

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Cannon's Rib Express Celebrates 25 Years

Community invited to Sunday concert

On Sunday, September 26, Cannon's Rib Express celebrates 25 years of serving Portland's best ribs with a free concert with New Orleans sax legend Reggie Houston from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the northeast Portland establishment.

Cannon's owner Wayne Cannon invites the community to bring their families and join him in celebrating one of the few black owned businesses in northeast Portland.

Wayne believes it was divine intervention that called him to Portland in 1993 for an interview at a national hotel chain. Wayne was reading the newspaper as he waited for his interview and noticed a BBQ business for sale. He contacted the owner Chuck Hinton and just like that, he was in the BBQ business.

It was a small BBQ shop adjacent to what was then a tavern and liquor



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Cannon's Rib Express owner Wayne Cannon (right) with employees Charles Love (from left), Xavier Clark and Frank Baker.

store on the corner of Northeast Killingsworth and 33rd Avenue. When the entire lot was purchased, the developer had to review his plans with the Concordia Neighborhood Association.

As the story goes, the community liked the developer's idea of a phar-

macy and organic food market. However, the development plans neglected to include two critical elements that served the neighborhood and the community; Cannon's Rib Express and the neighborhood liquor store.

The neighbors blocked the plans until both businesses were incorporated into the overall site plan. The developer revised his plans to incorporate Cannon's Rib Express and the liquor store and the rest as they say,

is history.

In 2001, Cannon moved into his current location uniquely designed by the developer for his business.

In 2003, he met Reggie Houston through a common love of Jazz and BBQ. Drummer Carlton Jackson had sent Reggie to Cannon's, proclaiming it his favorite BBQ in Portland, and once Reggie tried it, he became a regular customer.

Cannon's keeps the kitchen radio dialed to 89.1 KMHD, and when

Reggie heard this he shared that he sometimes did a Jazz segment at KMHD. Wayne thought it would be a good idea if he supported KMHD during their fundraiser by donating some of Portland's best BBQ to feed the radio staff and volunteers. He also thought I would be a great idea if Reggie Houston would perform live New Orleans style jazz during the summer on Sundays to entertain the customers, families, friends and the community.

It was a great combination that became a reality. Portland's Best BBQ and live New Orleans jazz, a business relationship that works perfectly and you can only get it at Cannon's.

Being one of the few black businesses in Northeast Portland allows Cannon to hire minority high school students through internships and



Sax legend Reggie Houston.

summer hires, allowing students to learn critical job and life skills while earning a little spending money. He has seen many of his former hires stop by as young adults married with kids and all grown up. He wonders, "My God where has the time gone. I remember when you couldn't even see over the counter."

Cannon has received numerous awards including "West's Best BBQ" from Sunset magazine. AOL's City's Best BBQ, CitySearch's Best BBQ and Willamette Week Pick are just a few of the awards. He also received special recognition from the former Oregon State Senator Margret Carter for his tireless support of the community and generosity to the Portland area.

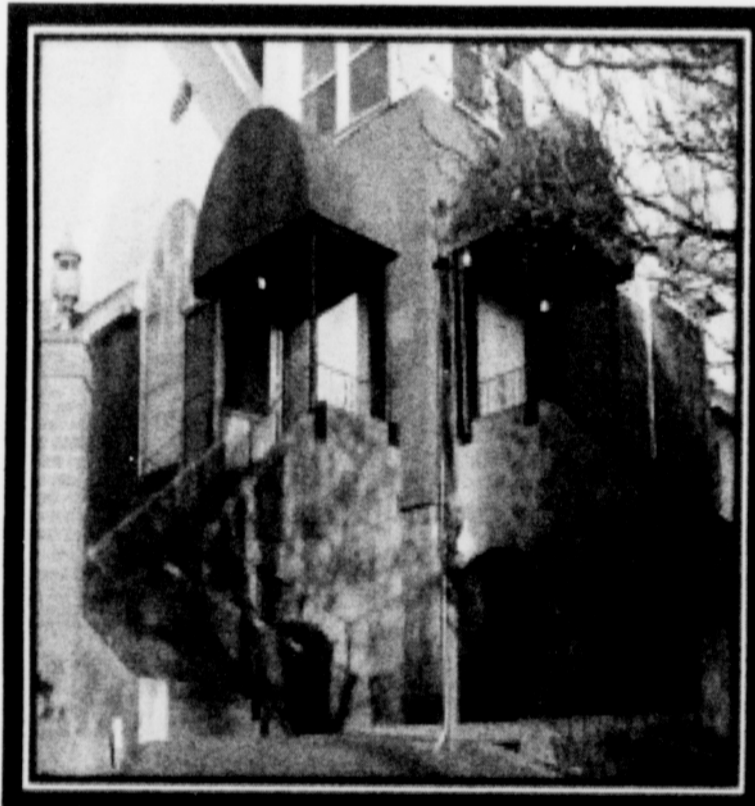
As part of his 25-year celebration, Cannon would like everyone to come out Sunday and bring the kids, senior citizens, friends, family and most of all your appetite.

"I want everyone to know that I'm in Portland through prayer and divine intervention. I want to celebrate my blessing from God for 25 years of business on this corner with everyone and remind them that ultimately God is still in control of our lives, if you turn your life over to him trust him and most of all have faith."

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