



President Obama told Americans,

“The American Dream is at risk of disappearing.”

See complete story on page 3

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Periódico Bilingüe Kansas City

Hollywood Casino...

Se Prepara para el Día Inaugural

Prepares for Opening Day



TRADUCE GEMMA TORNERO

El nuevo Casino Hollywood, en el Kansas Speedway, planea tener su magnífica celebración inaugural el 3 de febrero; una vez que ellos reciban la aprobación final por el estado y la comisión del juego. La semana pasada, Comisionados del Gobierno Unificado de la Ciudad y empleados del Gobierno Unificado, fueron invitados a recorrer el casino estilo Las Vegas.

Para los Comisionados del GU, era la primera vez en ver el interior del casino ya terminado. La última visita de los Comisionados al sitio, fue cuando el edificio estaba bajo construcción. Los miembros del grupo, no estuvieron decepcionados cuando anduvieron por el casino con valor de \$386 millones de dólares.

El casino, que ha estado bajo construcción durante aproximadamente dieciocho meses, presume de 100 mil pies cuadrados de espacio de juego, 2 mil máquinas tragamonedas, 52 mesas de juego y 5 restaurantes. El día del recorrido, el personal fue dispersado por todas las partes del casino, dando los últimos toques en paredes, techo y pisos.

VEA: HOLLYWOOD / PÁGINA 2

BY DEBRA DECASTER

The new Hollywood Casino at Kansas Speedway plans to hold their grand opening celebration on February 3 once they receive final approval by the state and the gaming commission. Last week Unified Government City Commissioners and Unified Government employees were invited to tour the Las Vegas style casino.

For the UG Commissioners it was the first time seeing the finished interior of the casino. The Commissioners' last visit to the site was when the building was under construction. The tour group members were not disappointed as they walked through the \$386 million dollar destination casino.

The casino, which has been under construction for about eighteen months, boasts 100,000 square feet of gaming space, 2,000 slot machines, 52 gaming tables and five restaurants. On the day of the tour, crews were scattered throughout the casino putting finishing touches on walls, ceiling and the floors.

Vice President and General Manager of the Hollywood Casino, Bob Sheldon, conducted the tour for

SEE: HOLLYWOOD / PAGE 2

The Little Neighborhood School That Can



Principal Connie Bowman, students and staff will be celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe's stellar accreditation performance with an Open House on January 29 at the school on the city's Westside.

La Directora Connie Bowman, los estudiantes y el personal celebrarán la acreditación estelar de la Virgen de Guadalupe con una jornada de puertas abiertas el 29 de enero al oeste de la ciudad.

La escuela del pequeño vecindario que sí puede

BY JOSE FAUS AND JOE ARCE

Connie Bowman, principal at Our Lady of Guadalupe School on the city's Westside, has spent twenty years at the school and for the last fifteen years the school has maintained an enviable record.

Each year in May, the school receives a report from the Missouri chapter of the Non-public Schools Accrediting Association. For 15 years, the school has received accreditation with no violations. Putting it in perspective, the Kansas City Missouri School District lost its accreditation this past year and faces administrative takeover by the state.

Bowman noted that the accreditation process is a precise measurement. "Fully accredited with no violations cited means that there were no areas that had to be changed in order to maintain full accreditation," she explained.

There are seven different areas evaluated including physical facility, instruction, student services and under each of those areas there are 15 criteria that you have to meet in order to meet that expectation. Those criteria includes test scores, verification that teachers are certified for the subjects they teach in addition to having state certification, parental participation, health services for kids cafeteria nutrition and others.

The school has been a mainstay of the Westside community and will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2015. The school was a k-8 school but currently operates as an elementary school k-5 under the auspices of the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocese.

The school has been heavily dependent on and rewarded by the community. A couple of years ago the school faced a

SEE: OLG NEARLY / PAGE 8

TRADUCE GEMMA TORNERO

Connie Bowman, directora de la Escuela Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en el Westside de la ciudad; ha pasado veinte años en la escuela y durante los últimos quince años la escuela ha mantenido un registro envidiable.

Cada año en mayo, la escuela recibe un informe de la Asociación de Acreditación de Escuelas No Públicas de la delegación Missouri. Durante 15 años, la escuela ha recibido la acreditación sin incumplimientos, poniéndolo en perspectiva; el Distrito Escolar de Kansas City, Missouri perdió su acreditación el año pasado y está frente a la entrada en funciones administrativas por parte del estado.

Bowman, mencionó que el proceso de acreditación es una medida precisa. "Totalmente acreditado sin incumplimientos, significa que no había en ninguna área, cosas que tuvieran que ser cambiadas, a fin de mantener la acreditación total", explicó ella.

Hay siete diferentes áreas evaluadas, incluyendo la instalación física, instrucción, servicios estudiantiles y bajo cada una de esas áreas, hay 15 criterios que usted tiene que satisfacer, a fin de completar esa expectativa. Esos criterios, incluyen calificaciones de las pruebas, verificación de que los profesores estén certificados para las materias que ellos enseñan, además de tener la certificación estatal, la participación de padres de familia, servicios de salud para los niños, nutrición en cafetería y otros.

La escuela ha sido un pilar de la comunidad del Westside y celebrará su 100 aniversario en el 2015. La institución, era una escuela k-8, pero actualmente, actúa como una escuela

VEA: OLG CASI / PÁGINA 8

KCK Police/ Fire Departments Looking for Recruits

Policía de KCK y el Departamento de bomberos buscan reclutados



If you drive by downtown KCK, you will see that the police department is looking for police officers. They will be taking applications for the next several days.

Si usted conduce por el centro de KCK, verá que el departamento de policía está reclutando agentes de policía. Ellos estarán recibiendo solicitudes en los próximos días.

BY DEBRA DECASTER

Each day on the job is different for those individuals who have chosen to serve their community as police officers or firefighters. For many it is not a job but a career – one that most individuals in these public service positions say has them looking forward to going to work each day.

Master Patrolman John Whaley has been a police officer for 16 years. Officer Brittanie Escareno Pruitt has been with the police department for five years and Deputy Chief Craig Duke has been on the fire department for 29 years.

"To this day, I still love going to work. I am proud to be a Kansas City Kansas Fire Fighter and I recommend this type of career to anyone who likes the daily challenge of helping people in their most time of need," said Duke.

It is the same feeling for Whaley as he reflects on his job. He has been the recruiting director for the police department for the past four years and when he is not recruiting, he is a motorcycle officer in Kansas City, Kansas.

"I became interested in police work when a close friend became a

SEE: APPLICATIONS / PAGE 7

TRADUCE GEMMA TORNERO

Cada día en el trabajo es diferente para aquellos individuos que han decidido servir a su comunidad como, policías o bomberos. Para muchos, no es un trabajo, sino una carrera – una, que la mayor parte de individuos en estos puestos de servicio público, dicen, los tiene esperando ir a trabajar cada día.

El experto agente de policía, John Whaley, ha sido policía durante 16 años. La oficial Brittanie Escareno Pruitt, ha estado con el Departamento de Policía durante cinco años y el Subdirector Craig Duke, ha estado en el cuerpo de bomberos durante 29 años.

"Hasta este día, todavía amo ir a trabajar; estoy orgulloso de ser Bombero de Kansas City Kansas y recomiendo este tipo de carrera a cualquier persona, que le guste el desafío diario de ayudar a la gente durante el tiempo de mayor necesidad", dijo Duke.

Es el mismo sentimiento para Whaley, cuando él reflexiona sobre su trabajo, él ha sido el director reclutador del Departamento de Policía, durante los cuatro años

VEA: ESTAN DISPONIBLES / PÁGINA 7

Hollywood Casino Gives UG Commissioners VIP Tour



With Kansas Speedway as a backdrop, customers at the new Hollywood Casino will be able to enjoy amenities such as diverse food options, entertainment and rooms of slots and gaming tables not to mention a VIP experience on race day.

Con la Pista Automovilística de Kansas de fondo, los clientes del nuevo Casino Hollywood serán capaces de disfrutar de comodidades así como diversas opciones de comida, entretenimiento, salas de máquinas tragamonedas y mesas de juego por no hablar de una experiencia VIP en el día de la carrera.

CONT./PAGE 1

the UG employees. The Turn 2 Sports Bar boasts an impressive look over the Kansas Speedway. The Brazilian wood floor had received its final coat of polish and was blocked off, but the tour group was allowed to stand inside the bar counter as the sun was setting and catch a view of the bar's namesake, Turn 2 Sports Bar of the Kansas Speedway.

"The overlook of the Speedway, it was like the double whammy. You are sitting there at the casino and then you are looking at the Speedway, which started it all (development). To me that was the best of both worlds - to be able to see both of those come together. It is an awesome sight," said Commissioner Nathan Barnes.

The casino restaurants were impressive. Granite tops in some locations, large wood carvings of the Kansas Speedway dominating the Epic Buffet, and dining tables set up for quiet, intimate steak dinners, were a few of the highlights the tour saw.

Chefs were on hand to greet the group and to talk about the different specialties created for the restaurants. The casino has three rooms for alcohol service,

one for wine, one for beer and one room set up with over 200 bottles of liquor dispensed by an automated system.

The casino has a state of the art security system with about 970 cameras installed throughout. "We meet the gaming regulations in that area. We have cameras in the front of the building, the back and of course on the gaming floor," said Sheldon.

After the tour, Barnes gave a comparison between Kansas City, Kansas and Branson, Missouri. "At one time Branson started from nothing and then people discovered gold in those hills and people came running," he said. "This is just the beginning. The casino has put us on the map to say that Wyandotte County is a good investment."

Commissioner John Mendez, who was Mayor Pro Tem for the evening, was impressed by the design concept of the casino. The game floor was vibrant with brightly colored carpeting; neon lights from slot machines and glass block walls that displayed music videos. Ornatly carved columns throughout the game floor gave the impression of an upscale casino.

"Everyone should be impressed with the design of

the casino and to think we have it here in Wyandotte County I am impressed with that," said Mendez. "It is just a matter of getting our people of Wyandotte County out here so they can be experience what I just experienced. A totally new casino that is going to help the future of our county, it is going to help the people, going to help bring in the dollars that we need to help our community."

The casino currently employs one thousand full-time workers and while the UG tour walked through the gaming floor, Sheldon stopped the tour at the game training stations to explain the games the employees were learning, and to emphasize that each employee goes through an intensive orientation.

"One of our biggest challenges is getting our one thousand team members through their intense training before opening day. We have basic orientation, which takes about eight hours, responsible gaming training and CPR training. It has been a challenge getting our team members through their training but it also has been great. As you can see, the building has come to life now with our employees here," said Sheldon.



The casino has employee amenities that impressed the tour group. Sheldon pointed out that employee's swipe their identification card and a carousel brings their casino uniform to a glass door where the employee retrieves it. The uniform is clean and in a plastic bag for them each day. Employees have locker rooms equipped with showers and their own on-site fitness facility.

Commissioner Angela Markley was impressed by the casino facility. "I think the casino is beautiful. I think it is great that they have a wide range of employees and the levels are really important for our county as we have more

entry level workers here. The general manager had mentioned that he started at the bottom level when he began working at the casino and he worked his way up into management, so I think that is important as well to show our residents that there are opportunities for those that are employed there," she said.

As the commissioners walked into the kitchens, the five restaurants, across the gaming floors, into the Turn 2 Sports Bar and stepped into the administration offices for a quick glimpse, they were encouraged to see that the casino had employed a work force that mirrored the community.

"One of the exciting things for me to see was that the employees seemed to be ethnically diverse. It is really representative of Wyandotte County, so I think that is very fitting to be in Wyandotte County. Overall I think the casino looked great. It seems to me that it is a little higher end, I like that, and it is a different market than what I currently see out there. I love the layout, the design; it is very customer friendly and the variety of restaurants. It seemed that the overall attitude was very positive between the employees and the management. They all seem to be working well together," said Commissioner Ann Murguía.

Hollywood Casino da a los Comisionados UG un Tour VIP

CONT./PÁGINA 1

El Vicepresidente y Director General del Casino Hollywood, Bob Sheldon, condujo el recorrido para los empleados del GU. La Barra de Deportes Vuelta 2, presume de una vista impresionante sobre el Kansas Speedway. El suelo de madera brasileña, había recibido su pulida final y fue cerrado, pero al grupo del recorrido, le fue permitido estar de pie dentro de la barra ya que el sol se ponía y daba una visión del homónimo de la barra, vuelta número dos del Kansas Speedway.

"La vista en alto del Speedway, era como un doble golpe. Usted se sienta allí en el casino y luego usted mira el Speedway, quien comenzó todo esto (el desarrollo). Para mí que fue lo mejor de ambos mundos - el tener la oportunidad de ver a ambos reunidos. Es una vista imponente", dijo el Comisionado Nathan Barnes.

Los restaurantes del casino eran impresionantes. Las mesas de granito en algunos lugares, esculturas grandes en madera del Kansas Speedway que predomina al Bufete Épico y mesas de comedor establecidas para íntimas comidas de asados; eran algo de lo mas destacado que los invitados vieron.

Los chefs, saludaban de mano al grupo y hablaban de las diferentes especialidades creadas para los restaurantes. El casino tiene tres cuartos con servicio de bebidas alcoholicas, uno para el vino, un para la cerveza y un cuarto establecido con más de 200 botellas de licor despachado por un sistema automatizado.

El casino tiene un sistema de seguridad de tecnología avanzada, con aproximadamente 970 cámaras instaladas en todas partes. "Cumplimos con las

normas de juego en esa área. Tenemos cámaras delante del edificio, la parte trasera y por supuesto en el área de juego", dijo Sheldon.

Después del recorrido, Barnes, hizo una comparación entre Kansas City, Kansas y Branson, Missouri. "En algún momento Branson, comenzó de la nada, y luego la gente descubrió el oro en aquellas colinas, y la gente vino corriendo", comentó. "Esto es sólo el principio; el casino, nos ha puesto sobre el mapa para decir que el condado de Wyandotte es una buena inversión".

El Comisionado John Méndez; que era el alcalde en funciones para la tarde, estaba impresionado por el concepto del diseño del casino. El área de juego era vibrante con el alfombrado alegremente colorido; la iluminación de neón de las máquinas tragamonedas y paredes de bloques de cristal que mostraron videos de música. Las columnas esculpidas decoradamente en todas partes del piso de juego, dieron la impresión de un exclusivo casino.

"Todos deberían estar impresionados por el diseño del casino y creer que lo tenemos aquí en el Condado Wyandotte, estoy impresionado por esto", dijo Méndez. "Es sólo un asunto de traer aquí a nuestra gente del Condado de Wyandotte, para que entonces, ellos puedan tener la experiencia de lo que experimenté. Un casino totalmente nuevo que va a ayudar al futuro de nuestro condado, a la gente que va a ayudar a traer los dólares que necesitamos para ayudar a nuestra comunidad."

El casino actualmente emplea a mil trabajadores de tiempo completo y mientras el recorrido del GU se llevo a cabo en el piso de juego, Sheldon, detuvo el recorrido en las estaciones de entrenamiento para explicar

los juegos que los empleados aprendían y subrayar, que cada empleado pasa por una orientación intensiva.

"Uno de nuestros desafíos más grandes, consiste en ofrecer a nuestros mil miembros del equipo una formación intensa antes del día inicial. Tenemos la orientación básica, que toma aproximadamente ocho horas, entrenamiento responsable de juego y capacitación de Reanimación Cardiopulmonar (CPR, por sus siglas en inglés). Ha sido un desafío llevar a nuestros miembros del equipo a través de su capacitación, pero también ha sido grandioso. Como usted puede ver, el edificio ha cobrado vida ahora con nuestros empleados aquí", dijo Sheldon.

El casino tiene instalaciones para los empleados que impresionaron al grupo del recorrido. Sheldon indicó, que el empleado pasa su tarjeta de identidad y una cinta transportadora trae su uniforme de casino a una puerta de cristal donde el empleado lo recoge. Cada día, el uniforme esta limpio y en una bolsa de plástico para ellos. Los empleados cuentan con cuartos con armarios, duchas y su propio gimnasio local.

La Comisionada Ángela Markley, estuvo impresionada por las instalaciones del casino. "Creo que el casino es hermoso, creo que es estupendo que ellos tengan una amplia gama de empleados y los niveles son realmente importantes para nuestro condado ya que

tenemos, más trabajadores a nivel principiante. El director general, había mencionado, que él comenzó desde los puestos a nivel básico cuando comenzó a trabajar en el casino y trabajó en camino a la dirección, entonces creo que es importante también, para mostrar a nuestros residentes que hay oportunidades para aquellos que son empleados", dijo ella.

Mientras los Comisionados anduvieron en las cocinas, los cinco restaurantes, a través de los pisos de juego, en la Barra de Deportes Vuelta 2 y en las oficinas de administración para un vistazo rápido, ellos fueron animados a ver que el casino había empleado a un personal que reflejó a la comunidad.

"Una de las cosas emocionantes para mí en conocer, era que pareció que los empleados son diversos étnicamente. Es realmente representativo del Condado de Wyandotte, entonces creo que esta muy bien. En general creo que el casino se ve grandioso. Me parece que es superior, me gusta así, y es un mercado diferente a lo que actualmente veo ahí. Amo la disposición, el diseño; es muy fácil de usar para el cliente y la variedad de restaurantes. Parecía, que la actitud general era muy positiva entre los empleados y la dirección. Parece que todos ellos trabajan bien juntos", dijo la Comisionada Ann Murguía.

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Daughter of George Hartley and Valerie Mendoza



Victoria (Happi) Rodriguez
Daughter of Victor and Regina (Tetuan) Rodriguez



De'Marques Fletcher
Son of Le'Ron Mum and Kim Belaire



Giovanni Labrador-Perez
Son of Reyes Labrador, Jr. and Roxanne Perez



Luciano Marcelo
Son of Virginia Cardenas

State of the Union Speech a Blueprint for re-election

BY JOSE FAUS

An assertive President Barack Obama delivered a State of the Union address that will be the blueprint for the upcoming presidential election. In a prime time address Obama called for a level playing field noting that the American dream is at risk of disappearing.

Recalling the life experience of his grandparents, Obama outlined the American Dream they worked for – a dream based on the belief that their generation “understood they were part of something larger; that they were contributing to a story of success that every American had a chance to share – the basic American promise that if you worked hard, you could do well enough to raise a family, own a home, send your kids to college, and put a little away for retirement.

“The defining issue of our time is how to keep that promise alive. No challenge is more urgent. No debate is more important. We can either settle for a country where a shrinking number of

people do really well, while a growing number of Americans barely get by. Or we can restore an economy where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules. What’s at stake are not Democratic values or Republican values, but American values. We have to reclaim them,” declared Obama.

The president proposed a blueprint for the economy that will address manufacturing, the inequities of the tax code and incentives for businesses to keep jobs in the United States and rely on American workers.

He pointed out that his administration has taken the steps that are beginning to turn the economy around. He cited the example of the automotive industry and the bailout that many criticized, as key in restoring a major manufacturing sector.

“In exchange for help, we demanded responsibility. We got workers and automakers to settle their differences. We got the industry to retool and

restructure. Today, General Motors is back on top as the world’s number one automaker. Chrysler has grown faster in the U.S. than any major car company. Ford is investing billions in U.S. plants and factories. And together, the entire industry added nearly 160,000 jobs. We bet on American workers. We bet on American ingenuity. And tonight, the American auto industry is back.”

On the issue of the tax code, Obama said, “It’s time to apply the same rules from top to bottom: No bailouts, no handouts, and no copouts. An America built to last insists on responsibility from everybody.”

In a nod to the country’s growing financial inequities Obama added, “We don’t begrudge financial success in this country. We admire it,” Obama insisted. “When Americans talk about folks like me paying my fair share of taxes, it’s not because they envy the rich. It’s because they understand that when I get tax breaks I don’t need and the country can’t afford, it either adds to the



deficit, or somebody else has to make up the difference.”

On corporate responsibility, Obama called for a minimum tax on all American corporations that have jobs overseas and called for tax incentives for those companies that work to keep jobs in the country.

“My message is simple. It’s time to stop rewarding businesses that ship jobs overseas, and start rewarding companies that create jobs right here in America. Send me these tax reforms, and I’ll sign them right away.”

The president also addressed immigration reform and called on Congress to set aside the bipartisanship that has characterized the debate and pass the DREAM Act that would provide a path for citizenship for the children of undocumented families attending school.

“If election-year politics keeps Congress from acting on a comprehensive [immigration] plan, let’s at least agree to stop expelling responsible young people who want to staff our labs,

start new businesses, and defend this country,” Obama said. “Send me a law that gives them the chance to earn their citizenship. I will sign it right away.”

On education the president called for an investment in schools and teachers rather than the cutbacks that have been the staple across many state legislatures. He also called on colleges to make education an affordable option for Americans.

¿Problemas de Salud?



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In Loving Memory

MARY MARCY OROZCO

Mary Marcy Orozco, age 81, passed away January 22, 2012. Visitation will be held at McGilley Midtown Chapel on Friday, January 27, 2012 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. where the Rosary will be prayed at 7:00 pm. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, January 28, 2012, with graveside service immediately following at St. Mary Cemetery.

She was born July 17, 1930, the daughter of Ignacio and Elodia Orozco.

Marcy was predeceased by brothers, Ignacio Orozco Jr., Jesse Orozco, and her parents. Survivors include; two brothers, Michael and Louis Orozco; two sisters, Elodia Bustamante and Carmen Herrera; many nieces and nephews and friends.

In the 1950’s Marcy gave her life to God and entered the Cloistered Carmelite Convent in Alhambra, California.

She always had a smile for everyone she met. Marcy loved life and had a good heart, always looking for the good in everyone. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her. Online condolences may be left at www.mcgilleymidtownchapel.com.

HEALTH/SALUD

FREE DENTAL CLINIC

Dr. Philip Farruggia will be hosting his 3rd annual Dentistry from the Heart event on Saturday, February 11th, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dr. Farruggia and roughly 60 other volunteers, staff, family and friends will provide free dentistry (on a first come, first served basis) to adults over the age of 18. Last year, people from as far away as Topeka, KS drove to take advantage of the program. Dr. Farruggia believes in giving back to the community, and what better way than to give it back in the form of a health care that many cannot afford for themselves. Many individuals live in pain every day because they may not be able to afford to fill that cavity they have or to have that tooth extracted that has been bothering them endlessly.

Dr. Farruggia hosts through Dentistry from the Heart, dentistryfromtheheart.org. The organization will celebrate its 11th anniversary this year. Dr. Vincent Monticciolo inaugurated the event back in February 2001 when he began providing free dentistry from his own office one day a year and continues to do so today. Dr. Farruggia follows in his footsteps.

Five Fitness Mistakes Can Doom Your New Year’s Resolution

One of the most common New Year’s resolutions is to improve health. As a personal trainer for Midtown Athletic Club, my colleagues and I get a thrill each January when we see all the new, eager faces in our clubs. By March, however, most of these faces quietly disappear. Here are the five most common exercise mistakes that we see:

the latest episode of “Law and Order,” and you barely break a sweat, then you accomplished little to improve your fitness. The same applies to too many repetitions with an almost negligible weight. Working out should feel challenging. The good news is that by challenging yourself, you’ll get to the results you want in less time.

Mistake #1:

Too Much, Too Soon

If it’s been a while since you’ve exercised, or you have been exercising inconsistently, your body isn’t going to respond well to a strenuous program right-off-the-bat. Instead, choose a schedule to which you can commit (e.g. one hour per day, three times per week). Begin at an intensity level that feels challenging, but not debilitating. Be sure to incorporate adequate time for a warm-up and cool-down.

Mistake #4:

The Same Thing Repetitively Doesn’t Help

Don’t worry: if cycling is your favorite exercise, you don’t have to give it up. But do make sure that you change the intensity of your exercise from time-to-time. Try alternating between “hard” and “easy” days. Increase your resistance over time, and try to maintain a balanced program. That means incorporating cardiovascular, strength, and flexibility training.

Mistake #2:

Improper Technique Does No Good

When it comes to resistance training, technique is the difference between getting results, getting injured, or not seeing any improvement at all. It starts with proper posture, which means keeping the (body) core engaged. Do this by imagining how you would brace yourself if someone was about to punch you in the stomach: stand tall with a neutral spine, shoulder blades pulled back, and head lifted.

Also, be sure that you know the purpose of the exercise in which you are about to perform. What muscles are you working? What is the proper range of motion for the exercise? Ask yourself: “Is this the most effective way to target the muscles that I want to work?”

If you’re not sure, talk to a trainer or instructor. Do some research on your own. Time spent now on learning how to do the exercise correctly means less time to your goal.

Mistake #5:

Ignoring the Truth

Ask yourself these tough questions:

- Do I have the time and motivation to reach my fitness goal?
- Am I choosing the right exercises for my current fitness level?
- If weight loss is my focus, am I overestimating calories out and underestimating calories in? (Learn more about Heart Rate Monitors.)
- Other than a bathroom scale, what are my methods for measuring my progress? (Consider monitoring heart rate at a given pace, distance covered per unit time, repetitions completed before reaching fatigue, etc.)

If the answer to these questions is “No,” or “I’m not sure,” you may be setting yourself up for failure. Give yourself your best chance at fitness this year. Avoid these common mistakes, create and stick to a fitness plan, and then go for it!

Kristen Schumacher is a personal trainer for Midtown Athletic Club, which offers a club location at 6700 W. 110th Street in Overland Park. To learn more, visit www.midtown.com, or call 913-491-4116.

BUSINESS/ NEGOCIOS

Tax strategies in a tough economy

BY JASON ALDERMAN

For most of us, income tax calculations don't change much from year to year. But thanks to the roller coaster economy of the past few years, many people have undergone major life changes that can have a significant impact – good or bad – on their taxable income and how they should file taxes.

Even though April 17 (this year's tax-filing deadline) is a ways off, it's never too soon to start planning your strategy, particularly if you experienced financial hardships in 2011 that could affect your taxes. The IRS has a handy guide called "The What If's of an Economic Downturn" (search www.irs.gov) that reviews the tax impacts of different scenarios such as job loss, debt forgiveness or tapping a retirement fund.

Here's a roundup of common economic challenges you may be facing and their possible tax implications:

You lost your job. Remember that unemployment benefits, severance pay and payout of accumulated vacation or sick leave are all considered taxable income, so if you didn't have taxes withheld from these payments, be prepared for a potentially nasty tax bill.

If you withdrew money from your regular IRA or 401(k) account to cover expenses, you'll owe income tax on the amount, plus an additional 10 percent penalty unless you're over age 59 ½ or meet special circumstances. Also, outstanding 401(k) loans must be repaid (usually within 60 to 90 days of termination) or they'll be counted taxable income – plus be subject to the same 10 percent penalty.

The good news is that many public assistance benefits such as welfare, food stamps and disaster relief payments don't count toward taxable income. Read the IRS's "Tax Impact of Job Loss" for details (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4128.pdf).

Lowered income. If you took a big pay cut or lost your job in 2011, it might lower your adjusted gross income (AGI) enough to qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a "refundable" tax credit, which means that if you owe less in income tax than your eligible credit, you'll not only pay no tax, but actually get a refund for the difference. To learn more, search EITC at www.irs.gov.

Forgiven debt. Many people don't realize that when you borrow money from a bank or other commercial lender and the lender "forgives"

the debt, you generally must count the forgiven amount as taxable income.

There are several exceptions to the rule, however: For example, the Mortgage Debt Relief Act of 2007 generally allows taxpayers to exclude up to \$2 million in forgiven mortgage debt (\$1 million if married filing separately) on their principal residence if it came through mortgage restructuring, foreclosure or a short sale. The mortgage exclusion is set to expire at the end of 2012 unless Congress intervenes.

Other exceptions include: Debts discharged through bankruptcy; or, if you are insolvent when the debt is cancelled, some or all of it may not be taxable. (Insolvency means your total debts are greater than the fair market value of your total assets.) For more information, search for Mortgage Debt Forgiveness at www.irs.gov.

Taxes are the last thing you want to worry about when facing financial hardships. Just be sure you're prepared for the possible tax implications if your income or debt situation has changed in the past year.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Estrategias tributarias en una economía complicada

POR JASON ALDERMAN

Para la mayoría de nosotros, los cálculos del impuesto sobre la renta no cambian mucho de un año al otro. Pero a causa de la inestabilidad económica de los últimos años, muchas personas han sufrido importantes cambios de vida con un impacto significativo – bueno o malo – sobre sus ingresos gravables y la manera de declarar impuestos.

A pesar de que todavía falta mucho para el 17 de abril (el plazo para presentar la declaración de impuestos de este año), nunca es demasiado temprano para comenzar a planificar una estrategia, particularmente si tuvo dificultades económicas en 2011 que podrían afectar sus impuestos. El IRS posee una guía práctica llamada "The What If's of an Economic Downturn" (búsqueda en www.irs.gov) la cual analiza los impactos tributarios que causan diferentes situaciones como la pérdida de empleo, la condonación de deudas o el uso de los fondos de jubilación.

A continuación un resumen de los desafíos económicos comunes que posiblemente esté enfrentando y sus posibles consecuencias tributarias:

Perdió su empleo. Recuerde que los beneficios por desempleo, la indemnización por despido y el pago de vacaciones acumuladas o de licencia por enfermedad se consideran ingreso gravable, por lo tanto, si no le retuvieron impuestos por estos pagos, prepárese para una factura de impuestos posiblemente desagradable.

Si retiró dinero de su cuenta IRA o 401(k) regular para cubrir gastos, adeudará impuestos sobre la renta por dichos montos, más un 10 por ciento adicional en concepto de multa a no ser que tenga más de 59 años y medio o cumpla con requisitos especiales. Además, los préstamos pendientes de la cuenta 401(k) se deben pagar (generalmente entre 60 y 90 días de la finalización de la relación laboral) o se computarán como ingreso gravable – y también están sujetos a una multa del 10 por ciento.

Las buenas noticias son que muchos beneficios de asistencia pública como ser bienestar social, cupones para alimentos y pagos en casos de desastres no se cuentan como ingreso gravable. Lea la publicación "Tax Impact of Job Loss" del IRS para obtener más detalles (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4128.pdf).

Reducción de ingresos. Si tuvo un recorte salarial importante o perdió su empleo en 2011, eso podría reducir su ingreso bruto ajustado (AGI) lo suficiente como para calificar para un Crédito Tributario por Ingreso del Trabajo (EITC). El EITC es un crédito tributario "reembolsable", esto significa que si el impuesto sobre la renta que adeuda es menor que el crédito para el cual es elegible, no solo no pagará el impuesto sino que además recibirá un reembolso por la diferencia. Para conocer más al respecto, busque EITC en www.irs.gov.

Condonación de deuda. Muchas personas no saben que cuando se toma dinero prestado de un banco u otro prestamista

comercial y el prestamista "condona" la deuda, la deuda condonada se cuenta como ingreso gravable.

No obstante, hay diferentes excepciones a esta regla: Por ejemplo, la Ley de Condonación de Deudas Hipotecarias de 2007 en general les permite a los contribuyentes excluir hasta \$2 millones en condonación de deuda hipotecaria (\$1 millón para las personas casadas que presenten sus declaraciones por separado) sobre su residencia principal en caso de haber realizado una reestructuración hipotecaria, ejecución hipotecaria o venta al descubierto. La fecha de expiración de la exclusión hipotecaria está programada para fines de 2012 a no ser que el Congreso intervenga.

Otras excepciones son: Deudas condonadas por bancarrota; o, en caso de que usted sea insolvente al momento de cancelarse la deuda, toda o parte de ella no sería gravable. (Insolvencia significa que el total de sus deudas es mayor que el valor justo de mercado de todos sus bienes). Para más información, busque Mortgage Debt Forgiveness (condonación de deuda hipotecaria) en www.irs.gov.

Los impuestos deben ser su última preocupación cuando afronta dificultades económicas. Asegúrese de estar preparado para posibles consecuencias impositivas si sus ingresos o estado de deuda cambiaron en el último año.

Jason Alderman dirige los programas de educación financiera de Visa.

KC CASH and United Way offer Low and Middle Income Taxpayers free tax assistance

Ask any family struggling to pay rent, buy groceries and pay utility bills: every penny counts, especially in today's economy. Yet many working people are overlooking an important tax credit that could help them keep as much as \$5,751 in their pockets. KC CASH Coalition and United Way want to help those taxpayers and others who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) claim the credit this year and increase the size of their tax refunds. KC CASH and United Way are sponsoring 20 free tax assistance sites around the Kansas City metro area this year, designed to help people with household incomes of \$50,000 or less prepare and electronically file their taxes for free.

The free tax assistance sites began opening this week and will be staffed by IRS-certified tax preparation volunteers. The sites will be located at 20 local nonprofit agencies, churches, community colleges and UMKC. The tax assistance site at the Full Employment Council, 1720 Paseo Blvd., Kansas City, MO, will once again become a tax assistance "Super Site" and will be open five days a week and every other Saturday. The easiest way to find a tax assistance location near you is by visiting www.unitedwaykc.org/tax or by dialing 2-1-1 or (816) 474-5112. United Way 2-1-1 call specialists are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week and have a listing of tax assistance site locations, along with their hours of operation.

The IRS estimates that four out of five taxpayers who were eligible to claim the tax credit claimed it last year, but that still means that 20% of those who qualified for EITC tax refunds let Uncle Sam keep the money that was rightfully theirs. This year, the EITC can put up to \$5,751 in the pockets of low-income families with three or more qualifying children, \$5,112 for families with two children, and \$3,094 for a family with one qualifying child. An individual or family with no children may be eligible for up to a \$464 EITC tax refund.

Jason Wood, president of KC CASH Coalition, says, "The EITC tax credit can provide a huge financial boost for families impacted by the economy. A lot of workers will qualify for EITC for the first time this year because of changes in their employment,

marital status or because they had another child. But the only way they can claim the tax credit is by filing a federal income tax return, even if they aren't legally required to do so because their income was low. We want to help them file their taxes for free and claim the tax credit, if they qualify. It can literally put thousands of extra dollars into their pockets."

Kate Lett-Deathe, Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication (SPEC) Territory Manager for the IRS in Kansas City says, "EITC is one of the nation's largest anti-poverty programs, annually lifting 6.6 million people out of poverty; half of these are children. EITC is for people who work, but don't earn a lot of money. The IRS wants to see working taxpayers who qualify for EITC claim the tax credit they deserve."

In order to qualify for at least some EITC, a taxpayer's adjusted gross income cannot exceed:

\$43,998 (\$49,078 if married filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children

\$40,964 (\$46,044 if married filing jointly) with two qualifying children

\$36,052 (\$41,132 if married filing jointly) with one qualifying child

\$13,660 (\$18,740 if married filing jointly) with no qualifying children

Households with investment income of more than \$3,150 aren't eligible to claim EITC.

To electronically file your taxes and get the fastest refunds, both spouses must be present to sign a joint tax return.

This year, three of the 20 free tax assistance sites will be assisted self-preparation sites, meaning they will have multiple computers loaded with tax preparation software that individuals who have a household income of \$57,000 or less can use to electronically file their taxes for free, with the assistance of a "tax coach." The tax coaches will be IRS-certified tax volunteers who are trained to help people who are interested in doing their taxes themselves, which could significantly reduce their waiting time. The three assisted self-preparation sites will be located at Independence Center (2035 Independence Center Dr., Independence, MO), the Housing Authority of Kansas City Missouri (299 Paseo,

KCMO), and Metropolitan Community College's Pioneer Campus (2700 E. 18th St., KCMO). Funding for the extra computers and training of tax coaches comes from a grant provided by Wal-Mart.

Last year, tax preparation volunteers helped 5,980 people prepare and file their taxes at KC CASH/ United Way tax assistance sites across the metro area, claiming \$2.1 million in EITC credits and helping taxpayers get more than \$7.2 million in federal tax refunds.

IRS-certified tax preparation volunteers at the free KC CASH/ United Way tax assistance sites will help people determine their eligibility for EITC while preparing and filing their tax returns. Taxpayers should bring the following items with them:

Photo identification
Valid Social Security cards for the taxpayer, spouse and dependents

Birth dates for all people listed on the tax return

Current year's tax package if received

Wageandearningsstatement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers

Interest and dividend statements from banks (Form 1099)

A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available

Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit of refunds

Other relevant information about income and expenses

Amounts paid to child care provider and the provider's identifying number

The KC CASH Coalition is a group of Kansas City area businesses, educational institutions, government entities, financial institutions and nonprofit agencies, dedicated to helping families create savings and build their financial stability.

For additional information, contact:

Ron Howard
Jason Wood
United Way
KC CASH Coalition
(816) 559-4644
(816) 651-8235

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**Chief Information officer
State of Missouri**

The State of Missouri has an exciting opportunity available for a Chief Information Officer. Directing the Information Technology Services Division for the Office of Administration, this position will oversee the operations and delivery of services for fourteen agencies. This position is based in Jefferson City. For more information on this position and how to express interest please visit www.it-careers.mo.gov

The Office of Administration is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

At
Excelsior Springs Job Corp
Success Last a Life Time



Excelsior Springs Job Corps is now accepting applications for enrollment
Must be between the ages of 16 and 24

Obtain a nursing assistant certification, pharmacy technician certification, medical office support, hospitality/welding, carpentry/cement, HBI/painting or advance job training. You can also obtain your high school diploma or GED.

For more information, please contact the Job Corps Admissions office located at 2402 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO. or call (816)921-3366 to schedule an appointment. Office hours are 8:30 – 5:00 M-F

Operated by MINACT, INC./Contract With Department of Labor/Equal Employment Opportunity

**Reyna's
Authentic Mexican Bakery
Baker Position Opening**

Estamos buscando a un PANADERO especializado en productos de Panadería Mexicana
We are looking for a BAKER who specialized in Mexican Bread products

Posible reubicación a la persona adecuada para el trabajo
Will consider relocating the right person for the job

Call/Llamar: Manuel Reyna
913- 244-0376 or 913-281-2287

MARC and UMKC Innovation Center are seeking assistance in outreach to disadvantaged businesses in the KC region in information technology and manufacturing fields.

An RFQ is posted at
www.marc.org/rfp.htm.

Deadline is 2/10/2012 at 4 pm CST.

Producer opening

WDAF-TV has an immediate opening for a weekend evening/weekday noon producer. The primary responsibilities of this position will be producing one hour 5:00 p.m. newscasts on weekends and one hour noon newscasts for three weekdays.

The qualifications for the job include: four year college degree in journalism or related field preferred, one year of previous television news producing preferred, strong writing skills, basic p.c. and phone skills and the ability to communicate clearly and effectively with co-workers and managers.

This position is directly supervised by the morning executive producer but also works closely with other producers and news managers.

Successful candidates must be organized, detail oriented, communicative and capable of completing multiple, complex tasks on deadline.

Please submit a resume and DVD of one or more newscasts you've produced to:

Bryan McGruder
V.P., News
WDAF-TV
3030 Summit
Kansas City, MO 64108

No phone calls please.

EOE/M/F/D/V

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Bid #2012-8**

The KCMO Police Dept is accepting bids for New 2012-2013 Police Pursuit Vehicles. Bid opens 2-15-12 at 2 p.m. Contact Trina Canady @ 816-234-5377

Excelsior Village Apartments
2000 W. Jesse James Rd.
816-630-3713
1,2 & 3 Bedrooms
Heat, Water & Trash Paid



**PUBLIC NOTICE
BID**

Bid 52 - MARC/KCRPC is seeking bids for solid waste residential collection services for cities of Roeland Park, Westwood and Fairway, Kansas. Bids are due by 1PM on 02/17/12. Documents available by contacting Rita Parker, 816-246-5083, by e-mail rita.parker@kcrpc.com or visit www.demandstar.com or www.marc.org/kcrpc

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**ROAD WORK
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**

Paper bids not exceeding a monetary value of \$250,000 and electronic bids submitted through the BidExpress website for constructing or improving Route 150, Job J4O2397 and Job J4P2251B, Jackson County, will be received by the Commission until 11:00 o'clock a.m. (prevailing local time) on 2/17/2012. Paper bids not exceeding a monetary value of \$250,000 addressed to:

STATE OF MISSOURI, acting by and through
THE MISSOURI HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Jefferson City, Missouri

will be received at the office of the Secretary to the Commission in the Missouri Department of Transportation Central Office Building, 105 West Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, Missouri.

The proposed work on J4O2397 includes: Grade, Pave, Drainage, Retaining Walls for shared use path on the above state road between Prospect & Botts Road in Kansas City, the total length of the improvement being 0.532 miles.

The proposed work on J4P2251B includes: Grading, optional pavement (SP or PCCP), new bridge on the above state road between Prospect & Botts Road in Kansas City, the total length of the improvement being 0.48 miles.

Combination bids will be Required on the following:

Route 150, Job J4O2397, Jackson County
Route 150, Job J4P2251B, Jackson County

Special Needs: If you have special needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify Pamela Harlan, Secretary to the Commission, at (573) 751-2824 or through Missouri Relay System, TDD 1-800-735-2966, at least five (5) working days prior to the bid opening you plan to attend.

The wage rates applicable to this project have been predetermined as required by law and are set forth in the appendices. When federal wage rates are applicable and included, this contract is subject to the "Work Hours Act of 1962," (P.L. 87-581, 76 State. 357) and implementing regulations.

By virtue of statutory authority, preference shall be given on other than Federal Aid Projects, to materials, products, supplies, provisions, and other articles, produced, manufactured, made or grown within the state of Missouri, where same are of a suitable character and can be obtained at reasonable market prices in the state and are of a quality suited to the purpose intended and can be secured without additional cost over foreign products or products of other states.

The commission hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, ancestry, or national origin in consideration for an award.

Plans and specifications may be inspected in the offices of the Commission at Jefferson City, or the district engineer at Lees Summit, Missouri. Plans may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://modot.indoxservices.com/>. Complete instructions to bidders and bidding documents may be obtained at the Jefferson City office. **All questions concerning the bid document preparation shall be directed to the Central Office – Design Division at (573) 751-2876.**

Bids must be on forms provided.
The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

THE MISSOURI HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Chief Engineer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) will release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the provision of the following services in the Missouri counties of Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, and Ray for SFY 2013 (July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013):

- Site Transportation - Persons
- Site Transportation - Meals
- Special Transportation - Reserved
- Special Transportation - Lift/Ramp
- Coordinated Non-Urban Transportation
- Catering
- Homemaker/Personal Care
- Medication Management
- Mental Health Services

National Family Caregiver Support Programs

RFP's will be released on Friday, February 3, 2012. There will be several conferences focusing on the various services being requested. Copies of the RFP's and all conference dates, times and locations can be obtained beginning February 3rd by contacting Ms. Tonya Boston at (816) 701-8290, or by email at toboston@marc.org. Questions relating to proposal procedures, requirements and evaluation will be answered at these conferences. Sealed proposals will be accepted at the MARC office no later than Tuesday, 12:00 noon, March 6, 2012.

MARC hereby notifies all interested parties that it affirmatively ensures that all respondents to this notice are afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and that no respondent will be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, nationality, origin, disability, or sex in consideration of an award.

MARC is interested in providing a senior center in the southern portion of Clay County. Any interested parties should contact Ms. Jacqui Moore, Director of Aging Services, at (816) 474-4240, or by email at jacquimo@marc.org.

**KANSAS CITY, KANSAS FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIREFIGHTER/MICT**

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department is currently accepting applications. The Unified Government offers an excellent benefit package. For more information regarding qualifications and application instructions, please visit our website at www.wycokck.org or contact Human Resources at 913.573.5660. Must be a resident of Wyandotte County or be willing to relocate within 12 months of the date of hire.



Deadline: March 14, 2012

EOE



US Labor Department to host Jan. 26 job symposium in Kansas City

The U.S. Department of Labor's Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the administration's Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers will host a Jan. 26 symposium at St. James United Methodist Church 5540 Wayne Ave.

Kansas City, Mo on the important role of job clubs and career ministries in getting Americans back to work. Attendees will include job club coordinators, workforce development officials, government leaders, faith and nonprofit leaders, employers, job seekers and workers.

The half-day symposium will highlight various ways job clubs and career ministries support communities to help

the unemployed regain their footing and transition back into the workforce. It also will provide information on valuable resources offered by the public workforce investment system, as well as give attendees a chance to explore partnership opportunities.

Job clubs and career ministries bring unemployed individuals together to share professional networks, learn the latest job search techniques and receive emotional support. The Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships recently launched a new project to connect with job clubs and career ministries, and facilitate partnerships with the workforce investment system, including One-Stop Career Centers, community colleges and

nonprofit service organizations. Visit <http://www.dol.gov/jobclubs> for more information. Guest speaker will be Jay Williams, director, Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers; Ben Seigel, deputy director, U.S. Department of Labor's Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships; Dr. Emanuel Cleaver III, senior pastor, St. James United Methodist Church; Scott Anglemeyer, executive director, Workforce Partnership Inc.; Clyde McQueen, president and CEO, Full Employment Council; Diane Stafford, reporter/columnist covering workplace and career issues, Kansas City Star; Maureen Reintjes, founder, KC Metro Networking Job Club.

Wine Consumers' Grape Expectations

BY DAVID WHITE

Imagine if your state legislature, in a bid to protect mom-and-pop bookstores, barred Amazon.com from shipping into your state. Or if your town council, worried about local dairy farmers, prohibited grocers from selling milk. Or if lawmakers banned the sale of potato chips and candy bars on Sundays in an effort to shrink our waistslines.

Such moves would be infuriating. But wine consumers face such restrictions daily.

A whopping 36 states prohibit consumers from ordering wine from out-of-state retailers. Eleven states forbid residents from ordering wine from out-of-state producers. Seventeen ban the sale of wine at grocery stores. Many prohibit Sunday wine sales.

Like virtually all America's liquor laws, these prohibitions trace their origins to the temperance movement. Today, these laws harm consumers and serve no purpose beyond enriching special interests. Fortunately, the tide appears to be turning in the fight for wine consumers' rights.

When Prohibition was repealed in 1933, states were given the authority to regulate the "transportation or importation" of liquor within their borders. At the insistence of a motley crew of interest groups, states proceeded to impose all sorts of rules.

A top priority was weakening producers.

Before Prohibition, many bars were owned by brewers or distillers. Temperance advocates blamed these bars for many ills associated with drunkenness, and believed

that keeping producers away from direct sales would help keep people sober. Law enforcement, too, pushed to weaken producers, as during prohibition, organized crime controlled much of America's liquor supply.

Lawmakers answered these calls in one of two ways. They either assumed complete control over the sale and/or distribution of alcohol, or they created a wholesale tier -- essentially, an artificial middleman -- to sit between producers and retailers.

Studies indicate that state wine monopolies -- especially at the retail level -- result in fewer choices and higher prices. Such monopolies should disappear soon. In November, Washington citizens voted to privatize liquor sales. And in Pennsylvania, calls to privatize the state monopoly are getting louder.

Crisis in the Good

Old USA

There is a crisis in the USA immigration system. The root cause is the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the capitalistic impact it has had on Mexico. Before NAFTA, most persons in Mexico could make a decent living. After NAFTA, U.S. exports produced havoc to Mexican businesses. Unable to compete with the U.S.'s abundant commodities, many jobs disappeared. Hence to survive Mexicans left their families and country for the jobs up North. Immigrants faced many dangers and crooks before reaching the U.S.A. Despite having irregular documents, the immigrants with little knowledge of U.S. laws or the English language were able to find jobs. Agricultural growers, corporations and construction sites in need of a person with a strong back and a good work ethic hired the immigrant. Employers circumvented immigration laws.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency instead of focusing on legal entry to the U.S. have chosen to build an empire of border patrol agents to secure the Mexican/U.S. border, an impossible task. Instead of building bridges with Mexico, ICE has chosen to build the most expensive and worthless wall ever. The folks will continue to cross the contiguous border to America, the land of blood and honey.

The dark side of this immigration crisis is the hatred generated by Americans that don't understand the circumstances of immigration. U.S. Latinos because of their skin color will experience additional discrimination. It does not help to have politicians that build their careers on the backs of powerless people by creating and passing anti-immigration legislation - legislation that

has already proven to be costly to local governments.

Immigration is a problem that will not go away; it will have to be solved intelligently and administratively. U.S. corporations and investors who profit from exports must come to grips with their responsibility. Poverty-stricken (20% increase since NAFTA) Mexicans will find a way to feed their families in Mexico with an American job. Along comes a racist Kansas SRS agency, cutting food stamps eligibility for children of immigrants and causing grave hunger. Poverty has caused the migration. A criminal aspect has unjustly being placed on the immigrants. Until America the land of immigrants gets it right, immigration will remain a crisis.

A. Hernandez Shawnee, KS

Most states continue to prohibit shipments from out-of-state retailers, but this could soon change. In late 2010, the Specialty Wine Retailers Association asked the Supreme Court to chime in on a Texas law blocking out-of-state retailers from shipping into the state. The Court refused to hear the case -- thus cementing the Texas prohibition -- but the SWRA's effort generated enormous interest and support.

Efforts to legalize supermarket wine sales also are gaining steam. These laws are kept in place thanks to lobbying from existing wine retailers, who like being shielded from competition. In New York, Tennessee, Colorado, and elsewhere, consumers are banding together to fight for the right to pick up wine with dinner.

Bans on Sunday sales are yet

another relic of the temperance movement -- they were promoted to keep the Sabbath holy and protect church-going business owners from competition. But they don't make sense. Consumers should be able to purchase wine and beer every day of the week.

The United States is the world's largest wine-consuming nation. But many of our liquor laws are antiquated, and only supported by the special interests that profit from their continuation. Wine consumers deserve a free market in wine.

David White, a wine writer, is the founder and editor of Terroirist.com. His columns are housed at Wines.com, the fastest growing wine portal on the Internet.

City reduces pet licensing fees to increase compliance

The City of Kansas City, Mo., Neighborhood and Community Services Department announces that effective Sunday, Jan. 22, City pet licensing fees will be reduced in an effort to encourage residents to license their pet dogs, cats and ferrets, as is required by Chapter 14 of the City's Code of Ordinances.

"The City's Animal Shelter receives more than 5,000 lost or abandoned animals annually," said David Park, director of the Neighborhood and Community Services Department. "Many of the animals are owned pets, but without a license tag, there is no way to contact the owner."

As of Jan. 22, the changes in City ordinance related to pet licensing will be:

- All one-year pet licenses are \$10 (altered or unaltered pets).
- All three-year pet licenses are \$27 (altered or unaltered pets).
- Free ride home program - "licensed" lost or stray pets will be taken home instead of to the shelter one time per year. No ticket will be issued for pets that run at large.

• No shelter fees will be assessed if the owner is home when the pet is returned; half fees will be assessed if the owner cannot be located, and the pet is reclaimed at the shelter.

• Amnesty will be granted on \$25 late fees until May 1, 2012.

• All funds generated from license sales support improved care and treatment of animals at the shelter.

Pet owners can license their pet at the City's Animal Shelter at 4400 Raytown Road, or electronically at www.petdata.com. They may also contact their veterinarian, who may be able to sell pet licenses directly.

The pet license fee changes were recommended by a pet licensing task force convened to identify barriers to pet licensing and develop strategies to increase licensing compliance. In the upcoming weeks, the task force will launch a new Pet Licensing Campaign: "Lost Pets Can't Call Home." The campaign will promote the benefits of licensing pets and provide information on how to license a pet.

KCCASH
Creating Assets, Savings & Hope

Free Tax Preparation
Available to most taxpayers earning \$50,000 income or less!

The list below shows our regular sites. Contact United Way 211 or 816-472-5122 for more information about eligibility, wait times, temporary locations and weather-related site closures.

<p>MISSOURI</p> <p>AIM-Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church 2310 E Linwood, KCMO Wed 6-8:30pm, Sat 10am-4:30pm (2/1-4/14)</p> <p>First Baptist Church of North Kansas City 2205 Iron St., North Kansas City, MO Thurs. (Feb. Only) 5:30-8:30 pm, Sat 9am-2pm (1/28-4/14). Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>Full Employment Council—1720 Paseo, KCMO. M-F 10am-5pm (1/27-4/17) Also open every other Sat. (2/4, 2/18, 3/3, 3/17, 3/31, 4/14) 10am-4pm. Cerrado 2/20. Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>Independence Community Services League 404 N. Noland, Independence, MO. Mon. and Tues. 10am-2pm (2/6-4/17) Cerrado 2/20.</p> <p>MCC-Blue River Community College 20301 E 78 Hwy, Independence, MO Sat 9am-1pm (2/4-4/14) Cerrado 3/17.</p> <p>MCC-Longview Community College 500 SW Longview Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. Miércoles 6-8:30pm, Sábado 10am-4:30pm (2/1-4/14) Cerrado 3/14 and 3/17. Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>MCC-Maple Woods Community College 2601 NE Barry Rd., Learning Resources Bldg. Wed 4:30-7:30pm, Fri. 1-4pm (Feb. only), Sábado 10am-2pm (2/4-4/11). Cerrado 3/14, 3/17. Servicio disponible en español.</p>	<p>MCC-Penn Valley Community College 3201 SW Tr Hwy, KCMO Learning Resources Bldg., Rm. 204. Tues 5-8pm (1/31-4/17) Cerrado 3/13.</p> <p>The Salvation Army-Bellefontaine 3013 E 9th, KCMO. Sat 9am-3pm (1/28-2/25 AND 4/14)</p> <p>UMKC Law School Law Library 500 E. 52nd St., KCMO. Tues/Wed 5:30-8:30pm, Sat 10am-4pm (1/31-4/14) Cerrado 2/14, 2/15, 2/18, 3/27, 3/28, 3/31.</p> <p>West Central MO Community Action Agency 109 Congress, Belton, MO. Thurs. 9am-4pm (2/2-4/12)</p> <p>KANSAS</p> <p>Catholic Charities/El Centro 2220 Central Ave., KCKS Thurs. 5-9pm, Sat. 9am-3pm (1/28-4/14) Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>El Centro/Johnson County (Sunset Office Bldg.) 11811 S. Sunset Dr., Olathe, KS. Thurs. 1-4:45pm, Sat. 8:30am-12:30pm (2/2-4/14) Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>KCK Community College 7250 State Ave. Flint Bldg., Rm. 3632 KCKS Lunes 5-8pm (solo en enero y febrero) Miércoles 5-8pm, Sábado 9am-12pm (1/20-4/14). Cerrado 3/21, 3/24. Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>(Olathe) 50 Plus - New Century Fieldhouse 551 New Century Pkwy., New Century, KS Tues. and Thurs. 9am-3pm (2/14-4/12) By appt. only (913-826-2860)</p>
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What to bring to your tax preparation site

- A Social Security card or Individual Taxpayer Identification # (ITIN) for each family member
- Valid picture ID (driver's license, state ID, passport, matricula consular, etc.)
- W-2 forms for all jobs worked in 2011
- All 1099 forms for other income, if any
- Child care provider name, address, and tax ID
- Any other tax-related documents received
- Bank account information for direct deposit
- A copy of last year's tax return
- All adults on return need to be present to sign

Free Assisted Self-Preparation Sites Available to taxpayers earning \$57,000 or less

MCC-Pioneer Campus, 2700 E. 8th St KCMO
Tues-Thurs 10am-2pm (1/31-4/17)

Housing Authority of KCMO—299 Paseo KCMO
Wed. 2/1, 10am-3pm, and Thurs. 2/23, 3-7pm
By appt. only (816-564-3715)

Independence Center
2035 Independence Center Dr., Independence, MO
Mon-Sat. 11am-7pm, Sun. 12-5 (1/29-2/26)

KCCASH
Creating Assets, Savings & Hope

Preparación gratis de los impuestos
servicio disponible a los contribuyentes con ingresos de \$50,000 o menos!

Aparece abajo una lista de nuestros ubicaciones normales. Llame al United Way 211 (o 816-472-5122) para más información sobre la elegibilidad, tiempos de espera, lugares temporales, y cierres debido al clima.

<p>MISSOURI</p> <p>AIM-Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church 2310 E Linwood, KCMO Miércoles 6-8:30pm, Sábado 10am-4:30pm (2/1-4/14)</p> <p>First Baptist Church of North Kansas City 2205 Iron St., North Kansas City, MO Jueves (solo en febrero) 5:30-8:30 pm, Sábado 9am-2pm (1/28-4/14). Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>Full Employment Council—1720 Paseo, KCMO. L-V 10am-5pm (1/27-4/17) Abierto en estos sábados: (2/4, 2/18, 3/3, 3/17, 3/31, 4/14) 10am-4pm. Cerrado 2/20. Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>Independence Community Services League 404 N. Noland, Independence, MO. Lunes/Martes 10am-2pm (2/6-4/17) Cerrado 2/20.</p> <p>MCC-Blue River Community College 20301 E 78 Hwy, Independence, MO Sábado 9am-1pm (2/4-4/14) Cerrado 3/17.</p> <p>MCC-Longview Community College 500 SW Longview Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. Miércoles 5-8 pm, Sábado 9am-1pm (2/1-4/14) Cerrado 3/14 y 3/17. Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>MCC-Maple Woods Community College 2601 NE Barry Rd., Edificio Learning Resources Miércoles 4:30-7:30pm, Viernes 1-4pm (solo en febrero), Sábado 10am-2pm (2/4-4/11). Cerrado 3/14, 3/17. Servicio disponible en español.</p>	<p>MCC-Penn Valley Community College 3201 SW Tr Hwy, KCMO Edificio Learning Resources, Sala 204. Martes 5-8pm (1/31-4/17), Cerrado 3/13.</p> <p>The Salvation Army-Bellefontaine 3013 E 9th, KCMO. Sábado 9am-3pm (1/28-2/25 y 4/14)</p> <p>UMKC Law School Law Library 500 E. 52nd St., KCMO. Martes/Miércoles 5:30-8:30pm, Sábado 10am-4pm (1/31-4/14) Cerrado 2/14, 2/15, 2/18, 3/27, 3/28, 3/31.</p> <p>West Central MO Community Action Agency 109 Congress, Belton, MO. Jueves 9am-4pm (2/2-4/12)</p> <p>KANSAS</p> <p>Catholic Charities/El Centro 2220 Central Ave., KCKS Jueves 5-9pm, Sábado 9am-3pm (1/28-4/14) Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>El Centro/Johnson County (Sunset Office Bldg.) 11811 S. Sunset Dr., Olathe, KS. Jueves 1-4:45pm, Sábado 8:30am-12:30pm (2/2-4/14) Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>KCK Community College 7250 State Ave. Flint Bldg., Rm. 3632 KCKS Lunes 5-8pm (solo en enero y febrero) Miércoles 5-8pm, Sábado 9am-12pm (1/20-4/14). Cerrado 3/21, 3/24. Servicio disponible en español.</p> <p>(Olathe) 50 Plus - New Century Fieldhouse 551 New Century Pkwy., New Century, KS Martes/Jueves 9am-3pm (2/14-4/12) Por cita (913-826-2860)</p>
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Lo que necesitas llevar al sitio de VITA

- Una tarjeta de seguridad social o carta de ITIN para cada miembro de la familia
- Prueba de identidad con foto
- Formularios W-2 de cada empleador en 2011
- Todos los formularios 1099 para los otros ingresos
- Nombre, dirección, y ID de impuestos de la guardería de tus niños
- Cualquier otros documentos relacionados a los impuestos que recibiste
- Un cheque del banco inválido por el depósito directo
- Una copia de tu declaración del año anterior, si tienes
- Todos los adultos en tu declaración deben estar presentes para firmar la declaración.

Sitios donde puedes preparar tus propios impuestos con asistencia—si tus ingresos son \$57,000 o menos

MCC-Pioneer Campus, 2700 E. 8th St KCMO
Martes/Jueves 10am-2pm (1/31-4/17)

Housing Authority of KCMO—299 Paseo KCMO
Miércoles 2/1, 10am-3pm, y Jueves 2/23, 3-7pm
By appt. only (816-564-3715)

Independence Center
2035 Independence Center Dr., Independence, MO
Lunes al Sábado 11am-7pm, Domingo 12-5 (1/29-2/26)

ON THE BOULEVARD! • EN EL BULEVAR!

LA GALERÍA

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(816)472-5246

LLAME PARA MAYOR INFORMACIÓN

BOOK TODAY FOR YOUR EVENT!
¡RESERVE HOY PARA SU EVENTO!

Están disponibles las solicitudes para el Departamento de Policía y Bomberos en KCK

CONT./PÁGINA 1

pasados y cuando él no alista reclutas, es un oficial en motocicleta en Kansas City, Kansas.

“Me interese en el trabajo de policía, cuando un amigo íntimo llegó a ser policía y hablaba todo; el tiempo sobre cuánto amaba ir a trabajar cada día. Elegí esta carrera, porque quería un trabajo que yo disfrutara al ir cada día, un trabajo que tuviera un futuro sólido para mí y mi familia. Cada día es un nuevo desafío, una nueva aventura; no han habido, dos días que hayan sido el mismo en dieciséis años”, dijo Whaley.

Pruitt, ha trabajado para el Departamento de Policía de Kansas City, Kansas, en diferentes áreas de la ciudad, pero recientemente, había trabajado en la división de Patrulla del Sur, antes de moverse a su situación actual como oficial de información pública; con la oficina del jefe de la policía. Ella se graduó de la Universidad Estatal de Kansas, con un título en Sociología. Como policía, ella se relaciona con la gente de cada sección de la comunidad. Fue su deseo de ayudar a la gente, lo que la llevó a una carrera en seguridad pública.

“La seguridad pública, es definitivamente algo que los hombres y las mujeres jóvenes deberían registrarse. Es una carrera y yo diría, menos a lo que es un trabajo. Nuestro departamento espera contratar

a posibles empleados que considerarían esto, como una carrera a largo plazo ya que este trabajo puede ser muy provechoso”, dijo ella.

Pruitt y Whaley, esperan que cuando ellos interactúen con el público, los hombres y las mujeres jóvenes; verán la parte positiva de la aplicación de la ley y se animaran a considerar pertenecer al Departamento de Policía.

Pruitt, dijo a Hispanic News -“queremos mostrar a los ciudadanos del condado de Wyandotte y nuestra a comunidad hispana, que nos preocupamos por sus necesidades y las cosas que pasan dentro de su comunidad. Nuestra prioridad, es asistíles; en el caso de nuestra población inmigrante, no estamos preocupados por su ciudadanía. Esto es algo que tendrá que ser demostrado a la comunidad con nuestra interacción positiva con cada persona”.

Actualmente, se están aceptando solicitudes de empleo. El Departamento de Policía, busca a aproximadamente 15 a 20 reclutas para la academia de policía y el cuerpo de bomberos espera llenar seis puestos de bombero/paramédico.

Ambos puestos, requieren que los candidatos posean un permiso de conducir válido, tengan un diploma de escuela preparatoria o GED, deban tener al menos 21 años de edad, y vivir en el condado de Wyandotte, o querer trasladarse

dentro de los 12 meses después de haber sido contratados.

Whaley recuerda cuando él era un recluta nuevo y lo abrumado que se sintió con toda la información que les dieron durante su formación de academia.

“Disfruto de hacer el reclutamiento, porque tengo la oportunidad de hablar con la gente de una forma positiva, en vez de una forma negativa. Es agradable ser capaz de enseñarlos a como aplicar lo que aprendieron en el aula de clase, a la patrulla actual”, dijo Whaley.

El departamento ha visto una oleada de interés, cuando ellos publican aperturas de trabajo. “Recibo muchas preguntas, sobre como ellos pueden llegar a ser un oficial de SWAT, o llegar a ser un detective. CSI, ha hecho maravillas para atraer a la gente a la división del cumplimiento de la ley”, aseguro.

Los individuos interesados en trabajar como Bombero/Paramédico, deben tener una Certificación de Paramédico EMS (Servicio Médico de Emergencia), por el Comité del Estado de Kansas, o una Certificación de Registro Nacional, o una certificación con otro estado; que debe convertirse a la Certificación del Estado de Kansas.

Según Duke, el departamento ha contribuido decisivamente a la implementación de un programa dentro del sistema



The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/ KCK Fire Department has firefighter positions available. They offer a benefit package and some restrictions apply such as relocation within twelve months of date of hire.

El Gobierno Unificado del Condado de Wyandotte / KCK Departamento de Bomberos tiene posiciones disponibles para bomberos. Ellos ofrecen un paquete de beneficios y se aplican algunas restricciones tales como la reubicación dentro de los doce meses de la fecha de contratación.

500 del Distrito Escolar de Kansas City, Kansas; un programa de escuela preparatoria, que permite que los alumnos estudien el EMS y obtengan una Certificación de Primeros Auxilios, que es el primer paso hacia la recepción de una Certificación de Paramédico.

Los individuos que son aceptados en el cuerpo de bomberos, pasarán por un programa académico de 16 semanas con instrucción contra

incendios así como clases EMS.

“Con nuestra población diversa, el hecho de tener candidatos que son bilingües es un gran recurso. Actualmente el cuerpo de bomberos, ha hecho recomendaciones de tener dentro del contrato de unión, unos incentivos financieros, para algunos de nuestros empleados que son bilingües”, dijo Duke.

Los individuos interesados en solicitar en el Departamento de Policía, o el Cuerpo de

Bomberos, pueden recoger una solicitud en el Departamento de Recursos Humanos del Gobierno Unificado, ubicado en la calle 7, Norte 701 en el cuarto 646 ,o solicitar una aplicación por teléfono o correo electrónico jobs@wycokck.org.

Los individuos interesados en conversar con el experto agente de policía, John Whaley, sobre la academia de policía, pueden ponerse en contacto con él en jwhaley@kckcpd.org o llamarle al 913-596-2077.

Applications available for KCK Fire and Police Departments

CONT./PAGE 1

police officer and spoke all the time about how much he loved going to work each day. I chose this career because I wanted a job I would enjoy going to ... each day and a job that had a solid future for me and my family. Every day is a new challenge, a new adventure. No two have been the same in sixteen years,” said Whaley.

Pruitt has worked for the Kansas City, Kansas Police department in different areas of the city but recently had worked out of the South Patrol division before moving into her current position as a public information officer with the police chief’s office. She graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Sociology. As a police officer she interacts with people from every section of the community. It was her desire to help people that led her into a law enforcement career.

“Law enforcement is definitely something young men and

women should check into. It is a career and I would say less like a job. Our department looks to hire prospective employees that would consider this as a long term career as this job can be very rewarding,” she said.

Pruitt and Whaley hope that when they interact with the public that the young men and women will see the positive side of law enforcement and will be encouraged to consider joining the police department.

Pruitt told Hispanic News that “we want to show the citizens of Wyandotte County and our Hispanic Community that we care about their needs and things happening within their community. Our priority is to assist them and in the case of our immigrant population we are not concerned about citizenship. This is something that will have to be shown to the community through our positive interaction with each person.”

Job applications are currently being taken. The police department is looking for about 15 to 20 recruits for the police academy and the fire department is looking to fill six firefighter/paramedic positions.

Both positions require applicants possess a valid driver’s license, have a high school diploma or a GED, must be at least 21 years of age and live in Wyandotte County or be willing to relocate within 12 months after being hired.

Whaley remembers when he was a new recruit and how overwhelmed he felt with all the information they were given during their academy training.

“I enjoy doing the recruiting because I get the opportunity to speak with people on a positive rather than a negative note. It’s nice to be able to teach them how to apply what they learned in the class room to actual street patrol,” said Whaley.

The department has seen a surge of interest when they post job openings. “I get a lot of questions about how they can become a SWAT officer or become a detective. CSI has done wonders to bring people to the field of law enforcement,” he said.

Individuals interested in working as a Firefighter/Paramedic must have a current Kansas State Board of EMS Paramedic Certification or a National Registry Certification or a certification with another state that must convert to the Kansas State Certification.

According to Duke, the department has been instrumental in implementing a program within the Kansas City Kansas District 500 School system, a high school program that allows students to study EMS and obtain a First Responder Certification that is the first step towards receiving a Paramedic Certification.

Individuals who are accepted onto the fire department will go through a 16-week academy program with firefighting



KCK Police Department Graduating Class of March of 2011 La Clase Graduada del Departamento de Policia en KCK de marzo de 2011

instruction as well as additional EMS {Emergency Medical Service} classes.

“With our diverse population having applicants who are bilingual is a great asset. Currently the fire department has made recommendations to have within the union contract a financial incentive for some of our employees who are bilingual,” said Duke.

Individuals interested in applying for the police depart-

ment or the fire department can pick up an application in the Human Resources Department of the Unified Government at 701 North 7th Street in Room 646 or request an application by telephone or email jobs@wycokck.org.

Individuals interested in talking with Master Patrolman John Whaley about the police academy, can contact him at jwhaley@kckcpd.org or call him at 913-596-2077.

Sacred Heart - Guadalupe Parish
Valentine Dance

Saturday, February 11, 2012

Sacred Heart Hall

814 W. 26th Street, KCMO


7pm - 11pm

\$15 singles or \$25 Couples

Cash Bar only

Tickets available at the door,
after masses on Saturdays 4pm, Sundays 9am & 11am,
and at the Sacred Heart- Guadalupe Parish Rectory
907 Avenida Cesar E. Chavez 816.842.6146





OPEN HOUSE



The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Police Department is currently accepting applications now until February 15, 2012 for the position of Police Officer.

We are hosting a recruitment event at the lobby of Police Headquarters (700 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS) on Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

This will be an opportunity for those interested to fill out an application or turn in an application. Members of the Human Resources Department will be present to accept applications or answer questions. If turning in an application, candidates will be fingerprinted on location.

For more information, please contact a recruiter at 913-573-JOIN (5646) or visit our website at www.kckpd.org or you may contact Human Resources at 913-573-5660.

EOE



Music by Las Estrellas

OLG Nearly 100 years on the Westside

OLG Casi 100 años al Oeste de la Ciudad



Size of the classes and the school, coupled with a dedicated staff and community support, makes Our Lady of Guadalupe an incubator for student success.
Tamaño de las clases y la escuela en conjunto con el dedicado personal mas el apoyo de la comunidad hace que Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe genere el éxito del estudiante.

CONT./PAGE 1

major threat to its accreditation when the furnace went down. An emergency appeal brought out the community, which stepped up and donated time, materials, money and labor to put in a new modern furnace.

"In fact we are here warm today because of all the people that stepped up and helped us. We have not forgotten," said Bowman. "We pray for all the donors and everyone that helped us. We pray once a week at mass and yearly we do a novena for all the people that helped us. It was the support that everyone has for our school that is so amazing."

That support is important when one considers that the physical plant is an important part of the accreditation process.

"One of the things they look at is to see if we are able to do the upkeep and provide students what they need in the building that we have," explained Bowman. "We are installing new carpet right now. We definitely try to keep our building up although it is a hundred years old and it shows its age. We put on a new roof this year. We are trying to keep our building safe to provide the learning environment for our kids so that we can be here many years."

Bowman added that a good education is an important key to success. "I think parents, no matter whether they live in the inner city or the suburbs, all want the same things for their kids. They want the best education that they can provide for their children. All parents see that education is the key for their

children's future. Even if there is poverty or the parents do not have [a lot of education] they see that education is the way to get their kids to where they want a better life for their children."

Bowman credits the relationships that the school builds with the students as a big part of the success. She notes that it is not unusual for alumni to come by the school and visit a place that was so important in their formative years.

"This is where it started for them. This is where they got their foundation and where they first learned to read and learned the first real important skills. They have been able to continue with those to wherever their education has taken them."

The school has seen interest following the KCMSD loss of accreditation. "We have already been receiving phone calls for next year. We are hopeful that our enrollment will be stable for next year. The school has limited space though there are some openings. The school has a capacity of 120 and currently has an enrollment of 103.

She commends the vision of the diocese for instituting an encompassing school plan for all the schools under their umbrella. "It is nice as a principal to have a map of 'here is where we are going and here is how we are going to get there. Our expectations are set and we have training for teachers some funding for staff development. It is a nice thing to have."

Father Al Abach, parish priest at our Lady of Guadalupe talked with Hispanic News about the

school. "Right now with the Kansas City schools having their issues with accreditation it's really a big milestone for the schools and the diocese that have worked so hard in demonstrating that they have an education for the children that is far reaching at all levels. I think that says a lot about how much the Catholic Church has put into accrediting the schools. It takes a lot of work to do that."

Like Bowman, Abach credits a strong alumni base for the school's success. "I don't think I go anywhere in the city where I share what parish I am in or what school I am at and people everywhere say, 'I went to that school. It is amazing how many people went to this school. In 2015 we are celebrating the 100th anniversary, so you know a lot of people have gone through here."

"With the public schools closing around us it is important for us to continue to make the effort to keep a grade school on the Westside. I am really proud of the teachers that are all certified and that take pride in what they teach. It says a lot that many of the teachers keep returning year after year."

The school will be hosting an open house on January 19. The school staff will be on hand and will provide walking tours of the facility.

"We are already trying to get enthusiasm for enrollment for next year ... and the future means getting our kindergartners in here for next year. It is that time that we start enrolling for next year," said Bowman.

CONT./PÁGINA 1

primaria k-5, bajo los auspicios de la diócesis de San José de Kansas City.

La escuela ha sido altamente dependiente y recompensada por la comunidad. Hace un par de años, la escuela afrontó una amenaza grande para su acreditación cuando la caldera se descompuso; un llamado de emergencia reunió a la comunidad que se hizo cargo y donó tiempo, materiales, dinero y trabajo para poner una nueva caldera moderna.

"De hecho, hoy estamos aquí calentitos, debido a toda la gente que se hizo cargo y nos ayudó. No lo hemos olvidado", dijo Bowman. "Rezamos por todos los donantes y cada uno de los que nos ayudó; rezamos una vez por semana en la misa y cada año hacemos una novena para toda la gente que contribuyó. Fue el apoyo que cada uno tuvo para nuestra escuela, lo que es tan asombroso".

Ese apoyo, es importante cuando uno considera que la parte física (las instalaciones), es una parte importante del proceso de acreditación.

"Una de las cosas que ellos buscan, es ver si somos capaces de realizar el mantenimiento y proveer a los estudiantes de lo que ellos necesitan en el edificio que tenemos", explicó Bowman. "Estamos instalando la nueva alfombra ahora mismo. Definitivamente tratamos de mantener nuestro edificio en buenas condiciones aunque tenga cien años y este muestra su edad. Pusimos un nuevo tejado este año. Tratamos de mantener nuestro edificio seguro para proporcionar un ambiente de aprendizaje a nuestros niños, de modo, que podamos estar aquí muchos años".

Bowman añadió, que una buena educación es una llave importante al éxito. "Pienso que los padres; no importa si ellos viven en el centro de la ciudad

o los barrios residenciales, todos quieren las mismas cosas para sus niños. Ellos quieren la mejor educación que puedan proveer a sus niños. Todos los padres ven que la educación es la llave para su futuro, aún si hay pobreza o los padres no tienen muchos conocimientos, ellos ven que la educación es la manera de encaminar a sus niños a donde ellos quieren, una mejor vida para ellos".

Bowman, acredita las relaciones que la escuela construye con los estudiantes, como una parte grande del éxito. Ella nota que es bastante habitual para los ex-alumnos ir a la escuela y visitar un lugar que fue tan importante en sus años formativos.

"Aquí es donde comenzó para ellos. Esto es donde consiguieron sus cimientos y donde primero aprendieron a leer y las primeras habilidades verdaderamente importantes. Ellos, han sido capaces de continuar con aquellos a dondequiera que su educación los haya llevado".

La escuela ha visto el interés cuando se dio, la pérdida de la acreditación al KCMSD. "Ya hemos estado recibiendo llamadas telefónicas para el próximo año. Esperamos que nuestra inscripción, sea estable durante el próximo año. La escuela tiene el espacio limitado; aunque haya algunos lugares. La escuela tiene una capacidad de 120 alumnos y actualmente tiene una inscripción de 103.

Ella alaba la visión de la diócesis para instituir un plan de escuela, que abarque a todas las escuelas bajo su brazo. "Es agradable como directora, tener un mapa donde diga 'aquí es adonde vamos y aquí está como vamos a llegar allí'. Nuestras expectativas están marcadas y tenemos la capacitación para los profesores, algo de presupuesto para financiar el desarrollo del personal. Es una cosa agradable el tener esto".

El padre Al Abach, el sacerdote parroquial en Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, habló con Hispanic News acerca de la escuela. "Ahora mismo con las escuelas de Kansas City, que tienen sus problemas con la acreditación, es realmente un gran paso para las escuelas y la diócesis que han trabajado con tanto empeño en demostrar que ofrecen una educación para los niños que por mucho llega a todos los niveles. Creo que esto dice mucho sobre cuánto la Iglesia Católica, ha invertido en la acreditación de las escuelas. Se necesita mucho trabajo para hacer esto".

Al igual que Bowman, Abach da crédito a una fuerte base de ex-alumnos por el éxito de la escuela. "Creo que no hay lugar al que yo vaya en cualquier parte de la ciudad, donde comparto en que parroquia o escuela estoy y la gente en todas partes dice, 'Fui a esa escuela. Es asombroso, cuanto gente ha asistido a ella. En el 2015 celebramos el 100 aniversario, entonces, usted sabe que mucha gente ha pasado por aquí".

"Con las escuelas públicas cerrando alrededor de nosotros, es importante seguir haciendo el esfuerzo de mantener una escuela primaria en el Westside. Estoy realmente orgulloso de los profesores que son todos certificados y que ellos se sienten orgullosos de lo que enseñan. Esto dice bastante ya que muchos de los profesores regresan año tras año".

La escuela será anfitriona, de una exhibición abierta al público el 19 de enero. El personal escolar estará a mano y proporcionará recorridos de las instalaciones.

"Ya tratamos de ser entusiastas para la inscripción durante el próximo año y el futuro significa, poner nuestro jardín de niños aquí durante el próximo año. Es el tiempo de que comenzamos a matricular para el próximo año", dijo el Bowman.

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