



**50 Years
of King**
*Martin Luther
King Jr. School
celebrates legacy*
See Local News,
pages 3 and 10



Portland Observer

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NEW SCHOOL MODEL LAUDED

**Faubion-Concordia school
partnership a pathway to progress**

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of former Vice President Joe Biden, said a new public and private partnership between Concordia University and Faubion Elementary is a shining example of making powerful changes in education that can lift an entire community.

The former Second Lady was the guest of honor and keynote speaker at Concordia's annual Gov. Victory Atiyeh Leadership in Education Awards. The 7th annual event celebrated Faubion and Concordia's new "3 to PhD" partnership. Biden toured the school before Saturday's ceremony.

Located at Northeast 29th and De-

kum, Faubion opened the school year in a new building next to the Concordia campus thanks to a voter-approved property tax levy by Portland Public Schools.

The three-story structure is not only a new home for the school but also a new model for education by promoting the health and wellbeing of all students and their families. The entire Concordia College of Education is embedded inside the school where they can work with their younger learners and gain valuable teaching experience.

Additional partnerships with Kaiser Permanente and Trillium Family

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Former Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden in Portland Saturday for Concordia University's 2018 Gov. Victory Atiyeh Leadership in Education Awards. In her keynote speech, Biden praised Portland educational leaders for instituting new public and private partnership between Concordia University and Faubion Elementary that serves as a shining example of making powerful changes in education that can lift an entire community.

Dr. Jill Biden and Concordia University doctorate student Gwen Thompson tour the new Faubion Elementary School at Northeast 29th and Dekum.



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The Week in Review

Barbara Bush Dies at 92



Former first lady Barbara Bush, the husband and mother of two presidents, died Tuesday at her home in Houston, Texas. She was 92. Bush passed away shortly after deciding to forgo further medical treatments for her failing health.

Baseball Park Offers Made

Investors hoping to bring Major League Baseball to Portland announced Tuesday that they've made offers on possible stadium locations. One proposal is for industrial property in northwest Portland and the other is Portland Public Schools' Blanchard Education Services Center, which is less than half a mile from the Moda Center in north Portland.

Starbucks Orders Bias Training

Starbucks said Tuesday it will close more than 8,000 company-owned stores across the nation for one afternoon to train its staff on how to avoid "racial bias" after the arrest of two black men at one of its Philadelphia shops, an incident the coffee giant's CEO called "reprehensible."

UP Student's Speech Offends

A University of Portland award ceremony for athletes was disrupted Sunday night when the emcee of the event, senior men's tennis player Goutham Sundaram, used his opening speech as a platform to broadcast his sexual conquests, including "getting white women to sleep with brown men." Several student athletes and coach Terry Porter walked out

during the speech and Sundaram has been suspended from playing.



Blazers Open NBA Playoffs

The Portland Trail Blazers faced game two of their best of seven opening round play-off series against the New Orleans Pelicans Tuesday in the Moda Center. The Blazers were hoping to square the series after an opening round loss before moving to New Orleans for game three on Thursday.

U.S. and Allies Bomb Syria

Syria was bombed Friday night by the United States, Britain, and France in response to a chemical attack one week earlier which killed at least 42 adult and children civilians outside Damascus. The strikes targeted a chemical weapons research center, storage facility, and an equipment facility and command center.

Mayor Commits to Reforms

Committed to fighting back against the Trump Administration, Mayor Ted Wheeler defended the city's policies of inclusion and vowed to fight for climate change, gun control and the protection of immigrants, "even if it means going to jail," during his annual State of the City Speech on Thursday.

Shelter Shooting Draws Fire Mental health safeguards may have fallen short

BY DANNY PETERSON

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Federally mandated reforms to better protect people with mental disabilities from being shot by police during a disturbance appear to have fallen short of preventing the recent deadly officer involved shooting at a southeast Portland homeless shelter, according to the Albina Ministerial Alliance, the civil rights advocacy group from the African American community.

The Alliance's Coalition for Justice and Police Reform, released a statement Thursday critical of Portland police in the shooting of a 48-year old man wielding a knife who appeared to be having a mental health

crisis.

"Although all the facts of this deadly force shooting are not in and the investigation is not complete this case could possibly be a major step backward for the Portland Police Bureau in the use of 'excessive force against persons with actual or perceived mental illness,'" the statement read.

The coalition was a party to a settlement agreement with U.S. Department of Justice four years ago that, after a 2012 federal investigation, found Portland police were using excessive force against them mentally ill people.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Supporters pose in front of the first sign, created by students in 1968, unveiling Martin Luther King Jr. as the new name for the former Highland School, during a 50th anniversary community celebration on Friday night honoring the school's legacy. Shei'Meka Owens, King Parent Teacher Association president, and the daughter of Ronda Chiles, who as a sixth grade student at King 50 years ago helped lobby for the name change, is pictured (second from right). Owens now has two daughters that attend King. The others pictured are King PTA leaders Paul Manson, May Wang, Megan Newell-Ching and Kenny Butler. (See additional photos on page)

50 Years of King

Martin Luther King Jr. School celebrates legacy

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The ideals of respect, social justice, peaceful resistance, and the power of education that civil

rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. championed were honored Friday during a community celebration on the 50th anniversary of renaming the northeast Portland

school in his honor.

A student-led movement in 1968 successfully lobbied the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Natural Grocers Opens at Alberta and MLK

PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

One of two murals celebrating Portland's African American history and future, created by local artists Mehran Heard and Arvie Smith, adorn the new Natural Grocers at Alberta Commons. The new store, built in a public-private partnership to bring jobs and a healthy, affordable grocery to the underserved King Neighborhood, was preparing for Wednesday's grand opening with a full day of events, giveaways, food samples and an ice cream social from 4 to 6 p.m.

New School Model Lauded

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Services help Faubion students and families meet basic needs like medical care and meals.

An early child education center, health clinic, food pantry and maker space to inspire 21st century learning in engineering, math and science are some of the new resources aimed at providing social, educational and wellness services.

The aim is a safer, healthier and more educated community and a pathway to progress for the disadvantaged. The mission begins by helping families obtain prenatal care and progresses to helping children pursue and obtain their educational dreams from pre kindergarten age to college and beyond.

Serving a large population of low income and racially diverse families, Faubion's private and public partnerships are designed to close the opportunity gap and ensure that every child can fulfill their potential. Donations raised during the awards ceremony and from ongoing efforts fund student

scholarships.

Biden, a long time educator who teaches English at a community college in Virginia, praised Portland and the Concordia and Faubion communities for shaping a better future for kids, a vision education advocates at Concordia hope can be replicated across the country.

Biden spoke about the power one person can hold to make life better for others, encouraging families and individuals to seek help when they need it, saying to lean on each other is one of the most courageous things we can do.

She also shared some of her own experiences helping and reaching out to family, friends and colleagues in times of difficulty, including when the Bidens' son Beau, a state Attorney General in Delaware was diagnosed with cancer and eventually lost his life to the disease in 2015.

Our personal strengths alone are often not enough to get you through, she said.

Biden said she relished the hugs and emotional support she has re-



On behalf of the entire Concordia University and Faubion Elementary community, Kimberley Dixon, a Faubion parent and community leader, accepted the Concordia 2018 Gov. Victor Atiyeh Leadership in Education award.

ceived from others, including her students.

"We carry the weight of our lives together. Small acts of kind-

ness are some of the most courageous things we can do," she said.

On behalf of the entire "3 to PhD" community, Kimberley

Dixon, a Faubion parent and community leader, accepted the Concordia 2018 Gov. Victor Atiyeh Leadership in Education Award.

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Key employers who help Portland Community College educate and train a skilled workforce are honored during a recent Employer Partnership Awards celebration. Pictured, (from left) are Mark Goldberg, associate vice president of PCC Workforce Development and Continuing Education; Kali Thorne Ladd, PCC board chair; Jesse Brough, owner of Blessing Landscape; and PCC President Mark Mitsui.

Helping PCC Build Workforce

Employers educate and train for future jobs

Portland area employers helping Portland Community College educate and train a skilled workforce for future jobs and careers were honored at the college's first Employer Partnership Awards.

The April 11 ceremony at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry was a chance for PCC to shine a spotlight on the efforts of three organizations, Blessing Landscapes, Intel Corporation and Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc., which were named partners-of-the-year in the categories of small business, large business and government/non-profit.

"For PCC to effectively prepare its students for employment opportunities and careers in an

ever-changing work environment, we need strong partnerships with local employers," said Marc Goldberg, associate vice president of Workforce Development and Continuing Education at PCC.

Employer partnerships at the college include employers who hire PCC graduates; offer work-based learning opportunities for students such as internships, co-ops, clinical rotations, or apprenticeships; serve on career technical education advisory committees at the college; and participate in PCC's many job fairs, among other methods and models.

Collectively, such partnerships, "Expand the pipeline of trained workers, ready to enter the workforce," said PCC President Mark Mitsui. "This helps to bolster the 'middle class' -- education is the bridge to opportunity for our students."



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Tradeswomen Career Fair Coming

The nonprofit Oregon Tradeswomen will hold their annual career fair next month where career seekers can learn about job training opportunities, apprenticeships and job openings at local companies and organizations.

The May 19 event will be held at the NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center, 1602 N.E. Airport Way from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn skills in hands-

on workshops and meet employers and successful tradeswomen.

The Building Industry in Oregon is experiencing a worker shortage. Oregon Tradeswomen's annual career fair is an unparalleled opportunity to find out how you can earn wages while you learn without the debt of college.

For more information, contact Oregon Tradeswomen at 503-335-8200 or visit tradeswomen.net.

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Meals on Wheels Walk, Festivities

Meals on Wheels People invites you to join them for live music, food and entertainment on Sunday, April 22, when they host a non-competitive 3K walk at Portland International Raceway to raise awareness and funds for the nutritious meals they serve older adults.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 1 p.m. and will include live music, a kids zone, food, entertainment and a walkers village with a variety of vendor booths. Entertainment will feature Bebop and Beyond, Jefferson

High School Heatwave Band, Big Bad Beat and Ronnie Carrier.

Other attractions include a juggler, balloon animal artist, face painting, and arts and crafts. The event will also feature a pancake breakfast for all participants. More than 1,000 people are expected to attend.

Walking teams and individuals are encouraged to register at strideforseniors.org. Awards will be made to the team and individual who raise the most money for Meals on Wheels People. For more information or to register, visit strideforseniors.org.

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Joe McFerrin II, president and chief executive officer of the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center and Rosemary Anderson High School, celebrates 50 years of leadership in workforce training.

Jobs Training Program Turns 50

Community advocates, including Mayor Ted Wheeler and Andrew Colas of Colas Construction, joined Joe McFerrin II, president and chief executive officer of Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC) and Rosemary Anderson High School (RAHS) to celebrate POIC's 50 years as a leader in workforce training for communities of color.

POIC was established in Portland in 1968 to provide employment training and industrial development programs for people of color, demonstrating the strength of African Americans resisting

persistent racism and discrimination through their own community-based programs and organizations.

"Our doors are open to everyone. We work with high-risk youth and their families to provide education, job training, and job placement for low-income citizens in our community," said McFerrin.

Colas, the keynote speaker, recently helped POIC launch a new pre-apprenticeship program for trainees to develop construction skills and prepare for a career in the trades.



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9 P.M. - 12 Midnight
MIKE SHANNON

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Students in nursing complete their studies at Portland Community College after their ITT Tech school went bankrupt in 2016.

Nursing Students Rebound

A temporary program to support nursing degree completion for former students of the ITT Technical Institute has concluded with exceptional success.

Of the 140 displaced students who enrolled in a program established by the Higher Education

Coordinating Commission and Portland Community College after the sudden closure of the for-profit ITT, 133 students or 95 percent of them graduated.

The final nursing pinning ceremony was held April 5 at PCC Breckinridge where the last group of students in the program graduated with two-year Associate Degrees to become registered nurses (RNs).

Ben Cannon, executive director of the state commission, commended the students and all who supported them.

"Congratulations to the graduates for their dedication and success, and tremendous thanks to our student-centered partners at PCC and the Oregon Legislature who came together to make this possible," Cannon said. "Many of these students were so close to finishing their degrees but without viable options when the state stepped in. This was an innovative partnership that resulted in the exact outcomes we hoped to see."



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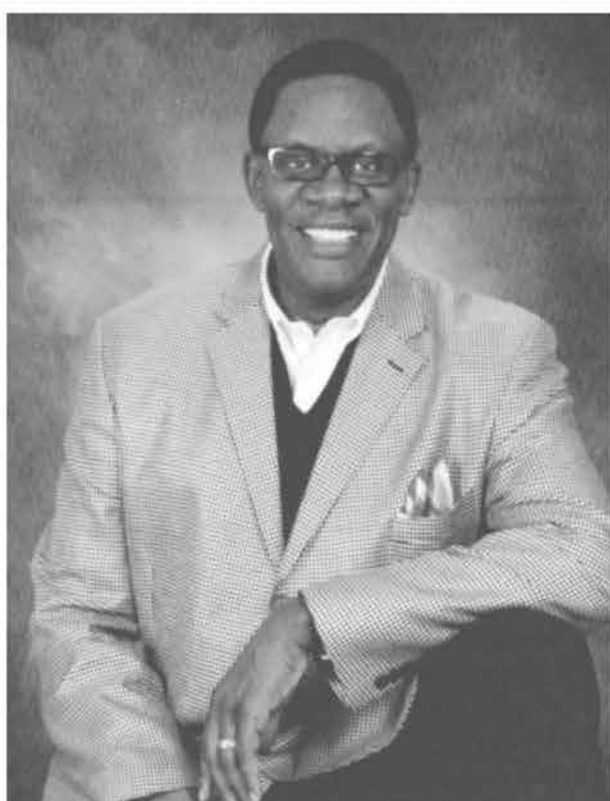
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King School Legacy Celebration



Former students of Martin Luther King Jr. School attend Friday's 50th anniversary celebration honoring the legacy of the northeast Portland being named in honor of the civil rights leader. Formerly called Highland School, the name was changed on April 24, 1968 just 20 days after King's assassination in Memphis, Tenn.



The student drill team at Martin Luther King Jr. School performs at Friday's celebration honoring the 50 years of legacy since the school was named in honor of King.



West African dance is performed by students from Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School during a "Celebrate the Legacy" event honoring the tenants of social justice and equality.



Martin Luther King Jr. School Principal Jill Sage at the 50th anniversary celebration of the school's renaming.

50 Years of History

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Portland School Board to change the name from Highland School to Martin Luther King Jr. School just 20 days after King's assassination. It's thought to be one of the first, if not the first, school to be named after King.

School alumni who served on a council that sent the resolution to the school board attended the celebration and spoke about their hard fought struggle which was hotly debated at the time. Some of those students now have grand children attending the culturally diverse school on 4906 N.E. Sixth Avenue in the heart of Portland's historic African American community.

The school was predominately black in 1968 and King's widow, Coretta Scott King, gave her personal permission to

use to his name.

A historic temporary sign, in blue lettering and painted on butcher paper by students, that was hung in front of the school in 1968 on the first day of its renaming, resurfaced for the celebration, which also included live gospel and jazz music, students performing West African and drill team dances, and a soul food supper.

King School Principal Jill Sage said the celebration was a reminder of the power from student-led conversations and mirrors some of the actions by students today who are continuing to lead important conversations on issues of basic rights to this day.

"The legacy of student action in response to this terrible tragedy speaks to the hope and resilience to this community," Sage said.



Yolanda Coleman, assistant principal at Martin Luther King School and Lisa Jarrett, a King Museum of Contemporary Art and Portland State University professor, raise a 50 year old poster that was used to rename the school 50 years ago.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Rapper First to Win Pulitzer Kendrick Lamar makes history with latest work

(AP) - Kendrick Lamar has won the Pulitzer Prize for music, making history as the first non-classical or jazz artist to win the prestigious prize.

The 30-year-old won the prize for "DAMN," his raw and powerful Grammy-winning album. The Pulitzer board said Monday the album is a "virtuosic song collection" and said it captures "the modern African American life."

Lamar has been lauded for his deep lyrical content, politically charged live performances, and his profound mix of hip-hop, spoken word, jazz, soul, funk, poetry and African sounds. Since emerging on the music scene with the 2011 album "Section.80," he has achieved the perfect mix of commercial appeal and critical respect.

The Pulitzer board has awarded special honors to Bob Dylan, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane and Hank Williams, but a popular figure like Lamar has never won the prize for music. In 1997, Wynton Marsalis became the first jazz act to win the Pulitzer Prize for music.

That makes Lamar's win that much more important: His platinum-selling major-label albums - "good kid, m.A.A.d city," "To Pimp a Butterfly" and "DAMN." - became works of art, with Lamar



Kendrick Lamar has won the Pulitzer Prize for music for his album "DAMN." which also won the Grammy for Best Rap Album this year.

writing songs about blackness, street life, police brutality, perseverance, survival and self-worth.

His piercing and sharp raps helped him become the voice of the generation, and easily ascend as the leader in hip-hop and cross over to audiences outside of rap, from rock to pop to jazz. He's also been a dominator on the charts, having achieved two dozen Top 40 hits, including a No. 1 success with "Humble," and he has even collaborated with the likes of U2, Taylor Swift, Imagine Dragons, Rihanna and Beyonce.

His music, with songs like "Alright" and "The Blacker the Berry," have become anthems in the wake of high-profile police shoot-

ings of minorities as the conversation about race relations dominates news headlines. He brought a dose of seriousness to the 2015 BET Awards, rapping on top of a police car with a large American flag waving behind him. At the 2016 Grammys, during his visual-stunning, show-stopping performance, he appeared beaten, in handcuffs, with chains around his hands and bruises on his eyes as he delivered powerful lyrics to the audience.

The rapper, born in Compton, Calif., was hand-picked by "Black Panther" director Ryan Coogler to curate an album to accompany the ubiquitously successful film, giving Lamar yet again another No. 1 effort and highly praised project.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Alvin Ailey Back in Portland

After a 7-year absence, White Bird is proud to present Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by Congress as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," for two upcoming performances featuring 32 ex-

traordinary dancers with a diverse repertory.

Two different programs will take place at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24 and Wednesday, April 25, shining a light on social

issues, celebrating the jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald, and honoring the legacy of the company's founder Alvin Ailey, with his masterpiece *Revelations*.

The company promotes the uniqueness of the African-Amer-



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to White Bird with two different programs on Tuesday, April 24 and Wednesday, April 25, both culminating in Ailey's masterpiece, *Revelations*. The performance will take place at The Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m.

ican cultural experience and Tour, stopping at 21 cities, in-preserves the enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. The 2018 North American

including Portland, follows their acclaimed five-week season at New York City Center last December.



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Concert with a Cause

Inner City Blues a push for universal healthcare

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Seeing families overcome with medical costs due to chronic illness or injury and being forced to take extreme measures just to stay healthy was an all too familiar to Oregon Music Hall of Fame alum and blues Norman Sylvester. That's why he and other supporters for universal healthcare decided to do something about it by throwing an annual music festival to support the cause.

The seventh annual Inner City Blues - Healing the Healthcare Blues Festival is this Saturday, April 21 at the North Portland Eagles Lodge, supporting Health Care for All Oregon, an organization advocating for healthcare coverage for everyone.

The event will bring together a dozen renowned musicians of blues and other genres. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the concert will run until midnight.

"The Inner City Blues Festival is my passion to keep healthcare affordable," Sylvester told the Portland Observer. "We just want people to be able to have healthcare without a second mortgage on their home and filing bankruptcy. We want people to be able to get routine medical examinations, which keeps them ahead of the battle of fighting serious illnesses."

The musician and songwriter, who has lived in Portland for the last 40 years, cites a quote from civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther Jr. to highlight healthcare's role as a social justice issue.

"Of all forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most

shocking and inhuman," King said at a convention of the Medical Committee for Human Rights in Chicago on March 25, 1966.

Sylvester, 72, moved by the need, has played benefit shows for his musician friends suffering from medical conditions over the years. Many of them first discovered through emergency services that they had serious illnesses like stage three cancers or diabetes, and then could not afford to pay for treatment.

"Some of those benefits to raise money for healthcare turned into celebrations of life because it was too late. That kind of thing saddens me," Sylvester said.

Had those friends gotten to a doctor sooner, they might've nipped their ailments in the bud sooner, Sylvester explained. But lack of affordable care for even routine check-ups caused their diseases to progress without their knowing.

The retired truck driver, who now plays music full time and teaches music and songwriting to kids at Irvington School, first arrived to Oregon in 1957 from Louisiana. It was his first introduction to attending an integrated school, among other firsts. Sylvester attended Jefferson High School and graduated with the class of 1963.

"It was a whole new world for me," he said.

Sylvester had sung all his life growing up in church choirs in Louisiana and continued his involvement with music when he attended a church on North Williams and Wygant Street.

A friend from church, Isaac Scott, who would later become known as the King of Seattle Blues, began giving Sylvester guitar lessons with an acoustic guitar his father bought him.

"He told me if I learned four songs he would buy me an elec-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Norman Sylvester overcome with emotion after singing in tribute to the late Janice Scroggins and Linda Hornbuckle at the Waterfront Blues Festival in 2015. A staple of the Portland blues scene for the past 40 years, Sylvester will front a Saturday benefit concert with more than a dozen of other musicians in a push for universal healthcare.



The King Louie Pain Quartet with La Rhonda Steele will be part of the lineup for the annual Inner City Blues - Healing the Healthcare Blues Festival, Saturday, April 21 at the North Portland Eagles Lodge.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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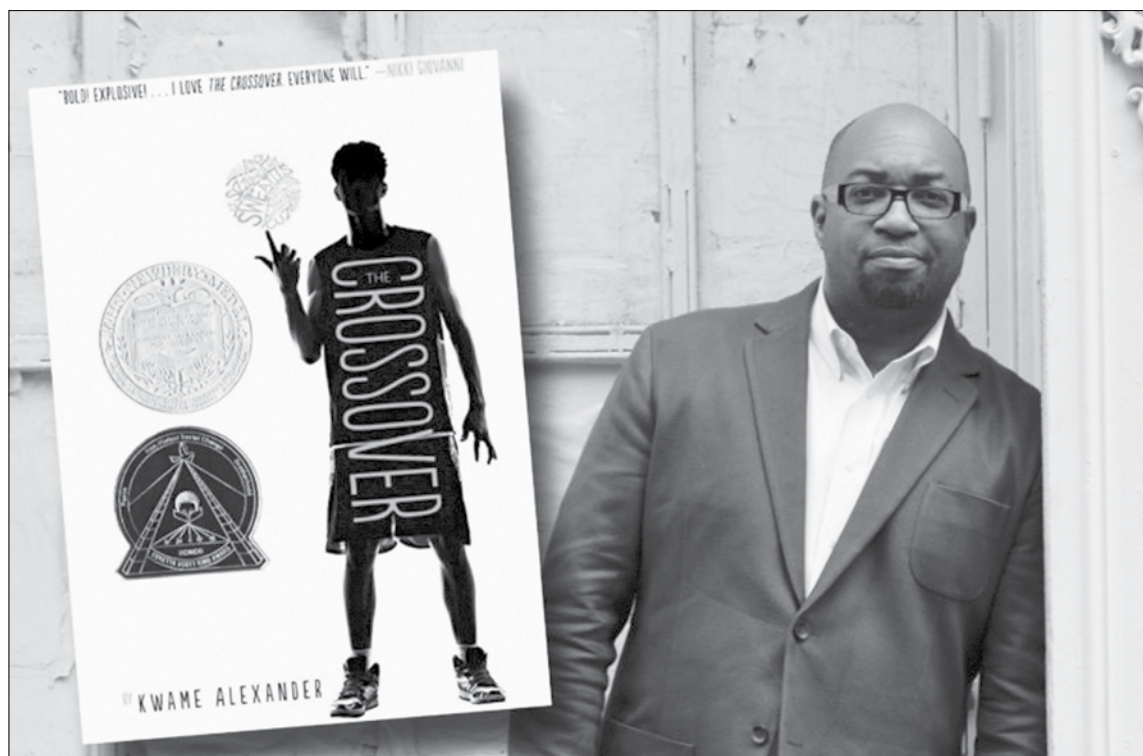
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Poet and children's author Kwame Alexander, the award winning author of the basketball-themed novel "Crossover" and other bestselling works, will appear at the Alberta Rose Theater on Friday, April 20 in a free event sponsored by the Multnomah County Library.

Library Hosts Celebrated Author

You're invited to an evening with poet, educator and bestselling author Kwame Alexander who will appear Friday, April 20 at the Alberta Rose Theatre in northeast Portland for a free event sponsored by the Multnomah County Library.

Alexander's works have en-

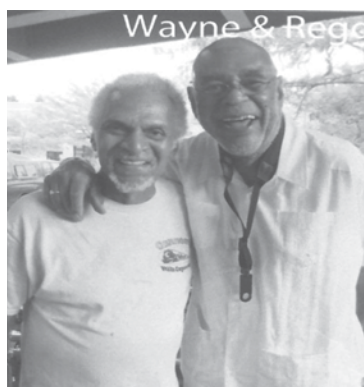
gaged a new generation of readers. His basketball-themed novel-in-verse, *The Crossover*, won the 2015 Newbery Medal for the year's most distinguished contribution to literature for young people. His latest work, *Rebound* (also a novel-in-verse and a prequel to *The Crossover*), explores

the youth of Chuck Bell and his discovery of basketball and jazz over the course of one fateful summer. Kwame Alexander's visit to the Alberta Rose Theater, 3000 N.E. Alberta St., begins at 6:30 p.m. A book signing precedes it at 6 p.m.

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Sou'd Out Festival Begins Today

Now in its ninth year, the Soul'd Out Music Festival opens its five day run of soulful music this week, bringing jazz, funk, electronic, fusion and hip-hop artists from around the world to some of Portland's coolest venues.

The festival opens Wednesday, April 18 with Grammy-winning singer and songwriter Erykah Badu, the "Godmother of Soul," performing at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, downtown. The group R&R=Now will open the show at 8 p.m.

Other festival headliners include big names like De La Soul, Wyclef Jean and the legendary NOLA Superstars Rebirth Brass Band.

On Thursday, April 19: Natasha Kmeto, Maarquii, and Siren and the Sea will perform at the Holocene. On Friday, April 20, Noname, BJ the Chicago Kid, Gus Dapperton, and Fountaine will headline a show at the Crystal Ballroom; and the Rebirth Brass



Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Erykah Badu will kickoff Portland's Soul'd Out Music Festival when she performs Wednesday, April 18 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. The festival runs through Sunday at venues all over town.

Band performs at Revolution Hall. On Saturday, April 21, Cubanismo and the Tezeta Band perform at the Star Theater; and on Sunday, April 22, De La Soul, Silent Heroes, Lilla and DJ O.G.One are

featured at the Roseland Theater and Wyclef Jean stars at the Wonder Ballroom.

For a complete Soul'd Out Music Festival schedule, visit souldoutfestival.com/#schedules.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

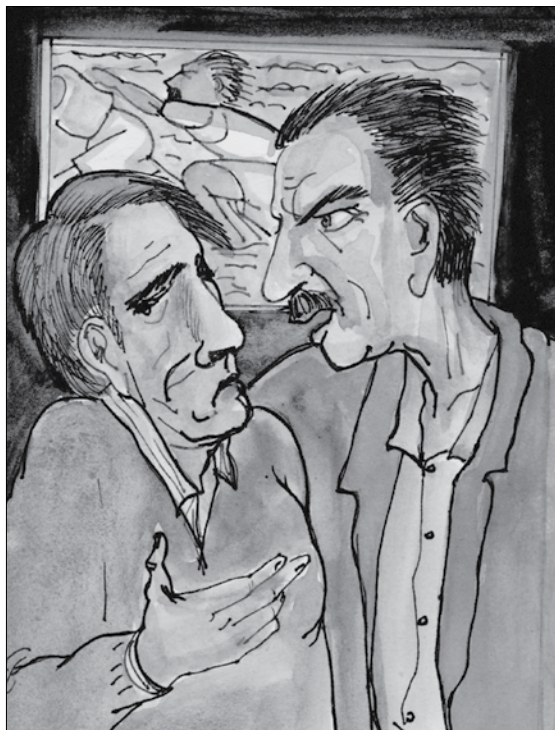
BUSINESS Guide

Norman Sylvester --

'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, April 20 at the Vinyl Tap; Saturday, April 21 at the Inner City Blues Festival; Wednesday, April 25 at Billy Blues in Vancouver; Friday, April 27 at Clyde's; and Saturday, April 28 at the Half Penny in Salem.



Journey to the Trail of Tears -- Cherokee performance artist and activist DeLanna Studi performs her powerful memoir play "And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears" at the Armory, downtown. Studi retraces the path that her great-great grandparents took in the 1830s during the forced relocation of 17,000 Cherokee from their homelands. Now showing through May 13. Regular tickets start at \$25. Visit pcs.org or call 503-445-3700.



Violence and Reconciliation -- "Quietly," a play that grapples with the carnage, consequences and hope for healing following Ireland's decades-long, bloody conflict referred to as the Troubles, makes its West Coast premiere with Portland's Corrib Theatre, now showing through May 6 at New Expressive Works, 810 S.E. Belmont St. Admission is \$25 general and \$20 for students. For tickets, call 800-838-3006 or visit brownpapertickets.com.

OMSI Exhibit on Arctic Thaw -- "Digging into Permafrost" is a new exhibit at OMSI addressing the subject of climate change as viewed through the lens of a thawing Arctic using exciting interactive features such as an Alaskan permafrost tunnel replica, fossil research stations and interactive games.

Zoo for All -- The Oregon Zoo has launched "Zoo for All," a new discount program that provides \$5

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

admission for low income individuals and families. Visitors may purchase up to six of the \$5 tickets by bringing a photo ID and documentation showing they participate in low income service, like the Oregon Trial Card, Medicaid, Section 8, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Head Start.



Voyage to Vietnam -- Portland Children's Museum promotes the understanding of Vietnam culture and showcases the traditions, customs and values exemplified by the country's annual celebration of Tet with Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tet Festival. The new exhibit runs through May 6.

Robot Revolution -- A new exhibit at OMSI brings some of the most innovative robots from all over the world. Learn about the skills robots possess that mimic and often surpass human capabilities in "Robot Revolution," now showing through Sept. 7.



History Hub -- Oregon Historical Society exhibit for young people explores the topic of diversity with interactive objects and pictures that tell the stories of the people of Oregon, past and present. With puzzles, touch screen activities and board games, History Hub asks students to consider questions like "Who is an Oregonian?," "How has discrimination and segregation affected people who live in Oregon?," and "How can you make Oregon a great place for everyone?"

Discount Tickets -- Low income families and individuals can purchase \$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a unique program called Music for All. Participating organizations include the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theater, Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Friends of Chamber Music, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Piano International, Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.

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OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

It's Up to Grown-Up to Stop Bullying, Not Kids

If only my teachers intervened

BY JILL RICHARDSON

Bullying's been in the news a bit lately, in part because of the Parkland shooting.

In response, some people suggested that school children themselves should befriend kids who get bullied to prevent school shootings. Others say this is victim-blaming.

I'm not thinking about it too much as a national issue, however. It came up in my life in a more personal way. I suffer from the lasting impacts of childhood trauma, mostly anxiety and migraines.

This past week, I realized that the school bullying I'd experienced must have made a far deeper impact on me than I'd thought. It happened between about first and third grade, and again in junior high. I've spent most of my life trying to just bury those memories and not think about them.

Deep down, bullying made me feel like there's something wrong



with me, and if I got too close to another person, they'd discover it and reject me. It's made me feel mistrustful, and powerless.

My parents comforted me — and sometimes scolded me for being an

actively unsupervised spaces, like when we walked to school or played outside. But so much of the bullying happened in the classroom.

Why didn't the teachers ever do something? I hold the adults who watched and did nothing far more

bullies said about me and they believed it. I thought as soon as anyone heard the awful truth about me, they wouldn't be my friends. Like a cancer metastasizing through the school and resulting in an inevitable social death for me.

a huge dork, and she thought I was cool and wanted to be my friend.

Oh. Really? Because I definitely thought it was the other way around, and she was the cool one.

Talking about painful elementary school experiences with old friends has been eye-opening and healing. I thought I was the freak, the reject, but it turns out I was just one kid among many, all getting picked on.

Where were the adults? Why weren't the teachers intervening? So much less bullying would have happened if only our teachers didn't stand for it.

Why didn't our parents contact the school? Or call the parents of the kids who did the bullying? It seems everyone just took it for granted that little kids were going to pick on one another, and they let us get on with it.

Kids are going to be kids. That's why they're under adult supervision. It's the adults' jobs to stop bullying.

OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is the author of Recipe for America: Why Our Food System Is Broken and What We Can Do to Fix It.

They have no memory of people picking on me. They remember getting picked on themselves. Each of us was in our own private hell, entirely oblivious that everyone else was in their own private hell.

easy target — but they rarely took action to stop the bullying. Finally, in eighth grade, they asked the school to keep a particularly nasty boy out of my class.

The bullying went on under several adults' noses: my teachers, soccer coaches, and Girl Scout leaders. The adults didn't intervene.

Some of this took place in rel-

responsible than the seven and eight year olds who perpetrated it.

This week, I decided to change my own narrative. I reached out to people I was friends with as a child. Most aren't my close friends as adults, but they grew up to be good people. I asked them, what do they remember?

Back then, I felt like everyone in our grade heard what the

Instead, the people I went to school with told me that they got bullied too. I had no idea.

They have no memory of people picking on me. They remember getting picked on themselves. Each of us was in our own private hell, entirely oblivious that everyone else was in their own private hell.

One person told me she felt like

Students of Color Need to See More People of Color

There's no reason for me to be alone

BY NATE BOWLING

I spent most of my first year of grad school sitting in the back row of class with my



hood up. There were nearly 40 of us in the cohort. Two were black.

My hoodie was an act of silent dissent. Today, I completely understand when my students want to do the same, even with me in front of the room. Academia and public schools are spaces where people of color often feel underrepresented, unwelcome and unheard.

From third grade through high school, I was a student in a series of neighborhood public schools. Afterward, I went to community college and then on to a public liberal arts college where I earned my bachelor's and eventually my master's degree. *Each phase in my educational journey shared two characteristics:*

1. The further I progressed, the fewer black and brown classmates I had.

2. As I progressed, regardless

of the demographics of the student population, the faculty and administrators were uniformly nearly all white.

That needs to change.

An organization I am part of, the National Network of State Teachers of the Year, recently released videos designed to provoke conversations that will lead to this kind of change. Called Courageous Conver-

diagrams overlap in a largely white and female workforce.

At the same time, because of higher birth rates among immigrant populations and the "mysterious phenomenon" of disproportionately high numbers of white children in private schools, the majority of the population of students in public school are students of color, and those numbers are headed even higher, based on en-

The lack of representation is an equity issue, and to resolve it we can look to lessons elsewhere in our society. During the Vietnam War the Pentagon realized that majority brown platoons of soldiers and Marines wouldn't take life-or-death orders from a uniformly white officer corps.

sations About Race in Schools, the videos provide an effective starting point for real discussions that should be happening in schools—particularly in colleges and universities—across this country.

Research tells us that upwards of 80 percent of U.S. teachers are white. Different research tells us that nearly 80 percent of teachers are female. Obviously, those Venn

rollment numbers in lower grades.

Schools systems need to do a better job of attracting and retaining effective teachers of color. Students of color need to see more people of color in positions of expertise and authority, and teachers need to be conversant and literate in the cultural traditions that are present in their classrooms. None of these statements should be controversial.

tagon has submitted amicus curiae briefs in every major affirmative action case before the U.S. Supreme Court because they understand that representation matters.

The word "disruption" gets hurled around frequently in business and increasingly in education. Usually, it's about handing Silicon Valley tech bros a metric-ton of venture capital to sprinkle the

#EdTech fairy dust of the moment. But I'm going to argue that when it comes to teacher diversity and representation in schools, we actually need disruption.

In my neck of the woods the numbers are especially grim: There are only about 800 black teachers in all of Washington State. In my 12-year teaching career, I have never worked with another black male general education teacher.

There's no reason for me to be alone. We see talented students of color all over higher education because universities know how to recruit them. As Jeff Duncan-Andrade says, "Look at any college football or basketball team and tell me colleges don't know how to recruit black talent. When I was a kid I thought Georgetown was an HBCU."

But it can't just be student athletes. We need to bring in students who can increase teacher diversity. It's imperative—and it's well within our power.

Nate Bowling is a high school government teacher in Tacoma, Wash. who was named the 2016 Washington State Teacher of the Year and a finalist for National Teacher of the Year. His blog is called A Teacher's Evolving Mind.

OPINION



A Candidate Who Will Take on the Establishment

Why I'm voting for Julia DeGraw

BY SKIPPER OSBORNE

As an African-American who has lived most of his life in Portland, I have seen a lot of changes—some for the better, many of them not. While Portland continues to grow and expand, minorities are losing their homes and businesses through gentrification, and our local politicians are in no rush to change antiquated policies that are designed to suppress minority progress.

I have seen countless city elections and participated in many campaigns over the years, and I have noticed one constant throughout: The only time you'll ever see white politicians in African-American neighborhoods is when they're running for office. They make their promises to us, win their elections and, once they're back in City Hall, it's business as usual.

With this in mind, I was reluctant to endorse any candidates in the current local election cycle. However, a few months ago I met and learned about Julia DeGraw, who is running against Nick Fish for Portland City Council (Po-



Portland activist Skipper Osborne and Portland City Council candidate Julia DeGraw.

sition 2). I truly believe, in my heart, this is a rare candidate who is not afraid to take on the establishment and follow through on her promises.

Julia DeGraw doesn't simply want to improve policy—she wants to end the system as it currently exists. She's taking on the Portland electoral system, which is built on at-large elections with no term limits. This puts lower-income candidates at a severe disadvantage and is a huge reason why minorities are so underrepresented.

Moreover, Julia DeGraw has boldly called out the Jim Crow

roots that are at the heart of this process. She is advocating for a more representative City Hall—a districted system where elected officials will have to answer to Portlanders in all communities, not just their assigned bureaus and corporate lobbyists.

Here's what impressed me the most about Julia DeGraw taking this stance: She isn't just saying it to communities of color. She has pointed out the racist history of Portland's elections on her website and campaign materials, in the media and to voters of all races and classes. It's a major issue of

her platform.

These are not the words of a "business as usual" candidate. Julia is also sacrificing significant campaign funding by refusing corporate contributions, because she will represent the people over the lobbyists. These are not the actions of a "business as usual" candidate.

Julia DeGraw is a fighter. For nine years, she fought to prevent Nestlé from bottling public water in the Columbia River Gorge. She built a grassroots movement and won. We need that kind of tenacity in City Hall. We need someone who will actually fight for their principles and won't soft-pedal around Portland's biased political structure.

There was a time when I supported Nick Fish and I've seen him soft-pedal for almost 10 years, repeatedly turning his back on the promises he made to our communities. It's time for a change.

This isn't about one candidate, it's about finally turning the page on Portland's Jim Crow era structures and returning power to the people. It starts with voting for Julia DeGraw on May 15 for Portland city Council Position #2.

Skipper Osborne is founder of Truth and Justice for All and a former president of the Portland NAACP.



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Follow these steps: Read the petition and documents filed at court with this summons. Fill out form: FL. Non-Parent 415 Response to Non-Parent Custody Petition, go to the Washington State Courts, website: www.courts.wa.gov/forms. The administrative Office of the Courts (360) 705-5328. Washington LawHelp: www.washingtonlawhelp.org or The Superior Court Clerk's office or county law library. You may use certified mail with return receipt request. File your original Response with the clerk: Mason County Superior Court Clerk, 419th PO Box 340, Shelton, Wa 98584. (Published date March 28, 2018 until May 23, 2018)

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A complete copy of the Bidding Documents can be obtained by emailing Robert Means at Robert.Means@jedunn.com. Bids may also be delivered by email to Robert Means.

Bids due 2:00pm PST April 20, 2018

Any Bid received after the specified date and time will not be considered.

A non-mandatory pre-proposal conference will be located at the PDX Conference Center, 7000 Airport Way, St. Helens B room, on April 4th, 2018 at 10:00 AM for answering questions regarding the Scopes of Work on the Project.



JE Dunn Construction reserves the right to select the best value response, negotiate with multiple bidders, or reject all responses. This is an Equal Opportunity and encourages Minority, Woman, Veteran, and Emerging Small Business participation.

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The Data Acquisition & Management (DA&M) Section in the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) is seeking a Business Systems Analyst to support the development, implementation, operations, and maintenance of the Hydrological Data Retrieval and Alarm (HYDRA) system. The HYDRA system is a complex Operational Technology (OT) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that integrates with other OT systems on the bureau's automation network.

To view the full job announcement and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2GTsm8D>

Obituary

In Loving Memory

Aubrey Gene Davis Sr.

Aubrey Gene Davis Sr. was born Aug. 25, 1953 and died April 8, 2018.

A native of Birmingham, Ala., he graduated from Phillips High School and attended

Alabama State University. He retired from Multnomah County Developmental

Disabilities as a program manager. He was a member of the Kingdom Nation Church,

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Coalition of Black Men and the Portland Rose

Festival Foundation.

He loved life, uniting his family over a meal, Alabama football and had an enormous caring heart, especially for those with disabilities. A devoted husband and father in every measure, he is survived by his wife Shari; daughters Tamika, Audrey and Adrianna; sons Roy and A.J.; parents Gladys and Joseph; and many dear grandchildren, siblings, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins.

A funeral will be held Friday, April 20 at 12 p.m. at the Highland Christian Center.



Shelter Shooting Draws Fire

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

John Elifritz was fatally shot by police April 7 at City Team Ministries after appearing to have had a mental health crisis earlier in the day, authorities said. Police said he refused to drop a knife he was wielding after he burst into the homeless shelter during an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting without a shirt on and was cutting himself.

At the time, he was a suspect running from a car-jacking and attempted carjacking and road-rage incident, crashing a stolen vehicle. Elifritz contacted 9-11 earlier that afternoon and a police officer encountered him in outer East Portland with a knife he held at his own throat. The officer let Elifritz back away and escape, referring the case to the bureau's Behavioral Health Unit for follow up.

Social media posts from his friends family indicated he was having a mental health crisis the

week leading up to the confrontation. Elifritz had also spent several years in prison and once self-identified as a member of a white supremacist prison gang, European Kindred, according to a 2007 Portland Monthly article that interviewed him.

The coalition also criticized the police bureau's decision to not release the names of the seven officers and one Multnomah County sheriff's deputy involved in the shooting for nearly three days. The police cited threats against officers' lives, but exceeded the mandatory 24 hour wait time for police-involved fatal shootings instituted by City Council last year.

At least two other officers involved in the shelter confrontation have gained media attention in the past for their conduct: Chad Phifer was cited in the 2012 federal investigation for firing a Taser at a man who had a mental illness and Bradley Nutting hit a bicyclist with a stun gun six times in 15 seconds.

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Concert with a Cause

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

tric. So through Isaac Scott I learned four songs and my dad bought me that electric guitar and I've been playing ever since," Sylvester said.

Throughout the years, Sylvester has shared the stage with such well known acts as BB King, Buddy Guy, James Cotton, Koko Taylor, Peter Frampton and Mavis Staples, all while working for a trucking company on Swan Island and doing music on the side.

When his employer went belly up, Sylvester decided to finally do music full time in 1990. He's since won several music awards, including Cascades Blues Association Best R&B Band for 2015 and 2017, as well as being inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame in 2011. He played his first Waterfront Blues Festival in Portland in 1987 and has been to almost all of them since.

But Sylvester's job at the trucking company left him with injured hips and his own medical hard-



KOIN-TV Channel 6 Anchor Ken Boddie will join Portland poet and author S. Renee Mitchell once again for MC duties at Saturday's annual Healing the Healthcare Blues concert benefitting Health Care for All Oregon, an organization advocating for universal healthcare.

ships. A series of corrective surgeries in the 2000s saddled him with medical bills larger than his teamster pension or music income could feasibly cover.

"I still have a \$35,000 debt hanging over my head on those surgeries to this day," he said.

Sylvester started an older version of the Inner City Blues Festival back in 1988 as a fundraiser for Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign. The concert ran for 12 years and then after a few years off festival committee members approached him about revamping the festival, this time with the aim of raising awareness and donations for the cause of universal healthcare.

Having witnessed firsthand the financial toll and stress healthcare costs can have on families, Sylvester volunteered to do the booking and play at the festival each year ever since. His wife also volunteers.

The concert supports Health Care of All Oregon, a non-profit political organization working to pass a measure that formally recognizes healthcare coverage as a human right in Oregon by the year 2020. A bill that would do just that, called the Hope Amend-

ment, recently passed the Oregon House, but died on the Senate floor in February.

Last year's festival brought 700 attendees, and this year, an impressive list of musicians are sure to draw folks back, including country blues musician Steve Chesenborough, the King Louie Pain Quartet and La Rhonda Steele, delta blues musicians Tevis Hodge Jr. and Bill Rhoades, and many others.

The festival's community sponsors include the Portland Observer, Cascade Blues Association, Pink Martini, and KBOO Radio, which will be simulcasting the event, live on 90.7 FM.

Other concert highlights include barbecue by Theotis Cason of Cason's Fine Meats, as well as other entrees and desserts, two bars, a silent auction, raffle prizes, and community information tables.

Tickets can be purchased for \$20 in advanced from Music Millennium, Geneva's Shear Perfection, and other locations, or from tickettomato.com. Admission is \$25 at the door.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/healingthehealthcareblues.



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April 2018 CALENDAR

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

15

Income Tax Day
Artist/Inventor
Leonardo Da Vinci
born, 1452

16

Garth Williams
born, 1912
Aviator Wilbur
Wright born, 1867

17

Richard the Lion-Hearted
returned to England
(1194)

18

Paul Revere's Famous Ride (1775)
Pet Owner's Day

19

Humorous Day
Revolutionary War
began (1775)

20

Scientists Marie & Pierre Curie isolate radium (1902)



21

Kindergarten Day
Barbara Park born, 1947

22

Earth Day, established 1970
Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day

23

Home Run Day
William Shakespeare born, 1564

24

Library of Congress established (1800)
Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day

25

Admin. Professionals/ Secretaries Day
Hubble Telescope launched, 1990
World Penguin Day

26

Take your Daughter to Work Day
Hug a Friend Day
National Pretzel Day

27

Arbor Day
Tell a Story Day



28

James Monroe born, 1758 (5th President)

29

Zipper Day (patented by Gideon Sundback in 1913)

30

National Honesty Day
Anniversary Louisiana Purchase completed (1803)



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