

LOCAL / REGIONAL

EPB Promotes Ken Jones To Lead Combined Purchasing, Materials Management & MWOB Efforts

EPB has promoted Ken Jones to senior director of Procurement, Vendor Relations and MWOB (Minority & Women-Owned Business).

In the new position, Jones will be responsible for leading the company's overall Purchasing and Materials Management as well as the MWOB Program, which began in 2002.

"At EPB, the Purchasing team and the Minority and Women-Owned Business Program have worked closely over the years on efforts that total more than \$90 million in contracts with business owners since the program began," Jones noted. "Our goal is to further increase our ability to form successful contracts with diverse companies that help us provide outstanding services for our customers while helping more local companies grow and create jobs."

David Wade, president and CEO of EPB, said Jones' promotion is part of EPB's mission of enhancing quality of life for the community by supporting job creation and broader pros-

perity.

"Our goal in promoting Ken Jones is to maximize our local economic impact by further integrating our purchasing efforts with our focus on contracting with diverse Chattanooga area businesses whenever possible," Wade explained.

"Ken was already doing an outstanding job leading EPB's Purchasing team and has built a strong network of community connections over the years. Adding our Minority and Women-Owned Business Program to his responsibilities is a great fit."

Jones attended Chattanooga State Technical Community College, where he earned an associate's degree in Electrical Electronics Engineering Technology, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) where he graduated with a B.S. in Business Entrepreneurship and an MBA in Business Analytics.

Jones started at EPB in 2000 as a Network Technician and has worked for EPB in a range of roles and lead-

ership positions including fiber optics, project management, engineering, strategic planning and, most recently, procurement.

In addition to being the board chair for Erlanger Community Health Centers, Jones currently serves on the board of directors for green|spaces, United Way of Greater Chattanooga, UTC Alumni Association and the Chattanooga Library.

Jones also mentors middle school, high school, college students and adult professionals. Additionally, he works as a volunteer for The Hunter Museum of American Art, American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), UTC Gary Rollins College of Business and Chattanooga Preparatory School.

"Having the opportunity to make a difference for our neighbors across the Chattanooga area is what makes working for EPB so meaningful to me," Jones said. "I carry that same commitment into my volunteer work."

Jones is the proud of father of two



Ken Jones, EPB's new senior director of Procurement, Vendor Relations & MWOB.

adult children and credits his mother as his biggest supporter and role model in success.

Local businesses of all kinds with an interest in EPB's contracting opportunities are encouraged to contact Jones at joneske@epb.net.

Chattanooga Prep School, Scenic City Aviators To Host Aviation Appreciation Day Event May 14



Father and Son Aviators: left, Vaughn Phipps, Sr. and right, Vincent Phipps.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. – Scenic City Aviators (SCA) is proud to partner with Chattanooga Preparatory School to host its first annual Aviation Appreciation Day on May 14, 2022, at the Collegedale Municipal Airport located at 5100 Bess Moore Rd, in

Apison.

This inaugural event will increase student exposure to the aviation industry. Attendees will meet pilots and mechanics, take a tour of the hangars, and get an inside view of aircrafts owned and operated by local pilots

and SCA members.

Special guests attending the first annual Aviation Appreciation Day include:

Dr. Chad Garrison, President of Scenic City Aviators (SCA), who after a mid-flight engine explosion was able to safely land a plane with four people on board and zero casualties. Vaughn P. Phipps, Scenic City Aviators member, who has personally landed a private plane in all 50 states in United States. David Ulmer, member, Scenic City Aviators; Vincent Phipps, member, Scenic City Aviators; Cameron Doody, Chattanooga entrepreneur; Sean Datcher, member, Scenic City Aviators, pilot and aviation mechanic; Sammy Previlus, member Scenic City Aviators, and helicopter pilot.

"The day I first soloed an airplane was the day I knew I could do anything I wanted in life if I worked for it," says Cam Doody, mentor at Chattanooga Preparatory School, SCA

member and instrument rated private pilot. "That day changed my life permanently."

Vincent Phipps, SCA member and organizer of the Aviation Appreciation Day event, says the industry of aviation is more than just flying. "Aviation includes opportunities for kids and adults of all ages to enjoy either as a hobby or as a profession."

Phipps says this event will help encourage young people to consider aviation – an industry he says is rich with opportunities for a wide variety of career paths and interests.

"Whether you are into piloting, avionics, maintenance, air traffic controlling, operations, or more; when you experience aviation, you soar through life," Phipps says.

For more information about the first annual Aviation Appreciation Day and Scenic City Aviators, contact Vincent Phipps at (423) 400-1040, or email Vincent@VincentPhipps.com.

Food City to Hire Over 1,500 Associates

WHAT: Food City Company-Wide Hiring Event

WHEN: Thursday, April 28, 2022

WHERE: All Food City Locations & Food City Distribution Center

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday, April 28th, Food City will be hosting a company-wide

hiring event to include both full-time and part-time positions.

Food City is planning to hire over 1,500 friendly, smiling faces to work at their Distribution Center and in key customer and food service positions at store locations throughout their operation area. The positions include, both entry-level positions and experienced, skilled positions, such as meat cutter, cake decorator, and retail management, as well as various warehousing/

distribution positions.

Food City is a family owned and operated company that offers a generous benefits package to their associates including competitive salaries, comprehensive training, healthcare coverage with medical and dental plans, 401(k) with a 3% company match, vacation accrual, vision coverage, and company paid life and disability plans, and Employee Stock Ownership Plan. In addition, to these

great benefits, Food City also offers advancement opportunities to associates who wish to progress within a growing company.

Interested candidates, can apply online at FoodCity.com or visit any Food City store to complete an application. Make plans to attend the event at your local Food City to find out how Food City is so much more than a grocery store.

Urban: from front

"So this is an emotional moment," Johnson shared. "It was a Warren Logan dream for us to have ownership in the heart of this city, where we can be a beacon of hope and light for large-scale Black success."

Johnson said property ownership aligns with the Urban League's mission statement.

"That's the power piece that we talk about in our mission statement when we say 'to enable African Americans, other ethnic minorities and disadvantaged

persons to achieve economic self-reliance, parity and power,'" she said.

"It is time for reframing our future, not only as a city, but also our organization. How can you have power without ownership? We are an economic development agency, so how can we help uplift the Black and Brown community if we don't have ownership?"

John Edwards III, founder and president of the Chattanooga News Chronicle, said the Urban League's new building will breathe life into the East Martin Luther King district. Once called "The Big 9" because it was formerly Ninth Street, Martin Luther King Boulevard

for many years was the soul of Black entertainment in Chattanooga.

"She (Johnson) talked about reframing, so that implies that there was a frame before," Edwards said. "And that frame was a spectacular frame. Martin Luther King was once an amazing street and place. That's why projects like this are so important. We get to reframe, and we get to learn from our mistakes. And we can keep the legacy of those who came before us by building on that legacy."

The Chattanooga News Chronicle has occupied an office at 611 E. Martin Luther King Blvd., since its founding in

1999

The Urban League of Greater Chattanooga is an affiliate of the National Urban League, the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans and other underserved individuals to enter the economic and social mainstream. Since 1982, the Chattanooga affiliate has served many thousands of economically disadvantaged persons, individuals representing communities of color and minority-owned businesses.

For more information, visit www.ulchatt.net.

Silverdale: from front

drug overdoses. More than a year after the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office took over the privately-run detention center, violent attacks within the facility are continuing unabated, lawsuits filed last week allege.

Three former detainees at Silverdale filed suit April 18 in U.S. District Court against Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond and county government.

In each case, the detainees contend the sheriff has done little or nothing to address the violence that preceded the county's takeover of the detention facility in December 2020, and blame correctional officers there for putting them in harm's way.

Christopher Lamond Bell says in his civil rights lawsuit that he was stabbed 17 times in April 2021, after jailers forced him into a cell where a

throng of masked inmates were waiting to attack him as part of an initiation for new detainees.

Luster Dwayne Deloney says in a separate lawsuit he, too, was forced by jailers to go inside the same cell on the night of Bell's attack. Like Bell, Deloney says inmates wearing towels around their faces to mask their identities attacked him within minutes of his placement there. He was stabbed six times, the lawsuit states.

A third Silverdale detainee, Michael Brinkley, alleges in his lawsuit that jailers in September 2021 moved him--without cause or warning--into a new cell block and left his cell door open.

"Brinkley pounded on his door to try to get the attention of three correctional officers, but they carried on about their business. Then, five inmates entered Brinkley's cell and attacked Brinkley, stabbing him nine

times--including once in the face."

Bell and Brinkley required emergency treatment at a nearby hospital after their respective attacks. Deloney's lawsuit does not make clear whether he received emergency medical care.

The Chattanooga Clergy for Justice letter also asked for Pinkston's assistance in requesting that the DOJ investigate what the organization believes is an excessive use of force when black DoorDash driver Delane Gordon was tased by a white Collegedale police officer during a traffic stop and arrest on March 10. Citing 19 instances of abuse since 2008 by HCSO deputies, the Clergy said it doesn't trust HCSO to complete an unbiased investigation in the case.

Pinkston issued a statement Monday to address the concerns expressed by the Chattanooga Clergy for Justice.

"Right now, it appears that Silverdale is one of the most dangerous

places to be in our county, and that is unacceptable" he said. "Individuals at Silverdale have the right to be protected and that right should be taken very seriously by every member of our justice system. Therefore, I will formally request that the DOJ investigate the conditions and operation of Silverdale."

Pinkston added that he is withdrawing his request for the sheriff's office to investigate the traffic stop in Collegedale and instead ask the DOJ to investigate that incident as well. His request will be sent to the DOJ's Civil Rights Division in Washington, D.C., as well as to the acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

This all comes in the middle of a primary election for district attorney where Pinkston faces challengers in a close race, and where police support is a key issue.

Nesmith: from pg 3

the TBR Community College Student of the Year. We at the College are so very proud of her."

Board of Regents Vice Chair Emily J. Reynolds, who presented the Student of the Year Awards, said students "come

to our colleges with a thirst for knowledge and leave prepared to enter the workforce in a job vital to our state or to continue your education. Whatever path you choose, we love the fact that you often come back to your communities as future leaders."

The College System, governed

by the Tennessee Board of Regents, is composed of the state's 13 public community and 26 technical colleges. Launched in 2019, SOAR celebrates the colleges' outstanding students, employees, colleges, benefactors, volunteers and partnerships.

Zennia is the third Chattanooga

State student in the past four years to earn the statewide Student of the Year distinction. Chattanooga State alum Jim Fry won in the inaugural year, and alum Deborah Hale won last year.

The SOAR Student of the Year award also includes a \$5,000 scholarship.