



Reconnecting the Westside neighborhood gets green light for planning study



For decades, I-35 in the heart of KC Westside community has been problematic for many of its residents and businesses in the neighborhood. Many of those who live and run businesses have complained how the highway has impacted the growth of the area.

Durante décadas, la I-35 ubicada en el corazón de la comunidad de KC Westside ha sido problemática para muchos de sus residentes y negocios en el vecindario. Muchos de los que viven y dirigen negocios se han quejado de cómo la autopista ha afectado el crecimiento del área.



Luz verde a estudio de planificación para reconectar el vecindario Westside

BY JOE ARCE AND COREY CRABLE
IN-DEPTH REPORT

Kansas City's City Council has passed an ordinance approving a contract with engineering consulting firm WSP for a planning study that will outline the Westside community's vision to improve safety, mobility, and connectivity that have been affected

by the construction of Interstate 35, according to a press release from City Hall.

The study also will "address the inequities and barriers due to the construction of I-35," according to the press release. Mayor Quinton Lucas and other community and city leaders made the announcement of the study last week at a press

STUDY WILL SHARE... / PAGE 3

TRADUCE GEMMA TORNERO
INFORME DETALLADO

El Ayuntamiento de Kansas City ha aprobado una ordenanza que aprueba un contrato con la firma de consultoría de ingeniería WSP para un estudio de planificación que describirá la visión de la comunidad del Westside para mejorar la seguridad, la movilidad y la conectividad

que se han visto afectadas por la construcción de la Interestatal 35, según un comunicado de prensa del Ayuntamiento.

El estudio también "abordará las desigualdades y barreras debido a la construcción de la I-35", según el comunicado de prensa. El alcalde Quinton Lucas y otros líderes de la comunidad y de la ciudad hicieron

ESTUDIO COMPARTIRÁ.... / PÁGINA 2

KC residents and businesses provide school supplies to area students

Residentes y empresas de KC proporcionan útiles escolares a los estudiantes de la zona

BY KANSAS CITY HISPANIC NEWS STAFF

This past Friday, Hispanic Economic Development Corporation held their Under the Bridge First Friday event. This month was earmarked for area students and their families.

Over the past few weeks around the metro we have seen our communities come together on both sides of the state line providing school supplies, backpacks and more.

HEDC First Friday event coordinator Maricela García told Hispanic News, "It's

"FOR YEARS.... / PAGE 5

TRADUCE GEMMA TORNERO

El viernes pasado, la Corporación Hispana de Desarrollo Económico llevó a cabo su evento Under the Bridge First Friday (Primer Viernes Bajo el Puente). Este mes estuvo destinado a los estudiantes de la zona y sus familias.

En las últimas semanas, en toda la zona metropolitana hemos visto a nuestras comunidades unirse en ambos lados de la frontera estatal proporcionando útiles escolares, mochilas y más.

La coordinadora del evento HEDC First Friday, Maricela García, dijo a Hispanic News:

"DURANTE AÑOS.... / PÁGINA 5



Area students were happy to receive backpacks from HEDC as they head back to school. Organizers also provided some chrome book laptops for some of the students, courtesy of Kansas City, Missouri Digital Equity Departement.

Estudiantes del área estaban felices de recibir mochilas de parte de HEDC para su regreso a la escuela. Los organizadores también proporcionaron algunas computadoras portátiles Chromebook para algunos de los estudiantes, cortesía del Departamento de Equidad Digital de Kansas City, Missouri.

Estudio compartirá formas de mejorar el vecindario luego de la construcción de la I-35



“Estuvimos aquí hace un año y hablamos sobre cómo la autopista creó este aislamiento social, aislándonos del resto de la ciudad, al igual que los sistemas de carreteras en todo el país”, dijo John Fierro (izquierda). “Y el anuncio de hoy por el Alcalde Quinton Lucas (derecha) es realmente para afirmar que el Westside ya no está aislado de esta ciudad. Somos parte de la ciudad”.

“We were here a year ago and we talked about how the highway created this social isolation, cutting us off from the rest of the city, just like highway systems around the country,” John Fierro (left) said. “And today’s announcement by Mayor Quinton Lucas (right) is really to affirm the Westside is no longer cut off from this city. We are part of the city.”

CONT./PÁGINA 1

el anuncio del estudio la semana pasada en una conferencia de prensa, en la esquina de Southwest Boulevard y West 24th Street. La ordenanza es solo una parte del proyecto Reconnecting the Westside. La financiación para el estudio provendrá de una subvención de \$1 millón del Departamento de Transporte de los EUA, que la ciudad recibió el año pasado.

“Se trata de traer gente aquí, al Westside, a Kansas City, y asegurarnos de que las comunidades que han estado aquí durante generaciones tengan la oportunidad de ser el centro de muchas de las grandes mejoras que están viendo en nuestra comunidad”, dijo Lucas a los presentes. “Creo que este es un gran día para Kansas City. Estoy orgulloso del trabajo que las obras públicas, nuestro ayuntamiento, pero más importante aún, nuestros vecinos, nuestras empresas, nuestra comunidad han hecho durante generaciones para asegurarse de que se respete el Westside”.

El concejal Crispin Rea, cuyo distrito incluye al vecindario Westside, citó las carreras de autos que se han llevado a cabo a lo largo de Southwest Boulevard como parte de las preocupaciones de seguridad planteadas a los funcionarios de la ciudad durante años.

“Pasé mucho tiempo en este bulevar. Un integrante de mi familia perdió la vida por conducir de manera imprudente aquí mismo en Southwest Boulevard hace varios años”, dijo Rea. “Muchos, muchos amigos, familiares y personas que son muy cercanas y personales para mí consideran a esta comunidad su hogar. ... Éstas son mejoras muy, muy emocionantes, y nos dan la oportunidad de transformar esta zona de una manera que nunca antes hemos hecho. Y podemos hacerlo antes de la Copa del Mundo y mostrar lo vibrante que es el Westside”.

Rea agregó que justo antes del comienzo de la conferencia de prensa, vio de primera mano los problemas causados por la llegada de la I-35.

“Cuando llegué aquí,

estaba tomando una taza de café al otro lado de la carretera, y caminé bajo el puente, caminé hasta aquí”, explicó Rea. “No es la primera vez que lo hago, pero prestar mucha atención a cómo llegar de un lado del puente al otro siempre es revelador, porque no es una caminata fácil. No es una caminata bonita. No está limpio. No se siente seguro. Y esos son los tipos de cosas que tenemos la oportunidad de abordar con la comunidad a través de este proyecto. Así que estoy muy emocionado a medida que avanzamos y analizamos las inversiones públicas e involucramos a la comunidad en lo que es importante”.

Y John Fierro, presidente y director ejecutivo del Centro Mattie Rhodes, dijo que el proyecto tiene como objetivo hacer que el Westside se sienta más como parte de la ciudad una vez más, en lugar de sentirse aislado de ella debido a la autopista.

“Estuvimos aquí hace un año y hablamos sobre cómo la autopista creó este aislamiento social, alejándonos del resto de la ciudad, al igual que los sistemas de carreteras en todo el país”, dijo Fierro. “Y el anuncio de hoy es realmente para afirmar que el Westside ya no está aislado de esta ciudad. Somos parte de la ciudad. Y eso ha sucedido debido a la perseverancia de los dueños de negocios a lo largo de Southwest Boulevard. Ha sucedido debido a los residentes que anualmente han luchado para obtener dinero para reparar las aceras, reparar los parques, para crear un mejor vecindario”.

Durante un breve período de preguntas y respuestas, un residente local preguntó sobre el plan de la ciudad para mantener las carreteras seguras durante el partido de la Copa Mundial de la FIFA 2026 en Kansas City.

“Si bien la Copa del Mundo es muy importante, es algo que estamos construyendo, siempre estoy pensando en cuál será nuestro legado después, y por eso mi esperanza no es que simplemente pongamos un montón de negocios emergentes para el verano de 2026 y todo vuelva a la normalidad”, respondió

el alcalde. “Necesitamos asegurarnos de que algunas cosas que son desafíos constantes ahora sean las que podamos abordar. Hoy estamos hablando de infraestructura, aceras, iluminación, mejoras para asegurarnos de que las personas puedan entrar y salir de manera segura, ya sea que caminen, ya sea que vengan de los vecindarios o de lugares lejanos, puedan llegar al Westside”.

Lucas también dijo, que cree que diferentes entidades de la ciudad han trabajado bien juntas hasta ahora, para garantizar que tanto la logística como la financiación del proyecto estén en buen estado.

“Creo que el concejal Rea ha trabajado para asegurarse de que no solo haya fondos suficientes allí, sino que podamos obtener más apoyo, tanto del KCPD como de otros, para abordar esos problemas. Y para mí, creo que se trata de decir: ‘¿Cómo hacemos que este sea un vecindario excepcional y aún mejor hoy? ¿Y qué significa eso que la gente se sentirá atraída aquí?’”, dijo Lucas. “Porque cuando he viajado a otros lugares, la mayoría de nosotros realmente queremos ir a lugares auténticos. Creo que es difícil decir que hay lugares que sean más auténticos, particularmente si estás buscando una

comunidad latina que aquí en el Westside. No quieren ver solo carpas y tiendas temporales. Quieren decir: ‘Quiero ver lo que es Kansas City. Quiero ver el sabor y el gusto de Kansas City’. Necesitamos asegurarnos de que, ya sea en infraestructura o seguridad pública, estemos cumpliendo con todo eso, y es por eso que están viendo este trabajo aquí en el Westside”.

Lucas aseguró a los asistentes que la ciudad también compartirá actualizaciones periódicas con los residentes durante toda la vida útil del proyecto.

“Verán actualizaciones continuas. El proyecto WSP y nuestro

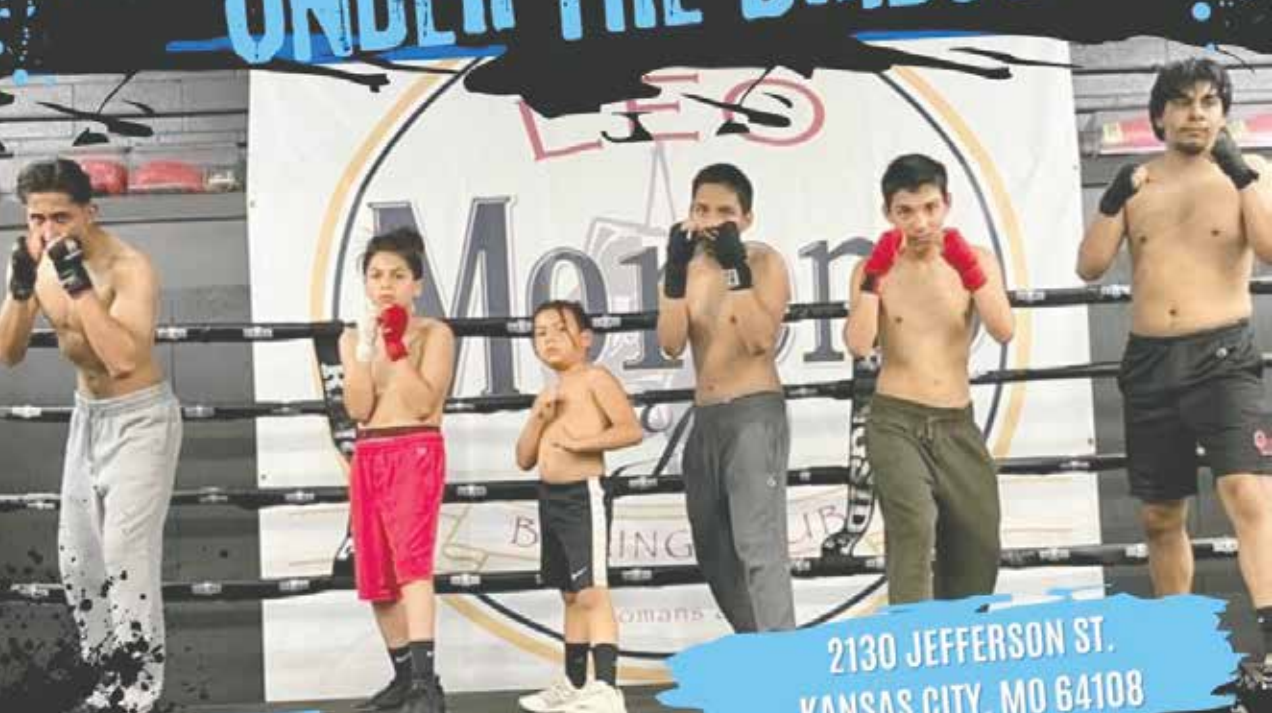
Departamento de Obras Públicas trabajarán con los vecindarios y todas las empresas afectadas. Parte del contrato del acuerdo en sí es asegurarnos de que hacemos ese trabajo en el que realmente participamos, de modo que no se trate simplemente de alguien que viene de afuera y dice: ‘Esto es lo que vamos a hacer’”, dijo Lucas. “Ya hemos superado esa etapa en la forma en que hacemos el desarrollo en Kansas City y la infraestructura. En cambio, esto implica que muchos de nosotros escuchemos y nos aseguremos de que las voces de la comunidad sean parte del proyecto”.

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Study will share ways to improve neighborhood following I-35 construction



“As I arrived here, I was grabbing a cup of coffee on the other side of the highway and walked under the bridge and walked my way over here,” Crispin Rea (left) explained. “It’s not a pretty walk. It’s not clean. It doesn’t feel safe. And those are the types of things that we get an opportunity to work with the community to address through this project.”

“Cuando llegué aquí, estaba tomando una taza de café al otro lado de la autopista y caminé bajo el puente y caminé hasta aquí”, explicó Crispin Rea (izquierda). “No es un paseo bonito. No está limpio. No se siente seguro. Y esos son los tipos de cosas que tenemos la oportunidad de abordar con la comunidad a través de este proyecto”.

CONT./PAGE 1

conference on the corner of Southwest Boulevard and West 24th Street. The ordinance is just one part of the Reconnecting the Westside project. Funding for the study will come from a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, which the city received last year.

“It’s about bringing people here to the Westside, to Kansas City, and making sure that communities who have been here for generations have the opportunity to be central in a lot of the great improvements you’re seeing in our community,” Lucas told the crowd. “I think this is a great day for Kansas City. I’m proud of the work that public works, that our city council, but more importantly, our neighbors, our businesses, our community have done for generations to make sure that the Westside is respected.”

Councilman Crispin Rea, whose district includes the Westside neighborhood, cited the longtime drag races that have taken place along Southwest Boulevard as just part of the safety concerns raised to city officials for years.

“I spent a lot of time on this boulevard. I’ve had a

family member lose their life to reckless driving right here on Southwest Boulevard several years ago,” Rea said. “Many, many friends and family and folks that are deeply close and personal to me call this community home. ... These are very, very exciting improvements, and it gives us an opportunity to transform this area in a way like we have never done before. And we get to do it in advance of the World Cup and showcase how vibrant the Westside is.”

Rea added that right before the beginning of the press conference, he saw firsthand the issues caused by I-35’s arrival.

“As I arrived here, I was grabbing a cup of coffee on the other side of the highway and walked under the bridge and walked my way over here,” Rea explained. “It’s not the first time I’ve done it, but paying very close attention to how to get from one side of the bridge to the other is always eye-opening because it is not an easy walk. It’s not a pretty walk. It’s not clean. It doesn’t feel safe. And those are the types of things that we get an opportunity to work with the community to address through this project. So I’m very excited as we move forward and

look at public investments and engage the community on what’s important.”

And John Fierro, president and CEO of the Mattie Rhodes Center, said the project is intended to make the Westside feel more like part of the city once again, instead of feeling cut off from it because of the highway.

“We were here a year ago and we talked about how the highway created this social isolation, cutting us off from the rest of the city, just like highway systems around the country,” Fierro said. “And today’s announcement is really to affirm the Westside is no longer cut off from this city. We are part of the city. And that has happened because of the perseverance of business owners along Southwest Boulevard. It’s happened because of the residents who annually have fought to get monies to repair sidewalks, to repair parks, to create a better neighborhood.”

During a brief question-and-answer period, one local resident asked about the city’s plan to keep roadways safe during the 2026 FIFA World Cup game in Kansas City.

“While the World Cup’s very important, it’s something we’re building to, I’m always thinking about

what’s our legacy afterwards, and so my hope isn’t that we just put a bunch of pop-up businesses in for the summer of 2026 and everything reverts back to a normal,” the mayor responded. “We need to make sure a few things that are consistent challenges now are ones we can address. Today we’re talking about infrastructure, sidewalks, lighting, improvements to make sure people can get in and out safely, whether they’re walking, whether they’re coming from the neighborhoods or far away, can get to the Westside.”

Lucas also said he believes different city entities have worked well together so far to ensure both the logistics and the funding for the project are in good order.

“I think Councilman Rea has worked to make sure that there’s not only sufficient funding there, but that we can get more support, both from KCPD and others, in addressing those issues. And so for me, I think it is saying, ‘How do we make this an exceptional and even better neighborhood today? And how does that mean that people will be drawn here?’” Lucas said. “Because when I’ve traveled to other places, most of us actually want to go to authentic places. I think it’s hard to say that

there are places that are more authentic, particularly if you’re looking for a Latino community than here on the Westside. They don’t want to just see tents and pop-ups. They want to say, ‘I want to see what is Kansas City. I want to see the flavor and the taste of Kansas City.’ We need to make sure whether it’s infrastructure or public safety that we’re delivering on all of that, and that’s why you’re seeing this work here on the Westside.”

Lucas assured those in attendance that the city will share regular updates with residents throughout the project’s entire lifetime as well.

“You’ll see ongoing updates. WSP project and our Public Works Department will be working with neighborhoods and all businesses impacted. Part of the contract of the agreement itself is to make sure that we do that work where you’re actually engaging, so it isn’t just somebody coming from outside and saying, ‘This is what we’re going to do,’” Lucas said. “We’re past that time in how we do development in Kansas City and infrastructure. Instead, this is a whole lot of us listening and making sure the community voices are part of the project.”

KCKCC Invites Students to Fair to Get Ready for Fall Classes

With the first day of a new semester just around the corner, Kansas City Kansas Community College invites students and those who wish to enroll to the college’s Back to School Fair.

The Back to School Fair will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 9 in Upper Jewell on the KCKCC Main Campus, 7250 State Ave. The event is free and open to currently enrolled students as well as those who would like to enroll for the fall 2024 semester. The first day of classes is Monday, Aug. 19.

“This event is an excellent opportunity to start the fall semester,” said Dr. Shawn Derritt, dean of student services at KCKCC. “Last year’s attendees expressed great appreciation for this chance to prepare for the semester.”

During the event, students can finalize financial aid and learn about scholarships, submit an application if necessary, meet with an advisor to get enrolled, take a placement test, get a parking sticker, learn about community resources and purchase textbooks and supplies from the KCKCC Bookstore. There will also be information regarding student organizations and KCKCC support services such as counseling, student accessibility support services, the learning commons, the military and veteran center, the wellness center, career services and the basic needs center. KCKCC will also be providing a free hot dog lunch to those who attend.

For more information on the Back to School Fair, call KCKCC Student Services at 913-288-7109.

Source KCKCC

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Governor Parson Signs Budget Increasing Funding for the University of Central Missouri



University of Central Missouri students use technology in the Extended Reality project at the UCM Lee's Summit location within the Missouri Innovation Campus. The UCM Extended Reality project was ranked number one on the state legislature's MoExcels candidate funding list.

WARRENSBURG, MO – University of Central Missouri (UCM) leaders expressed their appreciation for Missouri Governor Mike Parson and state legislators for developing a \$51.7 billion Fiscal Year 2025 state budget that allocates a net core appropriation of \$64 million to UCM. This represents an increase of nearly \$1.9 million in expected revenue to UCM for FY 2025, bringing the University's overall

total operating budget to \$178.4 million. "Support for higher education is critical for creating an enduring, robust economy for Missouri and for enhancing the well-being of all families," said Roger Best, UCM president. "I am confident that this investment in UCM will yield significant returns for the state. We are grateful for the vision of Governor Parson and the confidence of the Missouri Legislature

in supporting UCM's role in creating and securing a positive future for our state." Best noted that the state budget provides UCM with a 3 percent increase in core funding versus the previous fiscal year. Additionally, it includes MoExcels funding for the Extended Reality project at the UCM Lee's Summit location within the Missouri Innovation Campus. MoExcels funding supports the development and expansion of employer-

driven education and training programs, significantly boosting educational attainment. The UCM Extended Reality project was ranked number one on the state legislature's MoExcels candidate funding list. An additional \$9.95 million installment of funding for the renovation and modernization of the Humphreys Building on the UCM campus at Warrensburg is part of the state's Fiscal Year 2025

capital appropriations. This installment, along with prior funding, comprises 100 percent financing by the state of Missouri for the \$39.8 million project. The Humphreys Building houses student support services such as the university's counseling and testing centers, and long-standing academic programs including Criminal Justice and ROTC.

Source UCM

Social Security Matters

ASK RUSTY – Should I retire at 65 or 67? And what about earnings & taxes?



Dear Rusty: I'm just trying to figure out how to determine whether to retire at 65 or 67 and, if I retire, approximately how much could I make outside of my Social Security without being overly taxed.

Signed: Thinking About Retiring

Dear Thinking: Deciding when to retire is serious business, because it affects your future and what your retirement income will be going forward. Thus, it's good you are taking the time to fully understand your options, and we're happy to assist you with that. Here are some things which should help you decide whether to retire at 65 or 67:

- Social Security benefits are subject to income tax (by the IRS) if your combined income from all sources (which includes your Adjusted Gross Income on your tax return, plus half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year) exceeds certain thresholds for your income tax filing status. If you file your income tax as "married/jointly" and your combined income from all sources is more than \$32,000, then 50% of your received SS

benefits are subject to income tax (at your normal IRS tax rate). But if your combined income as a married couple is more than \$44,000, then 85% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. FYI, the taxation thresholds are lower for those who file taxes as an individual (\$25,000 and \$34,000 respectively).

- Born in 1960 or later, your full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security's purposes is 67. If you claim SS benefits before your FRA, not only will your monthly amount be permanently reduced but you'll also be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit changes annually, but for 2024 it is \$22,320 (future year's limits will be a bit higher each year). If your work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They take away by withholding future benefits for as many months as necessary for them to recover what you owe for exceeding the annual limit. FYI, the limit goes up during the year you attain FRA, and the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.
- If you claim SS before your FRA, your monthly amount will be permanently reduced. If you claim at age 65, you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until

age 67 to claim. If you claim at age 66, your monthly amount would be about 93% of your FRA entitlement and, by claiming at 67 you'll get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. The reductions for early claiming are permanent reductions, except for the annual cost of living adjustments (COLA). Note that you can also delay longer than your FRA to get an even larger benefit amount (you can delay up to age 70 when your maximum benefit is reached). Just remember, the earnings test (as described above) will apply if you claim SS before your FRA and you are still working.

If your plan is to continue to work full time, be aware that if you claim early SS and significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits. If your work income is high enough that the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit is more than SS can recover through withheld benefits in one year, they will tell you that you're unable to collect benefits at this time (until you either earn less or reach your FRA).

So, deciding whether to claim Social Security at 65 or 67 is your personal choice and, hopefully, the above provides the information you need to make an informed decision.

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“For years, we have been able to provide backpacks/school supplies to students”



At East High School (left), KCPS distributed backpacks and school supplies to students, ensuring they have the necessary tools for a successful start to the school year. And Westside CAN Center also provided Back to School supplies. We are seeing tremendous results in the success of the students,” commented Jorge Coromac.
En la Preparatoria East, KCPS distribuyó mochilas y útiles escolares a los estudiantes, asegurándose de que tengan las herramientas necesarias para un inicio exitoso del año escolar. Y el Centro Westside CAN también proporcionó útiles escolares. “Estamos viendo resultados tremendos en el éxito de los estudiantes”, comentó Jorge Coromac.

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such a great event for the kids and parents before they return to school. This year, along with school supplies we even gave out some chrome book laptops for some of the students courtesy of Kansas City Missouri Digital Equity Departement." Garcia pointed out how generous many of the local businesses have been in donating school supplies for the children. “We partnered up with From the Earth, our vendors and even some of the pop ups that are here with us today to help in supplying school items for the students.” Garcia said it’s a great feeling knowing that Kansas City community members care about our students and they wanted to help in preparing the students for school which in a matter of weeks they will be heading back to the classrooms. One mother told Hispanic News she appreciated the school supplies for her kids because she had just lost her job.

Many of the non-for-profits in the metro are working with area business owners and other major companies to help out family during these touch times. We all know

food, clothing and shoes for school bound students are expensive. So when there’s an opportunity in the community for these non-for-profits organizations to go to work for families in need, they step up and give as much as they can.

This past Saturday, the Kansas City Public Schools Education Foundation welcome students and families for KCPS Fest, an back-to-school drive-thru event to provide essential resources to students and families in preparation for the new academic year. The event took place on Saturday, Aug. 3 at East High School, located at 1924 Van Brunt Blvd, Kansas City, MO. During the event, KCPS distributed backpacks and school supplies to students, ensuring they have the necessary tools for a successful start to the school year. In addition, KCPS offer immunizations, sports physicals, and health screenings to ensure students are healthy and ready to learn when classes begin. KCPS Fest has already garnered significant community interest, with over 3,300 families signed up to participate so far (over

1,000 more than this time last year). To make this event possible, the KCPS Education Foundation has received tremendous support from the Hunt Family Foundation, local partners, and many individual and group donations. Also, dozens of dedicated volunteers were on-site to assist with the smooth execution of the event.

KCPS is committed to creating a supportive and welcoming environment for all students and families, and KCPS Fest serves as a testament to this dedication.

On Friday July 26th, seventy three volunteers and 19 partner organizations came to celebrate the 2024-25 school year and congratulate all the students of the Kansas City Westside community.

“We congratulate all students and parents that continue succeeding every year and doing a great academic performance”... said Jorge Coromac, Director of Westside Community Action Center. “Thank you to partners and organizations, sponsors and friends of the Westside CAN Center. We were able to put in all backpacks 100% of schools supplies that KCPS school

district required for this year. There are no words to express our deepest gratitude to all volunteers, parents and students that came to the event,” expressed Coromac.

“Tony Aguirre Community Center, Irene H. Ruiz Biblioteca de Las Americas, Westside KCPD Officers and Westside CAN Center work year round to provide important services and programing to the children and families of the Westside community such as the Back to School supplies. For the last 23 years, tireless volunteers and partner organizations put together their best effort to support the success of the students and we are seeing tremendous results in the success of the students, commented,” said Coromac.

Coromac added, “Students and parents expressed deepest gratitude for this great event. For years we have been able to provide backpacks/school supplies to all the students that live or attend any of the Westside Schools.

All these wonderful organizations came to offer their support to the students and parents, not only for this event during the school year: Arvest Bank, Rotary Club

13, Friends of the Westside CAN, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Woodland Charity, Hall Family Foundation, Hispanic Development Fund, KC Library Bookmobile, KCMO Health Department, Westside Fire Fighter, Friends of the Library, Family Conservancy, Primitivo Garcia Elementary School, Wage and Hours, OSHA, Hernandez Law, KC Gils Prep, Habitat KC, Pet Source, Great Jobs KC, KC Chiefs Training Lab, Crossroads Charter School, Jackson County-Outside Agencies, the City of Kansas City, Parks and Rec.

“Westside CAN Center would like to express deepest appreciation to all volunteers and partner organizations for their support to the students in this new school year 24/25. Our commitment continue to equip all students with supplies that will prepared for their academic success,” said Jorge Coromac, Director of the Westside CAN Center.

To learn more about the Westside CAN Center programs and projects or to become a volunteer or sponsor contact Jorgec@westsidecan.org or visit www.westsidecan.org

“Durante años hemos podido proporcionar mochilas y útiles escolares a los estudiantes”

CONT./PÁGINA I

“Es un gran evento para los niños y los padres antes de que regresen a la escuela. Este año, junto con los útiles escolares, incluso repartimos algunas computadoras portátiles Chrome Book para algunos de los estudiantes, cortesía del Departamento de Equidad Digital de Kansas City Missouri”. García señaló lo generosos que han sido muchos de los negocios locales al donar útiles escolares para los niños. “Nos asociamos con From the Earth, nuestros proveedores e incluso algunos de los pop ups que están aquí hoy con nosotros para ayudar a proporcionar artículos escolares para los estudiantes”. García dijo que es una gran sensación saber que los miembros de la comunidad de Kansas City se preocupan por nuestros estudiantes y que querían ayudar a preparar a la escuela, que en cuestión de semanas regresará a las aulas. Una madre le dijo a Hispanic News que apreciaba los útiles escolares para sus hijos porque acababa de perder su trabajo.

Muchas de las organizaciones sin fines de lucro en el área metropolitana están trabajando con dueños de negocios del área, y otras compañías importantes, para ayudar a las familias durante

estos tiempos difíciles. Todos sabemos que la comida, la ropa y los zapatos para los estudiantes que van a la escuela son costosos. Entonces, cuando hay una oportunidad en la comunidad para que éstas organizaciones sin fines de lucro trabajen para las familias necesitadas, dan un paso adelante y dan todo lo que pueden.

El sábado pasado, la Fundación de Educación de las Escuelas Públicas de Kansas City dio la bienvenida a los estudiantes y las familias para KCPS Fest, un evento de regreso a la escuela con servicio en el automóvil, para brindar recursos esenciales a los estudiantes y las familias en preparación para el nuevo año académico. El evento se llevó a cabo el sábado 3 de agosto en la Preparatoria East, ubicada en el número 1924 de Van Brunt Blvd, Kansas City, MO. Durante el evento, KCPS distribuyó mochilas y útiles escolares a los estudiantes, asegurándose de que tuvieran las herramientas necesarias para un comienzo exitoso del año escolar. Además, KCPS ofrece vacunas, exámenes físicos deportivos y exámenes de salud para garantizar que los estudiantes estén saludables y listos para aprender cuando comiencen las clases. KCPS Fest ya ha generado un interés

significativo en la comunidad, con más de 3300 familias inscritas para participar hasta el momento (más de 1000 más que en esta época el año pasado). Para hacer posible este evento, la Fundación Educativa de KCPS ha recibido un gran apoyo de la Fundación de la Familia Hunt, socios locales y muchas donaciones individuales y grupales. Además, docenas de voluntarios dedicados estuvieron en el lugar para ayudar con la gestión del evento sin problemas.

KCPS se compromete a crear un entorno de apoyo y bienvenida para todos los estudiantes y familias, y KCPS Fest es un testimonio de esta dedicación.

El viernes 26 de julio, setenta y tres voluntarios y 19 organizaciones asociadas vinieron a celebrar el año escolar 2024-25 y felicitar a todos los estudiantes de la comunidad de Kansas City Westside.

“Felicitamos a todos los estudiantes y padres que continúan teniendo éxito cada año y teniendo un gran desempeño académico”... dijo Jorge Coromac, Director del Centro de Acción Comunitaria de Westside. “Gracias a los socios y organizaciones, patrocinadores y amigos del Centro Westside CAN. Pudimos poner en todas las mochilas el 100% de los

útiles escolares que el Distrito Escolar de KCPS requirió para este año. No hay palabras para expresar nuestro más profundo agradecimiento a todos los voluntarios, padres y estudiantes que vinieron al evento”, expresó Coromac.

“El Centro Comunitario Tony Aguirre, Biblioteca de Las Américas Irene H. Ruiz, Oficiales del KCPD Westside y el Centro Westside CAN trabajan todo el año para brindar servicios y programas importantes a los niños y familias de la comunidad del Westside, como los útiles escolares de regreso a clases. Durante los últimos 23 años, voluntarios incansables y organizaciones asociadas unieron sus mejores esfuerzos para apoyar el éxito de los estudiantes y estamos viendo resultados tremendos en el éxito de los estudiantes, comentó”, dijo Coromac.

Coromac agregó: “Los estudiantes y los padres expresaron su más profunda gratitud por este gran evento. Durante años hemos podido proporcionar mochilas/ útiles escolares a todos los estudiantes que viven o asisten a cualquiera de las escuelas de Westside”.

Todas estas maravillosas organizaciones vinieron a ofrecer su apoyo a los estudiantes y padres, no solo para este evento durante el año escolar: Banco Arvest,

Club Rotario 13, Amigos del Westside CAN, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Woodland Charity, Fundación de la Familia Hall, Fondo de Desarrollo Hispano, KC Library Bookmobile, Departamento de Salud de KCMO, Bomberos del Westside, Amigos de la Biblioteca, Family Conservancy, Escuela Primaria Primitivo Garcia, Wage and Hours, OSHA, Hernandez Law, KC Gils Prep, Habitat KC, Pet Source, Great Jobs KC, KC Chiefs Training Lab, Crossroads Charter School, Jackson County-Outside Agencies, la ciudad de Kansas City, y Parques y Recreación.

“El Centro Westside CAN quisiera expresar su más profundo agradecimiento a todos los voluntarios y organizaciones asociadas por su apoyo a los estudiantes en este nuevo año escolar 24/25. Nuestro compromiso continúa equipando a todos los estudiantes con útiles que los prepararán para su éxito académico”, dijo Jorge Coromac, Director del Centro Westside CAN.

Para obtener más información sobre los programas y proyectos del Centro Westside CAN o para convertirse en voluntario o patrocinador, comuníquese con Jorgec@westsidecan.org o visite www.westsidecan.org

“The Supreme Court Ain’t Supreme”



BY **RAOUL LOWERY CONTRERAS**

When I was 13 the United States Supreme Court ruled the State of Texas was violating the Constitution by officially discriminating against people who looked like me. The court ruled that Mexican American civil rights as Americans had been treated as Black people had been in Texas since the 1865 surrender of the ersatz nation of the Confederate States of America. When I read the case, *Hernandez v. Texas* (May 1954), as a college student of constitutional law, I loved the court, the Earl Warren court. After the *Hernandez* decision, the court unanimously ruled that “separate but equal” schooling in Kansas and elsewhere was unconstitutional. “Separate but equal” came about when Black

people had to ride in separate railroad cars -- Louisiana state law required it. The Supreme Court ruled in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) that it was not a civil rights violation as long as they had separate railroad cars and seats no matter how austere or ratty. They were equal. The *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (May 1954) case was unanimously agreed to by eight old white men led by former governor of California Earl Warren; the court included former southern attorneys general. When I read the case, I expanded my appreciation of the Warren Court. He had been nominated Chief Justice by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a political reward for the California governor’s support in the 1952 presidential campaign. Warren had approved California junior U.S. Senator Richard Nixon to run as Eisenhower’s running mate for Vice-President in 1952. Eisenhower appointed Warren Chief Justice and the old white men of the Supreme Court who had been born in the 19th Century leaped into the 20th Century. Though I wasn’t forced to attend segregated schools, people my age in many states and localities were. I served in the U.S. Marines with southern Black men my age that had never ridden a bus that wasn’t segregated until they rode a bus from San Diego’s airport to the Marine Boot Camp on San Diego’s bay. They had never

sat in a mixed classroom until they sat with me in Boot Camp classes. They had never eaten with whites until they ate their first meal as a U.S. Marine. They wouldn’t be allowed to vote like I did in November 1962, my first election after my 21st birthday. Or in 1964 when I voted for President and Commander-in-Chief nor in the 1966 off-year elections when I voted for Ronald Reagan for governor; he won and began his march to the White House and history. The 1965 voting rights bill finally allowed Black fellow Marines from the South to vote, a right since the 15th Amendment was ratified into the Constitution in February 1870 but blocked by the Bull Connors and George Wallaces of the country. The Constitution and the Supreme Court made life for me and people like me in the United States more than tolerable, they made life worthwhile. I am thankful to God that the United States was what it was for me and prouder to be an American every time I read Supreme Court decisions I had to study as a Pre-law student of the Constitution. I disagreed with the Nixon Court in 1973 when it ruled abortion legal nationally and agreed when the current Court threw out the abortion decision sending the question back to the states. So, I’m not a liberal. Nonetheless, I disagree with the court that ruled the President has “immunity”



from criminal prosecution for “official acts” as President. It ruled that such immunity applies only to “official acts.” It didn’t define those acts and left interpretation to a case by case basis. More importantly, it eliminated evidence developed from an official act from being used as support that a President committed a crime. In this case, Donald J. Trump has been rescued by six justices of the court for political not legal reasons. By the way, Richard Nixon would have walked with this decision.

Why did they do that? They didn’t have to. Six justices saved Trump because they wanted to. I can understand Justices Thomas and Alito selling out, they are sellouts. But the other four? Today would have never happened if Earl Warren was Chief Justice. **Contreras is a United States Marine veteran; political consultant, author, newspaper/magazine editorialist in the United States, Mexico, Israel, Turkey and Azerbaijan and hosts the Contreras Report on YouTube**

“La Corte Suprema no es suprema”

POR **RAOUL LOWERY CONTRERAS**

Cuando tenía 13 años, la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos dictaminó que el estado de Texas estaba violando la Constitución al discriminar oficialmente a personas que se parecían a mí. El tribunal dictaminó que los derechos civiles de los mexicanoamericanos como estadounidenses habían sido tratados como lo habían sido los negros en Texas desde la rendición de 1865 de la nación sucedánea de los Estados Confederados de América. Cuando leí el caso *Hernández contra Texas* (mayo de 1954), como estudiante universitario de derecho constitucional, me encantó el tribunal, el tribunal de Earl Warren. Después de la decisión de *Hernández*, el tribunal dictaminó por unanimidad que la educación “separada pero igual” en Kansas y en otros lugares era inconstitucional. “Separados pero iguales” surgió cuando los negros tuvieron que viajar en vagones de ferrocarril separados: la ley del estado de Luisiana así lo

exigía. La Corte Suprema dictaminó en *Plessy contra Ferguson* (1896) que no era una violación de los derechos civiles siempre que tuvieran vagones y asientos separados, sin importar cuán austeros o andrajosos fueran. Eran iguales. El caso *Brown* contra la Junta de Educación de Topeka (mayo de 1954) fue aprobado por unanimidad por ocho ancianos blancos encabezados por el ex gobernador de California, Earl Warren; el tribunal incluía a ex fiscales generales del sur. Cuando leí el caso, amplié mi apreciación del Tribunal Warren. El presidente Dwight D. Eisenhower lo nombró presidente del Tribunal Supremo como recompensa política por el apoyo del gobernador de California en la campaña presidencial de 1952. Warren había aprobado al senador estadounidense de California, Richard Nixon, para postularse como compañero de fórmula de Eisenhower para vicepresidente en 1952. Eisenhower nombró a Warren presidente del Tribunal Supremo y los ancianos blancos de la Corte Suprema que habían nacido

en el siglo XIX saltaron al siglo XX. Aunque no me obligaron a asistir a escuelas segregadas, la gente de mi edad en muchos estados y localidades sí lo fue. Serví en la Infantería de Marina de los EE. UU. con hombres negros del sur de mi edad que nunca habían viajado en un autobús que no estuviera segregado hasta que viajaron en autobús desde el aeropuerto de San Diego hasta el Marine Boot Camp en la bahía de San Diego. Nunca se habían sentado en un aula mixta hasta que se sentaron conmigo en las clases de Boot Camp. Nunca habían comido con blancos hasta que comieron su primera comida como marines estadounidenses. No se les permitiría votar como lo hice yo en noviembre de 1962, mi primera elección después de cumplir 21 años. O en 1964, cuando voté por Presidente y Comandante en Jefe, ni en las elecciones fuera del año de 1966, cuando voté por Ronald Reagan para gobernador; ganó y comenzó su marcha hacia la Casa Blanca y la historia. El proyecto de ley de derecho al voto de 1965 finalmente permitió votar a

los marines negros del Sur, un derecho desde que la 15ª Enmienda fue ratificada en la Constitución en febrero de 1870, pero bloqueada por los Bull Connors y George Wallaces del país. La Constitución y la Corte Suprema hicieron que la vida para mí y para personas como yo en los Estados Unidos fuera más que tolerable, hicieron que la vida valiera la pena. Agradezco a Dios que Estados Unidos fue lo que fue para mí y me siento más orgulloso de ser estadounidense cada vez que leo decisiones de la Corte Suprema que tuve que estudiar como estudiante de Pre-Derecho de la Constitución. No estuve de acuerdo con la Corte Nixon en 1973 cuando dictaminó que el aborto era legal a nivel nacional y estuve de acuerdo cuando la Corte actual desestimó la decisión sobre el aborto y envió la cuestión de regreso a los estados. Entonces no soy liberal. Sin embargo, no estoy de acuerdo con el tribunal que dictaminó que el presidente tiene “inmunidad” de procesamiento penal por “actos oficiales” como presidente.

Resolvió que dicha inmunidad se aplica sólo a los “actos oficiales”. No definió esos actos y dejó la interpretación caso por caso. Más importante aún, eliminó la evidencia desarrollada a partir de un acto oficial para que no pudiera usarse como respaldo de que un presidente cometió un delito. En este caso, Donald J. Trump ha sido rescatado por seis magistrados del tribunal por motivos políticos y no legales. Por cierto, Richard Nixon habría tomado esta decisión. ¿Por qué hicieron eso? No tenían porqué hacerlo. Seis jueces salvaron a Trump porque quisieron. Puedo entender que los jueces Thomas y Alito se hayan vendido, son unos vendidos. ¿Pero los otros cuatro? Hoy nunca hubiera pasado si el conde Warren hubiera sido presidente del Tribunal Supremo. **Contreras es un veterano de la Marina de los Estados Unidos; consultor político, autor, editorialista de periódicos y revistas en Estados Unidos, México, Israel, Turquía y Azerbaiyán y presenta el Informe Contreras en YouTube**

Public Service Announcement

MESSAGE TO: Job Applicants, Employers, Employment Agencies and Law firms

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OA-FMDC, State of MO will have the following MO National Guard projects that will be open for public bid through September 2024, subject to available funding. When released, bid documents will be available at <https://oa.mo.gov/facilities/>
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T2333-01 Joplin Readiness Ctr Construct Addtn
T2336-01 Ike Skelton Training Site Construct Addtn
T2407-01 St Joe Rosecrans Bldg 25 Renovs

Bids for Replace Concrete Dock & Entryway, Regional Office Building, Project No. M2408-01 will be received by FMDC, State of MO, UNTIL 1:30 PM, 9/12/24. For specific project information and ordering plans, go to: <http://oa.mo.gov/facilities>

Bids for Replace Roof, Sikeston Regional Office, Project No. M2417-01 will be received by FMDC, State of MO, UNTIL 1:30 PM, August 15, 2024. For specific project information and ordering plans, go to: <http://oa.mo.gov/facilities>

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In Loving Memory



Mary L. Lopez Garcia, known to loved ones as "Aunt Mary," 95, of Mission, Kansas, passed away on Sunday, August 4, 2024, at Overland Park

MARY LOUISE GARCIA

Regional Medical Center. Visitation will be 10 a.m., followed by Celebration of Life at 11a.m., Reception immediately following on Tuesday, August 13, at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 5250 Mission Rd, Roeland Park, KS 66205.
Mary was born on June 21, 1929 to Bernardo and Jesus (Urbano) Lopez in Atchison, Kansas. Mary was married to Ramon "Hunchy" Garcia for 58 years. Mary showed her love through food. She was an exceptional cook and loved to make traditional

Mexican dishes. Every birthday she insisted, no matter who's special day, on hearing Las Mananitas. She especially loved helping raise her three great grandchildren. Teaching them a love for telenovela's, cardigan sweaters and her favorite song, "Las Mañanitas."
Mary was known for her faith. She prayed the rosary daily up until her death. She and Ramon were members of Guardian Angels Catholic Church for more than 50 years. They volunteered weekly and cooked for

the church's Senior Saints luncheon. Mary and Ramon were honored with the Kansas City St. Joseph's Bishop Award for their volunteerism at Guardian Angels. She also worked in food service at the Muehlebach Hotel, St. Mary's Medical Center and she was known for her exceptional hamburgers at Zesto's in Westport.
In addition to her parents, Mary was preceded in death by her husband Ramon Garcia, seven siblings and her daughter, Anna Ascencio.

She is survived by her daughter, Abigail Salazar and her husband, Arthur, three grandchildren, Gilbert Ascencio (Elizabeth), Jessica Salazar Collins (Josh), Arthur Salazar Jr, three great grandchildren, Joshua Collins, Trinidad Collins, Dominic Ascencio and many beloved nieces and nephews. The family wants to thank all the doctors, nurses and staff who cared for her during her last days at Overland Park Regional Medical Center.



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