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Fostering a Love of Reading

Diverse books let children see themselves

See Metro, page 9

Connecting at Benson

Principal takes time to dance and inspire

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON JR./THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Five candidates running for a future open seat on the Portland City Council appear together at a candidates' forum sponsored by Black Voices United Saturday at Maranatha Church in northeast Portland. Pictured (from left) are Jo Ann Hardesty, Felicia Williams, Andrea Valderrama, Loretta Smith and Stuart Emmons.

Election Face Off

Black voices candidates' forum sparks debate

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A diverse group of candidates running for a future open seat on the Portland City Council voiced their concerns during a Black Voices candidates' forum at

Maranatha Church in northeast Portland Saturday, advocating for change on hot topic issues like homelessness, gentrification and racism.

The five candidates, Andrea Valderrama, Loretta Smith, Stuart Emmons, Felicia Williams and Jo Ann

Hardesty, answered questions posed by local moderator and civil rights activist C.J. Robbins, including their greatest concerns on and why they were run-

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