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# LOCAL NEWS

## Portland Musicians ‘Mess with Texas’ for a Cause

### Portland Rock-scene Stalwarts Show Their Continued Support of Leukemia Fighter



Texan Tony Hilsmeier has been a mainstay of Portland’s music and restaurant scenes since his arrival in the ‘90s.

Texan Tony Hilsmeier has been a mainstay of Portland’s music and restaurant scenes since his arrival in the ‘90s, but received an unwelcome surprise in December 2022—acute myeloid leukemia (AML), a deadly blood cancer affecting bone marrow. He had just bought the house that he is now fighting to keep. Three days after moving in, he spent 33 days in the hospital. Without aggressive medical intervention, Hilsmeier would most certainly be dead.

He looks back on his extended stays in Oregon Health & Science University’s (OHSU) Knight Can-

cer has been in remission for one year. The bone marrow transplant was successful as Hilsmeier is currently in remission.

However, he now battles massive graft versus host disease (GVHD), which has severely damaged his eyesight. Additionally, the chemotherapy inductions have profoundly weakened his heart. This requires yet more expensive medication to avoid heart failure.

The 15-year employee of Ser-ratto restaurant on Northwest 21st Avenue (where customers’ kids know him as "Uncle Tony") has been unable to return to his formerly high-energy career. While aggressive treatment saved Hilsmeier’s life, his ongoing issues with GVHD have made his return to the workforce uncertain.

Hilsmeier has been a familiar presence in the local music scene for nearly three decades. He was the founding singer, songwriter

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# Health care resources for you

Get help with appointments, getting coverage, mobile showers and more



- AUGUST 22**  
Mobile Showers  
12-2 p.m.  
247 SE 82nd Ave, Portland
- AUGUST 23**  
IRCO  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
10301 NE Glisan St, Portland
- AUGUST 27**  
Blanchet House  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
310 NW Glisan St, Portland  
Family Promise of Tualatin Valley  
1-3 p.m.  
11460 SW Pacific Hwy, Portland  
Union Gospel Mission  
2-3 p.m.  
3 NW 3rd Ave, Portland
- SEPTEMBER 2**  
Doreen’s Place (for residents only)  
9-11 a.m.  
610 NW Broadway St, Portland  
Mobile Showers  
10-11:30 a.m.  
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland

- SEPTEMBER 3**  
Jean’s Place (for residents only)  
1:30-3:30 p.m.  
18 NE 11th Ave, Portland
- SEPTEMBER 5**  
Mobile Showers  
12-2 p.m.  
247 SE 82nd Ave, Portland
- SEPTEMBER 10**  
Blanchet House  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
310 NW Glisan St, Portland  
Union Gospel Mission  
2-3 p.m.  
3 NW 3rd Ave, Portland
- SEPTEMBER 11**  
Rosewood Initiative  
12-3 p.m.  
14127 SE Stark St, Portland
- SEPTEMBER 16**  
Doreen’s Place (for residents only)  
9-11 a.m.  
610 NW Broadway St, Portland

- Mobile Showers  
10-11:30 a.m.  
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland
- SEPTEMBER 17**  
P:ear (for youth only)  
9-11 a.m.  
338 NW 6th Ave, Portland
- SEPTEMBER 19**  
Mobile Showers  
12-2 p.m.  
247 SE 82nd Ave, Portland
- SEPTEMBER 24**  
Blanchet House  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
310 NW Glisan St, Portland  
Family Promise of Tualatin Valley  
1-3 p.m.  
11460 SW Pacific Hwy, Portland  
Union Gospel Mission  
2-3 p.m.  
3 NW 3rd Ave, Portland



[careoregon.org/connect-to-care](https://careoregon.org/connect-to-care)

