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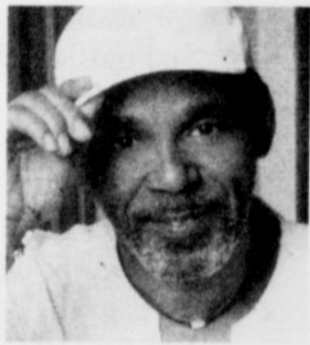
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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local Blues icon Norman Sylvester is lending his voice to a movement to bring universal health coverage to all Oregonians. He will front the Inner City Blues Festival Reunion, 'Healing the Health Care Blues,' on Saturday, April 14 at 7 p.m. at the Melody Ballroom, 615 S.E. Alder.

Healthcare Blues Concert to push for universal coverage

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
"Healing the Healthcare Blues," a reunion of the Inner City Blues Festival, will be held on Saturday, April 14 at the Melody Ballroom, 615 S.E. Alder St., as a way to bring awareness of a movement to provide universal health coverage to all Oregonians.

"From childhood to grave, healthcare should be the least of our worries," said Portland blues legend "Boogie Cat" Norman Sylvester, 67, who will host the concert and perform at the benefit for the Oregon Single Payer Campaign, which advocates health care as a right, not a privilege. Although the single-payer cam-

paign, which was passed in Vermont, has yet to be approved in Oregon, Sylvester said this doesn't mean there is not a need to help thousands of people in the state who do not have health insurance.

Sylvester, a recent inducted member of the Oregon Music Hall of

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Urban League Appoints Watts

Executive will serve during CEO search

Urban League of Portland Chair Lorenzo Poe has announced the appointment of Bruce M. Watts as their interim president and chief executive officer.

Watts took over the position last month and will serve through the selection of a new president and CEO. A national search for a new



Bruce Watts

leader began on March 13 with plans to have the new executive in place by June.

"Bruce Watts brings a depth of experience and track record of success to the League at this important transitional time," Poe said. "His reputation for partnership, accountability and tireless efforts on behalf of Portland's African-American community, and all communities of color, through his work and volunteer service, supports the League as we

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