

4J School Board votes to name school after Chavez

Supporters of naming the school after Cesar Chavez carried signs to the meeting and celebrated afterward

By Moriah Balingit
Freelance Reporter

One of Eugene's two new elementary schools will be named after the late labor-rights activist Cesar Chavez, the 4J Eugene District School Board decided Wednesday night, marking a victory for community activists and members of the Latino community.

More than 150 people crowded the auditorium of the 4J District Education Center, with supporters carrying

banners and signs and wearing red clothing, a sign of unity and struggle.

A substantial amount of the two-and-a-half-hour meeting was dedicated to public comment, all of which was in fervent support for naming the school after Chavez.

Marshall Peter, chair of the Eugene School District Equity Committee and father of two students who attend schools within the district, commented on Chavez's contribution to the community beyond just the Latino demographic.

"Naming of a school after (Chavez) sends an important message to all of our community and our students about our core beliefs and the difference that a determined individual can make," he said.

Former Lane County Republican Party Chairman Jim Hale invoked a common saying in his comments.

"Mi casa es su casa (my house is your house) ... mi escuela es su escuela (my school is your school)," he said to the audible satisfaction of the crowd.

Local NAACP Chapter President Marilyn NAACP spoke about her nephew, a student in the 4J District.

"I want him to stay faithful that he's growing up in a community that's inclusive," she said.

After public comment was complete, the board members proceeded to vote on the names for the two new elementary schools after revealing their preferences and a brief explanation. The members stated

preference did not necessarily reflect their vote.

Board members Thomas Herrmann, Craig Smith and Mike Fox stated "Blue Heron" as their preference, citing the school's proximity to the Amazon wetlands, a site frequented by the bird, and the connection to nature it elicits.

"I think that it evokes a theme that can be used at an elementary school level," Smith said.

Vice Chair Virginia Thompson chose "Chinook" as her preference because of the significance of the fish in Oregon's history.

The remaining members, Chris Pryor, Anette Spickard and board chair Beth Gerot chose "Cesar Chavez" as their preference and

echoed the sentiments of earlier public commentators.

"He serves as a role model and has great symbolism for our growing Latino population," Gerot said.

After the board voted in favor of the name, the crowd exploded into cheers, and some were moved to tears. About half the attendees flooded into the parking lot for a celebratory rally and a candlelight procession, chanting the name of the night's hero, Cesar Chavez.

The board also decided by a close vote to name the Northside school for local hero Bertha Holt, the famed founder of an international adoption agency.

Moriah Balingit is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

CANDIDATES

continued from page 1

without doing everything we can to facilitate their education," he said.

Norm Thomas is the treasurer for the Lane County Republicans and the only person running for his party's nomination. He filed to run on Saturday, just days before the Tuesday deadline to apply for office.

Thomas is also a member of United Way of Lane County, where he serves on the Information Technology Committee.

Thomas did not return calls from the Emerald.

Representative, House District 8

House District 8 includes the University area and covers most of west Lane County. Four candidates are vying for that district's seat in the Oregon House of Representatives.

Lane County commissioners appointed Paul Holvey to the seat in January after Prozanski was appointed to the Senate.

Holvey, a Democrat, is a union organizer for the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters.

Holvey said he is a voice for working-class people and will advocate for living-wage jobs, health care, social services and education.

He said he wants to look at reducing tax breaks for large businesses and others kinds of tax reform to bring more money to the state.

"We need to come up with a different source of revenue that isn't so reliant on income tax and the support of working class people," he said. "We need some tax fairness in this state."

Certified Public Accountant Marlene "Mitzi" Colbath, a Democrat, sees the state's economic status as the most important issue facing the Legislature.

"Everything relates back to

finances," she said.

She said before the Legislature can address education, job training, or health and human services, it needs to have a balanced financial base.

"We need to work on the revenue issues," she said, adding the state needs to look into auditing all the government organizations more often.

Colbath serves on the Eugene Planning Commission and the West Eugene Task Force, and she has been a municipal budget and finance manager.

Tax preparer Hart Williams, a Democrat, said he entered the race because he didn't think Holvey and Colbath would represent the interests of the University community.

"I saw the campaigns of the other candidates and felt like there was a large portion of this district that would not be served," he said.

Williams filed on Tuesday, the last

day to apply, and his application is pending while the state confirms that he lives in District 8.

He said he wanted to protect education and extracurricular programs, and support public infrastructure such as roads and parks.

Williams said compromise and balance between the two parties are the most important parts of his platform. He added that a balance should exist between taxing and spending.

Williams is the vice chairman of the Democratic Party for House District 8, but he said he is resigning from that position because he believes it is a conflict of interest.

Bill Young, the only Republican in the race, filed for the position on the deadline day, and his application is pending.

He said accountability in state spending is the focus of his campaign.

He said government agencies should justify their budgets every two years on a "more or less line-by-line" basis, accounting for exactly what they spend.

"We need to make sure that the funds they have are used appropriately," he said.

Young said proper spending would fund education, law enforcement and care for the elderly, and it would provide enough room for criminals in prisons.

He said the Oregon Health Plan could also be cut by eliminating what he said are ineligible users eating up the plan's services.

The veterinarian ran for the House District 40 seat four years ago.

Representative, House Districts 12, 13, 14

House Districts 12, 13, 14 collectively represent the rest of Lane County,

including Eugene and Springfield.

Elizabeth Terry Beyer, the incumbent and a Democrat, is the only person running to represent House District 12. She has served one term thus far.

Competing to represent House District 13 are Robert Ackerman, the incumbent and a Democrat, and Republican Gary Pierpoint. They will face off in the November general election.

There is no incumbent in the House District 14 race, though Republican Debi Farr is campaigning to replace her husband, Rep. Pat Farr, R-Eugene. Campaigning for the Democratic nomination are Rich Cunningham and Bev Fickel.

Contact the city/state politics reporter at nikacarlson@dailyemerald.com.

STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES FOR EUGENE AREA

Senator, District 4:
Floyd Prozanski-D
Norm Thomas-R



Prozanski
Senate District 4
incumbent

Representative, District 8:
Paul Holvey-D
Marlene "Mitzi" Colbath-D
Hart Williams-D
Bill Young-R



Colbath
House District 8
candidate

Representative, District 12:
Elizabeth Terry Beyer-D



Holvey
House District 8
incumbent

Representative, District 13:
Robert Ackerman-D
Gary Pierpoint-R



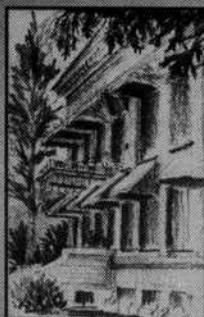
Williams
House District 8
candidate

Representative, District 14:
Debi Farr-R
Rich Cunningham-D
Bev Fickel-D



Young
House District 8
candidate

SKETCHING PLACES



AAA

408/508

Learn to sketch architecture and public spaces. Learn about materials and methods, have fun looking more closely at the campus around you, and earn 2 credits in the process. No prior experience necessary.

CRN: 36030/36031
Time: 13:00-16:50
Days: Fridays

Credits: 2
123 Pacific Hall
Instructor: Matthew Brehm

GREAT ARCHITECTURE



ARCH

399

Garden shed at Hill House, by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Helensburgh, Scotland

At the root of great architecture are the ideas, beliefs, principles, and craft that shape ordinary materials into rooms that pierce the heart. This course offers a holistic view of how great places are made and why they continue to evoke deep feeling, even hundreds of years later.

CRN: 30230
Time: 12:00-12:50
Days: MWF

Credits: 4
115 Lawrence Hall
Instructor: James Givens