



SkillsUSA Medals
Awarded to 18
Chattanooga State TCAT
Students

Page 3



Laws Banning Employers
From Discriminating
Against Natural Hair,
Dozens of Others, Take
Effect July 1

Page 4



Over Half of U.S.
Workers Continue to
Feel Mentally Unwell
and Require Time
Away From Work

Page 9

Chattanooga News Chronicle

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Complimentary

Civil Rights Icon Diane Nash Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom



President Joe Biden and Mrs. Diane Judith Nash

By Terry Howard
Diane Nash...what else don't we know?
When I got the news last week that President Biden recently

awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to civil rights icon Diane Nash, I called an equally elated John Edwards, III, publisher of the Chattanooga News Chronicle



Photo: From left, Reverend John L. Edwards, Jr., Diane Nash, and John L. Edwards, III

having recalled a conversation I had with him a while ago about his experiences with Diane Nash who, along with the late John Lewis, led the 1960 Nashville sit-ins, among the most successful student led sit-ins in history.

Said John, whose dad was an influential pastor and civil rights leader in Tennessee whose own

church was bombed by racists, "I was only 12 years old when I got the approval from my father to take part in the sit-ins. Dad dropped me off at the church early each morning where I sat on the front row and took my marching orders from Lewis and Nash. I was so enamored with these two Fisk University students and the

See Laws Page 4

Carla Mason Honored with UT President's Award



Carla Mason, left, winner of a 2022 University of Tennessee System President's Award "Excel In All We Do" category, and UT System President Randy Boyd. (Photo courtesy of UT System/Sam Thomas.)

By Charlie Reed
When Carla Mason asks how you're doing, she really wants to know. She waves and smiles at everyone she encounters working on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

But she can also sense when someone is down and could do with some cheer.

"When I see people hurting, I want to go up to them and talk to them and you know, just say a nice thing. A nice word goes far; a nice word goes very far. And people need that. They really do," said Mason.

Her warmth is palpable. Her hugs are therapeutic. And her work as a senior custodian in Race and Hooper halls is outstanding.

So outstanding that she won this year's UT President's Award in the "Excel in All We Do" category. Mason was nominated by UTC Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Tyler Forrest and was selected for the prestigious award by a state committee, standing out among a pool of candidates from across the UT system.

"Carla is an outstanding team member," Forrest said. "Her contributions to the University go far beyond the exceptional job she does as a senior custodian. She brings a positive attitude and

great outlook to work every day. She is always ready for a good laugh, serious conversation, or anything someone wants to discuss. It is truly a pleasure knowing Carla."

Mason said the feeling is mutual. "We just bonded," said Mason, who started at UTC in 2015. "He's always talked about how good I kept up everything. But I had no idea he was thinking that I was above and beyond."

Mason didn't know she had been nominated, so when Forrest delivered the good news, she felt like "a kid on Christmas morning."

"I was in awe. I could not believe that I even qualified for such a thing. It was humbling, and I really am grateful," said the 60-year-old Chattanooga native.

Mason won't take credit for her work ethic or sweet nature.

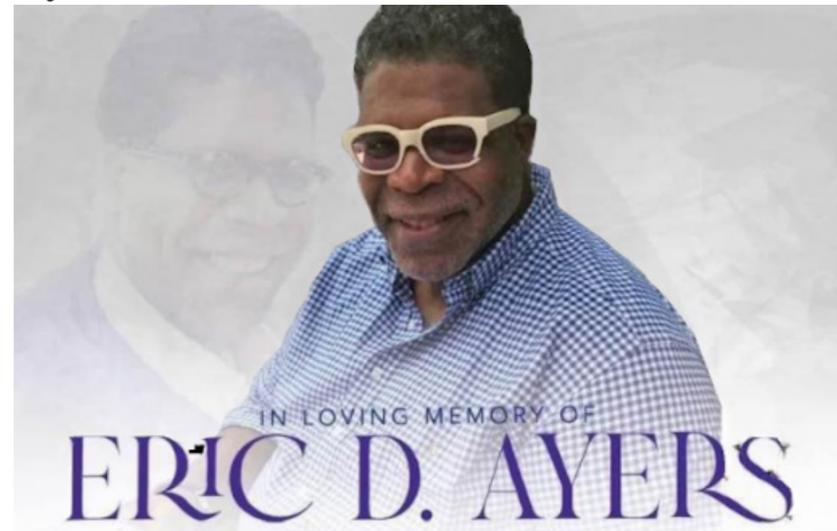
"It's not me at all. It's the Christ within me that shows up and shows out evidently, because I just do my little job, mind my own little business," said Mason, who sometimes takes her break in Danforth Chapel.

Sometimes her grandson, Ledarrius Mason, a UTC business major, comes to visit her after or before classes.

But her positive impact on UTC

See Mason Page 7

Ayers Loses Battle to Cancer



Eric Dwyane Ayers, 58, passed away at his home Friday, June 24th in Atlanta, GA after a short, courageous battle with cancer. Wife, Shameeka and son, Gareth were by his side.

Eric was a 1981 graduate of McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tennessee and attended Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA.

He was preceded in death by his father, Berry Lee Ayers, Chattanooga; and grandparents Richard Lee and Sar-

ah Ayers of Triana, AL.

Continuing his legacy and holding cherished memories are survivors: wife, Shameeka (Shy) Ayers; son Gareth Riley Ayers of Washington D.C.; mother, Mary F. Ayers, Chattanooga, TN; brother, Danny Lee Shaver Ayers and wife, Crystal, Mullica Hill, New Jersey.

Final services were held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Chattanoogans Benefit From Medical-Debt Credit Report Changes

By Camm Ashford

Healthcare costs continue to rise, even for people who have medical insurance. In total, Americans currently owe at least \$195 billion in medical debt.

Medical debt can become even more burdensome when a person defaults on it, as this information is reported to the credit bureaus and hurts the debtor's credit score.

The good news is that the three major credit bureaus--Equifax, Experian and TransUnion-- recently announced major changes to how medical debt is reported. With these changes expected to remove nearly 70% of medical collections debt tradelines from consumer credit reports, the personal-finance website WalletHub last week released the "Debt Credit Report: Cities Benefiting Most & Least From Medical-Debt."



The report compares 182 U.S. cities across four key metrics based on TransUnion data in order to determine where people will receive the most and least credit-report relief. Cities where many people have

See Medical-Debt Page 11

Attention Readers
Print Schedule: July 14, 28 | August 11, 25
Weekly content will still be available on our website and social media!

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INDEX			
Commentary	2	Health/National	8
Local/Regional	3-4	General News	9
Ads	5	Business Mall	10
Churches	6-7	General News	11-12