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'Emerging Leaders' amplify call for reform in DeSoto march

By Jacquinette D. Murphy
Special to North Dallas Gazette

The hot Texas sun of the past few days was the perfect symbol of the internal fire of the more than 100 people of diverse ages and ethnicities who marched through the streets of DeSoto, Texas, with the #SayHerName, Black Lives Matter Protest organized by the Emerging Leaders of DeSoto on June 6.

Chanting, "I Can't Breathe!", "Get Your Foot Off My Neck!", and "No Justice, No Peace!" amid calling out the names of black women and men from around the country whose lives were extinguished at the hands of police, the protestors demonstrated solidarity with the international outcry for systemic change, social justice and the eradication of racism against all African Americans.

The protestors observed the death of George Floyd, the most recent black man who was allegedly killed beneath the knee of a Minneapolis police officer and extended the focus to also raise awareness of the 22 black women killed by law enforcement officers. The #SayHerName protest was held one day after what would have been the now deceased Breonna Taylor's 27th birthday. Taylor, a 26-year-old EMT who was killed by police officers in her own home in Kentucky in March, is the most recent black woman killed by



More than 100 participants braved the Texas heat to bring a nationwide outcry over police treatment of minorities to the local stage in DeSoto. (Photo: Jacquinette D. Murphy)

police.

"Their stories are not told with the same attention as black men. They are underreported. The media talks about it for a little while," said DeSoto City Councilwoman Kay Brown-Patrick who helped to organize the event for the community. "This is not a competitive narrative. The men are not less important and we still talk about them. Today, we wanted to put their [the women's] names back in the forefront or at least in the mix with George Floyd. The protests and the change that we are seeing in the country are the results of his death, not theirs. They are killing black women, too."

Brown-Patrick read the names of the women at the rally as protestors held up corresponding signage in their honor and encouraged the crowd to research and learn about the lives of the women after leaving the protest.

"Women's voices need to be amplified and the death that is happening at the hands of police needs to be amplified too. Like in anything else, women often get pushed aside and a lot of times, the women are on the front line when we talk about protests coordinating and putting the events together, so we just

See BLM, Page 8



MLK's march is still on the roadways

- See Page 3



Happiness makes for a healthy tummy

- See Page 4



Denton Dems get Confederate statue removed

- See Page 5



DeSoto HS students feed 500 families

- See Page 6



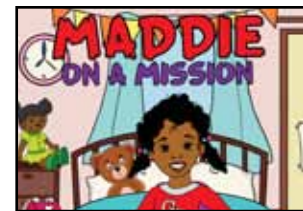
Gold Award given to 172 Girl Scouts

- See Page 7



Six composers chosen for orchestral works

- See Page 9



New book helps explain COVID to kids

- See Page 10



Sister Tarpley: Know your armor

- See Page 15

Inside...

People In the News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community	5
Education	6
Irving / Carrollton / Plano	7
Black Lives Matter	8
Entertainment	9-10
Marketplace	11-12
Career / Obituaries	13
Church Directory	14-15
NDG Book Review	16

See Page 2



Otis Williams



Judge Joe Spurlock II

People In The News...



Seyry Moreno

NDG Quote of the Week: "Black people have always been America's wilderness in search of a promised land."

— Cornel West

Otis Williams

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior Correspondent

Otis Williams, the founding and only surviving original member of the legendary super-group, The Temptations, joined BlackPressUSA for an exclusive live interview to discuss music and social change.

Named the No. 1 R&B Artists of All-Time with hits like "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," and "Papa Was a Rolling Stone," The Temptations have sold tens of millions of albums, and they've earned four Grammy Awards.



The group has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Vocal Group Hall of Fame, and have earned stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Apollo Theater's Walk of Fame.

ater's Walk of Fame.

Williams' journey from Texarkana, Texas to Motown and global superstardom, is chronicled in his acclaimed autobiography, "Temptations," written with The New York Times best-selling author Patricia Romanowski, as well as "The Temptations," an Emmy Award-Winning television mini-series.

Williams is unlike any other musical artist in American culture.

The cultural significance of his life achievements, along with his success musical career and longevity have ensured his status as an icon for millions of fans

all over the world.

"I have to give accolades to the late great Paul Williams. He started our choreography," Williams shared during the live interview. Cheryl Smith, publisher of the Texas Metro News and I Messenger Media, co-hosted the interview. Williams also graciously answered questions from the livestream's viewers.

"Smokey Robinson got us started with 'The Way You Do the Things You Do.' He looked at us and said, 'you guys are fantastic. I love what you do on stage,'" Williams recalled.

His story is also chronicled in the Tony Award-

Winning Broadway Musical, "Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations." Williams revealed that he isn't among the millions who've watched the television min-series. "Too emotional," Williams stated, noting that Robinson has encouraged him to "Break out the Kleenex and watch it."

This year, The Temptations plan to record and release a new album, and, in 2021, the group will mark its 60th anniversary with a tour and other celebrations.

"As I look back in the rear-view mirror of my life, Motown was no happenstance," Williams stated

about the famed record label responsible for the Temptations, Robinson, Marvin Gaye, and so many others.

"Motown sent its artists to school. They schooled us about being artists in show business. They took on another kind of dimension."

Stacy M. Brown is a veteran journalist and author of the new book, "Celebrity Trials: Legacies Lost, Lives Shattered, So What's the Real Truth." He's appeared on "Today," "NBC Nightly News," "Good Morning America," "CNN with Don Lemon," "Anderson Cooper," "Wendy Williams," "Howard Stern," and other shows.

Judge Joe Spurlock II

Texas A&M University School of Law mourns the passing of Judge Joe Spurlock II, senior professor of law and director of the Asian Judicial Institute. Judge Spurlock – a colleague, friend and legal legend – became a founding faculty member of the law school when long-term success was considered wishful thinking by many. By the time he joined the faculty, Judge Spurlock had already spent years in private practice and served as an assistant criminal district attorney, a member of the Texas Legislature, a trial court judge and an appellate



justice.

Judge Spurlock's gamble on the law school proved prescient, as evident its meteoric rise in the ensuing years. Judge Spurlock's dedication to the institution and engagement with its

students and the legal community was central to that progress.

"Judge Spurlock was my first mentor in my law career 19 years ago," commented colleague Lynn Rodriguez. "I would always reach out to him and he would give the best advice. He was funny, intelligent, kind and the best professor. I love him. I am beyond sad right now."

Over the years, his students have exhibited a fierce loyalty to him – cherishing not only his insights into family law, juvenile justice, legislation and more but, likewise, the wisdom he imparted about the nature of effective lawyering. Third-

year student Courtney Gately, who studied with him this spring, described his knowledge of the Texas Family Code as unmatched; he rarely had to look at it, even when quoting from it. His anecdotes, recollections and "Spurlockisms" made him a favorite professor both in class and for student swearing-in ceremonies.

Legal reform and advancing the Rule of Law were among his passions – ones which ultimately led him to invitations to speak with the president and prime minister of Mongolia, among others upon whom he pressed the importance of an independent judiciary. The founding of the Asian Judicial Insti-

tute, which Judge Spurlock led for years, occurred soon thereafter.

Judge Spurlock's passion for the law, justice and legal education were innate. He was the son of Clarice Spurlock, the first woman elected to the Fort Worth City Council in 1953. His grandfather, Sheriff Joe G. Spurlock of Throckmorton County, Texas, died in 1910, two days after being shot while attempting to serve a warrant. His father, Joe C. Spurlock, was himself a trial and appellate court judge who helped create the Texas Trial Lawyers Association. Otis Rogers, his great-uncle, was a Fort Worth attorney, as is his brother Dean Spur-

lock.

Outside of his roles as a professor, judge, lawyer and civic advisor, Judge Spurlock has served in other capacities as well. He was a Boy Scout Master and District Chairman, Council committee member and regional representative for the Boy Scouts of America. In the U.S. Army, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service in Vietnam. He is active in his church, where he taught adult Sunday school for many years.

A 1960 economics graduate of Texas A&M University and a member of

See SPURLOCK, Page 14

Seyry Moreno

(Dallas ISD) It is certainly an unusual year for students in the Dallas Independent School District, especially for the seniors in their final year of public education. But for some students, their journeys were a bit different to begin with.

Carter High School senior Seyry Moreno grew up in a tight-knit household, to say the least. Moreno's family immigrated from Mexico and lived with a handful of relatives who had also immigrated to the U.S.

"I grew up in a house with about nine to ten people, and it definitely made it harder for me to focus on my studies, because there



was always so much going on," Moreno said. "To escape the commotion, I would usually go in my closet for some peace and quiet and just read."

It wasn't until last summer when Seyry and her family were finally able to settle down in a home to call their own.

"It took me awhile to let it sink in," Seyry said. "It was a whole new experience and somewhat refreshing knowing I didn't have to hide in a closet anymore to make time for myself."

Throughout her educational experience, Moreno learned some important life lessons that helped lead her on a path to success. She says that although getting good grades is important, no one should let the fear of failure intervene.

"I have always pushed myself to the max in order to stay above the game," she said. "I would stress myself out with school work, house chores and personal responsibilities, but I recently learned to prioritize my wellbeing and

ask for help when I need it."

In the end, Moreno was announced as her class salutatorian, an achievement she never saw coming.

"To be honest, I was in shock and ecstatic to say the least," Seyry said. "I knew I wasn't far back in the ranks, but I never expected to be up there."

As a first-generation college bound student, Moreno plans to attend the University of Texas at Dallas where she will major in visual and performing arts.

"I think younger me would be so proud of who I am today, because I have grown so much, come so far and now I feel like my hard work is finally paying off," Seyry said.

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The stuff of Dreams — MLK goes right on marching

By Ray Curry
Secretary-Treasurer, UAW

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

The citizens of this country are in the midst of a battle that we have been fighting for a very long time. A battle of racial inequality, systemic abuse, and injustice.

It is time to win this battle once and for all.

Across the nation over the past weeks, protesters are saying they have had enough. They are weary of the ongoing struggle for equality and equity, of the battle against systemic injustice, and the fear of being a person of color in America. The horrific, needless death of George Floyd on May 25 at the hands of four police officers in Minneapolis is tragically all too familiar. And we are seeing our nation cry out in pain. It is the pain of generations of inequality and the pain of a nation divided.

It is shocking that in 2020, mothers in African American and minority communities still have to worry about the safety of their sons and daughters when simply going off to the store, going out for a jog and or being stopped at a traffic light.

This must end.

Generations of misery

George Floyd is sadly one of many, many African Americans who have been the victim of racial profiling and brutality. The larger tragedy of our society is that this criminal ac-

tivity did not start with Mr. Floyd. Or with Breona Taylor or Tony McDade, who also lost their lives in the past month for similar reasons. Nor did it start with Eric Garner, killed in 2014 due to a police strangle hold — or Rodney King's brutal beating in 1991. The names and stories stretch back generations and are part of the ongoing racial disparity and injustice that permeates our system. A product of 400 years of oppression, prejudice and fear.

How many stories like George Floyd's must we hear? How many lives cut tragically, brutally short?

At the UAW, we have been fighting for generations against systemic racism. Think back to August 28, 1968, when more than 200,000 demonstrators took part in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in the nation's capital. Two men participating in that march — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and UAW President Walter Reuther — were dedicated to breaking the color lines and fighting for equality in wages, opportunities, housing, healthcare and fair societal treatment.

A wound that will not heal

The 1968 March on Washington succeeded in getting those in power to sit up and take action. It was successful in pressuring the administration to initiate a strong federal civil rights bill in Congress. It was a time that gave Americans — especially minorities — hope. But how far have we come since then if we still are marching, if we are still protesting?

Not nearly far enough.

It is time for this coun-

try to transform from the ways of the past. To turn our backs on the prejudices, fear and hate of our past. To vote in local and federal elections for leaders that will represent men and women of this country and no longer their self-interest.

I truly worry if we cannot do this, this wound will continue to tear our nation apart.

In today's marches across the country, we are seeing history repeating itself. Again, our community members are joining together, young people especially, and taking up the cause to demand change. And the UAW, with its long history of supporting and fighting for civil and human rights, is right beside them.

It is not just police brutality that affects the African American community. Because of socioeconomic and environmental factors — many due to continued disparity in opportunities — when COVID-19 struck this country it hit people of color especially hard.

Currently, the UAW is working with Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer's office serving on the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities. The task force will act in an advisory capacity to the Governor and study the causes of racial disparities in the impact of COVID-19 and recommend actions to immediately address such disparities and the historical and systemic inequities that underlie them.

We need real change

But we cannot just talk about it. We must DO something about it. Just like we saw civil rights legislation that came out of the demonstrations in the

past, this tragedy and these demonstrations and clashes will need to result in legislation and reforms passed. PASSED and ENFORCED.

And while I do not want to vilify all men and women in blue — we cannot not turn away from the horror of George Floyd's death. An American citizen begging for his life on an American city street for 8 minutes and 46 seconds.

This is not an on-the-sidelines hurt for me. I am an African American man born in raised in the south and now living in an urban center, but I am speaking here as an American, as a union member, and I am speaking to all of us.

When we look at the many tragic incidents over the past decades, most recently Mr. Floyd's horrific death, I can only think that we as a nation failed this young man, as we have failed so many others. This cannot continue.

As Americans, we need to serve a warning to all who have the power — our representatives, our law enforcement officers, our leaders, our detractors — we are watching. And we are all committed to the safety and personal rights of ALL Americans.

We will hold those accountable, regardless of who they are, if they put any of us in peril. While doing so we must remember the legacy of two men, two friends, who worked tirelessly for so many years. We must honor that relationship, as well as our fellow men and women, as we address the challenges that we still face today.

But we must take action now — and we must make permanent change — for all of us.

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Happiness might help protect from gastrointestinal distress

(UT Southwestern) Serotonin, a chemical known for its role in producing feelings of well-being and happiness in the brain, can reduce the ability of some intestinal pathogens to cause deadly infections, new research by UT Southwestern scientists suggests. The findings, published in *Cell Host & Microbe*, could offer a new way to fight infections for which few truly effective treatments currently exist.

Although the vast majority of research on serotonin has centered on its effects in the brain, about 90 percent of this neurotransmitter – a chemical that nerve cells use to communicate with each other – is produced in the gastrointestinal tract, explains study leader Vanessa Sperandio, Ph.D., a professor of microbiology and biochemistry at UT Southwestern Medical Center. In humans, trillions of bacteria live within this space. Most of these gut bacteria are beneficial, but pathogenic bacteria can also colonize the gastrointestinal tract, causing serious and potentially fatal infections.

Because gut bacteria are significantly affected by their environment, Speran-



Long known for its impact on the brain, research suggests serotonin can also have a positive effect on intestinal health. (Photo: CDC / Unsplash)

dio, along with UTSW doctoral student Aman Kumar, laboratory manager Regan Russell, and their colleagues, wondered whether the serotonin produced in the gut can affect the virulence of pathogenic bacteria that infect the gastrointestinal tract.

The researchers worked with *Escherichia coli* O157, a species of bacteria that

causes periodic outbreaks of often deadly foodborne infection. The team grew these pathogenic bacteria in petri dishes in the lab, then exposed them to serotonin. Gene expression tests showed that serotonin significantly reduced the expression of a group of genes that these bacteria use to cause infections. Additional experiments using human

cells showed that the bacteria could no longer cause infection-associated lesions on the cells if these bacteria were exposed to serotonin.

Next, the researchers examined how serotonin affected virulence in living hosts. Using mice, the researchers studied how serotonin might change the ability for *Citrobacter rodentium* – a mouse gut bacterium often used as an analog for *E. coli* in humans – to infect and sicken their hosts. These mice were genetically modified to either over- or underproduce serotonin in their gastrointestinal tracts. Those that overproduced this neurotransmitter were less likely to become colonized by *C. rodentium* after being exposed to this bacterium or had relatively minor courses of illness. Treating mice with fluoxetine (sold under the brand name Prozac) to increase serotonin levels prevented them from getting sick from *C. rodentium* exposure. However, the mice that underproduced serotonin became much sicker after bacterial exposure, often dying from their illness.

Further experiments identified the receptor for sero-

tonin on the surfaces of both *E. coli* and *C. rodentium*, a protein known as CpxA. Because many species of gut bacteria also have CpxA, it's possible that serotonin could have wide-ranging effects on gut bacterial health, Sperandio says.

In the future, she adds, she and her colleagues plan to study the feasibility of manipulating serotonin levels as a way of fighting bacterial infections in the gastrointestinal tract. Currently, few available antibiotics can effectively fight *E. coli* O157 – some antibiotics actually worsen the consequences of infection, causing the bacteria to release more damag-

ing toxins.

"Treating bacterial infections, especially in the gut, can be very difficult," Sperandio says. "If we could repurpose Prozac or other drugs in the same class, it could give us a new weapon to fight these challenging infections."

Other researchers who contributed to this study include Reed Pifer, Zelia Menezes-Garcia, Santiago Cuesta, and John B. MacMillan, all of UTSW, and Sanjeev Narayanan of Kansas State University.

This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grants AI053067 and AI114511.

Texas is 21st among states for COVID-19 improvement

By Adam McCann
Financial Writer
Wallethub

The coronavirus pandemic is one of the deadliest health crises the U.S. has ever faced. However, the social distancing restrictions put in place by states have proven effective, and we are seeing gradual decreases in the number of new confirmed cases per day.

States' COVID-19 infection rates and death rates are vital from both a public health standpoint and from an economic perspective because they dictate the pace at which areas can safely reopen for business. Until the potential benefits outweigh the health risks, states will not be able to move to their next phases of reopening, and thus will not see substantial econom-

ic growth.

Texas ranks 21st in terms of improvement. The remote states of Hawaii and Alaska top the list, while New Hampshire and Arizona rank the lowest.

Politically "Blue" states ranks slightly higher than "red" states with an average score of 25.76 to 26.17.

In order to determine where Americans' health is recovering most from the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus where it is safest to reopen, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 11 key metrics that reflect the COVID-19 death rate, as well as the rates at which people test positive and the virus spreads. This report focuses on the latest developments in each state rather than which states have been hit the hardest throughout the pandemic, and seeks to

highlight which states have experienced a positive trend in their residents' health in the past few weeks. Read on for the results, along with a full description of our methodology.

In order to determine the healthiest states during coronavirus, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 11 key metrics in five overall categories: 1) Death Rate This Week, 2) Other Death Rate Metrics, 3) Positive COVID-19 Testing Rate This Week, 4) Other Positive COVID-19 Testing Rate Metrics, and 5) Transmission Number.

We then determined the weighted average across all metrics to calculate an overall score for each state and used the resulting scores to rank-order the states.

Sources: Data used to

create this ranking were collected from the U.S. Census Bureau, The COVID Tracking Project and COVID19-projections.com.

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Denton County NAACP president Willie Hudspeth has been lobbying the Denton County Commissioners since 2001 for the removal of a Confederate monument on the courthouse lawn. (Courtesy photos)



Denton County Democrats hail removal of Confederate statue

The Denton County Democratic Party (DCDP) is excited that the Denton County Commissioners Court voted today, June 9, 2020, to remove the 12-foot Confederate statue that sat on the Denton County Courthouse lawn since 1918.

Denton County NAACP president Willie Hudspeth, a Vietnam veteran, appeared every Tuesday since 2001 for the commissioners' court meeting to urge the court to remove the statue to no avail.

DCDP chair Dr. Angie Cadena responded, "Finally,

that statue is being moved! Thank you to all the allies who joined Willie Hudspeth's cause."

The United Daughters of the Confederacy and The Texas United Confederate Veterans erected the statue of a Confederate soldier for \$5,000. During her studies, Denton scholar and activist Jessica Luther Rummel uncovered evidence that the Ku Klux Klan supported the statue's presence.

The Denton County Commissioners Court countered Hudspeth's protests by saying that the Confederate

statue had been designated a State Archeological Site (SAL) in 1981 and as such was protected by the Antiquities Code of Texas. The statue was also registered as a Texas Historical Monument with the Texas Historical Commission.

In response to the urgings of Hudspeth and others like Dentonites Against Racism Traditions the commissioners' court finally formed the Denton County Confederate Memorial Advisory Committee in 2017. In 2019, the committee advised against removing the statue, instead

recommending the addition of historical context about slavery.

Democratic candidates for Denton County Commissioners Court in the 2020 election — Sandy Swan of Precinct 1 and Delia Parkermims of Precinct 3 — both advocated for the removal of the Confederate statue from the courthouse lawn.

The Denton County Democratic Party has the goal of promoting Democratic ideals and values within our communities through grassroots organization and education.

Dentistry office offers grocery giveaway in Bishop Arts on Saturday

MINT dentistry's goal of putting smiles on people's faces doesn't stop during a pandemic: To help a community in need, the dentistry practice is providing groceries for people who are experiencing food insecurity. MINT dentistry founder Dr. Field Harrison and his wife, Sabrina Harrison, have joined employees and volunteers to give away boxes of groceries to people who line up in their cars at a MINT grocery giveaway, an initiative the dentistry practice has been doing on Saturdays. This week's giveaway is at the MINT dentistry office in Bishop Arts, at 2433 W Davis Street, Dallas, Texas 75211 on Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to noon.



Volunteers help load groceries during one of the recent food giveaways hosted by MINT Dentistry. (Courtesy photo)

"Need groceries? Just show up," Dr. Harrison said. "We just wanted to do our very small part and try to help people out."

During the event, 500 plus boxes of groceries purchased by MINT from Minnie's Food Pantry will be given away, each con-

taining a week's worth of food. People can simply line up in their vehicles to receive a box (touch-free, from volunteers wearing masks), and a message of hope. Each box contains a week's worth of meals and includes non-perishable items like spaghetti, rice,

peanut butter, canned goods and more. The box also contains something important for a healthy smile: a full-sized tube of toothpaste from MINT dentistry.

Dr. Harrison and Sabrina have been shocked at reports on the news about all the people who have lost jobs and are hungry due to this pandemic. They immediately decided that they needed to help, and devised a plan for MINT dentistry to fund grocery giveaways from Minnie's Food Pantry at MINT dentistry offices. Through several weeks of grocery giveaways, MINT dentistry has provided more than 3,000 boxes of food to local citizens in need.

Though the cause of hunger is serious, the grocery

giveaway events have a celebratory vibe: MINT dentistry employs a local DJ to play music, volunteers dance while they assist, and people hold signs with messages like "We Love You." There are smiles all around, waves from volunteers, and honks from appreciative recipients, who find something else in their box when they arrive home — a personal message from MINT dentistry that expresses best wishes and a prayer for the recipients of the box.

Through his community service and through his dental work, Dr. Harrison is passionate about healing pain—whether that's dental pain, spiritual pain, mental pain, loss of dignity, or financial pain. Even before

he graduated from dental school, Dr. Harrison was volunteering in a clinic offering free dental care in South Dallas, and traveling to Romania with other doctors and dentists to end a village's suffering with tooth and jaw pain. Since founding MINT dentistry with the conviction that outstanding dental care should be affordable to everyone, Dr. Harrison continues to give back, including providing free dental care to soldiers who've suffered grievous tooth and jaw injuries in combat. Dr. Harrison and Sabrina Harrison are devout Christians who welcome those of all faiths, and who believe strongly in giving back to their communities.

National Minority Enterprise Development week awards open for nominations

Since 1969, the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) has been instrumental in fostering the growth and global competitiveness of the Nation's minority-owned businesses. From an estimated 300,000 minority-owned firms in 1969 to more than eleven million today, MBDA has led the way in gaining public recognition of the achievements and economic contributions of minority-owned firms.

The MBDA National Mi-



nority Enterprise Development Week Awards are the highest level of national recognition that a U.S. minority-owned firm can receive by the U.S. Department of Commerce. These prestigious awards, bestowed during National Minority Enterprise Development Week (MED Week), celebrate the

outstanding achievements of minority entrepreneurs, as well as the individuals and organizations that have demonstrated their commitment to advancing minority business enterprises

**Awards:
Minority Firms
Of The Year**

• Minority Construction

Firm of the Year

• Minority Export Firm of the Year

• Minority Manufacturing Firm of the Year

• Minority Health Products and Services Firm of the Year

• Minority Innovative Technology Firm of the Year

• Minority Marketing and Communications Firm of the Year

• Minority Professional Services Firm of the Year

• Minority Veteran-Owned Firm of the Year

• Robert J. Brown Minority Enterprise of the Year

Champions Of Minority Business Development

• Access to Capital Award

• Advocate of the Year

• Distinguished Supplier

Diversity Award

Individual Recognition

• Abe Venable Legacy Award for Lifetime Achievement

• Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award

Recognizing that minority communities and businesses have been particularly hurt and continue to

face enormous challenges due to COVID-19. This year, in particular, MBDA would like to highlight businesses that have developed and implemented innovative solutions that promote business continuity and the ability to thrive through the challenges.

MBDA looks forward to acknowledging, recognizing and encouraging the well-deserved accomplishments and ingenuity being demonstrated in the minority business community at this critical time.

Desoto students unite to host NTFB Community Food Distribution Day

DESOTO - Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, school campus closures, and the stoppage of high school sports, twelve DeSoto High School student athletic trainers jump-started the idea of the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) DeSoto Distribution Day to help their community. On June 2, with the help of DeSoto Athletic Trainer David J. Young, the students were able to see their idea in action as the NTFB staff and National Guard distributed pounds of food to over 500 DeSoto-area families.

"It started with a conversation. These students, who normally work together as a team during DHS high school games were missing each other and the chance to serve their students and community," shared Young. "They began to ask about other ways they could help support their community."



DeSoto High School students coordinated efforts with the NTFB and the National Guard to distribute food to more than 500 families in need. (Courtesy photo)

After trying a few local ideas, Young contacted the North Texas Food Bank on behalf of the students which began the plan to bring the NTFB Mobile Pantry to the city.

During the event, the NTFB staff, the National Guard and the DeSoto High School students distributed

19,200 pounds of dry good family relief packs, 11,250 pounds of fresh produce, 150 pounds of kids snack bags, 1,600 gallons of milk and 8 pallets (384 boxes) of frozen entrée meal items to area families.

"Usually our mobile pantries are used in areas considered as food deserts

which means there is not a lot of access to fresh, high-quality food. But, since the start of the pandemic, we have seen an increase of individuals accessing our food centers for various reasons, including recent job loss. Also, some individuals were not able to get to our facilities. So, we have doubled

our efforts and are using the North Texas Mobile Pantry to bring food directly to the community," said Liana Solis, NTFB Communications Specialist. "We are just trying to provide food to as many people as possible."

Along with her student peers, DHS eleventh grade student Cidney Wash worked alongside the NTFB distribution team to place items in the trunks of the motorists.

"It feels good because we are giving out to others. We are thinking about everyone and not ourselves' said Wash.

DeSoto High School twelfth grader, Tyree Roberts was overjoyed to have this experience to help his own community.

"It feels good to be a positive part of the community helping to give back to those in need, an act that I

hope to continue in the future," said Roberts.

In addition to the distribution of the food items, the DeSoto High School student-athlete trainers also helped with traffic flow alongside officers from the DeSoto and Glen Heights Police Departments.

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a top-ranked nonprofit hunger-relief organization operating a state-of-the-art volunteer and distribution center in Plano — the Perot Family Campus. Last year, the Food Bank worked hard in partnership with member agencies from our Feeding Network to provide access to almost 77 million nutritious meals across a diverse 13-county service area — this means more than 200,000 meals per day for hungry children, seniors and families.

Some civic groups are calling on Dallas ISD to divest from school policing

As police policies are being scrutinized across the nation, and suggestions of defunding police departments are being raised in response to the most recent round of unrest over the issue of excessive force, some are calling on school districts to reconsider their partnerships with law enforcement as well.

Representatives from Children's Defense Fund Texas, Disability Rights Texas, The Earl Carl Institute at Texas Southern University, Texas Appleseed, and Texas Organizing Project penned a letter to Dallas ISD representatives on June 8, calling on the district to reconsider the funds it spends on police and other security personnel assigned to schools.

According to the signees of the letter, Dallas ISD spent more than \$23 million in the 2019-20 year alone on "security and monitoring services," and they believe that money could be better spent while also achieving a

better result in dealing with disciplinary issues.

The group said students are often the victims of excessive force by police on campus.

"As an example, a twelve-year (12) old student in DISD was slammed to the ground and pepper sprayed by a DISD officer after breaking up a fight the student was involved in," the letter said. "As our nation mourns the murder of George Floyd, we are reminded of the physical and psychological harms of over policing on students from minority communities as well as those with disabilities. In this moment of heightened awareness of the trauma experienced by so many at the hands of police officers, DISD should follow in the footsteps of other districts, like Portland Public Schools and Minneapolis Public Schools, by divesting in school policing."

Citing a recent resolution by the DISD Board of Trustees to issue a resolution on

the district's commitment to Black students and Black lives, the letter's signees stated these very groups are the ones most often caught up in on-campus police incidents.

They added that the presence of officers on campus made these particular students feel less safe. Calling for a return to "natural and educational interventions" which were used in years before schools began keeping officers on campus, they said law enforcement could still be called in on rare occasions when their presence was actually necessary.

"Students of color, particularly Black and Hispanic students, are overrepresented in law enforcement referrals for offenses," the group added. "In fact, Black students are referred for offenses like exhibition of firearms and terroristic threat at twice the rate of all other students."

"Students with disabilities represent only twelve (12) percent of student en-

rollment nationwide yet disproportionately make up twenty eight (28) percent of students referred to law enforcement. These students face an increased likelihood of harm when interacting with SROs. The data shows SROs respond to outbursts from students with disabilities with escalated practices, without regard to whether these students pose actual threats."

The letter then cited four incidents from various school districts where students with disabilities were handcuffed, pepper sprayed and even tased by officers following simple verbal outbursts or other similar behavior. The group also claimed one of the students, a 17-year-old in Katy ISD, was tased by an officer six times for leaving a classroom where he was being bullied.

While the country considers its options moving forward in terms of policing in general, these organizations

want to take a look at their role in education in particular.

"We urge DISD to divest from school policing and allocate any available resources instead to hire and train mental health counselors and social workers to

handle instances of bullying, harassment, disruptiveness, vandalism, drug and alcohol abuse, and other non-violent incidents," the letter concluded. "In order for this to work, DISD must adequately fund these additional positions and programs."



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Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas honors 172 with Gold Award

Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas (GSNETX) recently announced 172 local Girl Scouts who have earned the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award, which recognizes girls in grades 9 through 12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership in developing sustainable solutions to local, national, and global challenges.

The Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable—earned by a high school Girl Scout who works to address an issue she's passionate about in a way that produces meaningful and lasting change. Whether it's on a local, national, or global level, Gold Award Girl Scouts provide innovative solutions to significant challenges.

One global challenge caused a bit of a change up in the normal award procedures themselves.

Due to the city and state-wide restrictions related to



Ayan Kent (at left) and Kennedy Ligon (right), both from Plano, were among 172. Ayan, a 2020 graduate from John Paul II High School, chose to address lower voter registration and turnout among youth within the age range of 18 to 21 for her Gold Award project. Kennedy, who graduated Plano Senior High School in 2019, decided to create awareness about cancer and patient treatments by making fleece blankets and donating them to the Dallas Methodist Oncology Center for patients undergoing chemotherapy. (Courtesy photos)

COVID-19, GSNETX was not able to hold its annual Gold Award Ceremony slated for May 17. Instead, a double ceremony will be held in 2021 to recognize both the 2020 and 2021

honorees.

"Gold Award Girl Scouts don't just change the world for the better; they change it for good. Each of our 172 young women recognized this year embody ev-

erything this achievement stands for," said Jennifer Bartkowski, chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas. "While we were unable to gather to recognize and congratu-

late our Gold Award Girl Scouts on their noteworthy accomplishments, we are honored and humbled at the number of business professionals who stepped up to create congratulatory videos for each of our honorees. We hope our community will join us in congratulating these incredible young women."

To earn the award, Girl Scouts must develop innovative, lasting solutions to local or global issues. In pursuing their Gold Award, girls take action on a topic or a cause they are passionate about, as they develop organizational, leadership and networking skills—spending more than 80 hours to complete their Gold Award project.

This year's Gold Award recipients developed projects ranging from implementing a community blood drive to helping refugees and immigrants ac-

climate to a new area, to improving education access and expanded STEM opportunities for girls in underserved communities.

Additionally, 55 Gold Award recipients will be receiving the Betty Richardson scholarship this year. A complete list of honorees and their accomplishments can be found at <https://bit.ly/2WMdR1F>.

GSNETX will recognize all Gold Award Girl Scouts from this year's class on the GSNETX Facebook page (@gsnetx), and The Dallas Morning News will publish the girls' project information and photos in its Sunday edition throughout the year.

Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas serves 32 counties in Northeast Texas. For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect, or donate, call 972-349-2400 or visit gsnetx.org.



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BLM, from Page 1

wanted to say their names,” said DeSoto City Councilwoman Candice Quarles. “People always use the example of my son, my husband, or my brother, cousin, or uncle. Police are also killing our moms and sisters and aunts.”

Crystal Chism, a local citizen who helped organize the #SayHerName protest, said she feels a responsibility to speak up for these now forever silent voices.

“These stories go untold for a very long time even if you take Breonna Taylor’s story. This happened on March 13th and I think most of the world found out about it close to the end of May. That speaks to how that even in times of crisis, women still tend to take a back seat. It is not just black men that are being lynched in the street, it is also black women like Sandra Bland, Atatianna Jefferson, Pamela Turner, and the list goes on.”

Addressing the Larger Issue of Black Lives Matter

On Saturday, DeSoto, though a suburb of Dallas, not only stood up for justice in their city, but joined more than 700 cities across the country that are supporting the Black Lives Matter movement.

As a city whose population is approximately 80% African American and Hispanic residents, Quarles, Brown-Patrick and Chism, felt that it was proper that DeSoto had an opportunity to speak up during this time.

“We are a majority-minority community and the call to actions and the things that we want to see changed involves African Americans. I felt like it was important to have a protest here in DeSoto,” said Brown-Patrick.

We have been titled as one of the most affluent black neighborhoods in the North Texas area and it just speaks volumes that we should have felt this was a responsibility for DeSoto.”

During the protest, many speakers shared their experiences with police brutality and racism and encouraged the protestors to vow to keep fighting until change occurs.

Speakers such as former Dallas NAACP President and current DeSoto ISD Trustee Aubrey C. Hooper, recalled the long road to equality and justice still being fought through recent police-involved encounters in the cases of Botham Jean in 2019, Jordan Edwards in 2015, and the 1990’s case of the dragging death of James Byrd in Jasper, Texas.

District 109 Texas State Representative Carl Sherman, who was the first African American of the City of DeSoto, shared his experience with police racial profiling prior to becoming mayor.

“It is not about one bad apple, it is about a culture that says nothing when bad officers do bad things. It is about a culture that we must

fight to change,” said Sherman.

Desire for change and Local Police Reform

While the participants shared their disdain for the national happenings, the protest organizers also used this public platform to share their experiences with police brutality, racial profiling and a demand for change.

Crystal Chism, a local citizen and one of the organizers, championed the needs for law enforcement reform, for the community to vote and have a voice at the table.

Some of the demands shared during the protest included:

- The establishment of a police oversight review board appointed by the mayor and approved by the city council
- The invoking of the duty to intervene
- More transparency with the practices for hiring police officers
- Required body cameras active when interacting with the public
- Standard communication of citizen contact data

“People thought that a protest would not ever happen in DeSoto. The truth is, that we will never go back to normal. It opens up the opportunity for us to be more transparent and is a door for the police department to be transparent,” said Chism. “Someone has to police the police at some point.”

Pastor Marcus King, Pastor of Disciple Community Church hopes to see change

in the form of education. “Some people do not seem to be aware of it because it has not hit their doorstep. The George Floyd case made it real.” King hopes to see more engagement.

The Emerging Leaders of DeSoto admonished the community to keep the momentum going by:

- Attending the city council meetings
- Demanding accountability of the elected officials
- Showing up for jury duty and the voting booths

During the protest rally, Pastor King asked the crowd to inhale and then exhale. Then asked, “Before

you are the one with a knee on your neck, what are you going to do with the breath you have right now?”

For more information on the Emerging Leaders of DeSoto, please text the word REFORM to 66866 or join the Facebook page to stay connected and engaged.



Jacqueline D. Murphy (2)



"Trump's failed leadership is putting lives at risk. I served in Iraq, so I know first-hand the consequences when politicians ignore the experts. It's going to take a battle-tested leader to get us out of this crisis and help us recover. I'm battle-tested and ready to keep leading."

—Col. Kim Olson, USAF Ret., Democrat for Congress

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Six composers selected for New Music USA's Amplifying Voices Program

NEW YORK – New Music USA announces six composers who have been co-commissioned to write new orchestral works through its Amplifying Voices Program, supported by the Sphinx Venture Fund. Composers Valerie Coleman, Juan Pablo Contreras, Tania León, Brian Raphael Nabors, Tyshawn Sorey, and Shelley Washington will each write new works to be premiered during the 2021-22 season and performed by a total of at least 24 orchestras. Each of the six composer's pieces will be performed by a minimum of four orchestras.

Amplifying Voices fosters collaboration and collective action toward equitable representation of composers in classical music. It was initiated by New Music USA last fall, with support from the Sphinx Venture Fund being confirmed in December 2019. Through a national call launched in January 2020, New Music USA asked orchestras to come forward with proposals for co-commissions and a commitment to promoting existing repertoire that deserves fur-



Co-Commissioned Composers are Valerie Coleman, Juan Pablo Contreras, Tania León, Brian Raphael Nabors, Tyshawn Sorey, and Shelley Washington. (Courtesy photos)

ther performances.

The lead orchestras co-commissioning new works are The Philadelphia Orchestra commissioning Valerie Coleman, the Las Vegas Philharmonic commissioning Juan Pablo Contreras, the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra commissioning Tania León, the Berkeley Symphony commissioning Brian Raphael Nabors, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra commissioning Tyshawn Sorey, and Los Angeles Chamber

Orchestra commissioning Shelley Washington. Leadership at each orchestra will also work with their partner composer to increase the programming of works in their mainstream seasons by composers of all generations whose voices have not been represented in orchestral programming.

The six composers were selected by an independent panel including composer Michael Abels, conductor Carolyn Kuan, media personality and musician Gar-

rett McQueen, and artistic administrator Evans Miraeas.

Amplifying Voices aims to make major strides in transforming the classical canon. According to the Institute for Composer Diversity's analysis of 120 American orchestras' 2019-2020 plans, 94% of music programmed for that season's mainstage orchestral concerts was written by white composers.

Through Amplifying Voices, New Music USA commits to be a steward and partner in a multitude of projects that foster strong working relationships between American orchestras and composers whose work should be more frequently heard in the concert hall. Amplifying Voices seeks to increase support and promotion of composers of color, bringing them to the table for artistic planning at major national orchestras, and ensuring orchestras' engagement with repertoire, past and present, that has previously been omitted from major concert programs.

Composer Valerie Coleman says, "At a time when bold solidarity is needed to address both the struggle

within the pandemics of now, Amplified Voices is an affirmation that Black Lives do indeed matter and should be represented within this sacred field. The composers selected for this powerful initiative are leaders who have dedicated themselves to not only their craft, but advocate for others for the future of music's sake. I am humbled and proud to be selected by New Music USA to be among them."

"One of my missions as a composer is to invite musicians and listeners from all backgrounds to feel more included and represented in the beautiful genre that is classical music," says composer Juan Pablo Contreras. "I'm extremely honored to be a part of New Music USA's 'Amplifying Voices' program, and collaborate with a consortium of American orchestras led by the Las Vegas Philharmonic, to write a new work that will further this mission. My composition will tell a story describing the 'edge effect' that occurs in communities that are on the border shared between the United States and Mexico."

Composer Shelley Washington says, "I am so thrilled to be working with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra to write a new piece for them and other orchestras. Having the time and resources to create a large piece for the orchestra is rare in the modern classical world, especially for younger composers. In addition to writing the piece, I am looking forward to sitting down with the orchestra to open up a dialogue on what changes can be made to create a more inclusive space in the orchestral classical realm."

"This project is impactful in so many ways. I am beyond honored and elated to share and serve as a voice

for so many who look like me and share my experience," says composer Brian Raphael Nabors. "Along with my wonderful colleagues, I believe this groundbreaking work will help to lay the foundation for barriers to be broken and the eradication of stigmas that have plagued our field for many years. To be a part of that change is an affirmation of everything I've worked for and continue to work for."

Vanessa Reed, President and CEO of New Music USA, says, "We created Amplifying Voices at the end of last year to support the programming of composers and repertoire that could and should be more regularly enhancing our experience of orchestral music. Congratulations to the orchestras and composers who've been selected for this unique initiative – I can't wait to hear their new pieces that result from these collaborations as we strive towards an open and equitable future for classical music."

"At a critical time in our nation's history, Sphinx looks forward to helping to amplify the most important voices in classical music, says Afa. S. Dworkin, President and Artistic Director of The Sphinx Organization. "There is a rich tradition of excellence in repertoire by Black and Latinx composers, ranging from Florence Price, William Grant Still, Margaret Bonds, Manuel Ponce, Silvestre Revueltas, and countless other voices who have shaped the fabric of classical music. This is a hopeful avenue to live by our commitment to diversity and profoundly shift our canon. By giving the spotlight to diverse voices, this New Music USA initiative can help to evolve our entire field."

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Children's book explains coronavirus in an attempt to answer young people's questions about the pandemic

Dr. Jill Waggoner is a residency trained, board certified Family Practice physician and author. She and friend Sharon Jones-Scaife, an author/illustrator, have teamed up to write and illustrate a new book explaining coronavirus in simple terms for children. Jones-Scaife shared the idea with Dr. Waggoner who loved the concept and was immediately onboard!

The children's book is called *Maddie On A Mission*. It carries a message that children can understand, while encouraging

teamwork. "Amazing things happen when we all work together," Jones-Scaife said.

Maddie is disappointed that she can't go to school until she learns the reason why...a germ is passing from person to person. Maddie must do her part to stop the germ from spreading. But how? And how will her friends help?

The authors collaborated to write *Maddie On A Mission* to make it easy for children to understand why their worlds have changed so dramatically in the last few months, and to explain quar-

antine and social distancing in a story that young people can understand, and enjoy. Dr. Waggoner and Jones-Scaife hadn't partnered on a project before this one. They wrote the book, commissioned the editing, and Jones-Scaife illustrated it all in the span of 7 days.

"It's a confusing time for kids right now," Jones-Scaife said. "Our intention was to give parents a tool to help them navigate through it." Dr. Waggoner adds, "Children have a lot of questions like, 'What is a virus?' 'When can I see my

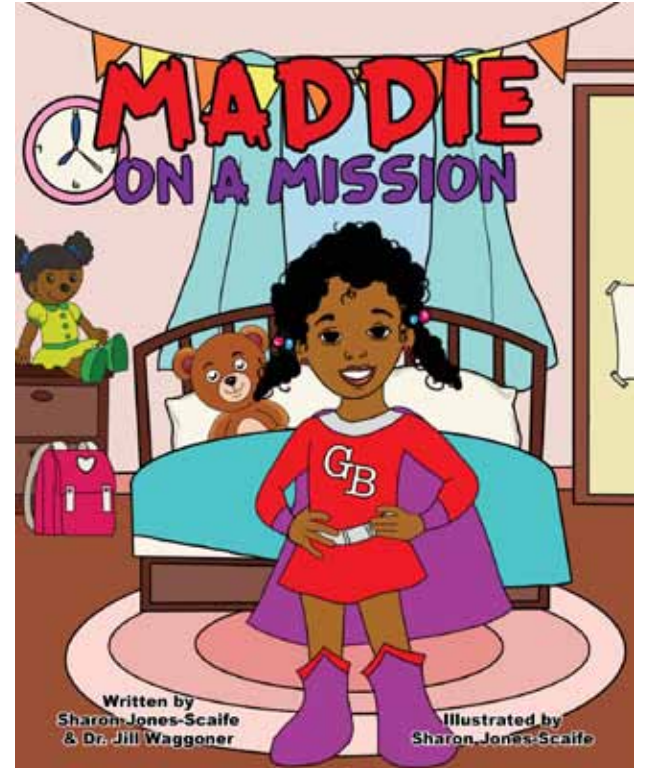
friends?' 'Why do we have to wear a mask?'" *Maddie On A Mission* explores questions and gives answers to some of the biggest questions that little ones might have about the virus, about staying home and about how to stay safe.

"This book aims to provide a resource to help parents talk to their children about the coronavirus pandemic by discussing germs, quarantine, social distancing, and how staying at home can help to stop the spread of the virus," Dr. Waggoner said.

She concludes: "It will also allow parents to open the discussion in a way that is non-frightening, which can lead to expanding dialogue

where children can express their feelings."

Maddie On A Mission is available in print and eBook at online retailers.



New release highlights talents of young Latin star rising

Year after year, the Latin urban genre has seen many upcoming talent who have stood out and made their mark in the industry. Each artist brings their own unique style, including Xylon who is a young Puerto Rican that is destined to break barriers in the genre. The artist releases his new single "Chau Chau (Remix)" alongside VF7 and JuanFran under the label The Baby Boys.

Both the original and remix version of "Chau Chau" which was produced by "Labia La Fuerza", opened doors for Xylon to perform on various stages and win

the hearts of many new fans in his native country, Puerto Rico. The original version has generated over 600,000 views on the artist's YouTube channel.

"Working with VF7 and JuanFran on the 'Chau Chau Remix' was an unique ex-

perience. I have learned so much with them throughout the process and I know that our fans will love this new release. This was made specifically for all the fans who have been supporting me since the beginning", Xylon shared about his collabora-

tion with VF7 and JuanFran. VF7 shared, "I feel grateful to be a part of this remix alongside Xylon and JuanFran. We had so much fun during the music video shoot

See XYLON, Page 16

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COVID-19 forces tough decisions in housing assistance

By Teresa Wiltz
Stateline, an initiative of
The Pew Charitable Trusts

After distributing hundreds of millions of dollars in the past three months, states and cities don't have much money left to help struggling renters, leaving officials with an uncomfortable question: Who gets prioritized for help?

COVID-19 is forcing local governments to make tough decisions about rental assistance: Some programs are relying on lotteries to ensure all applicants have a fair shot, while others are focusing on specific populations, such as workers ineligible for federal relief.

Most of the housing aid Americans get is federal. Federal housing dollars are distributed through local housing authorities and community development agencies, either through housing vouchers, public housing, other rental assistance programs or affordable housing units built with federal tax credits.

In response to the pandemic, the federal government has sent an additional \$3 billion to cities and states to help with housing issues — in addition to other federal pandemic aid such as stimulus checks and expanded unemployment benefits to help individuals get through the downturn.

Even before the pandemic, many cities and states paid for additional housing help with their own money, and some have ratcheted up those efforts. But the crisis has created unprecedented demand.

The ongoing need for housing assistance will exceed whatever money cities and states have, said Gary Painter, a professor in the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California, in an interview with Stateline.

"At some point, you're going to ration resources."

One way to do that is to prioritize certain populations, such as very-low-income renters; those who are at risk of homelessness; or renters not eligible for other

public assistance, Painter said. Another option is to base the amount of assistance on a tenant's income and rent.

Some are calling for rent forgiveness programs, but that leaves landlords in the lurch. As an alternative, Painter points to an unusual bill that California Senate Democrats are drafting.

In exchange for temporary rent forgiveness, the tenant would agree to pay back-owed rent over 10 years, Painter said, possibly with interest, which also should be subsidized.

Meanwhile, landlords would agree to take 10-year tax credits in the amount of the missed rent, which they could sell for immediate cash. Creditors also would work with property owners to ensure that they don't default on their mortgages.

Some cities and states are trying to stretch out available funds by paying out small rental assistance grants designed to cover part of the rent. Local officials also are collaborating with the private sector, soliciting help from corporations, family foundations and other charities, according to Samantha Batko, a researcher at the Urban Institute.

Lift to Rise, a Coachella Valley nonprofit, runs a public-private partnership program in California. The program relied on money from private donors and Riverside County to provide quick \$200 grants to 3,500 renters for everything from food to utilities, said Heather Vaikona, the nonprofit's president and CEO, in an interview.

She said the organization is planning to launch another, larger rental assistance program this month.

After Chicago's rental assistance fund was depleted in five days in March, city officials began raising money through private foundations and individual donations, Housing Commissioner Marisa Novara told Stateline in an interview.

"Our hope was that there would be additional sources of funding down the road," Novara said. "But we didn't

want to wait."

Not Enough Money

At the start of the coronavirus outbreak, when Oakland, California, went on lockdown, Merika Reagan said she saw a dramatic drop-off in clients for her dog-walking business.

"My income has dropped like a stone," Reagan said last month in a webinar hosted by the Action Center on Race and the Economy, a grassroots organization calling for a national rent strike.

"It's a super stressful time," said Reagan, who helped organize a local #CancelRent strike in her city. "There's no way I can pay rent. And there's no way I can pay back rent."

A May report by Amherst, a data and analytics firm, found that 39% of households eligible for COVID-19 housing assistance received it.

The nation's low-income renters could need a staggering \$9.9 billion in assistance each month, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, which reviewed census data and Congressional Budget Office projections to come up with its estimate, published as part of a May report on the pandemic's effects on housing costs.

In May, the Democratic-led House passed a COVID-19 relief bill that many housing advocates and landlords supported. Its fate in the Republican-controlled Senate is uncertain.

And though the Congressional Budget Office predicts that need will lessen as the economy improves, the coalition reported, the price tag still could be as high as \$7 billion a month a year from now.

Cities and states don't have it.

According to a new report by the National League of Cities, city revenue will decline by 22% or \$134 billion compared with last year.

State revenue will decline from 9% in Connecticut to 40% in Pennsylvania, the report found.

"It's quite desperate out there," said James Brooks, the group's director of hous-

ing and community development.

In Nevada, a \$2 million state assistance program ran out of money. Kyle Rahn, president and CEO of the United Way of Southern Nevada, which helped distribute the money, said 80% of the calls to the United Way still are about rental assistance.

"I can't even tell you how dire it is," Rahn said. "It keeps me up at night, to know my fellow citizens are facing a lack of food and housing and not having protection from this disease."

In the beginning, cities such as Chicago and counties such as Los Angeles County used a lottery: Residents in need applied over several weeks, and on a specific date, names were chosen at random to determine who would receive help.

Lotteries are an effective way to ensure fairness with rental assistance programs, Painter said. Rental assistance programs that are first come, first serve create

obstacles for low-income people who might not have internet access, he said.

Boston, a city in which 60% of residents are renters, used a lottery system while also targeting certain needs, said Taylor Cain, director of the city's Housing Innovation Lab, in a phone interview.

The city prioritized low-income households and those ineligible for unemployment assistance, according to Cain. The city plans to use demographic information from applications to track racial disparities, to see which populations demonstrate the greatest need, she said.

Other jurisdictions focused their efforts on communities that they targeted for help in the past.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, where 1 in 4 tenants missed rent payments in April, according to the Charlotte Observer, the city and a local nonprofit set up a housing fund for affordable housing properties that

the city has invested in, said Warren Wooten, housing services operations manager for the city, in a phone interview.

Some states already are looking toward longer-term solutions.

In Montana, renters and homeowners in need must pay 30% of their gross monthly income toward housing costs as a condition for getting help; the state covers the balance of up to \$2,000 a month, said Cheryl Cohen, the operations manager for Montana's Housing Division, in an interview with Stateline.

The Emergency Housing Assistance Program is being funded by \$50 million of the more than \$1.2 billion in federal CARES Act money allocated to Montana.

Nearly a thousand have applied so far, and officials expect to help another 16,000 families, Cohen said. Peers from Illinois, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Wyoming have called for guidance.

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Without federal aid to state and local governments, 5.3 million workers will likely lose their jobs by the end of 2021

By Josh Bivens
and David Cooper
Economic Policy Initiative

Last week, the Economic Policy Initiative (EPI) hosted a bipartisan panel of economists who called upon policymakers to pass significant federal aid for state and local governments in coming months. This panel's judgement was unanimous that federal aid for sub-national governments is crucial for helping the economy mount a rapid recovery from the current crisis.

Because a weakening economy undercuts state and local tax revenues, and because states operate under balanced budget constraints, the coming months will see intense downward pressure on state and local spending. Reductions in this spending will in turn significantly slow recovery from the current economic crisis. This is not an abstract concern—the historically slow recovery in state and local spending following the Great Recession by itself delayed a recovery in unemployment to pre-crisis levels by four full years.

Recent estimates indicate that state and local governments will face a shortfall approaching \$1 trillion between now and the end of 2021. The methodology behind this estimate is straightforward: High-quality research shows that each one percentage point rise in the unemployment rate leads to a budget shortfall for state governments of \$45 billion. Given that local government revenues are nearly two-thirds as large as state revenues, a conservative adjustment would imply that each percentage point increase in the unemployment rate increases state and local budgets shortfalls by \$70 billion. With these estimate in hand, researchers have compared the forecasted path of unemployment rates over the next seven quarters and multiplied the excess of forecasted unemployment over the first quarter

unemployment rate (3.8%) by this \$70 billion.¹

If this \$1 trillion shortfall is not filled in by the end of 2021, then state and local government spending would be roughly \$430 billion lower at the end of 2020, and \$570 billion lower at the end of 2021. Each dollar in state and local spending cuts triggers a multiplier effect as governments end contracts with local businesses and public-sector employees see income drops and, in turn, pull back on their consumption spending. After accounting for these ripple effects, the shortfall in public spending will lead to losses in overall gross domestic product (GDP) of just under \$800 billion by the end of 2021. This \$800 billion represents about 3.7% of forecasted GDP by the end of 2021.²

If this percent reduction in GDP translates one-for-one into employment reductions, this would imply 5.3 million job losses, based on current estimates of the level of payroll employment by the end of 2021. All told, without aid to state and local governments, 5.3 million workers will likely lose their jobs by the end of 2021.

This job shortfall scales with the level of the overall state and local fiscal short-

fall. If Congress passes only \$500 billion in relief, then the shortfall will be smaller, but will still exceed 2.6 million jobs by the end of 2021. If Congress passes only \$300 billion, then the shortfall will be 3.7 million. We should note that a job shortfall of 3.7 million would exceed the entire employment losses seen in the recessions of the early 1990s and early 2000s. In short, \$300 billion in aid to state and local governments would not even move the economy's health to the level it sat during recent recessions—and this is 18 months from now.

Of course, we don't know for sure how large the fiscal shortfall will turn out to be. It could be smaller if recovery is faster than forecasted. It could also be larger, depending both on the pace of recovery and on the unique demands this particular crisis is putting on state and local governments. These governments are on the front lines of health and education investments, and both health and education have been profoundly affected by the coronavirus crisis.

Luckily, we don't need to guess how much aid will be needed—we could make this aid contingent on economic conditions rather than arbitrary calendar

timelines. But, if Congress unwisely follows past practice and insists on arbitrary calendar timelines and set amounts of aid, they should use the right estimates. And these right estimates argue that anything less than \$1 trillion of aid will threaten to drag significantly on growth over the next 18 months.

We allocate the national estimates to states based on an average of three state-specific weights: the state's share of private employment, the share of state and local employment, and the share of overall state and local spending. These three components roughly capture the distribution of how state and local spending cutbacks ripple through the economy. Previous research indicates that more than half of the effect of declining state and local spending is felt in private-sector employment reductions. Some of this effect on the private sector is due to multiplier effects, and some is due to the fact that private firms often supply inputs into public-sector activities (think textbooks for schools and automobiles for police forces).

Further, while some state and local spending cutbacks hit public-sector workers directly, some of these cutbacks are in the form of

reduced income transfers, and this can hit both public and private sectors.

Finally, the current economic crisis is unique in some important ways—besides just its size and suddenness—that will require even more aid. First, whereas recessions tend to start elsewhere and then sweep up low-wage workers in the spillover damage, the current crisis is hitting low-wage workers first. Second, it's a health shock—both to spending and in terms of the intense demands it is putting on the narrow sector of the health care complex that must deal with COVID-19. Third, it is directly affecting children and education through school shutdowns.

All of these factors will put historically large strains on state and local governments even above and beyond the strains that result from high unemployment and depressed economic activity. For example, state and local governments often are the ones dealing with the crush of safety net applicants for programs like unemployment insurance (UI). Crucially, these governments are also on the front lines of the public health response to the coronavirus crisis. In order to ensure a safe return to more normal economic activity,

they will need to ramp up public health spending significantly on resources like testing and tracing.

Perhaps the single biggest challenge to returning to more normal life with the virus is how to open schools safely. However this happens, there is no doubt at all that it will be more expensive. Kids and teachers will need testing and personal protective equipment (PPE), at a minimum. Further, there may be needs to rotate kids in and out of school and have some taught online while others are simultaneously at school physically on given days. This requires more, not fewer, school personnel to manage and maintain educational quality.

Pushing the economy back to macroeconomic stabilization is a vital goal for policymakers, and if they fall short of this goal, millions will suffer. But the unique features of the coronavirus economic shock also mean that a larger and better functioning public sector will be needed for at least a few years to meet the health and educational challenges the disease has put in front of those sectors. All of this argues for going big, not cheap, when Congress decides how to help state and local governments in coming months.


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Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build several monopole small cell communications towers in the vicinity of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas. The heights and locations for the proposed installations are as follows; 36-foot tower at the approx. vicinity of 4998 Greenville Ave., 75206 Lat: [32-50-52.469], Long: [-96-46-12.230]; 36-foot tower at the approx. vicinity of 211 N. Ervay, 75201 Lat: [32-46-56.2872], Long: [-96-47-51.036]; 36-foot tower at the approx. vicinity of 5330 Amesbury Dr., 75206 Lat: [32-51-5.393], Long: [-96-45-51.934]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Beth, b.thompson@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388 ext. 813.*

JOB FAIRS

On-going U.S. Army Opportunity

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Ongoing Census Bureau

The Census Bureau conducts continuous surveys to supply the nation with important statistics on people, places and our economy. Local field workers know their communities best, and are instrumental in conducting surveys with residents on a variety of topics. Visit census.gov to apply.

Ongoing City of Dallas

The City of Dallas' HR Dept is currently accepting apps for the Budget and Contract Administrator position. Bachelor's degree in a business/public administration, human resources or healthcare administration field, plus 7 yrs exp.

For more info and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2NcCFVP>.

Ongoing House of Blues

Want a cool job in live music? House of Blues Dallas is hiring! Spruce up your resume and join us on Monday, August 26th for a Job Fair in our Cambridge Room from 1-5PM. All depart-



ments are hiring. View job openings at <http://livenationentertainment.com/careers>.

On-going First Fridays Virtual Job Fair

Every month computer professionals can participate in the monthly job fair in the comfort of your PJs. Job Seekers must complete profile on https://tao.ai/p/fff/_/dfw

#FirstFridayFair (#FFF) is estimated to be largest attended career fair with around 8,000 professionals and 500 recruiting companies. The data science and software development focused career fair is delivered right at your desktop. No need to travel anywhere, just signup and wait for TAO.ai to organize your interactions.

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NOTICE: *New You, Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church at www.bethelbiblefellowship.org*

Note: Until further notice, all services at Bethel church will be via Video-Conferencing and perhaps other churches as well; log on individual churches websites for details. See Bethel's website www.bethelbiblefellowship.org for their details because of the coronavirus.

June 14, 9:45 am

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

June 17, 7 pm

You Are invited to join us via video-conferencing for Prayer from 7 to 8 pm as we pray for the world's coronavirus.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,
Senior Pastor
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June 14

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and

worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

See CHURCH, Page 14



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Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 36-foot Public Lighting Structure Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of 4235 Lemmon Avenue, Dallas, Dallas County, TX 75219. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, p.rees@trileaf.com, 2121 W. Chandler Blvd., Suite 108, Chandler, AZ 85224, 480-850-0575.*



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CHURCH, from Page 13**June 17**

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

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MATTHEW 4:19**

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive."

- Malachi 3:8-10

Check "IBOC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

June 12, 7 pm

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

June 14, 10 a.m.

Join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends

to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

June 15, 7 p.m.

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

Pastor Rickie Rush
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Check "MOCOP's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

June 14, 10 a.m.

Join us for Morning Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory. Don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church.

June 17, 7 pm

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Dr. Sam Fenceroy, PhD
Senior Pastor and

Pastor Gloria Fenceroy
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Check "SMBC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the coronavirus.

June 14, 8 and 11 am

You are invited to our Worship Services as we honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

**June 15, 7 to 8 pm
Every Monday Night**

Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the Youth Church Sanctuary (Chapel).

June 17, 7 pm

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
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the Aggie Core Values. As a public servant, a professor and a legal reformer, he was tireless in his labors. Unfailingly polite, direct when circumstances demanded and, yet, always judicious, he will be terribly missed. Here at the law school, we were honored to count him as our colleague, our teacher and our friend."

His friendly wave and daily presence will be sorely missed by Texas A&M School of Law faculty, staff and students.

Bobby Ahdieh, dean of Texas A&M Law, said of his friend and colleague: "Judge Joe Spurlock was the human embodiment of

the Corps of Cadets, Judge Spurlock received his J.D. from the University of Texas and his LL.M. in Judicial Process from the University of Virginia.

The Texas native, affectionately called "Father Texas," was never far from his boots and cowboy hat.

SPURLOCK, from Page 2**Death Notices - ndgobits@northdallasgazette.com****Pauline Jackson**

Born: 7/23/1952

Died: 6/7/2020

Visitation: Thursday, June 11, 2020 (2-6 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Service: Friday, June 12, 2020 (11 a.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Cemetery: Lincoln Memorial Cemetery

**Sandra Clark Funeral
Home**

Jamajae DeJames Colbert

Born: 4/3/2004

Died: 6/3/2020

Visitation: Thursday, June 11th, 2020 (2-6 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Service/Cremation: Friday, June 12th, 2020 (2:30 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home

Cemetery: Mother of Faith Dignified Crematory

**Sandra Clark Funeral
Home**

Dave Edgar Watson

Born: 11/28/1946

Died: 6/8/2020

Visitation: Monday, June 15, 2020 (1-6 p.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Service: Tuesday, June 16th, 2020 (11 a.m.) at Sandra Clark Funeral Home
Cemetery: Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery

**Sandra Clark Funeral
Home**

Special Death Announcement Program to Funeral Homes

North Dallas Gazette will publish death announcements "complimentary" on NDG's/Legacy.com Obits Page and in the Newspaper based on space availability.

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Dennis Jarvis / Flickr

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Know your armor



Sister Tarpley
NDG
Religion
Editor

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran on May 23, 2019.)

"David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. 'I cannot go in these,' he said to Saul, 'because I am not used to them.' So he took them off."

(1 Samuel 17:39).

David, the young shepherd boy, heard the challenge from the Philistines to send someone to fight Goliath. No one volunteered to fight except David. King Saul reluctantly agreed and offered David his armor.

David put on the weighty equipment, but quickly concluded he could not fight in this heavy armor. He gave it back to king Saul.

God equips each of us in such a way that is unique to

our strengths and abilities. David knew who he was and who he wasn't. David was trained as a shepherd to use another weapon. For David, it was a slingshot. David showed great maturity in realizing he could not be effective with Saul's armor.

What are the gifts and talents God has given to you? Have you ever tried to accomplish a task with tools you were not trained to use? God allows each of us to develop skills that are unique to our life. He will not call you to use someone else's tools.

However, this is only half of the equation. These talents must be mixed with faith. Talent alone is not enough. Faith alone is not enough. It is only when the two are combined that God's power is released and manifested in the physical realm.

Sometimes we admire the talents of others and seek to emulate them. The temptation arises to be



Exactly four years apart, this brother and sister; Camille Baker is a graduate of Allen High School; she was a member of the marching band and WINGS mentoring program. She will be attending the University of Oklahoma. Her brother, Tony Baker, Jr. (TJ as he is called) is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems. He plans to find a job as a business analyst in the Dallas area. The proud parents are Tony, Sr. and Jennifer Baker from Allen, Texas.

someone we are not. This is a mistake. Let God live His life through the unique you.

Mix your unique gifts with faith today; you will be surprised at the power of God that will be manifested.

Ask God to help you to be sensitive to other people's needs and feel-

ings. Ask Him to help you to love them and encourage them through special touches, like remembering special occasions through

phone calls, prayers, notes, cards, visits, even small gifts at times.

Ask God to help you to always make other people feel special and valued, for we are all His creation and

deserve to be valued. Pray that through your words and actions, that God will be glorified and lifted up, and that people will be drawn unto God in the precious name of Jesus.

NDG^{tv} North Dallas Gazette takes a moment to reflect on the past with **Historical Perspectives from Sister Tarpley**. Hear what it was like growing up in a very different Dallas when Booker T. Washington was a black school. Sister Tarpley graduated from there and went on to college and later became a city councilmember in Carrollton.

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com

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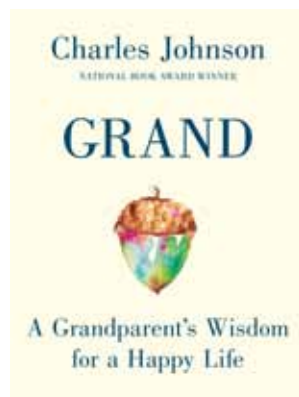
NDG Book Review: *Grand: A Grandparent's Wisdom for a Happy Life*

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

That little face holds so much expectation.

You meet the eyes of your grandchild, and you know you have a big job ahead of you. She expects you to love her as much as she loves you, and you do. He figures you'll have fun together, and you will. They expect, quite frankly, to be spoiled a little, and that'll happen, too. And with the new book "Grand" by Charles Johnson, a few lessons might be taught along the way...

Some years ago, when Charles Johnson helped design the elegant room



that would be his home office, he had certain things in mind. Not one of them was that his grandson, Emery, would take the room as "his" office but that's what happened, and that's okay. The boy is an obvious delight.

Emery's thoughts, his willingness to share his world, and his points of view make Johnson proud; their relationship is easy and solid. This gives Johnson a ease of comparison between Emory and his ancestors, and lesson-filled stories to tell: Emory loves books, though reading was denied to his forebears. At age eight, he doesn't have to work like his great-granduncle did. He has nearly unlimited opportunities, unlike his great-grandfather.

And yet, as a Black man, Johnson knows that there are other lessons he needs to teach his grandson, les-

sons that go outside history and into the future.

Be yourself, he'll tell Emery, and know that the world has never seen anyone exactly like you. Don't chase perfection because nothing is ever perfect. Give dimension to your life by finding your purpose, take care of yourself, and care for others. Know that you'll suffer, and that others will suffer, too. Look for beauty in life every day, even if it lies inside pain. Remember the "three gatekeepers" before you speak. Never be complacent with your skills, never stop learning, never stop being creative or curious.

And know that there are three kinds of love. If you're lucky, you'll experience each one.

When you found out that you were going to be a grandparent, do you remember how your mind raced with all the things you wanted to do with your grandbaby?

Add ten more to that list after you've read "Grand," but take a deep breath first.

Author Charles Johnson writes with a quiet reserve here that borders on gravity in the lessons he has – and that you can offer – to a grandchild. That seriousness is often further weighed heavily with Bud-

dhist teachings and philosophy that can turn downright sombre sometimes and the text, though certainly filled with love and wisdom that ultimately leads to joy, can feel as though it begs for a lighter hand. Beware, too, that these sentiments aren't meant for sudden talks: they're lessons that start early and continue for decades.

Even so, there are lessons here for elders as much as for their littles and despite its occasional excess depth, you should easily be able to proceed as you need. With the right mindset and "Grand," you can expect good things.

XYLON, from Page 10

and I know that the fans will love it. We have more great music on the way."

The music video, which was directed by Jorge Martínez and filmed in Bayamón, Puerto Rico was also

released with the single. "Filming the music video was at another level and I am positive that it's going to be successful. The music video was filmed in such an organic way and that will reflect

in the final results", Xylon shared. His biggest inspiration has been his mother who has instilled the love for music in him and has also encouraged him to follow his dreams.

It has been two years since the Puerto Rican artist began

his journey in the urban music industry and has managed to make himself known with his previous smash hits such as "Dike U Dike A", which generated over 1.5 million views on YouTube in only two months of its release as well as "Vámonos",

which generated over 1.1 million views on the same platform.

At age 15, the young star shared that he has no limits when it comes to his musical career. "I want to set an example to the young people and show them that

despite all adversity, you can achieve anything." In the future, the new urban generation artist would like to collaborate with artists such as Daddy Yankee, Nicky Jam, Anuel AA, Ozuna among others. The artist is currently working on his debut album.

If I could do one thing, I'd have a daycare closer to work.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services.

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