

ACTIVIST ! LERT

• The Lane County **Poverty And Homelessness Board** meets from noon to 1:30 pm Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Carmichael Conference Room, Lane County Youth Services Serbu Campus, 2727 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Call 682-3798 for more information.

• County Commissioner **Jay Bozievich** is hosting a series of conversations with community members in western Lane County Thursday, Oct. 15. The first is at 10 am at Robbie's Windowbox Café in Veneta; at 12:30 pm at the Noti Pub & Grill in Noti; at 3 pm at the Walton General Store in Walton; and at 6:30 pm at the Lane Fire Authority, 88050 Territorial Hwy. in Veneta. Call Bozievich at 682-3719.

• **Climate is the topic** at City Club of Eugene at noon Friday, Oct. 16, at the Downtown Athletic club, 999 Willamette Street. Speakers Tom Bowerman and Julia Olson will talk on "Cutting Edge Climate Law: Eugene is Ground Zero." \$5 for non-members. The following Friday, Oct. 23, the program will be "Digital Disruption of Media: Learning to Embrace the Change."

• **350 Eugene** is joining Southern Oregon Rising Tide and Cascadia Forest Defenders for a free weekend of intensive direct action training Oct. 16-19 to stop LNG export infrastructure in Oregon. A special workshop on "Power Through Paris" will be from 3 to 5 pm that Sunday. All events will be held at the Irving Grange, 11051 Irvington Drive, and will be followed by a direct action to oppose LNG exports on Monday, Oct. 19. See sorisingtide.org for registration and more information or call 343-5091.

• A lecture and open discussion on **preserving Oregon's natural resources** moderated by professor Veronica Dujon of Portland State University will be from 4 to 6 pm Sunday, Oct. 18, at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 N.W. Monroe Ave. in Corvallis. Sponsored by 1000 Friends of Oregon and the McCall Speaker Series. RSVP at wky.ws/0.

• Author **William Sullivan** will give a free talk and slide show on the wildlife, geology and history of Eastern Oregon at 7 pm Tuesday, Oct. 20, at the UO Law School, 1515 Agate Street on campus. Sponsored by the Many Rivers Group Sierra Club and Land Air Water.

• The city's **Willamette to Willamette (W2W)** project seeks to make a better connection between Eugene's downtown and the Willamette River along a "great street" of 8th Avenue. "By integrating public art and local history, 8th Avenue can become an inviting, beautiful and walkable promenade to the river," according to the city. A survey is now on the project's website, eugene-or.gov/w2w and staff members will be available to talk about the options from 10 am to 2 pm Oct. 24 at Saturday Market. The survey will close Nov. 16 and results will be posted in early December.

NEWS



GUSTAVO BALDERAS,
4J SUPERINTENDENT

PHOTO: COURTESY 4J

4J SEES GROWTH IN ENROLLMENT THIS YEAR

For the first time since 2003, Eugene School District 4J has increased its year-to-year enrollment, according to school officials. With an additional 217 students this year over last year, it's the largest increase since 1996, says Kerry Delf, 4J associate director for communications.

4J Superintendent Gustavo Balderas says the increase is partly due to the onset of full-day kindergarten, which started districtwide for the first time this year. Some new students are also transfers, he says.

"District enrollment has been trending generally downward, with some ups and downs, since it peaked at nearly 22,000 in 1969," Delf tells *EW* via email. She says that most of the increase this year happened at the elementary school level.

Enrollment was at 16,006 students last year, Delf says, and this year, it's jumped to 16,223 students.

Non-resident transfer stu-

dents make up about half the growth, or 99 students, while around a third of the growth comes from an expanding number of kindergarteners. Delf says it's important to point out that the figure counts actual kids, not simply the increase from half-time kindergartners to full-time kindergartners.

"High-quality, full-day kindergarten is more attractive to many families than half-day kindergarten, so the change to full-day kindergarten may have attracted more families to enroll," she explains.

In response to the larger-than-anticipated enrollment numbers, the district is switching up some staffing assignments and has hired additional teachers to avoid ballooning class sizes.

"The district also has needed to provide some extra curriculum materials to some schools to meet the needs of the actual student enrollment at those schools," Delf adds.

—Amy Schneider

'High-quality, full-day kindergarten is more attractive to many families than half-day kindergarten, so the change to full-day kindergarten may have attracted more families to enroll.' — KERRY DELF, 4J



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A SONG, A SLOGAN, AND A SERVICE: DISPATCHES FROM THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015 • 7:30 p.m. • EMU Ballroom
1222 E. 13th Ave., UO campus

James Braxton Peterson
Africana Studies and English,
Lehigh University

EO/AA/ADA institution committed to cultural diversity

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