



## Clocks Spring Forward

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13

## New Lawmaker Delivers

Gets funds for north Portland aquatic center

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'City of Roses'

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER JO ANN HARDESTY

A new program to empower Black youth and eradicate racism is introduced at the newly designated Soul Restoration Center, the former Albina Arts Center on Northeast Killingsworth and Williams Avenue. Pictured from left are Sunshine Dixon, City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, Dr. S. Renee Mitchell and Andre Miller. Dixon works with Dr. Mitchell and Miller is part of Hardesty's team

## Officer Fired for Hardesty Leak



Brian Hunzeker

## Discrimination, harassment and retaliation found

The former head of Portland's police union was fired last week for leaking allegations one year ago against City Commissioner JoAnn Hardesty, the first Black woman to serve on the City Council and a lifelong advocate for police reforms.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as the city's police commissioner and Chief Chuck Lovell outlined the termination in a Feb. 28 letter to Brian Hunzeker, the officer involved.

Lovell had recommended a 12 week suspension without pay rather than ter-

# Elevating Black Youth

## City approves outreach for healing

By BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In a ground-breaking move that could become a model for cities across the country, the Portland City Council has earmarked \$950,000 to improve the lives of Black youth while giving the young people of color themselves the ability to decide where the money goes.

Financial support for the program can be traced to months of Black Lives Matter protests in Portland following the 2020 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, when Portland City Council Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty vowed to find funding

to uplift and empower Black youth in Portland and help them heal from the trauma of racism.

"It is rare sitting on this seat on the council that you have an opportunity to get to see a dream come to life," Hardesty said, describing the effort and outreach led by long time social justice activist Dr. S. Renee Mitchell.

The funding will create a Black Youth Leadership Fund in partnership with the Black United Fund of Oregon and the Oregon Community Foundation and taps appropriations from the Portland Police Bureau, officials said. It was approved unanimously at the council's meeting on March 2.

Plans call for using "evidence based and culturally grounded engagement processes to raise leadership and en-

trepreneurial skills of Portland's Black youth and offer them access to empowerment from inside-out, which can potentially influence their trajectory for generations," states the city's resolution.

The fund, according to the resolution, will help make amends for racist practices in Portland's past, which included redlining, residential segregation and disinvestment in areas like Vanport, Albina and other neighborhoods, undermining the social and educational equality of Black Portlanders for generations.

Mitchell, who will be program administrator, is a two-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, educator, poet and artist with a

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