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KANSAS CITY Hispanic News

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Rivera Disagrees Where Boundary Lines Meet

JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

IN-DEPTH REPORT

A privacy fence has made two Westside neighbors anything but neighborly.

Terri Rivera, who has lived in her home 2137 Belleview most of her life, hoped to be a good neighbor to newcomer Ryan Fischer when he purchased the new upscale house next to her three-generation family home.

But a disagreement between the two neighbors erupted when Fischer constructed a six-foot to ten-foot white metal fence around his property, surrounding a newly constructed swimming pool. Rivera cried foul when the fence posts were set in what she believes is her property. She claims Fischer's fence has taken three feet of her yard. But Fischer has told Rivera the fence is properly in his yard, according to his surveyor.

Rivera said told Hispanic News, "He said he had a surveyor come and he said that three feet of my property is his property. I told him that could not be because our wall has been there for more than 60 years and the fence he knocked down had been there for more than 60 years. I was very upset and he said that three feet is his so he went ahead and outlined the fence."

However, Rivera maintains the section where Fischer's new metal fence sits has been in her family for more than 60 years. She also said her family has maintained the once-vacant parcel where Fischer's new swimming pool was built.

On July 31, Hispanic News tried to contact Fischer, but when questioned about his fence, he said, "I have decided not to comment to the news. Thank you for calling." He then hung up.

Rivera said the fence began



For Terri Rivera (right), a view that she once took for granted is now blocked by her new neighbor's fence. In July, homeowner Ryan Fischer erected a privacy fence to screen his pool. Rivera called a KCMO city code inspector and complained the fence was too high. The city agreed and issued a stop order on July 31. Later that same day, Fischer told officials he would comply, and the city released the stop order.

Para Terri Rivera (derecha), una vista que una vez fue algo asegurado está ahora obstruida por la nueva cerca de su vecino. En julio, el propietario Ryan Fischer levantó una cerca para cubrir su piscina. Rivera llamó a un inspector de los códigos de la ciudad de KCMO y se quejó que la cerca era muy alta. La ciudad concordó con ella y emitió una orden para detener su construcción el 31 de julio. Más tarde, ese mismo día, Fischer le dijo a los oficiales que él lo aceptaría y la ciudad levantó la orden de detenerla.



Rivera no Está de acuerdo en Dónde se Juntan las Líneas Divisorias

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

REPORTAJE EN PROFUNDIDAD

Una cerca divisoria ha hecho que dos vecinos del Westside pierdan sus espíritus vecinales.

Terri Rivera, quien ha vivido en Belleview Road la mayoría de su vida, esperaba ser una buena vecina para el recién llegado Ryan Fischer cuando éste compró la nueva y lujosa casa

junto a su hogar familiar de tres generaciones.

Pero un desacuerdo entre los dos vecinos explotó cuando Fischer construyó una cerca de metal blanco de entre seis y diez pies de altura alrededor de su propiedad, encerrando una recientemente construida piscina o alberca. Rivera se pronunció cuando los postes de la cerca fueron puestos en lo que ella cree ser su propiedad. Ella alega que la cerca de Fischer ha tomado tres pies de su patio. Pero Fischer le ha dicho a Rivera que la cerca está ubicada adecuada-

LO QUE LOS / PÁGINA 2

A SENSELESS SHOOTING



Tina's Hair Salon usually sits on a quiet block. But on the evening of Aug. 10, three armed men entered the salon with a motive to rob, but in the end an employee was killed.

El salón de peluquería de Tina se ubica en lo que es comunmente una manzana tranquila. Pero en la tarde del 10 de agosto, tres hombres armados entraron al salón con el motivo de robar, pero al final un empleado fue asesinado.

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN • HISPANIC NEWS

Three men entered a West side salon on Monday and demanded cash. An employee inside the shop tried to stop the robbery and struggled with one of the armed suspects. A shotgun went off, and the employee fell. He later died at an area hospital.

THEY WILL NOT WIN/PAGE 3

Una balacera sin sentido

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN • HISPANIC NEWS

Tres hombres entraron al salón del Westside el lunes y demandaron dinero en efectivo. Un empleado dentro de la tienda trató de detener el robo y luchó con uno de los sospechosos armados. Una escopeta se disparó y el empleado cayó. Él falleció más tarde en un hospital del área.

"Fue sin sentido", dijo un conmovido Lona, un dueño de negoci-

ELLOS NO GANARÁN/PÁGINA 3

Sotomayor a first on highest court

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN • HISPANIC NEWS

For Sonia Sotomayor, taking the oath to become the newest associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court was an important moment in her life. For Lenexa, Kan., resident Esther Valladolid-Wolf, the oath was a pivotal moment in history.

"To have a Hispanic woman sworn into the most powerful court in the world means that we have reached the epitome of the power structure in the United States," Valladolid-Wolf told Hispanic News. She and a few friends and neighbors gathered on Saturday to witness the moment unfold. They cheered and smiled as they heard the 55-year-old judge repeat the words administered to her by Chief Justice John Roberts.

With her brother, Juan Luis Sotomayor, by her side and

her mother, Celina Sotomayor, holding a bible for her daughter, the judge pledged to "faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me." After the oath, Roberts congratulated her and welcomed her to the high court. Sonia Sotomayor is the first Latina and the third woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court. The U.S. Senate confirmed her with by a vote of 68-31.

At her watch party in Lenexa,

SOTOMAYOR/PAGE 7



Photocredit: www.cnn.com

(Left to right) Freda Mendez Smith, Mary Lou Jaramillo, Esther Valladolid-Wolf and Lodeie Bustamante watch as Sonia Sotomayor takes the oath to become the first Latina justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. The women could not resist clapping and cheering afterward.

Freda Méndez Smith, Mary Lou Jaramillo, Esther Valladolid-Wolf y Lodeie Bustamante observan como Sonia Sotomayor toma el juramento para convertirse en la primera jueza latina de la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos. Las mujeres no pudieron resistirse a aplaudir y aclamar al final.

Sotomayor, algo que sucede por primera vez en la corte suprema

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Para Sonia Sotomayor, el tomar juramento para convertirse en la jueza asociada más reciente de la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos, fue un importante momento en su vida. Para la residente de Lenexa, Kan., Esther Wolf-Valladolid,

el juramento fue un momento trascendental en la historia.

"El que una mujer hispana jure para formar parte de la corte más poderosa en el mundo significa que hemos alcanzado el arquetipo de la estructura del poder en Estados Unidos", Wolf-Valladolid le dijo a Hispanic News. Ella junto a unos

pocos amigos y vecinos se reunieron el sábado para ser testigos del momento mientras éste se desarrollaba. Ellos aclamaron y sonrieron mientras escuchaban a la jueza de 55 años de edad repetir las palabras dichas a ella por el Principal Juez John Roberts.

Con su hermano, Juan Luís Sotomayor, a su lado y

su madre, Celina Sotomayor, sosteniendo una biblia para su hija, la jueza se comprometió a "impartir imparcial y fidedignamente y desempeñar todos los deberes puestos sobre mí". Después del juramento, Roberts la congratuló y le dio la bienvenida a la Corte Suprema.

SOTOMAYOR/PÁGINA 7



In our next issue, we'll share how a local church is surviving and how parishioners are working together to improve their church and community hall.



THE NEIGHBORLY THING TO DO



As Ryan Fisher builds his swimming pool and fence, no one seems to dispute the legality of his addition including city inspectors, but some residents, including Alice Gomez, questions whether this whole matter could have been handled in a more neighborly way.

Mientras Ryan Fisher construye su cerca y piscina, nadie pareciera disputar la legalidad de su adición, pero algunos residentes, incluyendo a Alice Gómez, cuestionan si la totalidad del asunto pudiera haber sido manejado de una manera más de buenos vecinos.

CONT./PAGE I

to go up in July. When she came home from work one day, she was shocked to see metal fencing. "He had already put up the stakes and the 2-by-4 posts into my front yard and all the way down the side of my house," Rivera said.

While Fischer may be legally within his rights to construct the fence, Rivera said she was hoping Fischer would give her time to hire a surveyor to determine whether Fischer's information was factual. If the property line was accurate, Rivera said she had hoped they could compromise on the style of fence installed.

A request by Fischer asking the Kansas City, Mo., Zoning Board for a variance to the minimum required front yard setback of a swimming pool was approved at the board's regular meeting on June 23. According to the plan review submitted to the Zoning Board, there would be new fencing along the north property line. The proposed swimming pool also would be enclosed by a fence. The height and type of fence were not provided in the submitted site plan.

Lo que los buenos vecinos deben hacer

CONT./PÁGINA I

mente en su patio. De acuerdo con su agrimensor.

Rivera le dijo a Hispanic News, "Él dijo que había hecho venir a un agrimensor y éste dijo que tres pies de mi propiedad son de su propiedad. Le dije que ello no podía ser ya que nuestro muro había estado allí por más de 60 años y la cerca que él derribó había estado allí por más de 60 años. Yo me molesté mucho y él dijo que tres pies eran de él por lo que continuó y delimitó la cerca".

Sin embargo, Rivera mantiene que la sección donde se encuentra la nueva cerca de metal de Fischer ha estado en su familia por más de 60 años. Ella también dijo que su familia ha mantenido el antiguamente vacante terreno en donde la nueva piscina de Fischer fue construida.

El 31 de julio, Hispanic News trató de contactarse con Fischer, pero cuando se le cuestionó respecto a su cerca, él dijo, "He decidido no hacerle comentarios a la prensa. Gracias por llamar". Luego él colgó.

Rivera dice que la cerca se comenzó a construir en julio. Cuando ella llegó un día de regreso del trabajo, quedó impresionada de ver la cerca de metal. "Él ya había puesto las estacas y



Rivera and other neighbors told Hispanic News that the type of metal material used to screen the swimming pool looks like a fence surrounding a salvage yard.

Rivera y otros vecinos le dijeron a Hispanic News que el tipo de material metálico utilizado para cubrir la piscina luce como una cerca de las que cubren patios de partes usadas de vehículos.

constructing a fence on what she believes is her property.

"What is mine is mine and I want to keep what is mine," Rivera said. "I have very little yard space left on that side of the house now. I can't even get my lawnmower in there."

Rivera's boyfriend, Carlos Ortiz, showed Hispanic News how narrow the space is between Rivera's home and privacy fence. As he maneuvered in the 39 inches of space between the house and the fence, he could not fully extend his arms. Rivera said she cannot reach that part her yard from the front of her property to mow without carrying her lawnmower over steps.

Rivera's roots are deep in the Westside and she has no intention of letting a privacy fence drive her from her longtime family home. It is not just a house to her; it is a home containing memories of three generations of women in her family. It is a home that she hopes her children will want to continue to live in after she is gone.

"I have lived on the Westside all of my life. I, my family and friends sit on my porch and we could see the Guadalupe Center's fiestas and hear the bands and now we won't be able to see anything but a fence," an emotional Rivera said.

Talks between Rivera, Ortiz, and Fischer have failed. They have asked Fischer to stop working on the fence until they could get secure a survey of their property. But, according to Ortiz and Rivera, Fischer would not comply. Rivera said she has retained an attorney who has spoken to Fischer, requesting that he stop building the fence until they could check the surveyor's facts, but Rivera alleges that Fischer declined the request.

"All we have asked him to do was hold off on the fence until we could get things checked out," Ortiz said.

Rivera said, "I have spoken with a surveyor and I am in the process of faxing the paperwork to him."

Junta de Ajustes Zonales había otorgado esta variación.

Alice Gómez, una activista comunitaria, concuerda con que Fischer podría estar legalmente dentro de sus derechos en lo que respecta al emplazamiento de la cerca, pero ella quisiera que los dos vecinos pudieran llegar a un acuerdo. "Yo tuve una conversación con Ryan y le pregunté si estaría dispuesto a trabajar con Terri. Yo esperaba incluso que si la línea de la propiedad se extendía hasta donde se encuentra su cerca, él haría lo propio de un buen vecino y le daría algunas concesiones en ese lado de su casa para que pudieran pasar a través de esa sección de su patio. Yo sé que sus conversaciones no han salido bien. Le pedí que trabajara con ella y aliviara cualquier enfado entre ellos", dijo Gómez. "Él dijo no y que iba a ir con lo que dijera el agrimensor".

Rivera dijo que la disputa ha sido muy apasionada y que ella está determinada a mantener lo que es de ella. Ella le dijo a Hispanic News que Fischer le había dicho que estaba construyendo una piscina, pero que ella no sabía que se ubicaría en el patio frontal y que él estaría construyendo una cerca en lo que ella piensa que es su propiedad.

"Lo que es mío es mío y quiero mantener lo que es mío", dijo Rivera. "Me queda ahora muy poco espacio de patio en ese lado de la casa. No siquiera puedo llevar mi cortadora de césped allí".

El novio de Rivera, Carlos Ortiz, le mostró a Hispanic News lo angosto que es el espacio entre la casa de Rivera y la cerca. Mientras él maniobra en las 39 pulgadas de espacio entre la casa y la cerca, él no puede completamente extender sus brazos. Rivera dice que ella no puede alcanzar esa parte de su patio desde el frente de su propiedad para cortar el césped sin tener que llevar la máquina cortadora de

She said she is ready to take her neighbor to court if necessary. She understands that it could be an expensive decision but she wants to keep the property line accurate.

Gomez said she went through a comparable situation but with better results when the Guadalupe Center built a parking lot next to her home. The difference is that the Guadalupe Center was willing to consider Gomez's thoughts about what she would like to see around the parking lot and I was also included in the landscaping discussions. They really didn't have to do that because it was their property, but it was the neighborly thing to do and that is what I would like to see happen with these two. I want them to come together and talk this out," she said.

Gomez said she would meet with Rivera and Fischer to mediate talks and hopefully come to an agreement.

"He should try to work with his neighbors, we have always had a peaceful neighborhood and we don't have trouble with our neighbors about our property. This is creating a bad situation. It is a hideous fence. I never dreamed he would build something that ugly. That type of fence is an insult," Gomez said.

On July 31, a resident called the city inspector's office to complain that Fischer's fence was very high and that some parts of the fence were as high as 10 feet tall.

That same day at 12:15 p.m., Daryl Baker of the city inspector's office issued a stop-order, according to documents. Inspectors had said the fence around the pool was too high. According to city officials, they explained, "the contractor states that they (he) will remove fencing that does not meet code height requirements." Baker, in his report, stated the fence was not in compliance. Later that same day, according to city officials, the contractor would

césped sobre peldaños.

Las raíces de Rivera son profundas en el Westside y ella no tiene intenciones de dejar que una cerca la saque de la casa que ha estado por mucho tiempo en su familia. Para ella no es solamente una casa; es un hogar que contiene memorias de tres generaciones de mujeres en su familia. Es un hogar en el cual ella espera que sus hijos querrán seguir viviendo después que ella haya fallecido.

"He vivido en el Westside toda mi vida. Yo, mi familia y amigos nos sentábamos en mi porche y podíamos ver las fiestas del Guadalupe Center y escuchar las bandas y ahora no podremos ver nada más que una cerca", dijo una compungida Rivera.

Conversaciones entre Rivera, Ortiz y Fischer han fracasado. Ellos le han pedido a Fischer que detenga la construcción de su cerca hasta que puedan asegurar la presencia de un agrimensor en su propiedad. Pero, según Ortiz y Rivera, Fischer no está de acuerdo. Rivera dijo que ha retenido a un abogado que había hablado con Fischer, pidiéndole que detenga la construcción hasta que puedan revisar los calculos del agrimensor, pero Rivera alega que Fischer declinó la petición.

"Todo lo que le pedimos fue que suspendiera la cerca hasta que pudieramos revisar las cosas", dijo Ortiz.

Rivera dijo, "Yo he platicado con un agrimensor y estoy en el proceso de enviarle a él los papeles en un fax".

Ella dijo estar lista a llevar a su vecino a la corte si fuera necesario. Ella entiende que pudiera ser una decisión cara, pero ella quiere mantener la exactitud de la línea de la propiedad.

Gómez dice que pasó por una situación similar, pero con mejores resultados cuando el Guadalupe Center construyó un lote de estacionamientos



Terri Rivera shows Hispanic News that she cannot maneuver between her front porch and her back yard.

Terri Rivera le demostró a Hispanic News que no puede maniobrar entre su porche del frente y su patio trasero.



Charles Ortiz, Terri Rivera's boyfriend, showed how narrow it is between the house and fence. Ortiz was not able to fully extend his arms. Where he stands, the area is only 39 inches wide. Other areas extend wider.

Charles Ortiz, el novio de Terri Rivera, le demostró a Hispanic News lo angosto que es entre la casa y la cerca en un punto cercano a la casa. Ortiz no pudo extender sus brazos completamente. Donde él se posó, el área tiene un ancho de solamente 39 pulgadas.

provide construction-related documents. In addition, the contractor states that he would remove fencing that does not meet current height requirements. After that discussion, Baker released the order, meaning Fischer could go back to work on the fence.

City code officials have said Fischer has lowered the fence on the front yard facing Bellevue and is complying with city code. They can not order

him to change the type of fence he erected because he is within his rights, according to city officials. If anyone has a concern, officials said they should contact the Community Division of Human Relations, whose purpose is to ensure that all residents of Kansas City are free to exercise their economic, social and human rights. The number is 816-513-1800.



Neighbors who live near these two homes said they want to help in any way possible. Others say there has to be a way to resolve this issue.

Vecinos que viven cerca de estas dos casas dijeron que ellos querían ayudar de alguna manera posible. Otros dijeron que debe haber alguna manera de resolver dicho inconveniente.

junto a su casa. La diferencia fue que el Guadalupe Center estuvo dispuesto a considerar las ideas de Gómez respecto a qué le gustaría a ella ver alrededor del estacionamiento. "Yo quería una barrera entre mi patio y la gente en el estacionamiento y también fui incluida en las discusiones sobre el diseño de los jardines. En realidad ellos no tenían que hacer eso porque era su propiedad, pero fue un gesto de buena vecindad y eso es lo que me gustaría ver que ocurriera entre éstos dos. Quiero que se junten y lo resuelvan mediante una plática", dijo ella.

Gómez dijo que se reuniría con Rivera y con Fischer para mediar conversaciones y esperar alcanzar un acuerdo.

"Él debería tratar de trabajar con sus vecinos, nosotros siempre hemos tenido un vecindario pacífico y no tenemos problemas con nuestros vecinos respecto a nuestra propiedad. Esto está creando una mala situación. Es una horrible cerca. Nunca soñé que él construiría algo tan feo. Ese tipo de cerca es un insulto", dijo Gómez.

El 31 de julio, un residente llamó a la oficina del inspector de la ciudad para quejarse de que la cerca de Fischer era muy alta y que algunas partes de ésta tenían tanto como 10 pies de altura.

Ese mismo día a las 12:15 p.m., Daryl Baker, de la oficina del inspector de la ciudad emitió una orden de detenerla, según

documentos, inspectores habían dicho que la cerca alrededor de la piscina era muy alta. Según oficiales de la ciudad, ellos explicaron, "el contratista declaró que ellos (Él) removería parte de la cerca que no cumplía con los requisitos de los códigos referentes a la altura". Baker, en su reporte, declaró que la cerca no cumplía con los requisitos. Más tarde ese mismo día, según oficiales de la ciudad, el contratista les entregaría documentos relacionados con la construcción. En adición, el contratista declaró que él removería la cerca que no cumplía con los requisitos corrientes de altura. Después de esa discusión, Baker emitió el orden, lo que significaba que Fischer podía regresar a trabajar en la cerca.

Los oficiales de los códigos de la ciudad han dicho que Fischer ha bajado la altura de su cerca en el patio frontal que da a la calle Bellevue y que está acatando los códigos de la ciudad. Ellos no pueden ordenarle que cambie el tipo de cerca que levantó porque se encuentra dentro de sus derechos, según oficiales de la ciudad. Si alguien tiene algún problema, los oficiales dicen que ellos deberían contactarse con la División Comunal de Relaciones Humanas, cuyo propósito es el de asegurar que todos los residentes de Kansas City tengan la libertad de ejercer sus derechos económicos, sociales y humanos. El número es 816-513-1800.

'They will not win'



Tom Lona stands just a few yards from what he describes as the scene of a pointless killing. The shooting upset Lona and others in the Westside community.

Tom Lona posa a unas pocas yardas de lo que él describe como la escena de un asesinato sin asunto. La balacera molestó a Lona y a otros en la comunidad del Westside.

CONT./PAGE 1

"It was senseless," said an emotional Tom Lona, a neighboring business owner. "What did they (the robbers) expect to gain?"

"We need to unite as business owners and as a community and say that we cannot let this happen. What happen last night was senseless. A person working for his family — his life was taken away from him — and for what?"

Kansas City police have not identified the shooting victim, who was described as a Hispanic man in his mid-30s.

According to police, witnesses said that about 6:45 p.m. three armed men entered Tina's Hair Salon in the 900 block of West 24th Street and demanded money.

Two employees and a customer were inside the salon, said police spokesman Darin Snapp. During the robbery, the shooting victim reportedly tried to fight with one of the robbers and the gun was discharged. The victim was shot in the abdomen.

Snapp said witness statements are not clear whether two black men and one Hispanic entered the salon or whether all three men were Hispanic. Their ages were described as mid- to late-teens. Police continue to investigate.

One witness inside told police that one of the robbers used the word "dinero," but it is not clear whether that suspect was fluent in Spanish. After the robbery, the suspects fled, running north through an alley.

Kansas City police acknowledged there has been an up-

swing in crime in the West side during the past 30 days, including assaults, burglaries and robberies, despite an overall decrease this year in violent crime citywide. The trend angers longtime business owner Lona, who said the "thugs" will not push him out of the area.

"If I do, then they win," Lona said. "They will not win. Our families and our businesses have been here. That's why I'm not going to stop ... that's why I'm here at 8 a.m. to open shop and to let them know that they are not going to intimidate me. You are not going to make me go away. I'm going to make you go away one way or another. If I find out who you are, I am going to tell the police. I have invested too much time, sweat, blood and effort to let you intimidate me."

Snapp said people have a right to defend themselves and their property against dangers. But the best strategy during a robbery is to obey the suspect's demands.

"The employee of the salon felt his life was in danger so he thought he needed to take some kind of action," Snapp believes. "Ninety-nine percent of the time you are better off just complying. Most of these people who are robbing are usually robbing because of a drug problem. All they want is some quick cash and then they are out of there."

"We're grateful the other two people in the salon were not injured."

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call the TIPS Hotline at 816-474-8477. A reward is available and the caller can remain anonymous.

'Ellos no ganarán'

CONT./PÁGINA 1

os del vecindario. "Lo que ellos hicieron (Los ladrones) ¿Esperaban ellos ganar?"

"Nosotros necesitamos unir a los dueños de negocios y a la comunidad y decir que no podemos dejar que esto suceda. Lo que sucedió antenoche fue sin sentido. Una persona trabajando para su familia — le quitaron su vida — y ¿Para qué?"

La policía de Kansas City no ha identificado a la víctima de los disparos, a quien se le describió como un hombre hispano en sus treinta.

Según la policía, testigos dijeron que cerca de las 6:45 p.m. tres hombres armados entraron a Tina's Hair Salon en el No. 900 del Este de la Calle 24 y demandaron dinero.

Dos empleados y un cliente se encontraban en el salón, dijo el portavoz de la policía Darin Snapp. Durante el robo, se reportó que la víctima de los disparos trató de luchar con uno de los ladrones y un arma se disparó. La víctima fue impactada en el abdomen.

Snapp dijo que las declaraciones de testigos no son claras en lo que se refiere a dos hombres afro-estadounidenses y a uno hispano entrando al salón o si los tres hombres eran hispanos. Sus edades fueron descritas como adolescentes de medianas a altas edades. La policía continúa investigando.

Un testigo dentro le dijo a la policía que uno de los ladrones utilizó la palabra "dinero", pero no quedó claro si el sujeto tenía

fluidéz en el español. Después del robo, los sujetos huyeron, corriendo hacia el norte por un callejón.

La policía de Kansas City reconoció que ha habido un aumento en los crímenes en el Westside durante los pasados treinta días, incluyendo asaltos, desvalijamientos y robos, a pesar de una disminución general este año de los crímenes violentos en toda la ciudad. La tendencia ha enfadado al longevo comerciante Lona, quien dijo que "rufianes" no lo harán dejar el área.

"Si ellos lo hacen, entonces ellos ganarán", dijo Lona. "Ellos no ganarán. Nuestras familias y nuestros negocios han estado aquí. Es por eso que no me detendré... es por eso que estoy aquí a las 8 a.m. para abrir la tienda y dejarles saber que no me van a intimidar. Ustedes no me harán marcharme."

Los voy a hacer esfumarse de una u otra manera. Si me entero de quiénes son ustedes, le voy a decir a la policía. He invertido demasiado tiempo, sudor, sangre y esfuerzo para dejar que ustedes me intimiden."

Snapp dijo que las personas

tienen el derecho a defenderse a sí mismas y a sus propiedades en contra de peligros. Pero la mejor estrategia durante un robo es obedecer a las demandas de los sospechosos.

"El empleado del salón sintió que su vida estaba en peligro por lo que pensó que tenía que tomar algún tipo de acción", cree Snapp. "Noventa y nueve por ciento de las veces uno estará mejor simplemente obedeciendo. La mayoría de estas personas que están robando lo están haciendo comunmente debido a un problema con las drogas. Todo lo que quieren es un poco de dinero en efectivo rápido y luego se irán."

"Nosotros estamos agradecidos de que las otras dos personas en el salón no fueron lastimadas."

A cualquier persona que tenga información sobre la balacera se le pide llamar a la Línea de Emergencias TIPS al 816-474-8477. Una recompensa se encuentra disponible y a la persona que llame se le mantendrá en el anonimato.

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Give yourself a financial tune-up

JASON ALDERMAN

As we move through one of the most financially tumultuous years in many decades, some economists feel the worst may be over. But today's continuing high unemployment rates, troubled housing market and tight credit conditions leave many people feeling anxious about the future.

Against that backdrop, this is a good time to examine your current financial state. Ask yourself where you want to be by year's end and how you may need to change course now in order to reach those goals. Here are a few action steps:

Reexamine your budget. A lot could have changed since you last examined your household budget. You may need to tweak your spending and saving habits to get back on track:

- **Income:** Has your pay increased or decreased significantly? Has overtime income diminished? Has interest income you count on from savings and investments dropped appreciably?
- **Basic expenses:** Examine how much you pay each month for rent/mortgage, food, insurance, utilities, gas, clothing and other basics compared to six months ago. Have you offset any increases by boosting

Dese un ajuste financiero

A medida que avanzamos a través de uno de los años financieramente más tumultuosos de muchas décadas, algunos economistas sienten que lo peor está por terminar. Pero las continuas elevadas tasas de desempleo hoy en día, problemas con el mercado de la vivienda y las ajustadas condiciones de crédito, dejan a muchas personas con una sensación de ansiedad sobre el futuro.

Contra este telón de fondo, este es un buen momento de examinar su estado financiero actual. Pregúntese en donde quiere estar al finalizar el año y como puede necesitar cambiar el rumbo ahora para que pueda alcanzar esas metas. A continuación unas acciones a tomar:

Reexamine su presupuesto. Mucho puede haber cambiado desde la última vez que revisó su presupuesto familiar. Es posible que usted necesite ajustar sus gastos y sus hábitos de ahorro para volver a la pista:

- **Ingreso:** ¿Ha aumentado o disminuido su pago significativamente? ¿Ha disminuido su ingreso por horas extras? ¿Ha disminuido sensiblemente su ingreso por intereses con el que contaba por ahorros e inversiones?
- **Gastos básicos:** Revise cuanto paga cada mes por concepto de renta, hipoteca, comida, seguro, servicios públicos, gas, ropa y otros artículos esenciales en comparación con hace seis meses. ¿Ha incrementan-

your income, or do you need to trim a few expenses?

- **Debt:** Have you taken out new loans or amassed new credit card balances? If you carry forward balances, are you paying more in interest due to rising rates?

If you need a budget refresher course, Visa Inc.'s free personal financial management site, Practical Money Skills for Life, features a step-by-step guide to building a budget, including several interactive calculators (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting.)

Taxes. Nobody likes overpaying their taxes or underpaying and getting penalized the following April. Ask yourself:

- Did you receive an overly large tax refund or have to pay significantly more than was deducted from your paycheck? If so, you may want to fill out a new W-4 form with your employer and recalculate your withholding allowances.
- Do you expect significantly higher (or lower) deductions this year? (For example, deductible mortgage costs or medical expenses.)
- If you make quarterly tax filings, have you allocated enough to ensure you won't pay a penalty next year?
- Has your home property value dropped significantly in recent

years? If so, you may be able to request that your property taxes be reevaluated.

- If you plan to buy a home or new car this year, have you investigated tax credits for which you may be eligible? Go to www.irs.gov and search for "Recovery Act."

Charitable contributions. If you don't have charitable contributions automatically deducted, tally up what you've contributed so far and decide whether it's in line with your goal for the year. Don't wait until the expensive month of December to make last-minute contributions.

Reimbursement accounts. If you participate in employer-sponsored health care or dependent care reimbursement accounts, determine whether you are on track to exhaust your account balances. Again, do not wait until the end of the year to scramble for qualified expenses that will allow you to benefit fully from their tax advantages.

Regardless of whether the worst is behind us or not, it makes sense to get your own financial house in order to weather this economic storm and any future ones.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

do sus ingresos para compensar en caso de que exista algún aumento o necesita recortar unos cuantos gastos?

- **Deuda:** ¿Ha usted obtenido nuevos préstamos o acumulado nuevos saldos de tarjeta de crédito? Si usted transfiere saldos al periodo siguiente, ¿está usted pagando más en intereses debido a las tasas elevadas?

Si usted necesita un curso de actualización sobre presupuesto, el sitio Visa Inc. de administración de finanzas personales sin costo, Practical Money Skills for Life (Habilidades Prácticas Monetarias para la Vida), presenta una guía paso a paso para diseñar un presupuesto incluyendo varios calculadores interactivos (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting).

Impuestos. A nadie le gusta pagar demasiado en impuestos o pagar poco y ser penalizado el siguiente mes de abril. Pregúntese lo siguiente:

- ¿Recibió usted un reembolso excesivamente grande por concepto de impuesto o tuvo que pagar significativamente más de lo que fue deducido de su cheque de pago? Si es así, usted querrá llenar una nueva forma W-4 con su empleador y recalcular sus deducciones fiscales.
- ¿Espera deducciones significativamente mayores (o menores) este año? (Por ejemplo, costos de hipoteca deducibles o gastos médicos).
- Si usted realiza la presentación de impuestos trimestralmente, ¿ha usted destinado

suficiente para asegurar que usted no vaya a pagar una penalización el próximo año?

- ¿Se ha reducido el valor de su vivienda significativamente en los últimos años? Si es así, usted puede solicitar que los impuestos de su propiedad sean reevaluados.

- Si usted planea comprar una casa o un automóvil nuevo este año, ¿ha investigado los créditos tributarios para los que puede usted ser elegible? Vaya a www.irs.gov y busque "Recovery Act." (Ley de Recuperación)

Contribuciones de caridad. Si usted no cuenta con contribuciones de caridad deducidas automáticamente, haga la cuenta de lo que ha contribuido hasta el momento y decida si está en línea con su meta para el año. No espere hasta el dispendioso mes de diciembre para realizar contribuciones de último momento.

Cuentas de reembolso. Si usted participa en cuentas de cuidado de la salud patrocinado por un empleador o en cuentas de reembolso por asistencia a dependientes, determine si usted está en camino para agotar los balances de su cuenta. Nuevamente, no espere hasta finales de año para pelearse para que los gastos que califiquen le permitan beneficiarse completamente de las ventajas fiscales.

Independientemente de que lo peor quedó atrás o no, tiene sentido poner su propia casa financiera en orden para sobrellevar esta tormenta económica y cualquier otra en el futuro.

Jason Alderman dirige los programas de educación financiera de Visa.



CLASSIFIEDS & PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPERTY MANAGER

Established not-for-profit seeks experienced property manager for 160 units of affordable rental housing. Responsibilities include: showing properties, applications, collections, compliance, resident relations/retention, managing property staff and achieving org. benchmarks. Complete job description at: <http://www.westsidehousing.org/employment%20opp.htm>. Exp. in managing LIHTC and HUD properties along with use of property management software systems, Word and Excel, are required. Five+ yrs. experience with two+ yrs. in a managerial position preferred. HCCP, HCM/HUD and COS certifications a plus. Fluency in English and Spanish highly desirable. Must have own transportation. Please send resume with salary requirements to Westside Housing Organization, 919 W. 24th Street, KCMO 64108 or e-mail to sperry@westsidehousing.org. EOE



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Labor

The City of OPKS has part-time Maintenance Worker positions available in the Public Works Dept. To apply, go to www.opkansas.org. EO/M/F/D/V

Invitation for Bid Jackson County Family Court Walk - In Freezer & Walk - In Cooler Renovation for bid information please visit our website at www.family-court.org/Bids.htm

www.kchispanicnews.com

Date: August 27, 2009

Time: 8:30 a.m.—4:30

Hyatt Regency Crown Center
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Kansas City, MO 64108

Contact person:
Ashlea Blue
816-513-1813 or
Ashlea_blue@kcmo.org

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KC GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING & PROCUREMENT FORUM



RUN don't walk to the 3rd Annual KC Government Contracting & Procurement Forum. The KCGCP Forum is designed to showcase government contracting and procurement requirements to businesses in the Kansas City metropolitan area and to provide critical information, networking opportunities and access to new business partners.

Highlights of August 27th Event

- Tradeshow
- Workshops
- On The Spot Contracts Awarded

Event Pricing

- Tradeshow Walk Thru-FREE
- Parking-FREE
- Workshops-FREE
- Awards Luncheon-\$40 per person



3 Ways To Register

- Register at www.kcgcp.org
- Contact Ashlea Blue at 816-513-1813 or Ashlea_blue@kcmo.org
- Fill below registration and fax to 816-513-1855

Name _____	Price _____
Company _____	40.00
Address _____	Sign up for:
Phone _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon Individual Ticket
Method of Payment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon Table of Ten
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Me	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa
<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard
	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express
Signature _____	Subtotal _____
Credit Card # _____	Total _____
	Exp. date _____

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NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS/PRICING

The Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City, Missouri, on behalf of the Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri (the "TIF Commission") invites all qualified parties to submit qualifications/pricing for the following categories:

- Bond Counsel Services
- Financial Advisory Services
- Investment Banking Services

These services are sought in connection with various redevelopment projects in the Kansas City, Missouri area and all work related thereto shall be subject to the Tax Increment Financing Commission's Affirmative Action Policy. More than one firm may be accepted. Certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) are encouraged to apply.

Qualification Requirement Packets will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 10, 2009 at the Economic Development Corporation, 1100 Walnut, Suite 1700, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. Questions regarding the Qualification Requirement/Pricing Packets shall be directed to Jessica Middleton at 816-691-2121, by email at jmiddleton@edckc.com or by fax at 816-691-2171. Submissions will be due by 2:00 p.m., Friday, August 21, 2009. Submissions received after 2:00 p.m. on that date will not be considered. The TIF Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submissions.

The Tax Increment Financing Commission encourages eligible minority-owned businesses and women-owned businesses to become certified with the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Kansas Department of Transportation.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED THIRDDAMENDMENT TO THE UNIVERSAL STORM WATER RETENTION TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN

Pursuant to RSMo 99.825, and in accordance with RSMo 99.830, notice is hereby given by way of certified mail to inform you about a public hearing that will be held by the Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri (the "Commission"), commencing at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at the Commission Offices, located 1100 Walnut, Fourth Floor, Kansas City, Missouri, regarding a proposed Third Amendment of the Universal Storm Water Retention Tax Increment Financing Plan (the "Plan").

The purpose of this hearing is (a) to clarify the legal description of the Redevelopment Area, (b) to provide modifications to certain improvements described by the Plan, (c) to provide modifications to the budget of redevelopment project costs, (d) to provide modifications to the development schedule and (e) to provide modifications to the financing of certain improvements described by the Plan.

The Redevelopment Area is described by the Plan as an irregular area generally bounded by Universal and Reynolds Avenue on the West, Interstate 435 on the East, Missouri River on the North, and Front Street on the South, in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri (the "Redevelopment Area").

The document, as proposed, may be reviewed by any interested party on or after September 2, 2009 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Commission Offices.

According to Section 99.830.2(3), all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing.

According to Section 99.830.3, each taxing district located wholly or partially within the Redevelopment Area may submit comments or objections to the Commission concerning the subject matter of the public hearing prior to the date of the public hearing.

Joseph P. Gonzales
Tax Increment Financing Commission
of Kansas City, Missouri
1100 Walnut, Suite 1700
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held on August 20, 2009, from 6:00- 7:00 p.m. at 1211 McGee, Board of Education Building, First Floor, Auditorium, Kansas City, Missouri at which Citizens may be heard on the property tax rates proposed to be set by the Kansas City, Missouri School District, a political subdivision.

The tax rates, shall be set to produce substantially the same revenue which the budget submitted for the fiscal year beginning July, 2009 shows to be required from the property tax. Each tax rate is determined by dividing the amount of revenue required by the current assessed valuation. The result is divided by 100 so the tax rate will be expressed in cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Assessed Valuation (by categories):

	FY2008-2009	FY2009-2010
Real Property	\$2,270,379,857	\$2,155,105,020
Personal Property	688,862,166	654,192,153
Total	\$2,959,242,023	\$2,809,297,173

The following Tax Rates are Proposed:

Fund	Amount of Property Tax Revenues Budgeted (1)	Property Tax rate (per \$100)
Incidental	\$130,255,711	\$4.95

New revenue	\$	(7,422,270)
New Revenue from New Construction and Improvements:	\$	1,081,777
New Revenue from Reassessment	\$	(8,504,047)
Percentage of new Revenue from Reassessment		-10%

(1) Each figure in this column has been reduced prior to inclusion in the School District's 2009-2010 school year budget to reflect the estimated amount of revenue which actually will be received from these property taxes.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE TERMINATION OF THE 43rd & MAIN TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN

Pursuant to RSMo 99.825, and in accordance with RSMo 99.830, notice is hereby given by way of certified mail to inform you about a public hearing that will be held by the Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri (the "Commission"), commencing at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at the Commission Offices, located 1100 Walnut, Fourth Floor, Kansas City, Missouri, regarding terminating the 43rd & Main Tax Increment Financing Plan (the "Plan"), dissolving the special allocation fund established pursuant to the Plan (the "Special Allocation Fund") and terminating the redevelopment area described by the Plan.

The purpose of this hearing is to terminate the Plan, dissolve the Special Allocation Fund and terminate the designation of the redevelopment area described by the Plan.

The Redevelopment Area is described by the Plan as an irregular area generally bounded by Kansas City & Westport Belt RR right-of-way, Baltimore Street and Main Street on the West, Walnut Street, Gillham Road, and Rockhill on the East, 39th Street on the North, and 45th and 46th Street on the South, in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri (the "Redevelopment Area").

The document, as proposed, may be reviewed by any interested party on or after September 2, 2009 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Commission Offices.

According to Section 99.830.2(3) all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing.

According to Section 99.830.3, each taxing district located wholly or partially within the Redevelopment Area may submit comments or objections to the Commission concerning the subject matter of the public hearing prior to the date of the public hearing.

Joseph P. Gonzales
Tax Increment Financing Commission
of Kansas City, Missouri
1100 Walnut, Suite 1700
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SPORTS • DEPORTES

Chiefs ready to begin anew against Texans



JOHN SILVA
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

As the Chiefs begin the 50th celebration of their existence they will be playing the perfect opponent in their first preseason tilt. The team will be travelling back to the state of its roots to take on the team which uses their original moniker.

Playing in Texas the team which has spent more than 45 of its years in Kansas City will be in Houston this Saturday night playing the Texans. As the first action of the year you can't expect a great deal of snaps to be played by regulars on either side of the ball.

So while Matt Cassel and Tyson Jackson won't get to show much of what they can do for KC after their monstrous contracts were signed in the last month, there will be plenty of things to look for in this football appetizer.

The most apparent thing to look for will be how the Chiefs run their defense. New Defensive Coordinator Clancy Pendergast has run some imaginative defensive schemes. The 3-4 scheme has been the base defense, but there have been times when less than three line-

man would be on the field with blitzers coming from all angles.

The Chiefs won't likely be blitzing the Texans much, but to see the way the team tackles and can pressure from a base defense will be intriguing. How do players like Turk McBride, Tamba Hali, and Bernard Pollard adjust to the new system? Will they be able to maximize their talents in this system as opposed to the former Tampa 2 where each struggled last season?

Offensively it bears watching to see how the offensive line looks. New Head Coach Todd Haley wants linemen who are closer to what Dick Vermeil looked for than what Herm Edwards wanted. As a result Left Tackle Branden Albert slimmed down to 305 pounds to be more fluid on the field. But losing weight isn't all that is demanded of them. Like all other position players Todd Haley had a course the team members had to run and complete in a time he deemed acceptable or not be able to practice. Damion McIntosh worked hard to get onto the field and within a week of training camp starting every Chief not too hurt to pass the test was out there practicing with their teammates.

One area where fans will get to see enough action is under center. New starter Matt Cassel will be a cameo player the first time around, but then the intrigue kicks in. What seemed to be a cinch at the end of the last year for Tyler Thigpen to

be the backup for this team is now up in the air.

The Coastal Carolina product burst onto the scene last year chewing up yards in an unconventional yet productive spread type offense. It was not thought that he would have the opportunity to be the starter under the new regime, but as a young player who got plenty of experience as a starter he was poised to be the number two.

Through OTAs and training camp Thigpen has struggled with the new offensive system which relies on quarterbacks sticking to the pocket and not using their legs to make plays. Coming back from what seemed like a dead career Brodie Croyle has been razor sharp picking up the new system and hitting receivers with the zip he has on his balls.

Added to the mix is the man who backed Cassel up last year after he inherited the starting job. Matt Gutierrez was put on waivers by New England and quickly scooped up by Scott Pioli. Gutierrez has not had much opportunity to play but has shown the cerebral ability to impress the Patriots coaching staff. If he has a good training camp Croyle or Thigpen will likely be looking for a job.

So enjoy watching the first feast of football for the season. It will be an exciting start to a season that will have all Chiefs fans on the edge of their seats as they begin a process over the next couple of seasons to a Super level.

OUTDOOR INJURY PREVENTION STARTS IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD

Each of five major child injury hazards — motor vehicles, drowning, burns, falls and poison — can be found in the back yard during the summer. Riding mowers, inflatable pools, home playground equipment and even natural vegetation and sunlight require a few simple precautions.

"All of the safety guidelines you apply to sports, playgrounds and swimming apply to those activities in your own back yard," says Cherie Sage, state director for Safe Kids Kansas. "A soft-sided pool needs to be surrounded by a fence, just like any other pool. A home playground needs to be anchored on an appropriate safe surface just like equipment on a public playground."

Kiddie pools should be emptied when not in use. "Kiddie pools are just as dangerous to a small child as full-size pools — a child can drown in just a few inches of water," says Sage.

Over 16,000 children under age 19 were treated for lawn mower-related injuries in 2007, the Consumer Product Safety Commission reports. "Lawn mowers can cause terrible devastating injuries to children's hands, feet or faces, which can impact the rest of their lives," reminds Sage. Treat a riding mower like any other motor vehicle: keep ignition keys out of reach and always look around before backing up. Never carry children as passengers on a lawnmower; children should stay in the house whenever a mower or other power equipment is in use. Children should be 12 years old before they operate any lawn mower, and at least 16 years old for a riding mower.

In addition, Safe Kids Kansas recommends these precautions for activities in the back yard:

- Role model proper safety behavior. Children are more likely to follow safety rules when they see their parents doing so.
- Always supervise your children in the back yard or at playgrounds. Make sure your home playground surface is safe. Keep 12 inches of safe surfacing, such as mulch, shredded rubber or fine sand, extending at least six feet in all directions around the equipment. Remove hood and neck drawstrings from your child's clothing, and do not allow them to play on equipment while wearing scarves, necklaces, or bike helmets.
- If you have a pool or a spa, it should be surrounded on all four sides by a fence at least four feet high with self-closing, self-latching gates, and it should be equipped with an anti-entrapment drain cover and safety vacuum release system. An inflatable pool needs to be surrounded by a fence, just like any other pool, and parents need to empty these pools when not in use.
- Allow children to perform age-appropriate yard work only under supervision. Do not allow a child to attempt tasks inappropriate for his or her age, size, strength, cognitive ability or prior experience.
- Make sure your children wear a properly fitting helmet and other protective gear every time they ride their bikes, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, and other wheeled toys.
- Remove potential poisons from your yard, including poisonous plants, pesticides and pool chemicals. Teach

kids not to handle or eat any part of a plant unless you know it is safe.

- Keep children away from the grill area while preheating and cooking and while the grill is cooling.
- Following the manufacturer's instructions carefully, apply insect repellent to a child's clothing and exposed skin. (Check with your pediatrician if you have any questions about the instructions.)
- Teach children not to disturb or feed any wild animals, no matter how harmless the animals may seem.
- Apply sunscreen rated SPF 15 or higher to your child's exposed skin 15 to 30 minutes before going out, and reapply frequently. (It is possible to get a sunburn in cloudy conditions.)
- Make sure your child drinks plenty of water. A child who seems tired or achy should rest in the shade or go inside for a while. Get immediate medical help any time a child's skin is hot to the touch (with or without perspiration), if a child has a seizure, or if they become disoriented in hot weather.
- Walk all the way around a parked vehicle to check for children before entering a car and starting the motor. Do not let children play in driveways, streets, parking lots or unfenced yards adjacent to busy streets.
- Never leave a child alone in a vehicle. Even with the windows cracked, a vehicle can reach dangerous temperatures in only a few minutes.

For more information about summer safety, visit: www.usa.safekids.org.

CELEBRANDO NUESTRO QUINTO ANIVERSARIO
¡Gracias Kansas City!

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF KANSAS CITY CHILDREN UNDER THE STARS AT THE

TV dinner

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2009 - 7:30 P.M.
ON THE DECK OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AT LIBERTY MEMORIAL

With Kansas City's starlit skyline as the perfect backdrop, the KCPT TV DINNER will unfold once again at this incomparable setting!

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL KCPT'S EVENT LINE AT 816-756-3580 EXT. 4324.

La prevención de lesiones por actividades al aire libre comienza en su propio patio

Uno de cada cinco peligros de lesiones mayores entre los niños — vehículos a motor, ahogamiento, quemaduras, caídas y envenenamiento — se pueden encontrar en los patios durante el verano. Cortadoras de césped, piscinas inflables, equipos para juegos al aire libre e incluso la vegetación natural y la luz solar requieren de unas pocas y simples precauciones.

"Todas estas reglas para la seguridad que uno le aplica a los deportes, áreas de juegos y natación aplican a aquellas actividades en su propio patio", dijo Cherie Sage, directora estatal de Niños Seguros de Kansas. "Una piscina de lados blandos tiene que estar rodeada por una reja, tal como cualquier otra piscina o alberca. Un área para juegos para el hogar necesita estar anclada en una superficie segura que sea apropiada tal como cualquier equipo de un área de juegos públicos".

Las piscinas para los niños deben vaciarse cuando no estén en uso. "Las piscinas para los niños son tan peligrosas para un niño pequeño como lo son las de tamaño real — un niño se puede ahogar en tan sólo unas pocas pulgadas de agua", dijo Sage.

Más de 16.000 niños de menos de 19 años fueron tratados por lesiones ocasionados por cortadoras de césped en el 2007, reportó la Comisión de Seguridad de Productos. "Las cortadoras de césped pueden ocasionar terribles y devastadoras lesiones a las manos, pies o caras de los niños, lo cual puede impactarlos por el resto de sus vidas", nos recuerda Sage. Traten las cortadoras de césped como cualquier otro vehículo motorizado: mantenga las llaves del encendido fuera del alcance y siempre mira atrás antes de que retroceda. Nunca lleve a niños como pasajeros en una cortadora de césped; los niños deben permanecer en la casa cuando una cortadora de césped u otro equipo motorizado esté siendo utilizado.

Los niños deben tener 12 años

antes de que puedan operar cualquier cortadora de césped y a lo menos 16 años para una cortadora motorizada.

En adición Niños Seguros de Kansas recomienda estas precauciones para actividades en los patios:

- De el ejemplo de una seguridad apropiada. Los niños son más propensos a seguir reglas de seguridad cuando ven que sus padres lo hacen.
- Siempre supervise a sus hijos cuando estén en el patio o en áreas de juego. Asegúrese de que la superficie del área de juego de su casa sea segura. Mantenga 12 pulgadas de superficie segura, tales como cortezas, caucho molido o arena fina, extendiéndolo por a lo menos seis pies en todas las direcciones alrededor de los equipos. Remueva los capuchones y cuerdas de la ropa de su hijo y no les permita que jueguen en los equipos cuando están usando bufandas, collares o cascos para bicicletas.
- Si usted tiene una piscina o spa, éstos deben estar rodeados en sus cuatro costados por una reja de a lo menos cuatro pies de altura con cerrojos que cierren por sí solos, puertas que cierren por sí solas y debería estar equipado con una tapa de drenaje que evite que queden atrapados y un sistema de aspiradora que sea seguro. Una piscina inflable necesita estar rodeada por una reja, tal como cualquier otra piscina y los padres tienen que vaciar estas piscinas cuando no estén en uso.
- Deje que los niños realicen trabajos de jardín apropiados solamente bajo supervisión. No le permita a los niños realizar tareas que no son apropiadas para sus edades, tamaños o fuerza, habilidad cognitiva o experiencia previa.
- Asegúrese de que sus niños lleven un casco que les calce bien y otros equipos de protección cada vez que monten sus bicicletas, monopatines, patinetas, patines de rueda y otros juguetes de ruedas.
- Remueva posibles venenos de su patio, incluyendo plan-

tas nocivas, pesticidas y químicos para piscinas. Enséñele a los niños a no manipular o comer ninguna parte de una planta a menos que usted sepa que es seguro.

- Mantenga a los niños alejados de áreas donde se encuentran asadores o parrillas mientras se precalienta y se cocina y mientras la parrilla se está enfriando.
- Siga las instrucciones del fabricante cuidadosamente, aplique repelentes para insectos en las ropas de un niño y en la piel que está expuesta. (Confirme con su pediatra si tiene algunas preguntas sobre las instrucciones.)
- Enséñele a los niños a no molestar o alimentar a ningún animal salvaje sin importar lo inofensivo que éstos parezcan.
- Aplique protección contra el sol que tengan un promedio de SPF 15 o mayor a la piel expuesta de su niño de 15 a 30 minutos antes de que salgan y vuelva a aplicarla frecuentemente. (Es posible quemarse con el sol incluso cuando está nublado.)
- Asegúrese de que su niño beba suficiente agua. Un niño que se ve cansado o adolorido debería descansar a la sombra o ir adentro por un momento. Consiga ayuda médica inmediatamente cualquier vez que la piel de su niño se sienta caliente al tacto (Con o sin transpiración), si un niño tiene un ataque o desmayo o si se nota desorientado en un clima caluroso.
- Camine alrededor de un vehículo estacionado para asegurarse de que no hayan niños antes de subirse a un carro y encender el motor. No deje que los niños jueguen en los accesos a estacionamientos, calles, estacionamientos, o patios sin reja adyacentes a calles de mucho tráfico.
- Nunca deje a un niño sólo en un vehículo. Incluso abiertas, un vehículo puede alcanzar peligrosas temperaturas en sólo unos pocos minutos.

Para más información sobre la seguridad en el verano, visite: www.usa.safekids.org.

Sotomayor ready to go to work

CONT./PAGE 1

Valladolid-Wolf said the appointment is good for Hispanics and good for all Americans.

"Not only will America be served by the variety of people on the court but by the three women," she said. "Women bring the other half of the world to the courtroom."

Valladolid-Wolf said Sotomayor, who has earned her place on the bench, is living the American dream. "To have one of our own women show that she has the power and the knowledge and the experience to come from the barrio in New York to the Supreme Court is a long road in one lifetime," she said.

Sotomayor is now a role model, said Valladolid-Wolf, demonstrating to Latinos, especially the young, that hard work and dedication are awarded with success.

Valladolid-Wolf said the confirmation process was tough for Sotomayor, but said she thought the questioning was fair, except for the attacks on her race.

"Once you become a public

servant, you open yourself up to scrutiny. People have every right to ask questions. Public servants should be accountable for their words. But it's not fair to attempt to tear apart a person's character because of her gender or nationality," she explained.

Valladolid-Wolf said she organized a watch-party because "we must get together and celebrate as a community the good things that happen to us. We only get together when bad things happen to us and then it gets in the papers. But when good things happen, people ignore it."

Freda Mendez-Smith, who also organized the watch party, said Sotomayor's appointment is a moment that most Latinos will not soon forget. She described the day as incredible.

"I'm very, very proud that we now have a Hispanic on the Supreme Court. The kids in the community can now look and see a Hispanic on the Supreme Court just as they can see teachers in the classroom who look like them."

Estella Alejos, a resident in

the metro area, said the appointment shows that "we are making progress but we still have a ways to go but this is a good sign."

Leonor Solis said she thought the questioning during the confirmation hearings were tough but fair. "Through that process, they (the senators) learned that Sotomayor knows the law and that she represents all, not just one ethnicity."

Area resident Carlos Salazar said it is important to have Hispanic representation at the nation's highest court. "I always thought that our community, whether it's locally or nationally, has not had the representation at every level of opportunity that exists. This is a great one for us."

Salazar said some senators who initially had opposed Sotomayor learned through the confirmation process that she would not focus on one race as an associate justice, but would focus on the issues and the judicial process.

"She'll be sensitive to the Latina issues and sensitive to the Latino people and be able to sen-



Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor made history as the first Latina on the high court, which many residents believe now mirrors more people in America than ever before.

La Jueza de la Corte Suprema Sonia Sotomayor hizo historia como la primera latina en la corte de más jerarquía, algo que muchos residentes ahora creen que refleja a más personas en los Estados Unidos que antes.

sitize the other justices at some point in time. That's basically what we are happy with. Not that she will come in and make changes right away. Instead, she will come on board and give them a different perspective.

At the national level, the

National Council of La Raza praised Sotomayor's success.

"Finally, our community has representation on the highest court in the land," said Janet Murguía, president/CEO of the organization. "For that reason and many others, this vote matters

to Latinos and it matters to our country. Latinos will always remember who recognized the significance of this nomination and did everything possible to make this long-deferred dream a reality for the Hispanic community."

Sotomayor lista para ir a trabajar

CONT./PÁGINA 1

Sonia Sotomayor es la primera latina y la tercera mujer en ser nombrada a la Corte Suprema. El Senado de los Estados Unidos la confirmó al cargo con un voto de 68 a 31.

En Lenexa, durante su fiesta para ver la investidura, Wolf-Valladolid dijo que el nombramiento es bueno para los hispanos y bueno para todos los estadounidenses.

"EE.UU. no será solamente servido por la variedad de personas en la corte, sino que por tres mujeres", dijo ella. "Las mujeres traen la otra mitad del mundo a la corte".

Wolf-Valladolid dijo que Sotomayor, quien se ha ganado su sitio en el estrado, está vivi-

endo el Sueño Americano. "El tener a una de nuestras mujeres demostrando que tiene el poder y el conocimiento y la experiencia de venir desde el barrio en Nueva York hasta la Corte Suprema, es un largo camino en el transcurso de una vida", dijo ella.

Sotomayor es ahora un ejemplo a seguir, dijo Wolf-Valladolid, demostrándole a los latinos, especialmente a los jóvenes, que el trabajo con ahínco y dedicación es recompensado con el suceso.

Wolf-Valladolid dijo que el proceso de confirmación fue duro para Sotomayor, pero ella dijo haber pensado que el cuestionamiento fue justo, excepto por los ataques a su raza.

"Una vez que uno se convierte en servidor público, uno se abre al escrutinio. Las personas tienen

todo el derecho a hacer preguntas. Los servidores públicos deben ser hechos responsables por sus palabras. Pero no es justo tratar de desgarrar el carácter de una persona debido a su sexo o nacionalidad", explicó ella.

Wolf-Valladolid dijo que ella organizó la fiesta-vigilia porque "nosotros debemos reunirnos y celebrar como comunidad las cosas buenas que nos suceden. Nosotros solamente nos reunimos cuando suceden cosas malas y luego éstas llegan a los periódicos. Pero cuando pasan cosas buenas, la gente las ignora".

Freda Méndez-Smith, quien también organizó una fiesta-vigilia, dijo que el nombramiento de Sotomayor es un momento que la mayoría de los latinos no olvidarán tan fácilmente. Ella describió el día como algo increíble.

"Estoy muy, muy orgullosa de que ahora tengamos a una hispana en la Corte Suprema. Los muchachos en la comunidad pueden ahora mirar y ver a una hispana en la Corte Suprema tal como ellos pueden ver a maestros en el salón de clases quienes lucen como ellos".

Estella Alejos, una residente del área, dijo que el nombramiento demuestra que "Nosotros estamos haciendo progresos, pero aún tenemos mucho camino que recorrer, pero esta es una buena señal".

Leonor Solís dijo que pensó que el cuestionamiento durante las audiencias para la confirmación fue duro pero justo. "A través de ese proceso, ellos (Los Senadores) se enteraron que Sotomayor sabía de las leyes y que ella representaba a todos, no solamente a un sólo grupo étnico".

El residente del área, Carlos Salazar, dijo que es importante tener representación hispana en la principal corte de la nación. "Yo siempre he pensado que nuestra comunidad, ya sea en forma local o nacional, no ha tenido la representación en cada nivel de oportunidad que existe. Esto es algo grande para nosotros".

Salazar dijo que algunos senadores que inicialmente se habrían opuesto a Sotomayor, se enteraron mediante el proceso de confirmación que ella no se enfocaría en una raza como jueza asociada, sino que se enfocaría en los problemas y en el proceso judicial.

"Ella será sensible a los problemas de las latinas y sensible para con los latinos y podrá hacer que los otros jueces sean sensibles en algún momento más adelante. Eso es básicamente con lo que estamos felices. No que ella vaya

a llegar a hacer cambios inmediatamente. En vez de ello, ella subirá abordo y les ofrecerá una perspectiva diferente.

A nivel nacional, el Concilio Nacional de La Raza alabó el suceso de Sotomayor.

"Finalmente, nuestra comunidad tiene representación en la mayor corte de nuestra tierra", dijo Janet Murguía, presidenta y ejecutiva de la organización. "Por esa razón y por muchas otras, este voto es de importancia para los latinos y es de importancia para nuestro país. Los latinos siempre recordarán quién reconoció el significado de la nominación e hizo todo lo posible para hacer que este largamente pospuesto sueño se convirtiera en una realidad para la comunidad hispana".

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