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investigation by the *Oregonian* alleging he had lied on his resume and omitted from background check forms a criminal history that includes convictions for theft, forgery and a gun-related crime.

Following the publication of the *Oregonian's* story, Collins took a tem-

ate and a master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and that he had a master's degree in divinity, were false.

Emmanuel Community Services, which aimed to help women, children and domestic violence victims, filed articles of dissolution in

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porary leave of absence from his position at the helm of the organization.

Collins served three years of probation, ending in 2000, after a 1997 theft, forgery and weapons conviction, and faced charges of domestic violence, two of which resulted in women obtaining a restraining order against him. The newspaper also reported Collins owed more than \$170,000 in penalties, interest and back taxes to the state of Oregon and the Internal Revenue Service. The story also says Collins' claims he had a doctor-

February, public records show. A reporter's call to the phone number listed on the organization's website was met with a busy signal. According to documents filed with the Oregon Secretary of State's office, the organization incorporated as a nonprofit in 1990.

In addition to his role as CEO of the nonprofit, Collins' LinkedIn page lists Collins' current positions as a corporate consultant (beginning in June 2017) and as an executive administrator of Emmanuel Church, dating back to June 2004.

Festival cont'd from pg 3



Bluesman Norman Sylvester performing at the Nehalem Bay Winery, March 2018.

music to relay that.”

The festival's performers should know, as many have experienced first-hand the plight of accessing and affording healthcare – in particular, Oregon blues legend Norman Sylvester, who has been a festival mainstay from the start.

“I have played too many benefits for musicians who fell ill or, more tragically, played at their (tributes). They didn't have preventative care because of years of not being able to afford healthcare,” Sylvester said in the festival's press release.

But as the state of the nation's health care system continues to hang in the balance, Health Care for All Oregon falls in line with many local visions of an agreeable and equitable model.

On Feb. 1, Multnomah County's board of commissioners passed a resolution supporting leg-

islative action towards universal health care access. In the letter, the commissioners urged “the Governor and the Legislature to continue working to develop a comprehensive, equitable, and high-quality system of health care that is accessible to all, without discrimination, and that is affordable for families, businesses, and society.”

The North Portland Eagles Lodge is located at 7611 N Exeter Avenue in Portland, Oregon, 97203. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and performances will run until midnight.

Tickets can be purchased for \$20 online at Ticket Tomato, or at Music Millennium (3158 E Burnside), Geneva's Shear Perfection (5601 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd), Peninsula Station (8316 N. Lombard), and Musician's Union Hall (325 NE 20th Ave). Tickets are \$25 at the door.

Youth Job Fair

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and civic leaders, including PPS Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero, Mount Hood Community College President Debra Derr, and Worksystems Executive Director Andrew McGough, called for regional employers and volunteers to support an April 13 Job Fair aimed at providing job resources for the region's unemployed young people. The Opportunity Youth Job Fair, co-hosted by Worksystems, Gateway to College National Network, the national 100,000 Opportunities Initiative, will be held April 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oregon Convention Center. Individuals will be able to interview for immediate job openings, and register for Summerworks and Worksystems' new Connect2Careers initiative. Connect2Careers is a systemic approach to organize jobs and training for young people to certify skills, giving them a leg up in the labor market and enhancing the quality of our local labor pool. For more information, including registration for employers, job seekers, and volunteers, visit <http://www.gatewaytocollege.org/pdx-job-fair.html>. For more information about Summerworks and Connect2Careers, visit <https://www.worksystems.org/summerworks>.



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Teacher cont'd from pg 1

Rogers, chief HR officer for PPS, in a Tuesday-afternoon email to local press. “Our review concluded that there were serious safety risks posed to students during the unplanned walkout on February 9. Based on those findings, I recommended initiating the termination process for an Ockley Green educator. In ongoing conversations with Ockley Green leadership, and in response to the school community's feedback to the district, I now have a broad understanding of the historical failure of the district to consistently support the Ockley Green community. Since we cannot be certain of the role that our systemic failings played in this incident, I no longer believe that termination is an appropriate recommendation.”

That message, timestamped at 5:04 p.m. Tuesday, immediately followed a parent-led demonstration planned at 4:30 p.m. outside school district headquarters. Parents and students also rallied at the school on Monday morning – some staying all day until classes were over. And an online petition to reinstate Riser had more than 4,000 signatures as of Tuesday afternoon.

Kiante Griffin-Holmes, whose son attends Ockley Green, told *The Skanner* Riser is one of a small number of teachers at the school who she trusts to advocate for students without bias.

“We don't need less Mr. Risers. We need way more like him,” Ockley Green parent Jeffrey Johnson said.

Griffin-Holmes' son is part of the school's Black Student Union, and parents and students say it was the BSU – not Riser nor activist Teressa Raiford, who had come to speak to students – who started the walkout.

Riser had invited activist Teressa Raiford to speak at the school on the morning of Feb. 9 as part of a week of Black history events. Feb. 9 was also the first anniversary of the death of Quance Hayes, a 17-year-old Black Portlander who was shot and killed by Portland police. Students then walked

through North and Northeast Portland – to the North Police precinct, to Jefferson High School and Portland Community College's Cascade Campus.

Community members said Riser was singled out and that the district's response to the Feb. 9 demonstration, compared to walkout, was not consistent. According to Griffin-Holmes and Johnson, several teachers and

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administrators enthusiastically joined the march. PPS spokesperson David Northfield said it's true there were other teachers involved in the walkout, but his narrative differed from the parents'.

“There were a few staff members including a vice principal who when they saw the students were leaving were alarmed and went along with them since there was no plan in place. I would hesitate to describe those people as participants since it would make it sound like they were participating in the organizing of it, which is not the case,” Northfield told *The Skanner*.

An email sent the afternoon of Feb. 9 to Ockley Green parents and signed by principal Paula McCullough and obtained by *The Skanner* describes the walkout this way:

“The activist then walked outside and asked students to follow, and many of them did. Teachers and one administrator followed to help ensure student safety. The group then marched to Portland

Police Bureau's North Precinct. The march proceeded to Jefferson High School, past Portland Community College and back to Ockley Green. Portland Police officers sent officers and patrol cars to escort the students, block streets, and keep everyone safe.

“The protest was not organized or condoned by Ockley Green administrators or Portland Public Schools.

“We are proud of our students for taking an interest in current events involving the community as well as our larger society. However, we want students and staff to know that there are more appropriate ways to organize an event. If we work together, we can ensure student safety and minimize disruption to the school while still honoring students' voices.”

Riser's suspension garnered national attention, perhaps due to increased attention paid to youth-led social movements in the wake of the Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, Florida. In March students across the country held two events – one on March 14, a Wednesday, and one on March 26, a Saturday – to call for reformed gun laws.

Students in Portland, including a small group from Ockley Green, were among them. PPS sent a press release to local media March 14 announcing several media-friendly, district-sanctioned events, and according to Northfield, the district did not sanction any walkouts.

Here's how an email sent to Ockley Green parents by principal Paula McCullough on the morning March 14 described the event:

“We want you to know that the school sponsored event was successful and all students returned to class at its conclusion. About five minutes into class a group of about 75 students chose to stage a walkout. This group of about [sic] currently is at Jefferson HS,” McCullough wrote.

The March 14 email goes on to name four teachers who were then with the students; Riser was not among them.