

# Concert with a Cause

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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

<p>15</p> <p><b>Income Tax Day</b> Artist/Inventor Leonardo Da Vinci born, 1452</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Garth Williams born, 1912 Aviator Wilbur Wright born, 1867</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Richard the Lion-Hearted returned to England (1194)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Paul Revere's Famous Ride (1775) Pet Owner's Day</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Humorous Day Revolutionary War began (1775)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Scientists Marie &amp; Pierre Curie isolate radium (1902)</p>	<p>☾ 21</p> <p>Kindergarten Day Barbara Park born, 1947</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Earth Day, established 1970 Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Home Run Day William Shakespeare born, 1564</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Library of Congress established (1800) Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Admin. Professionals/ Secretaries Day Hubble Telescope launched, 1990 World Penguin Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Take your Daughter to Work Day Hug a Friend Day National Pretzel Day</p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>Arbor Day</b> Tell a Story Day</p>	<p>☉ 28</p> <p>James Monroe born, 1758 (5th President)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Zipper Day (patented by Gideon Sundback in 1913)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>National Honesty Day Anniversary Louisiana Purchase completed (1803)</p>					