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# KANSAS CITY Hispanic News

Volume 13 Number 39

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## Launching the Latino Advocacy Taskforce Lanzando la Fuerza de Tarea de Abogacía Latina



Josie García (at the lectern) along with other families in the Hispanic community who suffered a tragic loss through a violent crime attended the kickoff announcement last Saturday of the new Latino Advocacy Taskforce (LAT). Many at the gathering brought pictures and other mementos to the ceremony to symbolize the presence of their lost family members. From left to right, Guadalupe Rennau spoke about her loss and how her family is working with the KCMO police department. Police officer Chato Villalobos said he appreciated the formation of the LAT, which he says will help Latino families cope with their loss. Lisa Sidenstick said the death of her cousin has made the LAT a personal endeavor. Crispin Rea said that for too long victims of violent crime in the Hispanic community have not had a central location for services.

**TONY BALANDRAN • HISPANIC NEWS**

Josie García's world collapsed in March 2008. Two youths were wounded in a drive-by shooting in Kansas City, Kan., and taken to KU Medical Center, she heard in a news report.

"I had a gut-wrenching feeling," García said. She desperately tried calling her son, 17-year-old Jose Macías, but no answer. She woke her daughter and asked her to call. Again, no answer.

Then she and her daughter rushed to the hospital, still trying to reach Jose on the phone. When they arrived, they tried to get answers about the victims, "but there was nobody to turn to. There was nobody to do anything for me."

Hours passed as relatives arrived. A hospital official eventually approached García, informing her that her son was gone. "How do you know it was my son?" she asked. The other youth had identified him, she was told.

**LAT'S GOAL IS TO SERVE VICTIMS OF VIOLENT /PAGE 6**

**TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN HISPANIC NEWS**

El mundo de Josie García se desplomó en marzo del 2008. Dos jóvenes fueron heridos en una balacera hecha desde un carro en marcha en Kansas City, Kan. y llevados al Centro Médico KU, escuchó ella en un reporte noticioso.

"Tuve un presentimiento", dijo García. Ella trató desesperadamente de llamar a su hijo de 17 años José Macías, pero no recibió respuesta de él. Ella despertó a su hija y le pidió que llamara. Nuevamente, allí no hubo respuesta.

Luego ella y su hija se dirigieron rápidamente al hospital, aún tratando de alcanzar a José en el teléfono. Cuando ellas llegaron, trataron de obtener respuestas sobre las víctimas, "pero allí no había nadie a quien preguntarle. Allí no había nadie que hiciera algo por mí".

Las horas pasaban mientras llegaban familiares. Un oficial del hospital eventualmente se acercó a García y le informó que su hijo había fallecido. "¿Cómo sabes que es mi..."

**EL OBJETIVO DE LAT ES DE SERVIR A LAS /PÁGINA 6**

**Latino Summerfest 2010**  
Saturday, June 5th and Sunday, June 6th  
1:00 p.m to 10:00  
Emerson Park, 29th & Strong Ave. KCK

**FREE EVENT  
ENTRADA GRATUITA**



Ricardo Martínez, Vietnam veteran, delivered the keynote address at the 58th annual Memorial Day services 'Historically our nation has achieved many successes in battle, both domestic and abroad. However, victories on the battlefield do not come without casualties. We join here today to recognize the valiant effort of thousands of men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country,' he said.

Ricardo Martínez, un veterano de Vietnam, entregó el discurso tónico en el servicio anual número 58 del Día Memorial. Él dijo, 'Históricamente nuestra nación ha logrado muchos éxitos en la batalla, ambos doméstico y en el extranjero. Sin embargo, las victorias en el campo de batalla no vienen sin bajas. Hoy unimos aquí para reconocer el esfuerzo valiente de miles de hombres y las mujeres que dieron el último sacrificio por la patria.'

## Honoring Our Troops Who Died in Battle Rindiéndole Homenaje a Nuestras Tropas que han Muerto en Combate

**BY DEBRA DECOSTER**

Members of the American Legion Post 213 gathered with family and friends at Emerson Park in Kansas City, Kan., to remember the men and women of past wars who lost their lives fighting for their country. The American Legion Post 213 members have been honoring fallen troops on Memorial Day for the past 58 years. This year at the Memorial Day services they paid tribute to the men and women who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The men and women of the Armed Forces fight for our freedom. A freedom granted to us by our forefathers of our nation. Every minute of every day there is a soldier, a Marine, a sailor or pilot somewhere far from home and family giving what she or he has to give at a higher cost," said Ricardo Martínez, senior investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor and Vietnam veteran.

Martínez, the keynote speaker at the Memorial Day observance, was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam with the 9th Division in the Mekong Delta and with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade in Tay Ninh Province and with the Americal Division in Chu Lai South Vietnam.

**TRADUCE RUSSELL RICO ROGERS HISPANIC NEWS**

Los miembros del Poste 213 de la Legión Estadounidense reunieron con sus familias y amigos en el Parque de Emerson en la Ciudad de Kansas, Kansas para recordarse de los hombres y a mujeres de guerras anteriores que perdieron sus vidas luchando por la patria. Los miembros del Poste 213 de la Legión Estadounidense han dado homenaje a tropas caídas en el Día Memorial durante los últimos 58 años. Este año en los servicios del Día Memorial ellos les pagaron homenaje a los hombres y mujeres que sirven en Irak y Afganistán.

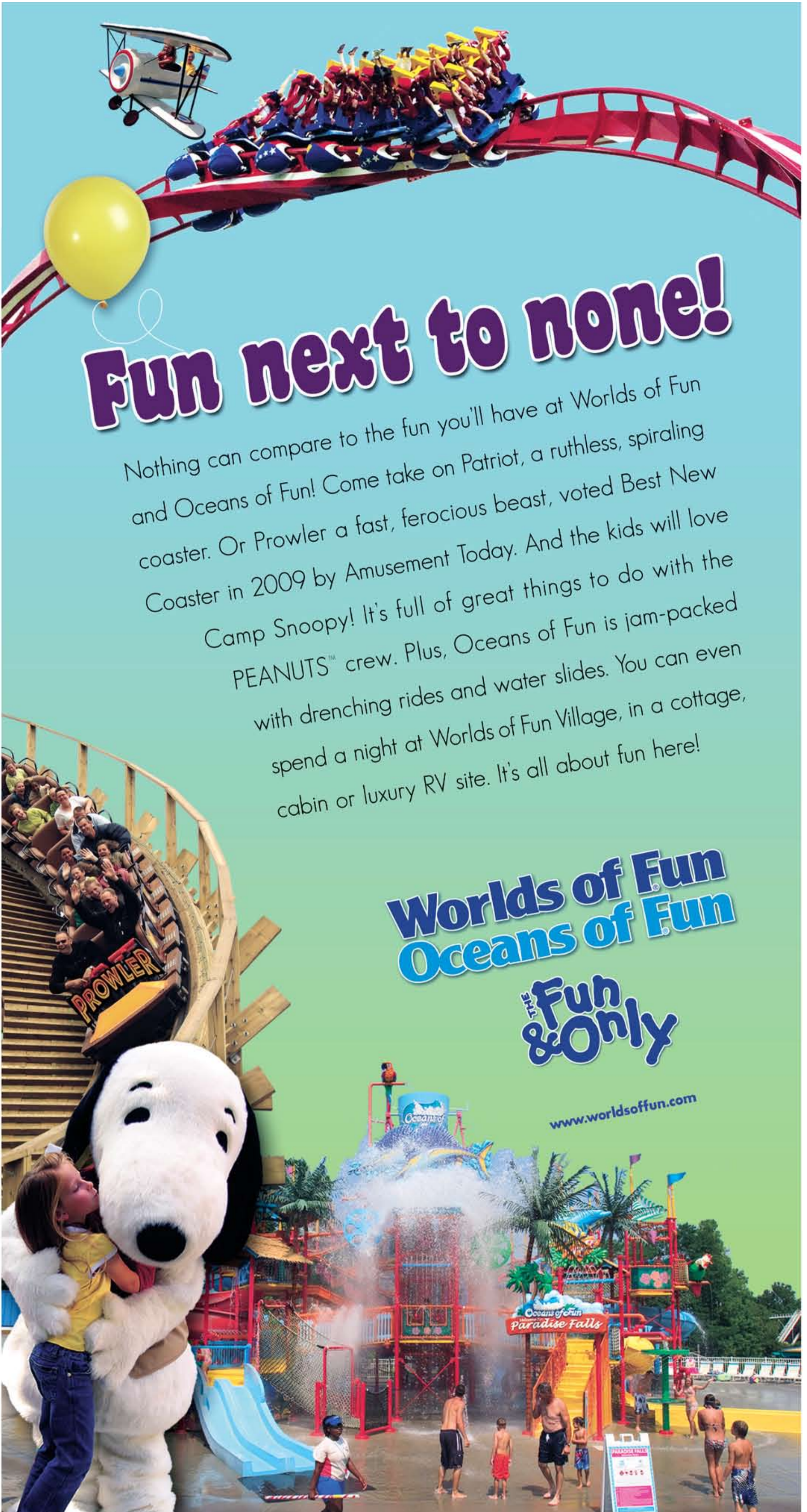
"Los hombres y las mujeres de las Fuerzas Armadas luchan por nuestra libertad. Una libertad otorgada a nosotros por nuestros antepasados de nuestra nación. Cada minuto de cada día hay un soldado, un Marina, un marinero o el piloto en algún lugar lejos de casa y la familia que da lo que ella o él tiene que dar en un costo más alto," dijo Ricardo Martínez, investigador mayor para el Departamento de Empleo de los EEUU y un veterano de Vietnam.

Martínez, el orador de tónica en la observancia del Día Memorial, fue un sargento del personal en el Ejército de los EEUU



The table represents the missing men and women of each of the Armed Forces. The table is round to show our everlasting concern. The table cloth is white symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty. The single red rose in the vase reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends of these missing Americans to keep the faith.

La mesa representa a los hombres perdidos de cada uno de las Fuerzas Armadas. La mesa es redonda para demostrar nuestra preocupación eterna para nuestros hombres perdidos. El mantel es blanco y simboliza la pureza de sus motivos cuando contestaron el llamado a servir a la patria. La rosa en el florero nos recuerda de la vida de cada uno de los perdidos, los seres queridos y los amigos de estos norteamericanos perdidos y los dice mantener la fe.



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# Latino Veterans Remembered on Memorial Day

## Veteranos Latinos son Recordados en el Día para Conmemorar a los Caídos en las Guerras



Left: An honor guard opened the ceremony on Memorial Day in Emerson Park in Kansas City, Kan. Middle: Rick Saucedo talked about the importance of remembering the sacrifices of our Latino brothers and sisters who have fought in combat. Right: A banner on display at the park listed the Hispanic Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

A la izquierda: Una guardia de honor abrió la ceremonia del Día para Conmemorar a los Caídos en las Guerras en el Parque Emerson en Kansas City, Kan. Al Centro: Rick Saucedo platicó sobre la importancia de recordar los sacrificios de nuestros hermanos y hermanas latinos que han combatido. A la Derecha: Una bandera en exhibición en el parque muestra a los hispanos que habían recibido la Medalla de Honor del Congreso.

CONT./PAGE 1

Today, he is employed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service. He is an investigator for the Department of Labor to ensure that all returning veterans, reservists and members of the National Guard returning from military service are returned to their former jobs with the same benefits.

Martínez told Hispanic News that he was honored to be chosen as the keynote speaker this year. "My words came from the heart. We want to remember our fallen men and women. Our soldiers will be returning from Afghanistan and Iraq and it doesn't get any easier but the meaning here is that they are not forgotten. We have to make it a celebration for our living and our dead. We don't ever want to forget them," he said.

Veteran organizations across the country and here in the greater metropolitan community work hard every year to ensure that soldiers of every war are not forgotten for their service to their country. The organizations hope they can attract younger veterans into their organizations, but they have not been successful.

"For some reason the young veterans are not joining our organization or any veteran organizations when they come back. It is a sad thing because these veterans organizations will just die out without members to carry on the tradition," said Rick Saucedo, 1st Vice-Commander Post 213.

Saucedo understands that veterans may be hesitant to join because when his uncle first approached him about joining the American Legion Post, he didn't want to be part of the group.

Through his uncle's encouragement, he became involved in the

American Legion. "At first I didn't want to join a veterans' organization but my uncle made me. Once I did and became involved, I loved it and I enjoy it," said Saucedo.

Saucedo served his country during the Vietnam era from 1963 to 1965.

He has been helping to organize the Memorial Day services on the Kansas City, Kan., side since the early 1990's. "We went to the Liberty Memorial for Memorial Day but we felt isolated and we were not recognized there at Liberty Memorial. Since we as veterans were not recognized there we decided why not recognize ourselves and put on our own services. Not only do we recognize the Hispanic veterans, but we also recognize veterans of all ethnic backgrounds as well," stated Saucedo.

Many people today view Memorial Day as the official beginning of summer. They plan outdoor picnics or barbecues or take a weekend trip to the lake. Martínez said he hopes that while families are enjoying their time together during the holiday weekend, they also take time to realize that there are families who have paid the ultimate price by losing a loved one in war.

"Some families may not be holding a barbecue in the backyard, some children may not be holding their fathers hand as they watch a parade or a band march by, and some mothers may be staring at the flag which flies half staff. On Memorial Day we need to take a moment and reflect on the true meaning of Memorial Day. It is the sacrifices men and women in uniform have made for each other and everyone of us. It is said that one must die so that others may know the full value of life. We are all given one life to live and it can end in an instant," he said.

During his service, Martínez witnessed his fellow servicemen lose

their lives for freedom. As a young man growing up in Newton, Kan., he answered the call to serve his country during the Vietnam War. "I volunteered for the draft and then I volunteered for Vietnam," said Martínez. He went into the U.S. Army and served for two years with a tour of Vietnam in 1966 to 1967. "Some of the guys from my hometown were leaving and going to war and I said I am going to go with them. Even though we went in different directions we still served at the same point," he said.

John Mendez, a commissioner for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, volunteers at the American Legion Post 213. Although he was drafted during the Vietnam era by the U.S. Army, he served his country in Germany. He told Hispanic News that he will always be at Memorial Day services honoring the men and women who served their country and paid the ultimate price for freedom.

"You have to honor our veterans, they are the ones that are keeping us safe and ensuring what we have, all of our liberties. We can't take freedom for granted we have to be observant and alert," said Mendez.

Mendez encouraged people to share the veterans' stories with the younger generation. Recently, Mendez saw a show on the war in Normandy at Omaha Beach. He had three uncles who were on Omaha Beach during that battle.

"Five thousand soldiers died there in a matter of a day. Parents, fathers, mothers see their sons go overseas and die. I think of the sacrifices these families have made for our country and as long as God is willing, I will never stop honoring our veterans," Mendez said.

CONT./PÁGINA 1

y sirvió en Vietnam con la División 9a en el Delta de Mekong y con la Brigada 196 de la Infantería de la Luz en la Provincia de Tay Ninh y con la División de American en Chu Lai Vietnam del sur.

Hoy, trabaja en el Departamento de Empleo de los EEUU, El Servicio de Empleo y Capacitación Para Los Veteranos. Es un investigador para el Departamento de Empleo de los EEUU con el trabajo de asegurar que todos los veteranos devolutivos, los reservistas y los miembros de la Guardia nacional que regresa del servicio militar sean aceptados de nuevo en sus trabajos anteriores con los mismos beneficios.

Martínez dijo a Hispanic News que fue honor para él ser escogido como el orador de tónica este año. Dijo, "Mis palabras vinieron del corazón. Queremos dar homenaje a nuestros hombres y las mujeres caídos. Nuestros soldados regresarán de Afganistán e Irak y no será fácil pero el significado aquí es que ellos no son olvidados. Tenemos que celebrar a nuestros vivos y nuestros muertos. Jamás queremos olvidarlos."

Las organizaciones del veterano a través del país y aquí en la comunidad mayor metropolitana trabajan duro para asegurar que, todos los años, no se olvide a los soldados de cada guerra su servicio a su país. Las organizaciones esperan atraer a veteranos más jóvenes a sus organizaciones pero ellos no han tenido éxito.

"Por alguna razón los jóvenes veteranos no unen a nuestra organización ni cualquier organización para veteranos cuando regresan. Es una lástima porque estas organizaciones de veteranos desaparecerán sin miembros para continuar la tradición," dijo Rick Saucedo, 1er Vice-Comandante del Poste 213.

Saucedo comprende porque a los veteranos les cuesta unir a la organización porque al principio cuando su tío le trató convencer unir a la Legión Estadounidense, él no quería ser miembro del grupo.

Por medio del ánimo de su tío,

él se matriculó la Legión Estadounidense. "Al principio yo no quería matricularme en una organización de veteranos pero mi tío me obligó hacerlo. Una vez que yo me matriculé en la organización y me involucré en ella me gustó y disfruté de ella," dijo Saucedo.

Saucedo sirvió a su país durante la era de Vietnam de 1963 a 1965.

Él ha ayudado a organizar los servicios del Día Memorial en la Ciudad de Kansas, Kansas desde la primera parte de la década 1990. "Fuimos al Monumento de la Libertad (Liberty Memorial Monument) para el Día Memorial pero sentíamos aislado y no fuimos reconocidos allí en Monumento de Libertad. Por la razón que no fuimos reconocidos allí como veteranos decidimos hacer nuestra propia conmemoración y servicios. No sólo reconocemos a los veteranos hispanos, pero también reconocemos a veteranos de todas las etnias," indicó Saucedo.

En hoy día, mucha gente ve el Día Memorial como el principio oficial del verano. Planean picnics o barba-coas al aire libre o toman un viaje del fin de semana al lago. Martínez dijo que espera que mientras las familias disfruten de su tiempo juntos durante el fin de semana de feriado, ellos también tomen tiempo para darse cuenta de que hay familias que han pagado el precio último por perder a un ser querido en la guerra.

Dijo, "Puede ser que algunas familias no cocinan al aire libre en sus casas, o algunos niños no toman las manos de sus padres mientras miran un desfile o mirar marchar una banda, y puede ser que algunas madres miran a una bandera volando a media asta. En el Día Memorial debemos tomar un momento y reflexionar sobre el verdadero significado del Día Memorial. Son sacrificios que dieron de hombres y mujeres en el uniforme, para sí y para nosotros. Se dice que uno tiene que morir para que otros puedan conocer el valor completo de la vida."

Durante su servicio, Martínez presenció a sus prójimos militares

perder sus vidas por la causa de la libertad. Como un joven que creciendo en el Newton, Kan., él contestó al llamado a servir a su país durante la Guerra de Vietnam. "Yo me ofrecí para el llamado a filas y entonces yo me ofrecí para Vietnam," dijo Martínez. Entró al Ejército de los EEUU y sirvió durante dos años con una visita de Vietnam desde 1966 a 1967. "Algunos de los tipos de mi pueblo de origen salían y entraban en la guerra y yo dije que iré con ellos. Aunque entráramos por direcciones diferentes, todavía servimos en el mismo punto," dijo.

John Méndez, un comisionado para el Gobierno Unificado del Condado de Wyandotte, sirve como voluntario en el Poste 213 de la Legión Estadounidense. Aunque fuera llamado a filas durante la era de Vietnam por Ejército de los EEUU, él sirvió a su país en Alemania. Él dijo a Hispanic News que él siempre asistirá a los servicios del Día Memorial dando homenaje a los hombres y a mujeres que sirvieron a su país y pagaron el precio último para la libertad.

"Tiene que dar homenaje a nuestros veteranos. Ellos son que nos mantienen seguros y aseguran lo que tenemos, todas nuestras libertades. Nosotros no podemos dar por sentado la libertad. Nosotros tenemos que ser atento y alerta," dijo Méndez.

Méndez animaba a personas a compartir las historias de los veteranos con la generación más joven. Hace poco, Méndez vio una exposición sobre la guerra en Normandía en Playa de Omaha. Tuvo a tres tíos que estuvieron en la Playa de Omaha durante esa batalla.

"Cinco mil soldados se murieron allí en un día. Los padres y las madres ven a sus hijos ir al extranjero y se mueren. Pienso en los sacrificios que estas familias han hecho para nuestro país, y por lo tanto que Dios me lo permita, yo nunca pararé de homenajear a nuestros veteranos," dijo Méndez.



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Hispanic News

**Teenage boy killed near home**

On Memorial Day, Juan C. Garcia (16) was shot and killed near his home around 3:00 in the afternoon. KCMO Police were called to a residence in the 1500 block of Belmont in regards to a shooting. Upon arrival, a shooting victim was located with no signs of life. He was transported to a local hospital and pronounced dead a short time later. Witnesses say the victim and the suspect (Hispanic male approximately 20 yrs. old) were arguing in the street when the suspect shot the victim. The suspect fled in a Gold Dodge Caravan. Police said there are no suspects in custody and anyone with information is asked to call the TIPS Hotline at 816.474.8477.

Many of Garcia's classmates gathered on the family porch to

share their grief. Garcia was a good student according to classmates. The family moved to the area from Mexico nearly 10 years ago, thinking it would be a safer city to raise a family than in their homeland.



**Adolescente asesinado cerca de su hogar**

El 31 de mayo del 2010, en el Día para Conmemorar a los Caídos en las Guerras, Juan C. García (16) fue balaceado y murió cerca de su casa alrededor de las 3:00 de la tarde. La policía de KCMO recibió una llamada para investigar una balacera en la residencia ubicada en el 1500 de la calle Belmont. Una vez que llegaron, la víctima de los disparos fue encontrada sin señales de vida. Él fue trasladado a un hospital local en donde fue pronunciado muerto un poco más tarde. Testigos dijeron que la víctima y un sospechoso (un hispano de aproximadamente 20 años de edad) se encontraban discutiendo en la calle

cuando el sospechoso le disparó a la víctima. El sospechoso se dio a la fuga en un Dodge Caravan de color dorado. La policía dice que por el momento, no hay sospechosos detenidos y a cualquier persona con información se le pide que llame a la Línea de Emergencias TIPS al 816 474-8477. Muchos compañeros de García se reunieron en la casa del fallecido para expresar su consternación. Los compañeros de García comentaron que el era un buen estudiante. La familia llegó de México hace cerca de diez años, pensando que esta ciudad sería mas segura en comparación con su país para la formación de la familia

**Lationo Summerfest this weekend**

The Annual Hispanic Media Association's of Greater KC Latino Summerfest is set for this weekend June 5&6 from 1-10 P.M. at Emerson Park in Kansas City, Kansas.

Members of the HMA are gearing up for a great event that will bring live music and dancing throughout the two-day event. Once again, great Latino food and plenty of booths with everything from Arts and Craft, imports from Mexico will welcome visitors.

The HMA brings Latino Summerfest to the community and at the same time raises dollars for their HMA Scholarship programs. HMA president Joe Arce said, "this event helps to support area students that are college bound. Over the years we have assisted dozens of area students."

Arce and HMA members are thankful to the sponsors, area bands and dancers that are joining them in putting this annual event on. "We just can't do all this without the support of this community," said Arce.

Llame para anunciarse en nuestra sección de clasificados: **(816)472.5246**



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JOHN SANCHEZ JR.

John Sanchez Jr. was called home by his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on May 27, 2010. As he enters the gates of heaven let him have eternal rest granted unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

John Sanchez Jr., 56, of Kansas City, Kansas, passed away May 27, 2010 at Providence Medical Center. Junior, was employed at Unilever for 29 years. He was preceded in death by his father, John Sanchez Sr. Junior is survived by his wife, Cathy Sanchez; his mother, Andrea Sanchez; sons, Christopher and Joseph (Regina) Sanchez; daughter, Catherine Sanchez; sisters; Connie (Richard) Rios, Mary (Gene) Ruiz, Martha Muro, Andriana Sanchez; half-sisters; Refugio Sosa, Nelda Sanchez and Nurdia Sanchez; grandchildren; Anthony, Andrew, Angelo, Venicio, Alex, JoJo, and BeBe; special nephew, Anthony Sanchez; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Family, friends and co-workers gathered at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine on June 1, on Kansas City's Westside for the visitation and to say their farewell to the man everyone knew as "Junior." Flowers and pictures filled the altar of the shrine as many of the visitors looked close at the images recalling the fond memories of Junior.

On June 3, 2010 John Sanchez Jr. was laid to rest in Maple Hill Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas afterward a reception was held to share some of the great stories and fun times they all had with Junior.

Over his lifetime he made many friends, his bond with his family and friends is what kept him going. His beautiful smile and his sense of humor is what many will remember about Junior.

He will be truly missed by his loving family, friends and the co-workers he met along the way.

The family wishes to express their thanks and appreciation for your many prayers and support.

Pall Bearers: Richard Rios Jr., Anthony Sanchez, Jaime Rios, Raymond Castenada Jr., Moses Muro, and Stephen Rios.

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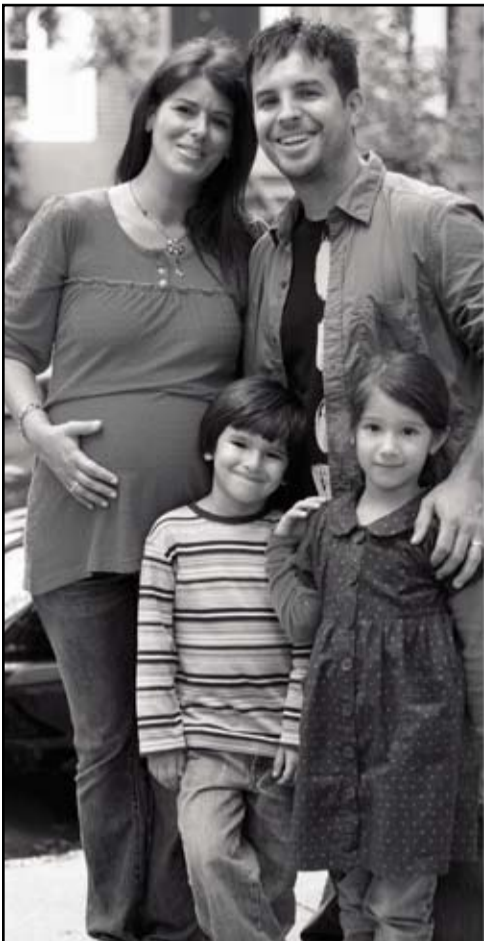
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For **NEWS** it's

Para **NOTICIAS** es

What a week it was for Obama  
Republicans of Missouri cheer their Candidate  
¿Qué semana fue para Obama?  
Repúblicanos de Missouri celebran a su Candidato


**CLASSIFIEDS & PUBLIC NOTICE • CLASIFICADOS & ANUNCIOS PÚBLICOS**

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**MBE/WBE/LBE Invitation to Bid:**

Turner Construction Company is soliciting bids for Work on the Kansas City Wizards Stadium project in Kansas City, KS. Bid Documents will be available for review at Turner's main office, The Builder's Association, FW Dodge, Reed Construction Data, NAWIC, Mid America Minority Business Development Council, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater KC, Hispanic Organization for Justice & Equality, Minority Contractors Association and AGC of MO - Jefferson City, and the Hispanic Contractors Association of Greater Kansas City. They also can be purchased at KC Blueprint & Plan Room (phone 913.788.5003) at www.kcblueprint.com and are accessible at www.turner-kc.com/Wizards.

All Bid Documents & Scope Info will be available by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 1st, 2010 and posted at: www.turner-kc.com/Wizards & www.kcblueprint.com.

**BID PACKAGES AND BID DUE DATES:**

BP #31 - Flooring	Friday, June 18, 2010 @ 2 PM, CDST
BP #32 - Joint Sealants & Expansion Joints	Friday, June 18, 2010 @ 2 PM, CDST
BP #35 - Ceramic Tile	Friday, June 18, 2010 @ 2 PM, CDST
BP #36 - Resinous Flooring	Friday, June 18, 2010 @ 2 PM, CDST
BP #38 - Painting	Friday, June 18, 2010 @ 2 PM, CDST

\*\* Bids are not being accepted for any other scopes of work at this time \*\*

**BIDDING QUESTIONS:**

All Scope or Bidding Questions need to be typewritten and faxed to: 816-283-0558. Bids are to be directed to Josh Jones at 2345 Grand, Suite 1000, Kansas City, MO 64108 or faxed to 816.283.0558.

**URGENT NOTICE**


Renovation Contractors are required to be Lead-Certified by EPA as of April 22, 2010 are you?

Renovation firms must be certified by April 22, 2010 to work in pre-1978 homes and child care facilities.

Penalties for noncompliance include fines of \$32,500 per incident and possible jail time of up to 1 year per incident!

An 8 hour class is required to become an EPA Certified Renovator to work on any Section 8 Project-Based Housing, Community Development Block Grant Programs, schools, daycares and more!

This RRP rule affects renovation contractors, generals, carpenters, painters, plumbers, electricians, lessors of property, and other trades.

It will affect your business!

To Schedule your class contact Rosalyn at: 816-225-0957

Glynite Construction Services

An Accredited EPA Training Provider

Or you can schedule on-line at [www.glyniteconstruction.com](http://www.glyniteconstruction.com)

**The University of Kansas Physicians  
Registered Nurse**

The University of Kansas Physicians, the largest multi-specialty medical practice in the Kansas City area, is seeking multiple Registered Nurses to join the Department of Pediatrics:

Responsible for providing professional nursing care for clinic patients following established standards and practices. Assists physicians and staff in coordinating patient care. Functions as primary liaison between patients, staff and physicians. Minimum of one year professional nursing experience. Pediatric clinic experience preferred. RN degree required; BSN preferred. Must be proficient in English & Spanish.

Please apply online: [www.kuphysicians.com](http://www.kuphysicians.com)

Should you have trouble applying online, please contact Human Resources at 913-588-2512.

The University of Kansas Physicians Human Resources: Supporting our employees to be SIMPLY THE BEST!

AA/EOE


**Store Management Opportunities**

Hobby Lobby is a leader in the Arts & Crafts industry with nearly 450 stores located in 35 states. Candidates must have previous retail store management experience in one of the following: Supermarket chain, Craft chain, Mass merchant, Drug chain Building supply chain. Must be willing to relocate. Benefits include:

- All Stores Closed on Sunday!
  - Competitive Salaries
  - Paid Vacations
  - 401K Plan
  - Medical/Dental
  - Life Insurance
  - Merchandise Discount
  - Flex Spending Plan
- Qualified Candidates with Retail Management experience as listed above must apply on-line.

[www.hobbylobby.com](http://www.hobbylobby.com)

**Sealed bids for New Columbarium Wall Addition-Phase 2**

**Veterans Cemetery, Springfield, MO, Proj No. U1005-01 will be received by FMDC, State of MO, UNTIL 1:30 PM, 6/24/2010.**

**The pre-bid meeting is 2:30 pm, on 6/9/2010.**

**For specific project information and ordering plans, go to**

**<http://www.oa.mo.gov/fmdc/dc/list.htm>**

Clinical Study Opportunity for Healthy Adults! You don't have to stop your job search to advance medicine. Quintiles has clinical studies for healthy adults, 18+. Qualified volunteers could receive up to \$3,000. Call Quintiles at 913-894-5533 or visit our website StudyForChange.com

**For Rent**

5109 Hardesty Kansas City Mo. 64130 House with 3 bedroom, large yard, in country setting. \$500 security deposit, \$600 monthly. no utilities.

**CLINICAL STUDY OPPORTUNITY**

Clinical Study Opportunity for Healthy Adults! You don't have to stop your job search to advance medicine. Quintiles has clinical studies for healthy adults, 18+. Qualified volunteers could receive up to \$3,000. Call Quintiles at 913-894-5533 or visit our website StudyForChange.com

**MBE/WBE/DBE and Section 3 Subcontractors INVITATION TO BID**

Barstow Construction, Inc. is soliciting MBE/WBE/DBE and Section 3 subcontractor/supplier bid proposals for the Shirkey Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Richmond, MO. Prevailing Wages apply. Proposals must be submitted to our office by June 7, 2010, by 1:00 p.m. Questions, call: Janet McKinney at 816-421-5677, fax 816-421-8417.

EOE.

**NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF STATE AWARD**

Proposed program of Projects  
Johnson County Transit  
FY 2010 Grant Assistance

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting will be held upon request from interested private enterprises, agencies or persons for the purpose of considering projects for which assistance is being sought from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). Johnson County Transit has submitted a grant application to KDOT generally described as follows:

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL SHARE TOTAL AMOUNT
<b>I. OPERATING</b>	
1. The JO and The JO - Special Edition	\$1,146,074
<b>II. CAPITAL</b>	
1. Replacement and expansion of fleet	\$136,641
TOTAL	\$1,282,715
Local Share	\$63,120
State Share	\$1,282,715
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,345,835</b>

The program has been developed to benefit the operation of public transportation in the Johnson County area. The funds will be used for operating expenses associated with service operations, and capital costs for expansion and replacement vehicles.

Additional information concerning the program and the application for the state grant can be obtained by contacting the Johnson County Transportation Department, Transportation Director, Alice M. Amrein, 1701 W. 56 Highway, Olathe, Kansas 66061, no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 10, 2010. If a request is received, a public meeting will be held on Thursday, June 17, 2010 at the Murray L. Nolte Transit Center, 1701 W. 56 Highway, Olathe, Kansas 66061 at 1:00 p.m. If no comments are received and no request for a public meeting is received, a public meeting will not be held and the projects described above will become the Final Program of Projects.

*Alice M. Amrein* *June 21, 2010*  
Alice M. Amrein Date  
Transportation Director  
Johnson County Transit

F:\Transit\KDOT public notice\FY2011 State grant public notice doc.

**MBE/WBE/DBE and Section 3 Subcontractors INVITATION TO BID**

Barstow Construction, Inc. is soliciting MBE/WBE/DBE and Section 3 subcontractor/supplier bid proposals for the Miller Nichols Library Renovations, Kansas City, MO. Prevailing Wages apply. Proposals must be submitted to our office by June 10, 2010, by 1:00 p.m. Questions, call: Janet McKinney at 816-421-5677, fax 816-421-8417.

EOE.



**Metropolitan Community College**

**Academic Advisor**

For more info: [www.mcckcjobs.com](http://www.mcckcjobs.com)  
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**Metropolitan Community College**

**Business & Technology  
TechLine Specialist**

For more info: [www.mcckcjobs.com](http://www.mcckcjobs.com)  
EOE/AA

**STRONG TECHNICAL SKILLS = GOOD JOBS.  
Attend MCC-BTC's**

Career Exploration Night Thur. June 10, 5:45 p.m. Learn about training for careers in Drafting, Engineering Technology, HVAC, Precision Machining or Environmental Health & Safety.

Call 816-604-5200 or go to [mcckc.edu/visitBTC](http://mcckc.edu/visitBTC) to register. MCC-Business & Technology Campus 1775 Universal Ave., KC MO 64120 Northwest of Front St. & I-435

**MBE/WBE Invitation to Bid**

Neighbors Construction Co., Inc. is soliciting proposals from certified MBE/WBE firms for all trades for the construction of the SSA Studio Building; a single story 11,500 sq ft LEED certified building. Plans will be available to be viewed at: Black Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, KCHACE, NAWIC, Minority Contractors Association, NACCC, HCAKC Inc., Mid-America Minority Business Council, and Women Construction Owners and Executives. Plans can be purchased at [www.drexeltch.com](http://www.drexeltch.com). Bids are due by 6/15/10 at 12:00 noon. Fax bids to Neighbors Construction at 913-422-7384 Call 913-422-5555 with questions.

**Drivers Wanted:** B & W Dedicated loads from MI to KS 100% no touch Auto Freight Average 2500-3000 miles per week Requirements 1999 or newer tractor CDL-A 18 months exp 800-325-7884 ext 4

**Drivers Opening**  
Drivers: Teams Needed to run Preloaded, Drop/Hook Scheduled Lane Freight. Avg. 5100-6200 mi/wk & Get Home Weekly with Werner Enterprises: 1-866-823-0353

## AS I SEE IT • COMO YO LO VEO

BY AXEL FUENTES

From coast to coast in the United States, thousands of hard working families have marched to raise their voices against Arizona's recent law S.B. 1070 which represents another thorn in the heart of America. I hope the voices of immigrants in the U.S. are heard. Lawmakers should not put their political careers ahead of making important decisions in favor of these families.

There are already enough thorns hurting the hearts of millions of human beings – especially those who are feeding Americans and strengthening the economy of this nation through their hard work.

Several people have said to me, "I am okay with immigrants, but only legal immigrants."

I always ask them, "Do you know what the immigrants need to come to this country legally?" The answer is always, "go to the embassy and apply for a visa" and "then why don't all immigrants do that?" I ask.

I can tell right away that many people do not understand the cost and process to obtain a visa. In other words, getting a visa to the United States is like winning the lottery. There is a considerable cost to immigrants from countries such as Guatemala where an interview cost \$300 and does not guarantee a visa. \$300 in Guatemala represents the salary of 1½ months of work for a teacher. They have to prove that they have enough money to support themselves in the United States in addition to having a good career.

There also must be a need for the job they are seeking. If you have a good career and you have money in the bank, those wishing to go to the United States are asked 'why would you want to leave your family behind and move to the United States to do the hardest most dangerous jobs?'

POR AXEL FUENTES

Desde costa a costa en los Estados Unidos, miles de familias trabajadoras han marchado para airar sus voces en contra de la reciente ley S.B. 1070 de Arizona la cual representa otra espina en el corazón de Estados Unidos. Espero que las voces de los inmigrantes en EE.UU. sean escuchadas. Legisladores no deberían poner sus carreras políticas adelantándose a tomar importantes decisiones a favor de estas familias.

Ya hay demasiadas espinas lastimando los corazones de millones de seres humanos – especialmente de aquellos que están alimentando a los estadounidenses y fortaleciendo la economía de esta nación mediante su duro trabajo.

Varias personas me han dicho, "No tengo problemas con los inmigrantes, pero solamente con los inmigrantes legales".

Yo siempre les pregunto, "¿Saben qué necesitan los inmigrantes para venir legalmente a este país?" La respuesta siempre es, "ir a la embajada y solicitar una visa" y "entonces ¿Porqué todos los inmigrantes no lo hacen?" les pregunto.

Puedo decir de inmediato que muchas personas no entienden el costo y el proceso para obtener una visa. En otras palabras, obtener una visa para venir a EE.UU. es como sacarse la lotería. Existe un considerable costo para inmigrantes de países como Guatemala en donde una entrevista cuesta \$300 y no garantiza una visa. \$300 en Guatemala representa el salario de 1½ meses de trabajo para un maestro. Ellos tienen que probar que tienen suficiente dinero para mantenerse a sí mismos en EE.UU. en adición a contar con una buena carrera.

También allí debe de haber una necesidad para llenar el trabajo que están buscando. Si uno tiene una buena carrera y uno tiene dinero en el banco, a aquellos que quieren ir a EE.UU. se les pregunta '¿Por qué quiere usted dejar a su familia atrás y mudarse a EE.UU. ha hacer los trabajos más duros y peligrosos?'

The truth is, there is no way a teacher making \$8 a day is going to be able to save enough money, especially when a gallon of gas costs \$3.60 and one pound of meat costs \$3. Now the question is, 'how is that teacher going to prove that he has enough money to support himself in the United States and pay for the application to get the visa?'

The fact is there are very few people who will ever qualify to get a visa.

Remember too that teachers earn considerably more than someone who is a laborer and makes only \$5 per day. Is this person ever going to be eligible to get a visa? Of course not.

This person wants to get away from poverty and hunger with hopes of getting a better life and providing more for their family. They are putting their lives at risk by passing the border to the United States. If this person makes it to the United States, they will do the most difficult and least desirable jobs. They will be exploited by employers and since they are undocumented they will be afraid to stand up for their rights.

They will be asked to speak in English yet be denied access to an education. In addition, they could get injured or sick while working under harsh working conditions, but still access to healthcare will be denied. If they need to go to work or go to the grocery store they cannot because they are also denied a drivers license. Every single week taxes are being taken out of their paychecks but at the end of the year they cannot file an income tax return.

And now they are being criminalized for the color of their skin and the way they dress.

Poverty and hunger are the driving forces of immigration in most cases. Here are just a few examples of the conditions people

que la gente enfrenta en países como Guatemala. En 1954, el gobierno guatemalteco trató de distribuirle parcelas de tierra a cada uno de sus ciudadanos, para que cada uno tuviera tierra para tener sus propios cultivos y cosechar su propia comida. Inmediatamente la compañía estadounidense United Fruit Company – la cual es propietaria de enormes porciones de tierra en América Central – comenzó una campaña de propaganda para detener el programa. Al poco tiempo después, ello encendió una guerra total en Guatemala.

Hace dos años, cuando la compañía financiera CitiGroup se apoderó del banco local de Centro América, ellos les dieron a los trabajadores dos opciones: trabajar por casi la mitad de sus salarios o irse. Esto puso a los trabajadores en una difícil situación financiera.

Finalmente, un dueño independiente de negocios que solía tener cinco zapaterías en Guatemala y empleaba a 12 personas, ahora solamente es propietario de dos tiendas con cuatro empleados a consecuencias de la llegada de una bien conocida compañía multinacional. Este pequeño dueño de negocios probablemente acabará siendo un empleado en vez de ser un empleador y pudiera verse forzado a emigrar a EE.UU.

Esto es como una pelea entre una hormiga y un elefante. Ejemplos como estos son frecuentes, pero allí no hay suficiente tiempo o espacio para mencionarlos todos ahora. Cuando usted disfruta de sus hortalizas y come carne, no se olvide que los inmigrantes son quienes están cosechando y procesando esos alimentos y cuando usted vea la maravillosa Casa Blanca, recuerde que fue construida por nuestros hermanos de color que eran esclavos. No muerdas la mano de quien te alimenta, no azotes las espaldas de aquellos que construyen tu casa y no vayas a la iglesia cada semana a dar gracias y al mismo tiempo respaldar iniciativas que lastiman a la gente que te da tanto de que estar agradecido.

Y ahora están siendo penalizados por el color de su piel y por la manera en que visten. La pobreza y el hambre son las fuerzas de empuje de la inmigración en la mayoría de los casos. He aquí tan sólo algunos ejemplos de las condiciones

face in countries like Guatemala.

In 1954 the Guatemalan government tried to distribute pieces of land to each of its citizens, so that everyone would have land to grow their own crops and harvest their own food. Immediately the United Fruit Company – which owns enormous expanses of land in Central America – started a propaganda campaign to halt the program. Not long after, this ignited a full-blown war in Guatemala.

Two years ago when the financial company CitiGroup took over the local Central American bank, they gave the workers two options: work for almost half their salary or quit. This put the workers in a difficult financial situation.

Finally, an independent business owner who used to own five shoe stores in Guatemala and employed 12 people now only owns two stores with four employees because of the arrival of a well-known, multinational company. This small business owner will probably end up being an employee instead of an employer and may be forced to immigrate to the United States.

This is like a fight between an ant and an elephant. Examples like these are frequent but there is not enough time or space to mention them all now.

When you are enjoying your vegetables and your meat, do not forget that immigrants are the ones who are harvesting and processing these foods, and when you see the marvelous white house remember that it was built by our brothers of color who were slaves. Don't bite the hands that feed you, do not whip the backs of those who build your house, and do not go to church every week to give thanks while supporting initiatives that hurt the people who give you so much to be thankful for.

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# LAT's Goal is to Serve

CONT./PAGE 1

"They took the word of someone who was also shot and was probably not in his right mind and in surgery, fighting for his own life," Garcia recalled. "I wanted to see my son. It was more excruciating trying to find out whether it was really my son."

The deceased was taken to Topeka for an autopsy.

Garcia agonized. "I couldn't wrap my mind around it. We planned a funeral for someone I hoped was not my son." Five days later, she finally saw her son's remains.

"I think there should have been somebody we could have called," Garcia said. "If there had been a taskforce force back then, then there would have been somebody to reach out to. Not that I would have been any less irate, not that I would have wanted to see him any less. But there would have been somebody there to explain it to me."

In a growing Kansas City Hispanic community, the statistics of violence also are climbing. And when a violent crime rips apart a family, survivors are reeling in bereavement and usually have no idea where or how to seek help.

For that reason Joe Arce, a Hispanic community leader and business owner, and John Fierro, executive director of the Mattie Rhodes Center, have forged the Latino Advocacy Taskforce (LAT).

Organizers announced the formation of the taskforce during a news conference on Saturday in front of the anchor agency, the Mattie Rhodes Center. Standing on the sidewalk near 17th Street and Belleview Avenue, about 60 people, many of them the family members of recent homicide victims, stood to hear what help the taskforce would provide.

Crispin Rea, the youth and community liaison with the Mattie Rhodes Center, will lead the initiative along with Lisa Sidenstick, a youth care advocate and a CASA (Case Appointed Special Advocates)

volunteer for Jackson County Family Court.

"For too long, victims of violent crime in our community have been left to understand investigative procedures, navigate the court system and to survive the grief process alone," Rea told the gathering. "For too long, victims of violent crime in our community have not had a central location or a network of services at their fingertips when they find themselves asking, 'Where do I go now?'"

After almost a year of planning and visiting with area families, community leaders, and social service agencies, the taskforce will serve families of violent crime victims in three key areas, Rea said.

First, the taskforce will serve as a resource referral agency. When victims need services beyond the scope of the Mattie Rhodes Center, the taskforce will have a strong network to tap. Some needs might include finding a new home after the victim's home has been riddled with bullets in a drive-by shooting or finding a funeral home that will work with Spanish-speaking victims.

"We will do what we can to connect the individual with the services," Rea said.

Second, the taskforce will provide direct assistance for victim advocacy – whether helping them with navigating the court process, understanding their rights as victims or using Mattie Rhodes' mental health services.

Finally, the taskforce will mobilize community support and spur awareness for the victim's family whether it is through a prayer vigil, a religious ceremony or a fundraiser to increase reward money.

"This program is very personal," said Lisa Sidenstick, who was a cousin to Jose Macias. She told the crowd, "We are here to help you. Don't be afraid to ask for help. We want to help you, and it's a very important process."

Other members of the taskforce are Chato Villalobos,

John Garcia, Josie Garcia, Iberty Gedeon, Sylvia Raya and Father Al Ebach.

At Saturday's gathering, many reminded onlookers of their lost loved ones. Others carried pictures of victims or donned T-shirts with the victims' images printed on them.

Guadalupe Rennau, mother of homicide victim John Valdivia, who was killed in mid-February, said the taskforce will provide an important service to the community.

"When something like this happens, you are just lost," Rennau said. "You have no idea who to turn to. It's one thing when someone dies, it's another thing when someone is murdered. I've dealt with death, but not with murder. You don't know what to do or where to go, especially when police don't have a suspect."

She said she would look into the mental health programs the taskforce provides.

And in the wake of tragedy, the taskforce also will provide faith counseling to comfort family members.

For 30 years, Arce, formerly with For 4 News and the publisher of Kansas City Hispanic News, has encountered many families of homicide victims.

"What I learned from these families was many of them didn't know where to go for help, how to get in contact with the police detectives working the case, how and what to ask. They didn't understand that maybe they would need a mental health agency to help them cope with their loss," he said.

"I see in their faces the pain, the tears and the lack of words. But in the back of their minds they are shouting out, why my son, why my daughter, why me or why my family."

Arce said he would see the parents coping with the death, but many times the victim's siblings were not adjusting to the loss of their brother or sister.

"So it makes a person wonder how a family copes with this type of violence. Many have said to me that they feel they are going

## El Objetivo de LAT es el de Servirle a las Víctimas de Crímenes Violentos

CONT./PÁGINA 1

hijo?" preguntó ella. El otro joven lo había identificado, le dijeron.

"Ellos le creyeron a alguien que también había sido herido y probablemente no estaba en su sano juicio se encontraba en el quirófano, luchando por su propia vida", recuerda García. "Yo quería ver a mi hijo. Fue más insoportable tratar de saber si verdaderamente era mi hijo".

El cadáver del joven fue llevado a Topeka para que se le realizara una autopsia.

García agonizaba. "No podía hacerme la idea. Nosotros planeamos un funeral para alguien que esperábamos no fuera mi hijo". Cinco días después, ella finalmente pudo ver los restos de su hijo.

"Creo que allí debiera haber habido alguien a quien poder llamar", dijo García. "Si hubiera habido una fuerza de tarea por ese entonces, allí hubiera habido alguien a quien contactar. No es que con ello hubiera estado menos enfurecida. No es que hubiera tenido menos deseos de verle. Pero allí hubiera habido alguien que me lo hubiera explicado".

En la creciente comunidad hispana de Kansas City, las estadísticas de la violencia también están escalando. Y cuando un crimen violento desgarra a una familia, los sobrevivientes quedan deambulando por la pérdida y comúnmente no tienen idea dónde o cómo buscar ayuda.

Por esa razón, Joe Arce un líder y hombre de negocios de la comunidad hispana y John Fierro, director ejecutivo del Centro Mattie Rhodes, han forjado una Fuerza de Tarea para Abogar por los Hispanos (LAT, por sus siglas en inglés).

Los organizadores anunciaron la formación de la fuerza de tarea durante una conferencia de prensa el sábado en frente de la agencia ancla, el Centro Mattie Rhodes. En la acera cercana a la

Calle 17 y la Avenida Belleview, cerca de 60 personas, muchas de ellas familiares de víctimas de recientes homicidios, acudieron para escuchar qué ayuda podría ofrecer la fuerza de tarea.

Crispín Rea, quien actúa como enlace entre la juventud y la comunidad y el Centro Mattie Rhodes, dirigirá la iniciativa en conjunto con Lisa Sidenstick, quien trabaja en abogacía juvenil y también es voluntaria de tipo CASA (Persona nombrada para abogar como especialista en casos) de la Corte Familiar del Condado de Jackson.

"Por mucho tiempo, las víctimas de crímenes violentos en nuestra comunidad han sido dejadas sin asistencia en lo referente a entender los procedimientos investigativos, a navegar el sistema de cortes y a sobrevivir el proceso de sufrir una pérdida sola", Rea le dijo a la concurrencia. "Por mucho tiempo, las víctimas de crímenes violentos en nuestra comunidad no han tenido una localización central o una red de servicios a su alcance cuando se encuentran preguntándose a sí mismos, '¿Dónde voy ahora?'"

Después de un año de planificación y de visitar a las familias del área, líderes comunales y agencias de servicios sociales, la fuerza de tarea atenderá a las víctimas de crímenes violentos en tres áreas claves, dijo Rea.

Primero, la fuerza de tarea servirá como una agencia para referir recursos. Cuando las víctimas necesitan servicios que van más allá de lo que el Centro Mattie Rhodes puede hacer, la fuerza de tarea contará una fuerte red de donde sacar recursos. Algunas necesidades podrán incluir encontrar un nuevo hogar después de que el hogar de la víctima haya quedado lleno de balas producto de una balacera hecha desde un carro en movimiento o encontrar una funeraria que trabaje con víctimas de habla hispana.

"Haremos lo que nos sea posi-

ble para conectar a las personas con los servicios", dijo Rea.

Segundo, la fuerza de tarea ofrecerá asistencia directa para abogar por las víctimas – ya sea ayudándolos a navegar el proceso de las cortes, a entender sus derechos como víctimas o a utilizar los servicios para salud mental de Mattie Rhodes.

Finalmente, la fuerza de tarea movilizará el apoyo de la comunidad y motivará la toma de conciencia de la familia de la víctima ya sea mediante una vigilia de oraciones, una ceremonia religiosa o un beneficio para recaudar dinero para aumentar el dinero de la recompensa.

"Este programa es muy personal", dijo Lisa Sidenstick, quien era prima de José Macías. Ella le dijo a la multitud, "Estamos aquí para ayudarlos. No tengamos temor de pedir ayuda. Nosotros queremos ayudarlos y es un proceso muy importante".

Otros miembros de la fuerza de tarea son Chato Villalobos, John García, Josie García, Iberty Gedeon, Sylvia Raya y el Padre Al Ebach.

En la reunión del sábado, muchas personas les recordaron a la concurrencia sobre los seres queridos que han perdido. Otros llevaban fotos de las víctimas o llevaban playeras con las imágenes de las víctimas impresas en ellas.

Guadalupe Rennau, madre de la víctima de un homicidio John Valdivia, quien fue asesinado a mediados de febrero, dijo que la fuerza de tarea le ofrecerá un importante servicio a la comunidad.

"Cuando algo como esto sucede, uno simplemente se pierde", dijo Rennau. "Uno no tiene idea a quién dirigirse. Una cosa es cuando alguien muere, otra cosa es cuando alguien es asesinado. Yo he tratado con la muerte, pero no con un asesinato. Uno no sabe qué hacer o dónde ir, especialmente cuando la policía no tiene a un sospechoso."

Ella dijo que le daría una mi-

# Victims of Violent Crime

through a crisis alone. Once the loved one has been buried the reality sets in, and they suffer in silence without seeking help not only for themselves but for their children."

The taskforce will draw its expertise on mental health therapy from its anchor agency, the Mattie Rhodes Center, which has long provided bilingual and bicultural mental health and social services to Kansas City's Latino community. John Fierro, the organization's executive director, said the objectives of the Latino Advocacy Taskforce were a natural fit for the Mattie Rhodes Center.

Alvin Brooks, president of the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, said Latino and African-American males make up about 90 percent of the homicide victims, "which means we have a lot of work to do."

Brooks added, "The Ad Hoc Group Against Crime stands ready to meet and to work with the Latino taskforce in any way we can. ... And please understand that this is not just a Latino problem or a black program. This is a Kansas City dilemma, and unless we look at it from that vantage point, we will never have any success."



Jackson County Prosecutor Jim Kanatzar thanked organizers of the taskforce for addressing a complex need in the community. He said the taskforce could expect the full coopera-

tion of his office and of the victim services unit.

"This is longtime coming," Kanatzar told the crowd on Saturday, "but I'm glad that it's here. And I'm pleased but not surprised that Mattie Rhodes is once again stepping forward to fill that void."

The taskforce is the result of many organizational meetings between representatives of various agencies.

In mid-November, Fierro and Arce rallied about 40 people—representing various businesses, human service agencies, churches, media, law enforcement groups as well as the Mexican Consulate and victims of violent crimes—who all offered their support and skills to the taskforce.

Javier Perez Jr., a former member of the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners, said the taskforce is a project long overdue that has good goals.

"This is a plus not just for the Latino community but for the entire Kansas City community," Perez said.

He said it was too early to predict how successful the taskforce will be, but he said its evolution appears promising because it will help families of victims address critical needs.

The taskforce, he said, may also help break the language barrier that can sometimes hinder an investigation.

"When someone of Hispanic descent cannot speak English and is a victim of a crime, it is difficult for the prosecutor to communicate with them. And often the crime goes unresolved because the victim gives up and obviously we want to turn that around."

Chato Villalobos, a Kansas City police officer who grew up on the Westside, said he supported the creation of the taskforce from the beginning.

Based on his 10 years of law enforcement experience, Villalobos said forging a link between the community and the police



LAT co-chairmen Joe Arce and John Fierro along with other community leaders worked during the past year to develop a new initiative that would meet the needs of the growing Latino community who are stricken with violent crime. They encouraged anyone wanting or needing help to call the Mattie Rhodes Center. Los vice-ejecutivos de LAT Joe Arce y John Fierro junto a otros líderes comunitarios trabajaron durante el año pasado para desarrollar una nueva iniciativa que atendiera las necesidades de la creciente comunidad latina que es impactada por crímenes violentos. Ellos exhortaron a cada persona que quiera o necesite ayuda a que llamen al Centro Mattie Rhodes.

has always served as a critical part to investigating a crime.

"The police department is always looking for opportunities to deter crime ... and this will make it easier for the community to have access to the police and for police to access the community," Villalobos told Hispanic News. "I don't see how anybody cannot benefit from this."

Villalobos, who works closely with the Latino community through the Westside Community Action Network, said he was encouraged to learn that social service agencies and the business community were interested in the taskforce.

He said criminals usually prey on communities who are not connected with the police department. "Whenever there is a lack of trust between the

two (the public and police), that's when criminals exploit the chance to commit a crime." So both sides stand to gain from any connection fostered by the taskforce.

Villalobos also said the Latino Advocacy Taskforce will do for the Hispanic community what the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime has done for the African-American community. "I know for a fact that they have been instrumental in solving crime and holding people accountable for the crimes that have occurred. Not only does it benefit the victim, the whole community benefits."

Arce said violent crimes are a community problem, and the taskforce will be the community response.

"The police investigate the case, they investigate the suspect and the victim, but often

they leave the family to mend itself," Arce said. "Nobody is handling the family-side of things, and there is where the taskforce will come in to help."

Sylvia Raya, whose 26-year-old daughter Olivia was murdered in December 2002, said the taskforce is a good and positive program.

"Had the taskforce been around at the time of our loss, it would have made a difference in our lives," she said. "You hear about people being killed, but when it happens to someone you love, you are just left numb. You are not yourself, you become a different person."

She remembers the shock, not thinking clearly and not thinking about her faith. "This program will be helpful to anybody who feels the need."

God and faith now allow Raya to go on, and her daughter remains in her heart.

As homage to her daughter, Raya said she would be part of the taskforce, willing to talk to relatives of victims in their time of need. "Even if I'm needed to hear crying or to cry along with someone, I will be more than willing to help. I know my daughter would approve of that. She would be proud of me and say, 'Way to go, mom.'"

Raya said the taskforce will be a blessing that will help ease someone's pain.

"We are all brothers and sisters, and we are suppose to help each other in a time of crisis," she said. "That is what we are suppose to do."



Families who attended the announcement of the LAT learned that day that the Mattie Rhodes Center is the anchor agency that can help with the issues of coping with a loss. Las familias que asistieron al anuncio del LAT se enteraron ese día de que el Centro Mattie Rhodes es la agencia ancla que puede ayudar con problemas relacionados a sobrellevar una pérdida.

rada a los programas de salud mental que ofrece la fuerza de tarea, y en la estela dejada por la tragedia, la fuerza de tarea también ofrecerá consejos de fe para reconfortar a los familiares.

Por 30 años, Arce, otrora con Fox 4 News y editor de Kansas City Hispanic News, se ha encontrado con muchas familias de víctimas de homicidios.

"Lo que he aprendido de esas familias ha sido que muchas de ellas no sabían dónde dirigirse a buscar ayuda, cómo contactarse con los detectives de la policía que trabajan el caso, cómo y qué preguntar. Ellos no entendían que a lo mejor necesitarían una agencia de la salud mental para que los ayudara a tratar con su pérdida", dijo él.

"Yo veo en sus rostros el dolor, las lágrimas y la falta de palabras. Pero en sus mentes ellos gritan, porque mi hijo, porque mi hija, porque yo o porque mi familia".

Arce dijo que solía ver a los padres soportar la muerte, pero muchas veces los hermanos y hermanas de la víctima no se ajustaban a la pérdida de su hermano o hermana.

"Por lo que hace que una persona se pregunte cómo una familia soporta este tipo de vio-

lencia. Muchas personas me han dicho que sienten que están pasando a través de una crisis solas. Una vez que el ser querido ha sido enterrado la realidad se deja caer y ellos sufren en silencio sin buscar ayuda no tan solo para ellos, sino que tampoco lo hacen para sus hijos".

La fuerza de tarea sacará su experiencia en terapia para la salud mental desde su agencia ancla, el Centro Mattie Rhodes, el cual por mucho tiempo le ha ofrecido salud mental y servicios sociales bilingües y multiculturales a la comunidad latina de Kansas City. John Fierro, el director ejecutivo de la organización, dijo que los objetivos de la Fuerza de Tarea Latina para la Abogacía fueron un encaje natural para el Centro Mattie Rhodes.



Alvin Brooks, presidente de Grupo Ad Hoc en Contra del Crimen, dijo que los hombres latinos y afro-estadounidenses componen cerca del 90 por ciento de las víctimas de homicidios, "lo que significa que tenemos mucho trabajo que hacer."

Brooks agregó, "El Grupo Ad Hoc en Contra del Crimen está listo a trabajar con la fuerza de tarea latina de cualquier manera que nos sea posible. ... Y por favor entiendan que no es simplemente un problema latino o un problema afro-estadounidense. Esto es un dilema de Kansas City y a menos que lo miremos desde ese punto de ventaja, nunca tendremos éxito alguno".

El Procurador del Condado de Jackson Jim Kanatzar le agradeció a los organizadores de la fuerza de tarea por tratar una compleja necesidad en la comunidad. Él dijo que a fuerza de tarea puede esperar la completa cooperación de su oficina y de la unidad de servicios a las víctimas.

"Esto tardó mucho en venir", Kanatzar le dijo a la multitud el sábado, "pero estoy feliz de que esté aquí. Y estoy feliz, pero no sorprendido de que Mattie Rhodes esté nuevamente dando un paso adelante para llenar ese vacío".

La fuerza de tarea es el resultado de muchas reuniones organizacionales entre los representantes de varias agencias.

A mediados de noviembre, Fierro y Arce reunieron a cerca de 40 personas—representando a varios negocios, agencias de servicios humanos, iglesias, prensa, grupos del resguardo de la ley además del Consulado Mexicano y a víctimas de crímenes violentos—quienes en su mayoría les ofrecieron su apoyo y habilidades a la fuerza de tarea.

Javier Pérez Jr., un ex miembro de la Junta de Comisionados de la Policía de Kansas City, dijo que a fuerza de tarea es un proyecto que se necesitaba desde hace mucho tiempo y que tienen buenos objetivos.

"Esto es algo bueno no tan solo para la comunidad latina, sino que también para toda la comunidad de Kansas City", dijo Pérez.

Él dijo que era muy temprano para predecir qué tan exitosa será la fuerza de tarea, pero él dijo que su evolución se ve prometedor porque ayudará a las familias de las víctimas a tratar necesidades críticas.

La fuerza de tarea, dijo él, podría también ayudar a romper la barrera idiomática que puede algunas veces afectar una investigación.

"Cuando alguien de descendencia hispana no puede hablar inglés y es víctima de un crimen, es difícil para el procurador comunicarse con ellos. Y muy a menudo el crimen queda sin resolver porque la víctima se da por vencida y obviamente que queremos hacer cambiar eso".

Chato Villalobos, un agente de la policía de Kansas City que creció en el Westside, dijo que ha apoyado la creación de la fuerza de tarea desde el principio.

Basándose en sus 10 años de experiencia en el resguardo de la ley, Villalobos dijo que el forjar un vínculo entre la comunidad y la policía siempre ha servido como una parte crítica de la investigación de un crimen.

"El departamento de policía está siempre buscando oportunidades para coartar el crimen... y esto le hará más fácil a la comunidad tener acceso a la policía y hará más fácil que la policía tenga

más acceso a la comunidad", Villalobos le dijo a Hispanic News. "Yo no veo cómo alguien pudiera no beneficiarse de ello".

Villalobos, quien trabaja de manera cercana con la comunidad latina a través de la Red de Acción Comunitaria del Westside, dijo que fue motivado al enterarse de que agencias de servicios sociales y la comunidad de negocios estaban interesadas en la fuerza de tarea.

Él dijo que los criminales hacen comúnmente presa de las comunidades que no están conectadas con el departamento de policía. "Donde quiera que haya una falta de confianza entre los dos (El público y la policía), es entonces cuando los criminales explotan la oportunidad de cometer crímenes", Por eso las dos partes están para obtener ganancias de cualquier conexión auspiciada por a fuerza de tarea.

Villalobos dijo que la Fuerza de Tarea de Abogacía Latina hará para la comunidad hispana lo que el Grupo Ad Hoc en Contra del Crimen ha hecho por la comunidad afro-estadounidense. "Yo sé de hecho que ellos han sido cruciales en lo que va a resolver crímenes y hacer responsables a personas por los crímenes que han ocurrido. Esto no beneficia solamente a la víctima, sino que toda la comunidad se beneficia".

Arce dijo que los crímenes violentos son un problema de la comunidad y la fuerza de tarea será la respuesta de la comunidad.

"La policía investiga el caso, ellos investigan al sospechoso y a la víctima, pero a menudo dejan que la familia se las arregle por cuenta propia", dijo Arce. "Nadie está manejando lo relacionado con las familias y es ahí donde la fuerza de tarea vendrá a ayudar".

Sylvia Raya, cuya hija de 26 años Olivia fue asesinada e diciembre del 2002, dijo que la fuerza de tarea es un programa bueno y positivo.

"Si la fuerza de tarea hubiera estado funcionando en el momento de nuestra pérdida, hubiera significado una diferencia en nuestras vidas", dijo ella. "Uno escucha sobre personas siendo asesinadas, pero cuando le sucede a alguien a quien uno ama, uno queda como adormecida. Uno no es uno mismo, uno se convierte en una persona diferente".

Ella recuerda el impacto, no pensar de manera clara y no pensar sobre su fe. "Este programa será beneficioso para cualquiera que sienta la necesidad".

Dios y la fe le permiten ahora a Raya seguir adelante y su hija permanece en su corazón.

A manera de homenaje para su hija, Raya dijo que sería parte de la fuerza de tarea, dispuesta a platicar con familiares de las víctimas cuando lo necesiten. "Incluso aunque sea necesitada para escuchar llantos o para llorar junto a alguien. Estaré más que deseosa de ayudar. Yo sé que mi hija aprobará eso. Ella estará orgullosa de mí y dirá, 'Esa es la manera de hacerlo mamá'".

Raya dijo que la fuerza de tarea será una bendición que ayudará a mitigar el dolor de alguna persona.

"Nosotros somos hermanas y hermanos y estamos supuestos a ayudarnos los unos a los otros en tiempos de crisis", dijo ella. "Eso es lo que estamos supuesto a hacer".

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STUDENT INTERN  
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2918 Southwest Blvd.  
Kansas City, MO 64108-1911  
PHONE: (816)472.KCHN  
FAX: (816)931.NEWS  
E-MAIL: kchnews@swbell.net  
WWW.KCHispanicNew

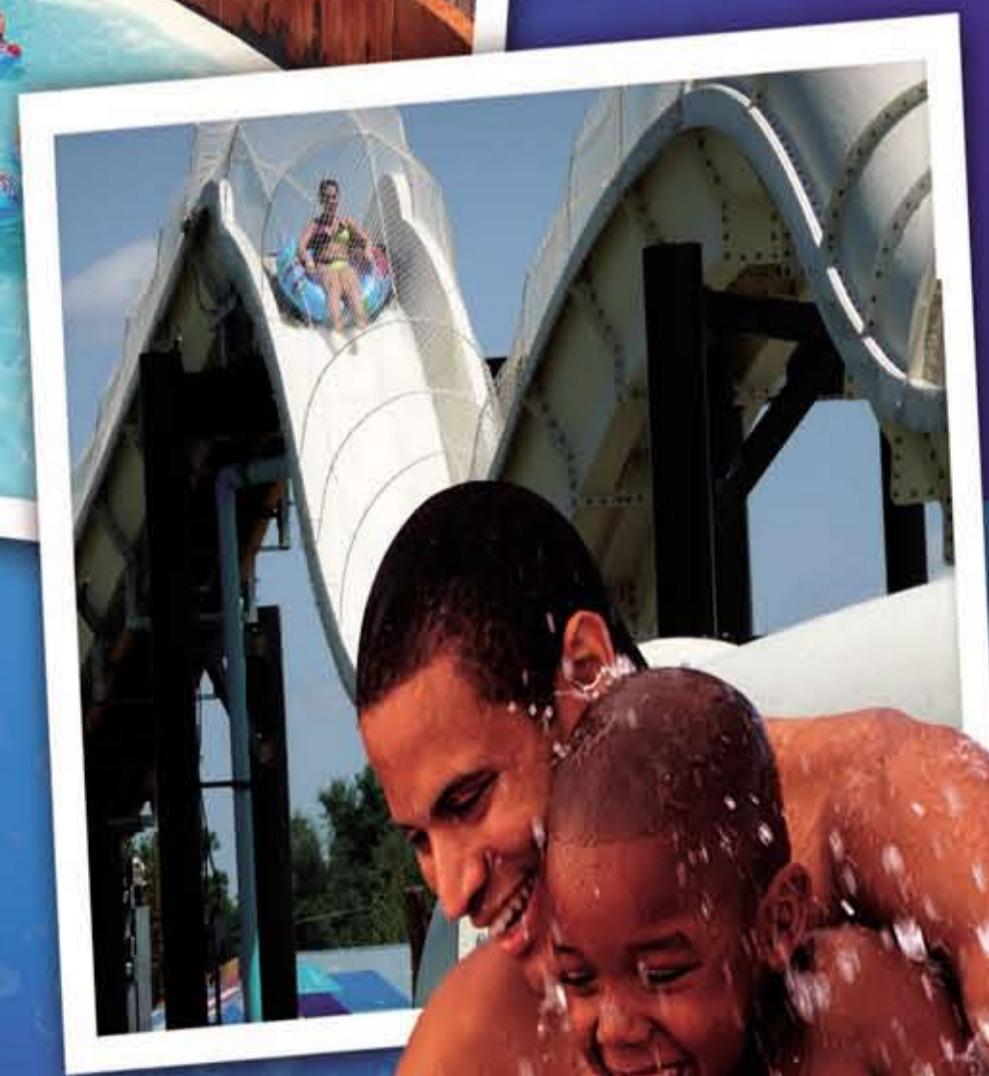
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