

Trend is toward decorating larger spaces for larger houses

By The Associated Press

More definitely is more when it comes to the interior dreamscape of today's American home. In the past 30 years, home size in the United States has increased by 50 percent. Even disregarding the mega-houses and mansions of business moguls, where measurements frequently surpass the 25,000-square-foot mark, American homes are bigger than ever before. In 2000, the average home in the United States boasted 2,265 square feet of living space, compared with 1,500 square feet in 1970, according to the

National Association of Home Builders. The trend toward larger homes is expected to continue in the next 10 years, industry leaders predict, with an emphasis on extra amenities, especially of the high-tech variety. Popular luxury features include bonus or specialty rooms like home theaters and family computer centers as well as large-scale design elements such as high ceilings and generously proportioned rooms. Americans always have valued wide open spaces, so it's no surprise that spacious homes are increas-

ingly popular, said Doug Krieger, design director for a woodworking firm that manufacturers ready-to-assemble furniture. "These spacious settings provide families with ample room for varied hobbies and interests, generous space for home-based businesses and gracious backdrops for family and business entertaining," Krieger said. Today's bigger-than-ever-before homes present their own decorating challenges, however. What kinds of furnishings pack the most punch in today's mega-scaled interiors? And how can a family create warmth and intimacy in a super-sized environment? The wide variety of well-proportioned, stylish furnishings available today provides a host of solutions to these welcome modern dilemmas. Krieger and his staff suggest several tips for making the

most of spacious surroundings. First, select furnishings with a sense of heft and weight. Select furniture that can hold its own in the largest of rooms. Bookcases, entertainment centers and computer desks add substance and solidity without bulkiness. Commanding details such as raised panel doors and robust finishes with open-end grain contribute to the dynamic styling that works so well in today's wide-open interiors. Look for generously sized furnishings that won't be dwarfed by the room's dimension. An entertainment wall unit can expand to hold today's increasingly popular 36- to 50-inch-screen televisions. The right unit can instantly create a handsome, king-sized home theater. Choose accessories that have scale and substance, too, Krieger

says. For example, hand-woven rugs and other textiles make ideal wall hangings because their rich textures and patterns are bold enough to command attention in a large setting. A prominent display of similar objects, such as an open shelf arrangement of colorful retro ashtrays or a line-up of black-and-white photos in identical frames also makes a dramatic statement on a wall. Create settings within settings for a thoughtful division of space and a sense of intimacy. Groupings of furniture can fashion a variety of specialized arenas, from cozy conversation-relaxation areas to complete home theaters to fully outfitted homework and at-home business centers. In one segment of a large room, for example, an easy chair plus bookcases can produce a graceful reading nook. In another section of

the same room, a computer desk, hutch and entertainment center can be grouped to create a handsome high-tech oasis for work and leisure. Put color and lighting to work. Neutral colors emphasize space and enhance a room's open feeling while warmer colors can be used to delineate gathering spots for social and private areas. Lighting also can create distinct areas within a large space. For example, track lighting, hidden spotlights and individual lamps can subtly define special areas, from a calm, focused work center to a bright, lively family gathering spot. Grand as they are, today's mega-homes need not be intimidating. With a careful selection of furnishings and decorating techniques, these spacious abodes can fulfill their almost unlimited people-pleasing potential.

One of four defendants in Hays beating sentenced

HAYS (AP) — A San Diego man was sentenced Thursday to seven years and five months in prison for his part in the beating death of a Fort Hays State University freshman. Luis A. Llamas, 24, pleaded no contest in June to a count of voluntary manslaughter as part of a deal to avoid trial on a second-degree murder charge in Ellis County District Court. Llamas was one of four former university students charged in the death of Clint Johnson, 18, of Healy.

Johnson was beaten with a baseball bat during several fights near an apartment complex north of campus on Nov. 13. He died two days later, according to Hays authorities. Two others charged in the case have already entered plea bargains. The fourth man, Jaime Lopez III, 24, Chula Vista, Calif., is scheduled to go on trial on Sept. 7 on charges of second-degree murder, aggravated battery and intimidation of a witness.

Pit bull owner convicted and fined for dogs' attack

SALINA (AP) — The owner of two pit bulls that attacked and severely injured a young girl will have his two 60-day jail sentences suspended if he pays \$835 in fines and fees within two months. In response to the May 4 attack on Caitlyn Forsberg, 3, the Salina City Commission last month banned any new or unregistered pit bulls in the city, effective Aug. 1. Salina Municipal Judge Brenda Stoss on Wednesday found Christopher Stone guilty of five counts — having a vicious animal,

having a nuisance animal, allowing an animal to run at large, failing to vaccinate one of his dogs and failing to register it with the city. Caitlyn's father, Ryan Forsberg, said she was attacked while playing in the backyard with her golden retriever. When she ran inside, screaming and covered with blood, he looked outside and saw the golden retriever pinned by the two pit bulls. Forsberg said his daughter was treated for 16 deep cuts to her face, a torn eyelid and had to have a tear duct surgically repaired.

Above-average fire season no longer expected for Rocky Mountain region

DENVER (AP) — State and federal land managers no longer expect an above-average wildfire season for most of Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. In a revised forecast issued Thursday by Rocky Mountain Area Predictive Services, officials said rainfall and cooler-than-average weather in June helped improve the outlook. Before this year's season began, the agency said conditions were

similar to those found during the devastating 2002 fire season, when one million acres burned across the region. That is three times higher than the region's 10-year average. However, rainfall and lower temperatures in June as well as April helped change the landscape, according to the report, the final one for the season. The report concluded that the Rocky Mountain region would still have short periods of above-normal fire danger but not long stretches.

Judge determines missing hair samples can be admitted

OLATHE (AP) — Prosecutors in a 30-year-old murder case can present evidence on hair samples that have since been lost or destroyed, a Johnson County judge has ruled. District Judge James Franklin said Monday that defense attorneys for John Henry Horton, accused of killing 13-year-old Elizabeth Wilson in 1974, can challenge the validity of tests on the hair under cross-examination. Defense attorneys had argued that allowing the evidence into the record without being able to test it on their own was "inherently unfair." Prosecutors said the samples weren't intentionally lost or destroyed. Wilson disappeared in July 1974 while walking home from a Prairie Village swimming pool. She was last seen crossing a parking lot at


Shawnee Mission East High School, where Horton worked as a custodian. Her remains were found six months later in a Lenexa field. Horton, 57, was arrested last year after Prairie Village detectives and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation reopened the case. In 1974, investigators had collected hairs from Horton's trunk and an audiovisual room in the school and compared them with hairs from Wilson's home. An FBI analyst said the hairs were very similar or identical, but couldn't say if they were from the same person.

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COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Interim Pastor, Dean McCormick, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

BEREAN CHURCH, Rev. Francis Harwerth, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-3076, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m., Sunday Evening Youth 6:00 p.m., Tim Morris, associate pastor; e-mail: morris4him@st-tel.net. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Colby Armory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Rev. Bradley L. Herndon, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867, Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Evening Worship 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, (SBC), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 462-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

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on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. September through May; Worship 9:30 a.m. June through Labor Day.

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COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. http://www.gbmg-umc.org/colby-umc/

REDEEMING LOVE CHURCH, 345 N. Franklin, Bishop W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Sunday service, 5 p.m.

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. E-mail: fccolby@st-tel.net

LANDMARK UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, Pastor Doyle Glasscock, 815 West 3rd - 462-3667, Service times: Sunday, 10 a.m., 6:30 p.m.

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PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Buch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.


WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Michael Eurit, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. (CDT)

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Mr. Bob Leach, Director, 687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Sunday Night Bible Study 7:30 p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.



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