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VOLUME 73 NUMBER 13

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

December 10 - 16, 2020

Texas food banks may be less equipped to help hungry households in the new year

BY JUAN PABLO GARNHAM

Food banks across Texas are projecting food shortages in coming months due to the end of three key federal and state programs that have helped them respond to high demand during the coronavirus pandemic and its accompanying recession.

“Food insecurity is twice as high as before the pandemic. We’ve had a lot of federal aid and that’s all going away at the end of the year,” said Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas, which coordinates the 21 food banks in the state. “We are facing a kind of a food cliff and we are worried of how long we are going to be able to keep up with demand without the help of the federal government.”

According to a November survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 2.5 million households in Texas either sometimes or often did not have enough food to eat in the week prior to the poll. And 66% of these households were either Hispanic or Black.

The worries about a

looming food shortage come as two main unemployment programs that significantly expand jobless assistance — and a federal moratorium on evictions — are set to expire at the end of December. If Congress doesn’t act on another pandemic stimulus package, many Texans will lose at least some of their unemployment benefits.

More than 3.8 million Texans have applied for unemployment benefits since March, but the outdated and understaffed unemployment insurance office left countless Texans frustrated as they try to navigate a confusing system for getting aid.

It also comes as Texas faces another major surge in coronavirus infections.

Feeding Texas is currently gathering data from food banks across the state, and Cole is concerned by what she is hearing so far. The Houston Food Bank, the largest in Texas, estimates that in the next three to six

Continue **Food** Page 5

High court rejects GOP bid to halt Biden’s Pennsylvania win

By MARK SHERMAN and MARC LEVY



In this Nov. 5, 2020, file photo, the Supreme Court in Washington. The Supreme Court has rejected Republicans’ last-gasp bid to reverse Pennsylvania’s certification of President-elect Joe Biden’s victory in the electoral battleground. The court without comment Tuesday, Dec. 8, refused to call into question the certification process in Pennsylvania. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected Republicans’ last-gasp bid to reverse Pennsylvania’s certification of President-elect Joe Biden’s victory in the electoral battleground.

The court without comment refused to call into question the certification process in Pennsylvania. Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf already has certified Biden’s victory and the state’s 20 electors are to

meet on Dec. 14 to cast their votes for Biden.

Biden won 306 electoral votes, so even if Pennsylvania’s results had been in doubt, he still would have more than the 270 electoral votes needed to become president.

Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly of northwestern Pennsylvania and other plaintiffs pleaded with the justices to intervene after the state Supreme Court turned away their case.

The Republicans argued that Pennsylvania’s expansive vote-by-mail law is unconstitutional because it required a constitutional amendment to authorize its provisions.

Biden beat President Donald Trump by more than 80,000 votes in Pennsylvania, a state Trump had won in 2016. Most mail-in ballots were submitted by Democrats.

The state’s high court said the plaintiffs waited too long to file the chal-

lenge and noted that Republicans’ staggering demand that an entire election be overturned retroactively.

In the underlying lawsuit, Kelly and the other Republican plaintiffs had sought to either throw out the 2.5 million mail-in ballots submitted under the law or to wipe out the election results and direct the state’s Republican-controlled Legislature to pick Pennsylvania’s presidential electors.



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

Biden makes pitch for retired general to be Pentagon chief

By ROBERT BURNS and JONATHAN LEMIRE

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Joe Biden on Tuesday made his case for retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin to be secretary of defense, urging Congress to waive a legal prohibition against a recently serving military officer running the Pentagon.

With concern rising in

Congress about maintaining civilian control of the military, Biden suggested he felt a need to counter an emerging narrative that Austin’s nomination blurs the lines between civil and military roles.

“Given the immense and urgent threats and challenges our nation faces, he should be con-

firmed swiftly,” Biden wrote in The Atlantic. It was his first public confirmation that Austin is his pick for Pentagon chief, although word had leaked out Monday, prompting criticism and skepticism from some in Congress.

Biden countered the concerns by arguing that Austin knows that a

Pentagon chief’s duties are different from those of a military officer. He said Austin is aware that “the civil-military dynamic has been under great stress these past four years,” an allusion to President Donald Trump’s hiring of numerous retired generals

Continue **Biden** Page 5

Biden-Harris Administration Commits to Ensure Government Spending with Black and Minority-Owned Media Businesses

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

President-Elect Joe Biden’s administration plans to support legislation offered by District of Columbia Democratic Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton that would ensure federal agencies advertise with minority-owned businesses, including the National Newspaper Publishers

Association (NNPA).

“From the racial equity plan — at the direction of the President-Elect, the Director of Minority Business Development Agency will coordinate all federal offices to reduce barriers to procurement for underrepres-

Continue **Media** Page 6



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EDITORIAL PAGE

“Unity Through Diversity”



Chairwoman **Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)**
House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology
United States House of Representatives

Through the establishment of separation of powers dating back to 1787, the framers created the federal executive branch of government. For more than two centuries, United States’ Presidents have served as our Chief of the executive branch; being surrounded by specialized advisors tasked with providing sage counsel and insight, most commonly dubbed as “the cabinet.” And since the formation of the cabinet, advisors – and the presidents they serve – have lacked the diversity reflected in the mosaic fabric of our beloved nation.

A diverse cabinet offers a multitude of ben-

efits. Such examples include varying degrees of thought, experience, and the development of more culturally competent policies, just to name a few. Ideally, cabinet members must be able to draw from their background using it as a back-drop to guide the president in their decision-making through an equity lens. And hopefully, this vantage point would be one that examines the impact of complex policy goals on our underserved and marginalized communities. Therefore, to achieve these types of lofty objectives, America’s Commander-In-Chief should prioritize the nomination of candidates with diverse qualifications that better equip them with personal and professional life skills to achieve unity through inclusivity.

President-elect Biden has an opportunity to make history by nominating people of color, women, persons with disabilities, or from different religious view-

points as well as LGBTQ individuals to render service in his cabinet. Though each candidate is subject to confirmation, he has already done so thus far by nominating Janet Yellen, who would be the country’s first female Treasury Secretary; Alejandro Mayorkas, the first Latino and immigrant nominated as the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security; and Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a Black career diplomat who grew up in segregated Louisiana, as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

However, several key positions in the administration remain unfilled, including the Secretaries of Agriculture, Defense, Justice, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and many others. We must ensure that the current pattern of placing diverse individuals in these roles continues. To demonstrate my commitment to a diverse

Biden-Harris cabinet, I penned a letter along with my Congressional Black Caucus PAC colleagues in support of Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge of Ohio for Secretary of Agriculture. A career public servant and trailblazer for women of color, Congresswoman Fudge is uniquely positioned for success in such a role as a champion for our nation’s farmers, Women, Infants, and Children, as she will be also a leader for those facing food insecurities living in food deserts.

Nominees will likely face a grueling confirmation process in a divided, polarized Senate. It is therefore crucial that they demonstrate beyond any sensible doubt that they are ready and able to serve on day one of the new administration. As has been made clear by President-elect Biden, the cabinet should be prepared to represent and work on behalf of all Americans, not just those who voted for them.

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Collegiate Prep Second Grader Enjoys Entrepreneurship

Cedar Hill ISD

(CEDAR HILL, TEXAS) Skylar Lewis is a Chief Executive Officer at age 7.

Sure, the Collegiate Prep second grader’s mother, Brittany, helps out with Skylar’s Sweet Snacks, but Skylar drives the creativity behind a lot of the decisions.

She first became interested in entrepreneurship when she, like many of her peers, opened a lemonade stand in Kindergarten. She fresh squeezes the lemons and even adds the sugar and water herself. Flavors included strawberry and cranberry. “We thought people might want to stop by and try some lemonade,” Skylar said.

When the COVID-19 Pandemic hit last March, Skylar reluctantly had to put the lemonade stand on the backburner.

It would have been easy to postpone her entrepreneurial goals all together, but she did the exact opposite.

She expanded to other items, including rice krispy treats, t-shirts and coloring books. Future plans include backpacks, lunchboxes and more.

Continue **Enjoys** Page 7

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Devotional Service 6:30 p.m.
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

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"A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN"
St. John 9:8-23
THE AFTERMATH OF CHRIST'S HEALING OF THE BLIND BEGGAR
By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In the previous section of this grand Chapter, St. John 9:1-7, we discovered the marvelous outflow of the sovereign grace of God demonstrated toward a blind beggar. This marvelous grand act of God's sovereign grace was demonstrated on a blind beggar who didn't even appeal to nor utter any cry for the Lord's mercy.

Our text begins with the neighbor's reaction with regard to the identity of the blind beggar, for verse 8 says - "The neighbors therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?" Certainly, an obvious change had occurred in the life of this blind beggar which had caused a great deal of curious talk among the neighbors. As with the blind beggar, many of our friends are curious about the change the grace of God has wrought in our lives! In verse 9, the neighbors are still in doubt as to the real identity of the once blind beggar - that a work of marvelous grace had been accomplished in His life is beyond a doubt. From verse 10, now the once blind beggar has the unique opportunity to testify about the grace he experienced in being healed. In observing verse 10 further, it is noteworthy that the neighbors' question revealed that they didn't want to know who did or performed the miracle, but how was his eyes opened. The once blind man replies in verse 11 by testifying and giving a straight forward answer, stating what the gracious Benefactor, Jesus Christ, had done for him.

As they continued to interrogate the victim on whom the grace of God was demonstrated, a question was raised - "Where is He?" He said, "I know not." Acting on the limited knowledge He had of Christ, the once beggar answered the question as straightforward as he could. In verse 13, we now discover that the once blind victim is brought before the Pharisees, and verse 14 supplies us with the fact that the miracle occurred on the Sabbath.

The fact that the miracle occurred on the Sabbath will cause a controversy among the Pharisees. It is to be noted in verse 5 that the testimony of God's grace victim did not change -


again, he was straight forward in his testimony as to who healed him! Verse 6 reveals the adamant unbelief of the Pharisees, for they rejected that He performed the miracle because it was done on the Sabbath. Because of their rejection and disdain for the Light (Jesus Christ), they are dwelling in the shadow of unbelief and darkness. Under strong interrogation in verse 17, we discover that the once blind beggar affirms that Jesus is a prophet - a mouthpiece for God. This man is remaining firm in his testimony - not flinching a bit! Although a noteworthy miracle had occurred in the man's life, the Jews were determined not to believe. The glaring unbelief of these Jews is manifested, for even after the consistent testimony of the once blind beggar, they passed the witness and called for the man's parents (v. 18).

As the interrogation process continues in verses 19-23, the Pharisees' aim in questioning the parents was to attempt to get the parents to deny that their son was blind; and in doing so, the miracle would be denied. One would have thought that the parents would have been a strong witness, witnessing to the fact that Jesus did indeed heal their son; or, were they fearful in their testimony because they did not want to be excommunicated (v. 22). "Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him (v. 23).

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Continued **Biden** Page 1

for key posts early in his administration, including retired Marine Gen. Jim Mattis as defense secretary.

Biden argued that Austin would work to put the civil-military balance "back on track." He said the main reason he picked Austin was because he reacts well under pressure.

"He is the person we need in this moment," Biden wrote.

Austin would be the first Black leader of the Pentagon, and the historic nature of the nomination, particularly in a year of extraordinary racial tension in the country, adds an intriguing dimension to the debate in Congress over one of the key members of Biden's Cabinet.

Austin was an unexpected choice. Most speculation centered on Michele Flournoy, an experienced Washington

Continued **Food** Page 1

months it will need to distribute 20 million pounds of food monthly, but that they will be 5 million short. In El Paso, an area that is currently experiencing a devastating outbreak of COVID-19 cases, the gap could be 11 million pounds of food each month.

"We are seeing a different population, lots of people that have never come to a food bank before, people that didn't have the assets to weather a period of unemployment," Cole said.

One of them is Quinn Smoot, a 32-year-old resident of West Houston. Before the pandemic, Smoot and their partner would even donate to the food pantry from time to time.

"I never thought I would ever have to go to the food pantry," Smoot said. "We were financially set."

But their income quickly dropped as they lost work hours and had to juggle mental health issues and taking care of their 9 year old, who has autism. Currently, Smoot has managed to find a stable job as technical support for a telecommunica-

tions company, but if they don't have access to food from their local pantry, they know they will have a hard time getting back on their feet.

"We are still behind on things. I'm behind on rent, behind on my home internet, which I rely on to work. I've been sick with no health insurance," Smoot said. "Fresh food is super expensive here in the neighborhood, but there I can get apples, potatoes and not just canned and processed food."

The main federal program that is ending provided around \$100 million dollars in food to Texas food banks in 2020, according to Feeding Texas calculations. The Food Purchase and Distribution Program was created to help farmers affected by the trade war between President Donald Trump's administration and China and Europe. This ended up helping hunger organizations, as the food bought by the U.S. Department of Agriculture from these farmers ended up being distributed to food banks across the country.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2020/12/07/texas-food-banks-unemployment-coronavirus/>

and among those who voted for it, Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island expressed doubts.

"Waiving the law should happen no more than once in a generation," Reed, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said then, adding, "Therefore, I will not support a waiver for future nominees."

Asked Tuesday about an Austin waiver, Reed seemed open to the possibility.

"I feel, in all fairness, you have to give the opportunity to the nominee to explain himself or herself," he told reporters.

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., the current chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said he had no problem voting for the waivers. "I always support waivers," he said. But he said he doesn't know Austin well.

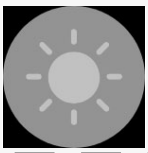
Civilian control of the military is rooted in Americans' historic wariness of large standing armies with the power to overthrow the government it is intended to serve. That is why the president is the commander in chief of the armed forces, and it reflects the rationale behind the prohibition against a recently retired military officer serving as defense secretary.

Some Democrats who agreed to the 2017 waiver saw Mattis as tempering Trump's impulsive nature and offsetting his lack of national security experience. Now the Mattis period at the Pentagon is viewed by some as an argument against waiving the seven-year rule for Austin. Mattis critics say he surrounded himself with military officers at the expense of a broader civilian perspective. He resigned in December 2018 in protest of Trump's policies.

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

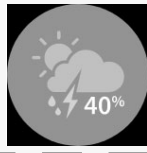
7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Dec. 10



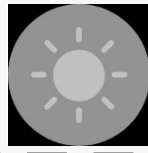
H - 72°
L - 60°

Friday, Dec. 11



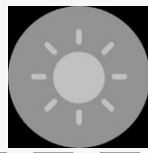
H - 66°
L - 45°
40%

Saturday, Dec. 12



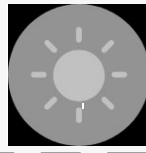
H - 53°
L - 40°

Sunday, Dec. 13



H - 53°
L - 36°

Monday, Dec. 14



H - 54°
L - 44°

Tuesday, Dec. 15



H - 59°
L - 47°

Wednesday, Dec. 16



H - 56°
L - 45°

Dick Allen, fearsome hitter and 7-time All-Star, dies at 78

BY ROB MAADDI

Dick Allen hit the ball so hard, fans in Philadelphia started showing up in batting practice during his rookie season just to watch him hammer shots over the Coca-Cola sign atop the left-center field roof at Connie Mack Stadium.

The rousing attention, he got that early. The rightful acclaim, sadly, he had to wait much longer.

Allen, a seven-time All-Star slugger whose fight against racism during a tumultuous time with the Phillies in the 1960s cost him on and off the field, died Monday. He was 78.

The 1964 NL Rookie of Year and 1972 AL MVP had a lengthy illness while at home in Wampum, Pennsylvania.

"Dick will be remembered as not just one of the greatest and most popular players in our franchise's history, but also as a courageous warrior who had to overcome far too many obstacles to reach the level he did," the Phillies said in a statement.

Allen's No. 15 was



Former Philadelphia Phillies' Dick Allen waves to the crowd before a baseball game against the New York Mets in Philadelphia, in this Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017, file photo. Dick Allen, a fearsome hitter who was a seven-time All-Star, the 1964 NL Rookie of the Year and the 1972 AL MVP, has died. He was 78. The Philadelphia Phillies, the team Allen started out with, announced his death on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

retired by the Phillies in September, an honor that was considered way overdue by many for one of the franchise's greatest players.

Phillies managing partner John Middleton broke from the team's longstanding "unwritten" policy of only retiring the number of play-

ers who are in the Hall of Fame to honor Allen. In 2014, Allen fell one vote short of Cooperstown in a Hall committee election.

"I thank the city of Philadelphia. Even though it was rough, I've made some friends along the way," Allen said in an emotional

ceremony on a warm, sunny afternoon.

Middleton said he was "bereft to learn of Dick's passing today."

"Our community's powerful connection to, and pride in, Dick leaves all of us in a state of mourning. He will be remembered not only for his extraordinary

baseball skills and accomplishments, but equally for his strength of character. His humility, gratitude and compassion were so evident when we retired Dick's number just three months ago. I am grateful he was able to participate in the ceremony and experience the outpouring of affection and respect we have for him," Middleton said.

Mike Schmidt, a Hall of Fame third baseman who helped lure Allen out of retirement to return to Philadelphia for a second stint with the team in 1975, was among the former players who attended the ceremony. They wore masks and sat several feet apart during the coronavirus pandemic that shortened the major league season to 60 games. The Phillies planned to honor Allen again in 2021 with fans in attendance.

Schmidt called Allen "an amazing mentor" who was wrongly labeled a "bad team-

mate" and "troublemaker."

"Dick was a sensitive Black man who refused to be treated as a second-class citizen," Schmidt said in a speech. "He played in front of home fans that were products of that racist era (with racist teammates and different rules for whites and Blacks. Fans threw stuff at him and thus Dick wore a batting helmet throughout the whole game. They yelled degrading racial slurs. They dumped trash in his front yard at his home. In general, he was tormented and it came from all directions. And Dick rebelled."

Allen answered in his own way, sometimes scratching out "Boo" or "No" with his cleats in the dirt around the bases.

Schmidt pointed out Allen didn't have a negative reputation playing for the St. Louis Cardinals, Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago White Sox. He also campaigned for Allen's induction into the Hall of Fame.

AP's song of the year: Keedron Bryant's 'I Just Wanna Live'

By Mesfin Fekadu



This cover image released by Warner Records shows "I Just Wanna Live," by Keedron Bryant. Bryant's song was named one of the top 10 of the year by the Associated Press. (Warner Records via AP)

Continued **Media** Page 1

sented groups, including all types of minority-owned businesses," a Biden transition spokesperson told Black Press USA.

"This is good news for the Black Press of America in 2021," declared Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., President and CEO of the NNPA.

"The incoming Biden-Harris Administration has gone on the public record to keep their commitments to ensure equitable federal advertising dollars to be spent over the next four years with Black-owned newspapers, and other minority owned media companies across the nation."

In 2019, after reviewing a General Accounting Office audit that revealed federal agencies only spend a pittance of its allotted \$5 billion advertising budget with Black and minority-owned entities, Norton introduced H.R. 2576.

The legislation requires each of the 12

federal Appropriations Committees to adopt language mandating that all agencies include in their annual budget request to Congress the amount of money they spend to advertise with the Black Press, Hispanic Press, and women-owned publications.

Norton's bill, which remains under consideration in the House, requires all budgetary requests include a line-item detailing what they are spending with Black and other minority-owned businesses, including media companies.

"This is important not just for the publications but because those publications reach minorities and women in a way that mainstream publications may not," Norton said when introducing the measure.

"We did this because the federal government is the largest advertising agency in the United States and this gives it a special obligation to make sure that it is using

advertising dollars fairly and to reach all people in the United States," said Norton, who has served in the U.S. House since 1991.

The incoming Biden administration plans to see this legislation through.

"The President-elect is committed to implementing the plans that he laid out during the campaign that focuses on building the economy back better and creating opportunities for minority-owned businesses to advance and prosper," the transition spokesperson relayed.

"Biden's Lift Every Voice plan largely addresses the President-elect's plans to address building Black wealth, which means investing in Black communities."

The president-elect's Build Back Better Racial Economic Equity plan also relays how Biden plans to hold federal offices accountable for adequately maintaining their relationships with minority-owned businesses.



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“Happy Birthday!” Eddie Bernice Johnson, U. S. Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson, year 1987; in the Dallas Morning News High Profile.

Written by Colleen O' Connor

“My Day”

Dr. J. Ester Davis

This summer the Universal Peace Federation sponsored Peace Road 2020 across the United States.

Their stop was again in Dallas with services and prayers at Thanksgiving Square. About the same time the Peace Road Tour was underway, the Japanese American Women from the DFW Family Church, was finalizing their mission of donating 1000 hand made Origami Cranes to the

Dallas Police Department Museum in memory of the fallen police and DART officers in 2017. In the Japanese culture, the Senbazuru Origami Cranes are a sign of peace and happiness.

The Japanese American Women, who are familiar with Eddie Bernice Johnson's global peace work wanted her to be a part of the ceremonies. The congresswoman's schedule would not permit attendance, but she immediately prepared a personal

note to the members.

I have heard the Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson say publicly that “I am running on my record”. And that record really has no ending, but is paved with a lot of ‘firsts’. Most constituents may be only aware of the congresswoman's record in recent years with DART and Transportation, but my favorites on her record covers an entirely difference spectra of overlooked services. Let me start here. The people that sent her to congress 30+ years ago were school teachers, doctors, working men and women.

Being the first registered nurse in congress, Eddie Bernice Johnson introduced bills on child care, Head Start, the Parkland System and Baylor Research. Education and health care followed. The Future of STEM and then the mighty ultimate Science, Space, Technology Bills and Chairmanship. One year the congresswoman arranged a telephone visit with the astronauts at the space station with the students at Yvonne Ewell

School. I am especially fond of the annual conferences “World of Women for World Peace”. One year the Congresswoman invited a Palestinian Peacemaker, who grew up in the Gaza Strip. So many are thankful for the controversial National Suicide Hotline and the HEAL for Immigrant Women Families Act. I invite you to go online and look at her record. It is chronicled by year.

If I had to use two words to label the congresswoman, it would be “she listens”.

There is a Dorie Miller VFW Post 1406 in Dallas. There are veterans from all branches of the military at this Post. The Post is very active and popular in the community with scholarships to youth and other monthly activities. The congresswoman worked tirelessly, I am told in getting the U.S. Navy to recognize Petty Officer Dorie Miller with the Medal of Honor. And as you know, that is not the end. A Navy Carrier has been given his name it just has not been built yet.

“Thank you EBJ for your exemplary service.”

BOOK SIGNING



Sharon Jones-Scaife
author | entrepreneur | publisher

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CoffeeCreekMediaGroup.com

Continued Enjoys Page 3 will remember all of them.”
“Some of my friends have the coloring book I’m selling, and they think it’s really cool,” Skylar said. Skylar attended a youth entrepreneurship conference online. “It’s inspiring,” Brittany said. “She’s really creative, and she has so many ideas. I tell her to write them down, so she

Brittany said many of her family members have worked in the business world, but Skylar is blazing the trail when it comes to entrepreneurship. “She is inspiring, and I’m really, really proud of her,” Brittany said of Skylar, who is currently doing online Flex Learning this semester.



Cedar Hill Collegiate Prep Second Grader Skylar Lewis assists customers, while social distancing, at the Dallas Farmers Market.



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