City New Labor Committee (JCNL) were established in the Tri-Cities. NLOC shop committees are organizations of the working class at the point of production, a workplace or otherwise, responsible for disseminating the basic outlook of the revolutionary rank-and-file to their co-workers, collecting information and grievances to synthesize into demands for better working conditions and plans to win them, and preparing the eventual formation of unions that can represent a majority of workers at a given point of production.

A shop committee of Chicken Salad Chick workers in Johnson City has formed and affiliated to the Organization of Class-Conscious Service Workers (OCSW). Using their newsletter, *The Service Worker*, they are fighting against rampant wage-theft and against the illegal and inappropriate behavior of their General/District Manager. Instead of front-of-house (FOH) workers getting to divvy up and take home their cash tips, owners and management keep all cash and put the coins in a jar for workers to guess the amount of coin tips. The winner of this "game" only gets to take home 10% of those tips and the rest of the workers get nothing. Depending on how long this policy is in place, workers have collectively lost thousands or even tens of thousands in tips that would normally go to their wages. Instead, they line the pockets of ownership. Furthermore, workers face sexual harassment from their General/District Manager, who also supplies vapes to underage co-workers. These workers are fully justified, and legally protected, in fighting against these abhorrent crimes and establishing better standards of work.

Gig workers in Johnson City and Kingsport have also formed a shop committee, the Tri-Cities Gig Worker Committee, and will be publishing their newsletter *The Gig Organizer* and an online Gig Workers' Forum in February. Their organization includes app-based service workers as well as self-employed domestic workers fighting for basic employee rights and protections such as a minimum wage, health insurance, unemployment, the right to unionize, among other demands, and they hope to form a union that can ensure its members are contracted under terms and conditions only suitable to the majority of gig workers. The Gig Workers' Online Forum is a digital tool that organizers and workers can use to express grievances, coordinate in-person meetings, and organize around demands, as gig workers seek to overcome their day-to-day isolation from each other and unite in solidarity.

These developments are significant to the local working class movement not only because workers are being organized at the point of production, but also because they are organizing independently of the U.S. Imperialist State and its organs like the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board, all of whom only exist to bolster the profits of the ruling class while preventing the working class from rebelling. Unions dependent on the State, i.e., state-unions, like the AFL-CIO and the Teamsters are mired in corruption and reactionary bureaucracies that funnel the dues-money of workers into various investment, lobbying, and insurance schemes, resulting in union official salaries far exceeding the average wage of the rank-and-file. Now, more than ever, as the Trump administration is rearing the head of Fascism and subordinating the entire U.S. State apparatus under its grasp, the working class must unite independently of their oppressors and break the chains holding them back.

**Workers and oppressed people of the world, unite!**

**You have nothing to lose but your chains!**