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COHO reaches out to KC School Board

COHO trata de llegarle a la Junta Escolar de KC



On the first Friday of March, COHO members and guests talk at length about comments made in a recent article of KC Hispanic News. Many of those attending the meeting were disappointed and amazed by comments made by Kansas City Missouri School District President Marilyn Simmons. They now feel it is time to take action against what some describe as a possible civil rights issue.

En el primer viernes de marzo, mientras miembros e invitados de COHO platicaron en forma prolongada sobre los comentarios emitidos en un reciente artículo de KC Hispanic News. Muchos de aquellos que asistieron a la reunión quedaron desencantados y asombrados por los comentarios hechos por la Presidenta de la Junta Escolar de Kansas City Missouri, Marilyn Simmons. Ellos piensan que ahora es momento de tomar acción en contra de lo que algunos describen como un posible asunto de derechos civiles.

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN
HISPANIC NEWS

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

The president of the Coalition for Hispanic Organizations (COHO) said her goal is a constructive dialogue with the leadership of the Kansas City Missouri School District Board.

Otherwise, said coalition president Christina Esteban, parents of Latino students in the district will continue to wait for a channel of communication to open.

About 30 people attended the regular monthly COHO meeting on the first Friday morning of the month at Penn Valley Community College. Most of the meeting was spent discussing how the school board's leadership has not initiated a dialogue to understand issues concerning Hispanic students, who make up about 23 percent of the district's student population.

"We want to let them know about the concerns we have and let them know how COHO can be a resource for the district and the board members," Esteban said. "I don't know how that cannot be understood from any community member."

La presidenta de la Coalición de Organizaciones Hispanas (COHO, por sus siglas en inglés) dijo que su objetivo es el de un diálogo constructivo con el liderazgo de la Junta del Distrito Escolar de Kansas City, Missouri.

De otro modo, dijo la presidenta de la coalición Christina Esteban, los padres de los estudiantes latinos en el distrito continuarán esperando a que se abra un canal de comunicación.

Cerca de 30 personas atendieron la reunión regular mensual de COHO durante la mañana del primer viernes del mes en el Colegio Comunitario Penn Valley. La mayoría de la reunión se pasó en discutir cómo el liderazgo de la junta escolar no ha iniciado un diálogo para entender los problemas que conciernen a los estudiantes hispanos, quienes conforman cerca del 23% de la población escolar del distrito.

"Queremos hacerles comprender las inquietudes que tenemos y hacerles saber cómo COHO puede ser un recurso para el distrito y para los miembros de la junta", dijo Esteban.

COHO CAN BE/PAGE 2

COHO PUEDE SER/PÁGINA 2

Adoptees Want Change in Missouri Law on Birth Records

Adoptados Quieren Cambios en Ley de Actas de Nacimiento en Missouri

DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

A birth certificate is a simple paper. It bears the name of the child, time and place of birth, characteristics, attending physician's name and that of the birth parents. The certificates are standard forms with the same information no matter where the child was born. That is unless you are an adopted child born in Missouri. If so, your birth certificate will have pertinent information concerning your birth parents removed.

This practice has a group of Missouri adoptees, the Adoption Triad Support Network Kansas City, crying foul with the Jackson County court system and the state of Missouri Adoption Laws. They want the right to see their original birth certificate, not an altered copy.

According to Missouri's adoption law, an adopted adult can request information regarding the birth parents. The agency will contact the birth parents for consent to release the information. If the adoption took

Un acta o partida de nacimiento es un papel simple. Lleva el nombre del niño o niña, la fecha y el lugar de nacimiento, las características, el nombre del médico que atendió el parto y el nombre de los padres. Las actas son formas estándar con la misma información sin importar dónde nació el niño o la niña. Eso es a menos de que uno sea un niño/a adoptado que haya nacido en Missouri. Si así fuese, su acta de nacimiento carecerá de la información pertinente relacionada a sus padres biológicos.

Esta práctica tiene a un grupo de adoptados de Missouri, llamados Adoption Triad Support Network Kansas City, (Red de apoyo para adoptados de KC), reclamando injusticias en contra del sistema de cortes del Condado de Jackson y en contra de las Leyes de Adopción de Missouri. Ellos quieren el derecho a ver sus actas de nacimiento originales, no

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The search continues for Allison Corrales as each day goes by, family members of the 3-year-old get more concerned about her safety. Allison has been missing ever since her mother's body was discovered March 6 in their apartment.

La búsqueda de Allison Corrales continúa y en la medida en que pasan los días, familiares de la pequeña de tres años se preocupan más sobre su seguridad. Allison ha estado desaparecida desde que el cadáver de su madre fue descubierto el día 6 de marzo en su departamento.

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN
HISPANIC NEWS

In November, a fearful Katia G. Lainez, 27, turned to the Guadalupe Center for help. She was seeking protection from her ex-husband, Luis F. Corrales.

"She really wanted to get the restraining order done," Christina Jasso, a case manager at the center, told *Hispanic News*. "She was in fear for her life."

Four months later, she was found dead in her apartment, the victim of a homicide, and her 3-year-old daughter, Allison Corrales, is missing. Authorities are looking for her ex-husband, whom they describe as a person of interest in the case.

"We are very fearful for (the child's) safety," said Capt. Rich Lockhart of the Kansas City Police Department. Last week, police said they were checking about 40 tips that were coming in from across the country, including Texas and the East Coast. And because Luis Corrales, 31, is from Honduras, police have alerted the Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Lockhart said Katia Lainez was last seen alive the evening of March 4, which means whoever killed her had about a day and half to flee the area "and there is a very large amount of area that can be covered in a day and half."

The family's car, a red 1999 Kia Sportage with Missouri license plates PBI-R3R, also is missing and police are asking the public for any help in locating the vehicle.

Lockhart said authorities cannot call Corrales a suspect because there is not

BROTHER IS/PAGE 4

Family hopes for the child's safe return

Familia espera por el regreso de la niña a salvo



Katia Lainez, 27, had a restraining order against her ex-husband, Luis Corrales, 31. On March 6, she was found dead in her apartment. Family members say they believe her ex-husband is linked to her killing and that he may know the whereabouts of their daughter, Allison Corrales.

Katia Lainez, 27, tenía una orden de restricción en contra de su ex esposo, Luis Corrales, 31. El 6 de marzo, ella fue encontrada muerta en su departamento. Familiares dicen creer que su ex esposo está ligado a su asesinato y que él podría saber del paradero de su hija, Allison Corrales.

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

En noviembre, una temerosa Katia G. Lainez, 27, se acercó al Guadalupe Center buscando ayuda. Ella buscaba protección en contra de su ex esposo, Luis F. Corrales.

"Ella verdaderamente quería obtener una orden de restricción", dijo a *Hispanic News*, Christina Jasso, asistente social del centro. "Ella temía por su vida".

Cuatro meses más tarde, ella fue encontrada muerta en su departamento, víctima de un homicidio y su hija de tres años, Allison Corrales, se encuentra desaparecida. Las autoridades están buscando a su ex esposo, a quien describen como persona de interés en el caso.

"Nosotros estamos muy temerosos por su seguridad (de la niña)", dijo el Capitán Rich Lockhart, del

HERMANO/PÁGINA 4

Cesar Chavez influenced Barbara Martinez Jitner

César Chávez influenció a Barbara Martínez Jitner



JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

Throughout our lives, we interact with others but we never know how our actions touch the lives of the people we meet. When Barbara Martinez Jitner was 18 years old, she met Cesar Chavez during his 36-day water-only fast to bring awareness to the hazards of pesticides. As she talked with him and saw first hand his compassion for people who couldn't help themselves, it changed the way she looked at the world and influenced her work as an adult.

"I met Cesar in July 1988 when he did his water-only fast to call attention to pesticides. I was volunteering with the United Farm Workers Union in the San Joaquin Valley, monitoring the cancer cluster in McFarland, Calif. During the 80's they discovered 11 children in a six-

"SIEMPRE BUSCO"/PÁGINA 3

Filmmaker and human rights activist Barbara Martinez Jitner believe the work and involvement she had with the late Cesar E. Chavez has influenced the work she is doing today such as her latest movies *Bordertown* starring Jennifer Lopez and her critically acclaimed documentary, *La Frontera*.

La cineasta y activista de los derechos humanos Barbara Martínez Jitner cree que el trabajo y involucramiento con el fallecido César E. Chávez ha influenciado el trabajo que ella está haciendo hoy en día, tal como sus últimas películas *Bordertown* con la actuación de Jennifer López y su documental aclamado por la crítica, *La Frontera*.



TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

A lo largo de nuestras vidas, nosotros interactuamos con otros, pero nunca nos enteramos cómo nuestras acciones influyen las vidas de la gente que conocemos. Cuando Barbara Martínez Jitner tenía 18 años de edad, ella conoció a César Chávez durante su huelga de hambre de 36 horas en la que solamente bebió agua y la que efectuó para crear conciencia en contra de los peligros de los pesticidas. Mientras platicaba con él, ella vivió en experiencia propia su compasión por las personas que no podían ayudarse a sí mismas, esto cambió la manera en que ella observaba el mundo e influenció su trabajo como adulto.

"Conocí a César en julio de 1988, cuando él hizo su huelga de hambre en la que solamente bebió agua para llamar la atención sobre los pesticidas. Yo trabajaba como voluntaria con el Sindicato Unido de Trabajadores Agrícolas en el Valle de San Joaquín, fiscalizando el cúmulo

"I ALWAYS LOOK"/PAGE 3

Web site can be useful tool

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place prior to August 13, 1986, the adoptive parents are to be notified first. If the adoptive parents do not give consent, no information will be released.

Carolyn Pooler, founder of the Adoption Triad Support Network of Kansas City, was born in 1943 at the Willis Home in Kansas City. Years later, Pooler began to have questions. She wanted to know if she looked like her mother or father, did she have siblings, did they know about her, did her mother ever wonder where she was? She had a long list of questions for her birth mother, including questions about her family's medical history.

"In the mid 90's, I hired a searcher. That was the only way you could do it in the state of Missouri. She found my birth family but because of the state laws being like they are, she couldn't connect me," she said. Through the help of the International Soundex Reunion Registry (ISRR) website, she was able to connect with her mother's sister.

Through her work with the Adoption Triad, Pooler is familiar with the motivations that fuel each individual that attends the support group. They all share the same questions. Why was I given up for adoption? What do my birth parents look like? Have my parents ever thought about me over the years? Do I have siblings? Do they know about me?

The members of the group are at different stages in their

search for their birth parents. They hope to one day meet their birth parents and have their questions answered, but for now, they are looking for answers to practical issues. When they visit the doctor's office and are asked about their family medical history, they can't answer the questions. Do they have a history of high blood pressure? Has their father or mother had a heart attack? Does cancer or diabetes run in their family? These are baffling and frustrating questions.

Velia Calcara's husband is an adoptee born in Missouri. After the birth of her first child, she encouraged her husband to begin to look for his birth mother. Though curious, her husband was reticent when it came to questions about his adoption. After the birth of their second child, Calcara was determined to start the process of finding her husband's birth mother.

"It was important to me that we should know the family medical history and if there was any genetic disease that we needed to watch for in the children," she explained. "I wanted my husband to find out his medical history for our children, and for him, what he needed to know for his own health. I felt it was better to know than not know," she said.

As she began the process, she discovered that he would have to have his adopted mother's permission to look for his birth parents. "It is upsetting to me that we have to have permission from mom to do this. I told my husband, 'we can buy cars, we can get a mortgage on our

own, but yet, we have to have permission from your adopted mom to get your records. Those are your records, you should have access to them,'" she said.

Some adoptees face mixed emotions as they start their search. Sometimes, they fear they will upset their adopted parents. Some wait until their adopted parents have passed away before they begin the search. Some have honed detective skills as they search through records at libraries, city halls, and courthouses in the cities they were born. Sometimes the answers come too late, birth parents have passed away leaving a void.

The Triad Adoption Group is working to get the law changed in the state of Missouri. "We have two bills, Senate Bill 53 is asking for the original birth certificate to be given to adoptees at the age of 21 with birth parent consent. House Bill 48 states at the age of 18 years old, the adoptee would receive everything, the entire file, without anyone's permission. But because we have a new Speaker of the House, we haven't gotten anything to a committee yet," said Pooler.

Pooler knows that just as the journey to find the parents is long and hard, the process to get the bill through the legislature will be torturous but she knows that right is on their side.

In our next issue, we will look at the adult adoptee that attended the Adoption Triad Support Network. They will tell their stories both the joys and trials of a difficult journey.

Portal de la Internet puede ser una herramienta beneficiosa

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una copia alterada de ellos.

Según la ley de adopción de Missouri, una persona adulta adoptada puede pedir información concerniente a los padres biológicos. La agencia contactará a éstos para obtener permiso para revelar la información. Si la adopción se llevó a cabo antes del 13 de agosto de 1986, los padres adoptivos serán notificados primero. Si los padres adoptivos niegan el permiso, no se revelará información alguna.

Carolyn Pooler, fundadora del grupo Adoption Triad Support Network of Kansas City, nació en 1943 en el Hogar Willis de Kansas City. Años más tarde, Pooler comenzó a hacerse preguntas. Ella quería saber si ¿se parecía ella a su mamá o a su papá, tenía hermanos/as, sabían éstos de su existencia, se preocupó alguna vez su madre de saber dónde ella estaba? Ella tenía una prolongada lista de preguntas para su madre biológica, incluyendo preguntas sobre el historial médico de su familia.

"A mediados de los años noventa, contraté a un investigador. Esa fue la única manera en que podía hacerlo en el estado de Missouri. Ella encontró a mi familia biológica, pero debido a que las leyes estatales son como son, ella no pudo ponerse en contacto conmigo", dijo ella. Mediante la ayuda de la página Internet de la organización International Soundex Reunion Registry (ISRR), ella pudo conectarse con la hermana de su mamá.

Mediante su trabajo con el grupo Adoption Triad, Pooler está familiarizada con las motivaciones que alimentan a cada individuo que asiste a su grupo de apoyo. Todos ellos comparten las mismas preguntas. ¿Porqué fui dado o dada en adopción? ¿Cómo lucían mis padres biológicos? ¿Pensaron mis padres alguna vez en mí a lo largo de los años? ¿Me han tratado de buscar alguna vez? ¿Tengo hermanos o hermanas? ¿Sabían ellos de mi existencia?

Los miembros del grupo

se encuentran en diferentes etapas en la búsqueda de sus padres biológicos. Ellos esperan encontrarse algún día con estos y encontrar respuesta a sus preguntas, pero por ahora, ellos están buscando respuestas a asuntos prácticos. Cuando ellos visitan la oficina del médico y se les pregunta respecto a su historial médico familiar, ellos no pueden responder a esas preguntas. ¿Tienen ellos un historial de alta presión sanguínea? ¿Han su padre o madre tenido un ataque al corazón? ¿Existe la propensión al cáncer en su familia? Estas son preguntas confusas y frustrantes.

El esposo de Velia Calcara es un adoptado nacido en Missouri. Después del nacimiento de su primer hijo, ella exhortó a su esposo a comenzar la búsqueda de su madre biológica. Aunque curioso, su esposo se muestra reacio cuando se trata de preguntas sobre su adopción. Después del nacimiento de su segundo hijo, Calcara tomó la determinación de comenzar el proceso de encontrar a la madre biológica de su esposo.

"Fue de importancia para mí que deberíamos saber el historial médico familiar y si allí habían algunas enfermedades genéticas que necesitábamos vigilar en los niños", explicó ella. "Quería que mi esposo encontrara su historial médico para nuestros hijos y para él, lo que él necesitaba saber para su propia salud. Pensé que era mejor saberlo que no saberlo", dijo ella.

Al momento en que ella comenzaba el proceso, descubrió que él necesitaría contar con el permiso de su madre adoptiva para buscar a sus padres biológicos. "Es una molestia para mí que tengamos que contar con el permiso de mamá para hacer esto. Le dije a mi esposo, 'nosotros podemos comprar automóviles, podemos obtener una hipoteca por cuenta propia, pero aún así, tenemos que tener el permiso de nuestra madre adoptiva para tener acceso a ellos'", dijo ella.

Algunos adoptados encaran emociones mixtas al comenzar sus búsquedas. Algunas veces, ellos temen causarles malestar

a sus padres adoptivos. Algunos esperan hasta que sus padres adoptivos hayan fallecido antes de comenzar la búsqueda. Algunos han desarrollado aptitudes de detectives mientras buscan registros en las bibliotecas, ayuntamientos, y cortes de magistrados en las ciudades donde nacieron. Algunas veces las respuestas llegan demasiado tarde, los padres biológicos han fallecido dejando un vacío.

El Grupo Triad Adoption está trabajando para hacer que la ley cambie en el estado de Missouri. "Tenemos dos proyectos de ley, el proyecto de ley No. 53 pide que las actas de nacimiento originales le sean entregados a los adoptados a la edad de 21 con el consentimiento de los padres biológicos. El proyecto de ley No. 48 de la Casa de Representantes declara que a la edad de 18, los adoptados puedan recibir todo, el archivo completo, sin el permiso de nadie. Pero debido a que tenemos un nuevo Portavoz de la Casa de Representantes, aún no le hemos podido hacer llegar nada a ningún comité", dijo Pooler.

Pooler sabe que el viaje para encontrar a los padres es largo y difícil, el proceso para hacer pasar el proyecto de ley por la legislatura será tortuoso, pero ella sabe que lo correcto está de su lado.

En nuestra próxima edición, le daremos un vistazo a la persona adulta adoptada que asistió a la red de apoyo de grupo Adoption Triad Support Network. Ellos contarán sus historias, tanto las alegrías como las vicisitudes de un difícil viaje.

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COHO can be a resource to school board

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Esteban and others at the meeting said comments reported last week in the *Hispanic News* from Marilyn Simmons, president of the school board, were troublesome and left them with no assurance that the school board was willing to hear their concerns.

In January, members of COHO invited Simmons, who was recently chosen to lead the school board, to a morning meeting. However, Simmons did not appear, citing a difficulty in taking time off her job to attend. Simmons told *Hispanic News*, "I have to use vacation time when I take time off work during the daytime. I had a week's notice and that really was not enough time for me personally because I had projects at my job that I have to do. The thing is that in this critical point in this economy, I need to be at work. I need to be producing, and I need to be bringing money into my company."

Andrés Domínguez, co-chairman of the coalition's education committee, said he was offended by Simmons's comments.

"It makes me angry when I see elected officials voted for by the citizenry of our community who say they don't know what Latino issues are," Domínguez said. "And they are concerned that we don't go and meet them in their comfort zone. That says something."

He said Simmons and the board's vice president, Arthur Benson, should show some initiative to learn their constituents. "It's not hard to pick up the phone and find out who the leadership is."

Domínguez said members of COHO are concerned about the school district, the level of inclusion of new immigrant families and how there are no



Andrés Domínguez, believe that board members of the Kansas City Missouri school District need to get out of their comfort zone and go into the communities to get a better understanding of the current issues.

Andrés Domínguez cree que los miembros de la Junta del Distrito escolar de Kansas City Missouri necesitan salirse de su área confortable e ir a las comunidades para obtener un mejor entendimiento sobre los problemas actuales.

Latinos on the 9-member board. Two vacancies occurred last year, and board members chose to fill them with non-Hispanic persons, despite qualified Latinos applying for the seats.

"They (board members) are burying their heads in the sand," Domínguez told *Hispanic News*. "They are not reading newspapers. They are not looking at local media. They are not visiting with neighborhoods. They are not talking with people." The result, he said, is that Latinos feel ostracized and are afraid to speak out.

"It's not a race issue," he said. "It's a quality issue. And that is something all of us should be concerned about. I'm equally concerned about the African-American student who is not

COHO puede ser un recurso para la junta escolar

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"Yo no sé cómo eso no puede ser entendido por cualquier miembro de la comunidad".

Esteban y otros en la reunión dijeron que los comentarios reportados la semana pasada en *Hispanic News* de parte de Marilyn Simmons, presidenta de la junta escolar, fueron preocupantes y los dejó sin la seguridad de que la junta escolar estaba dispuesta a escuchar sus inquietudes.

En enero, miembros de COHO invitaron a una reunión matinal a Simmons, quien había recientemente sido elegida para dirigir la junta escolar. Sin embargo, Simmons no apareció, aduciendo una dificultad en obtener tiempo libre en su trabajo para asistir. Simmons le dijo a *Hispanic News*, "Tengo que utilizar tiempo reservado para vacaciones cuando tengo que tomarme tiempo libre del trabajo durante las horas del día. Se me dio una semana de aviso y eso en realidad no fue demasiado tiempo para mí personalmente, porque tenía proyectos que hacer en mi trabajo. El asunto es que en este crítico momento en la economía, necesito estar en el trabajo. Necesito estar produciendo y necesito traerle dinero a mi compañía".

Andrés Domínguez, ejecutivo adjunto del comité educacional de la coalición, dijo haber quedado ofendido por los comentarios de Simmons.

"Me hace enfadar cuando veo a oficiales elegidos por los ciudadanos de nuestra comunidad diciendo que desconocen cuáles son los problemas de los latinos", dijo Domínguez. "Y a ellos les preocupa que nosotros vamos y nos reunimos con ellos, cuando no están acostumbrados. Eso nos dice algo".

Él dice que Simmons y el vicepresidente de la junta, Arthur Benson, deberían demostrar algo de iniciativa para conocer a sus representados. "No es difícil tomar el teléfono y enterarse de quién compone el liderazgo".

Domínguez, dice que los



Adriana Pecina, who has children in the school district said, "I think they (the board leaders) don't want to hear us."

Adriana Pecina, quien tiene hijos en el distrito escolar dijo, "Creo que ellos (los líderes de la junta) no quieren escucharnos".

miembros de COHO están preocupados respecto al distrito escolar, el nivel de inclusión de nuevas familias inmigrantes y cómo allí no hay latinos en la junta de nueve miembros. Dos vacantes se produjeron el año pasado y los miembros de la junta optaron por llenarlas con personas no hispanas, a pesar de que hubieron latinos calificados postulando a esa posiciones.

"Ellos (los miembros de la junta) están enterrando sus cabezas en la arena", Domínguez le dijo a *Hispanic News*. "Ellos no están leyendo los periódicos. Ellos no le están poniendo atención a la prensa local. Ellos no les están haciendo visitas a los vecindarios. Ellos no están platicando con la gente". El resultado, dijo él, es que los latinos se sienten aislados y temen sacar la voz.

"No es un problema racial", dijo él. "Es un problema de calidad. Y eso es algo que nos debería importar a todos nosotros. Estoy igualmente preocupado por los estudiantes afro-estadounidenses quienes no están rindiendo bien, los estudiantes asiáticos, los estudiantes caucásicos, cualquier estudiante en KCMO".

"Entonces cuando un oficial electo dice que ellos no entienden los problemas de los padres latinos, ellos no entienden los

performing well, the Asian student, the Caucasian student, any student in KCMO.

"So when an elected official says they don't understand the concerns of Latino parents, then they don't understand the concerns of any parents." He said when someone is elected to an office, that person is responsible "to initiate, to conduct town hall meetings. That is not hard to do."

Adriana Pecina, a member of COHO and a parent in the Kansas City school district, said she was confused by Simmons's comments. She said she recalled a conversation with Simmons about a year ago in which Simmons acknowledged that the board is ultimately responsible for what occurs in the district.

Now, she said, "I think they (the board leaders) don't want to hear us."

Pecina said the lack of communication is close to becoming a civil rights violation that forces Latino parents, many of whom are immigrants themselves, to feel powerless and ignored.

"When a group of stakeholders such as parents don't feel empowered to speak out to state their concerns then someone has to step in and help advocate for them," Pecina said, and COHO is that advocate.

She said she has heard that some parents feel so frustrated and concerned that they have contacted the Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund (MALDEF). Founded in 1968, MALDEF is a nonprofit Latino legal organization that promotes equality and justice through litigation, advocacy and community education.

Pecina said the prevailing issues for the Latino community have changed. "Our issues today are not the same as they were decades ago."

Esteban, the president of COHO, said the group would offer invitations to Benson and Simmons and hope they would attend a meeting.

problemas de ningún padre". Él dice que cuando alguien es electo a un cargo público, esa persona es responsable "de iniciar, de organizar reuniones en el ayuntamiento. Eso no es difícil de hacer".

Adriana Pecina, un miembro COHO y una madre en el distrito escolar de Kansas City, dijo haber quedado confundida por los comentarios de Simmons. Ella dijo haber recordado una conversación con Simmons hace más o menos un año en la cual Simmons reconoció que al final, la junta es responsable por lo que ocurre en el distrito.

Ahora, dijo ella, "Creo que ellos (los líderes de la junta) no quieren escucharnos".

Pecina dice que la falta de comunicación está cercana a convertirse en una violación a los derechos civiles que obliga a los padres latinos, muchos de quienes son a sí mismos inmigrantes, a sentirse sin poder e ignorados.

"Cuando un grupo de accionistas tal como los son los padres, no se sienten potenciados a sacar sus voces para declarar sus inquietudes, entonces alguien tiene que hacerse presente y ayudar a abogar por ellos", dijo Pecina y COHO es ese defensor.

Ella dijo haber escuchado que algunos padres se sienten tan frustrados y preocupados que ellos se han comunicado con la Fundación de los Mexicanos-Estadounidenses para la Defensa Legal y la Educación (MALDEF, por sus siglas en inglés). Fundada en 1968, MALDEF es una organización legal latina sin fines de lucro que promueve igualdad y justicia mediante el litigio, la abogacía y la educación comunitaria.

Pecina dijo que los problemas prevalecientes para la comunidad latina han cambiado. "Nuestros problemas de hoy no son los mismos que hace décadas".

Esteban, la presidenta de COHO, dijo que el grupo le ofrecerá invitaciones a Benson y a Simmons y espera que ellos asistan a la reunión.

Chavez's legacy still lives on

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block radius in this very, very small agricultural migrant working town who had developed cancer. There was no cancer registry there so they could have had a lot more with cancer. Cesar at age 61 years old came to bring attention to this atrocity because these children could not get medical attention," she said.

After watching Chavez, she realized that every individual could do something to bring about social justice in his or her community. Chavez, a soft-spoken individual, who worked tirelessly to bring attention to the appalling treatment of other human beings, was a leader who didn't want attention for himself, but wanted justice for people who were being treated inhumanely.

"I spent all of the fast with him, the 36 days. I determined at that point that I would devote my life in whatever way I could to bring about social justice and I could be empowered," Jitner said.

During the Cesar Chavez Celebration at the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus, she will be the keynote speaker on March 18 at Pierson Auditorium. Her talk will be "Feminicide at Our U.S. Border: To Be a Woman in Juarez is a Death Sentence."

During her upbringing, she was raised believing that she couldn't make a difference or achieve an extraordinary accomplishment,

but she learned by watching Chavez and learning about his work, that she could take a stand on an injustice. "I saw that I could and with the genocide of the 475 women who had been mass murdered in Juarez, when I saw that situation I knew because of the teaching I had from Cesar, I knew that I could make a difference about this situation. I couldn't just say, 'Oh that is horrible, tsk, tsk, and not do anything.'"

Martinez Jitner posed as a factory worker to uncover a dark world of grueling poverty and sexual abuse that lead to murder. As she went into the factory undercover, the story of the women began to unravel into a tale of torture and murder in the border town of Juarez, Mexico since 1993. She produced a documentary called La Frontera, which was released in 2007, and from that critically acclaimed documentary, a political thriller was produced, called Bordertown starring Jennifer Lopez and Martin Sheen.

As a human rights activist, Jitner is speaking out for women's rights who are working in the maquiladoras, factories created by North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). She tells the story of these women who are suffering with poverty and gender discrimination and whom NAFTA considers as an expendable workforce and expendable human beings.

Chavez's legacy of bringing about change through non-violence lives on today. "He said to me several times that you can educate people's hearts. They will deny the truth of something; they will want it for whatever reasons, their own self-preservation, greed. They deny the facts, but you can educate their hearts, and ultimately, Cesar believed that people will do the right thing," she said.

She knows that not everyone can be a Cesar Chavez and fast for a cause, but everyone has inside of them, the drive and the passion to fight against a social injustice in their neighborhoods or in their community.

"I am not a Cesar. I would not compare myself to him, but I know what he taught me makes me want to make a drastic difference in bringing social justice, equality and human rights to anyone. I think that what is being lost is the feeling of 'Yes I can' and 'Yes we can,'" Jitner said.

She is one of the first Latina executive producers of a prime-time network television series. The Emmy nominated "American Family" made history when it debuted in 2002 as the first Latino drama on broadcast television. "I think there are negative miscommunications, false assumptions, stereotypes that continue today about Latinos in the community. The media can either create stereotypes or they can destroy them and I have

El legado de Chávez todavía vive

CONT./PÁGINA 1

de cáncer en McFarland, Calif. Durante los años ochentas, ellos descubrieron que 11 niños en un radio de seis cuadras en ese mismo, mismo pequeño pueblo de trabajadores agrícolas migratorios, habían desarrollado cáncer. No había un registro de cáncer allá, por lo que pudieron haber habido muchos más con cáncer. A la edad de 61 años, César llegó a llamar la atención a esa atrocidad debido a que estos niños no podían conseguir atención médica", dijo ella.

Después de observar a Chávez, ella se dio cuenta que cada individuo puede hacer algo para lograr justicia social en su comunidad. Chávez, una persona de hablar calmado, quien trabajó incansablemente para llamar la atención en contra del atroz tratamiento de otros seres humanos, fue un líder que no buscó atención para sí mismo, sino que quería justicia para las personas que eran tratadas en forma inhumana.

"Pasé toda la huelga de hambre con él, los 36 días. Tomé la determinación a ese punto que dedicaría mi vida en cualquier forma en que pudiera lograr justicia social y pudiera potenciarlo", dijo Martínez.

Durante la Celebración de César Chávez en el campus de la Universidad de Missouri-Kansas City, ella será la oradora principal el día 18 de marzo en el Auditorio Pierson. Su discurso será "Muerte Femenina en Nuestra Frontera de Estados Unidos: Ser una Mujer en Juárez es una Sentencia de Muerte".

Durante la época en que creció, ella fue criada con la creencia de que ella no podía marcar una diferencia o lograr un resultado extraordinario, pero ella aprendió mirando a Chávez y aprendió de su trabajo, que ella podía encarar una injusticia. "Yo me di cuenta de que podía y con el genocidio de 475 mujeres que han sido asesinadas en forma masiva en Juárez, cuando noté la situación, supe que a causa de las enseñanzas que había recibido de César, me di cuenta que podía marcar una diferencia respecto a esta situación. No pude simplemente decir, 'O, esto es horrible, tsk, tsk y no hacer nada'".

Martínez Jitner posó como trabajadora de una fábrica para descubrir un oscuro mundo de extenuante pobreza y abuso sexual que llevaba a asesinatos. En el momento en que iba encubierta a la fábrica, el relato de una mujer comenzó a desenvolverse en lo que había sido una historia de tortura y asesinato en la ciudad mexicana fronteriza de Juárez desde 1993. Ella produjo un documental llamado La Frontera,

el cual fue lanzado en el 2007 y de ese documental aclamado por la crítica, una película de suspense fue producida. La cinta lleva el nombre de Bordertown y cuenta con la actuación de Jennifer López y Martin Sheen.

Como activista de los derechos humanos, Martínez Jitner habla a nombre de los derechos de las mujeres que trabajan en las maquiladoras, fábricas creadas por el Tratado de Libre Comercio de Norteamérica (NAFTA, por sus siglas en inglés). Ella cuenta la historia de estas mujeres que están sufriendo con la pobreza y la discriminación sexual y a quienes NAFTA considera una fuerza laboral desechable y seres humanos desechables.

El legado de Chávez de lograr cambios sin recurrir a la violencia continúa viviendo hoy en día. "Él me dijo varias veces que uno puede educar los corazones de las personas. Ellos negarían la verdad de algo; ellos lo querrían así por cualquiera fuesen las razones, por su propia preservación, avaricia. Ellos niegan los hechos, pero uno puede educar sus corazones y al final, César creía que la gente haría lo correcto", dijo ella.

Ella sabe que no cualquiera puede ser un César Chávez y hacer una huelga de hambre por una causa, pero cada persona tiene dentro de sí mismo, el empuje y la pasión de luchar en contra de la injusticia social en sus vecindarios o en sus comunidades.

"Yo no soy César. No me compararía a él, pero sé que lo que me enseñó me hace querer marcar una drástica diferencia en traerle justicia social, igualdad y derechos humanos a todos. Creo que lo que se está perdiendo es el sentimiento de 'Sí yo puedo' y 'Sí nosotros podemos', dijo Martínez Jitner.

Ella es una de las primeras productoras ejecutivas latinas de una serie en el horario principal de una red televisiva. El programa nominado al premio Emmy, "American Family," hizo historia cuando debutó en el 2002 como el primer drama latino en las redes televisivas. "Creo que allí existe una carencia negativa en la comunicación, falsas suposiciones, estereotipos sobre los latinos que continúan hoy en día en la comunidad. Ya sea los medios de comunicación pueden crear estereotipos o destruirlos y he comprometido mi vida a poner la voz de los latinos en el campo de la cultura dominante, para que seamos invitados a los hogares de cualquier persona en Estados Unidos cuando éstas enciendan sus televisores".

Su actual proyecto es el de producir como ejecutiva y escribir una miniserie para HBO titulada

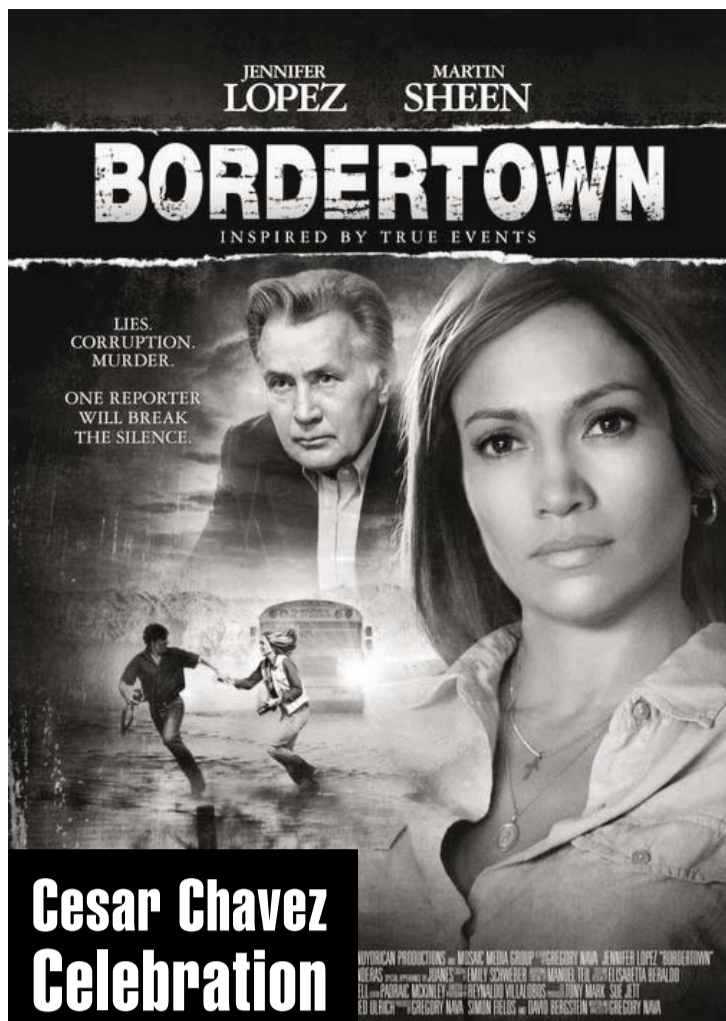
Celebración de César Chávez

"Bordertown" será exhibida a las 4 p.m. del viernes en la Sala 106 del Centro Universitario en el campus de UMKC. Barbara Martínez Jitner, quien entregará la lectura principal, hablará a las 6 p.m. del 18 de marzo en el Auditorio Pierson del Centro Universitario.

"Rain of Gold" (Lluvia de Oro) adaptada del texto original de Víctor Villaseñor. Ella va a ser la productora ejecutiva y escritora de una miniserie para la cadena ABC que contará con la actuación de Jimmy Smith, la cual discutirá los temas de la inmigración y de la frontera. Ella está actualmente escribiendo un guión para Antonio Banderas sobre la tristemente afamada marcha de la inmigración en la primavera. "Un Día sin un Inmigrante".

La inmigración y el muro de la frontera que se está levantando, son solamente algunos de los problemas en que a ella le gustaría ver al Presidente Obama demandando el cese de la construcción del muro. " Sé que ocho miembros del Congreso escribieron al Presidente Obama pidiendo para que la construcción del muro se detenga. Somos una nación de inmigrantes y tenemos que reclamar nuestro sitio en la dinámica de la toma de decisiones en nuestro país. Los latinos salieron en masa a elegir al Presidente Obama y necesitamos que nuestra voz sea escuchada".

Al traerle una voz a los problemas de las mujeres, ella espera que la gente que asista a su plática se retiren sintiéndose fortalecidos. "Quiero que ellos entiendan que cada persona en particular puede ser fortalecida con el mensaje de César, que ellos pueden hacer algo con sus propias vidas, en cualquier nivel, ellos pueden hacer algo en una escuela, en una iglesia, en una comunidad y ellos pueden marcar una diferencia y construir un ambiente de justicia social. César no pensó en sí mismo como un gran líder, él estuvo profundamente comprometido con que lo que el pensaba era lo correcto y él cambió el mundo. Nosotros todos podemos llevar eso a nuestros corazones, todos tenemos dentro de nosotros mismos el marcar una diferencia en nuestras propias vidas y en las vidas de otros y en las vidas que compartimos", dijo ella.



Cesar Chavez Celebration

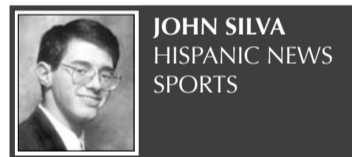
"Bordertown" will be shown at 4 p.m. Friday in Room 106 at the University Center on the UMKC campus. Barbara Martínez Jitner, who will deliver the keynote address, will speak at 6 p.m. March 18 at Pierson Auditorium in the University Center.

committed my life to putting the voice of the Latinos in the mainstream arena, so we are invited into everyone's homes in America when they turn on the television."

Her current project is to executive produce and write an HBO miniseries "Rain of Gold" adapted from Victor Villaseñor's original text. She is going to be the executive producer and writer

SPORTS ROUND UP!

Big XII tourney could decide Sprint Center spot



JOHN SILVA
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Last year, the Big XII's big basketball showcase was in Kansas City. This year Oklahoma City is the host, but Kansas City is still on the top three seeds' minds.

Both Missouri and Kansas got the first day of the tournament off. In the second round on Thursday, both teams will begin their quest to cut down the nets at the Ford Center. At stake for MU, KU, and Oklahoma is a possible first weekend of the NCAA Tournament in KC.

The NCAA is attempting to place the teams with the top seeds closest to their home in their pod seeding system. For the last couple of weeks, the two top seeds projected here were OU and Memphis.

Thanks to the listless play of conference USA, the Tigers unbeaten string of 20+ games in conference won't be stopped by the likes of Tulane, Houston, or number two-seed Tulsa. Memphis will look to finish

undefeated in conference play for the third year in a row as they host the CUSA tournament.

If the Big XII's Tigers or Jayhawks make the final and lose to the number two seeded Sooners, they won't be able to dislodge them from the second seed in the region.

No team has an easy road to the tourney final. Number one seed Kansas knows what they are up against. Head coach Bill Self stated, "No disrespect to other years, but I didn't feel like you had to play great all three nights to win."

In each of the past two years, the Crimson and Blue bumped up against the Texas Burnt Orange in torrid final games. This year, they may tangle in the semifinals. Blue collar Nebraska and underachieving Baylor will play to determine KU's first foe. Texas and Colorado square off for the right to face K-State.

Frank Martin's team earned a bye and can make a last-ditch effort to make the NCAAs if they can defeat a Texas team that has one less victory than them on the season but can boast of wins

of a miniseries for ABC starring Jimmy Smits, which discusses the themes of immigration and the border. She is currently writing a script for Antonio Banderas about last spring's infamous immigration march, "A Day Without An Immigrant."

Immigration and the border wall that is going up are just a few of the issues that she would like to see President Obama address. "I know that eight Congressmen wrote to President Obama demanding that the construction of the wall be stopped. We are a nation of immigrants and we need to reclaim our place in the dynamic of decision making in our country. Latinos came out in droves to elect President Obama and we need to have our voice heard."

As she brings a voice to women's issues, she hopes that the people who attend her talk will leave with the feeling of empowerment. "I want them to understand that every single person there can be empowered with the message of Cesar, that they can do something with their own life, whatever level, they can do something in a school, in a church, in a community, and they can make a difference and make an environment of social justice. Cesar did not think of himself as a great leader, he was deeply committed to what he thought was right and he changed the world. We can all take that to heart, we all have it within ourselves to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others and in the lives that we share," she said.

Newest Chiefs all have ties to Pioli

The Chiefs have a lot of cash to flash during the free agency period. So far players like Albert Haynesworth, Ray Lewis, and the recently cut Terrell Owens have left the free agent market for high dollar deals. None of these players fit the new Chiefs profile. The New England way so far has only proven good enough for people who used to play for New England itself.

Of all the players acquired by new GM Scott Pioli, every one played for the Patriots recently. Everyone is aware of the Mike Vrabel and Matt Cassel trade. Did you know, the only unrestricted Chiefs free agents signed are former Chief Jon McGraw and linebacker Darrell Robertson?

McGraw is a tough guy who fits the profile of a John Lynch, a player Pioli signed to the Pats last year. Robertson was a Patriots practice squad player last year. He can be added to a linebacking corps that threatens to be bloated with candidates for the 3-4

defense everyone expects to be installed in the off-season once a coordinator is named.

There isn't anything wrong with bringing in people you know, however, when Pioli was assembling the Pats did he choose a bunch of Jets from his former team? He targeted some of them, but faced with signing more than 20 players in his first season, he had to pluck folks from places like Pittsburgh.

Local fans and media are now waiting what players Pioli can pluck from squads like the two Super Bowl squads to bolster the 2-14 Chiefs. A school of thought is out there that we might not see many new faces this year because the team wants to get a draft class in and see who can blend with Herm Edwards' previous draftees before the team goes into a 2010 free agent class that is uncapped.

It's all speculation at this point. The shroud of secrecy at Arrowhead is unlike anything a professional sports franchise

in Kansas City has seen before. You can talk to newly acquired players, but you can't necessarily see them. Perhaps this is a way to make Pioli's point of the head coach, Todd Haley, being the face of the franchise.

Eventually we'll see how active the team is during the free agent period, but until a potential profile player like running back Deuce McAllister (hard working, good guy) or offensive tackle Marvel Smith (blue collar from a winning org) comes to town from a place other than Foxboro, the perception of KC being New England West will linger.

Brother is convinced Corrales is responsible

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enough evidence at this time that links him to Katia Lainez's death.

But Katia Lainez's brother is convinced Corrales is responsible.

"This is something we did not expect, that something like that would happen to her, the kind of death she had because she did not want to live with him," Marcos Antonio Lainez Perez told *Hispanic News*. "I don't know what happened to him, if it was an obsession about her, but he wanted to be together even though she was not interested."

He said his family is worried about Allison's safety.

Leslie Lainez Perez, the victim's sister, said Lainez had started planning her daughter's birthday party in April. "She was a very good person, tranquil, hard-working and a good mother."

Leslie Lainez said Corrales, who has family in Texas, recently left Kansas City to work in San Antonio. While he was away, he would sometimes ask Katia Lainez about their

daughter. And when he returned to Kansas City, Corrales asked Katia Lainez whether he could stay at her apartment for five days. According to Leslie Lainez, she agreed.

Leslie Lainez said her family is not sure whether Corrales has left the state because authorities have not found the family's car.

"We are worried about the girl, to know that he can do something to her at a moment of desperation when he finds himself cornered," Leslie Lainez said. She is afraid the abduction and the absence of her mother are traumatic for young Allison.

"We ask for the person who has the girl to return her because we are really worried. We don't know what can happen."

Jasso, the case manager at the Guadalupe Center, said Lainez's co-workers also are trying to help with expenses.

Last night, the Guadalupe Center joined the Blue Springs Golden Corral, where Katia Lainez had worked, to raise money to assist the family with funeral expenses.

"Katia did a great job while



Marcos Antonio Lainez Perez truly believes his former brother-in-law, Luis Corrales, had something to do with his sister's death. He struggles to understand why the Kansas City police can't charge him with this crime.

Marco Antonio Lainez Pérez cree verdaderamente que su ex cuñado, Luis Corrales, tuvo algo que ver con la muerte de su hermana. Él lucha por entender porqué la policía de Kansas City no lo puede acusar de este crimen.

she worked for us and was very friendly to our guests," said Bill Scheibe, the restaurant's owner. "We want to help Katia's family during this very difficult time."

Jasso said she is sad about Katia Lainez but hopeful the child is returned safely. "She was a very nice lady. Everything

about her was taking care of her daughter and making sure they were protected. She did that by getting the restraining order. It's a tragedy... a tragedy."

Protecting Yourself Year-Round

JOSÉ FAUS
HISPANIC NEWS

As winter turns into spring and temperatures increase, so does the amount of time that children spend outdoors playing spring sports. This means that the number of injuries to children can also increase.

Each year, more than 30 million children participate in sports in the United States and more than 3.5 million children ages 14 and under are treated for sports injuries. While collision and contact sports are associated with higher rates of injury, injuries from individual sports tend to be more severe.

In team sports, most injuries (62 percent) – occur during practices, not games. "The most common types of sport-related injuries in children are sprains (mostly ankle), muscle strains, bone or growth plate injuries, repetitive motion injuries, and heat-related illness," says Jan Stegelman, Safe Kids Kansas director.

"When we think of sports injuries, we tend to think of dramatic tackles or falls - such as the plays you often see on highlight reels, but young athletes are also at risk of injuries," says Stegelman. "If your coach recommends certain types of warm-ups, it's not just to make you a better athlete – it will help keep you from getting hurt."

Safe Kids Kansas recommends these precautions for all children playing or practicing any individual or team sport:

- Before signing up for a sport, get a general physical exam.
- Always wear appropriate protective gear for the activity, for practice as well

as games, and make sure it's the right size and properly adjusted.

- Always do your warm-ups and cool-downs. If it's important before and after a game, it's important before and after practice too.
- Make sure responsible adults know and enforce the safety rules of the sport, are present to provide supervision, and are trained in first aid and CPR.
- Never play through an injury. Get immediate help from a coach or trainer and be sure to mention everything that hurts or aches. All coaches should have a plan for dealing with emergencies.
- If you're playing outside, wear SPF 15 or higher sunscreen.
- Follow the rules. In most sports the rules are based not only on sportsmanship, but safety.

Last but not least: "Stay hydrated," says Stegelman. "Drink plenty of water or electrolyte sports drinks before and during the activity, and rest frequently during hot weather. A child can lose up to a quart of sweat during two hours of exercise, and kids get overheated more quickly than adults and cannot cool down as easily."

For more information about sports safety visit www.usa.safekids.org.

Safe Kids Kansas, Inc. is a nonprofit Coalition of 67 statewide organizations and businesses dedicated to preventing accidental injuries to Kansas children ages 0-14. The lead agency for Safe Kids Kansas is the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. For more information visit www.kansas.safekids.org.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of Allyson Corrales or Luis Corrales is asked to call the Tips Hot Line at 816-474-8477. To learn how you can assist the family, contact Christina Jasso at 816-716-1172.

Hermano convencido que Corrales es el responsable

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Departamento de Policía de Kansas City. La semana pasada, la policía dijo que estaban investigando cerca de cuarenta pistas que han llegado desde todo el país, incluyendo a Texas y a la Costa Este. Y debido a que Luis Corrales, 31, es de Honduras, la policía ha alertado a las agencias de Inmigración y Aduanas.

Lockhart dijo que Katia Lainez fue vista con vida por última vez, la noche del miércoles 4 de Marzo, lo que significa que quien haya sido el que la asesinó, tuvo cerca de un día y medio de haber dejado el área 'y allí hay un área bastante grande que puede ser cubierta en un día y medio'.

El carro de la familia, un Kia Sportage de 1999 con placas de Missouri PB1-R3R, también se encuentra desaparecido y la policía le está pidiendo a la

ciudadanía cualquier ayuda en localizar el vehículo.

Lockhart, dijo que las autoridades no pueden referirse a Corrales como un sospechoso ya que no hay suficiente evidencia en estos momentos que lo conecten con la muerte de Katia Lainez.

Pero el hermano de Katia Lainez está convencido de que Corrales es el responsable.

"Esto es algo que no esperábamos, que algo como esto le pudiera haber sucedido a ella, el tipo de muerte que ella sufrió, porque ella no quería vivir con él", Marco Antonio Lainez Pérez le dijo a *Hispanic News*. "No sé qué es lo que le sucedió a él, si era una obsesión por ella. Pero él quería que estuvieran juntos incluso cuando ella no estaba interesada".

Él dice que su familia está preocupada por la seguridad de Allison.

Leslie Lainez Pérez, hermana de la víctima, dijo que Katia Lainez había estado planeando el cumpleaños de su hija en abril. "Ella era una persona muy buena, tranquila, trabajadora y una buena madre".

Leslie Lainez dijo que Corrales, quien tiene familiares en Texas, recientemente se había mudado de Kansas City a San Antonio. Y cuando él regresó a Kansas City, Corrales le pidió a Katia Lainez si es que podía quedarse en su departamento por cinco días. Según Leslie Lainez, ella estuvo de acuerdo.

Leslie Lainez, dice que su familia no está segura si Corrales ha abandonado el estado, puesto que las autoridades no han encontrado en carro de la familia.



Leslie Perez, the victim's sister spends a lot of her time on the phone searching for answers to how this tragedy occurred.

Leslie Pérez, la hermana de la víctima pasó bastante tiempo en el teléfono buscando respuestas de cómo ocurrió esta tragedia.

"Estamos preocupados acerca de la niña, el saber que él le puede hacer algo a ella en un momento de desesperación cuando él se encuentre acorralado", dijo Leslie Lainez. Ella teme que el secuestro y la ausencia de su madre sean traumáticos para la pequeña Allison.

"Le pedimos a la persona que tiene a la niña que la devuelva porque estamos verdaderamente preocupados. No sabemos qué podría pasar".

Jasso, la trabajadora social en el Guadalupe Center, dijo que los compañeros de trabajo de Katia Lainez, también están tratando de ayudar con los gastos.

Jasso dijo sentirse triste

por Katia Lainez, pero está esperanzada que la niña será devuelta sana y salva. "Ella era una dama muy agradable. Todo lo que se trataba de ella era preocuparse de su hija y asegurarse de que ellos estuvieran protegidos. Ella hizo eso mediante una orden de restricción. Es una tragedia... una tragedia".

A cualquier persona que tenga información sobre el paradero de Allison Corrales o Luis Corrales se les pide que llamen a la línea de emergencia Tips Hot Line en el 816-474-8477.



CELEBRANDO NUESTRO QUINTO ANIVERSARIO
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YANNI VOICES

In this special, filmed at the new Forum at Mundo Imperial in Acapulco, Mexico, Yanni re-interprets his classic compositions with powerful lyrics and intoxicating performances by four of the most exciting new voices in music today.

Saturday, March 14 • 7 p.m.

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M. A. Mortenson Company is submitting a proposal and requests subcontractor and supplier quotes for all trades from qualified Small Business Firms (SB, VOSB, SDVOSB, HUBZone SDB, WOSB and HBCU/MI) for the following:

W912DQ-09-R-4014: Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex, Ft. Riley, Kansas
Quotes/Proposals are due by 03/24/2009 1:00 PM CDT

M. A. Mortenson Company
700 Meadow Lane North, Minneapolis, MN 55422
Phone: 763.522.2100 - Fax: 763.522.3707
Attn: Bob Shawgo

M. A. Mortenson Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V

POLICE OFFICER AND POLICE RESERVE OFFICER

The City of Sedalia will accept applications until 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, for the position of Police Officer and/or Police Reserve Officer for the Sedalia Police Department. This position is subject to random Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing per City of Sedalia policy.

Applicants must: *be 21 years old or within 6 months of their 21st birthday, * a U.S. Citizen, * minimum of 30 college credit hours, or current Missouri P.O.S.T. certification, or currently enrolled in Basic 470 or higher Academy, or minimum of 2 years current (active duty, reserve, or national guard) military experience or separation within one year, or MO Department of Corrections Certification w/minimum of two years experience,* no felony convictions or serious misdemeanor convictions, * valid operator's license, * good driving record, and*good reputation.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED 4th AMENDMENT OF THE 19th TERRACE & CENTRAL TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN

You are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held by the Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri (the "Commission"), commencing at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at the Commission Offices, 1100 Walnut Street, Suite 1700, Kansas City, Missouri, regarding the proposed 4th Amendment of the 19th Terrace & Central Tax Increment Financing Plan. The proposed 4th Amendment of the 19th Terrace & Central TIF Plan would: A) amend Redevelopment Project Areas 2A, 2B and 2C; B) amend the total project costs and estimated reimbursable costs related to Redevelopment Project Areas 2A, 2B and 2C; and C) other matters related thereto.

The Redevelopment Area is an area generally bounded by W. 17th Street on the north, Wyandotte Street on the east, Southwest Boulevard on the south, and Broadway Boulevard on the west in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

According to Section 99.830.3 RSMo., all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing.

According to Section 99.830.03, each taxing district located wholly or partially within the Redevelopment Area may submit comments and objections to the Commission concerning the subject matter of the public hearing prior to the date of the public hearing.

Joseph P. Gonzales
Executive Director

Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri
1100 Walnut Street, Suite 1700
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
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Sounds of "March Thunder" fill Armory

While the spectators filed in and took their places, 9-year-old Darius Alwait took in a light sparring session with his trainer, Elisia Moreno of Turner Recreation Center. "This is the third time that I have been here and I am 2 and 0. I am hoping to win this too," beamed Alwait.

Alwait was referring to the fifth annual March Thunder boxing tournament presented by the American GI Forum (AGIF) and conducted March 9 at the KCK National Guard Armory. After finishing the warm-up, Moreno looked at Alwait and confirmed him ready. "I train with him four days a week and he is really into it. He is beyond ready."

March Thunder drew fighters from boxing clubs in the Kansas City area to as far away as Wichita, St. Joseph and Lansing. They ranged in age from 8 to 34 years old and featured 25 matches over the course of the evening. The tournament was the brainchild of SFC Ricardo G. Moreno with the recruiting command of the Kansas National Guard and an AGIF member.

"In the winter of 2004, our chapter of the AGIF in Kansas City was in need of a boost for fundraisers, so I searched my head and gut to try to find the means to bring in some well needed resources to our chapter. Well it came to me; why not tie in a fundraiser in the month of March that packs a punch? The next part was simple ... Boxing! My passion. Let's conduct a boxing match in Kansas City, raise the funds needed for the AGIF, and in some manner enjoy myself that evening in the company of warriors."

"The event benefits the AGIF college scholarship fund," explained Christina Enriques. "The AGIF, in the six years they have been a chapter, has been able to distribute over \$20,000 in scholarships. All the proceeds are coming from this chapter, from the boxing tournament and other fundraising activities."

Leo Moreno, Elisia's father, works with fighters at Turner. "I think these are really good boxers. The great thing about it is they come to our gym for the program that we have to get kids out of the street." According to Moreno, the fighters are a little rough in style but they are good athletes. "The hardest part is to come into our gym and they have done that. ... To me when they step into the gym they become winners because they made that decision to start training and when they get in the ring they become winners, win or lose."

Moreno highlighted the important benefits that an event such as March Thunder has for the youths who participate. "An event like this makes the boxers feel like a superstar. It's like Oscar De La Hoya for them. They get the music. They get the chills in the body. It is a great feeling for them. ... As coaches, when we

are starting in the corners, it gives us chills to see how excited our boxers are."

Moreno added that boxing holds valuable lessons for any participant. My main goal is to discipline them and to get them to learn. When they are in the gym, we want them to get their hostilities and frustrations out on the bag and to give them a little more discipline they can take home and into school."

Greg Conchola, who also trains fighters at Turner, admitted that many of the kids come with issues but after a few days in the gym, "they have done a complete turnaround. They learn to listen now and to treat other people with respect. That is what we hope to see with kids in and out of the ring. They learn how to get along with other people. They see that they can be an adversary with someone in the ring, but once that match is over they shake hands and are friends and get along well outside the ring."

Conchola added that the sell-out crowd is one great motivator for the boxers. "This is what they trained for and what they work so hard in the gym for each and every night."

Elisia Moreno agreed that the atmosphere makes the tournament a special event. "Being out here is a rush. Everything inside of you just wants you to go and give it your all, especially with everyone cheering for you, and you know they are all there for you. It is a lot of fun. It really gets you going. I like coming to this tournament every year and they put on a good show."

Elisia has been training with her father since she was a young girl and knows firsthand the value of the sport. "To me, boxing is a way of getting kids off the street. Instead of fighting in the street they do the same thing in the ring, which is good. It helps them develop self-discipline. At home, they know they don't want to argue with their parents. They know they can get in trouble in the gym for it. At school, they learn to listen to their teachers better. ... It is a good idea for parents to consider getting their kids into boxing."



"Darius Alwait is beyond ready"



Nine-year-old Darius Alwait prepares for his match. Like others participating in the tournament, the boxing ring can be a place where athletes learn valuable lessons about life. The sport attracts many enthusiastic spectators from across the community, including political figures such as Kansas City, Kan., Mayor Joe Reardon.