

## BUSTA'S PERSON OF THE WEEK

### American Idol and Sunday Best contestant, live in concert, with a few of her friends

BY BUSTA BROWN  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

"When I was a child, I really struggled in school. I felt as if I wasn't smart enough and got the spirit of don't care, and I just gave up," said Tequila Devae Wilson. "I was put back in the second grade due to some behavior problems. The principal and teachers felt I needed to be on Ritalin, because I was just horrible," continued Tequila.

Tequila was raised by her grandparents, who had an unwavering faith, was God fearing, and went to church regularly. "I was raised in a good home, but we didn't know what was going on with me at the time. I was seven, with a lot of family issues as well, but my grandmother believed in me and never gave up hope. She said I had a spirit in me that needed to be cast out.

"She got in touch with Bishop Lowery of St. Mathews and he laid hands on me, and the power of God broke that spirit and I was able to be normal again," said Tequila. After struggling in high school, she received support from her middle school teachers and guidance counselor. They refused to allow her to quit and it proved to be successful. Wilson enrolled into the Britain Academy Program in Winston-Salem and received her high school diploma in 2018.

I'm sure you've read or heard the scripture, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper." That proved to be true with Tequila's gift to sing. The attack that came against her as a child had no impact on her God-given gift to sing. The Winston-Salem native sang her first solo at age seven and it became her passion. As an adult, she developed into a dynamic singer and performer. Tequila's grandmother instilled in her a solid foundation of prayer and an unwavering love for God.

Tequila began using her gift to win souls to God, which didn't go unnoticed. Wilson is now the praise and worship leader at Shekinah Glory Christian Church in Winston-



Submitted photo

Tequila Devae Wilson, Gospel artist and Praise and Worship leader at Shekinah Glory Christian Church.

Salem. "I love when I help those that come to church feeling defeated and beat down by life. And as a praise and worship leader, I enjoy lifting them up and witness them leaving feeling inspired and not leaving the way they came," said Tequila.

She doesn't look over her shoulder waiting on a blessing for what she does, yet the melodies started raining down from Heaven. Tequila Wilson was blessed to work with some of the superstars in gospel music, such as Dorinda Clark-Cole, James Hall, Ricky Dillard, Mary L. Haynie, Monique Walker, Isaac Caree, and even R&B singer Joe.

Wilson was also blessed to compete on FOX's American Idol Season 13, and BET's Sunday's Best Season 7 and Season 8 All-Star Competition. Tequila is featured on Ricky Dillard's "My All" on his latest album "10."

March is a very special month for the Twin City superstar. She celebrated her birthday on Tuesday, March 9, and next Friday you are invited to come celebrate the release of her debut single, "You Are." The song was produced by Terrence "Terry Bogart" Walker and written by both Wilson and Walker. Joining Tequila

live in concert will be Korey Mickie, Chris Parker and Dion Owen and Renaissance. It's all happening March 19 at 7 p.m. at Shekinah Glory Christian Church, 5095 Lansing Drive, Winston-Salem.

"We are aware of the COVID-19 pandemic, so we'll make sure people are safe, with following the CDC guidelines. But if you feel the Holy Spirit, let God have his way. The purpose of the concert is not only the release of my single, but to give people some healing and let them know it's going to be all right. This is a time for all the churches and communities in Winston-Salem and surrounding areas to come together to lift up the name of God and fellowship as one body. It's important to do something like this in the middle of all hell breaking loose. We're not going to allow the enemy to shut up the mouth of God's people, nor disturb the flow of God," she shared.

Tickets for the concert can be purchased at [www.sg4u.org](http://www.sg4u.org).

My phenomenal Person of the Week is Tequila Wilson. "I have no clue what God has up his sleeve, so I will just sit back and let him lead the way."

## Culture

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they have a roadmap to apply these concepts as they develop their companies and continue to grow educationally."

Andrea Goode said, "We wanted to create a design that improves small business scalability. A key component was understanding emotional intelligence. Kindness can be a catalyst to help strengthen organizational culture. We know that culture often is formed below the surface, with unwritten laws. These entrepreneurs have the tools to onboard self-reflective middle managers who are open-minded from the beginning."

Lashi, a Winston-Salem native and graduate of the Wharton School at the University of Penn-

sylvania, rose up through the marketing ranks in respected companies before forming her own business, StepUP Your Game, LLC, which prepares HBCU students for careers in the service industry.

Perkins, Sellers and Chisolm are balancing the business start-up game with applying to graduate schools. Chisolm, a senior from Henderson majoring in psychology, has started Life Shop, LLC, a pop-up shop that will provide resources and techniques for people dealing with mental and physical health problems. He wants to pursue a master's in public health and, one day, a doctorate.

Perkins, a senior from Kannapolis majoring in exercise science, wants to become a doctor of internal medicine. His company, Better Health Research,


will teach good health practices to the community, including healthier eating plans. Sellers is starting a medical research lab company.

Chisolm, a senior from Anson County majoring in exercise physiology, wants to become a physiatrist. His business, the Mad Scientist Research Lab, mentors and will assist and develop future leaders.

They all value what they have learned in the Maestro program.


"To share with others what we've learned at such an influential moment, such an influential time, is important," Sellers said. "We are grabbing the tiger by the tail."

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