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'City of Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

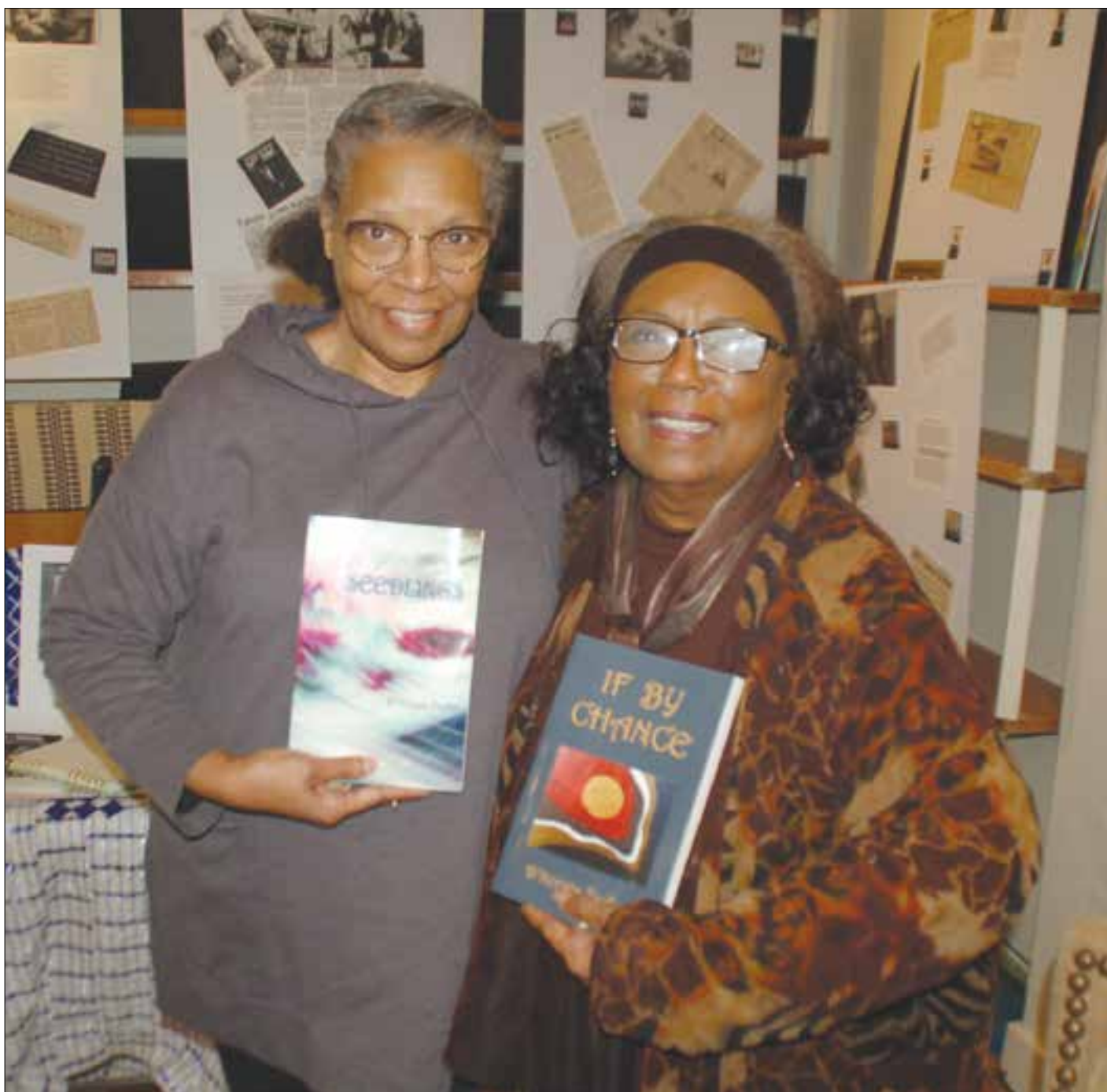


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER PUBLISHER

Author D'Norgia Taylor-Price (left) and archivist and storyteller Liz Fouter-Branch celebrate Black art, culture and community at Sunday's "Kwanzaa on Killingsworth," a month long series of events to celebrate Black artistry and excellence at the Albina Arts Salon in the historic Albina Women's League building at 14 N.E. Killingsworth St. The panels in the background were created by Bobby Fouter and share the story of the former Albina Arts Center.

Kwanzaa on Killingsworth

Celebrating Black culture and history

African American culture and history came to life in Portland this past weekend for "Kwanzaa on Killingsworth" a month long series of cultural celebrations and artisan markets that continue at the Albina Arts Salon in the historic Albina Women's League building at 14

N.E. Killingsworth St.

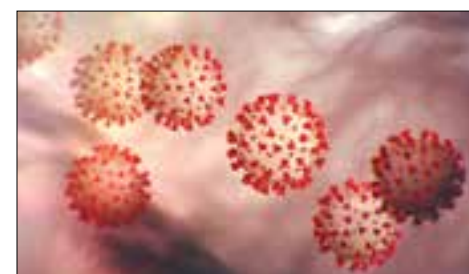
On Sunday, a special event curated by Sunshine Dixon and the Soul Restoration Project celebrated Black artistry and excellence. Science fiction author D'Norgia Taylor-Precie, a retired Urban League of Portland executive, business professor and grant writer, read some of her poetry and shared copies of two of her books, *Seedlings* and *If by Chance*. Local archivist and storyteller Liz

Fouter-Branch also participated. Live musical performances filled the space.

A day earlier, the arts salon opened its doors for viewing the historic Black Oregon Newspapers from The Rutherford Collection at Portland State University, featuring talks by Portland journalists Bruce Poinsette and Donovan Smith.

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COVID Surge Hits Hard



A microscopic image of the coronavirus from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Booster shots urged in fight back

Omicron has raced ahead of other variants and is now the dominant version of the coronavirus, accounting for 73% of new infections in the country since last week, federal health officials said Monday.

In the Pacific Northwest it's even higher. Omicron is responsible for an estimated 90% or more of new infections, along with the New York area, the Southeast, and the industrial Midwest, officials said.

Since the end of June, the delta variant had been the main version causing U.S. infections. As recently as the end of November, more than 99.5% of coronaviruses were delta, according to CDC data.

Oregon health officials are warning that the state may face its worst COVID-19 surge in the coming weeks, with the number of patients hospitalized predicted to more than double the pandemic's peak.

Gov. Kate Brown and health authorities are urging people to get their COVID-19 booster shot.

"A big wave is coming," said Patrick Allen, the director of the state health authority. "And it threatens to be bigger than any wave we've seen before."

Officials say the threat that the highly transmissible omicron variant poses is "deeply troubling and demoralizing," especially as hospitals continue to struggle with staffing shortages and limited available beds due to the surge caused by the delta variant.

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