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Changes Rock NAMCO

Longtime volunteers
leave organization in
leadership shake-up

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

The Oregon branch of the National Association of Minority Contractors has gained a new president, Andrew Colas. At the same time longtime advocates Faye Burch and Maurice Rahming resigned from the board. NAMCO members and others are asking what happened.

Last Spring, Andrew Colas took the reins at the Oregon branch of the National Association of Minority Contractors. At the same time, former board president Maurice Rahming and longtime advocate Faye Burch, who had just been re-elected to the board, decided to resign.

Many NAMCO members and those who have worked with the organization are asking what happened and why.

The resignations happened just after the new board had been elected by the members. Once elected the board elects its officers. Rahming and others suggested Burch for the position. A co-founder of the local branch, Burch had never sought a formal leadership role. But this time, she agreed.

A vote was taken and Burch was elected in a 4-3 split. But, after a heated discussion—described as “hair-raising,” in an off the record comment by a non-board member who was at the meeting—the board decided to hold a special meeting to elect officers.

At the next meeting, one of the board members who had voted for Burch switched sides, and ultimately, the board decided to go forward with Andrew Colas as president. Burch and Rahming resigned.

James Posey, also a co-founder of NAMCO argues that consultants are peripheral to NAMCO’s mission.

“I believe the organization should be run by contractors, not by consultants,” said James Posey, who led the opposition to Burch’s nomination. “She took offense to that.”

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DIATRIBE



PHOTO BY BRUCE POINSETTE

The Obo Addy Legacy Project presented “Obo Addy’s Legacy: DiaTribe—From the Village to the Streets,” Tuesday night at the Washington Park Summer Festival. The second performance so far linking hip hop to its African roots was an overwhelming success. More pictures on page 6.

‘I Have a Dream’ Remembered

Portland organizers plan regional ‘March on Washington’ event

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

The historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom is 50 years old this month. So all around the country activists will rally to celebrate the victories of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, while gathering strength for the civil rights battles that lie ahead.

Whether you’re concerned about racial profiling, voting rights, the lack of jobs and economic opportunities or disparities in policing, education, justice and health systems, organizers say this event is your opportunity not just to remember history, but to make history.

“We are seeing an attempt to turn back the clock on civil rights,” says Rev. Leroy Haynes of the Albina Ministerial Alliance coalition. “So we feel there is a critical need to draw attention to racial profiling, stand your ground laws, mass incarceration and equity in education and employment. These

are great issues that we still have to challenge and deal with. “One major goal of the Washington DC march and our regional march here is to get Congress to rewrite Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, which was recently struck down the Supreme Court. We need to hold states accountable when they attempt to suppress African American and Latino votes, as well as seniors and other people.”

In Portland, protesters will meet up at 10 a.m. on August

24th, at Terry Schunk Plaza before heading to Waterfront Park. The rally, speakers, and music will begin at 1 p.m. The regional event is planned for the same time as the national event in Washington DC. Confirmed speakers include: Sen. Jeff Merkley, Governor Kitzhaber and Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum.

Not everyone can travel to Washington DC, Haynes said. Yet many people believe in

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Warner Pacific Sophomore Dead at 20

Sudden cardiac arrest claims life of promising young student

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

At Gresham High School in 2011, Michael Muange played wide receiver and safety on the Varsity football team. Nobody could have guessed that such a strong, fast athlete had a heart condition that would take his life suddenly without warning.

Yet this week Muange’s family is mourning the 20-year-old, who died suddenly of heart failure as he sat down to eat with friends.

(A portion of the proceeds from Providence Bridge Pedal and Providence Bridge Stride this Sunday will be donated to Providence Heart and Vascular Institute’s PlaySmart program, which offers free heart screenings to teenagers to help prevent sud-

den cardiac arrest, see page 2.)

A sophomore at Warner Pacific University, Muange hoped to build a career in business. He had been painting a house that day as part of his business assignments for a program called College Pro, says his sister Grace Muange Kambumba.

Michael was playful and fun to be

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