

LOCAL / REGIONAL

The Big 9 Roots Festival

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. - The Big 9 Roots Festival is expanding to a two-day event!

On Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10, the Bessie Smith Cultural Center will host the Big 9 Roots Festival. On Saturday, April 9 the event will take place from 2:00 pm until 11:00 pm on East ML King Boulevard between Lindsay Street and University Street. Musical artists will be performing throughout the day on the BlueCross BlueShield of TN Community Foundation Stage located at the Bessie Smith Cultural Center. Closing out the night will be Sam Sims & Friends, featuring Kipper Jones. Sam Sims was born and raised in Chattanooga and has been a staple in R & B, Pop, Rock, & Jazz for over 25 years. Known for being one of the most versatile bassists in today’s

music, he has worked with musical giants such as Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey, Justin Timberlake, Janet Jackson, Backstreet Boys, Whitney Houston, and many more. All along East MLK will be food and merchandise vendors selling great food, beer, local art, and various products while local musicians perform. The great merchants that are located on what once was known as “The Big 9” will be open and offering their various services and merchandise.

Sunday, April 10 from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm will be Gospel on the Lawn at the Bessie Smith Cultural Center. Local gospel groups, quartets, and choirs will perform on the BlueCross BlueShield of TN Community Foundation Stage. MLK Boulevard will be closed between Lindsay Street and Houston Street and there will be food trucks selling food



and drinks. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy some great gospel music on the lawn of the Bessie.

This two-day event is presented by the Bessie Smith Cultural Center and has been developed to highlight and preserve Chattanooga’s rich African American history, and to honor those who have made history and are continuing to make history.

Both days are FREE to attend and are family friendly. The Bessie Smith Cultural Center will have an art gallery on the lawn on Saturday, featuring art from local student who submitted their work for the Bessie Smith Cultural Center Art Contest.

There is still availability to be a sponsor or vendor for the Big 9 Roots Festival. For more information contact the Bessie Smith Cultural Center at (423) 266-8658 or email pwilkes@bessiesmithcc.org.

Sponsors for the Big 9 Roots Festival include:

Platinum Sponsors – City of Chattanooga, G93, & Power 94

Elite Sponsor – EPB Fiber Optics, Lyndhurst Foundation, Benwood Foundation, & Coca Cola

Premier Sponsor – Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union, Chattanooga Tourism Company, & Mary Walker Historical & Educational Foundation

Gold Sponsor – First Horizon Foundation

Congresswoman Lucy McBath to Keynote Hamilton County Democratic Party “Blue Wave Dinner,” March 19, 2022

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn - The Hamilton County Democratic Party will host its annual “Blue Wave Dinner” on Saturday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

“We are excited to bring back this annual event so we can celebrate and support the outstanding progressives who are fighting for better health care, better wages, and better public schools across the Tennessee Valley,” said Hamilton County Democratic Party Chair Rachel Campbell.

“We’re going to win by registering, engaging, and mobilizing voters and building strong grassroots campaigns for change,” says Tennessee Democratic Party Chair Hendrell Remus, who will provide remarks at the event.

Congresswoman Lucy McBath (GA-6) of Atlanta will be the keynote speaker at the dinner. Following the loss of her son, Jordan, to gun violence, McBath left her 30-year career as a flight attendant at Delta Airlines to become the national spokesperson and faith and outreach leader for Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand

Action for Gun Sense in America. She ran for Congress in 2018 after the mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Since entering Congress in 2019, McBath has sought bipartisan solutions to end gun violence, uplift small businesses and our economy, protect and serve our nation’s veterans, and lower the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs.

The event will also feature entertainment from award-winning political cartoonist Clay Bennett. Mr. Bennett has been the editorial cartoonist for the Chattanooga Times Free Press since 2007. He won the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning in 2007, and is also the recipient of the Sigma Delta Chi Award, the National Journalism Award, the National Cartoonist Society Award for Editorial Cartoons, the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, and the National Cartoonists Society’s Award for Editorial Cartoons, among many other honors and awards.

Guests will be asked to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test.



Photo from Lucy McBath Campaign

WHAT: Hamilton County Democratic Party’s Blue Wave Dinner

WHEN: Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Chattanooga Convention Center, 1 Carter Plaza, Chattanooga, TN 37402

MORE: For Information, tickets, and/or sponsorships, contact hamcodems.com/blue-wave-celebration or 423-227-0759

BIDEN: from front

words echo themes of past chief executives who spoke to Americans amid tension in Eastern Europe.

In this, his first State of the Union address, Biden spoke of national unity at a time of deep political polarization. He reminded his audience that they shared “a duty to one another, to America, to the American people, to the Constitution ... [and] an unwavering resolve that freedom will always triumph over tyranny.”

By stressing a shared commitment to seeing freedom triumph over tyranny, Biden tapped into a common refrain of U.S. foreign policy rhetoric.

This theme was especially prevalent during the Cold War. President Harry S. Truman argued that the nation had a duty and responsibility “to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.” Later, Ronald Reagan held up the United States as “a beacon ... [and] a magnet for all who must have freedom.”

Biden also celebrated the courage and conviction of the Ukrainian people. Just as John F. Kennedy declared in 1963 that “all free men” could identify as citizens of West Berlin, a city surrounded by a tyrannical government, Biden praised Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and “every Ukrainian” for “their fearlessness, their courage, their determination, [that] literally inspires the world.”

Indeed, the visual and embodied symbols of Ukrainian resistance filled

the House Gallery, with some members of Congress dressed in yellow and blue – a deliberate nod to the vivid colors of the Ukrainian flag. Ukraine’s ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova, was seated next to first lady Jill Biden in the balcony.

These references underscored what Biden described as Putin’s attempt to “shake the very foundations of the free world” and belief that he could “make it bend to his menacing ways.” But the Russian president had badly miscalculated, Biden said. “He thought he could roll into Ukraine and the world would roll over. Instead, he met a wall of strength he never anticipated or imagined.”

By focusing on Putin’s unprovoked attack on democracy, Biden shifted the focus from partisan infighting and political division to a unifying theme around which his entire audience could rally: a renewed commitment to defending the “free world.” Indeed, the more than hour-long speech was light on criticism of Republicans, with no mention of Donald Trump nor the attempted insurrection at the U.S. Capitol just over a year ago. Rather, just like during the height of the Cold War, Biden chose to stress the values that have historically united Americans.

To close, Biden declared that the “state of the union is strong – because you, the American people, are strong.”

This was America’s “moment of responsibility,” its “moment to meet and overcome the challenges of our time ...

as one people.”

Although presidents almost always comment on the strength or health of the nation, this particular articulation also bore a striking similarity to another president, Ukrainian President Zelenskyy who just days earlier declared that “each of us is the president ... because we are all responsible for our state.”

For both Biden and Zelenskyy, the strength of the nation – and the survival of democracy – was defined by individual citizens, not an isolated leader desperate for power and determined to elevate their own image. (The CON-

EQUITY: from front

spearheaded transformational projects across the federal agency, and has also led efforts in human resources, financial services, external relations, emergency management, as well as diversity and inclusion.

She represented TVA in the Leadership Chattanooga class of 2022 through the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce. Prior to TVA, Steward was the community outreach manager for Hamilton Health Care System.

She was also president of the board of directors of A Step Ahead Chattanooga, served on the economic opportunity committee for the Mayor’s Council for Women, and was appointed to the board of directors for CARTA, where she was elected as vice chair.

Steward graduated from Girls Pre-

paratory School, received her bachelor of science in sociology from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and earned her MBA from Bryan College. She is also a certified project management professional through the Project Management Institute.

She enjoys traveling with her husband, Adrian as well as reading, cooking, and spending time with family and

BALL: from front

Since our inception, we have provided ten (10) inner-city students \$1,000 each in scholarships totaling \$10,000 each year. Last year, we set a new precedence by awarding ten students with \$2,500 each for a grand total of \$25,000. This was a new milestone for this Chapter as we set the bar even higher. Even more remarkable is this was accomplished in the midst of a global pandemic which halted all of our signature fundraising efforts. Collectively over the years, NCBW Chattanooga Chapter has given over \$275,000 in scholarships since the beginning and we’re nowhere near done. Our goal is to meet, or even exceed, \$25,000 during the 2022 Mardi Gras Ball.

In addition to great food, amazing entertainment and an unmatched party experience, we will also host an exclusive pre-event VIP Reception as well as a Silent Auction during the event. We ask that you consider partnering with us either with a sponsorship or contribution toward this worthy cause. Help us continue to make dreams of college a reality for our girls.

For more information about NCBW Chattanooga Chapter and our programs, please visit our website at www.ncbw-chattanooga.org. If you have further questions, please contact me via email presidentchatt.ncbwchapter@gmail.com or by phone (423)463-1854. You may also reach out to our Fundraising Committee Chairwoman, Leslie Mayfield, email ncbw.chatt.fundraising@gmail.com or (423)504-6556.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Appling, President

Leslie Mayfield, Fundraising Committee Chairwoman

EPIC: from page 3

Nazor-Comer as Benny, Phil and Louise.

The ensemble cast includes Al-isha Armstrong, Story Bumgardner, Landon Greene, Avery Hampton, Cori Hartman, Annabel Hudgins, Aiden Jackson, Luis Lopez, Lucy Martin, Sam Mazurek, Kamara Morris, Jenna Moss, Aidan Patterson, Je’annya Phillips, Layla Rice, Fields Thomas, Winter Tutor and Olivia Williams.

For tickets and more information, contact Tripp Pettigrew at pettigrew_t@hcde.org or visit <http://cca.hcde.org>.

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2022
Friday, March 4
Saturday, March 5
Saturday, March 12
7:00 PM
Tickets \$5

directed by
TRIPP PETTIGREW