



The Portland Observer

Volume LII • Number 22



'City
of
Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • November 20, 2024

Committed to Cultural Diversity

Oregon's First Black Member of Congress



Janelle Bynum, the Democratic candidate running to represent Oregon's 5th Congressional District, poses for a photo on Sunday, July 21, 2024, in Portland, Ore. (AP Photo/Jenny Kane, File)

Democrat Janelle Bynum Flips Oregon's 5th District

(AP) — Democrat Janelle Bynum has flipped Oregon's 5th Congressional District and will become the state's first Black member of Congress.

Bynum, a state representative who was backed and funded by national Democrats, ousted freshman GOP U.S. Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer. Republicans lost a seat that they flipped red for the first time in roughly 25 years during the 2022 midterms.

"It's not lost on me that I am one generation removed from segregation. It's not lost on me that we're making history. And I am proud to be the first, but not the last, Black member of Congress in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



The Beaverton Shelter joins the Washington County shelter program, representing over 430 beds county-wide thanks to critical Supportive Housing Services funding

Beaverton Shelter Addresses Homelessness and Supports Community Leaders Gathered to Mark Grand Opening

Washington County, the City of Beaverton, Metro, and state leaders gathered to mark the grand opening of the Beaverton Shelter. The Beaverton Shelter, which features space for 60 guests, will provide beds, meals, showers, and resources on a 24/7, 365-day basis. Housing navigation and supportive services will be provided by Open Door, as well as a dedicated coordinated care space to ensure greater stability to individuals ex-

periencing homelessness and offer a critical link to housing.

"Washington County has dramatically scaled up shelter capacity thanks to the Supportive Housing Services measure, and we are proud to support over 430 shelter beds county-wide," said Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington. "As the first of three first purpose-built shelters opening in Washington County, we're working to create a system of care that centers our most vulnerable community members. To achieve this vision, ongoing investments are critical."

"The work is certainly not done, but the opening of this shelter today shows us — despite the uphill battle we're fighting — that we are making real progress, that we

remain unrelenting in our goals," Governor Kotek said. "We can change Oregon lives and communities. I am energized by the continued collaboration with local leaders to build a healthier, safer, more prosperous Oregon, where everyone has a safe place to call home."

"Our staff have been the boots on the ground serving people experiencing homelessness in shelter and on the streets for many years," said Open Door HousingWorks Director Jeremy Toevs. "Being able to do this work in a space designed to meet people where they are at, with long-term housing resources to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4