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**BACK TO SCHOOL**

# STATUES UNVEILED



PHOTO BY BERNIE FOSTER

Centralia, Wash. Mayor Lee Coumbs (R), seated with his wife, former Mayor Bonnie Canaday, and Mayor Pro-tem Max Vogt (top R), are pictured with a new series of bronze statues depicting the city's founder George Washington, his wife, and their dog. The statues were unveiled in George Washington Park, Centralia, Wash. on August 11, 2018.

## Bicentennial Wraps up for Centralia Founder George Washington, 1818-1905

By Lisa Loving  
Of The Skanner News

The town of Centralia, Washington has been celebrating its founder all year, but last weekend was the crowning event in the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington.

George and his wife, Mary Jane, were African American settlers who came across the Oregon Trail and established the town, almost exactly halfway between Seattle and Portland.

Despite the rainy weather, about 100 people gathered Aug. 11 in Centralia's

George Washington Park to celebrate a new series of three bronze statues depicting George, his wife, and their faithful dog, Rockwood. The statues were sculpted by local artist Jim Stafford, and cast at a foundry in Tacoma.

In attendance on Saturday were elected officials including City Councilor Joyce Barnes, Mayor Lee Coumbs, Mayor Pro-tem Max Vogt, and former Mayor Bonnie Canaday.

The dedication of the statues was the culmination of an entire year's worth of events celebrating Washington's life. The bicentennial kicked off on

the founder's 199th birthday last year on Aug. 15.

"The more I learned about George Washington,

the more I admired him," event organizer Brian Mittge said. "He overcame incredible obstacles in his life – all the hardships of pioneer life, as well as the extra, unfair burdens placed on African Americans by law and custom. He's a great American and an important figure in our Pacific Northwest heri-

tage." Mittge said the best part of this year's events has been their ability to draw engaged audiences. "I've been so moved by his example of bringing people together," Mittge said. "We live in a time of division today, but it was even worse during George's lifetime – slavery, the Civil War, and more. If he could unify people then, we can work toward unity now."

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## Support Black Restaurants Week Celebration Underway

Minority business promotion event heads into a fourth year with expanded website, theme nights

The Skanner Staff

Support Black Restaurants Week is back for a fourth year – with 89 restaurants listed and theme nights every night of the week.

According to the website for the promotional event, Thursday's theme is Soul Food & BBQ and Friday is Fusion Friday. Themes celebrated earlier in the week included West

African Dining, East African Dining and Caribbean Foods.

Last year's event culminated in a parking lot party at Dub's St. Johns; this year, participating restaurants will host events all weekend. Listed events include live jazz at Solae's Lounge Friday, and a DJ featuring pan-African music of multiple genres at Sengatera Ethiopian Restaurant

See RESTAURANTS on page 3



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY

In this 2017 file photo, Keacean Phillips, poses in front of Jamaican Homestyle Cuisine on North Killingsworth. Her business is one of nearly 70 listed as part of the third annual Support Black-Owned Restaurants promotion.



PHOTO VIA GOOGLE MAPS

Many are concerned that the proposed greenway would clog the streets around Albina Head Start at Northeast Fremont and 7th.

## New Greenway in NE – But Where?

Public comment extended for Lloyd to Woodlawn Neighborhood Greenway project

By Lisa Loving  
Of The Skanner

You've heard that Northeast 7th Avenue might get shut down but where do you air your opinion about it?

The Portland Bureau of Transportation is extending public comment on its Lloyd to Woodlawn Neighborhood Greenway project through the end of

See GREENWAY on page 3



AP PHOTO/PAUL SANCYA

Beverly Thompson leaves a stuffed bear outside at New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit Aug. 16. Aretha Franklin, the undisputed "Queen of Soul" died Thursday at age 76. C.L. Franklin, her father, had been pastor at the church that Franklin learned the gospel fundamentals that would make her a soul institution.

## Detroit Remembers Aretha

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Summer Events Fill the Community Calendar  
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