

VOLUNTEER FOR DEMOCRACY



Mayowa Aina, the communications director for Common Purpose explains the next steps in the process during the third meeting of Wave 1 of Common Purpose March 31 at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute. Common Purpose is a civic engagement program that helps people become active in democracy. Common Purpose launched at the beginning of March 2018. The Seattle-based nonprofit provides an on-ramp to citizen education, voting, and elections, with people making commitments to engage in voter registration and electoral campaigns. The program runs in two waves each of the next three years: twice in 2018, twice in 2019, and twice in 2020. Each year participants will commit to providing at least one week of hands-on action in (a) a late-spring early period focused on voter registration and/or (b) in an autumn period focused on distribution of election material, door-knocking and phone calls, or get-out-the-vote support.

Musicians Support Health Care with the Blues

The annual Inner City Blues Festival and fundraiser will take place April 21

The Skanner News Staff

In its seventh year, the annual "Inner City Blues Festival: Healing the Health Care Blues" kicks off at the North Portland Eagles Lodge on April 21.

The one-night concert event is largely a fundraiser for Health Care for All Oregon – a volunteer-run, statewide coalition of over 120 organizations working to bring an equitable, affordable, and publicly funded health care to Ore-

gonians.

With over a dozen acts, the six-hour blues festival will also feature a silent auction, food and beverages, and tabling by community organizations. With around 800 attendees last year, the festival raised \$28,000 for the cause.

This year's installment will showcase performances by Bloco Alegria, I&I Band Reunion with Newell Briggs and Obi Addy, Ken DeRouchie Band with Mz. Etta, King Louie Pain Quartet, and the Norman

Sylvester Review with Sarah Billings and Lenanne Sylvester-Miller, plus many more. Inner City Blues will be MC'ed by Renee Mitchell, Ken Boddie and Paul Knauls.

The alliance among health care advocates and blues musicians is a natural pairing, said its organizers. "The blues is about worry, depression, and melancholy. That's what people feel around our current insurance system," said Tom Sincic, a retired family nurse practitioner

and president of Health Care of All Oregon.

"Whether you go with the Mississippi Delta blues, the Memphis blues, the St. Louis blues, or the Portland blues – it's all across the country," continued Sincic. "People have all kinds of worries about whether they're going to get the health care they need, and about the financial loss attached to it. It causes a lot of stress, so the blues is a perfect type of

See FESTIVAL on page 3

Clayborn Collins Taken Into Custody After Theft Indictment

Former leader of Emmanuel Community Services accused of stealing more than \$50,000 from nonprofit

The Skanner News

Clayborn Collins, the former leader of the defunct North Portland nonprofit Emmanuel Community Services, has been taken into custody on a charge of aggravated theft in the first degree, police said Wednesday.

According to Portland Police Bureau spokesperson Sgt. Chris Burley, Collins turned himself in to police

March 26.

A Multnomah County grand jury indicted Collins March 8 on one count of first-degree aggravated theft, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Collins is accused of stealing more than \$50,000 belonging to Emmanuel Community Services in 2016 or 2017, local media reported March 23.

Collins was the subject of a 2014 in-

See COLLINS on page 3



Clayborn Collins



Students walk past Jefferson High School Feb. 9 at a walkout that began at Ockley Green Middle School.

Suspended Teacher Reinstated

After students and parents rally, PPS announces it will not terminate Ockley Green teacher Chris Riser

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

Portland Public Schools announced Tuesday afternoon it would not terminate an Ockley Green Middle School teacher who was placed on leave March 23 in connection with a Feb. 9 student walkout.

"Following the February 9 walkout at Ockley Green middle school, the District received multiple accounts of student safety concerns. We began an investigation into the event," write Kylie

See TEACHER on page 3



Steven Slaughter, a 9th grader, dreamed of playing football for a major college. He was murdered at 14 while walking home from a local store.

Teenage Murders Every Week

page 8

50 Years After Dr. King

page 10