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Complimentary

Local Blacks Honored at Juneteenth Celebration



Marsha Mills, president of Rhyme-N-Chatt, was recognized for achievement in literacy.



Actress Sheila Wofford was recognized for achievement in film.



Charlie Newton—founder of SPLASH, a free art school for urban students—was recognized for visual arts.



Dr. Roland Carter, retired University of Tennessee at Chattanooga professor, was recognized for his achievement in music.

By Yolanda Putman
A local nonprofit organization's dream for its second Juneteenth celebration rose to reality this month when a sold out crowd hit the Chattanooga Theatre Centre for the Chattanooga Festival of Black Arts & Ideas' RBG (Red Black and Green) Ball and its 1st Inaugural Black Arts Awards.

"We are making history here tonight," said Donna Elle Harrison, a local radio personality and director of Cultural Tourism for the Chattanooga Tourism Co.

Harrison hosted the event with TV Channel 9's "Good Morning Chattanooga" co-anchor Greg Funderberg.

Ric Morris, founder of the black arts organization, recognized local professionals like Neutral Ground restaur

ant owner and award-winning cuisinier Chef Kenyatta Ashford who prepared the meal especially for the celebration, PAN-CAKE Bakery owner Renita Johnson who made African flag-topped red velvet cupcakes for dessert, and Tinita Coulter who designed dresses for three historical African princesses presented at the ball. Morris also recognized local black firefighters who served as waiters.

The RBG Ball and Black Arts Awards marked the first in a month-long schedule of events recognizing Juneteenth, the oldest celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. The federal holiday is observed on June 19, the date in 1865 when slaves in Galveston, Texas learned they were free.

A spirit of gratitude and pride filled the theater as black people and some supportive whites stepped in the theater to celebrate African American culture and achievement.

Morris sold 101 tickets to mark the 101st Anniversary of the Black Wall Street Massacre in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

After a dinner—including tasty cornbread and spread, flavorful beans and fish, or beans and chicken—the Knoxville-based drum group, Indigenous Vibes, set the atmosphere with African drum beats and bells mixed with high pitched ululating and high stepping dancers.

The group paraded down a red, black and green carpet in the center of the dining area and made space for the procession of three historical African

princesses.

The Black Arts Awards honored local artists in visual arts, music, dance, literature, theater and film.

Charlie Newton, founder of a free art school called SPLASH, received the visual arts award. He said he was grateful for the honor and noted that blacks throughout history don't get the recognition they deserve.

"As our art goes, so does the world, but a lot of times we don't get credit for any of it," he said. "So it is very important that we celebrate our value and who we are."

The festival recognized internationally known musician and retired University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

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Ruben Studdard Will Perform in Free Concert as Part of UTC Juneteenth Celebration

A concert by "American Idol" winner and future University of Tennessee at Chattanooga faculty member Ruben Studdard will highlight a Juneteenth celebration at the University.

A collaboration between UTC and the Chattanooga Festival of Black Arts & Ideas, the free event starts at 7 p.m. Sun., June 19, on Chamberlain Field. It will open with a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation.

"It is the tradition of the Chattanooga Festival of Black Arts & Ideas: Juneteenth Independence Day to ask a prominent Black person from our community to do the reading," said Ricardo Morris, founder and CEO of Chattanooga Festival of Black Arts & Ideas.

This year, the proclamation will be read by UTC Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Engagement Stacy Lightfoot.

"The Division of Diversity and Engagement supports the mission of



The Emancipation Proclamation will be read at this year's University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Juneteenth celebration by Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Engagement Stacy Lightfoot. Her friend "American Idol" winner Ruben Studdard will perform a free concert afterwards.

BlueCross Names Faber as Director of End-User Experience



Jeremy Faber joined BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee in 2011.

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee has selected Jeremy Faber as director of end-user experience in the company's enterprise information technology department.

In this role, Faber will lead the teams responsible for ensuring employee satisfaction with the company's technology assets and improving employee productivity.

"Jeremy's demonstrated ability to align teams and his dedication to delivering technology solutions that enhance the employee experience will serve him well in his new role," said Jennifer Weaver, senior vice president and chief information officer at BlueCross.

Faber joined BlueCross in 2011 as a systems engineer and has served as the manager of client engineering services for the past four years.

He studied computer science at the University of South Carolina and has a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies from Lee University.

Slim + Husky's Pizza Announces Chattanooga, TN Grand Opening



Slim + Husky's founders Emanuel Reed, Derrick Moore, and Clinton Gray.

Nation's Largest Black-Owned Pizza Chain to Open Tenth Location on June 23

NASHVILLE and CHATTANOOGA, TENN (June 15, 2022) – The nation's largest Black-owned pizza chain, Slim + Husky's Pizza, is set to make its mark on the River City with the grand opening of its Chattanooga, TN, location on Thursday, June 23 (11:00 AM EDT). The Chattanooga restaurant is symbolic as it marks the opening of the chain's tenth loca-

tion, and aligns with the chain's "Pizza (and Progress) Rules Everything Around Me" (PREAM) mantra.

Located at 401 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Nashville-based Slim + Husky's is known for its tasteful blend of artisan pizza, hip-hop/R&B and art. Chattanooga residents, the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga community and tourists are invited to visit the MLK location to enjoy an array of signature and custom-built artisan pizzas, made to order salads and cinnamon rolls, all staples of the Slim + Husky's brand.

The restaurant will feature a full service bar, a live performance stage, and a late night window, which will begin operations in the coming weeks. The Chattanooga restaurant will also be the first Slim + Husky's equipped with multiple kiosks offering digital ordering capabilities to customers. In addition to

enjoying Slim + Husky's award-winning pizza, customers can view artwork throughout the restaurant's interior, curated by artists Julius Hubbard (Chattanooga), Jasmine Strickland (Miami), and LeXander Bryant (Nashville). A S+H Flavors Wall featuring Nike and Slim + Husky's inspired shoe designs by Bexclusives (Oakland) will be on display as well as an exterior mural tribute to the late Off White founder, Virgil Abloh, designed by artist Gallery Symf (Atlanta).

Co-founders Clint Gray, Derrick Moore and EJ Reed, construct each Slim + Husky's location with community top of mind. The 800th block of MLK and Mable St. proved to be an ideal location to connect with the community, especially considering its

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Attention Readers

Print Schedule For June: June 2, 16, 30
Weekly content will still be available on our website and social media!

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