

Black Focus Charter School Supported



Wendy Weissman

she taught and her reach has extended beyond the classroom to park programs, churches and senior centers, officials said.

Wendy Weissman is the recipient of the 2022 KairosPDX Ambassador Service Award. A supporter of KairosPDX since before the school was officially established.

Weissman came to KairosPDX through Social Venture Partners Portland and served as the LeadPartner in that capacity. She is also a long time volunteer with Friends of the Children and NAYA, the Native American Youth and Family Center in northeast Portland.

KairosPDX, the public charter school in north Portland started by Black women to serve Black and Brown kids, recently honored two individuals who have helped shape the elementary school community.

Betty Dorsey was recipient of the 2022 KairosPDX Leadership Award. An educator for the past 50 years, Dorsey was born in 1937 and raised in Beaumont, Texas. Teaching always was a part of her life, beginning at a young age when she would teach neighborhood children under a tree in her grandmother's yard.



Retired educator Betty Dorsey is honored for her longtime support for the KairosPDX community, a public charter school started by Black women to serve Black and Brown kids.

One of the first Black people to help integrate Lamar College, now Lamar University, Dorsey received her degrees in music and education. Now retired, she is remembered by the children

The Week in Review



Black Landmarks Approved

Three Portland Black History landmarks—Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Dean's Beauty Salon and Barber Shop, and the Golden West Hotel—won approval to the National Register of Historic Places Friday. "These landmarks are important to understand our history and demonstrate the resilience of Portland's Black community despite systemic racism and government-sponsored clearance, redevelopment, disinvestment and gentrification," said U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer.

Portland Bans Fireworks

The Portland City Council last week voted to ban the sale and use of fireworks in the city, citing rising temperatures, drought and increased fire risk from climate change. A fire at the Heidi Manor apartments in northeast Portland last July 4 was ignited after someone threw fireworks in a dumpster. Three people died.

Toxic Air Settlement

Precision Castparts Corp. has agreed to pay \$22.5 million to settle a class-action lawsuit that accused its metal casting facility in southeast Portland of polluting nearby homes with toxic metals. Officials said \$12.5 million in payments will be made to neighboring residents and their lawyers.



Court Ends Cosby Case

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Monday that it would not review Bill Cosby's sexual assault case, leaving him a free man. He was released from prison in June after the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned his 2018 sexual assault conviction on the grounds that his due process rights had been violated.

New Homeless Services Hub

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler announced last week he would create a new homeless service hub within the city government, streamlining the work of various departments that interact with people living outside, breaking down barriers to housing.



Schools Ease Masking Rules

Portland Public Schools Friday announced that beginning on Monday, March 14, the district will transition to optional masking for all staff and students. This is aligned with the new COVID-19 public health guidance released by the Center for Disease Control & Prevention along with state and local health agencies.



Lunch Hour Homicide

The victim of a shooting homicide that happened during the lunch hour near North Williams Avenue and Dawson Park on Wednesday, March 1, was identified as 55-year-old Mark Johnson of Portland. Monday, Joseph Banks, 50, was charged in the case for 2nd degree murder.

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