

SLANT

• **Lane County Democrats** gathered Feb. 18 for their traditional endorsement process for nonpartisan May Primary races. No big surprises (Lucy Vinis for mayor, Tony McCown for county commissioner), but *no endorsements* for any of the three Dems

running to replace George Brown in Eugene City Council Ward 1. DPLC Chair Chris Wig is one of the candidates, and to avoid a conflict of interest, he turned over the meeting to Vice-chair Laura Gillpatrick. All three candidates submitted statements, gave short speeches and took questions, but Gillpatrick tells us, "Several of our precinct committee people (PCPs) expressed concern about fracturing party unity by endorsing one Democrat over another while several others were concerned that endorsing multiple candidates would be confusing to voters (and may have contributed to our loss in the 2014 East Lane Commissioner race)." In the end the DPLC members voted to not endorse anyone for Ward 1. The other D's in that race so far are Emily Semple and Josh Skov. Additional candidates in the crowded field are Chad Anderson and Kelly Boyd, who apparently did not seek DPLC endorsement. Deadline to file is March 2. In the mayor's race, Scott Landfield of Tsunami Books announced at the Feb. 22 City Council meeting that he was also running for mayor to ensure candidates talk about issues such as Kesey Square.

• It was heartening to hear Emma Callaway, impressive coordinator for **A Better Oregon**, tell the City Club of Eugene on Feb. 19 that more than 300 organizations already have signed on for IP 28, the initiative that, if it becomes a ballot measure and passes in November, will give Oregon schools the funding to finally lift us out of the hole created by Measure 5 some 25 years ago. (See Amy Schneider's lead story in our annual Education issue this week). Big corporate money will pour into Oregon to convince the voters that this is just another sales tax, although, as Callaway pointed out, that is not true. It will take an incredible grassroots effort to pass IP 28. First, it requires the signatures to put it on the ballot.

• Makes us proud to find **two University of Oregon scientists** among the winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowships for 2016. As listed in a full-page ad in the Feb. 23 *New York Times*, Benjamin Elias was named in mathematics and Kelly Sutherland in ocean sciences. The announcement says, "These 126 early-career scholars represent the most promising scientific researchers working today."



Domino's Pizza opened next door at 2568 Willamette. Coincidence? A new sign will be up soon. Domino's now has three stores in the Eugene area.

• Deadline is Feb. 29 for **medical marijuana dispensaries** selling recreational products to register with the Department of Revenue and remit the 25 percent taxes they collected from customers in January. Last we heard, Oregon has 320 dispensaries selling recreational pot and 245 have registered, but only a few dozen have actually paid their January taxes. Call (503) 945-8050 if you have a bag of cash to deliver to the state.

• The nonprofit **Womenspace** is planning its annual "End the Silence" free community breakfast and fundraiser at 7 am Wednesday, March 2, at the Valley River Inn. Sponsors this year include Carter & Carter Wealth Management, Dairy Mart and Burley Design. A panel of intimate partner violence survivors will tell their stories. Space is limited. Call 485-8232 or email carriew@womenspaceinc.org to reserve a space.

POLLUTION UPDATE

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a civil penalty of \$6,777 to **Ninkasi Holding Company** on Feb. 9 for Clean Water Act violations at its Whiteaker facilities. Ninkasi's Clean Water Act permit requires monitoring for various pollutants in its stormwater discharges four times per year, and Ninkasi failed to take any samples at its Blair Boulevard discharge point, and took only three of the required samples at its Polk Street discharge point. Ninkasi can appeal the penalty, pay it or offset it by implementing a "supplemental environmental project." Examples of such projects include stream restoration and replacement of pavement with rain gardens to improve water quality. Nikos Ridge of Ninkasi tells EW he is applying for the environmental project option. **Schnitzer Steel** also committed Clean Water Act monitoring violations during the most recent monitoring year. Schnitzer accepted an "expedited enforcement offer" from DEQ and paid a penalty of \$1,600 pursuant to that offer. — *Doug Quirke/Oregon Clean Water Action Project*

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