

## LOCAL / REGIONAL

# NAACP Calls for Case Review

Based upon information reported in the various news media related to the Chattanooga police officers who were placed on desk duty, and the rebuttal comments from the Fraternal Order of Police, we ask for a review of every case in which these officers provided testimony.

This issue is not about Police

Chief Murphy, who has been on the job less than six months, it is about treatment of the citizens of Chattanooga. No police officer or any other person has the right to lie in response to questions during a proceeding. The people of Chattanooga are due fair policing and testimony in every instance.

The information that we have

thus far is information listed in the press and word of mouth from various groups and individuals in our city. The citizens are due explanations from Mayor Tim Kelly and the entire city council or should the citizens ask the Department of Justice for a Federal review of the police department.

The NAACP will not stand by

while the real issue is being hidden behind the new police chief. She did not lie, the police officers by information in their stated records lied. Therefore, a process should begin immediately to review the judicial cases in which these officers testified.

Reverend Ann Pierre  
naacpchatt@gmail.com

## The Songbirds Radio Hour Live Event Launches Sept. 1, with Free Episode on Bessie Smith and Historic Ninth Street

Chattanooga has a rich music history that's been overlooked for far too long. That's why Songbirds Guitar & Pop Culture Museum is starting a live series called "The Songbirds Radio Hour," a new one-hour music and interview show hosted in front of a live audience.

The monthly show will take place at the Songbirds Guitar & Pop Culture Museum, 35 Station St., and will air on WUTC about a week after the live event.

The live event series is free to the general public and each episode will cover a different theme and how it intertwines with music, from racism and civil rights to the legacy of southern rock, women in punk, regional music history, gender identity, and much more.

The series will feature regional and national celebrities—from authors and journalists to musicians, producers and others involved in the music industry—in a Q&A style format, along with music from a regional or national band.

"This event has been in the works for a long time and we're super excited

to share it with the public," says Reed Caldwell, executive director at Songbirds. "Part of our mission is music education and to help curate and conserve local, regional and national music history, and 'The Songbirds Radio Hour' is another way we're achieving that."

The inaugural episode of "The Songbirds Radio Hour" will focus on Chattanooga's famous Ninth Street—now known as MLK Boulevard—and how the thriving Black community helped shape the music career of legendary blues singer Bessie Smith. It will take place Thursday, Sept. 1 at 7 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Scott, the author of "Blues Empress in Black Chattanooga: Bessie Smith and the Emerging Urban South," will be this episode's special guest interview. Dr. Scott is a professor of history at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Neshawn Calloway, a music teacher at Chattanooga's Center for Creative Arts, will be the musical guest—covering some of Bessie Smith's most beloved songs.



Dr. Michelle Scott, the author of "Blues Empress in Black Chattanooga: Bessie Smith and the Emerging Urban South," will be The Songbirds Radio Hour's special guest interview on Sept. 1.



Neshawn Calloway, a music teacher at Chattanooga's Center for Creative Arts, will be the musical guest at The Songbirds Radio Hour Live Event on Sept. 1.

Free tickets are available online only at the Songbirds website, [www.songbirdsfoundation.org](http://www.songbirdsfoundation.org), under the Shows tab. Space is limited to 75 guests. Alcoholic beverages will be served,

with proceeds going to Songbirds' Guitars for Kids program, which gives free guitars, lessons, and music therapy to children throughout the south.

## UTC Grad Wins 'Supermarket Stakeout' on Food Network

By Shawn Ryan

It's all about the smile.

Janel Fields, a 2014 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, won the Aug. 9 episode of "Supermarket Stakeout" on the Food Network.

"I think the skills that are going to help me out in this competition are my background in biochemistry and food science. And, of course, my smile," Fields said in the show.

Her prize for winning was a year's worth of groceries.

The owner of Field of Greens DFW in Dallas, Fields earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from UTC and works as a private chef and a recruiter for biotechnology companies.

In the three-round competition, Fields—who was featured on the web series "Instachef" in 2019—faced off against three other chefs. Working in temporary kitchens set up in the parking lot of a grocery store, they had to prepare three different dishes, each in 45 minutes.



Janel Fields owns Field of Greens DFW.

The kicker is that each was given \$500 and had to buy ingredients for all three of their dishes from shoppers

coming out of the store—basically ambushing them—without knowing what was in the shoppers' grocery bags.

"Sometimes they get dog food, energy drinks and kitty litter," said show host Alex Guarnaschelli.

Whatever they found, they had to create a dish out of it from scratch.

In each round, chefs and restaurateurs Maneet Chauhan—who lives in Nashville and owns or cofounded four restaurants in the city—and Scott Conant, both well-known to Food Network viewers, judged each dish. One chef was eliminated in each round until two—including Fields—faced off in the final.

In the first round, the culinary theme was "Grilled to Perfection." Fields made grilled flatbread topped with peppers and ground turkey mixed with the marinara.

"I'm being adventurous," she said. "Keep me in your prayers."

In the second round, the theme was "Feel Better Meals," and Fields made

dessert nachos out of corn tortillas, pineapple, raspberries, yogurt, brown sugar, allspice and cinnamon.

"All this ooey gooey-ness," she said.

In the final round, the chefs could only select five ingredients from shoppers' baskets, but also could go into the grocery store and buy one item. The theme was "Herbaceous."

Fields planned to make shallot and garlic rigatoni pasta with dried basil and oregano, grated broccoli and mozzarella cheese, but it wasn't working. She turned to a baked rigatoni.

"I have to pivot," she said. "I don't know how it's going to do, but I'm going to have to make it work."

While her final round dish didn't earn high marks from the judges, they gave high praise to her first two. When they told her she won, she ran about, turning in circles and tearing up.

"I kept it simple. I gave them great food and really let my personality shine throughout my dishes," she said.

## Chief: from front

tegrity. It is unacceptable that a case could be jeopardized due to an integrity issue with an officer who was found to have previously misrepresented the truth or filed a false report."

The reassignments came after the U.S. Attorney's office requested a list from CPD of officers with allegations of misrepresentation or untruthfulness. CPD said Chief Murphy complied with the request and a list of the

officers was given to federal and state prosecutors.

"The internal affairs investigations at issue were related to internal policy violations, and none of the affected officers are accused of misrepresentation in a court of law," Chief Murphy said. "However, whenever an internal affairs investigation finds that an officer has, in the course of their duties, been less than truthful, it can call into question the integrity of their testimony in court, jeopardizing a prosecutor's ability to obtain a con-

viction. Because of the sensitivity of this matter and out of respect for our officers, we will have no further comment on this issue."

CPD did not name the officers involved or what they were specifically accused of, but it could be as simple as a typo or as serious as withholding information from prosecutors.

Chief Murphy said the 10 officers she reassigned were already subject to internal investigations finding them guilty of misrepresentation or untruthfulness, but they remained on

the force. However, she explained that none of the officers were accused of misrepresentation in court.

"These officers have not been terminated or demoted," Chief Murphy said in a news release from department spokesperson, Assistant Chief Jerri Sutton.

At press time, local community activists and a handful of police unions and nonprofit advocacy organizations have pushed back on Chief Murphy's decision.

## EPB: from front

bits per second (25,000 Mbps) internet service to be available to all residential and commercial customers over a 100% fiber optic network with symmetrical upload and download speeds.

Through a partnership with Hamilton County and the City of Chattanooga, the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Convention Center is EPB's first 25 Gig customer, making it the first convention center worldwide to offer such blazingly fast speeds over a broadband network.

With this technology, the Convention Center will be able to simultaneously provide high bandwidth connectivity to thousands of smart devices to draw business conferences, e-gaming competitions, live streaming events and more.

"EPB is keeping Chattanooga on the cutting edge," said Vicky Gregg, EPB Board Chair. "We are once again breaking the typical approach for internet service providers by proactively upgrading to the latest technologies in anticipation of future needs. Our goal is to enable new frontiers for technical innovation and job creation for our customers to the benefit of our whole community."

Hamilton County and the City

of Chattanooga have each dedicated \$151,000 in infrastructure funding for a total of \$302,000 to cover the cost of installing new networking equipment and Wi-Fi access points throughout the convention center as well as much of the cost of providing multi-gig connectivity for the next five years. Once the new equipment is installed, visitors will be able to benefit from high-speed connectivity throughout the facility.

"The new 25 Gig internet service gives our Convention Center a major competitive advantage in drawing business conferences, conventions, e-gaming competitions and other events that bring tens of thousands of visitors and many millions of dollars in spending into our local economy," said Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger.

"EPB has continuously pushed the boundaries of what a utility can do for a city, and by launching 25-gigabit per second internet service community-wide, we have solidified Chattanooga's competitive advantage as the premier destination for the country's emerging knowledge innovation economy," said Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly. "This new, incredible resource will not only attract businesses, entrepreneurs, and top talent from across the globe, it will also increase quality of life for the tens of thousands of Chattanoogaans who rely on high quality, top-

speed internet for remote work. Simply said, this is an unprecedented boon for our local economy."

The launch of the new internet service is made possible by EPB's on-going, multi-year effort to upgrade the whole community-wide network from core to the optical networking equipment at customer locations with the latest optical signaling technology along with the deployment of Nokia's ground-breaking symmetrical 25G PON (Passive Optical Network) fiber broadband technology.

In launching the 25 Gig internet service, EPB is also continuing to partner with Arista Networks, which is providing the equipment to upgrade the convention space to Wi-Fi 6 with multi-gig PoE campus switching platform.

EPB launched its community-wide Gig-speed internet service in September 2010, quickly earning Chattanooga a reputation as "Gig City." Today's 25 Gig enhancement follows a 2015 upgrade which made Chattanooga the first to offer 10 Gig internet service accessible by everyone across a community.

EPB's Gig-Speed internet has helped the Chattanooga region earn many prestigious accolades while boosting the community's rank among tech hot spots. Chattanooga was ranked number 36 in Inc.'s Surge Cities list of best cities in the country to start a busi-

ness and was recognized as one of the top five growth markets for the meetings industry by Knowland and one of the South's Best Cities on the Rise by Southern Living Magazine.

"Connectivity continues to be a top priority for conventions because you need a great deal of bandwidth to support thousands of people using their smart devices at the same time," said Mike Shuford, Executive Director of the Chattanooga Convention Center. "We're also seeing an increased focus on hybrid virtual and in-person events, e-gaming and live streaming. Offering 25 Gig internet service will make Chattanooga stand out to conference planners and will eliminate the frustration of trying to communicate at a crowded convention or special event."

Because nothing is faster than the speed of light and fiber optic lines are very durable, EPB was able to upgrade the optical networking equipment to deliver even faster internet speeds without having to replace the fiber optic lines which make up the bulk of the expense and construction effort for the initial deployment.

To learn more about EPB's new 25 Gig internet service go to [epb.com/gig25](http://epb.com/gig25).