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Michael Dulaney, GM Fairfax plant manager, and Carlos Ledesma, owner of Cable Dahmer Chevrolet, back a bailout of GM.
Michael Dulaney, administrador de la planta Fairfax de GM y Carlos Ledesma, propietario de Cable Dahmer Chevrolet, respaldan un rescate para GM.



PAGE 2/PÁGINA 2

Benedetto Gives Banking A Personal Touch

Benedetto Le da a los Negocios Bancarios un Toque Personal

Jose Benedetto believes that being bilingual is not only an asset for US Bank, where he is a vice president branch manager, but also an asset for his Spanish-speaking clients.
José Benedetto cree que ser bilingüe no es solamente un recurso para el US Bank, en donde él es un vicepresidente administrador de anexo, sino que también es un recurso para sus clientes de habla hispana.

JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

José Benedetto, vice president for US Bank, has been in banking for twenty-five years. His bilingual skills and financial knowledge has kept him in demand. Banking services today are personalized to the clients' needs. With the growth of the Hispanic population, banks are searching for employees that are bilingual and can help the bank tailor their products to that segment.

"I started in New York as a teller and began moving up and went to Los Angeles. While I was in Los Angeles, I started working for Bank of America and then they moved me

here because they needed someone that spoke Spanish in their Kansas City banks. When I got here I was the only one that spoke Spanish for the Bank of America in Kansas City," said Benedetto.

He worked for Bank of America for twelve years recruiting and helping the Hispanic community with their banking needs. He was noticed by US Bank. "I came for an interview with them and I am here now and love it."

Arlene Mockapetris, senior vice

CONVENIENCE IS/PAGE 4

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

José Benedetto, vicepresidente de US Bank, ha estado en el negocio bancario por veinticinco años. Sus aptitudes bilingües y conocimiento financiero lo han mantenido en demanda. Los servicios bancarios de hoy día son personalizados a las necesidades de los clientes. Con el crecimiento de la población hispana, los bancos están buscando a empleados que sean bilingües y puedan ayudar al banco a personalizar sus productos para ese segmento.

"Yo comencé en Nueva York como cajero y empecé a subir y me fui a Los Angeles. Mientras me encontraba allí, comencé a trabajar en el Banco de América y luego me movieron de allí porque necesitaban a alguien que hablara español en sus bancos de Kansas City. Cuando llegué aquí, yo era el único que hablaba español en el Banco de América en Kansas City", dijo Benedetto.

Él trabajó para el Banco de América por doce años reclutando y ayudando a hispanos en la comunidad con sus necesidades bancarias. US Bank se dio cuenta de su presencia.

"Vine a una entrevista con ellos y aquí estoy ahora y lo adoro".

Arlene Mockapetris, vicepresidenta de mayor trayectoria de US Bank, fue quien entrevistó a Benedetto por primera vez e inmediatamente observó a una persona idónea para el cargo. "Creímos que nuestro anexo del centro debería tener uno de los líderes más fuertes para el mercado. Cuando uno piensa en sus anexos del centro, éstos tienden a ser visitados por personas que están envueltas en su comunidad. Ellos tienden a ser la persona que establece bastantes redes de conexiones adicionales. Nosotros estábamos buscando por una persona de fuerte servicio comunitario quien llevara los servicios al cliente al próximo nivel y José era esa persona".

Según Mockapetris, la extensión que el banco está haciendo es una respuesta a la cambiante naturaleza de los negocios bancarios. "En el pasado nosotros tratábamos de asegurarnos de tener disponibles cuentas de cheques, pero hay muchas cosas más que la gente necesita.

LA CONVENIENCIA/PÁGINA 4

Tapia Faces 172 Misdemeanor Counts

Tapia Enfrenta 172 Cargos Menores de Conducta



Fernando Tapia entered the Johnson County courtroom on November 12. He faces hundreds of years in jail on 172 misdemeanor charges. His attorney, Paul Morrison, says that the case is a case of injustice.

Fernando Tapia entró a la corte del Condado de Johnson el 12 de noviembre. Él enfrenta cientos de años de cárcel por 172 cargos menores. Su abogado, Paul Morrison, dice que el caso es un caso de injusticia.

JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Fernando Tapia's quiet life as family man and business owner was shattered when he was arrested June 26 by the Johnson County Sheriff's department. Tapia has never been in trouble with the law but is facing 172 misdemeanor charges under state law -K.S.A. 21-4319 Unlawful Conduct of Cockfighting. The statute criminalizes four types of conduct; fighting a gamecock, allowing

a cockfight on your premises, training gamecocks and attending a cockfight.

Tapia's bond was set at half million dollars, one of the highest bonds in the history of the Johnson County court for misdemeanor charges. Paul Morrison, his attorney, told *Hispanic News*, "I am not sure that I have ever seen a bond that high on a misdemeanor case."

"I AM A BREEDER"/PAGE 5

La tranquila vida de Fernando Tapia como hombre de familia y dueño de negocios fue destrozada cuando fue arrestado el 26 de junio por el Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Johnson. Tapia nunca ha estado en problemas con la ley, pero está enfrentando 172 cargos menores bajo la ley del estado -K.S.A. 21-4319

"YO SOY UN"/PÁGINA 5

Her wings are stilled

Sus alas están en quietud

A collage of pictures on display during her memorial service captured the beautiful life of Kerry Magaña. The fond memories of this 15-year-old that battled leukemia left a lasting impression in the lives of the many she touched.
Un collage de fotos en exhibición durante su servicio fúnebre capturaron la hermosa vida de Kerry Magaña. Las afectuosas memorias de esta muchacha de 15 años que batalló contra la leucemia dejaron una duradera impresión en las vidas de muchos a quienes ella tocó.

JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

She was one to glide through the halls of Children's Mercy Hospital's Cancer Ward, migrating from room to room, spreading cheer and hope to the patients, families and staff of the Cancer Unit. Her exuberance, joy, soft eyes and her impromptu visits led many to call her the

A TRUE BUTTERFLY/PAGE 3

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Ella era la que surcaba por los pasillos del Pabellón de Cáncer del Hospital Children's Mercy, migrando de pieza en pieza, esparciéndole su alegría y esperanza a los pacientes, familiares y personal de la Unidad del Cáncer. Su exhuberancia, alegría, ojos

UNA VERDADERA/PÁGINA 3

Auto Industry Asking for Bail Out



JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

"Millions of American jobs and the economic health of our country and our community are at stake here," said Michael Dulaney, Fairfax plant manager in Kansas City, Kansas.

The leadership of UAW Local 31 and GM's Fairfax Assembly management and local business and community leaders held a news conference recently to voice their support for a bailout plan for the domestic auto industry to help it through one of the most difficult economic times in the nation's history.

Many of those at the press conference indicated that without the federal bailout, the automotive industry could fail. If one or three of the major automotive industries shut their doors, it would cause a ripple effect throughout the companies that supply auto parts and materials to the industry.

"The consequences of the domestic auto industry collapsing extend far beyond GM's ability to continue its transformation. One in ten American jobs depend on our industry as well as the help of our community," explained Dulaney. "Nearly three million employees, retirees and their families depend on us for their pension and health care. Because of our economic contribution the cost of allowing this industry to fail would be catastrophic."

The auto industry began tightening their belts before the current economic crisis hit. GM began streamlining its U.S. operations and reduced the salaried workforce from 44,000 in 2000, to 32,000 in 2008. They also have reduced their hourly workforce during the same period from 132,000 to 64,000.

The woes of the auto industry have an impact on the area. At stake, should the GM Fairfax Assembly plant in Kansas

City, Kansas close its doors, are 2,500 jobs, a \$204 million payroll, and \$10 million in annual property taxes. The plant closing would also affect over 1000 suppliers located in the Kansas City area.

"A loan to the car companies today allows them to weather a financial crisis, not of their own creation, and saves numerous jobs here in Kansas City and around the country," said Mayor Joe Reardon. "Millions of workers would be affected adversely by allowing the US auto makers to fail. ... This is not some theoretical debate. This is real. We are talking real jobs, real families, we are talking about lives and futures of communities."

"GM is our largest tax payer here in Wyandotte County paying over \$10 million annually in taxes to our community. They are a great community partner. The members of the UAW are important participants to our community life, annually they are the largest contributor to United Way and the payroll at the GM plant is extremely large and contributes income taxes to the state of Kansas," added Reardon.

"It is a very critical time in the auto industry and here in the Fairfax plant," said Jeff Manning, president of Local UAW31. "We need people to call Senator Brownback and Senator Roberts in Kansas and Senator McCaskill and Senator Bond in Missouri to show your support of the auto industry. GM is a huge industry in this part of the state and it is very important that we reach out and call those people and get their support in this issue."

The auto industry woes are trickling down to the car dealerships. Carlos Ledezma, owner of Cable Dahmer Chevrolet, attended the press conference representing about 100 car dealerships in the metropolitan community. "Failure is not an option. GM is a tremendous product and it has come a long way. I am proud to be a GM dealer."

Industria Automotriz Pidiendo Rescate

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

"Millones de trabajos estadounidenses y la salud económica de nuestro país y de nuestra comunidad están en juego aquí", dijo Michael Dulaney, administrador de la planta Fairfax en Kansas City, Kansas.

El liderazgo del Local 31 del sindicato UAW junto la administración de la Planta GM en Fairfax y líderes locales de negocios y de la comunidad sostuvieron una conferencia de prensa recientemente para expresar su apoyo a un plan de rescate para la industria automotriz doméstica para ayudarla a lo largo de uno de los más difíciles tiempos económicos en la historia de la nación.

Muchos de quienes asistieron a la conferencia de prensa indicaron que sin el rescate federal, la industria automotriz podría fallar. Si una o tres de las mayores industrias automotrices cerrara sus puertas, causaría un efecto de dominó a través de las compañías que proveen piezas para los automóviles y materiales para la industria.

"Las consecuencias de un colapso de la industria automotriz doméstica se extiende más allá de la habilidad de GM para continuar su transformación. Uno de cada diez trabajos estadounidenses depende de nuestra industria además de la ayuda de nuestra comunidad", explicó Dulaney. "Cerca de tres millones de empleados, jubilados y sus familias dependen de nosotros para sus pensiones y cuidado a la salud. Debido a nuestra contribución económica, el costo de permitir que esta industria fracase sería catastrófico".

La industria automotriz comenzó a apretarse el cinturón antes de que la actual crisis económica golpeará. GM comenzó a aligerar sus operaciones en EE.UU. y a reducir su fuerza de trabajo asalariada desde 44.000 en el 2000, a 32.000 en el 2008. Ellos también han reducido su fuerza de trabajo por hora durante el mismo periodo desde

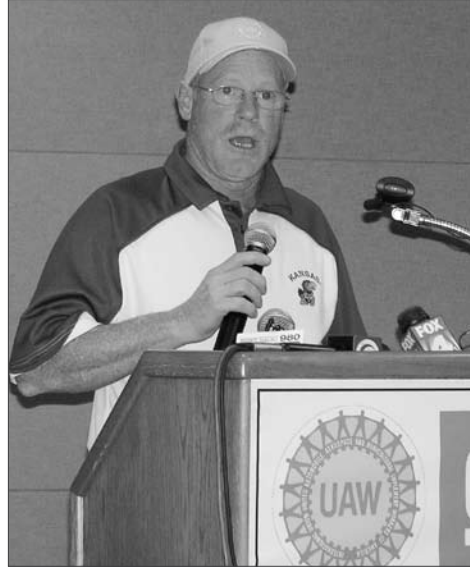
132.000 a 64.000.

Los males de la industria automotriz han tenido un impacto en el área. En juego, debería la Planta Ensambladora Fairfax de GM en Kansas City, Kansas cerrar sus puertas, también en juego se encuentran 2.500 trabajos, \$204 millones en salarios y \$10 millones en impuestos anuales a la propiedad. El cierre de la planta también afectaría a más de 1000 distribuidores ubicados en el área de Kansas City.

"Un préstamo a las compañías automotrices hoy día les permitiría capear la crisis financiera, que no es de su propia creación, y rescatar numerosos trabajos aquí en Kansas City y alrededor del país", dijo el Alcalde Joe Reardon. "Millones de trabajadores se verían afectados en forma adversa al permitir que la industria automotriz de EE.UU. fracasara. ... Este no es un debate teórico. Esto es real. Estamos hablando de trabajos reales, familias reales, estamos hablando de vidas y futuros de comunidades".

"GM es nuestra mayor contribuidor de impuestos aquí en el Condado de Wyandotte, pagando más de \$10 millones anuales. Ellos son un gran socio de la comunidad. Los miembros de la UAW son importantes participantes en nuestra vida comunal. Anualmente ellos son los mayores contribuidores a United Way y los salarios de la planta GM son extremadamente grandes y contribuyen impuestos al estado de Kansas", agregó Reardon.

"Es un momento muy crítico en la industria automotriz y aquí en la planta Fairfax", dijo Jeff Manning, presidente del Local 31 de la UAW. "Necesitamos hacer que la gente llame a los Senadores Brownback y Roberts en Kansas y a los Senadores McCaskill y Bond en Missouri para demostrar su respaldo a la industria automotriz. GM es una enorme industria en esta parte del estado y es muy importante que nos extendamos y llamemos a aquellas personas y consigamos su apoyo en este asunto".



Ledezma has been selling Chevrolets since 1983 and as one of the GM dealerships, has a customer base of 20,000 to 30,000 customers that they work with within the community. A car dealership not only sells cars they also provide auto parts to smaller stores and companies, repair shops and body shops within the city. "We need the bailout. We need that loan. It is a loan that we will be paying back. The company needs it and the organization needs it," said Ledezma.

According to statistics released by GM, over 20,000 automobile dealers provide high paying jobs for over one million employees. Auto sales generate more than \$10 billion dollars of annual tax revenue in sales tax, registration fees, and payroll taxes.



Cindy Cash, president of the KCK Chamber of Commerce, told those gathered at the plant, "I am a Chevy girl, I drive a Chevy truck and I want Congress to help me continue to be a Chevy girl."



The Gift of Good Health

BY GRACE-MARIE TURNER

The holiday season is here again. But amidst the hustle and bustle of gift-giving and family get-togethers, seniors enrolled in Medicare Part D should carve out time to consider whether they want to stay with their current prescription drug plan.

From Nov. 15 through the end of the year, Medicare is holding its annual "open enrollment" period for Part D. During this time, eligible seniors can sign-up or change plans. Seniors can compare their current coverage with others among the many competing Medicare drug plans. They can decide whether to stay with their current coverage or switch to another plan that may offer lower premiums or more coverage options.

Unlike traditional government programs, where there's just one plan for everyone, Medicare Part D is structured so that insurance companies must compete for customers. Knowing that beneficiaries have the option to switch means that insurers have to make their plans attractive or they will lose customers. The record shows that this results in more choices and lower costs.

In 2003, lawmakers estimated seniors would pay an average monthly premium for prescription drug coverage in 2009 of more than \$44. But according to government officials, their average monthly premium next year for the standard plan will be just \$28.

But some drug plans are raising their prices and changing the specific drugs available. So every senior who is enrolled -- even those that are happy with their plans, should be sure to seize this once-a-year opportunity to review their coverage.

Web savvy seniors can do this is through Medicare's website at www.Medicare.gov. There, using the "Medicare Plan Finder," seniors can compare plans based on price, drug coverage, and out-of-pocket expenses. Seniors can also use the Plan Finder to compare the cost of filling a prescription their local pharmacy versus a mail-order drug store.

Seniors without web access can always call 1-800-Medicare and speak with a customer service representative who will talk them through their choices. Seniors may also want to assess whether one of the Medicare Advantage plans also may be right for them. These plans offer a full range of health services and some of them include prescription drug coverage at no extra cost.

Medicare's open-enrollment period ends on December 31, so seniors should act fast to check their options and make sure they're enrolled in the most-affordable plan that best suits their needs. After all, the best gift is good health

Grace-Marie Turner is president of the Galen Institute, a non-profit research organization focusing on free-market solutions in the health sector. She can be reached at turner@galen.org.

Smokers Urged to Quit During Great American Smokeout

LETTER TO PUBLISHER

Quitting Smoking Will Save Money

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is encouraging people to quit smoking as part of the 33rd Annual American Cancer Society Great American Smokeout on Thursday, November 20. To provide support to tobacco users who are ready to quit, the department offers the 24-hour, toll-free Kansas Tobacco Quitline (1-866-KAN-STOP or 1-866-526-7867) operated by the American Cancer Society.

"Quitting smoking is difficult, but it may very well save your life," said Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary of KDHE. "After a person quits smoking, the health benefits begin almost immediately and continue to increase for many years. Quitting reduces your risk of heart disease, stroke and lung cancer."

In addition to protecting your health, the money you save by quitting could be substantial. For example, a person who smokes a pack a day spends approximately \$31.50 per week on cigarettes. This is equivalent to \$135 a month, \$1,643 a year or \$16,425 over ten years. The American Cancer Society provides an online resource to help smokers calculate what they spend on cigarettes at www.cancer.org/docroot/

[subsite/greatamericans/content/How_Much_Does_It_Cost_you.asp](http://www.greatamericans/content/How_Much_Does_It_Cost_you.asp).

When Kansans are ready to quit smoking, the Kansas Tobacco Quitline will provide support and work with the caller to develop a plan to quit. American Cancer Society quit coaches will help during one-on-one telephone counseling sessions. Kansans can call the Quitline anytime day or night to start the process.

Once enrolled in the free service, callers will work with the same quit coach who will set up sessions that fit the caller's schedule. During these sessions, callers will discuss the reasons they want to quit and find ways to handle any barriers. Studies have found that using a tobacco Quitline can more than double a person's chances of successfully quitting tobacco.

The KDHE Tobacco Use Prevention Program provides resources and assistance to community coalitions to develop, enhance and evaluate state and local tobacco prevention initiatives. For additional information about the Kansas Tobacco Use Prevention Program, visit www.kdheks.gov/tobacco. More information about the Great American Smokeout can be found at www.greatamericansmokeout.org.

As the state's environmental protection and public health agency, KDHE promotes responsible choices to protect the health and environment for all Kansans.

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

A true butterfly

CONT./PAGE 1

"Butterfly of Children's Mercy Hospital." After a yearlong flight, the fifteen-year old butterfly's wings were stilled last Thursday.

Family, friends, doctors, nurses and many others whose lives Kerry Magaña touched packed the Bales Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri on Monday to say their final goodbyes to the 'butterfly' who touched them in ways they did not expect.

"It is certain that what has happened is very hard but like they say 'God takes the best' and she was the best. Beautiful on the inside, beautiful on the outside, she was very loving," said Claudia Sabrera, Kerry's mother.

"One thing I can say about Kerry is that she prepared herself to meet her creator," said Pastor Murrillo. "She received Jesus Christ as her personal savior. She had faith. She knew who she believed in and she had confidence in the Lord and she accepted the will of the Lord in her life."

Kerry's diagnosis and struggle was the focus of stories we did over the year. From the outset, her courageous and

magnanimous spirit struck us. This was evident in an interview we did with her back in February. Facing the prospect of chemotherapy, Kerry and her sister Genesis cut their hair and donated it for wigs for other children who had lost their hair following chemo.

"Before they told me I had cancer, I didn't pay a lot of attention to the fact that other kids had cancer," Kerry said. "It has opened a lot of things up. I see things differently. Just go to the hospital. There are a lots and lots of kids and adults that are living with it and not a lot of people pay attention to it."

Kerry paid attention to it and resolved to inform the minority community about the importance of registering as bone marrow donors. Her determination and drive landed her as a national spokesperson for the National Bone Marrow Registry program. "If she could have saved one life, which I believe that she increased the minority enrollment into the donor program, and I believe that she will save at least one life with that if not many," said Michele Manalang.

Manalang was Kerry's oncologist and her bone marrow donor. She saw Kerry through



Family, friends and classmates turned out to bid their final farewells. Many of these students reflected on and remembered the many wonderful times they shared with their friend.

Familiares, amigos y compañeros de clase se aparecieron para decir sus últimos adioses. Muchos de estos estudiantes reflexionaban sobre los muchos y maravillosos momentos que compartieron con su amiga.

every step of her disease and was there at the end of her young life. "This is extremely hard but she had a spirit to live. I definitely feel that she helped parents and patients understand the diagnosis, accept the diagnosis of cancer and she went beyond her own diagnosis and her own pain to talk to the families and let them know she had been there and gotten better. She touched other patients' lives by saying, 'Look how sick I have been and I got through it. You can do it too.'"

"That day in February, when we held the bone marrow registry drive, it was an ice storm and it was snowing. Driving here at this same church, the

conditions were so bad we weren't sure about the turnout, but people did come and that was a testament that day that people were here to help her," recalled Michael Quijas.

Quijas drew close to Kerry and her mother Claudia during the past year. His own daughter is close in age to Kerry and suffers from leukemia as well. He first met Kerry as he sat in a hospital room with his daughter.

"I am glad that she came into my life. My whole thing was to be detached from it. I didn't want to get attached to anyone that possibly we might lose. Eventually, I ended up getting involved with

this family more than I ever thought I would. I believe it all happens for a reason."

As Quijas grew to know the family, he also learned that Kerry's grandmother had been denied a visa to travel from her native Honduras to help the family through the difficult times. Quijas selflessly mobilized in a way that surprised him. He contacted news organizations, called on Congressmen, made personal appeals to cut through the red tape to help get Kerry's grandmother a visa.

After much effort, Kerry's grandmother arrived in time to see her grand daughter at the hospital. "I thought when we were getting her here, Kerry was going to be able to hug her grandma," recalled Quijas. "It dawned on me the night that her grandmother got here, because Kerry wasn't doing well, that wasn't going to be the situation. ... It wasn't going to be grandma here for a grand daughter; it was a grandmother coming to be with the other [children] and her mom."

"I believe Kerry entered my life for a reason," added Quijas. "She opened my eyes to a lot of things, and that is, you don't have to help for any kind of gain. You can help someone because someone needs it and there doesn't have to be anything in it for you. But, if you get a lesson out of it, then I think that is the true fortune or value. She did that for me. She opened my eyes

to helping others and in return I got to help the family ease the pain just a little bit."

A close childhood friend of Kerry's, Christina Rodriguez found it hard to say goodbye to a friend she had met at school. "I will remember her by the happy moments and the things we use to do. I am glad that she is not suffering anymore, but I would also like for her to be here with us."

Stephanie Marrufo, 14 years old, found it difficult to be at the funeral of her friend. "I have a lot of sadness and a lot of pain but I am happy that she didn't suffer a lot."

During the memorial service, Sabrera shared a vision she had in a dream. "I had a great sense that my daughter was going to rise up. My holy father gave me a revelation in a dream ... I was in a very clear space that I had never seen before. There was a tomb. I was kneeling and crying from my pain. In my dream, my girl was dead and I was crying and crying. My holy father told me some very precious and sweet words that I have never heard before. 'Daughter, why do you cry, why do you cry? Do not cry anymore.' He took my hand, raised me to my feet, and told me he was going to show me something. He showed me Kerry and she was in a better place than she was here."

Una verdadera mariposa

CONT./PÁGINA 1

suaves y sus visitas impromptu llevaron a muchos a llamarla la "Mariposa del Hospital Children's Mercy", después de todo un año de batallar, las alas de esta mariposa de quince años se quedaron inmóviles el pasado jueves.

Familiares, amigos, médicos, enfermeras y muchos otros cuyas vidas Kerry Magaña tocó, repletaron la Iglesia Bautista Bales en Kansas City, Missouri el lunes para decir los adioses finales a la "mariposa" que los tocó en maneras que no se esperaban.

"Es cierto que lo que ha ocurrido es muy duro, pero como dices 'Dios se lleva a los mejores' y ella era de los mejores. Hermosa por dentro, hermosa por fuera, ella fue muy adorable", dijo Claudia Sabrera, la mamá de Kerry.

"Una cosa que puedo decir sobre Kerry es que ella se preparó a sí misma para encontrarse con su creador", dijo el Pastor Murrillo. "Ella recibió a Jesucristo como su salvador personal. Ella tuvo fe. Ella sabía en lo que creía y ella tenía confianza en el Señor y ella aceptó la voluntad del Señor en su vida."

El diagnóstico y la lucha de Kerry fue el foco de reportajes que realizamos a lo largo del año. Desde el comienzo, su magnánimo espíritu lleno de coraje nos impactó. Esto se hizo evidente en una entrevista que le hicimos en febrero pasado. Enfrentando la posibilidad de quimioterapia, Kerry y su hermana Genesis, se cortaron sus cabellos y los donaron para pelucas para los otros niños que habían perdido sus

cabellos a consecuencia de la quimioterapia.

"Antes de que me dijeran que tenía cáncer, no le ponía mucha atención al hecho que otros niños tenían cáncer", decía Kerry. "Esto ha abierto muchas cosas. Miro las cosas en forma diferente. Acabo de ir al hospital. Hay muchos y muchos niños y adultos que viven con el y no muchas personas lo ponen atención a ello".

Kerry le prestó atención y resolvió informarle a la comunidad de las minorías sobre la importancia de registrarse como donadores de médula ósea. Su determinación y empuje la convirtieron en la portavoz nacional para el programa de Registro Nacional para la Médula Ósea. "Si ella pudiera haber salvado una vida y que creo que ella ha aumentado la inscripción de minorías en el programa de donadores y creo que ella salvará a lo menos una vida con eso, si acaso no más vidas", dijo Michele Manalang.

Manalang fue la oncóloga de Kerry y quien le donó su médula ósea. Ella vio a Kerry a lo largo de cada etapa de su enfermedad y estuvo allí al final de su joven vida. "Esto es extremadamente difícil, pero ella tuvo un espíritu para vivir. Definitivamente pienso que ella ayudó a los padres y a los pacientes a entender el diagnóstico, a aceptar el diagnóstico de un cáncer y ella fue más allá de su propio diagnóstico y de su propio dolor para platicar con las familias y dejarles saber que ella había estado allí y había mejorado. Ella tocó las vidas de otros pacientes al decir, 'Miren lo enferma que he estado y me sobrepuse. Ustedes también pueden hacerlo'".

"Ese día en febrero, cuando realizamos un beneficio de registro para médula ósea, hubo una tormenta de hielo y estaba nevando. Al conducir aquí a esta misma iglesia, las condiciones eran tan malas que no estábamos seguros de cómo resultaría, pero la gente llegó y eso fue un testimonio de que ese día la gente vino hasta acá para ayudarla", recuerda Michael Quijas.

Quijas llegó a estar muy cercano a Kerry y a su madre Claudia durante el año pasado. Su propia hija es cercana a la edad de Kerry y también sufre de leucemia. Él primero conoció a Kerry mientras se sentaba en la sala del hospital con su hija.

"Estoy feliz de que ella haya llegado a mi vida. Todo lo que me preocupaba era apartarme de ella. No quería acercarme a nadie que posiblemente pudiéramos perder. Eventualmente, acabé envolviéndome con su familia más de lo que pensaba hacerlo. Creo que todo sucede por una razón".

En la medida en que Quijas llegó a conocer a la familia, él también se enteró de que a la abuela de Kerry le habían negado una visa para viajar desde su nativa Honduras a ayudar a la familia que atravesaba tiempos difíciles. Quijas se movilizó desinteresadamente de una manera que lo sorprendió. Él se contactó con organizaciones noticiosas, llamó a Congresistas, hizo llamados personales y eludió a la burocracia para ayudar a conseguir una visa para la abuela de Kerry.

Después de muchos esfuerzos, la abuela de Kerry arribó a tiempo para ver a su nieta en el hospital. "Pensé cuando estábamos llegando acá, que Kerry iba a poder abrazar a su abuela", recuerda Quijas. "Me di cuenta la noche que su abuela había llegado, debido a que Kerry no estaba bien, que esa no iba a ser la situación. ... No iba a ser la abuela estando aquí para una nieta; fue una abuela viniendo para estar con los otros [niños] y con su madre".

"Creo que Kerry entró mi vida por una razón", agrega Quijas. "Ella abrió mis ojos a muchas cosas, y eso es, uno

no tiene que ayudar por ningún tipo de ganancia. Uno puede ayudar a alguien porque alguien lo necesita y no debiera haber nada para uno. Pero, si uno saca una lección de ello, entonces creo que es verdadero valor o fortuna. Ella hizo eso por mí. Ella me abrió los ojos a ayudar a otros y en retribución llegué a ayudarle a la familia a aliviar el dolor un poquito".

Una cercana amiga de Kerry desde la niñez, Christina Rodríguez encontró difícil decir adiós a una amiga que había conocido en la escuela. "La recordaré por los momentos felices y las cosas que solíamos hacer. Estoy conforme de que ella ya no esté sufriendo, pero también me gustaría que estuviera aquí con nosotros".

Stephanie Marrufo, de 14 años, encontró difícil estar en el funeral de su amiga. "Tengo mucha tristeza y mucho dolor, pero estoy feliz que ella no tuvo que sufrir mucho".

Durante el servicio religioso, Sabrera compartió una visión que tuvo en un sueño. "Tengo una gran sensación de que mi hija se va a levantar. Mi santo padre me lo reveló en un sueño... Me encontraba en un espacio muy claro que nunca había visto antes. Allí había una tumba. Estaba arrodillada y llorando a causa de mi dolor. En mi sueño, mi niña estaba muerta y yo lloraba y lloraba. Mi santo padre me dijo unas muy preciosas y dulces palabras que nunca había escuchado antes. 'Hija, ¿Porqué lloras, porque lloras? Ya no llores'. Él tomó mi mano, me levantó y me dijo que iba a mostrarme algo. Él me mostró a Kerry y ella estaba en un mejor lugar que el que tuvo acá".

America Needs Health Care, Not Sick Care

GARY E. APPLEBAUM, M.D.

It's a laudable goal. But all too often, the single-minded focus on this objective is a distraction from achieving what most Americans really want - inexpensive, easy-to-use health insurance. As currently structured, the American system is ill-equipped to provide this.

The solution to this problem is not a government-run healthcare bureaucracy. Rather, it's a private insurance system dedicated to more than just treating the sickest among us. Right now, we have a sick care system. What we need is a health care system.

To understand what this means, look at one of the major causes of the soaring cost of medical care: preventable chronic diseases. Obesity is one such chronic condition. In the last quarter-century, the number of obese Americans has roughly doubled. On top of that, the incidence of related conditions like diabetes is rising.

Chronic illnesses like these, which require constant care over a lengthy timeframe, were responsible for 75 percent of American healthcare spending in 2006. If we are serious about expanding health coverage, we must work to prevent chronic diseases before they emerge.

What can we do to better fight chronic conditions?

For starters, health insurance plans must be simplified so that patients know what they're paying for. With most kinds of insurance, like automobile insurance, consumers understand the financial consequences of potentially destructive behavior like reckless driving.

With health insurance, on the other hand, consumers are less aware of the costs of their behavior. By typically relying on their insurance companies to resolve the details of their medical bills, patients have little insight into the payment process and thus have little incentive to avoid costly hospital visits.

If patients knew how much their unhealthy decisions were costing them, they'd be a lot more vigilant in safeguarding their health.

We could also benefit from a revolution in the way that medical information is stored

and accessed by healthcare professionals. In most doctors' offices, medical records are still kept in file-rooms filled with stacks of tattered folders containing hand-written forms.

Thanks to this antiquated method of medical record-keeping, information is often lost, unnecessary medical tests are ordered, and patients can be misdiagnosed. Aside from driving up healthcare spending, errors like these make it difficult for patients to get the care they need when they need it.

Mistakes and wasteful spending can be avoided by digitizing health records in a national computer database. Such a database would allow doctors to access reliable medical information quickly, even for new patients, and facilitate accurate diagnoses.

According to a recent study published in the medical journal Health Affairs, such a database could save the U.S. health sector \$80 billion a year. The relevant technology has existed for years. All that's needed to implement it is the political will.

Finally, we should work to make sure that health insurance is within the reach of all Americans. Expanding coverage doesn't require a government takeover of the health sector. Instead, we can do so through tax credits, vouchers, and subsidies.

Small businesses who can't afford to cover their employees should receive tax credits to make it easier for them to do so. Similarly, families who can't afford coverage should be eligible for government subsidies so that they can purchase insurance policies that suit their needs. It's certainly cheaper to help people seek low-cost, preventative care than it is to treat chronic illnesses that develop down the road.

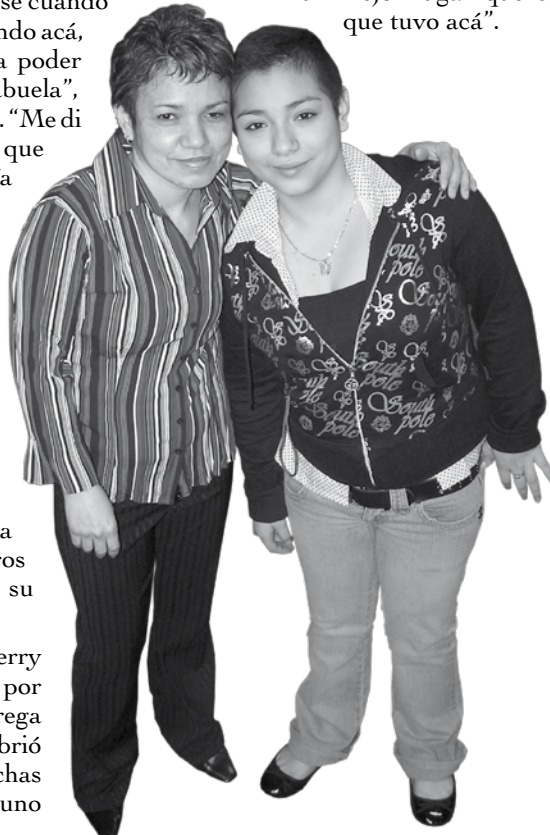
With these common-sense reforms, we can remove waste from America's healthcare sector and make it easier, less expensive, and more attractive for individuals to live healthier lives.

Gary Applebaum, M.D., is a senior fellow at the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest. He is the former Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Erickson Retirement Communities.



Just days after receiving her bone marrow transplant, Kerry Magaña swayed rhythmically to the sounds of her favorite band Tropical Azul. She was looking forward to the one thing that would have made it complete, a visit from her grandmother. (Right side image) Claudia Sabrera never left her daughter during her most difficult struggles. FILE PHOTO.

A solo días de recibir su trasplante de médula ósea, Kerry Magaña se mecía rítmicamente al son de su banda favorita Tropical Azul. Ella esperaba ansiosa una cosa que lo habría hecho completo, una visita de su abuela. (Imagen a la derecha) Claudia Sabrera nunca dejó a su hija durante los momentos más difíciles. FOTO DE ARCHIVO



Convenience is bank's strength

CONT./PAGE 1

president for US Bank, first interviewed Benedetto and immediately saw a fit. "We believe that our downtown branch should have one of the strongest leaders in it for the market. When you think about your downtown locations, they tend to be people that are involved in their community. They tend to be the person who does a lot of additional networking. We were looking for a very strong community service person who took customer service to the next level and José was that person."

According to Mockapetris, the outreach the bank is doing is a response to the changing nature of banking. "In the past we were trying to make sure that we had the checking account available, but there is a whole lot more that people need. They need to worry about retirement, they need to worry about how they are going to fund their children's education, they need to be concerned about saving for that rainy day and the people that we have brought on board here at the bank are able to do that," she said.

US Bank has been aggressively marketing to the Hispanic community to get that message out. The bank's brochures and flyers are in Spanish and they

have been looking for bilingual employees who can help their Spanish-speaking clients learn more about the bank and their products.

"Unless you can speak the language, just showing a flyer isn't enough. Having the materials in Spanish is the first step but then you have to have a person who can communicate that and that is where Jose has added a lot of value for all of us. It has always been really important for us to mirror the community and hiring Jose has helped us to do that even more so," said Mockapetris.

Benedetto is working to entice other bilingual people to work at US Bank locations throughout the metropolitan community. "We have 34 branches and we have around 30 people that speak Spanish in those branches. We are trying to increase those numbers. Our goal is to have one or two Spanish speaking associates in each branch," he said.

Benedetto hopes to make the bank more visible in the community. "We are planning to be very aggressive in going to the Hispanic community and letting them know we are here. ... We are planning to go to soccer games just to let them know we are here. We have great products for the Hispanic community."

While he works at the downtown branch in Kansas City, Missouri at 12th and Wyandotte, he never fails to meet a client's needs. If they can't come to him, he will travel to their location to discuss their banking needs. "It only takes me about six minutes to get to Central Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas from here. They can call me and I will go there. When they can't come here we go there. We have been talking to a lot of churches about going there after services and helping people to open accounts," he said.

Convenience is one of the services the bank offers its Hispanic customers. Clients can open an account with a passport, a Mexican driver's license or a state identification card. They work in partnership with Money Gram and can send money anywhere the customer desires.

Benedetto wants the Hispanic community to understand that it is safe to put their money into the bank. He also wants to educate them on the importance of establishing a good credit history in the United States. "There is nothing wrong with people paying cash for what they want to purchase, but I have recently been dealing with business on Central Avenue and I have been telling people, 'Do not pay with cash. You

have to pay with checks.' You have to start putting money into an account and applying for credit, because in the United States ... you have to establish a credit history if you want your business to grow."

He plans to hold financial classes for the Hispanic community covering credit and other issues. "As you establish a credit history, then usually the interest rate is lower than that of a credit card. I have seen horror stories where someone has signed to buy a car and the ... interest rate is about 21 percent because they didn't know or they didn't understand the seller. I am telling people that even if they don't want to bank with us, bring the contract to us first and I will read it before they sign it."

Benedetto told *Hispanic News*, "We can provide a contract in Spanish they don't have to be in English. If a customer requests it, we can do it in Spanish. That way they can read them and we can go step by step and explain it as we go," he said.

"We have great products for the Hispanic community. We have free checking accounts. They don't have to have direct deposit to get this. We only require our potential clients to have one identification with them to open an account. They don't need to have a social security number to open an



US Bank's and Jose Benedetto's goal is to have one or two Spanish-speaking associates in every branch in Kansas City.

El objetivo de US Bank y de José Benedetto es el de tener a dos asociados de habla hispana en cada anexo de Kansas City.

account because we look at them as a foreigner and anyone can come into this country and open a checking account and that way they can begin saving money," he added. If you

would like more information contact Jose Benedetto, at 816-871-2345 or jose.benedetto@usbank.com

La conveniencia es el punto fuerte del banco

CONT./PÁGINA 1

Ellos necesitan preocuparse de la jubilación, ellos necesitan preocuparse de cómo van a financiar la educación de sus hijos, ellos necesitan preocuparse de ahorrar para tiempos difíciles y el personal que hemos traído al banco es capaz de hacer eso", dijo ella.

El US Bank ha estado haciendo una publicidad agresiva en la comunidad hispana para pregonar el mensaje. Los folletos y volantes del banco están en español y ellos han estado buscando a empleados bilingües que puedan ayudar a sus clientes que hablan español a aprender más sobre el banco y sus productos.

"A menos que uno pueda hablar el idioma, el sólo hecho de mostrar un volante no es suficiente. El tener los materiales en español es el primer paso, pero luego uno tiene que tener a una persona que pueda comunicar eso y ahí es donde José ha agregado un alto valor para todos nosotros. Siempre ha sido verdaderamente importante para nosotros reflejar a la comunidad y José nos ha ayudado a hacer eso incluso todavía más", dijo Mockapetris.

Benedetto está trabajando para tentar a otras personas bilingües a trabajar en las localizaciones de US Bank del área metropolitana. "Tenemos 34 anexos y cerca de 30 personas que hablan español en esas localizaciones. Estamos tratando de aumentar esas cifras. Nuestro objetivo es el de tener a uno o dos asociados que hablen español en cada anexo", dijo él.

Benedetto espera hacer que el banco sea más visible dentro de la comunidad. "Estamos planeando ser bastante agresivos al ir a la comunidad hispana y dejarles saber que estamos acá. ... Estamos planeando asistir a juegos de fútbol simplemente para dejarles saber que estamos aquí. Tenemos buenos productos para la comunidad hispana".

Aunque él trabaja en el anexo del centro en Kansas City, Missouri en las calles 12 y Wyandotte, el nunca falla en atender las necesidades de un cliente. Si ellos no pueden llegar hasta él, él viajará hasta ellos para discutir sus necesidades bancarias. "Solamente me toma cerca de seis minutos llegar hasta la Central Avenue en Kansas City, Kansas desde aquí. Ellos me puede llamar

y yo iré hasta allí. Cuando ellos no pueden venir hasta, acá nosotros vamos hasta allá. Nosotros hemos estado hablando con varias iglesias respecto a ir hasta allá después de los servicios y ayudar a la gente a abrir cuentas", dijo él.

La conveniencia es uno de los servicios que el banco ofrece a sus clientes hispanos. Los clientes pueden abrir una cuenta con un pasaporte, una licencia de conducir mexicana o una tarjeta de identificación del estado. Ellos trabajan en conjunto con Money Gram y pueden enviar dinero donde sus clientes lo quieran.

Benedetto quiere que la comunidad hispana entienda que es seguro poner su dinero en el banco. Él también quiere educarlos sobre la importancia de establecer un buen historial crediticio en los EE.UU. "No hay nada malo con que la gente pague en efectivo por lo que quieren comprar, pero recientemente yo he estado tratando con negocios en la Central Avenue y le he estado diciendo a la gente, 'No paguen con dinero en efectivo. Ustedes tienen que pagar con cheques'. Ustedes tienen que empezar a poner dinero en una cuenta y postular a crédito, porque en Estados Unidos... uno tiene que establecer una historial crediticio si uno quiere que su negocio crezca".

Él planea hacer clases financieras para la comunidad hispana que cubran crédito y otros asuntos. "Al establecer un historial crediticio, luego comúnmente el promedio de interés es más bajo que el de una tarjeta de crédito. He escuchado historias de terror cuando alguien ha firmado para comprar un carro y el... promedio de interés es cercano a un 21% porque ellos no lo sabían o no le entendieron al vendedor. Le estoy diciendo a la gente que si incluso no quieren hacer negocios bancarios con nosotros, tráiganos el contrato primero y se los leeré antes de que lo firmen".

Benedetto le dijo a *Hispanic News*, "Nosotros podemos ofrecer un contrato en español, no tiene que ser en inglés. Si un cliente lo pide, lo podemos hacer en español. De esa manera ellos lo podrán leer y nosotros podemos ir paso por paso y explicarlo mientras avanzamos", dijo él.

"Tenemos buenos productos para la comunidad hispana. Tenemos cuentas de cheques

gratis. Ellos no tienen que tener depósitos directos para obtenerlas. A nuestros posibles clientes solamente les pedimos una identificación para abrir una cuenta. Ellos no necesitan tener una tarjeta de seguridad

social para abrir una cuenta puesto que los consideramos como extranjeros y cualquier persona puede venir a este país y abrir una cuenta de cheques y de esa manera pueden comenzar a ahorrar dinero", agregó él. Si

usted quisiera más información, contáctese con José Benedetto en el 816-871-2345 o en la Internet en jose.benedetto@usbank.com

Llame para anunciarse en nuestra sección de clasificados:

**(816)
472.5246**

Saddle-Up for Saddlebreds

Season Grand Finale: United Professional Horseman's Association/American Royal Championship and Black Tie & Tails Gala

The United Professional Horseman's Association (UPHA) American Royal National Championship Horse Show will feature saddlebreds competing for more than \$200,000 in prizes Nov. 20-22 at Kemper Arena.

Also, Saturday night, Nov. 22, is the annual Black Tie & Tails Gala, featuring TV star and host, Carson Kressley as honorary chairman. The weekend's events mark the final weekend of the 2008 American Royal season.

The UPHA saddlebred competition schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Nov. 20 – UPHA Classic Grand Championships 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 21 – Amateur Championship 7 p.m.*

Saturday, Nov. 22 – Matinee 11 a.m. and Stake Night 7 p.m.

The American Royal and UPHA are proud to showcase the Pink Ribbon Class*, partnering with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, on Friday, Nov. 21. The Pink Ribbon Class commemorates and honors those who have fought or succumbed to breast cancer, and most importantly, it generates funding for breast cancer research. For each spectator who wears pink to the event the Spelman Medical Foundation will donate \$1 to Komen; and \$5 for every exhibitor wearing pink and competing in any class on Friday. Last year's inaugural Pink Ribbon Class at the American Royal spurred additional horse show events across the nation to benefit Komen.

Saddlebred horses are known for their animation, grace of movement and beauty, and there are Three-Gaited Classes, Five-Gaited Classes, Pleasure

Classes and Fine Harness Classes of this breed.

Tickets range from \$10 to \$22 and are available through Ticketmaster, by visiting www.AmericanRoyal.com or by calling (816) 931-3330.

The Black Tie & Tails Gala will be in the east lobby of Kemper Arena on Saturday, Nov. 22, and the schedule for the evening is:

6 p.m. - Cocktail hour, featuring the Grammy Award-winning Kansas City Chorale

7 p.m. - Championship horse show – late night supper immediately following, until 11 p.m.

The event is black tie-optional and benefits Therapeutic Riding Facilities of Metropolitan Kansas City. Tickets are \$125 for adults (\$65 is tax-deductible) and \$50 for guests 17 and under (\$20 is tax-deductible). Please visit www.AmericanRoyal.com to make reservations, or contact Barbara McLaughlin at (816) 569-4020 or BarbaraM@AmericanRoyal.com for more information about the gala. Ticket prices include valet parking and preferred seating at Saturday night's horse show.

About The American Royal

The American Royal is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization that benefits youth and education. Now in its 109th year, the American Royal celebrates our region's rich agricultural heritage through competition, education and entertainment. In 2007, the organization contributed more than \$1.4 million in financial support in the form of scholarships, educational awards, educational programs, community donations, competitive awards and prize monies and premiums. The American Royal, one of Kansas City's premier events with annual economic impact of more than \$63 million, hosts the world's largest barbecue contest, one of the Midwest's largest livestock exhibitions, one of the top five ranked rodeos in the nation and the UPHA national championship horse competition.

KANSAS CITY

Hispanic News**Your News Source**

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"I am a breeder"

CONT./PAGE 1

Now it is up to Tapia and Morrison to prove that the charges filed against him are unfounded. Morrison has yet to see evidence from the prosecutor proving the misdemeanor charges. Morrison filed a motion to dismiss 171 counts.

"There is no allegation or complaint against him that he was fighting or caught fighting them. He had many chicks, in fact, he had around 800 chickens and all the chickens were euthanized after they were seized by the Sheriff's department. I think it is important for people to know that this is not a guy who is running a big cock fighting operation. He has been under surveillance for two years, and believe me they have spent a lot of time and money on that investigation. If he was fighting cocks they would have found that and it is not there," said Morrison.

"I think this is not about roosters, I think this is more racism," said Tapia. "... Someone may think a Latino doesn't have the right to improve themselves. In the eyes of some Americans they may think that we are only like mules, we don't have the right to think of improving our situation. They are wrong to think that way. There are many Latinos that are improving their situation through hard work and starting businesses."

"I am not prepared to say that it is racially motivated. One must question the fairness of someone who has an astronomical high bond, who has nothing more than a misdemeanor charge when the bond should only be a tiny fraction of that. This has caused some bad feelings particularly in the Hispanic community," said Morrison.

Tapia came to the attention of the police two years ago when a neighbor complained about loud noises from his large flock of chickens to the Johnson County Sheriff's Department. Officers investigated, photographed and surveilled him for the next two years.

A search warrant executed on June 25 led to the seizure of hundreds of personal items belonging to the Tapia family. Items taken included; 582 chickens, 99 were chicks, 311 hens and 172 roosters along with computers, cell phones, keys, Mrs. Tapia's prescription medication and a vast amount of paperwork related to the five meat markets the family owns in the metro area. They also seized \$45,000 in cash, according to Tapia, cash receipts from the previous week's sales at the meat markets.

"When the police came to my house ... they told me that my



Family, friends and members of the United Game Breeders Association surrounded Fernando Tapia during a November 12 court appearance.

Familiares, amigos y miembros de la Asociación de Criadores de Animales de Caza Unidos rodean a Fernando Tapia durante su audiencia del 12 de noviembre en la corte.

neighbors were bothered by my roosters. ... Normally when a person is bothered by a rooster they complain and the police come by and say that you have an animal that is bothering your neighbor. You have to move them. In my case, they didn't do that," he explained.

Taken into custody the following day, Tapia was held a month before posting bail. "As a condition of his release he had to wear the global positioning system which is another unusual broad condition when someone is charged with a misdemeanor and has not shown a risk of non-compliance or a risk to the public," said Morrison.

While he was in jail, his family suffered emotionally and financially. He wasn't able to be there to help run his businesses and to help his family. His business dropped off by fifty percent. "I am innocent and you have to fight till the end," he said, "I want to clear my name and this is expensive, it is affecting us dearly."

His friend, Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Machain, was also arrested. He is still in jail facing similar charges. According to the Affidavit, "an officer ... videotaped two Hispanic males, later identified as Fernando Tapia and Rodríguez-Machain, working with the roosters. It was observed on numerous occasions where Rodríguez-Machain and or Tapia removed a rooster from one pen and move them to the other side of the property and tethered them to a plastic barrel. On June 20, it was observed that Rodríguez-Machain picked up a rooster and placed it into his arm as if carrying a football and then held it down to a rooster that was tethered or caged. This action caused the tethered rooster to begin clawing and fighting with the rooster being held."

"I am a breeder. Since my great grandparents to now it has been a part of our family culture, we have raised chickens. The United States has some of the better bloodlines of chickens and that is what I was sending

to them," said Tapia.

On November 12, Morrison and Tapia returned to court to request a reduction of the charges and the return of property seized in June. After the hearing, Tapia is no longer under house arrest and his bond has been modified but he is still under bond supervision.

"What that means is that he is to report in at the discretion of the supervision officer. He is still on the global positioning system and a majority of his property is being returned to him. He is getting back his computers, his phones, his wife's medication, guns that were seized from his residence, and the court has under advisement that the \$45,000 that was confiscated from his house should be returned to him. We should have a ruling on that in a week or two," said Morrison.

All 172 misdemeanor counts are still standing. A trial date has been set for February 2, 2009. "We are still talking (to the prosecutor) but we are preparing for trial. My client is very concerned about how he feels he has been treated, considering the fact that this is a misdemeanor. Our position has always been from the bond, to what was seized, and the number of charges he has, that this is a gross situation of overkill and my client is very concerned about that and frankly I am too. We want a fair shake out of this deal and that is what we are trying to get," added Morrison.

Tapia had his supporters in court including Dennis Hall from Fulton, Missouri, a member of the United Game Breeders Association. "The main reason that I am here is not so much about the fighting of roosters or anything like that, it is the miscarriage of justice. The animal rights activists, mainly PETA and the Humane Society, pushed to stop cockfighting. They come on to these people's farms and confiscate their chickens to save them from cockfighting and then they take them and kill them. To me that is totally wrong. ... This is very asinine. ... He is facing 172 years in prison. Does the penalty fit the crime? Absolutely not."

"Yo soy un criador"

CONT./PÁGINA 1

Conducta ilegal de peleas de gallos. El estatuto criminaliza cuatro tipos de conducta; Hacer pelear a un gallo, permitir una pelea de gallos en su recinto, entrenar gallos de pelea y asistir a una pelea de gallos.

La fianza de Tapia fue puesta en medio millón de dólares, una de las fianzas más altas en la historia de la corte del Condado de Johnson por cargos menores. Paul Morrison, su abogado, le dijo a *Hispanic News*, "No estoy seguro de haber visto antes una fianza tan alta en un caso de violaciones menores".

Ahora está en Tapia y Morrison probar que los cargos imputados en contra de él no tienen base. Morrison aún tiene que ver evidencia de parte del fiscal probando los cargos de violaciones menores. Morrison presentó una moción para anular 171 cargos.

"No existen acusaciones o quejas en su contra de que él estaba en las peleas o haciendo pelear a los gallos. Él tiene bastantes pollitos, de hecho, tiene cerca de 800 pollos y todos los pollos fueron destruidos luego de ser confiscados por el departamento del sheriff. Creo que es importante que la gente sepa que esta no es una persona que está a cargo de una gran operación de peleas de gallos. Él ha estado bajo vigilancia por dos años y créame que han gastado mucho tiempo y dinero en esta investigación. Si él estuviera haciendo peleas de gallos, ellos se habrían enterado y eso no está allí", dijo Morrison.

"Creo que esto no se trata de gallos, creo que se trata más de racismo", dijo Tapia. "... Alguien puede pensar que un latino no tiene el derecho a prosperar. En los ojos de algunos estadounidenses, ellos pueden pensar que solamente somos como mulas, no tenemos el derecho a pensar sobre mejorar nuestra situación. Ellos están equivocados al pensar de esa manera. Allí hay muchos latinos que están mejorando sus situaciones mediante el trabajo duro y están comenzando negocios".

"No estoy preparado para decir que es racialmente motivado. Uno debe cuestionar la justicia de alguien a quien se le ha puesto una astronómica fianza, que no enfrenta nada más que un cargo menor cuando la fianza debería haber sido una pequeña fracción de eso. Esto ha causado malos sentimientos particularmente en la comunidad hispana", dijo Morrison.

Tapia saltó a la atención de la policía hace dos años cuando un vecino se quejó al Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Johnson sobre fuertes ruidos provenientes de su gran cantidad de pollos. Los agentes investigaron, fotografiaron y lo vigilaron por los próximos dos años.

Una orden de allanamiento ejecutada el 25 de junio

llevó a la confiscación de cientos de objetos personales pertenecientes a la familia Tapia. Los objetos incluían; 582 pollos, 99 eran pollitos, 311 gallinas y 172 gallos junto a computadoras, teléfonos celulares, llaves, los medicamentos recetados a la Sra. Tapia y una vasta cantidad de papeles relacionados a los cinco mercados de carne que la familia tiene en el área metropolitana. Ellos también confiscaron \$45,000 en efectivo, según Tapia, recibos de dinero de las ventas de la semana pasada en los mercados de carne.

"Cuando la policía vino a mi casa... ellos me dijeron que los vecinos estaban molestos por mis gallos. ... Normalmente, cuando una persona es disturbada por un gallo, ellos se quejan y la policía viene y dice que uno tienen un animal que está molestando al vecino. Uno tienen que moverlo. En mi caso, ellos no hicieron eso", explicó él.

Puesto bajo custodia al día siguiente, Tapia fue recluido por un mes antes de pagar la fianza. "Como una condición para obtener su libertad, él tuvo que llevar puesto el sistema de posición global que es otra amplia condición poco común cuando alguien es acusado con una falta menor y no ha demostrado riesgo de no cumplir o es un riesgo para el público", dijo Morrison.

Mientras estuvo en la cárcel, su familia sufrió emocional y financieramente. Él no pudo estar allí para ayudarlos a operar su negocio y para ayudar a su familia. Su negocio decayó en un cincuenta por ciento. "Yo soy inocente y uno tiene que luchar hasta el final", dijo él. "Quiero limpiar mi nombre y ello es caro, esto nos está afectando demasiado".

Su amigo, Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Machain, también fue arrestado. Él aún permanece en la cárcel enfrentando cargos similares. Según la declaración jurada, "un agente... filmó un video de dos hispanos, más tarde identificados como Fernando Tapia y Rodríguez-Machain, trabajando con los gallos. En varias ocasiones se observó a Rodríguez-Machain y/o a Tapia sacando a un gallo de un gallinero y llevándolo al otro lado de la propiedad y atarlos a una barrica de plástico. El 20 de junio, se observó a Rodríguez-Machain recoger a un gallo en su brazo a modo de pelota de fútbol americano y luego ponerlo en frente de un gallo que estaba amarrado o enrejado. Esta acción causó que el gallo que estaba amarrado comenzara a arañar y a pelear con el gallo que estaba siendo sujetado".

"Yo soy un criador. Desde mis bisabuelos hasta ahora, esto ha sido parte de mi cultura, nosotros hemos criado pollos. Estados Unidos tiene algunos de los mejores linajes de pollos y eso es lo que le estoy enviando

a ellos", dijo Tapia.

El 12 de noviembre, Morrison y Tapia regresaron a la corte para pedir una reducción en los cargos y el regreso de la propiedad confiscada en junio. Después de la audiencia, Tapia ya no está bajo arresto domiciliario y su fianza ha sido modificada, pero él aún está bajo supervisión el lo que va a su fianza.

"Lo que eso significa es que él tiene que reportarse a discreción del oficial supervisor. Él está todavía sujeto al sistema de posición global y una mayoría de su propiedad le está siendo regresada. Él está obteniendo de regreso sus computadoras, sus teléfonos, los medicamentos de su esposa, armas que fueron confiscadas desde su residencia y la corte está bajo consejo de que los \$45,000 que fueron confiscados desde su casa, le debenserdevueltos. Deberíamos tener un pronunciamiento sobre ello en una o dos semanas", dijo Morrison.

Todos los 172 cargos menores están aún vigentes. Una fecha para el juicio ha sido programada para el 2 de febrero del 2009. "Nosotros todavía estamos platicando (Con el fiscal), pero nos estamos preparando para el juicio. Mi cliente está bastante preocupado sobre la manera en que siente haber sido tratado, considerando el hecho que ésta es una violación menor. Nuestra posición siempre ha sido sobre la fianza, de lo que ha sido confiscado y de la cantidad de cargos que él enfrenta, esta es una situación flagrante de exageración y mi cliente está muy preocupado y francamente yo también. Queremos un resultado justo a esta situación y eso es lo que estamos tratando de conseguir", agregó Morrison.

Tapia tiene sus partidarios en la corte incluyendo a Dennis Hall de Fulton, Missouri, miembro de la Asociación de Criadores de Animales de Caza Unidos. "La razón principal por la que me encuentro aquí no es tanto sobre las peleas de gallos o nada como eso, es el error judicial. Los activistas de los derechos de los animales, principalmente PETA y la Sociedad Humana, han empujado para detener las peleas de gallos. Ellos van a las granjas de estas personas y confiscan sus pollos para rescatarlos de las peleas de gallos y luego los llevan y los matan. Para mí eso es totalmente erróneo. ... Esto es muy estúpido. ... Él está enfrentando 172 años de prisión. ¿Es la pena apropiada para el crimen? Absolutamente no".

BPU is sponsoring a free "Save Energy-Save Money" workshop at the West-Branch Kansas City Public Library.

Board of Public Utility will hold a "Save Energy-Save Money" workshop on December 11, 2008 at the West-Branch Public Library located at 1737 North 82nd Street, Kansas City, Kansas from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. BPU will offer residents free energy and water cost cutting information for upcoming colder winter months.

The workshop will feature energy experts including Metropolitan Energy Corporation, Ladd Service Company, Westlake Ace Hardware Store and representatives from BPU's Metering and Water departments. There will also be hands on, interactive displays followed by a question and answer wrap up session.


New and existing homeowners, senior citizens and anyone who cares about monitoring their electric and water bills should attend. Come to the Save Energy-Save Money workshop and learn how to save on your energy and water bills this winter season!



Fernando Tapia stands behind the register of his meat market. He told *Hispanic News* that his legal problems have taken a serious toll on his family and his business. All he wants to do now is clear his name.

Fernando Tapia posa detrás de la registradora de su mercado de carnes. Él le dijo a *Hispanic News* que sus problemas legales han dejado una seria secuela en su familia y en su negocio. Todo lo que él quiere hacer ahora es limpiar su nombre.

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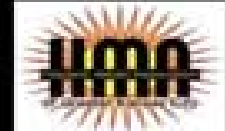
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Café Tacuba rocks Kansas City

rocanrrolea Kansas City



Seminal Latin rock band Café Tacuba brought its groundbreaking musical riffs to a diverse crowd at Westport's Beaumont Club.

La Seminal banda de Rock Latino Café Tacuba le trajo sus innovadores pasajes musicales a una diversa audiencia en el Beaumont Club de Westport.

CARLOS DUARTE
HISPANIC NEWS

Two minutes before Café Tacuba crawled their way on stage from the basement of the Beaumont Club in Westport, people had already wasted their patience, and loud cries of "come out already," only in a more expressive way, were heard up and down Pennsylvania Avenue.

However, for the people inside this country bar turned punk showcase, the wait was more anxiety than anger. The wait in the long lines outside in the sharp, cutting cold of that November evening were forgotten as soon as the band started playing their favorite songs. Café Tacuba is a band that stands out on its own; they have been for the most part the image of Rock en Español, and to have watched them here at the peak of their career was worth the wait.

This was their ninth stop in a world tour with twenty-four dates that includes New York, Chicago, Tokyo and Fukuoka a city in southern Japan, and although they have played in Kansas City before, their second appearance was different.

"There were a lot more people this time," Jorge Tabuada, a local radio celebrity and Latin rock connoisseur, said after the group's extended encore while the sounds of drums and guitars echoed in everyone's ears. However, that was not the only difference - the crowd was more diverse this time around.

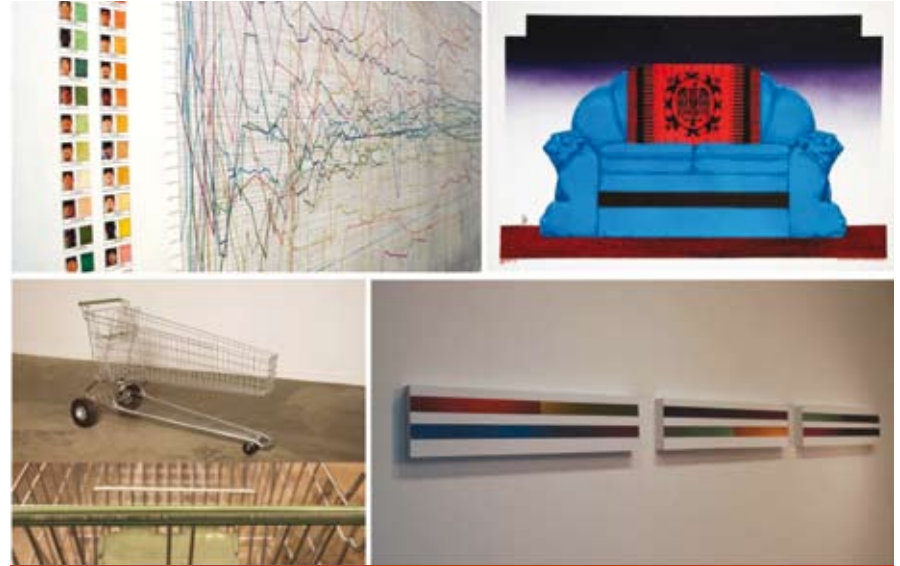
BAND EXPANDS/PAGE B3

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Dos minutos antes de que Café Tacuba subiera al escenario desde el sótano del Beaumont Club en Westport, a la gente ya se le había

acabado la paciencia y fuertes gritos que clamaban "salgan de una vez", pero de una manera más expresiva, se escuchaban de un y otro lado de la Avenida Pennsylvania.

LA BANDA/PÁGINA B3



Clockwise, from upper left: Mike Hill, *Grid* (based on Boston Red Sox statistics); Adolfo Martinez, *Mayan Jaguar Sofa*; Jorge Garcia, *Untitled (LSO5)*; Beniah Leuschke, *Keep America Rolling*; *Like a Replica Monger a Rolling Cake Empire*.

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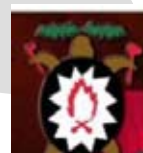
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Mattie Rhodes is 115 years old



John Fierro (forefront) introduced the new board members and the new board president of Mattie Rhodes at a ceremony at Liberty Memorial. Fierro celebrated the diversity of the board and their commitment to the agency.

JOE ARCE
HISPANIC NEWS

John Fierro, executive director of Mattie Rhodes Art and Counseling center, spoke enthusiastically of the agency's accomplishments as it enters its 115th year in operation.

"We have moved from a well-kept secret up on the hill on the Westside at 17th and Jefferson to becoming a metropolitan wide campus with a presence in Kansas City, Kansas, the Westside and for the last ten years in the Northeast side of the city," said Fierro.

His remarks followed a welcoming reception at Liberty Memorial for the organizations' new board members including new board president Alex Wendel. The board assists in the fundraising efforts and the overall annual strategy of the organization.

"Over the last 25 years, [Mattie Rhodes] has really dedicated its resources



and efforts to serving the Hispanic population ... Over 50 percent of our board is made up of Hispanic community volunteers from the greater Kansas City area."

Wendel echoed Fierro's assessment and lauded the commitment of the board when he spoke with *Hispanic News*. "This is my fifth year on the board and I am very excited about the diversity that we have and the group of people, new and old. This is a good balance of experience and they bring new ideas and new blood to the organization."

Wendel noted that though the time commitment is minimal, as the board only meets every two months, the agency's broad programming draws them in.

"What I so appreciate about it, is each board member often finds ways to get involved in the organization in areas that fulfill their passion and their level of interest. For example, we have a young architect on the board from HOK who has been a tremendous help as we have worked to renovate our facility over at 1749 Jefferson. We have other board members that are passionate about our arts program so they have been tremendously helpful in our arts gallery and art center."

Wendel added that the agency's growth is tied to a broad menu of services. "One of the challenges for the center is that we do so many different things. We have a well-established arts program. We have our clinical and mental health services. We are doing community development and social work in the Northeast. How do you wrap that all up in one package? It is a challenge but I see that as an opportunity. From a funding perspective, there is something for funders with various interests to look at and support. It also speaks to the tremendous impact we are having in many different areas of the community, which is all about building strong families and as a result strong communities."


That funding mission was made a little easier with the announcement that Mattie Rhodes had been chosen as the 2009 Mayors' Prayer breakfast recipient. Each year the breakfast brings together mayors from all

of the municipalities of the greater Kansas City area for a breakfast to focus attention on a particular non-profit organization. The mayors award a monetary gift to the chosen organization. According to Fierro, over the last three years the gift has averaged about ten thousand dollars.



Carl J. Dicano, former Kansas City Parks & Recreation chair and current Crime Commission chair, nominated Mattie Rhodes. "I have such high expectations for Mattie Rhodes." Dicano sees the agency's programming as an essential tool in countering the high dropout rate and the appeal of gangs. "The only one that is going to help me is Mattie Rhodes to be able to get to the kids and help them understand the significance of what it means to have an education. ... Thank goodness that Mattie Rhodes got this."

"The attendance at the annual breakfast ranges from 600 to 800 individuals from throughout the Kansas City area, so to have an opportunity to have Mattie Rhodes' name out there front and center with the services we provide is certainly beneficial to our organization," said Fierro.




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Band expands audience

CONT./PAGE B1

The event lasted for little less than two hours, but the band was able to revisit plenty of songs from their catalog. With six full-length releases to their name, they had a wide body of work to choose from. The show opened with "Seguir Siendo" and "Tengo Todo," the first two tracks off their latest album. The band kept the focus on their newer songs without disappointing anyone who came to see the old Café Tacuba. Old tracks like, "La Ingrata," "El Puñal y el Corazon" (both from their album *Re*) and "La Chica Banda" (from *Café Tacuba*) were played as if the band had just stepped out of Naucalpan. Songs like "Eo," a song that inspires everyone to dance, "Mediodía," a slow ballad about loneliness in a big city, and one of their biggest hits "Eres," represented *Cuatro Caminos*, possibly their best selling and most influential album to date.

Their album *Sino* was the most represented, a sign that the band wants to keep moving forward and are not afraid to disappoint, or rather they are

confident in their work. "Volver a Comenzar," an eight minute song with an acoustic, slow interlude, was the centerpiece. They also played "Vamonos," a song that explores the sounds of eighties jangle pop with Emmanuel Del Real in vocals, "De Acuerdo," which tells us to agree on disagreeing, and "Y es que," in which Enrique Rangel (bass player) plays vocals like he was a member of a Norteño band, among others.

Historically, with the release of their E.P. *Vale Callampa*, which includes their 2003 hit "Déjate Caer" (a staple of every concert along with its well known dance along), Café Tacuba kept heading in the direction of their previous effort *Reves/Yo Soy* (Best Latin Rock/Alternative 1999). They didn't exactly explode into the mainstream, because in one way or another they were already part of it; they simply adopted a different sound, which appealed to everyone and not just Café Tacuba's fans. By not leaving their folk and native sounds behind, but rather just turning them down, the band moved

forward with experimentation, and gained a new following.

A Grammy win for their album *Cuatro Caminos* (Best Latin Rock/Alternative Album, 2004) intensified their popularity, and the release of *Sino*, an album filled with 80s synthesizer pop, and 60s Psychedelic rock (among other genres) kept moving them forward musically.

All of this accounted for the mixed scene witnessed at the Beaumont that night. People of different ages and different nationalities, enjoyed the many styles of Café Tacuba.

No doubt, the band has made a big impression, and they are being hailed as the reigning kings of Rock-en-Español (or Latin Rock) but there's no telling what they'll do in the future. With their international presence, they are one of the most original bands, and if they can make us dance and sing to any beat they play, there is no reason why everyone (not just Latinos) should not give them a try.

La banda expande su audiencia

CONT./PÁGINA B1

Sin embargo, para la gente dentro de esta taberna de música country convertida en vitrina de música punk, la espera era más ansiedad que ira. Afuera, la espera en largas filas en el agudo y lacerante frío de esa noche de noviembre fue olvidada tan pronto como la banda comenzó a tocar sus canciones favoritas. Café Tacuba es una banda que se impone por sí sola; mayoritariamente ellos han sido parte de la imagen del Rock en Español y el haberlos visto aquí durante la cúspide de su

carrera, fue algo que valió la pena la espera.

Esta fue su novena escala en una gira mundial de veinticuatro presentaciones y que incluye las ciudades de Nueva York, Chicago, Tokio y Fukuoka que es una ciudad de sur del Japón. Aunque Café Tacuba ha tocado en Kansas City antes, su segunda aparición fue diferente.

"Hubo mucho más gente esta vez", dijo Jorge Taboada, una personalidad radial local y conecedor del Latin Rock, luego de la prolongada vuelta al escenario mientras el sonido de la batería y de las guitarras resonaban en los oídos de cada uno de los presentes. Sin embargo, esa no fue la única diferencia - la audiencia fue más diversa esta vez.

La actuación tuvo una duración de un poco menos de dos horas, pero la banda pudo tocar bastantes canciones de su catálogo. Con seis grabaciones de larga duración a su nombre, ellos contaron con una amplia gama de títulos de donde escoger. El show abrió con "Seguir Siendo" y "Tengo Todo", las primeras dos canciones de su último álbum. La banda mantuvo su enfoque en sus nuevas canciones sin descantarse a ninguno de los que vinieron a ver al viejo Café Tacuba. Ellos tocaron canciones antiguas tales como "La Ingrata", "El Puñal y el Corazón" (Ambas de su álbum *Re*) y "La Chica Banda" (de *Café Tacuba*) fueron interpretadas dando la impresión de que la banda acababa de salir de Naucalpan. Canciones como "Eo", una canción que inspira a todos a bailar, "Mediodía" una balada lenta que se trata de la soledad en una ciudad grande y uno de sus grandes éxitos "Eres", representó *Cuatro Caminos*; posiblemente su álbum más vendido e influyente hasta la fecha.

Su álbum *Sino* fue el más representado, una señal de que la banda quiere seguir avanzando y no temen descantarse o es que a lo mejor ellos tienen confianza en su trabajo. "Volver a Comenzar", una canción de ocho minutos con un interludio acústico y lento, fue el tema central. Ellos también interpretaron "Vamonos", una canción que explora los sonidos del pop con el sonido discordante de los ochentas y la cual tuvo a Emmanuel Del Real como vocalista, "De Acuerdo", la cual nos aconseja estar de acuerdo con no estar de acuerdo y "Y es que", en la cual Enrique Rangel (El bajista) canta como si fuera miembro de una banda de Norteño, entre otras.

Históricamente, con el lanzamiento de disco *Vale Callampa*, el cual incluye su éxito del 2003 "Déjate Caer"

(Una característica de cada concierto con su bien conocido baile), Café Tacuba se mantiene yendo en la dirección de su anterior álbum *Reves/Yo Soy* (Mejor Rock Latino/Alternativo en 1999). Ellos no impactaron necesariamente a la corriente popular, ya que de una manera u otra ya eran parte de ella; ellos simplemente adoptaron un sonido diferente, que resonó con todos y no solamente con los fanáticos de Café Tacuba. Al no dejar sus sonidos nativos y folclóricos atrás, sino que simplemente bajándolos en intensidad, la banda siguió adelante con su experimentación y ganó nuevos seguidores.

Un Grammy ganado por su álbum *Cuatro Caminos* (Mejor Álbum de Rock Latino/Alternativo, 2004) intensificó su popularidad y el lanzamiento de *Sino*, un álbum repleto de sonidos de sintetizadores de los ochentas y del rock psicodélico de los sesentas (Entre otros géneros) los mantuvo avanzando musicalmente.

Todo esto contribuyó a la mezclada escena vista en el Beaumont esa noche. Gente de diferentes edades y diferentes nacionalidades disfrutaron de los muchos estilos de Café Tacuba.

Sin lugar a dudas, la banda ha dejado una gran impresión y ellos están siendo aclamados como los reinantes monarcas del Rock-en-Español (O Rock Latino), pero no hay como predecir lo que harán en el futuro. Con su presencia internacional, ellos son una de las bandas más originales y si ellos nos pueden hacer bailar y cantar con cualquier ritmo que toquen, no hay razón para que todos (No tan sólo los latinos) les den una oportunidad.

Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearings

KCP&L filed a rate application on Sept. 5, 2008, with the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission) requesting \$71.6 million, which is a rate increase of 17.5 percent. According to the Company, this would result in an average monthly increase of \$12.57 for residential customers and an average monthly increase of \$36.74 for small general service customers. The increase request does not include the cost of fuel purchases, which appear separately on the customers' monthly bills as an Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) and are reviewed by the Commission under a separate process. Fuel prices are subject to market forces and are not directly regulated by the Commission.

Public Hearing

The Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing concerning KCP&L's requested rate increase.

December 4, 2008, at 7 p.m.
Overland Park City Council Chamber
8500 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS

The Public Hearing will consist of two parts. During the first part, the Commission will hold an informational meeting to allow KCP&L to fully explain its request to the public and answer questions. KCC staff will be available and Citizen Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) and other intervenors may be there to answer questions. The second part is a formal public hearing to assure that members of the public have the opportunity to make their views on the application known to the Commission.

The Commission will accept written comments from KCP&L customers through March 2, 2009, at 5 p.m. Comments should reference Docket No. 09-KCPE-246-RTS and be sent to the Kansas Corporation Commission, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, 1500 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS 66604 or go to public.affairs@kcc.ks.gov. You also may call 1-800-662-0027. Public comments received after the conclusion of the timely public comment period will be entered into the file in the docket.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing on the rate increase beginning March 9, 2009 at 9 a.m. in the first floor

hearing room at the Commission office, 1500 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS. The Commission must issue a decision by June 15, 2009. All requested rate changes are subject to approval by the Commission.

KCP&L Proposal

The Company proposal includes an equal percentage increase for all customer classes.

Under KCP&L's proposal, the increase would add approximately \$12.57 to a typical residential monthly bill. The average increase for the typical small general service customer would be about \$36.74.

The current and proposed monthly customer charges are shown below.

Residential

| | current | proposed |
|------------|---------|----------|
| one meter | \$7.93 | \$9.32 |
| two meters | \$9.85 | \$11.57 |

Small General Service

| | current | proposed |
|------------|---------|----------|
| one meter | \$13.63 | \$16.02 |
| two meters | \$35.64 | \$41.88 |

The Company proposal states that the requested increase is the result of substantial investments in air quality systems, as well as increases in KCP&L's costs of operation and maintenance.

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hn SPORTS ROUND UP!

Chiefs can't make run on Saints



JOHN SILVA
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Herm Edwards had a unique opportunity last Sunday at home. His team played a team nearly identical to Dick Vermeil's Chiefs. Edwards shunned the old identity of Kansas City when he came onboard by saying he would make defense a priority.

The 4-5 Saints came to Arrowhead with the league's top offense and worst defense. While entertaining New Orleans has driven their fan base crazy as Quarterback Drew Brees puts up astronomical passing numbers without one go-to receiver the way Trent Green used to. Much like Green it didn't matter how much he did because his defense couldn't stop the other team much either.

In the first quarter, Tyler Thigpen took advantage of the Saints' porous defense. He led the Chiefs to an early lead by leading Dwayne Bowe to the left edge of the end zone where the second year receiver came down with the first score of the day from six yards out.

Edwards' style calls for his defense to hold a lead. It did for a little while as the Saints could only muster a field goal in the first quarter but as the second quarter began, New Orleans imposed their will as they spread the ball all over Arrowhead. Running back Deuce McAllister leapt into the end zone with 11 minutes left before half.

The Chiefs moved the ball again and found themselves



Tyler Thigpen's mobility gives Chiefs a better chance on fourth downs.

at the Saints one-yard line with a first and goal. Trying to punch newly re-installed Larry Johnson didn't work and another lofted pass for Bowe didn't convert leaving rookie kicker Conner Barth with a 20-yard chip shot field goal.

Closing out the first half with their own short field goal New Orleans re-took the lead and extended it early in the third with a 47-yard scoring play from Brees to wide receiver Lance Moore.

Desperately needing to strike back, Thigpen got the home team to a first and goal at New Orleans' three-yard line. The offense failed to punch it in again to be down 20-13. Later in the quarter another touchdown by the crescent city crew extended to 27-13 before Bowe's second TD made it a one score game.

At that point the Chiefs got within the New Orleans 40 yard line with 10 minutes remaining and had a fourth and two. Edwards had a choice and said, "You go for some of them (as he did on the previous TD drive), but you've got to know what the situation in the game is and you figure to hold them there and make them punt."

Herm's choice to be conservative backfired. The Saints salted the game away by driving down the field resulting in their third field goal of the day and a 30-20 final score. Vermeil's old detractors and Edwards' supporters had to admit for one day that a newfangled high-scoring offense can put a win up against a team that focuses on scoring little and allowing the opposition to score less.

Edwards's second best season sets him up for 2009

Carl Edwards was the big winner in the last weekend of the season for NASCAR. He flipped on back-to-back days as he won the Nationwide and Sprint Cup events in Homestead, Florida.

The wins left him 21 points short of one title and 69 short of the other. Coming up in second place to Emporia native Clint Bowyer in the Nationwide series and Jimmie Johnson in the Sprint Cup Chase to the Championship meant a very successful season, but one that gives Edwards a hunger for more. "We will definitely get them next year," the Columbia resident said after winning his

season-high ninth Sprint Cup title in 2008.

The star of the Roush Fenway Racing Ford team continues to make his name. Already a popular pitchman for various entities (Office Depot, Citi, and Dish Network), Edwards's effervescent personality could push him to the forefront as the face of NASCAR when the 2009 season rolls around.

While Jimmie Johnson won his third consecutive Chase title, people who aren't big fans of NASCAR have no idea what he looks like. They know Edwards from his memorable back flip victory celebrations. That's what will make Edwards

a strong favorite for the Sprint Cup next year.

The Nationwide series will also see Edwards make another strong bid. Bowyer, the definition of consistency this year, said he looks forward to the challenge of Edwards. "We've raced a long time, we're both from the Midwest and he's a good competitor. He's last year's champion and it feels really good to beat him."

Edwards looks forward to having the tables turned on his competition next year. In the meantime he'll have to settle for a solid season most drivers would be glad to have achieved.

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