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Aguirre family collect food donations for vandalized church pantry

BY
DEBRA DeCOSTER

Ruperto Aguirre and his granddaughter Cassy Orozco were appalled that someone would break into a church, the New Jerusalem Apostolic Church in Kansas City, Kansas and steal items from the church's food kitchen.



Cassy Orozco, 13 years old attends Argentine Middle School in KCK.



Pastor Donnie Mitchell, New Jerusalem Apostolic Church and Ruperto Aguirre stand in front of some of the food items that were collected after Aguirre sent out a request to family and friends to bring canned good items to the church. After a break-in at the church building, members of the church discovered that their food pantry items were taken along with equipment from the church.

El pastor Donnie Mitchell, de la Iglesia Apostólica Nueva Jerusalén y Ruperto Aguirre se paran frente a algunos de los alimentos que se recolectaron después de que Aguirre envió una solicitud a familiares y amigos para que trajeran alimentos enlatados a la iglesia. Después de un robo en el edificio de la iglesia, sus integrantes descubrieron que se llevaron productos de la despensa de alimentos junto con equipo de la iglesia.

Familia Aguirre recolecta donaciones de alimentos para despensa de iglesia vandalizada

TRADUCE
GEMMA TORNERO

Ruperto Aguirre y su nieta Cassy Orozco estaban consternados de que alguien irrumpiera en una iglesia, la Iglesia Apostólica Nueva Jerusalén, en Kansas City, Kansas y robara artículos del

comedor de la iglesia. "Estaban las noticias en el canal 5 mostrando que la iglesia ubicada en las calles en 55th y Parallel había sido robada. Se robaron la batería musical, las guitarras, todo lo que tenían para los servicios dominicales", dijo Aguirre. Mientras Aguirre y Orozco continuaban viendo

el noticiero, se enteraron de que los ladrones habían arrasado con la comida de su cocina. La idea de que alguien se llevara la comida que necesitaban las familias de la comunidad los disgustó. "Mi nieta empezó a llorar. Ella se sintió mal de que les pasara esto", dijo Aguirre. Ella dijo, "Abuelo,

tú puedes ayudarlos". Su nieta tocó su corazón con su súplica y su destino de ayudar al pastor local y a la iglesia se selló al ver al pastor Mitchell, con lágrimas corriendo por su rostro, cuando descubrió en cámara que los ladrones habían robado todos los productos enlatados de su cocina. "LA FE Y LA CREENCIA.... / PÁGINA 2

"THE FAITH AND ... / PAGE 3

Westside CAN Center lead the 2nd COVID-19 doses

El Centro Westside CAN lidera la segunda dosis de COVID-19



"We were so happy that 100% of the people that received the 1st doses on February 8th and 9th came to receive the 2nd doses of the Moderna vaccine," said Jorge Coromac, Director of the Westside CAN Center.

"Nos alegró mucho que el 100% de las personas que recibieron la primera dosis el 8 y 9 de febrero vinieran a recibir la segunda dosis de la vacuna Moderna", dijo Jorge Coromac, director del Westside CAN Center.

The Westside CAN Center was able to coordinate in partnership with Truman Medical Center, Tony Aguirre Community Center, Park and Rec, Sacred Heart Homes Association, Mattie Rhodes, Westside Neighborhood Association, Guadalupe Center, Westside North Association, KCPD, UMKC Nursing School, SDL Church, Woodland Volunteers, The City of Kansas City and Jackson County outside agencies.

"We were so happy that 100% of the people that received the 1st doses on February 8th and 9th came to receive the 2nd doses of the Moderna vaccine," said Jorge Coromac Director of the Westside CAN Center.

PEOPLE APPRECIATE / PAGE 5

TRADUCE
GEMMA TORNERO

El Centro Westside CAN pudo coordinarse en asociación con el Centro Médico Truman, Centro Comunitario Tony Aguirre, Parques y Recreación, Asociación de Hohares Sacred Heart, Mattie Rhodes, Asociación Vecinal Westside, Centros Guadalupe, Asociación Westside North, KCPD, Escuela de Enfermería UMKC, Iglesia SDL, Voluntarios Woodland, la ciudad de Kansas City y agencias externas del Condado de Jackson.

LA GENTE APRECIA / PÁGINA 5

“La fe y la creencia en ayudar a su prójimo están aquí”



Church volunteers sorted a variety of food items that were donated to their food kitchen after thieves stole food items from their food kitchen.

Voluntarios de la Iglesia clasificaron una variedad de alimentos que fueron donados a su comedor después de que los ladrones robaron de su cocina.

CONT./PÁGINA 1

“Cuando el pastor Donnie comenzó a llorar, oh hombre, eso no me dolió. Dijo que no le importaban los instrumentos. Le importa que se hayan llevado toda esta comida que teníamos para la comunidad, porque ahora no la tendrán. Eso me conmovió”, dijo Aguirre.

Pensó en el comentario de su nieta de que les ayudara, y en cinco cortos días, se había acercado a las redes sociales y, a través de llamadas telefónicas a familiares y amigos les pidió a las personas que recolectaran productos enlatados para la cocina de la Iglesia Nueva Jerusalén.

“Quería mostrarle a mi nieta que tenemos buenas personas aquí en nuestra comunidad, que están dispuestas a ayudar a los necesitados”, dijo.

La gente de Kansas y Missouri respondieron a su llamado de ayuda para reabastecer los alimentos de la cocina.

“Arthur García, del Westside en Kansas City, Missouri, vio nuestra publicación de donaciones de productos enlatados. Se acercó a mí y donó 10 bolsas de alimentos enlatados para la iglesia”, dijo Aguirre.

La respuesta comunitaria que ha estado recibiendo lo ha hecho sentir bien.

“La fe y la creencia en ayudar a tu prójimo están aquí. Recibo todo tipo de respuestas de la gente. Me hace sentir bien ver

las respuestas”, dijo.

El pastor Donnie Mitchell ha estado sirviendo a la comunidad de su iglesia durante los últimos cuatro años en la Iglesia Nueva Jerusalén. Fue un día difícil cuando se enteró del robo en la iglesia, pero también de la pérdida de los artículos de la despensa de alimentos.

“Fue impactante darme cuenta de que alguien haría esto. No es que estés enojado, es más que te sientes violado”, explicó.

Añadió, “si alguien necesita ayuda con la comida, todo lo que tiene que hacer es llamar y le ayudaremos en cualquier momento”.

El pastor Mitchell estaba abrumado y agradecido por la ayuda que Aguirre ha podido organizar.

“Me gustaría decir, en nombre de la Iglesia Nueva Jerusalén en Kansas City, Kansas, queremos agradecerles. Le agradecemos y no lo daremos por sentado. Estamos allí para ayudar cuando la comunidad también lo necesite”, dijo.

Fue a fines de febrero cuando los feligreses llegaron a la iglesia y descubrieron que el edificio había sido asaltado y que faltaban artículos. Según el pastor Mitchell, los sospechosos rompieron una ventana para entrar al edificio y salieron por una puerta. El edificio fue saqueado

y, al registrarlo, descubrieron que los sospechosos se habían llevado un sistema de altavoces, un televisor, un teclado piano Yamaha Montage, un refrigerador de oficina y un microondas. También se llevaron artículos de su cocina y despensa de alimentos.

“Obviamente estuvieron aquí por un tiempo”, dijo.

La despensa de alimentos de la iglesia está abierta todos los trimestres para las personas necesitadas. Pero el pastor Mitchell agregó rápidamente que siempre ayudan a alguien si necesita ayuda con la comida.

“Nuestra despensa de alimentos está siempre abierta si necesita comida. Todo lo que necesita hacer es llamarnos. Uno de los miembros de nuestro equipo de despensa de alimentos puede preparar una caja de alimentos y entregársela”, dijo el pastor Mitchell.

A pesar del robo de artículos de la iglesia, que el pastor Mitchell usó durante los servicios, decidió continuar como de costumbre con los servicios de la iglesia.

“No iba a permitir que el robo detuviera nuestros servicios”, afirmó. Fue en el servicio que anunció a la familia de su iglesia que tenían una oferta de ayuda para reabastecer su despensa de alimentos.

“Hice un anuncio en la iglesia, de que el integrante de la comunidad,

Ruperto Aguirre, iba a organizar una colecta de alimentos para nosotros. La congregación estaba emocionada y abrumada con su oferta de ayudarnos. Nos permite saber que a pesar de nuestra raza, color, credo o denominación, la comunidad puede unirse. Nosotros haríamos lo mismo, ayudamos a otras iglesias, Dios ha permitido que otra persona, otra familia de la comunidad venga y nos ayude. Estamos muy agradecidos”, dijo.

Catherine Salazar recibió una llamada de Aguirre sobre la necesidad de alimentos enlatados de la iglesia Nueva Jerusalén para su despensa de

alimentos. Cuando se enteró del robo en la iglesia, supo que los ayudaría comprando buenos artículos enlatados ella misma y también acercándose a sus amigos y pidiéndoles que dieran si podían.

“Me acerqué a otras personas, recogí sus donaciones y las traje aquí a la iglesia hoy. Hay personas en la comunidad que necesitan ayuda adicional en este momento con la pandemia. Estuve encantada de ayudar”, afirmó.

Andrew Lewis, un residente de Kansas City, ofreció su tiempo en la iglesia la semana pasada para ayudar a llevar donaciones.

“Esto ha sido una bendición. La gente

viene con todo tipo de alimentos para las personas a las que servimos. Es genial ver la unidad entre las personas que han ayudado”, dijo.

El pastor Mitchell se sintió emocionado por la ayuda que recibieron de la comunidad hispana.

“Nosotros, Ruperto y yo, no nos conocíamos. Alguien que no conoces se acerca a ti, me sentí emocionado y sorprendido de buena manera con su oferta de ayudarnos”, dijo Mitchell.

Ahora que los dos hombres se han conocido, están discutiendo planes para trabajar juntos en el futuro, para continuar aumentando sus suministros de cocina de alimentos.

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KC HISPANIC NEWS

“The faith and belief in helping your neighbor is here”



Catherine Salazar (far left) speaks with Pastor Donnie Mitchell (right, left picture) as they begin to unload her car of donated can good items that she has gathered. A volunteer at the New Jerusalem Apostolic Church in Kansas City, Kansas carries a box of donated canned goods into the church building. Community members arrived last week with donations of food items for their food kitchen after learning the church had been robbed.

Catherine Salazar (extremo izquierda) habla con el pastor Donnie Mitchell (derecha foto de la izquierda) mientras comienzan a descargar de su carro artículos de lata donados y que ella había reunido. Un voluntario de la Iglesia Apostólica Nueva Jerusalén en Kansas City, Kansas, lleva una caja de productos enlatados donados al edificio de la iglesia. Los integrantes de la comunidad llegaron la semana pasada con donaciones de alimentos para su cocina después de enterarse de que habían robado a la iglesia.

CONT./PAGE 1

local pastor and church was sealed when he watched Pastor Mitchell, with tears streaming down his face, as he discovered on camera that the thieves had stolen all the canned goods from their food kitchen.

“When Pastor Donnie started crying, oh man, if that didn’t hurt me. He said I don’t care about the instruments. I do care that they took all this food that we had for the community, because now they won’t have it. That touched me,” said Aguirre.

He thought about his granddaughter’s comment to help them, and in five short days, he had reached out over social media and through telephone calls to family and friends and asked people to collect can goods for the New Jerusalem Church food kitchen.

“I wanted to show my granddaughter that we have good people here in our community that are willing to help those in need,” he said.

People in Kansas and Missouri responded to his call for help to restock the food kitchen.

“Arthur Garcia from the Westside in Kansas City,

Missouri saw our post for donations of canned goods. He reached out to me and he donated 10 bags of canned goods for the church,” said Aguirre.

The community response that he has been receiving has made him feel good “The faith and belief in helping your neighbor is here. I am getting all kinds of responses from people. It makes me feel good to see the responses,” he said.

Pastor Donnie Mitchell has been serving his church community for the past four years at New Jerusalem Church. It was a difficult day when he learned of the break in at the church but also of the loss of their food pantry items.

“It was shocking to realize that someone would do this. It is not that you are mad, but it is more that you feel violated,” he explained.

He added, “if someone needed help with food, all they have to do is call and we would help them anytime.”

Pastor Mitchell was overwhelmed and thankful for the help that Aguirre has been able to organize.

“I would like to say on behalf of the New Jerusalem Church in Kansas City, Kansas we want to say thank

you. We appreciate you and we will not take this for granted. We are there to help when the community needs as well,” he said.

It was late February when church members arrived at the church and discovered the building had been broken into and items were missing. According to Pastor Mitchell, the suspects broke a window to get inside the building and left through a door. The building was ransacked and upon searching the building, they discovered that the suspects had removed a speaker system, television, Yamaha Montage keyboard piano, an office refrigerator and microwave. Also taken were items from their kitchen and food pantry.

“They obviously were here for a while,” he said.

The food pantry at the church is open every quarter to people in need. But Pastor Mitchell quickly added that they will always help someone out if they need assistance with food.

“Our food pantry is always open if you needed food. All you need to do is call us. One of the members on our food pantry team would put together a box of food items and bring it to you,” said Pastor Mitchell.

Despite the robbery of items from the church that Pastor Mitchell used during services, he decided to continue as usual with church services.

“I wasn’t going to let the robbery stop our services,” he stated.

It was at his church service that he announced to his church family that they had an offer of help to restock their food pantry.

“I made an announcement at church that community member Ruperto Aguirre was going to organize a food drive for us. The congregation was excited and overwhelmed with his offer to help us. It let’s us know that despite whatever our race, color, creed, denomination is, the community can come together. We would do the same, we help other churches, God has allowed another person, another family in the community to come and help us. We are very grateful,” he said.

Catherine Salazar received a call from Aguirre about the New Jerusalem church needing canned goods for their food pantry. When she learned of the break-in at the church, she knew she would help them out by purchasing canned

good items herself and also reaching out to her friends and asking them to give if they could.

“I reached out to others and picked up their donations and brought them here to the church today. There are people out in the community that need extra help right now with the pandemic. I was glad to assist,” she stated.

Andrew Lewis, a Kansas City resident, volunteered his time at the church last week to help carry in donations.

“This has been a blessing. People are coming with all kinds of food items for the people that we serve. This is great to see the unity between the people that have come out,” he said.

Pastor Mitchell was overwhelmed with the help they received from the Hispanic community.

“We, Ruperto and I, had never met before. Someone that you don’t know reaches out to you, I was overwhelmed and surprised in a good way with his offer to help us,” said Mitchell.

Now that the two men have met, they are discussing plans to work together in the future to continue to build up their food kitchen supplies.

March Madness – Would you like to coach?



COMMENTARY BY DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Have you ever thought changing jobs? Have you ever aspired to be a college basketball coach? Now is a great time to get your resume together.

John Calipari is the

University of Kentucky men’s basketball coach. His pay this year is over \$8 million. He has a lifetime contract worth 86 million dollars. In the eyes of the basketball world the UK basketball coaching job has been one of the most desired jobs in college sports. However, big pay doesn’t come easy Calipari has led Kentucky to one NCAA Championship, four final fours and he has had 26 twenty-win game seasons throughout his career. Although this year his 9 wins and 16 losses hasn’t gone over too well with many of Kentucky’s fans

While Calipari is the highest paid college basketball coach there are others who do very well. Mike Krzyzewski of Duke will earn \$7 million this season. Jay Wright

of Villanova will earn \$6 million. Chris Beard of Texas Tech is scheduled to earn \$5,050.00. Rick Barnes of Tennessee will earn \$4,950.00. Roy Williams of North Carolina will earn up to \$4 million. Tom Izzo of Michigan State will earn \$3,984.00. And, the list goes on. Chris Mack, Louisville, \$4 million. Brad Underwood, Illinois, \$4 million. Larry Krystkowiak, Utah, \$3,961.519. Bob Huggins, West Virginia \$4,050.000. UCLA coach Mike Cronin \$3,600.00. Scott Drew of Baylor \$3,350,000. There are 50-60 college coaches making \$2 million a year but it does drop for many others. Kyle Smith of Washington State makes \$1.4 million. Steve Alford for Nevada is making \$500,000. Johnny Jones of Texas Southern will be paid \$250,000.

Rick Pitino who came back from coaching professional basketball in Greece will earn just over \$1 million dollars at Iona. This is a far cry from the \$70 million-dollar contract he had with the Boston Celtics. His package had also reached over \$5 million per year before he left Louisville.

The list of coaches is too long to name them all with many more making between \$1 million to over \$2 million per year. There are many, many coaches making much smaller salaries.

The point is if you are looking for a career change you might consider college basketball coaching. Brad Stevens wanted to be a coach. He went to Butler in Indiana to be a volunteer in the Bulldog’s program. He became the assistant coach and then a very

successful head coach. Butler moved him from free to over \$1 million per year by the time he left. Today he now makes over \$3.6 million per year as the head coach of the Boston Celtics. Not bad for starting out as a volunteer. So, find a job waiting tables to feed yourself. Volunteer for a good basketball program. Work very hard. Earn yourself an assistant’s job and you might end up coaching a great basketball program and making several million a year.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 13 books including Uncommon Sense. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.

America's Minimum Wage Crisis

COMMENTARY BY
DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

One problem with all Americans making a minimum of \$15 an hour is that some business owners don't make \$15 an hour.

Hundreds of thousands of small business owners struggle every day to keep the lights on and the doors of their business open. The only way they can afford help is with people who are willing to work for a low wage. This is tough for all. In most cases the business owner would like to pay more and the employee needs to make more.

You can't economically survive on \$290 a week. Apartment rent can easily be \$500 to \$3000 a month depending on where you live. Add utilities, cell phone, transportation and you can forget eating much if any. The reality is that minimum wage workers can barely survive. They end up applying for public assistance, standing in food bank lines and eventually face deteriorating health and often homelessness. You cannot care for yourself on \$7.25 an hour. Living out of your car or in a tent is not the American dream.

It is time for a federal minimum wage increase. Eleven to \$12 an hour would be a push for many small business owners but we all need to push and try to get there together. Eventually everything goes up in price but it's some relief for millions of Americans in the short-term. Even \$12 an hour is only \$480 a week, but if you are surviving on \$290 per week it would have to seem like winning the lottery. However, consider the impact

this will have on a mom and pop business that has five employees and suddenly the payroll has just jumped by almost \$1000 more per month. It will be tough. A \$15 minimum wage means \$600 a week or more than doubling everyone's pay. How many businesses in America can just flip the switch and double everyone's pay?

If you are the employee you are desperate for higher wages. If you are the employer you worry about how you will pay the higher wage.

The Congressional budget office reported the higher \$15 minimum wage would lift 900,000 out of poverty. On the other hand, the same CBO reported 1.4 million would lose their jobs by 2025.

The only place in America who currently has a \$15 minimum wage is Washington, D.C. If you have ever gone out to eat in D.C. then you know \$15 an hour is not enough in that town. Washington state is \$13.69. California is \$14. New York is \$12.50. West Virginia is \$8.75. Kentucky is \$7.25. Indiana is \$7.25. Texas is \$7.25. Florida will be \$10 soon. Utah is 7.25.

The bottom line for us all is do not settle for any minimum wage forever. Work hard for a promotion or move to a better paying job. Minimum means a starting job rate. It doesn't have to mean your maximum pay rate forever.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 12 books including Uncommon Sense. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.

Mayor Lucas to Launch Boards and Commissions Training Program for Women

Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas today announced that his office has secured a \$15,000 grant through the National League of Cities to help recruit women from underrepresented communities into positions of local leadership through Kansas City Boards and Commissions. With this grant, Mayor Lucas announced the creation of a Kansas City Boards & Commissions (KCBC) Women in Local Government Training Program to encourage women from all backgrounds and identities in the community to apply for positions on Kansas City's boards and commissions.

The training sessions included in this program—cohosted with United WE's Appointments Project®, and in coordination with Sisters' Circle and VozKC—will provide an overview of the application and appointment process to Kansas City Boards and Commissions and provide networking opportunities with women already serving in these positions.

The first training session in this program will be virtual and is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14 at noon. Women from historically underrepresented communities—women of color, women from immigrant or refugee communities, women-identifying, and LGBTQ+ individuals—are especially encouraged to apply. Individuals can also nominate women in their lives who they know to be great community leaders for this program, using the same form.

"As someone who got their start in Kansas City public service serving on a City board, I understand the importance of boards and commissions in local government, and the importance of making sure those who serve on these boards are reflective of our community," said Mayor Lucas. "Launching this program today is great way to celebrate International Women's Day in Kansas City, and our commitment to opening doors for women, especially women from underrepresented communities, will continue year-round."

"Through this program, we are actively recruiting, educating,



and connecting talented women from historically underrepresented groups to create a new ecosystem of leaders—who might have otherwise not been given an opportunity to get their foot through

the door," continued Mayor Lucas. "I hope all in our community will help nominate and encourage the talented, passionate women in their lives to attend this training program, to build a decision-making space that is welcoming for all in our community for generations to come."

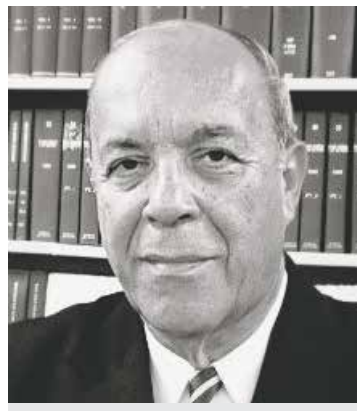
"International Women's Day is a global day to celebrate women's achievements and raise awareness about women's equality," said Wendy Doyle, President & CEO of United WE. "With support and leadership from Mayor Quinton Lucas and women applying for a seat at the decision-making tables of their communities, gender parity on Kansas City boards and commissions is gaining momentum as we work to close the gender leadership gap through our Appointments Project."

"The Sisters' Circle GKC is excited to partner with the office of the Mayor, VozKC and the United WE/ Appointments project to identify and share best practices that assist women in navigating the culture and language of commissions and board service and to provide a runway for women interested in serving on them," said Dr. Marjorie Williams, Co-Founder of Sisters' Circle.

"VozKC is excited to partner with the City of Kansas City on this important mission to improve Latinx representation on boards and commissions," said Daniela Velazquez, VozKC Leadership Board Member. "As an often-underrepresented community, we know how much of a difference it makes to be at the decision-making table."

Source KC Mayor Lucas Office

"Infected, Neglected Americans Die"



COMMENTARY BY
RAOUL LOWERY
CONTRERAS

Approved COVID19 vaccinations, three of them, are being rushed to every nook and cranny of the USA by plane, truck and van; millions are being vaccinated everyday, especially if you are white and in your fifties or older. Kids are being projected to be vaccinated by fall.

Good news, yes? If you are white non-Hispanic, this is great news. If you are Hispanic, Amerindian or Black you are in a boatload of trouble.

Hispanics, especially Mexican Americans (40 million plus), are younger than the white or Black populations of the country.

Reasons for problems among Hispanics having higher infection and death rates of the COVID19 scourge are less health insurance coverage, less availability of health workers and doctors and susceptibility/vulnerability because of underlying health problems including diabetes and obesity.

Rural living is not particularly a reason for

less health care as 95% of Hispanics are urban dwellers.

Amerindians? The great Sioux reservations in the Dakotas and numerous Apache, Pueblo, Hopi and Navajo communities in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado and Nevada are all in what is left of the wild, wild West, miles from anywhere. And, there are a lot of people involved; there are, for example, 300,000 Navajos scattered in the Four Corners area of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado where roads are scarce, where federal Indian Health facilities may be 100 or more miles from any given Navajo family.

In the county with more Indian Reservations than any state, San Diego County, there are almost 20 individual reservations scattered around the county which is the size of Connecticut.

The larger county reservations, and those with casinos (8), have their own clinics in addition to some federal facilities but reservations without casinos and located far off Interstate Highways 8 and 15 that are sparsely occupied must depend on the larger casino-reservations to provide transportation and medical care for individuals scraping by on low-budget federal funding and attention.

The Black population outside the South is mostly urban but like their cousins in the South, they are plagued by hypertension and blood pressure and



heart problems, diabetes and obesity. plus bad diets; that, a problem with a high carb diet that dominates the Hispanic diet.

The Black population has traditionally had poor health services. As a young boy I remember long lines of Black men, women and children every Saturday a few blocks from my house patiently waiting to see the only Black doctor in the entire part of San Diego where Blacks were allowed to live. They, for example, couldn't buy houses in white areas because of deed restrictions that were legally enforced by the sainted governor of California, Earl Warren, who particularly enforced restrictive land ownership laws on aliens when the buyers were Asian.

The United States Supreme Court slapped Earl Warren hard in 1948 when it ruled Restrictive Deed Covenants were unenforceable.

Nonetheless, it would take two or three generations before the Black community scattered itself throughout California cities. Thus, older Blacks, those most vulnerable to COVID19, are highly susceptible like Hispanics and Amerindians as a result of poor health care in their early years.

To the credit of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that leads the fight against the pandemic, it's people are raising voices against how these susceptible populations are not being counted right so the fight can zero in on these populations insofar as vaccinations are concerned.

DATA.

That is how the fight can be waged. The people who vaccinate must completely log where the vaccinations are performed and on whom. That way resources can be directed at low-

vaccinated groups.

This is a necessary effort to eliminate mass infection and deaths among 40 percent or more of America's diverse population. Treatment must be, in this case, color-conscious because that's where the problems and numbers lie. This, the result of a history of little or no medical treatment for generations of people with darker skins.

The CDC is doing its job, finally, by noticing the problem and actively trying to reach formerly neglected populations in every nook and cranny of America. That should be and must be -- encouraged and commended.

Contreras is the host of THE CONTRERAS REPORT - USA, THE CONTRERAS REPORT - MEXICO, and THE CONTRERAS REPORT -- INTERNATIONAL EDITION audio and video podcasts available at: Youtube.com... Facebook...

People appreciate receiving final vaccine



Many of the participants left the Tony Aguirre Community Center so happy after receiving their 2nd dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Muchos de los participantes dejaron el Centro Comunitario Tony Aguirre muy felices después de recibir su segunda dosis de la vacuna COVID-19.

CONT./PÁGINA I

"This was a community effort working for the Westside Community. We are so grateful how the local leaders of the Westside who helped with the implementation of this vaccination. Also we are so grateful for many Westside CAN volunteers came to help people fill out the forms, or to help with those folks in wheelchairs and directing people from one station to the other," commented Coromac.

Truman Medical Center has been instrumental during this pandemic in the Westside

by providing aid in regards COVID-19 test, bilingual education-information, food assistance and access to vaccines.

All participants have a specific date/time to arrive to the Tony Aguirre Community Center. When people arrive they wait in their cars for their turn and also to fill out the form. Then they walk into the Community Center and people were assisted or directed by volunteers to the registration/check in area, then to the vaccine area.

When the person received

the vaccine, Truman Medical Center Nurses provided each of them basic instructions about potential side effect symptoms. Instructions were provided also in hard copies and bilingual (Spanish/English) with a phone number to contact in case of any questions or concerns.

Many of the participants left the Tony Aguirre Community Center so happy after receiving their 2nd dose of the COVID-19. Their feeling of happiness and their gratitude was expressed to Truman Medical Center Nurses and Staff, to the Volunteers and

Tony Aguirre staff.

Mr. Alberto Quintero a 103 years old resident of the Westside and his daughter Maria came to take their 2nd vaccine. Mr. Alberto shared his experience when he was growing up and the challenges to obtain the vaccine for the flu pandemic back in 1917-18. It was not like today with this 2nd vaccine... "It was very difficult for my parents to find the vaccine but is not like this, we have the vaccine just right here in the Westside, two blocks from my house. I can walk but my daughter wants to bring me in her car... I am happy to have the

vaccine today... I can see some of my neighbors and I am so happy that they also have access to the vaccine," said Mr. Alberto.

Westside CAN Center will continue coordinating and advocating for more vaccines. Our deepest gratitude to Truman Medical Center that has been helping the Westside and Kansas City during all this pandemic and we will continue working together," said Coromac.

Source Westside Community Action Network

La gente aprecia recibir la vacuna final

CONT./PAGE I

"Nos alegró mucho que el 100% de las personas que recibieron la primera dosis el 8 y el 9 de febrero vinieran a recibir la segunda dosis de la vacuna Moderna", dijo Jorge Coromac, director del Centro Westside CAN.

"Este fue un esfuerzo de la comunidad trabajando para la Comunidad Westside. Estamos muy agradecidos de cómo los líderes locales del Westside ayudaron con la implementación de esta vacuna. También estamos muy agradecidos de que muchos voluntarios del Centro Westside CAN vinieron para ayudar a las personas a completar los

formularios, o para ayudar con las personas en sillas de ruedas y dirigiendo a las personas de una estación a otra", comentó Coromac.

El Centro Médico Truman ha sido fundamental durante esta pandemia en el Westside, apoyando respecto a la prueba COVID-19, proporcionando educación e información bilingüe, asistencia alimentaria y acceso a vacunas.

Todos los participantes tuvieron una fecha/hora específica para llegar al Centro Comunitario Tony Aguirre. Cuando llego la gente, esperaron en sus coches su turno y ahí rellenaron un formulario. Luego entraron al Centro Comunitario donde las

personas fueron asistidas o dirigidas por voluntarios al área de registro, y luego al área de vacunas.

Cuando las personas recibieron la vacuna, las enfermeras del Centro Médico Truman proporcionaron a cada una de ellas instrucciones básicas sobre los posibles síntomas de efectos secundarios. Las instrucciones se proporcionaron también en copias impresas y bilingües (español/inglés) con un número de teléfono de contacto en caso de cualquier pregunta o inquietud.

Muchos de los participantes dejaron el Centro Comunitario Tony Aguirre muy felices después de recibir su segunda

dosis de COVID-19. Su sentimiento de felicidad y agradecimiento se expresó a las enfermeras y el personal del Centro Médico Truman, a los voluntarios y al personal del Centro Comunitario Tony Aguirre.

El Sr. Alberto Quintero, un residente del Westside de 103 años y su hija María, fueron a recibir su segunda vacuna. El Sr. Alberto compartió su experiencia cuando era niño y los desafíos para obtener la vacuna para la pandemia de gripe en 1917-18. No fue como hoy con esta 2da vacuna... "Fue muy difícil para mis padres encontrar la vacuna, pero hoy no es así, tenemos la vacuna justo aquí en el Westside,

a dos cuartos de mi casa, puedo caminar pero mi hija quiere llevarme en su auto... Estoy feliz de tener la vacuna hoy... Puedo ver a algunos de mis vecinos y estoy muy feliz de que ellos también tengan acceso a la vacuna", dijo el Sr. Alberto.

"El Centro Westside CAN continuará coordinando y abogando por más vacunas. Nuestro más profundo agradecimiento al Centro Médico Truman que ha estado ayudando al Westside y a Kansas City durante toda esta pandemia y continuaremos trabajando juntos", dijo Coromac.

Fuente Westside Community Action Network



When the person received the vaccine, Truman Medical Center Nurses provided each of them basic instructions about potential side effect symptoms.

Cuando la persona recibía la vacuna, las enfermeras del Truman Medical Center proporcionaron a cada una de ellas instrucciones básicas sobre los posibles síntomas de efectos secundarios.

Cleaver votes in favor of transformational George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.) – In early March United States Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO) voted in favor of H.R. 1280, the *George Floyd Justice in Policing Act*. The transformative legislation would reimagine the culture of policing in the United States with significant reforms to curb police brutality, end racial profiling, eliminate qualified immunity for law enforcement and build greater trust between law enforcement and communities across the country.

“The murder of George Floyd last summer shocked the conscience of the nation and laid bare for the world to see just how far the United States still must travel to fulfill its foundational principle that all people are to be treated equally under the law. said Cleaver. “I’m proud to once again be an original cosponsor of this vital legislation, which would take significant steps to ensure that what happened to George Floyd—and countless other Black and Brown individuals in the United States—never happens again.”

The *George Floyd Justice in Policing Act* would implement numerous reforms to ensure the structural change needed to combat the pattern of police brutality and racial injustice that has been tolerated in law enforcement for far too long, including:

- Banning all chokeholds from law enforcement;
- Banning no-knock warrants in drug cases;
- Ending racial, religious and discriminatory profiling;
- Eliminating the qualified immunity doctrine that is a barrier to holding police officers accountable for misconduct;
- Establishing a National Police Misconduct Registry to improve transparency and prevent problematic officers who are fired or leave one agency, from moving to another jurisdiction without any accountability;
- Requiring data collection, including mandatory body cameras and dashboard cameras;
- Establishing new standards for policing and the Public Safety Innovation grants for community-based organizations to help reimagine policing in their communities; and more.

“I stand with countless Missourians of all stripes and from all walks of life who are demanding structural changes to a policing system that has been immune from accountability for far too long, said Cleaver. “The time has come for the U.S. Congress to pass the *George Floyd Justice in Policing Act*, and announce to the world that Black Lives Matter in America.”

The *George Floyd Justice in Policing Act* is the first-ever bold, comprehensive approach to hold police

accountable, end racial profiling, change the culture of law enforcement, empower our communities, and build trust between law enforcement and our communities by addressing systemic racism and bias to help save lives. The Justice in Policing Act would: 1) establish a national standard for the operation of police departments; 2) mandate data collection on police encounters; 3) reprogram existing funds to invest in transformative community-based policing programs; and 4) streamline federal law to prosecute excessive force and establish independent prosecutors for police investigations. The language of the bill is identical to the version passed in the 116th Congress with the support of the entire Democratic Caucus and three Republicans.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 will:

WORK TO END RACIAL & RELIGIOUS PROFILING

- Prohibits federal, state, and local law enforcement from racial, religious and discriminatory profiling.
- Mandates training on racial, religious, and discriminatory profiling for all law enforcement.
- Requires law enforcement to collect data on all investigatory activities.

SAVE LIVES BY BANNING CHOKEHOLDS & NO-KNOCK WARRANTS

- Bans chokeholds and carotid holds at the federal level and conditions law enforcement funding for state and local governments banning chokeholds.
- Bans no-knock warrants in drug cases at the federal level and conditions law enforcement funding for state and local governments banning no-knock warrants at the local and state level.
- Requires that deadly force be used only as a last resort and requires officers to employ de-escalation techniques first. Changes the standard to evaluate whether law enforcement use of force was justified from whether the force was “reasonable” to whether the force was “necessary.” Condition grants on state and local law enforcement agencies’ establishing the same use of force standard.

LIMIT MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON AMERICAN STREETS & REQUIRES BODY CAMERAS

- Limits the transfer of military-grade equipment to state and local law enforcement.
- Requires federal uniformed police officers to wear body cameras and requires state and local law enforcement to use existing federal funds to ensure the use of police body cameras.
- Requires marked federal police vehicles to have dashboard cameras.

HOLD POLICE ACCOUNTABLE IN COURT

- Makes it easier to prosecute offending officers by amending the federal criminal statute to prosecute police misconduct. The mens rea requirement in 18 U.S.C. Section 242 will be amended from “willfulness” to a “recklessness” standard.
- Enables individuals to recover damages in civil court when law enforcement officers violate their constitutional rights by eliminating qualified immunity for law enforcement.

INVESTIGATE POLICE MISCONDUCT

- Improves the use of pattern and practice investigations at the federal level by granting the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division subpoena power and creates a grant program for state attorneys general to develop authority to conduct independent investigations into problematic police departments.

EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITIES TO REIMAGINE PUBLIC SAFETY IN AN EQUITABLE AND JUST WAY

- This bill reinvests in our communities by supporting critical community-based programs to change the culture of law enforcement and empower our communities to reimagine public safety in an equitable and just way.
- It establishes public safety innovation grants for community-based organizations to create local commissions and task forces to help communities to re-imagine and develop concrete, just and equitable public safety approaches. These local commissions



George Floyd

would operate similar to President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

CHANGE THE CULTURE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH TRAINING TO BUILD INTEGRITY AND TRUST

- Requires the creation of law enforcement accreditation standard recommendations based on President Obama’s Taskforce on 21st Century policing.
- Creates law enforcement development and training programs to develop best practices.
- Studies the impact of laws or rules that allow a law enforcement officer to delay answers to questions posed by investigators of law enforcement misconduct.
- Enhances funding for pattern and practice discrimination investigations and programs managed by the DOJ Community Relations Service.
- Requires the Attorney General to collect data on investigatory actions and detentions by federal law enforcement agencies; the racial distribution of drug charges; the use of deadly force by and against law enforcement officers; as well as traffic

and pedestrian stops and detentions.

- Establishes a DOJ task force to coordinate the investigation, prosecution and enforcement efforts of federal, state and local governments in cases related to law enforcement misconduct.

IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY BY COLLECTING DATA ON POLICE MISCONDUCT AND USE-OF-FORCE

- Creates a nationwide police misconduct registry to prevent problematic officers who are fired or leave one agency, from moving to another jurisdiction without any accountability.
- Mandates state and local law enforcement agencies to report use of force data, disaggregated by race, sex, disability, religion, age.

Stop Sexual Assault in Law Enforcement Custody

- Makes it a crime for a federal law enforcement officer to engage in a sexual act with an individual who is under arrest, in detention, or in custody. It prohibits consent as a defense to prosecution for unlawful conduct. Incentivizes states to set the same standards.

Fundraiser for Christian Gutierrez diagnosed with Leukemia



We will be having a fundraiser for Christian Gutierrez who recently diagnosed with leukemia on Jan. 27, 2021. Unfortunately, he lost his job due to COVID and has just started working again and had only been with the new company for 6 months and was only eligible for insurance after 90 days, so they were not eligible to keep him on their insurance company. We will be having a Taco Dinner fundraiser and raffle to help him out with his living expenses, hospital bills, medications and upcoming doctors’ visits. This cancer is a treatable and we are thankful for that, but it will be a process. So this time we are asking for your support to help him through his journey on his way back to being healthy. At this time my family would like to thank you and appreciate your support on his journey. We are needing donations for food and items for the raffle. Let us know if you can donate anything, all donations are greatly appreciated. If you can purchase tickets in advance that would be amazing. Send your donations to the cash app or Venmo below.

Thank you, Shelly Gutierrez (Lopez)

Taco Dinner – March 27, 1737 Holly Street KCMO 64108 (Chicky Lopez Home) Starting at 11:00 a.m. running until we run out of tacos \$7.00 a plate; 3 fried tacos and rice (Hamburger, cheese and lettuce donations are needed) For more info call: Chicky Lopez 913-636-2752 Raffle tickets: \$1 each or 6 for \$5 Cash APP- \$TGrado Venmo- @Teresa-Grado-1



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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Paric Corporation is seeking proposals for the following project: UMKC Student Union Multicultural Student Affairs Renovation.

This project includes approximately 2,700 sf of renovation work on the 3rd floor of the Student Union.

Scope of work includes but is not limited to renovation to the lounge, meeting room, and front desk area. Demolition of selective interior demolition of walls, ceiling, and flooring. Architectural work consisting of new walls, ceiling, flooring, entry desk, millwork, wood doors, and hollow metal and aluminum door frames and sidelights. Mechanical work modifying existing HVAC and fire sprinkler systems in the area of renovation to accommodate new room configurations. Electrical work modifying existing lighting, power, communications, and fire alarm in the area of renovation to accommodate the new room configuration.

The owner has supplier diversity participation goals of 20% combined MBE, WBE, DBE and Veteran Owned and 3% SDVE.

Bids for this project are due on March 29, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. For any questions or would like to find out more detailed information on this opportunity, please contact Evan Chiles at 816-878-6003 or emchiles@paric.com.

All bids should be delivered to Paric via e-mail (bids@paric.com) or fax (816-878-6249).

PARIC CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



NOTICE TO MINORITY & DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES

Poettker Construction Company is seeking bids from minority and disadvantaged businesses for the MUHC – Psychiatric Center Infrastructure Upgrades Serving Level 1 and Renovate 1N for Adult Assessment and Observation Unit at the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO. A Diversity Participation goal of 10% MBE / 10% Combined WBE, DBE, Veteran Owned Business and 3% SDVE has been established for this contract. All interested and certified businesses should contact Zach Lindberg at 618-526-3339 or zllindberg@poettkerconstruction.com to discuss opportunities. All bids must be received by EOB on Monday, March 29th. Bid documents are available for download through the following link: <https://secure.smartinsight.co/#/PublicBidProject/569922>.

400 South Germantown Road
Breese, IL 62230
Phone: 618-526-7213
Fax: 618-526-7654

Bids for Constructions Services – St. Louis and Southeast Regions, Project No. IDIQMCA-1004, will be received by FMDC, State of MO, UNTIL 1:30 PM, 4/1/2021 via MissouriBUYS. Bidders must be registered to bid. For specific project information, go to: <http://oa.mo.gov/facilities>

OPENING FOR SALES PERSON

KC Hispanic News Newspaper is seeking a Sales Person to join our sales team. This person must have advertising experience in the metro and within the Latino market.

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Reinhardt Construction LLC, Inc. Is Soliciting Bids MBE/WBE/DBE/Veteran/SDVE for the following; University of Missouri, Columbia University **Mizzou Sports Arena – Renovate Basketball Spaces** Bid Date: 3/23/21 @ 1:30pm Contact: Mike Murray, mikem@reinhardtconstructionllc.com

Phone: 573-999-1329



PJ Hoerr, Inc. Is Soliciting Bids MBE/WBE/DBE/Veteran/SDVE for the following; University of Missouri, Columbia University **Missouri Psychiatric Center – Infrastructure Upgrades Serving Level 1 Missouri Psychiatric Center – Renovate 1N for Adult Assessment and Observation Unit** Bid Date: 3/30/21 @ 1:30pm Contact: Mike Murray, mikem@pjhoerr.com Phone: 573-999-1329

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Hunt Midwest, Logistics IV
In partnership with Port KC

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Bids for the **Hunt Midwest Logistics IV** (the "Project") for Hunt Midwest Real Estate Development, Inc. ("Owner") to be located in **Clay County, area of 9598 N Arlington Ave, Kansas City Missouri 64161**, will be accepted by Subcontractors wishing to provide bids for certain scopes, may do so directly to any Port KC Prequalified General Contractor that will be submitting a proposal. Port KC Prequalified General Contractor list can be found at <https://portkc.com/rfps-rfqs/prequalified-contractors/>. RFP pricing window begins on Thursday March 11th, 2021 and ends at **3:00pm on Tuesday March 30th, 2021**. The proposed Work is set forth in the Bidding Documents. All bids must be in accordance with the Bidding Documents. Copies of the Bidding Documents, including, without limitation, Drawings, Specifications, Addenda and the Bidding Documents Manual, may be obtained from the website listed below. The Bidding Documents Manual contains, among other things, the Instructions to Bidders, Bid Form, the Agreement Between Owner and General Contractor, General Conditions of the Contract between Owner and General Contractor and certain approved forms for use in connection with the Project.

Project has Port KC MBE/WBE subcontractor participation goals of MBE 14.7% and WBE 14.4%. Project is part of the Port KC Workforce Program with workforce goals of Minorities 10%, and Women 2%. Work in right of ways and "Public Work" will require Prevailing Wage.

The purpose of this RFP is to obtain proposals for the selection of a general contractor for the Hunt Midwest Logistics IV building. Subcontractors wishing to provide bids for certain scopes, may do so directly to any Port KC Prequalified General Contractor that will be submitting a proposal. Port KC Prequalified General Contractor list can be found at <https://portkc.com/rfps-rfqs/prequalified-contractors/>.

Eligibility. Only firms listed in the General Division of Port KC's Prequalified Contractors List as of the Date of Issuance noted on the cover page to this RFP are eligible to propose on this package. If you have questions as to whether your company is a qualified contractor, please send an inquiry to info@portkc.com or phone 816-559-3750 and ask for Jolene Mead.

Questions. Any general questions must be submitted to Chris Reasoner at creasoner@huntmidwest.com before Wednesday, March 24th, 2021 at 4:00 PM Central Standard Time. Responses will be issued no later than Friday March 26th, 2021 at 4:00pm. All questions will be answered through an addendum to this RFP.

A Contractor's Qualification Statement is required with the submission of a bid. Bids will be received on a lump sum basis, including the alternates described in the Contract Documents, if any.

The Owner reserves the right to request at Owners expense that the Successful Bidder be required to furnish a Performance and a Payment Bond in a form approved by Owner as security for the faithful performance of, and the payment of all bills and obligations arising from the performance of the Contract.

In submitting a Bid, Bidder recognizes that Owner is not bound to award the Contract to any Bidder pursuant to any process or criteria established by any law or any other requirements, and Owner may reject any and all bids in its sole discretion. Owner may award the Contract based upon any criteria Owner believes is in its best interest.

If Owner accepts a Bid submitted, Owner will submit to the selected Bidder a fully completed Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, and the selected Bidder shall sign and deliver the required number of counterparts of the Agreement Between Owner and Contractor and any related documents to Owner within five (5) days of receipt of such documents.

Drawings can be down loaded beginning March 11th, 2021 at: <https://app.box.com/s/ac600ct49hv099xf54k4zl7d3587fu38>

COVID helped put shopping malls out of business

WASHINGTON, DC, – Online shopping has been a big winner as a result of the COVID crisis, spiking by triple digit percentages on a year-to-year basis, says the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. But it's had a harmful effect on physical shopping destinations and across the country malls are taking a beating.

According to authoritative reports, more than half of the department stores in malls across the country will be shutting down in the months to come resulting in empty malls. The Commercial Investment Real Estate Exchange put it this way on its Website: "First, the department store closes. Then, the apparel shops try to scoot out of deals. This is a one-two punch that could trigger a wave of malls shutting down for good over the next 12 months."

Meanwhile, strip malls, too, are shutting down in large numbers. "All in all, it's bad news for the brick-and-mortar retail sector," says AMAC's CEO, Rebecca Weber. "But there are those who believe that it could be good news for the nation's expanding population of seniors in need of low-cost housing."

In fact, there are a number of mall and strip mall repurposing projects

underway across the country and there'll be more in the future. City-journal.org reports that there are currently at least 75 conversion projects on the drawing boards nationwide.

The Dallas based JHP urban design firm points out that: "The decline of traditional retail combined with a housing crisis and increased need for housing makes converting empty malls and other retail spaces into mixed-use developments one of the most attractive options to developers. This type of development combines retail, commercial and residential into one development, known as horizontal mixed use. In today's world, the demand for retail space is down."

For example, an abandoned mall in the town of Irondequoit, near Rochester, NY, is undergoing a conversion that will soon provide local seniors whose incomes are under 60% of the average in the community with affordable apartments. According to the developers the maximum rent for a one-bedroom apartment will be \$710 and for a two-bedroom unit it will be \$1,023.

Perhaps one of the most interesting cases of such repurposing projects is the conversion of the Arcade



According to authoritative reports, more than half of the department stores in malls across the country will be shutting down in the months to come resulting in empty malls.

Según informes autorizados, más de la mitad de los grandes almacenes en los centros comerciales de todo el país cerrarán en los próximos meses, lo que resultará en centros comerciales vacíos.

mall in Providence, RI. The Arcade is unique for two reasons: it was the oldest indoor shopping mall in the nation having been built in 1828; and it features what are likely the tiniest apartments of their kind.

Built in a grandiose Greek Revival style, including lots of granite stairs, walls and columns, it was converted

in 2015 offering affordable studio and one-bedroom apartments for as little as \$500 a month. However, the 48 units, located on the top two floors of the building, range in size from 225 to 800 square feet; similarly tiny retail shops are located on the ground floor.

As AMAC's Weber put it, "the price of affordability is

size. Nonetheless it provides renters with the ability to live in the vibrant heart of the city at a reasonable cost and the Arcade has consistently had a 100% occupancy rate and a waiting list of thousands of would-be occupants."

Source Association of Mature American Citizens

COVID ayudó a cerrar los centros comerciales

WASHINGTON, DC, - Las compras en línea han sido las grandes ganadoras como resultado de la crisis de COVID, aumentando en porcentajes de tres dígitos de un año a otro, dice la Asociación de Ciudadanos Americanos Maduros [AMAC, por sus siglas en inglés]. Pero ha tenido un efecto dañino en los destinos de compras físicos y los centros comerciales de todo el país están recibiendo una paliza.

Según informes autorizados, más de la mitad de los grandes almacenes en los centros comerciales de todo el país cerrarán en los próximos meses, lo que resultará en centros comerciales vacíos. La Bolsa de Bienes Raíces de Inversión Comercial lo expresó de esta manera en su sitio electrónico: "Primero, los grandes almacenes cierran. Luego, las tiendas de ropa intentan

escabullirse de las ofertas. Este es un golpe doble que podría desencadenar una ola de centros comerciales que se cerrarán definitivamente durante los próximos 12 meses".

Mientras tanto, los centros comerciales también están cerrando en grandes cantidades. "En general, es una mala noticia para el sector minorista tradicional", dice la directora ejecutiva de AMAC, Rebecca Weber. "Pero hay quienes creen que podría ser una buena noticia para la creciente población de personas mayores del país que necesitan una vivienda de bajo costo".

De hecho, hay una serie de proyectos de reutilización de centros comerciales y plazas comerciales en todo el país y habrá más en el futuro. City-journal.org informa que actualmente hay al menos 75 proyectos de conversión en las áreas

de dibujo en todo el país.

La firma de diseño urbano JHP con sede en Dallas señala que: "El declive del comercio minorista tradicional, combinado con una crisis de vivienda y una mayor necesidad de vivienda, hace que convertir los centros comerciales vacíos y otros espacios comerciales en desarrollos de uso mixto sea una de las opciones más atractivas para los desarrolladores. Este tipo de desarrollo combina venta minorista, comercial y residencial en un solo desarrollo, conocido como uso mixto horizontal. En el mundo actual, la demanda de espacio comercial ha bajado".

Por ejemplo, un centro comercial abandonado en la ciudad de Irondequoit, cerca de Rochester, NY, está experimentando una conversión que pronto proporcionará apartamentos

asequibles a las personas mayores de la localidad, cuyos ingresos están por debajo del 60% del promedio de la comunidad. Según los desarrolladores, el alquiler máximo de un apartamento de una habitación será de \$ 710 y de una unidad de dos habitaciones será de \$ 1,023.

Quizás uno de los casos más interesantes de este tipo de proyectos de reutilización es la conversión del centro comercial Arcade, en Providence, RI. El Arcade es único por dos razones: fue el centro comercial cubierto más antiguo de la nación, construido en 1828; y cuenta con lo que probablemente sean los apartamentos más pequeños de su tipo.

Construido en un grandioso estilo renacentista griego, que incluye muchas escaleras, paredes y columnas de granito, se convirtió en

2015 y ofrece apartamentos asequibles tipo estudio y de una habitación por tan solo \$ 500 al mes. Sin embargo, las 48 unidades, ubicadas en los dos pisos superiores del edificio, varían en tamaño de 225 a 800 pies cuadrados; De manera similar, las pequeñas tiendas minoristas se encuentran en la planta baja.

Como dijo Weber de AMAC, "el precio de la asequibilidad es el tamaño. No obstante, brinda a los inquilinos la posibilidad de vivir en el vibrante corazón de la ciudad a un costo razonable ,Arcade ha tenido constantemente una tasa de ocupación del 100% y una lista de espera de miles de posibles ocupantes".

Fuente Asociación de Ciudadanos Americanos Maduros

Will Biden Pay Your Student Loan?



COMMENTARY BY DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

The average college debt among student loan borrowers in America is \$32,731, according to the Federal Reserve. The majority of borrowers have between \$25,000 and \$50,000 outstanding in student loan debt. There is an increasing number of student loan borrowers who owe in excess of \$100,000. Some, who have spent many years in graduate schools may owe closer to \$200,000.

Overall, Americans owe over \$1.71 trillion in student loan debt, spread out among about 44.7 million borrowers.

Senate leader Chuck Schumer of New York, along with Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and other Democrats have put forward a resolution calling on President Joe Biden to forgive \$50,000 in student debt. The plan would cancel all of the debt for 80% of federal student loan borrowers.

President Joe Biden campaigned on a platform that included changes for higher education as well as relief for student loan borrowers. On Biden's first day in office, he extended the student loan payment pause through Sept. 30, 2021.

President Biden officials, on Jan. 8, reiterated the President's support for Congress to "immediately" cancel \$10,000 of federal student loan debt per person as part of Covid-19 relief. That could wipe out debt completely for

nearly 15 million borrowers who owe \$10,000 or less, according to federal data. The majority of student loan borrowers (roughly 67%) have more than \$10,000 in debt.

On February 19th, a group of 17 state Attorney Generals called on Biden to forgive \$50,000 in federal student loans per borrower through executive action. The group asserted Biden has the authority to do so under the Higher Education Act.

If you have federal student loan debt you are surely hopeful. Who wouldn't want to have \$10,000 to \$50,000 of student debt eliminated? However, is this fair for the millions of Americans who spent many years working hard, repaying their loans? What about all the parents who helped their children through school? They worked hard. Do all of America's graduates and parents receive checks – with interest? Is it fair to penalize the people who worked, scrapped and

struggled? Essentially, we are asking the same hard working people who paid for their education to pay for everyone else's education.

The majority of Americans who paid their way through school and paid off all their debt the hard way are not sympathetic to simply waving away the same college debt for others that they worked hard to pay off.

Colleges are much of the problem. For years public Universities have financially lived way beyond their means. Auburn University, Alabama, recently fired head football coach Gus Malzahn and paid him \$21.45 million in contract buyout.

Students are poorly advised by high school and college counselors. You will almost never be able to pay back a \$50,000 student loan working as a cashier at a fast food restaurant. College students need to look at the earning power of their degree. Professions that pay bigger salaries are

worth more the college cost and debt if necessary.

Consider going to a community college your first two years. Federal Pell grants are currently \$6,495 a year and may cover almost all the cost of your first two years. You typically don't have to pay these back. Therefore, the government is already doing a lot.

If your career pursuit pays a reasonable living then consider a going to a university that has a more reasonable tuition cost. And, don't count on somebody else to pay your loan. However, who knows for sure, maybe Biden will.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 12 books including Uncommon Sense. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.

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