

SLANT

• “Community” and “neighborhood” have been the **key words through the ice storm** still bedeviling some of us. We were impressed by the Holiday Inn Express at Gateway in Springfield that allows pets to sign in with their owners. Twenty-three dogs, three cats and one rabbit settled into warm rooms rented at an emergency rate to their owners for the first night. Huge thanks, too, for the hard-working EWEB crews who have continued to be courteous and considerate to cranky climate refugees.

• The new \$1 billion Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact at the University of Oregon is **drawing attention to Eugene’s Millrace again**. *Register-Guard* reporter Diane Dietz updated readers on the efforts to rehabilitate the waterway in a Dec. 12 article. Long a project of local planner Jerry Diethelm (and *EW* columnist), the Millrace was once a vibrant part of Eugene city life. It winds loosely parallel the Willamette River and Franklin Boulevard from near Glenwood to the EWEB building. Although a river city, Eugene has long failed to capitalize on our proximity to waterways like the Millrace that provide environmental as well as aesthetic benefits. The building of the Wayne Morse Federal Courthouse failed to revive the Millrace, but perhaps Uncle Phil can throw his money and might behind a good cause, as the Millrace runs along the land for his latest project?

• Thumbs up to Steve Novick, outgoing Portland city commissioner, for his proposal adopted Dec. 7 to impose **a surtax on corporations** that pay their chief executive officers more than 100 times what they pay their typical worker. As he wrote in an opinion piece in *The Oregonian* (which opposes the surtax, of course): “Extreme income inequality is, next to climate disruption, the greatest challenge of our era.” Novick was defeated in the November election but hopefully he will continue to lead like this in another public arena.

• Speaking of leading in another arena, **we’re counting on Val Hoyle** to do the same. Tony Corcoran’s “Hot Air Society” in this issue of the *Weekly* deftly lays out why Hoyle was not selected for the Oregon Senate seat vacated by Chris Edwards. But Hoyle still cares about issues such as the psychiatric hospital she pushed for in Junction City, and we can’t imagine that she will see that shuttered without a fight. As a staff member of the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics at the UO, Hoyle can work for her important causes and prepare for the next round.

• Our Christmas wish for the next four years of **Donald Trump’s presidency**: That the cold opening of *Saturday Night Live* will keep on making us laugh and making Trump furious.

• Washington Gov. Jay Inslee is **proposing a carbon tax at \$25 a ton**, enough to raise the price of gasoline by about 25 cents a gallon and raise about \$2 billion a year in revenue. His proposal comes weeks after Washington voters rejected a different carbon tax. Inslee’s carbon plan factors into his efforts to raise \$4 billion in new revenue, with \$3 billion of it going to improve education. Meanwhile in January the Seattle City Council will vote on legislation to end the city’s contract with Wells Fargo, which handles \$3 billion worth of city government business, including employee payroll. This addresses not only Wells Fargo’s involvement in the Dakota Access Pipeline but its enrollment of 2 million people in fake accounts to hit sales targets. Fighting climate change, addressing corruption, supporting indigenous rights and clean water and raising funds for education? Hey, Oregon, are you listening?

NEWS BY JESLYN LEMKE

CENTRO LATINO AMERICANO’S WORK AIDS IMMIGRANTS

The first stop for many newly arrived Latino immigrants, many of whom don’t speak English, is **Centro Latino Americano** on 5th Avenue. This nonprofit describes itself as a safety net for the Latino community in our region, one that is even more necessary in light of President-elect Donald Trump denouncing Mexican immigrants as rapists and criminals.

The Spanish-speaking staff at Centro works with immigrants to secure community services that would otherwise require speaking English, like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, aka food stamps) cards, drug addiction counseling, help with tax IDs, securing bus passes and signing up for the Oregon Health Plan.

“We’ve been here since 1972,” says David Sáez, executive director of CLA. “We’re kind of the backbone of sup-

port for community members that are often Spanish speaking. Many of them are economically not doing as well.”

The center serves more than 600 Latino individuals per year.

A donation to CLA can help young and old immigrants alike. “We had a client come in — a woman who had some medical issues,” Sáez says. “She and her family were uninsured and it was involving a surgery. They had a \$10,000 bill they were faced with. Our case manager worked with them to find programs that provided support for indigent community members to cover medical expenses.”

A CLA caseworker helped connect the family with Bridge, a program with Peace Health, to pay the bill.

Donations can be made on the CLA website: centro-latinoamericano.org. ■

NEWS BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

TRUMP’S ELECTION INSPIRES WOMEN’S MARCHES IN CITIES FROM WASHINGTON D.C. TO EUGENE

The Electoral College confirmed Donald Trump’s election to the presidency of the United States Dec. 19, but many of the millions who voted against him have not given up hope and they plan to rally in the streets the day after Trump’s Jan. 20 inauguration.

Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by about 2.9 million voters, making Trump the president who has lost the popular vote by the widest margin in history.

“I’m not consenting and not going to be silent,” says Karen Myers, one of the organizers of the Women’s March in Eugene scheduled for Jan. 21, 2017. The Eugene march is a sister march to the Women’s March on Washington D.C. that same day.

Myers remembers marching in the streets against the war in Vietnam, but she says she has been more of a letter writer than an “out there activist.” But now it’s time, she says, to express her feelings about what’s going on at a federal level. And she’s not the only person who is not a “veteran activist” who has been energized by their worries over Trump’s agenda, she says.

Myers and her fellow organizers say, “We have many concerns about marginalized communities and women’s rights and the hateful rhetoric spewing from the new administration. We recognize the need to stand together and to support each other for safety and security.”

Myers adds that the march is part of pushing back “on an administration that is just not commensurate with what this country is all about.”

According to the official statement from the national organizers of the Women’s March on Washington: “The rhetoric of the past election cycle has insulted, demonized and threatened many of us — women, immigrants of all statuses, those with diverse religious faiths particularly Muslim, people who identify as LGBTQIA, native and indigenous people, black and brown people, people with disabilities, the economically impoverished and survivors of sexual assault.”

Artist and designer Constance Van Flandern, perhaps best known locally for her stint as a Eugene SLUG queen, is working on the Oregon and Washington D.C. marches. She confirms that the Women’s March on Washington rally location “has been approved by an interagency task force and is now definitively permitted.”

Van Flandern says the march is “a huge, huge amount of work” made up of grassroots efforts spread all over the U.S. She says there are women’s marches planned in 50 States and 30 countries, and “the list is growing.” In Oregon, marches are planned for Eugene, Portland, Bend and Ashland.

Van Flandern, who is handling the Oregon Women’s March’s Twitter feed, says, “We are trying our hardest to make it as diverse as possible: Intersectionality, Black Lives Matter, issues are bubbling to the top.”

She says at this time at least 3,000 people are planning to go from Oregon to Washington D.C. to march. Organizers are expecting at least 200,000 to march the day after Trump’s inauguration but she says estimates may be as high as one million. Marchers are posting videos and pictures to Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #whyImarch.

Van Flandern suggests Oregonians interested in marching locally or making the trip to from Oregon to D.C. contact the organizers via email at oregon@womensmarch.com or via the website sites.google.com/womensmarch.com/Oregon. You can also find event pages by searching for “women’s march” on Facebook, she says.

The Eugene march starts at noon Jan. 21 at the U.S. Federal Courthouse, 405 East 8th Avenue, and Myers says the route is to be determined. The national Women’s March on Washington starts gathering at 10 am Jan. 21 at the intersection of Independence Avenue and Third Street southwest, near the U.S. Capitol. To get involved with the local effort, go to Women’s March in Eugene page on Facebook. ■