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RECALL EFFORTS AGAINST
MAYOR MARK
FUNKHOUSER
TO CONTINUE
FOR TWO MORE
WEEKS,
SEE PAGE 2



DEFENDING YOURSELF FROM THE FLU

Defendiéndose uno mismo en contra de la influenza

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN
HISPANIC NEWS

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Covering your cough and washing your hands several times every day are routine for many, but health experts think it is the best defense against the spread of the swine flu virus.

The number of known cases of the swine flu is in the double digits in the Kansas/Missouri area and approaching a thousand in Mexico. Officials estimate those numbers to grow, but it is unclear by how many.

"The flu can go from zero to 50 percent of the population being exposed and infected fairly rapidly. Normally it doesn't, but it's possible," said Dr. Rex Archer, director of the Kansas City Health Department. "For the general population, at this stage, we are not saying this is any more severe than a normal season of influenza."

Still, health officials, including Archer, are monitoring the spread both in the United States and in Mexico.

Mexican President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa has said his government has responded firmly in assisting those who have contracted the virus — known among medical experts as influenza A (H1N1). Calderon said Mexico's supply of medicine was sufficient for all of the cases in the country's hospitals and clinics. He also said the rate at which new cases are occurring is declining sharply.

Archer said common sense and common practices are the best measures right now to staying healthy. "We should be washing our hands a lot more in general any way."

He said it was not the consensus of the local public health community to post-

PEOPLE NEED/PAGE 3

El cubrirse su boca cuando tosa y el lavarse sus manos varias veces al día son una rutina para muchas personas, pero los expertos de la salud creen que ésta es la mejor defensa en contra de la diseminación del virus de la gripe porcina.

La cantidad de casos conocido de gripe porcina se encuentran en cifras dobles en el área de Kansas/Missouri y se están acercando a los mil en México. Funcionarios calculan que esas cifras crecerán, pero no está claro en qué cantidad.

"La influenza puede ir con rapidez del cero al 50 por ciento de la población que está siendo expuesta e infectada. Normalmente no sucede de esa manera, pero es posible", dijo Dr. Rex Archer, director del Departamento de Salud de Kansas City. "Para la población general, en esta etapa, no estamos diciendo que esto es más severo que durante una temporada normal de influenza".

Aún así, funcionarios de la salud, incluyendo a Archer, están observando la diseminación tanto en EE.UU. como en México.

El Presidente mexicano Felipe Calderón Hinojosa ha dicho que su gobierno ha respondido firmemente en lo que se trata a asistir a aquellos que han contraído el virus — conocido entre los expertos médicos como la Influenza A (H1N1). Calderón dice que la cantidad de medicinas en México fue insuficiente para todos los casos en los hospitales y clínicas del país. Él también dijo que el promedio en que nuevos casos han estado ocurriendo, está declinando fuertemente.

Archer dice que el sentido común y LA GENTE/PÁGINA 3

It's clean up time Es tiempo de limpiar



Elvira Garcia sat outside her yard, observing and taking a little pride in her neighborhood as volunteers cleared the junk and debris from the area.

Elvira García se sentó en su patio, observando y sintiéndose un poco orgullosa de su vecindario al momento en que voluntarios limpiaban la basura y los escombros del área.

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN
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TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Sandy Perry pauses for a moment on a recent Saturday morning and notices what a difference a day makes. Cluttered yards, overgrown

IT'S A MATTER OF/PAGE 2

Sandy Perry se tomó una pausa por un momento durante una reciente mañana sabatina y se dio cuenta de la diferencia que un día significa. Patios hacinados, aceras cubier-

tas de maleza y desordenados callejones se estaban convirtiendo en la norma en el vecindario Sagrado Corazón.

SE TRATA DE /PÁGINA 2

FACELIFT FOR CLOPPER PARK LONG TIME COMING Renovación del Clopper Park Tomó Mucho Tiempo en Llegar



Clopper Field in Kansas City, Kan., is shaping up for this summer. Area residents will find a more user-friendly park.

El Clopper Field en Kansas City, Kan., se está poniendo en forma para este verano. Los residentes del área encontrarán un parque más fácil de usar.

JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Clopper Park is getting the kind of facelift that neighborhood residents hope will entice families and sports teams back to the neighborhood park in the Argentine community of Kansas City, Kansas.

The renovation has been done with in-house personnel at the cost of \$70,000. Parks and Recreation Director Gary Salva and Park Board member Rick Saucedo, both agree that it is money well spent.

"There is a lot of activity going on down there. Right now they are

PLAYING FIELD/PAGE 4

El Clopper Park está siendo sometido a un tipo de renovación que los residentes esperan atraerá a las familias y a los equipos deportivos de regreso al parque vecinal localizado en la comunidad de Argentine en Kansas City, Kansas.

La renovación se ha hecho utilizando a personal interno y ha tenido un costo de \$70.000. Tanto el Director de Parques y Recreación Gary Salva como el miembro de la junta Rick Saucedo concluyeron que es un dinero bien gastado.

CAMPO DE JUEGO/PÁGINA 4

Death threats didn't stop 'Bordertown' Amenazas de muerte no detuvieron 'Pueblo Fronterizo'

JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Young girls and women have been disappearing in Juarez, Mexico, for the past ten years. Their disappearances have been a mystery until now. Barbara Martinez Jitner, an investigative reporter, worked undercover to tell the tale of young girls working in American company-owned factories in Juarez for little pay and in unbearable conditions. While working in a factory, Jitner uncovered a horrifying tale of murder, rape and trading on the black market.

When she posed as a factory worker, Jitner entered a society that had little regard for the value of women. Factories such as Sony, Panasonic and General Electric would run 24 hours a day. They had three eight-hour shifts where women stand along the assembly lines to assemble products in intolerable conditions. Many of the factory workers are young girls — 14, 15, and 16 years old.

"School is not mandatory pass the 6th grade. If you go to school pass that, your family must pay for your (education). If they can't pay, then they put the girls in the factories to work," Jitner said in a recent visit to the Uni-

JUAREZ POLICE/PAGE 6

Niñas jóvenes y mujeres han estado desapareciendo en Juárez, México por los pasados diez años. Sus desapariciones han sido un misterio hasta ahora. Bárbara Martínez Jitner, una reportera investigativa, trabajó encubierta para contar la historia de jóvenes trabajando en factorías de propiedad de compañías estadounidenses en Juárez por poca paga y bajo insostenibles condiciones. Mientras trabajaba en una factoría, Martínez descubrió la horrenda historia de un asesinato, violación y comercio en el mercado negro.

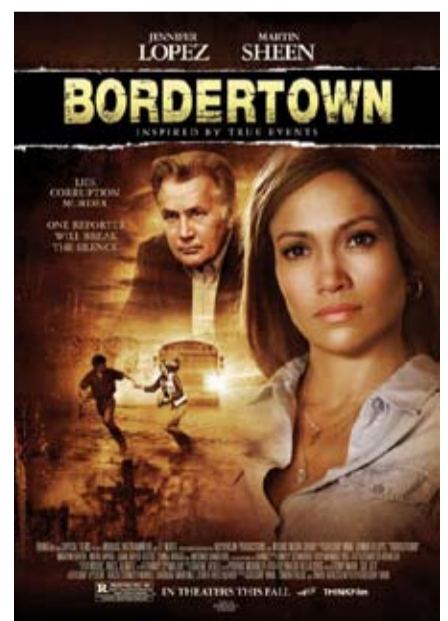
Cuando ella se hizo pasar como trabajadora de una fábrica, Martínez entró a una sociedad que tenía poca consideración por lo que vale una mujer. Fábricas tales como Sony, Panasonic y General Electric funcionan las 24 horas del día. Ellos tienen tres turnos de ocho horas en donde las mujeres están solas en las líneas de ensamblaje para ensamblar productos en condiciones intolerables. Muchas de las trabajadoras de las factorías son niñas jóvenes — de 14, 15 y 16 años.

"La escuela no es obligatoria cuando se pasa del sexto grado. Si uno continúa en la escuela pasado ese grado,

tú familia debe pagar por ti (La educación). Si ellos no pueden pagar, entonces ellos ponen a las niñas a trabajar en las factorías", dijo Martínez en una reciente visita a la Universidad de Missouri-Kansas City. Ella se refirió a su investigación cuando estuvo en Kansas City para celebrar el Día de César E. Chávez. Luego de haber sido inspirada por Chávez y por Dolores Huerta, ella se ha convertido en una activista comunitaria.

Mientras Martínez comenzaba a indagar lo que le había ocurrido a las niñas, ella descubrió una historia que

POLICIA DE /PÁGINA 6



IT'S A MATTER OF JUNKING IT

CONT./PAGE 2

sidewalks and messy alleyways were becoming the norm in the Sacred Heart neighborhood.

Not anymore. On May 9, Sweep It Up Keep It Up was kicked into full gear.

Like a small army preparing for battle, the residents of Sacred Heart neighborhood organized a massive cleanup and sent a message "to sweep it up and clean it up and to keep the neighborhood clean, safe and drug-free," Perry, a spokeswoman for the Westside Housing Organization, told *Hispanic News*.

"That's the message that is going to be in place all summer. The residents are not just cleaning up today, they want to clean it up and keep it that way. They are very proud and this is such a cool community. Everybody knows everybody. Everybody is pitching in to help everybody else," Perry said. "This is a true example of what a community can do with a little bit of money and a plan."

The organized neighborhood cleanup began as a concept in October from a team of six residents. The group obtained 10 sponsors and applied for grants from NeighborWorks and Jackson County.

"It is beyond our wildest expectations," Perry said. "On a scale of 1 to ten, I would rate it a 12 or a 15. The dumpsters are overflowing. Trucks are lined up for half a block, people waiting

to take their turn. ... After the winter we just had, everybody is ready for a good cleanup."

Wearing work gloves and some in heavy boots, residents helped each other clear their yards, their homes and their streets.

Roberta Rosebrough, a resident near 27th Street and Jarboe, saw the day as an opportunity to remove what she described as junk from her home. "I think it's great," she said.

Her brother, Jerry Rosebrough, volunteered to make sure those filling the dumpsters were residents of the Sacred Heart Neighborhood. "You can go down the alleys and see how the yards have been cleaned up and picked up. It really makes a difference."

Elvira Garcia, another resident, told *Hispanic News* the program that beautifies the neighborhood, is "very nice." She said she had plenty of stuff in her basement that had been tough to trash. She said she hopes the effort comes together again next year because, according to her, she still has more junk to discard.

Porfirio Raya said the cleanup allowed him to trash some doors that were still in good shape but were becoming a nuisance to keep. "I tried to give them away to somebody, but no one wanted them. So they are taking up space and so I'm getting rid of them." He said the cleanup is a concept

every neighborhood in the Kansas City region should organize.

Perry said some of the grant money was spent on grilled hot dogs and hamburgers for residents and the cleanup crews, including Boy Scouts who volunteered their time. Yard signs were distributed to remind residents to Sweep It Up and Keep It Up all summer.

Vince Ortega, the deputy director of COMBAT, the Jackson County Community

newer generation pitching in and it's really nice to see all that come together," Ortega told *Hispanic News*.



Backed Anti-Drug Tax, has roots in the Sacred Heart Neighborhood. He said the deep pride a homeowner feels about the neighborhood helped make the cleanup a success.

"I see some of the older generation still here and some of the

Se trata de botarlo a la basura

CONT./PÁGINA 1

Pero ya no más. El 9 de mayo, Bárreloy Mantenlo dio su puntapié inicial con su equipo completo.

Tal como un pequeño ejército preparándose para una batalla, los residentes del vecindario Sagrado Corazón organizaron una masiva limpieza y enviaron un mensaje "para barrerlo y limpiarlo y para mantener al vecindario limpio, seguro y libre de drogas", Perry, una portavoz de la Organización de la Vivienda del Westside le dijo a *Hispanic News*.

"Ese es el mensaje que va a ser pregonado todo el verano. Los residentes no están solamente limpiando hoy, ellos quieren limpiarlo y mantenerlo de esa manera. Ellos están tan orgullosos y esta es una buena comunidad. Todos se conocen los unos a los otros, todos están acercándose a ayudar a todos los demás", dijo Perry. "Este es un verdadero ejemplo de lo que una comunidad puede hacer con un poquito de dinero y un plan".

La organizada limpieza del vecindario comenzó en octubre como un concepto de parte de un equipo de seis residentes. El grupo consiguió 10 patrocinadores y postuló a subsidios de parte de NeighborWorks y del Condado de Jackson.

"Fue más allá de lo que nos lo habíamos imaginado", dijo Perry. "En una escala del uno al diez, yo lo calificaría como entre un 12 o un 15. Los basureros estaban que se rebalsaban. Los camiones hacían fila por más de media cuadra, la gente esperaba por su turno. ... Después del invierno que tuvimos, todos estaban listos para una buena limpieza".

Luciendo guantes de trabajo y algunas botas de trabajo, los residentes se ayudaron mutuamente a limpiar sus patios, sus casas y sus calles.

Roberta Rosebrough, una residente que vive cerca de las calles 27 y Jarboe, tomó el día como una oportunidad para remover lo que ella describía como basura desde su casa. "Creo que es magnífico", dijo ella.

Su hermano, Jerry Rosebrough, se ofreció de voluntario para asegurarse de que aquellos que llenaban los contenedores de desperdicios fueran residentes del vecindario de Sagrado Corazón. "Uno puede ir a los callejones y ver cómo los patios han sido limpiados y los desperdicios han sido recogidos. En verdad que marca una diferencia".

Elvira García, otra residente, le dijo a *Hispanic News* que el

programa que embellece al vecindario, es "muy bueno". Ella dijo que tenía bastantes cosas en su sótano que le eran difícil de botar a la basura. Ella dijo esperar que lo esfuerzos se



vuelvan a realizar el próximo año ya que, según ella, aún tiene más basura que votar.

Porfirio Raya dijo que la limpieza le permitió botar a la basura algunas puertas que aún estaban en buenas condiciones, pero que se habían convertido en una molestia para mantener. "Traté de regalárselas a alguien, pero nadie las quiso. Por lo que estaban ocupando espacio y entonces me desharé de ellas". Él dijo que la limpieza es un concepto que cada



Unwanted bits and pieces of Sacred Heart Neighborhood filled several dumpsters. After the successful cleanup, volunteers gathered for hamburgers and hot dogs and talked about their pride in the community.

Trozos y pedazos del Vecindario del Sagrado Corazón que nadie quería, llenaron varios contenedores para basura. Después de la exitosa limpieza, los voluntarios se reunieron para disfrutar de hamburguesas y perros calientes y platicar acerca del orgullo hacia su comunidad.



Antidrogas Respaldo por la Comunidad y perteneciente al Condado de Jackson, tiene sus raíces en el Vecindario Sagrado Corazón. Él dijo que el profundo orgullo que un residente siente por el vecindario, ayudó a hacer de la limpieza un suceso.

"Veo a algunas personas de la generación más antigua que aún están aquí y a algunos de la nueva generación participando y es grato verlos a todos juntos", Ortega le dijo a *Hispanic News*.

vecindario en la región de Kansas City debiera organizar.

Perry dijo que algo del dinero del subsidio se gastó en asar perros calientes y hamburguesas para los residentes y las cuadrillas de limpieza, incluyendo a los Boy Scouts que se ofrecieron de voluntarios. Señales para poner en los patios fueron distribuidas a los residentes para recordarles de Barrerlo y Mantenerlo todo el verano.

Vince Ortega, subdirector de COMBAT, el Impuesto

FUNKHOUSER IS FAILING, BAPTIST MINISTERS SAY

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN
HISPANIC NEWS

Organizers of a campaign to recall Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser said Wednesday that they are almost complete in collecting the required number of signatures for a ballot question to remove the mayor. Officials also said the local Baptist Ministers Union has joined the movement to oust Funkhouser.

"The mayor is doing a terrible job and he needs to go," said the Rev. Kenneth Ray, president of the ministers union, speaking at a press conference at the recall Funkhouser campaign headquarters, 3625 Broadway.

He said the mayor has not been able to work with other city leaders to do the work needed in Kansas City. "A recall is an appropriate remedy under the city charter when the mayor has committed acts of misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance," Ray said. "He has done all three."

Ray outlined his reasons in a

press release:

First, Funkhouser has failed to execute the duties prescribed in the City Charter by purposefully not submitting a budget to the City Council, missed 5 of 6 public hearings on the City's budget, and missed a critically important police board budget meeting, all acts of nonfeasance.

Second, Funkhouser continues to violate the city's volunteer ordinance by conducting city business in the presence of his wife while having meetings at his home, and despite advice from the city attorney, has filed a lawsuit against the city, acts of malfeasance.

Third, the mayor failed to lead a lobbying effort in Jefferson City to obtain transportation stimulus funds, which netted St. Louis \$12 million. Consequently, the bus service in Kansas City has had to lay off employees and cut service, an act of misfeasance.

Ray said Funkhouser "has brought ridicule and shame upon

a proud city with a great history of hard-working fulltime mayors."

In April, a group of residents began a petition drive to recall Funkhouser and began their quest to collect 17,000 signatures to secure a ballot question. Funkhouser has said little publicly about the recall effort except that he expects it to fail.

Harris Wilder, a recall campaign spokesman, said the effort has collected about 13,000 signatures so far and has about two more weekends before their allotted time expires. He said organizers submitted their first set of petitions on May 6 to the city clerk's office. After the clerk's office certifies them, Wilder said, organizers have another 10 days to submit the remaining signatures.

"We are going to be very very close after this weekend," Wilder told *Hispanic News*. "On a scale of one to 10 with 10 being absolute metaphysical certainty, I would call it a 9 and a half. ... It's going to happen." He said with the time remaining



They came from the east, they came from the north, they came from the south, and they came from the west to join the recall effort. Supporters surround recall campaign spokesman Harris Wilder at a press conference on Wednesday.

and with the collaboration of the Baptist Ministers Union, the recall ballot question is close.

Wilder also said the petition is solid enough to hold up against any legal challenge that Funkhouser is planning. "I have no doubt there will be a legal challenge ... that's his modus operandi."

He said the number of active petition collectors have grown to about 200 people since the campaign began a month ago.

Susan Ramirez, a community activist, has been with the ef-



fort from the beginning. "The mayor has been reprehensible in his lack of adequately representing the city. He is missing in action."

Ray, president of the Baptist Ministers Union said he has no person in mind to replace Funkhouser if he is removed from office. "What if the president of the United States came to Kansas City and wanted to see our mayor, and someone said you have to go to his home? That answers itself."

When asked whether a political stand against Funkhouser might place in jeopardy the tax-exemption status of the Baptist church, he responded, "I cannot answer for the churches. There is some concern and there will always be a concern."

When asked what he would rather see Funkhouser do, Ray said, "Go home ... or take his wife out of the office."

PEOPLE NEED TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE VIRUS

CONT./PAGE 1

pone any events or to suggest that healthy people stay away from public events. However, if someone is ill, he said, that person should not be interacting with others and potentially spreading the flu.

Texas officials recently decided in the wake of the death of a 23-month-old to recommend cancellation of several public events and for store owners to close for a few days. Archer said the Kansas City health community is not taking that step — at this time.

He said some things to be conscience of in the next few weeks involve routine hygienic practices such as more frequent hand-washing and covering your cough with your elbow or upper sleeve instead of your hands.

A virus is caught by breathing in the air that someone else has coughed into. Archer said people subconsciously rub their eyes or touch their nose during the allergy season, and that should be avoided especially have shaking hands with someone or touching a door knob. In public restrooms, use a paper towel to turn off the facet and to open the door.

La gente necesita estar informada respecto al virus

CONT./PÁGINA 1

las prácticas comunes son las mejores medidas ahora para mantenerse sanos. "En general, nosotros deberíamos de todas maneras lavarnos las manos con mucha más frecuencia".

Él dijo que no fue el consenso de la comunidad local de la salud pública el posponer cualquier evento o sugerir que las personas saludables se mantuvieran alejadas de eventos públicos. Sin embargo, si alguien está enfermo, dijo él, esa persona no debería estar interactuando con otros y estar potencialmente diseminando la influenza.

Como consecuencia del fallamiento de un menor de 23 meses de edad, funcionarios en Texas optaron recientemente por la cancelación de varios eventos públicos y le pidieron a los dueños de negocios cerrar por unos pocos días. Archer dijo que la comunidad de la salud en Kansas City no está tomando esas medidas — en estos momentos.

Él dice que algunas cosas a considerarse en los próximos

He said the health department has sent information to many churches that offer communion. He said officials are recommending churches use sanitizers at the altar. However, he said, "a person has more chances getting the flu from people coughing in the pews

instead from the communion."

Archer said residents need to stay informed about the swine flu and its spread. There have been about 1,600 confirmed cases in 43 states and two deaths linked to the swine flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Archer said the best resources for information are your local government's health agency or www.kcmo.org/health and <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

Here are some basic questions the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have answered about the swine flu virus.

Q: Why is this new virus called the "swine flu"?

A: This virus originally was referred to as "swine flu" because early laboratory testing showed that many of the genes in this new virus were very similar to influenza viruses that normally occur in pigs in North America.

Q: What are the signs and symptoms of this virus in people?

A: The symptoms are similar to seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people infected with this virus have reported diarrhea and vomiting.

Q: How severe is illness associated with this new virus?

A: The CDC is studying the medical histories of people who have been infected by the virus. In seasonal flu, the people at higher risk of complications include those 65 years and older, children younger than 5 years, pregnant women and people of any age with chronic medical conditions.

Q: How does the virus spread?

A: Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. You cannot get the new virus from eating pork or pork products.

Aquí ofrecemos algunas preguntas relacionadas con el virus de la gripe porcina que el Centro para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades ha respondido.

P: ¿Porqué a este nuevo virus se le llama "gripe porcina"?

R: Este virus fue originalmente referido como "gripe porcina" debido a que exámenes preliminares en laboratorios demostraron que muchos de los genes en este nuevo virus eran muy similares a los virus de la influenza que se dan normalmente entre los cerdos en América del Norte.

P: ¿Cuáles son las señales y síntomas del virus en las personas?

R: Respuesta: Los síntomas son similares a los que existen durante la temporada de la influenza e incluyen fiebre, tos, garganta inflamada, narices que gotean o están cerradas, dolores corporales, dolor de cabeza, escalofríos y fatiga. Una significativa cantidad de personas infectadas con el virus han reportado diarrea y vómitos.

P: ¿Qué tan severa es la enfermedad asociada con este nuevo virus?

R: El CDC está estudiando el historial médico de la gente que ha sido infectada por el virus. En la temporada de la influenza, la gente con el mayor riesgo de complicaciones incluyen a aquellos de 65 años de edad y mayores, niños menores de 5 años, mujeres embarazadas y personas de cualquier edad con condiciones médicas crónicas.

P: ¿Cómo se disemina el virus?

R: Los virus de la influenza se diseminan rápidamente de persona a persona mediante la tos o los estornudos de personas con la influenza. Algunas personas podrían llegar a infectarse al tocar algo que contenga el virus de influenza o al tocarse sus bocas o narices. Uno no puede contraer el virus al comer cerdo o productos porcinos.

Know your sick leave benefits

LINDA MERIC

In light of the outbreak of the swine flu virus in Mexico, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that "to stay healthy" people should cover their mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, wash their hands more often, and avoid touching their eyes, mouth or nose.

The CDC also recommends that if you feel sick, you should stay home from work, limiting contact with others to keep from infecting them. It's that final recommendation that might prove the fatal flaw in health education efforts designed to avoid a swine flu pandemic in the United States.

Many American workers who feel ill can't stay home from work. They must go to work anyway because so many — 57 million workers to be precise — don't have a single paid sick day. Especially in this dismal economy, most workers cannot afford to help protect the public health by staying home when they are sick because doing so might mean that they lose a day's pay, or even worse, their jobs.

Low-wage workers are the least likely workers to have jobs that allow them to earn

paid sick days. What does this mean for an America in fear of a pandemic flu virus? It means restaurants, child care centers, nursing homes, hotels, public transit systems, schools and offices across the country could potentially be full of infected workers, who should be home in bed or at the doctor's getting treatment, but will be on the job instead. It means that instead of containing and minimizing public health risks, we'll be maximizing them. It means many sick workers could be making other workers — and the public — sick.

Coming to work sick doesn't help employers either. Workers who must report to work when they are ill are less productive. They don't save money for business; they add to the costs of doing business. The United States is the only industrialized nation that has no state or federal law requiring paid sick days. As a result, half of the workforce has none. In addition, 100 million workers lack a single paid sick day they can use to care for an ill child, spouse or parent. Not only do we lack a federal sick leave policy, San Francisco, the District of Columbia and Milwaukee are the only cities that require employers to provide paid sick days for all workers.

Most Americans, though, believe paid sick days should be a basic right guaranteed by law. Public opinion polls show that a majority consistently list paid sick days as "very important." Allowing workers to take short breaks from their jobs when their health, or the health of their families, demands it, made sense to almost 90 percent of people polled in 2007. This basic labor standard is feasible, affordable and is good public and workplace policy.

U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro are expected to re-introduce the Healthy Families Act in Congress this month. It would allow workers to earn up to seven paid sick days a year to care for themselves or their families. Women's, labor, education, community and other organizations all support this proposal. Maybe this swine flu scare, along with the voices of the American people, will move our Congress to action. To fight the spread of disease and ensure the public health, a basic labor standard for paid sick days is the remedy.

Linda Meric is executive director of 9to5, National Association of Working Women.

quando se tose en lugar de hacerlo con sus manos.

Un virus se contagia al respirar el aire donde otra persona ha tosido. Archer dice que de manera subconsciente, la gente se restriega sus ojos o se tocan sus narices durante la temporada de alergias y eso debería ser evitado especialmente al darle la mano a otra persona o tocar la manija de una puerta. En los baños públicos, utilice toallas de papel para cerrar el grifo o para abrir la puerta.

Él dice que el departamento

de la salud le ha enviado información a muchas iglesias que ofrecen eucaristía o comunión. Él dijo que funcionarios le están recomendando a las iglesias que usen desinfectantes en los altares. Sin embargo, dijo él, "una persona tiene más posibilidades de contraer la influenza de parte de personas tosiendo en las banquetas de las iglesias, que contagiándose durante la eucaristía".

Archer dijo que los residentes deben mantenerse informados respecto a la gripe porcina y a

su diseminación. Allí ha habido una cantidad cercana a los 1.600 casos confirmados en 43 estados y dos muertes conectadas a la gripe porcina, según el Centro para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades. Archer dice que los mejores recursos para obtener información son las agencias gubernamentales locales de la salud o usted también puede dirigirse a www.kcmo.org/health y a <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

Entérese de sus beneficios para ausentarse del trabajo por enfermedad

A causa de la epidemia del virus de la gripe porcina en México, los Centros para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) ha recomendado que para "mantenerse sanas" las personas deben cubrirse sus bocas cuando tosan o estornuden, lavarse sus manos más a menudo y evitar tocarse sus ojos, sus bocas o narices.

El CDC también recomienda que si usted se siente enfermo, debería quedarse en casa y no ir a trabajar, limitar su contacto con otros para evitar infectarlos. Es esa recomendación final lo que podría probar ser el defecto fatal en los esfuerzos de educación de la salud diseñados para evitar una epidemia de gripe porcina en los Estados Unidos.

Muchos trabajadores estadounidenses que se sienten enfermos no se pueden quedar en casa y abstenerse de ir a trabajar. Éstos tienen que ir a trabajar de todos modos porque muchos de ellos — 57 millones de trabajadores para ser precisos — no cuentan con ningún día pagado cuando se enferman. Especialmente en esta funesta economía, la mayoría de los trabajadores no pueden darse el lujo de proteger la salud pública quedándose en casa cuando están enfermos, debido a que si lo hacen, ellos pierden la paga de un día o lo que pudiera ser peor, pudieran perder sus trabajos.

Los trabajadores que reciben bajos ingresos son lo menos propensos a tener trabajos que les permitan recibir dinero durante los días que están enfermos. ¿Qué es lo que esto significa para un EE.UU. temeroso

de la epidemia de un virus de influenza? Significa que los restaurantes, los centros de cuidado infantil, hogares de retiro, hoteles, sistemas de tránsito público y las escuelas y oficinas de todo el país pudieran probablemente encontrarse repletos de trabajadores infectados, quienes deberían estar en casa y en cama o en la oficina del médico recibiendo tratamiento, pero en lugar de eso, ellos se encuentran en sus puestos de trabajo. Esto significa que en vez de contener y minimizar los riesgos para la salud pública, nosotros los estaremos maximizando. Significa que muchos trabajadores enfermos pudieran estar enfermado a otros trabajadores y también al público.

Ir a trabajar cuando se está enfermo no ayuda tampoco a los empleadores. Los trabajadores que deben reportarse al trabajo cuando se encuentran enfermos, son menos productivos. Ellos no le ahorran dinero a los negocios; ellos le agregan al costo de hacer negocios. Estados Unidos es la única nación industrializada que no posee leyes estatales o federales que requieran pagar por los días que las personas que se encuentran enfermas. Como resultado de ello, la mitad de la fuerza de trabajo no cuenta con ninguno. En adición, 100 millones de trabajadores carecen completamente de días pagados por enfermedad que pudieran utilizar para cuidar a un niño, un esposo/a o un padre enfermo. Nosotros no tan sólo carecemos de una política federal para ausentarse por enfermedad, San Francisco, el Distrito de Columbia y Milwaukee son las únicas ciudades que le requieren a los empleadores ofrecerle días pagados por enferme-

dad a todos los trabajadores.

Pero a pesar de todo, la mayoría de los estadounidenses creen que los días pagados por enfermedad deberían ser un derecho básico garantizado por la ley. Las encuestas acerca de la opinión pública demuestran que una mayoría de las personas mencionan en forma consistente los días pagados por enfermedad como algo "muy importante". El permitirle a los trabajadores tomarse breves recesos de sus trabajos cuando su salud o la salud de sus familias así lo demanda, es algo que tiene sentido para casi el 90 por ciento de la gente que fue encuestada en el 2007. Este estándar laboral básico es posible de lograr, se puede costear y es una buena política pública en los lugares de trabajo.

Se espera que el Senador de EE.UU. Ted Kennedy y la Congresista Rosa DeLauro reintroduzcan en el Congreso este mes el Acta Familias Saludables. Ésta le permitirá a los trabajadores obtener hasta siete días por enfermedad pagados al año para que puedan cuidarse a ellos mismos o a sus familias. Organizaciones de mujeres, laborales, de la educación, comunitarias y otras respaldan esta propuesta. A lo mejor, el temor de esta gripe porcina, junto con las voces de los estadounidenses, harán que el Congreso se mueva y actúe. Para combatir la diseminación de enfermedades y asegurar la salud pública, un estándar laboral básico para días pagados por enfermedad es el remedio.

Linda Meric es directora ejecutiva de la Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Trabajadoras 9 a 5.

PLAYING FIELD SET TO GO

CONT./PAGE 1

leveling the field to make a big soccer field, a multi-field, where various sports can be played on it like soccer, rugby and flag football," said Saucedo.

The Park has sat dormant for many years and moles began tunneling their way across it making the grounds unfit for games. "They are God's creatures and you can't eliminate moles from ever returning in anybody's front yard or playing field, but we put down an insecticide to eliminate the grubs that the moles eat. We will continue with the insecticide and it will be user friendly. We won't have to worry about any problems with contaminants or any

of the public who use to love to drive through the park with the intentions of being destructive. The fence also serves the purpose of providing a safety measure for the youth playing ball in the park because as those balls go rolling out into the street, without that fence a child would be shortly following, so we felt that in as many ball fields that are being built in our city and other cities, a protective fence is very much needed so that was included in the project. We also wanted to not just repair the game field that was there but to improve it to a true playing field. We brought in top soil, we leveled off spots, we are putting in irrigation pipes and we are seeding the field with an appropriate game field mix



Soccer is a big sport on Clopper Field, but others will find they can play rugby and flag football in the park as well.

El fútbol (Soccer) es un importante deporte en el Clopper Field, pero otros se darán cuenta que en el parque también podrán jugar rugby y flag football.

problems for anyone using the field," said Salva.

Community residents have been anxious hoping for the revitalization of the park. Meetings and community discussions have been held with residents voicing their concern to the Parks Board and to Mayor Joe Reardon that the park had been abandoned and was attracting undesirable into the neighborhood.

The Parks Commission Board listened to the residents and considered their comments when they decided to remodel the field. "In 2008, there was approximately \$70,000 budgeted under the title of Clopper Park improvements," explained Salva. After an assessment was done, it was determined by the parks and recreation staff that the city needed parks that would serve the needs of area youth with playing fields.

"There was the need for a playing field for softball, baseball but more importantly youth soccer. There was also a proposal last year by an outside volunteer to bring free or inexpensive workshops to teach the sport of Rugby at Clopper Field. We saw that the playground was lacking, we saw the lack of ADA accessibility to certain areas of the park, especially the playground and we saw the need for repairs to the sidewalks," said Salva.

The Park department began to work on the improvements last fall until winter set in and delayed the project. Now that warmer weather is here, work has resumed.

"We repaired the existing softball back stop to the ball field. We have a fence around the park for the process of protecting the park and its new improvements from the members

of grass. As soon as the health of that turf gets established, we can begin to schedule games for youth soccer. It has been a long time since organized games have been played at Clopper and this will be a good return to what the park was meant for," said Salva.

Cross Lines residents, a senior facility located next to the park, requested seating by the tennis courts so that they can use the park. Cross Lines donated money toward the park improvements around the tennis courts. "The seniors requested seating under the shade tree on the east side of the park. They wanted this area built for them so that they could enjoy the park and watch the games. It was a nice partnership with us and Cross Lines," said Salva.

When the park improvements are finished, families will see upgraded playground structures, a sidewalk around the park that will connect to a sidewalk by the street and park benches will be placed along the walk.

Salva told *Hispanic News* that they have been receiving positive comments from the community about the work. The Unified Government Parks and Recreation department maintains 54 parks throughout Wyandotte County.

"Plans are being initiated to address all of the needs in our huge park system. Clopper Park was one of the ones we were able to address now. Many of our parks have needs and we are conscientious of all of our needs and we want to work with all the neighborhoods around our parks to improve the parks to facilities that they can be proud of in their neighborhoods," he said.

Campo de juego listo para comenzar

CONT./PÁGINA 1

"Hay una gran actividad desarrollándose allí. En estos momentos están nivelando el campo para convertirlo en un campo de fútbol (Soccer), un campo múltiple, en donde se puedan jugar varios deportes tales como fútbol, rugby y flag football", dijo Saucedo.

El parque había estado abandonado por muchos años y los topes habían comenzado a cavar túneles haciendo que el terreno no fuera propicio para los juegos. Éstas son criaturas de Diós y uno no puede hacer que los topes no regresen a cualquier patio o campo de juego, pero pusimos insecticidas para eliminar las larvas con que los topes se alimentan. Continuaremos utilizando estos insecticidas que no son dañinos para otros. No tendremos que pro-

gan a la pelota en el parque debido a que esas pelotas ruedan hacia la calle y sin una cerca, los menores podría correr tras ellas, entonces pensamos que en los tantos campos de pelota que se están construyendo en nuestra ciudad y en otras ciudades, una cerca protectora es muy necesaria por lo que fue incluida en el proyecto. Nosotros no queríamos simplemente reparar el campo de juego, sino que también queríamos remodelarlo para convertirlo en un verdadero campo de juego. Trajimos tierra, nivelamos áreas, estamos instalando cañerías de irrigación y estamos plantando el campo con una mezcla de semillas para césped que son apropiadas para campos de juego. Tan pronto como la salud del césped se establezca, podremos comenzar a programar juegos de fútbol juvenil. Ha pasado mucho tiempo sin que se hayan realizado juegos organizados en el Parque Clopper y ésta será una buena manera de retomar el propósito para el cual el parque fue concebido", dijo Salva.

Residentes de Cross Lines, un recinto para jubilados ubicado junto al parque pidieron aposentos cerca de las canchas de tenis para que ellos puedan utilizar el parque. "Los adultos mayores pidieron aposentos bajo la sombra de árboles en el lado este del parque. Ellos querían que esta área se construyera para ellos con el objeto de poder disfrutar del parque y ver los juegos. Fue una grata asociación entre nosotros y Cross Lines", dijo Salva.

Cuando las renovaciones al parque acaben, las familias podrán ver las renovaciones hechas al área de juego, una vereda alrededor del parque se conectará con una vereda cerca de la calle y escaños para parques serán instalados junto a las veredas.

Salva le dijo a *Hispanic News* que ellos han recibido de parte de la comunidad comentarios positivos por el trabajo. El Departamento de Parques y Recreación del Gobierno Unificado mantiene 54 parques a través del Condado de Wyandotte.

"Planes se han iniciado para atender todas las necesidades de nuestro enorme sistema de parques. El Parque Clopper fue uno de los que pudimos atender ahora. Muchos de nuestros parques presentan necesidades y nosotros estamos concientes de nuestras necesidades y queremos trabajar con todos los vecindarios que rodean a nuestros parques para mejorar los parques y convertirlos en recintos de los que ellos puedan enorgullecerse en sus vecindarios", dijo él.

cuparnos de ningún problema con contaminantes o problemas con alguien haciendo uso del campo", dijo Salva.

Residentes de la comunidad han estado esperando ansiosamente la revitalización del parque. Reuniones y discusiones comunales se han realizado con los residentes en las que éstos le han expresado a la Junta de Parques y al Alcalde Joe Reardon sus inquietudes sobre el asunto de que el parque ha estado abandonado y atrayendo a personas indeseables al vecindario.

La Junta de la Comisión de Parques escuchó a los residentes y tomaron en consideración sus comentarios cuando se decidieron a remodelar el campo. "En el 2008, se había concretado un presupuesto de aproximadamente \$70,000 bajo el título de Mejoras para el Parque Clopper", explicó Salva. Después de haberse hecho una evaluación, el personal de parques y recreación llegó a la conclusión de que la ciudad necesitaba parques con campos de juego que atendieran las necesidades de la juventud del área.

"Allí existía la necesidad de un campo de juego para softball, béisbol, pero principalmente para fútbol. También hubo allí el año pasado una propuesta hecha por un voluntario de otra área para traer talleres de trabajo gratis o barato con el objeto de enseñar el deporte del rugby en el Parque Clopper. Nosotros observamos lo que le faltaba al área de juego, observamos la carencia de estándares de la ADA para la accesibilidad de personas discapacitadas a ciertas áreas del parque, especialmente al área de juegos y también observamos la necesidad de reparar las veredas", dijo Salva.

El departamento de parques había comenzado a trabajar en las mejoras el otoño pasado cuando el invierno se dejó venir y retrasó el proyecto. Ahora que el clima más cálido está acá, el trabajo se ha reiniciado.

"Nosotros reparamos la existente protección trasera del campo de pelota. Instalamos una cerca alrededor del parque para el proceso de proteger al parque y sus nuevas renovaciones en contra de miembros del público a quienes les gustaba conducir a través del parque con la intención de destruir. La cerca también tiene el propósito de ofrecer una medida de seguridad para los jóvenes que jue-

FROM THE MAYOR

STRAIGHT TALK WITH THE MAYOR

BASIC SERVICES

Last week I wrote about our new initiative, A City That Works. I have developed this initiative to improve basic services and to increase our citizen's satisfaction with their local government.

Each week my office receives dozens of citizen complaints. Most of those complaints center on a specific problem in the neighborhood of the citizen who wrote us. Some are related to water, some to street maintenance, and some to codes issues. Most often the writers are only contacting the Mayor's office after considerable delays experienced in the appropriate department at City Hall.

I can tell you I wish the Mayor's Office could do more to help these concerned citizens directly. Currently we pass on the complaints to the appropriate department, or to 311 and continue to follow-up with those departments involved. When pos-

sible we follow up directly with the citizen. What this office can't do, and I wish we could, is just directly fix the problem.

Kansas City must get better at providing these basic services. We must learn to be more efficient and more effective. Citizens should not have to wait weeks to have their bulky items picked up, or months to have sewer problems fixed, or years for new street lights.

But, when you hear me say "Kansas City families first" this is what I mean. We have to take care of our residents needs first, or those residents will leave. If residents leave, businesses will have fewer customers. Both lead to lower revenues for the city.

What you can be sure of is that I will fix this problem through the City that Works Initiative. The next two years of my administration will be dedicated to putting Kansas City families first by improving our basic services.

Platica Honesta con el Alcalde

SERVICIOS BÁSICOS

La semana pasada escribí referente a nuestra nueva iniciativa, Una Ciudad que Funciona (A City That Work). Yo he desarrollado esta iniciativa para mejorar los servicios básicos y para aumentar la satisfacción de nuestros ciudadanos para con su gobierno local.

Cada semana mi oficina recibe docenas de quejas de parte de los ciudadanos. La mayoría de estas quejas se centran en un problema específico en el vecindario de ciudadano que nos escribió. Algunas son relacionadas con el agua, algunas con el mantenimiento de las calles y algunas con problemas a los códigos. De manera muy frecuente, quienes escriben se están solamente contactando con la oficina del Alcalde después de haber experimentado considerables demoras en los departamentos correspondientes en el Ayuntamiento.

Les puedo decir que me gustaría que la Oficina del Alcalde pudiera hacer más para ayudar a estos preocupados ciudadanos

directamente. En el presente, le transferimos las quejas a los departamentos concernientes o al 311 y continuamos siguiendo el desarrollo con aquellos departamentos involucrados. Cuando nos es posible, lo seguimos directamente con el ciudadano en cuestión. Lo que esta oficina no puede hacer y desearía que sí pudiera, es simplemente reparar directamente el problema.

Kansas City debe mejorar en proveer estos servicios básicos. Debemos aprender a ser más eficientes y más efectivos. Los ciudadanos no deberían tener que esperar semanas para que sus desperdicios de mayor tamaño sean recogidos o meses para que sus problemas con el alcantarillado sean reparados o años para conseguir luminarias en sus calles.

De lo que ustedes pueden estar seguros es que yo repararé este problema mediante la iniciativa Ciudad que Funciona. Los próximos dos años de mi administración serán dedicados a poner a las familias de Kansas City primero al mejorar nuestros servicios básicos.

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FYI

Local student receives top award



Michael Lopez Pierce of Gladstone, MO (Center) and Shyrh Perry of Fair Grove, MO were presented their awards by SBU athletic director Brent Good in early May.

Bolivar, MO- Michael Lopez Pierce, a sports management major from Gladstone, Mo., and the son of Dan and Monica Pierce, was a co-winner along with Shyrh Perry of the Rex Brown Award for Excellence by Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO. Pierce and Perry received the award, the highest honor presented by SBU athletics. Each year one female and one male senior student-athlete is honored for exhibiting strong Christian character, academic achievement, leadership qualities and demonstrat-

ing an impact on their sport. The award is named in honor of Dr. Rex Brown, a former longtime SBU athletic director and Bearcat baseball coach.

Pierce has received All-American honors in track and cross country as well as Academic All-American honors in three sports. In 2008, Pierce received the 2008 Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sports Scholar third team. He has earned All-MIAA honors and MIAA Athlete of the Week awards in both track and cross-country on multiple occasions. He is the school record holder in numerous events, including

the mile, 3,000 meters, and 5,000 meters, and was a member of the national runner-up indoor medley relay team in 2009. He has provisionally qualified for the 2009 NCAA nationals in the mile and 5,000 meters. He is the MIAA champion in the 5,000 meters.

"I can not think of anyone more deserving of this award," said head track/cross country coach Corey McElhaney. "Michael pushes himself in every aspect of his life, whether it is his spiritual, family, academic, or athletic endeavors. He is always striving to be better. He is the type of young man any coach would want on their team and he was a crucial building block for where this team is today. His leadership and determination will be irreplaceable."

Perry is a four-year member of the Volleyball team. She is the daughter of Mike and Tonnia Perry. She was Academic All-MIAA in 2007 and was twice named to the MIAA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll and also All-MIAA Honorable Mention in 2007.

This story condensed from source provided by Southwest Baptist University.

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Parks and Recreation Department

Kansas City Zoo Polar Bear Exhibit, Project #700080004

BID DATE: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

SCOPE: New Polar Bear Exhibit including viewing building, holding building, utility building, and exhibit space in Kansas City, MO. Scope of Work includes but is not limited to the following: General Requirements, Earthwork, Site Utilities, Landscaping, Asphalt Paving, Chain Link Fences and Gates, Structure Demolition, Cast-in-Place Concrete, Precast Structural Concrete, Masonry, Structural Steel, Metal Fabrications, Rough & Finish Carpentry, Interior Architectural Woodwork, Thermal & Moisture Protection, Windows and Doors, Finishes, Specialties, Animal Containment Systems, Artificial Rockwork, Fire Protection, Mechanical, and Electrical.

The Polar Bear Exhibit will be constructed to meet LEED-NC Silver requirements.

Project requires 15% MBE and 10% WBE Participation.

Please contact Chad Rempe for additional information and assistance; 913.438.3002; fax 913.438.3007; e-mail Chad.Rempe@krausanderson.com

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

DBE Firms – The Hickman Mills C-1 School District is accepting sealed bids for 25 various bid packages for the Early Childhood Center on May 28, 2009 at the District offices at 9000 Old Santa Fe Road, KC, MO 64138. The first nine Bids will be due at 9:00 am, next ten bids due at Noon, and the final six Bids due at 3:00 pm. Public bid openings will follow each. Invitation to bid may be obtained by: contacting the District's CM, The Konrath Group at 816-283-3860; by accessing the District's website at http://hickmanmillsc1sd.sharpschool.com/district_resources/purchasing/; or by accessing MYSmartPlans.com at <http://www.m-repro.com/wskf/childhoodcenterbid/index.php>. A pre-bid conference will be held on May 13, 2009 at 10:00AM CDT at the District's main office at 9000 Old Santa Fe Road, KC, MO 64138. Please contact Jeff Johnson at The Konrath Group 816-283-3860 for more information.



INVITATION TO BID

The Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority of Kansas City, Missouri (LCRA) is soliciting Wrecking Contractors to submit bids for demolition of Shopper's Parkade, a 650-car concrete parking and office structure consisting of 263,613 square feet located at 1025 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO. There will be a mandatory walk thru at the east entrance (1026 McGee Street) on **Friday, June 5, 2009 at 10:00 AM.**

Bid package and demolition specifications will be available beginning **Friday, May 29, 2009**, and may be obtained at 1100 Walnut, Suite 1700, Kansas City, Missouri 64106 (Town Pavilion Building). The cost of bid packets is \$20, payable at pick-up. Each Bidder, before being allowed to bid, shall give a surety, (Bid Bond) in an amount of (5%) of the Contractor's total bid price on the base bid, and placed in the sealed bid envelope. The sealed bid will be accepted up to, but no later than, **2:00 PM Friday, June 19, 2009**, at the office of the LCRA, 1100 Walnut, Suite 1700, Kansas City, Missouri 64106 (Town Pavilion Building).

This project is subject to the LCRA's Affirmative Action Policy and the City of Kansas City's Section 3 Program. The LCRA Affirmative Action Policy requires that the Contractor exert a "good faith effort" to utilize 15% Minority and 7% Women Business Enterprises in the demolition of the Shopper's Parkade and the Section 3 Program requires that Section 3 business concerns in the construction industry be extended preference in contracting, purchasing, and servicing activities by at least 10% of the total dollar amount of the contract to be awarded. Further it is the policy of the City that at least 30% of all new hires "new employees" generated by this project be extended to persons that are Section 3 eligible residents. In essence, Section 3 eligible residents are to be extended preference in new hiring. Details explaining compliance with these requirements is available on our website at www.edckc.com/bid_listings, or call 816.691.2106 for a copy. Construction contracts under \$200,000 are exempt from the MBE/WBE and Section 3 requirements.

For information on the Bid Requirements please call 816.691.2136, Monday-Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM.



The Kansas City Royals is seeking a P/T Mascot Alternate. Qualified candidate will serve as primary alternate for the Club's official costumed Mascot Sluggerrr when needed. Duties include assistance and performance of routines at Kauffman stadium & other venues and overall promotion/marketing of the mascot. Must be at least 18, have 2yrs experience as a Mascot at prof or college level, and at least 6' – 6'4" to fit costume. We offer a competitive salary, & free parking. Pre-employment screening is required. Please list any URL addresses to showcase your work when you apply on-line at www.royals.com or send resume & DVD of performance to: Kansas City Royals PO Box 419969 attn: HR Dept., Kansas City, MO 64141-6969.

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MBE/WBE/DBE INVITATION TO BID

Barsto Construction, Inc. is soliciting MBE/WBE/DBE subcontractor/supplier bid proposals for the **Kansas City Zoo -Polar Bear Exhibit, Kansas City, MO.** Prevailing Wages apply. Proposals must be submitted to our office by May 20, 2009 by 1:00 pm. Questions, call Janet McKinney or Dick Stanton at 816-421-5677; fax 816-421-8417. EOE.



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JUAREZ POLICE DENIED SYSTEMATIC MURDERS

CONT./PAGE 1

Cesar E. Chavez Day. After being inspired by Chavez and Dolores Huerta, she has become a community activist.

As Jitner began digging into what occurred to the girls, she uncovered a story that would lead her to document multiple murders, which later became the basis of a movie called "Bordertown." She discovered that 475 women had been murdered in Juarez and their murders and disappearances had never been investigated by the local authorities.

According to an Amnesty International USA press release, Mexican and Guatemalan women are being murdered at alarming rates but the perpetrators overwhelmingly never brought to justice. In Guatemala, more than 2,500 women and girls have been murdered since 2001 and in Juarez, the bodies of 475 women have been recovered. The murder rate there could be as high as 5,000 because that is how many young women have been reported missing over the years.

Except for the girls' families, no one seemed concerned that these women had disappeared or that murder was occurring.

The missing person cases were never investigated by the police, so the mothers of the missing girls organized and began to search for their daughters each Sunday after Mass.

"Every Sunday they would go to Mass and then they split up and would go to the various deserts to look for the bodies. That is how eventually they found the 475 bodies that we know about. The Juarez police did not find these bodies. They refused to recognize that these murders happened. The Mexican government absolutely claims there is no problem in Juarez," she said.

As part of her presentation at UMKC, she showed film clips of the documentary she made to a rapt audience, which grumbled when they learned the Juarez authorities denied the killings and did not investigate.

Jitner heard about 14-year-old Nancy Villablobos who worked in a factory and was kidnapped, raped, beaten, and left for dead in the desert. She was the only one that had survived an attack and could identify her attacker, so Jitner worked with MC International and helped to get the girl across the border into the United States for protection.

"The young girl had fallen asleep on the bus that took the workers to and from the factories. The bus driver, who worked for the factory, drove her into the desert. He met another man there where they both raped and attacked her and left her for dead. This young girl literally crawled out of her grave. She saw a gas station and the attendant took her to her family's home. They realized if they took her to the hospital she would be murdered because she is the only person to have survived an attack. She was the only person who could positively identify the bus driver as being involved in her abduction," Jitner said.

With the FBI's help, a case was built against the bus driver and a trial was conducted. The bus driver was charged with sexual assault. "He was killed afterward. He was executed and his attorney was executed and several others who worked with him, we don't know by whom, but somebody obviously didn't want him to speak," she said.

Human smuggling coming through the gateway of El Paso, Texas, has had a long history. "We have cartel smugglings in Juarez. That is what they do. Suddenly you have this huge population of innocent, young,

beautiful 14- and 15-year-old girls going to work at 3 a.m. and coming back at 1 a.m. They walk hours to get to the bus in the dark with no light and suddenly these girls start disappearing," she said.

As an admirer of Cesar Chavez and the work that he did during his life, Jitner followed his example and has become the voice that is taken a stand for the murder women in Juarez. She is traveling across the United States speaking out about the "femicide" that is occurring. She is asking people to visit the Amnesty International Web site and to sign the petitions on the site that support human rights. The Web site is www.Amnestyusa.org and on the left side, click on Take Action and show your support by signing the three petitions.

"The abductions of these young girls, people are making a great deal of money off them, by selling their organs or selling them into the sex trade," she said.

Authorities in Juarez do not want the story told, Jitner said. When it was discovered that Jitner was producing a movie called "Bordertown," which is the story of the missing women, the police tried to scare her

and her production crew out of Mexico.

Jitner thought it was important to show the images of where the women lived and worked. The shantytowns that had popped up along the borders had no running water, no electricity and no streets. Because this was a story the authorities did not want told, they began to track down where Jitner and her film crew would be and they would show up at the site and take her film.

"The first day that I was there, they (the police) knew we were coming and my assistant David Estrada was kidnapped by the Juarez police and tortured with a cattle prod. He had to admit that we were there shooting scenes for the movie, where we were staying and what film footage we had shot. He was released and he went back to the United States. I sent the rest of my crew back and I stayed with one camera man," she said.

The mothers of the missing girls wanted the message of what was happening in the town to get out. They worked alongside Jitner at the different locations and they helped her to get her film across the border. "The police would show up at our locations and they would take my

film, but I would always have a dupe tape to give them, and I would stash the real film footage. Eventually they caught onto that and they took our cameras," she explained.

During the filming of her movie "Bordertown," Jitner had received serious death threats as well as the two actors, Jennifer Lopez and Antonio Banderas, warning them not to enter Mexico to film.

It was not an easy task to get the film produced. She had to fight to get her film footage, she had to fight to find a studio that would back her to produce the film and once the movie was produced, she had to fight to get it shown in Mexico.

The film was shown in Mexico City and Juarez but did not receive a positive viewing. "People would fire bullets into the movie theatre just to scare people from going to see it. They declared it a pack of lies. They didn't want anybody to address this issue. There are many reasons why, there are so many problems on how these factories are run, outside of the fact that these girls were murdered. Once you open the Pandora box, it is endless in terms of violations. You have human rights violations and this is a huge money making source of money for U.S. companies," she said.

Policía de Juárez niega muertes sistemáticas

CONT./PÁGINA 1



en el desierto. Ella es la única que ha sobrevivido a un ataque y pudo identificar a su atacante, por lo que Martínez trabajó con MC Internacional y ayudó a pasar a la niña a través de la frontera hacia EE.UU. para obtener protección.

"La joven se había quedado dormida en el bus que llevaba a los trabajadores desde y hacia las fábricas. El conductor del bus, quien trabajaba para la fábrica, la condujo hasta el desierto. Allí él se junto con otro hombre y ambos la violaron y la atacaron y la dejaron por muerta. Esta jovencita literalmente salió de gatas desde su tumba. Ella llegó a una gasolinera y el asistente la llevó hasta la casa de su familia. Ellos se dieron cuenta de que si la llevaban al hospital, ella sería asesinada porque ella es la única persona en haber sobrevivido un ataque. Ella era la única persona que pudiera haber identificado al conductor del bus como la persona que estuvo involucrada en su rapto", dijo Martínez.

Con la ayuda del FBI, se construyó un caso en contra del conductor del bus y se realizó un juicio. El conductor del bus fue acusado con asalto sexual. "Él fue asesinado más tarde. Él fue ejecutado y su abogado fue ejecutado y varios otros que trabajaban con él, no sabemos quién lo hizo, pero obviamente que alguien no quería que él hablara", dijo ella.

El contrabando humano pasando a través del acceso de El Paso, Texas, ha tenido una larga historia. "Tenemos contrabandos del cartel en Juárez. Eso es lo que ellos hacen. Repentinamente uno tiene esta enorme población de niñas de 14 y 15 años que son inocentes, jóvenes, hermosas yendo a trabajar las 3 a.m. y regresando a la 1 a.m. Ellas caminan por horas para tomar el bus en la oscuridad sin luz y repentinamente estas niñas comienzan a desaparecer", dijo ella.

Como admiradora de César Chávez y del trabajo que hizo durante su vida, Martínez sigue su ejemplo y se ha convertido en la voz que está clamando por los derechos de las mujeres asesinadas en Juárez. Ella está viajando por los Estados Unidos hablando sobre el "femicidio" que está ocurriendo. Ella le está pidiendo a la gente que visite el portal Internet de Amnistía Internacional y que firmen las peticiones en el portal que respaldan a los derechos humanos. El portal es www.Amnestyusa.org y en el lado izquierdo, oprima el botón con la frase Take Action (Tome Acción) y demuestre su apoyo firmando las tres peticiones.

"Los raptos de estas jóvenes,

la gente está haciendo mucho dinero a costa de ellas, vendiendo sus órganos o vendiéndolas en el mercado del sexo", dijo ella.

Las autoridades en Juárez no quieren que la historia se cuente, dijo Martínez. Cuando se descubrió que Martínez estaba produciendo una película titulada "Pueblo Fronterizo", que es la historia de las mujeres desaparecidas, la policía trató de asustarla a ella y a su equipo de producción para que se fueran de México.

Martínez pensó que era importante mostrar las imágenes de dónde las mujeres vivían y trabajaban. Los poblados marginales que se han levantado a lo largo de la frontera no tienen agua corriente, no tienen electricidad y no tienen calles. Debido a que ésta fue una historia que las autoridades no querían contar, ellos comenzaron a seguirle la pista a Martínez y a su equipo de filmación y donde ellos iban, ellos se aparecían y les quitaban su filme.

ANNUAL BONITO MICHOACÁN PARADE HITS THE PAVEMENT IN KCK



dárselas, y escondía la filmación verdadera. Eventualmente ellos se dieron cuenta y se llevaron nuestras cámaras", explicó ella.

Durante la filmación de su película "Pueblo Fronterizo", Martínez además de los dos actores, Jennifer López y Antonio Banderas, recibieron serias amenazas de muerte advirtiéndoles que no entraran a México a filmar.

No fue una tarea fácil hacer que se produjera el filme. Ella tuvo que luchar para filmar sus escenas, ella tuvo que luchar para encontrar un estudio que la apoyara para producir el filme y una vez que la película fue producida, ella tuvo que luchar para que se mostrara en México.

El filme fue exhibido en Ciudad de México y en Juárez, pero no recibió una crítica positiva. "Algunas personas disparaban balas en la sala de cine simplemente para asustar a la gente para que no fueran a verla. Ellos declararon que la película era un montón de mentiras. Ellos no querían que nadie tratara



This month brings May flowers and within the Latino communities in the Kansas City area, it also brings many events on both sides of the stateline. On May 9, the annual Bonito Michoacán store in Kansas City, Kan., hosted an annual parade that began at 18th Street and Minnesota Ave. Hundreds of residents filled the streets and sidewalks of downtown KCK all way to 7th Street. Armando Romero who puts on the parade each year said he was hoping for good weather and his wish came true. The event, according to Romero, is to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. He believes it is important to the people who have journeyed from Mexico and now live in the metro area to celebrate this important day of history. The sky was blue and the people who attended enjoyed the many floats, horses, dancers, marching bands and all the vehicles that were draped with the American and Mexican flags.

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A healthier environment for children

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALADRAN
HISPANIC NEWS

To some people, the structure looked like a giant dollhouse. But the message it was delivering was serious and the Kansas City and federal officials standing nearby were not playing around.

"Doctors should never have to inform parents that their own home caused their children to be sick," said Eugene Lipscomb, deputy regional director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). "If we can educate young mothers about health and safety hazards in the home before their child ends up in an emergency room, then we've done our job."

The model home structure, which was an exhibit at Fiesta Kansas City, was the centerpiece of the Healthy Homes for Healthy Children Initiative —

an educational campaign started by HUD and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that gives parents information they need to protect their children from health and safety hazards in the home.

"Our goal is to protect children and give parents the tools they need to make certain their kids grow up safe and healthy," Lipscomb said. Officials with HUD and the EPA joined Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President Carlos Gomez to promote the initiative during a press conference at Fiesta Kansas City. At the home display, educational pamphlets and fact sheets about lead, asthma, mold and moisture control, carbon monoxide, pests and other health home hazards were distributed to visitors.

"Children can spend up to 90 percent of their time indoors," said EPA regional administra-

tor William Rice. "This means they are at greater risk for health problems that come from indoor environmental hazards. We can work to empower parents and caregivers to take steps to protect children's health."

Ruth Bass, a parent who attended the press conference, said informing parents about home safety was a good idea. "People are not always aware about the lead that exists in their homes," she said. She said she was glad her son — who was among the students from Academie Lafayette Charter School invited to participate — learning about safety through the program.

Also at the press conference, Lipscomb presented to Funkhouser, a check for \$2.9 million for a Lead Hazard Control Grant to continue the city's lead hazard control project called Lead Safe KC.

"This grant will give the city

valuable resources to continue addressing a serious threat to our young people in lead-based paints," Funkhouser said. "I want Kansas City families to know we are working to ensure that their children are protected."

The \$2.9 million grant is under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. The City's Lead Safe KC project will use the funds to protect children from lead poisoning by conducting lead hazard control activities. The Kansas City Public Housing Authority will also be involved and reach more than 1,800 Section 8 landlords with information and applications for remediation.

To learn more about the program, visit <http://www.hud.gov> and search on the site for "Healthy Homes for Healthy Children."



While organizers were putting the final touches on this year's Fiesta Kansas City at Crown Center, there was another event occurring that involved millions of dollars. Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser accepted a check for \$2.9 million for the city to continue its lead hazard control project called Lead Safe KC.

Mientras los organizadores le daban los toques finales a la Fiesta Kansas City de este año en el Crown Center, allí también estaba ocurriendo otro evento que involucraba millones de dólares. El Alcalde de Kansas City Mark Funkhouser aceptó un cheque por la suma de \$2,9 millones para que la ciudad pueda continuar con su proyecto para los peligros del plomo que se llama Lead Safe KC.

Un medioambiente más saludable para los niños

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Para algunas personas, la estructura se asemeja a una casa de muñecas gigante, pero el mensaje que estaba entregando era serio y los funcionarios de Kansas City y federales que se hallaban cerca no estaban jugando.

"Los médicos nunca deberían tener que informarle a sus pacientes que sus propias casas enfermaron a sus hijos", dijo Eugene Lipscomb, subdirector regional del Departamento de la Vivienda y el Desarrollo Urbano de EE.UU. (HUD). "Si pudiéramos educar a las mamás jóvenes sobre los peligros a la salud y a la seguridad en los hogares antes de que sus niños acaben en la sala de emergencias, entonces habremos hecho nuestro trabajo".

La estructura de la casa modelo, la cual se encontraba en

exhibición en la Fiesta Kansas City, era el tema central de la Iniciativa para Hogares Saludables para Niños Saludables — una campaña educativa comenzada por HUD y la Agencia para la Protección del Medioambiente de EE.UU. (EPA) que le entrega información necesaria a los padres para que éstos protejan a sus niños en contra de peligros a la salud y a la seguridad en los hogares.

"Nuestro objetivo es el de proteger a los niños y entregarle a los padres las herramientas que necesitan para asegurarse de que sus hijos crezcan seguros y saludables", dijo Lipscomb. Funcionarios de HUD y de la EPA se unieron con Alcalde de Kansas City Mark Funkhouser y con el Presidente de la Cámara Hispana de Comercio, Carlos Gómez, para promover la iniciativa en una conferencia de prensa realizada durante la Fiesta Kansas City. En la ex-

hibición de la casa, panfletos educativos y hojas enumerando hechos sobre el plomo, el asma, el moho y el control de la humedad, el monóxido de carbono, pestes y otros peligros caseros de la salud le fueron distribuidos a los visitantes.

"Los niños pueden pasar hasta un 90 por ciento de su tiempo puertas adentro", dijo el administrador regional de la EPA, William Rice. "Esto significa que enfrentan un riesgo mayor de contraer problemas a la salud provenientes de peligros medioambientales producidos al interior de las casas. Nosotros podemos trabajar para potenciar a los padres y a las personas que los cuidan para que éstos tomen medidas para proteger la salud de los niños".

Ruth Bass, una mamá que asistió a la conferencia de prensa, dijo que el informarle a los padres sobre la seguridad en el hogar era una buena idea. "La gente no está siempre al tanto re-

specto al plomo que se encuentra en sus hogares", dijo ella. Ella dijo estar feliz de que su hijo — quien se encontraba entre los estudiantes de la Escuela Charter Academie Lafayette que habían sido invitados a participar — estaba aprendiendo sobre seguridad mediante el programa.

También durante la conferencia de prensa, Lipscomb le hizo entrega a Funkhouser de un cheque por la suma de \$2,9 millones provenientes de un Subsidio para Controlar los Peligros del Plomo para que él continuara con el proyecto para el control de los peligros del plomo de la ciudad el cual es llamado Lead Safe KC (KC Libre de Plomo).

"Este subsidio le entregará a la ciudad importantes recursos para continuar tratando la seria amenaza que representan para nuestros niños las pinturas a base de plomo", dijo Funkhouser. "Quiero que las familias de Kansas City sepan que estamos

trabajando para asegurarnos de que sus hijos estén protegidos".

El subsidio de \$2,9 millones proviene del Acta para la Reversión y la Recuperación Estadounidense. El Proyecto Lead Safe KC de la ciudad utilizará los fondos para proteger a los niños en contra del envenenamiento por causa del plomo al conducir actividades relacionadas con el control de los peligros del plomo. La Autoridad de la Vivienda Pública de Kansas City también estará involucrada y le llegará a más de 1.800 propietarios caseros

pertencientes a la Sección 8 con información y formularios para la inscripción a participar en remediar el problema.

Para enterarse más sobre el programa, visite <http://www.hud.gov> y busque el sitio titulado "Healthy Homes for Healthy Children." ("Hogares Saludables para Niños Saludables").

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Hispanic Chamber of Commerce organizers of the Fiesta Kansas City said crowds came to the event this year in droves and whether you came for a little Tejano, Mexican or other Latin music, it was all fun. Organizers said they wanted to thank the thousands that stopped by at Crown Center.

La Cámara Hispana de Comercio, organizadores de la Fiesta Kansas City, dijeron que una gran concurrencia vino en masa al evento de este año y ya sea hubieran venido por un poquito de música tejano, mexicana u otro tipo de música latina, todo fue diversión. Los organizadores dijeron que querían agradecerle a los miles de personas que se detuvieron en el Crown Center.