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Chiefs hire a fan and league favorite as next GM

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Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon gives inaugural as 55th governor of Missouri

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Funkhouser reflects on 08 looks to 09

reflexiona sobre el 08 y mira hacia el 09

L. YVONNE BRUNER
HISPANIC NEWS

It is traditional at the beginning of a new year to look back and access our progress in the past year while making plans for goals we want to accomplish in the year to come. Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser told *Hispanic News* that he would be saying "some major stuff" about his successes and failures in 2008 and his plans for 2009, during a presentation on January 25, 2009, at the All Souls Unitarian Church.

As a preview to that speech, the mayor shared with *Hispanic News* in an exclusive interview some of his thoughts.

Funkhouser's goals for 2008 included: improving citizen satisfaction with basic city services and maintaining good relationships with the city council. However, citizen satisfaction reportedly declined during the year, and the city council voted against him on several, well publicized occasions, leading to an impression that he and the city council are at odds on all matters.

"It is still very much my goal to manage my relationship with members of the city council," Funkhouser said as he shared his perspective. "I will find a way to work with each and every one of them and it won't be because we're warm and fuzzy friends. It will be because they want what I want, ultimately. They want to look good, and about the only way to look good is to be good. They want citizens to believe that they and I are doing a good job, and about the only way to do that is to actually do a good job. ... They are going to choose their own self interest almost every time on every vote; but often, their self interest is going to be the same as mine and they're going to vote with me."

Funkhouser said that, despite public perception, the council voted with him most of the time during 2008. "Ninety-seven percent of the votes are unanimous," he said.

STANDING ON/PAGE 2



According to press reports, Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser spent more time this past year in his house working on city business than he anticipated. Según reportes de prensa, el Alcalde de Kansas City Mark Funkhouser pasó más tiempo de lo que había anticipado el año pasado en su casa trabajando en negocios de la ciudad.

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Es una tradición al comienzo de un nuevo año mirar hacia atrás y darle una mirada al progreso del año pasado mientras se planifican los objetivos que queremos realizar en el año venidero. El Alcalde de Kansas City Mark Funkhouser le dijo a *Hispanic News* que él diría "algunas cosas importantes" sobre sus sucesos y fracasos en el 2008 y sus planes para el 2009, durante una presentación a realizarse el 25 de

enero del 2009 en la Iglesia All Souls Unitarian.

A modo de sinopsis de ese discurso, el alcalde compartió con *Hispanic News* algunas de sus ideas durante una entrevista exclusiva.

Entre los objetivos de Funkhouser para el 2009 se incluyen: Mejorar la satisfacción ciudadana mediante servicios básicos y manteniendo buenas



"First of all what they call stubbornness I would call determination and tenacity," Funkhouser.



"Lo primero de todo es que lo que ellos llaman terquedad, yo lo llamaría determinación y tenacidad", Funkhouser

relaciones con el concejo ciudadano. Sin embargo, se ha reportado que la satisfacción ciudadana ha declinado durante el año y el concejo ciudadano votó en contra de él en varias bien publicitadas ocasiones, llevando a hacerse la idea de que él y la ciudad no concuerdan en todos los asuntos.

"Mi objetivo es todavía el manejar mi relación con los concejales", dijo

Funkhouser mientras compartía su perspectiva. "Encontraré una manera de trabajar con cada uno y con todos ellos y no será porque somos cordiales y efusivos amigos. Será porque al final ellos quieren lo mismo que yo quiero. Ellos quieren lucir bien. Ellos quieren que los ciudadanos crean que tanto yo como ellos estamos haciendo un

DEFENDER/PÁGINA 2

Census 2010 Office Officially Opens In KC



Oficina del Censo del 2010 Abre Oficialmente en KC

JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

The census comes every ten years in the United States. Last week, the official opening of the 2010 Census office in Kansas City, Missouri kicked off a flurry of activity as local community leaders gathered to tour the office and to

ACCURATE COUNT/PAGE 6

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

El censo aparece cada diez años en EE.UU. La semana pasada, la apertura oficial de la oficina para el Censo del 2010 en Kansas City, Missouri dio el puntapié

UN CONTEO/PÁGINA 6

The Census Bureau rolled out the numbers and the appeals as it announced plans for the 2010 census. The Bureau will be looking to hire many as it gears up for the constitutionally mandated counting.

La Oficina del Censo expuso las cifras e hizo un llamado mientras anunciaba planes para el censo del 2010. La Oficina espera contratar a muchas personas en el momento en que se apresta para el conteo demandado por la constitución.

When will we all feel relief? ¿Cuándo sentiremos todos alivio?



DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

This past year, major corporations asked the federal government for bailouts. Standing in line with their hands out were Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, CITI Group and AIG all seeking billions to bail them out of financial crisis.

These companies had barely secured their bailout, when executives from Ford, Chrysler and General Motors traveled in their private jet to Washington, D.C. to ask the federal government to provide emergency loans to the tune of \$30 billion.

All the while, consumers took hard hits with rising costs at the fuel pump and the grocery store. Some faced

Este año pasado, mayores corporaciones le pidieron al gobierno federal que los ayudara a salir de apuros económicos. En fila con sus manos extendidas se encontraban Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae y Freddie Mac, CITI Group y AIG, todos buscando billones que los ayudaran a salir de la crisis financiera.

Estas compañías apenas acababan de asegurar su escape, cuando ejecutivos de Ford, Chrysler y General Motors viajaron en sus aviones privados a Washington, D.C. para pedirle al gobierno federal que les ofreciera préstamos de emergencia en la cantidad de \$30 billones.

Mientras tanto, los consumidores recibían fuertes golpes con los crecientes

"IT WAS A"/PAGE 5

"FUE UN BUEN"/PÁGINA 5

Standing on Principle has Caused Heartache

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"On September 11th [2008] they overrode my veto on the volunteer ordinance and threw Gloria out, and that was huge news," Funkhouser noted, "But also on September 11th, they unanimously endorsed the New Tools Initiative. ... Accomplishing the New Tools Initiative will change the direction of the city for our children and our grandchildren. The vote on the New Tools Initiative was huge, but I don't think it got a sentence."

Implementing the New Tools Initiative will be one of Funkhouser's most important goals during 2009. The plan calls for city, county and state bodies to waive sales tax in a designated area in conjunction with increased educational efforts and crime fighting initiatives. The taxation part of the plan will require state legislative approval.

"We need a plan to focus on the distressed areas of the city. This is the most important initiative that I have under way because it is through this initiative that I seek to turn around 40 years of decline in the urban core of Kansas City," Funkhouser said. "... The effort needs to be integrated, and it needs to be bottoms up. ... It means it is not just about incentives, it's about safety, it's about services, and it's about education and about people. ... And it needs to be integrated with the kinds of economic developments and incentives that will work for small businesses and low income people."

Another priority for 2009 will be working with the Obama administration on issues related

to infrastructure improvement, such as the federal Environmental Protection Agency's mandated sewer improvements, and working with the legislature in Jefferson City on state related issues.

"For example, one of my highest priorities in Jefferson City is to increase the amount that women can earn and still get subsidized child care," explained Funkhouser. "Right now, it's \$12.48 an hour and we're like 48th in the nation. We need to be able to provide subsidized child care for the women so they can make more money, and that's a very, very high priority."

Funkhouser recognizes that the economic crisis will present difficult choices for him, the city council, and Kansas City residents. "We're going to have some very tough choices to make and citizens should understand that. ... The PFM report, [a report commissioned by the city council that recommends a five-year financial plan for the city] for example, suggests that we pay for trash collection on a fee basis, as virtually every other city in the world does. But we don't [because] politically, it's extremely controversial here. ... I hope that as we go through this, the citizens begin to say, 'would I rather pay a fee, would I rather pay taxes, would I rather cut services and which services do I want to cut.'"

Funkhouser says that the city will have no choice but to make further cuts in 2009. "The total city budget is \$1.3 billion. Out of that, though, are things like the water department, the airport, stuff that you can't really adjust. In terms of the tax based general fund, it's about 480 million. Out of that

480 million about 300 million is for public safety – police and fire and ambulance. That leaves 180 million for all other city services, and out of that, we're about 90 million short. So we have to find, potentially, 90 million in cuts."

In spite of the economy and the current budget crunch, Funkhouser says he remains intent upon improving citizen satisfaction. "The citizen satisfaction survey was down in 2008 because we didn't pay enough attention to it," he said. "We didn't make that a priority and a focus of our government. A lot of what I'm going to talk about at All Souls is why the citizen satisfaction is what it is, and how I plan to deal with it."

Funkhouser explained that the goals of his administration have been to make city government more responsive to all citizens and to provide a fair and equitable distribution of opportunities. In that effort, he feels he has run up against resistance from established interests.

"People who've been running the city in the wrong way are angry. They are angry and upset and incredulous that I got elected. They hate it that I got elected. I do not look like, or act like what they had in mind. They don't think that I'm fit to be the Mayor. They don't think that Gloria's fit to be the First Lady. And they've been telling the world that they're embarrassed by us," Funkhouser exclaimed. "I don't understand why they're not embarrassed by the piles of trash on the east side, why they're not embarrassed by the drop-out rate in the schools, why they're not embarrassed by conditions throughout the community that regular people are having to deal with. It's

amazing. But, I underestimated all that. I thought that if you just argued persuasively for the right thing and if you laid out the data, the evidence, people would see it. But no - not the elite."

Funkhouser was careful to point out that he is not blasting everyone who might consider themselves among the elite movers and shakers of the city. "There are good people and there are bad people," he said. "And there are many people in the power structure who support me. But there are many who don't see that we've been going the wrong way, who don't see that we need to change, and who are going to smash me and Gloria any way they can."

Here, Funkhouser is referring to the well publicized criticism of his wife, Gloria Squitiro, who worked as his personal assistant at city hall until the city council passed an ordinance specifically disallowing her to volunteer her time in that way.

"So if I talk about things I've learned in 2008, mistakes I've made, I did not understand what I was up against," Funkhouser reflected. "I didn't understand the power and ferociousness of these attacks. It never in my wildest dreams occurred to me that because Gloria was simply helping me, for nothing, for free, that they would smash her, and attack her, with all those nasty cartoons and all the things they did. If I had known all that, I would never have put my wife in that position."

Some have characterized Funkhouser's insistence that Squitiro should continue to help him at city hall after it became clear that she had become a political flash point, as stubbornness. Funkhouser



Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser told Hispanic News that in spite of public perception, he has a good working relationship with the city council noting that 97% of council votes were unanimous.

El Alcalde de Kansas City Mark Funkhouser le dijo a Hispanic News que a pesar de la recepción del público, él tiene una buena relación de trabajo con el concejo ciudadano indicando que el 97% de los votos del concejo fueron unánimes.

sees it as a principled stand.

"First of all what they call stubbornness I would call determination and tenacity," Funkhouser added that standing on principle is not a matter of expediency. "Why should I abandon a principle simply because it costs me something? It has cost us enormous pain and heartache. But it's crazy to me to say 'stand on principle except when it costs you anything.'"

Funkhouser provided an example that illustrated his point. "I thought that what we need in Kansas City is an

integrated regional multimodal transit system. ... But, like an idiot, I was not determined. ... I listened to the media and the power brokers who said you have to have a starter line. I said, 'OK, we'll have a starter line because it can be integrated into the regional system.' So, we lost the starter line vote by the same amount that it had lost the previous eight times. Now my critics all say it lost because I supported it. Nonsense, it lost because it was a bad idea."

Defender los Principios ha Causado Angustia

CONT./PÁGINA 1

buen trabajo y la única manera de hacerlo es verdaderamente hacer un buen trabajo. ... Ellos van a optar por sus propios intereses casi cada vez que ellos voten; pero a menudo, sus propios intereses van a ser los mismos que los míos y ellos votarán conmigo".

Funkhouser dijo que, a pesar de la percepción pública, el concejo votó con él la mayoría de las veces durante el 2008. "Noventa y siete por ciento de los votos son unánimes", dijo él. "El 11 de septiembre [2008] ellos invalidaron mi veto relacionado con la ordenanza para voluntarios y expulsaron a Gloria y esa fue una noticia de proporciones", Funkhouser hizo notar, "Pero también el 11 de septiembre, ellos endosaron en forma unánime la Iniciativa New Tools (Nuevas Herramientas). ... El realizar la Iniciativa New Tools cambiará para nuestros niños y nietos la dirección que lleva la ciudad. El voto sobre la Iniciativa New Tools fue inmenso, pero no creo que haya recibido una sentencia".

El implementar la Iniciativa New Tools será uno de los objetivos más importantes de Funkhouser durante el 2009. El plan estipula que las siguientes entidades, la ciudad, el condado y el estado renunciarán impuestado a la venta en un área designada en conjunto con un incremento en los esfuerzos educacionales y las iniciativas para combatir el crimen. El plan necesitará ser aprobado por la legislatura del estado.

"Necesitamos un plan que se enfoque en las áreas más deprimidas de la ciudad. Esta es la iniciativa más importante que busca cambiar 40 años de deterioro en el corazón urbano de Kansas City", dijo Funkhouser. "... El esfuerzo necesita ser integrado y necesita hacerse desde abajo hacia arriba. ... Significa que no se trata simplemente de incentivos, sino que se trata de seguridad, se trata de servicios y se trata de la educación y de la gente. ... Y tiene que ser integrado con los tipos de desarrollos económicos

e incentivos que funcionarán para los pequeños negocios y personas de bajos recursos".

Otra prioridad para el 2009 será la de trabajar con la Administración Obama en asuntos relacionados a la infraestructura, tales como las mejoras al alcantarillado que son un mandato de la Agencia para la Protección del Medio Ambiente y también trabajar con la legislatura en Jefferson City sobre asuntos relacionados con el estado.

"Por ejemplo, una de mis prioridades más importantes en Jefferson City es la de aumentar la cantidad de dinero que las mujeres pueden ganar y aún obtener subsidios para el cuidado infantil", explicó Funkhouser. "En estos momentos, éste es de \$12.48 la hora y nos encontramos aproximadamente en la posición No. 48 en la nación. Tenemos que ser capaces de proveer subsidios para el cuidado infantil para que las mujeres puedan ganar más dinero y esa es una prioridad muy, muy alta".

Funkhouser reconoce que la crisis económica presentará difíciles elecciones para la ciudad, para el condado y para los residentes de Kansas City. "Vamos a tener que tomar decisiones muy difíciles y los ciudadanos deberían entenderlo. ... El reporte de PFM, [Un reporte comisionado por el concejo ciudadano que recomienda un plan financiero de cinco años para la ciudad] por ejemplo, sugiere que nosotros paguemos por la recolección de la basura basándonos en tarifas, como virtualmente cada otra ciudad en el mundo lo hace. Pero nosotros no lo hacemos [debido a que] políticamente, aquí eso es algo extremadamente controvertido. ... Espero que en la medida en que pasemos por esto, los ciudadanos comenzarán a decir, '¿Preferiría pagar una tarifa, preferiría pagar impuestos, preferiría cortar servicios y cuáles servicios quisiera cortar?'"

Funkhouser dice que la ciudad no tendrá más opción que hacer más recortes en el 2009. "El presupuesto total de

la ciudad es de \$1.3 billones. Sin embargo, entre esa cifra están cosas como el departamento del agua, el aeropuerto, cosas que en realidad uno no puede ajustar. En lo referente al fondo general basado en impuestos, éste es cercano a los \$480 millones. De esos \$480 millones, cerca de \$300 millones son para la seguridad pública – la policía, los bomberos y ambulancias. Eso deja \$180 millones para los otros servicios de la ciudad y de esos, estamos cortos en \$90 millones. Por lo que tenemos que encontrar, potencialmente, son \$90 millones en recortes".

A pesar de la economía y de la actual contracción presupuestaria, Funkhouser dice que él permanece decidido a mejorar la satisfacción del público. "La encuesta sobre la satisfacción pública fue baja en el 2008 debido a que no le prestamos suficiente atención a ello", dijo él. "No hicimos de eso una prioridad y un enfoque para nuestro gobierno. Mucho de lo que voy a hablar en la Iglesia All Souls será el porqué la satisfacción ciudadana es lo que es y cómo planeo manejarla".

Funkhouser explicó que los objetivos de su administración han sido los de hacer que el gobierno de la ciudad sea más sensible para todos los ciudadanos y proveer una justa y equitativa distribución de oportunidades. En ese esfuerzo, él cree que ha chocado en contra de la resistencia de parte de intereses establecidos.

"La personas que han estado operando la ciudad en la manera incorrecta están enfadados. Ellos están enfadados y molestos e incrédulos que yo haya sido electo. Ellos odian que yo haya sido electo. Yo no luzco o actúo como ellos se lo habían imaginado. Ellos no creen que esté preparado para ser alcalde. Ellos no creen que Gloria está preparada para ser la Primera Dama. E incluso ellos le están diciendo al mundo que sienten vergüenza de nosotros", exclamó Funkhouser. "No puedo entender porqué ellos no están avergonzados por los montones de basura en el lado este de la

ciudad, porqué ellos no están avergonzados por el promedio de deserción en las escuelas, porqué no están avergonzados por las condiciones a través de la ciudad que las personas regulares tienen que soportar. Es increíble. Pero, yo subestimé todo eso. Pensé que si uno simplemente discute en forma persuasiva por las cosas que son justas y uno ofrece los datos, la evidencia, la gente lo verá. Pero no es así – no lo es así con la elite".

Funkhouser fue cuidadoso al indicar que no está atacando a todos quienes podrían considerarse a sí mismos entre los que mueven los hilos dentro de la elite de la ciudad. "Allí hay buenas y malas personas", dice él. "Y allí hay muchas personas en la estructura del poder que me apoyan. Pero allí hay muchos que no ven que hemos estado avanzando en la dirección equivocada, quienes no ven que necesitamos cambiar y quienes van a aplastarme a mí y a Gloria de cualquier manera que les sea posible".

Aquí, Funkhouser se está refiriendo al bien publicitado criticismo de su esposa, Gloria Squitiro, quien trabajaba como su asistente personal en el ayuntamiento hasta que el concejo ciudadano pasara una ordenanza específicamente para no permitirle a ella ofrecer su tiempo como voluntaria de esa manera.

"Por lo que si me refiero a cosas que he aprendido en el 2008, errores que he cometido, no comprendía lo que estaba enfrentando", reflexiona Funkhouser. "No entendía el poder y la ferocidad de esos ataques. Nunca en mis más improbables sueños se me habría ocurrido que debido a que Gloria estaba simplemente ayudándome, por nada, en forma gratuita, que ellos la atacarían, con todas esas asquerosas caricaturas y todas las cosas que ellos hicieran. Si hubiera sabido eso, nunca hubiera puesto a mi esposa en esa posición".

Algunas personas han criticado la insistencia de Funkhouser que Squitiro

debería continuar ayudándolo en el ayuntamiento luego de que quedara en claro que ella se había convertido en el punto de controversia, por su terquedad. Funkhouser lo considera como un enfrentamiento basado en principios.

"Lo primero de todo es que lo que ellos llaman terquedad, yo lo llamaría determinación y tenacidad", Funkhouser agregó que defender los principios no es asunto de conveniencia. "¿Porqué debería yo abandonar un principio simplemente porque me cuesta algo? Nos ha costado un enorme dolor y angustia. Pero es una insensatez que yo diga 'defender un principio excepto cuando le cuesta a uno cualquier cosa'".

El Centro Ventures Into Retail

With the economy in a tailspin, more and more families in the Kansas City area struggle to find ways to take care of their families and still enjoy a few luxuries like family outings or recreation. Necessities of life, such as food, clothing, and shelter are tough enough to come by when salaries are cut, benefits reduced and layoffs are announced weekly.

With this in mind, El Cento, Inc., a leading family service agency in Kansas City, KS will assist area families with the necessities through low-cost clothing and household items at its retail operation on 9537 West 87th Street in Overland Park.

"The idea has been in the works for some time, but we were waiting for the right time and right location to establish our first shop", states Mary Lou Jaramillo, CEO. "That time has come, and our opening date is January 24th."

The Silver Lining Thrift Shop location was chosen from a number of sites due to its central location and El Cento's desire to service an ever-growing need throughout Wyandotte and Johnson Counties. The shop will offer new and gently used clothing for the entire family, as well as household items and furniture.

According to store manager Sylvester "Silver" Ayalla Silver, family, friends and volunteers of El Cento have been busy for weeks, painting, hanging clothes and other set-ups to prepare for the shop's Grand Opening. "Our goal is to give the residents of KC a nice and affordable place to shop for and provide for their families. Of course, we also offer a place for anyone who likes to find a "deal" on special items such as boutique and collectible pieces."

Through the "Silver Lining," KC residents can stretch their family's dollar just a little further.

New Governor faces tough challenges



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon stood along side his wife Georganne as he took the oath of office as the Governor of Missouri in a ceremony at Jefferson City on Monday 12, 2009. PHOTO TAKEN FROM [HTTP://GOVERNOR.MO.GOV](http://GOVERNOR.MO.GOV)

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon delivered his inaugural address as the 55th Governor of Missouri on the steps of the state capital in Jefferson City on a cold and blustery January 12. The title of the speech "A New Day for Missouri" was a rallying call for what will be a testing time for the new governor and the state of Missouri.

"But today we stand united – as much as any time in history. United as Americans and as Missourians. United by the common uncertainty of our future, not knowing what tomorrow will bring. Worried that this economic downturn will mean that our children may not have every opportunity that we've had. The challenges we face are historic, but so are the opportunities.

In response to the economic downturn that is forcing states

to slash services across the country, Nixon called on the tenacious spirit of Missourians. The people of this great state have never waited for the future; we've always sought it out. We are a state born from pioneers and innovators.

Nixon called on Missourians to help lead the nation 'by seizing the new opportunities of the 21st Century. We must prepare our world-class workers with 21st-century skills and connect them with the jobs of tomorrow that we will create the jobs that will lead our nation to energy independence. The jobs that will build fuel-efficient automobiles and energy-efficient homes, the jobs that will develop the lifesaving cures of tomorrow, the jobs that will change the way we do business, change the way we travel and change the way we channel information."

Nixon called for a spirit of bipartisanship in order to formulate and integrate the strategies that will make Missouri successful. He also reminded those in the audience that the turn around will not be done by government alone.

"Tough times call for a renewed sense of purpose. A new day for public service and volunteerism. We need all Missourians to step up and do more to make our communities stronger. We need more parents to get active in our local schools. We need more role models to mentor our children and coach our youth sports teams. We must get involved in our places of worship. Get involved in our local civic groups. Volunteer our time at senior homes. Community service is not a chore or a burden. It's a responsibility and an honor," said Nixon.

NCLR warns Congress: don't leave homeowners out of bailout

Janet Murguía, president and CEO of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, expressed deep disappointment and great frustration recently in a hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services Committee. Her comments came in response to reports that more than half of last year's \$700 billion bailout was spent without a cent benefiting the millions of Americans facing foreclosure.

"As dozens of economists have stated, our current economic woes largely stem from the trouble in the housing market," said Murguía. "Yet the Treasury has refused to apply any TARP funding—or funding from any other sources—to directly address this issue."

So far, the distribution of

Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) funds has failed to accomplish the key goals of the initiative. TARP has not measurably reduced foreclosures or increased credit flow to vulnerable communities, such as the disproportionately impacted Latino community and other communities of color. The initiative has also lacked accountability to taxpayers.

Without action, low-income families will lose their livelihoods. "More than a year into this crisis, foreclosure rates continue to rise and a generation of Latino and American wealth continues to erode," said Murguía. As a result of predatory lending and flaws in the mortgage system, Latino homeowners were steered into bad loan products. Forecasters predict eight million foreclosures in the next four years, with the height of the crisis for Latinos most likely to occur in 2009 and 2010 due

to more loan adjustments.

It is clear that any strategy to revive the credit and housing markets will not be complete without fully addressing the needs of Hispanics, who command a purchasing power of almost \$1 trillion.

NCLR recommends that the remaining TARP funds include the following provisions to address the needs of Latino homeowners and ensure a stronger American economy:

- Implement a mandatory systemic loan modification program that will directly impact homeowners struggling to pay their mortgages.
- Keep homeownership a priority and increase the flow of capital and credit directly to the Hispanic community.
- Mandate disclosure and accounting of TARP funds to hold servicers accountable to American taxpayers.

NCLR advierte al Congreso: no dejen fuera a los propietarios de vivienda

Recientemente en la audiencia ante el Comité de Servicios Financieros de la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos, Janet Murguía, presidenta del Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR, por sus siglas en inglés) —la organización nacional más grande de apoyo y defensa de los derechos civiles de los hispanos en EE. UU.— expresó su profunda decepción y frustración porque más de la mitad de los fondos de los \$700 mil millones del paquete de rescate financiero del año pasado se han gastado sin que un centavo benefició a los millones de propietarios de vivienda estadounidenses que enfrentan la ejecución hipotecaria.

"Una docena de economistas han afirmado que las actuales dificultades económicas se derivan del problema del mercado de la vivienda" dijo Murguía. Y aún así, el Tesoro se ha negado a usar los fondos del Programa de Rescate para Activos con Problemas (TARP, por sus siglas en inglés) —o de otras fuentes— para abordar directamente este problema".

Hasta ahora la distribución de los fondos TARP ha sido

un fracaso y no ha alcanzado las metas principales de la iniciativa. TARP no ha podido reducir las ejecuciones hipotecarias o aumentar el flujo de crédito de manera apreciable en las comunidades vulnerables, como la comunidad latina afectada y otras comunidades de color. También a la iniciativa le ha faltado mostrar responsabilidad ante los contribuyentes.

Si no se hace algo al respecto, las familias de bajos ingresos perderán su sustento. "Hemos pasado más de un año en esta crisis donde los índices de ejecución hipotecaria continúan aumentando y la riqueza de una generación de latinos y estadounidenses continúa mermándose" dijo Murguía. Como resultado de los préstamos depredadores y deficiencias en el sistema hipotecario, los propietarios de vivienda latinos fueron llevados a aceptar productos hipotecarios con consecuencias perjudiciales. Se predicen ocho millones de ejecuciones hipotecarias en los próximos cuatro años, llegando los latinos a la cúspide de la crisis probablemente en los 2009 y 2010 debido a más ajustes en los préstamos.

Está claro que cualquier estrategia para revivir los mercados de la vivienda e hipotecario no concluirá sin antes abordar completamente las necesidades de los hispanos, quienes tienen un poder adquisitivo de casi \$1 billón de dólares.

El NCLR recomienda que los fondos restantes del TARP incluyan las siguientes disposiciones para abordar las necesidades de los propietarios de vivienda latinos y asegurar una economía más fuerte para el país:

- Implementar un programa obligatorio de modificación al sistema hipotecario que directamente afecte a los propietarios de vivienda que luchan angustiados para pagar sus hipotecas.
- Mantener la propiedad de vivienda como prioridad y aumentar directamente el flujo de capital y crédito en la comunidad hispana.
- Ordenar que se revelen y contabilicen los fondos del TARP para que los servidores se hagan responsables ante los contribuyentes estadounidenses.

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Scholarship Dinner Schedule

6 p.m. **Jan. 20, 2009**
OPENING REMARKS AND DINNER
Emcee to be Announced

Keynote Speaker:
Christopher Gardner
CEO of Christopher Gardner International
Holdings and inspiration for the film *The Pursuit of Happiness*

ADJOURNMENT

Contact Dale Carder
Office of Corporate Relations
University of Central Missouri
Humphreys 403
660-543-4755
carder@ucmo.edu

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2009 Celebration Events

Jan. 14, 2009
MLK Community Service Awards
Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Monthly Business Luncheon
White Rose Pavilion 11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Must register at Chamber 660-747-3168

Jan. 15, 2009
Issues Forum
1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Elliott Union

Jan. 16, 2009
Community Ecumenical Service
6 p.m. – Warrensburg First United Methodist Church

Jan. 19, 2009
MLK Challenge: A Day On, not a Day Off
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Jan. 19, 2009
10th Annual Gospel Concert
6 p.m. – Handicks Hall

Jan. 20, 2009
MLK Freedom Scholarship Dinner
6 p.m. – Elliott Union Ballroom (Rooms 236/238/240)
(Must pre-purchase dinner tickets in Office of Community Engagement, Elliott Union 224)

Jan. 27-28, 2009
Community Service Blood Drive
Tues. Jan. 27, 2009 – 10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wed. Jan. 28, 2009 – 11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Elliott Union Ballroom

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI
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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Scholarship Dinner

January 20, 2009

Keynote speech by Christopher Gardner
CEO of Christopher Gardner International Holdings and inspiration for the film *The Pursuit of Happiness*

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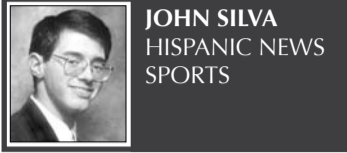
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hn SPORTS ROUND UP!

Pioli is Clark Hunt's man



JOHN SILVA
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

What Chiefs fans have been waiting for finally has come. Kansas City Chiefs Chairman Clark Hunt announced on January 13, the hiring of Scott Pioli as General Manager after a calculated and at times plodding process that tried the patience of many a fan.

Chiefs fans have great expectations. Pioli's long association with the winning program in New England, where the Patriots saw three world championships and four trips to the Super Bowl, is creating frenzy among the fans.

"We are very excited to welcome Scott to the Chiefs," Hunt said in a press statement. "With his proven track record of success, Scott is the finest player personnel executive in the NFL, and we look forward to his leadership in building a championship organization." In his capacity as General



On January 14, the Chiefs officially introduce their new GM, Scott Pioli to their fans and all of KC.

Manager, Pioli will have final say over all football operations and report directly to Hunt

During his tenure in New England, the Patriots won Super Bowls XXXVI, XXXVIII and XXXIX, claimed the Lamar Hunt Trophy four times as the AFC Champion and won six AFC East titles. A four-time winner of NFL

Executive of the Year honors from national media outlets, Pioli served as the Patriots Vice President of Player Personnel from 2002-08 after originally joining the franchise in 2000. In total, he brings 17 seasons of NFL experience to the Chiefs organization after tours of duty with New England (2000-08), the N.Y. Jets (1997-99), Baltimore (1996) and Cleveland (1992-95).

The first order of business for the new manager will be the fate of current head coach Herman Edwards. Edwards has been mired in a dismal two seasons after a playoff appearance in his first year. This year, the team embraced a youth movement that brought tantalizing possibilities but failed to deliver the bottom line - wins. The team ended the year with only two wins, questions at quarterback, a disgruntled star running back, defensive issues and the disaffection of the fan base.

There is no doubt Clark Hunt had his sights set on Scott Pioli from the beginning. The New

England executive has been the hottest name in front offices for years. In the past, Pioli wouldn't take interviews, but this time around, he had more than just a passing interest in Kansas City's general manager opening.

Pioli's skills as a talent evaluator helped create a consistent championship contender in New England. At the same time, that achievement was clouded by the belief that the genius behind the Patriots' success was Bill Belichick. That perception is fueled by the lack of success for former coaches leaving the nest for greener pastures.

Pioli has labored as Bill Belichick's right hand man with the Patriots during their run of three Super Bowl victories this decade. In Kansas City, Pioli has the chance to show his mettle in a situation where no one can question whether or not he is the author of a championship roster as he revives a franchise that has not seen the Super Bowl for years.

Wizards need heir apparent to Hartman

In 2008, Kevin Hartman had a fine campaign for the Wizards. He had 10 shutouts and finished the season strong in goal to get Kansas City into the playoffs. After two seasons in Wizards blue, Hartman has established himself as a stalwart who cannot only come up with the big save, but is extremely dependable.

During each of his two seasons in KC Hartman logged 30 caps. After 2,700 minutes this year it is imperative the club get someone in to keep the 34-year-

old fresh. There's no need to try to be the Brad Friedel of MLS by setting some consecutive minutes played record.

Under Bob Gansler, the team drafted some impressive goalkeepers but failed to give any a chance to play in an MLS atmosphere and now they are elsewhere in the league racking up games played.

This is technical director Peter Vermes and head coach Curt Onalfo's chance to draft

a young keeper for Hartman to mentor. The Wizards have three picks in this week's MLS Super draft's first two rounds.

The current crop of goalkeepers is deep and talented. The website MLSdraftsite.com projects the Wizards selecting Milos Kocic out of Loyola Maryland with the 22nd overall pick. The 6'4" 200 pounder is a redshirt junior who originally played for powerhouse St. John's.

Stefan Frei from Cal is the highest ranked keeper coming into the draft but is likely to go somewhere in the first round given his physical frame and accomplishments.

Either keeper would do wonders toward keeping Hartman in top form through a long season while learning from the legendary MLS keeper. One day he will hang up his spikes and KC will need someone in net to keep up their growing tradition of great shot stoppers.

Homeowners Can Cut Home Energy costs and save on 2009 taxes

Homeowners have a new opportunity to lower their energy costs and save up to \$500 on their 2009 federal income taxes by making specified energy efficiency upgrades to their homes according to a release from the Tax Incentives Assistance Project (TIAP). TIAP is sponsored by a coalition of public interest nonprofit groups, government agencies, and other organizations in the energy efficiency field. It is designed to give consumers and businesses information they need to make use of the federal income tax incentives for energy efficient products and technologies passed by Congress as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and subsequently amended several times.

"Thanks to a provision of the national financial rescue package enacted on October 3, 2008, consumers can once again get an income tax credit to help defray the cost of energy and money-saving home improvements," said Steve Nadel, executive director of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). The Council is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting both economic prosperity and environmental protection. Improvements must be installed in 2009; improvements installed in 2008 are not eligible.

"We urge consumers to take advantage of the federal tax credits to make their homes more comfortable and affordable, as well as more environmentally 'friendly,' through reducing energy waste," said Kateri Callahan, president of the Alliance to Save Energy. The Alliance is a coalition of prominent business, government, environmental, and consumer leaders who promote the efficient and clean use of energy worldwide to benefit consumers, the environment, economy, and national security.

The legislation extends homeowner tax credits that were first enacted in 2005 but expired at the end of 2007. Taxpayers who did not use the full \$500 credit in 2006 or 2007 can use the remaining portion in 2009.

In addition, there is a new tax credit - effective 2009 through 2016 - for 30 percent of the cost of an ENERGY STAR qualified geothermal heat pump, up to \$2,000. (www.energytaxincentives.org/business/renewables.php#geothermalhp.) And, under the 2005 legislation, consumer tax credits are still available for

some hybrid-electric vehicle models from Ford and General Motors (www.fueleconomy.gov/leg/tax_hybrid.shtml).

The home improvement tax credits in effect for 2009 are as follows:

Building Envelope (See www.energytaxincentives.org/consumers/insulation_etc.php for details on qualifying products.)

- Insulation and sealing products - 10 percent of the cost, up to \$500, for insulation added to walls, ceilings, or other parts of the building "envelope," or shell, and for materials to seal cracks in the shell and to seal ducts to reduce infiltration and heat loss. Installation costs are not eligible for the tax credit.
- Windows, storm windows, and skylights - 10 percent of the cost, up to \$200, of any new ENERGY STAR qualified windows (but not installation costs).
- Exterior doors and window films - 10 percent of the cost, up to \$500.
- Roofs - 10 percent of the cost, up to \$500, for metal roofs with pigmented coatings or asphalt roofs with cooling granules that meet ENERGY STAR requirements. Again, installation costs do not qualify for a tax credit.

Heating and Cooling Equipment (See www.energytaxincentives.org/consumers/heating-cooling.php for details on qualifying products.)

- Central air conditioner, heat pump, water heater, or biomass (e.g. corn) stove - up to \$500 towards the purchase price, including installation costs.
- Furnaces and boilers - up to \$150 for new high-efficiency gas, oil, and propane furnaces and boilers.
- High-efficiency fans for heating and cooling systems - \$50.

TIAP members ACEEE, the Alliance, and the Natural Resources Defense Council are working closely with members of Congress to extend the consumer tax incentives beyond the current expiration date of December 31, 2009, to provide continued assistance to taxpayers in defraying a portion of the cost of making their homes more energy efficient.

For information about ACEEE and its programs, publications, and conferences, contact ACEEE, 529 14th St, N.W., Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20045 or visit www.aceee.org.

Tony Aguirre

LATINO Men's Basketball TOURNAMENT

February 14 & 15, 2009

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OUR PARTNERS

"It was a good run"

CONT./PAGE 1

choices they have never had to make before. Should I put food on the table or fuel in my car? Home foreclosures were rising due to the sub-prime mortgage crisis that raged across the country. Families unable to make house payments that suddenly doubled found themselves facing foreclosures. A new class of people began to emerge in the United States; the middle class worker suddenly faced with becoming the working poor.

Middle class families, with two incomes, were suddenly finding themselves in need of assistance from organizations like El Centro, Catholic Charities or the Salvation Army. Families who had never gone to a food kitchen before suddenly found themselves at their doors asking for help. The high influx of people coming through their doors was leaving food pantries with empty shelves and in dire need of donations.

The financial crisis began to trickle down to other companies. The automakers' woes affected the many ancillary companies dependent on the auto industry such as retailers and parts companies. Laid off employees have an impact upon the local economy. When they lose their salary, they are unable to purchase a car, or a new home. They must make their money and their unemployment check stretch to make ends meet.

The recent economy woes have taken its toll on the local construction industry. The construction industry usually experiences a lay off during the winter months, but lay offs began in late October.

"We began to see some of the bigger jobs in the area be put on hold or the owners decided to not begin them. We have seen the casinos in Wyandotte County not happen and the Schlitterbahn Water Park has delayed its opening. These were put off because of economic reason," said a spokesperson at the Carpenters District Council of Kansas City.

The Carpenters Council has heard from their members. "We haven't had this amount of telephone calls to our offices in over the last ten years. This is definitely more than just a winter lay off. We don't track the number of people in the business that are laid off, but we do know that we have a large amount of workers in the construction trade that are off work. Several jobs are being put on hold, jobs not starting; we are definitely getting hurt by the economy."

J.E. Dunn Construction Company began laying off employees at their headquarters in Kansas City. "We must do more with less to remain competitive and resilient in the face of economic headwinds. Reducing expenses and increasing our productivity will better prepare the company for a shrinking market," said Margaret Bowker, J.E. Dunn vice president.

As a reporter, I tell others' stories, but today my family is one of those stories. My husband is a carpenter and has been in the construction business for almost thirty years. During those years, we have experienced the lay offs common during the winter months. This year, in late October, after

fifteen years of never missing a day of work, often giving up his vacation time for the company, he was laid off from one of the major construction companies in the city.

It was a good run. He started out as a carpenter and worked his way up the ladder to foreman and then on to assistant superintendent. The day in October, when they handed him his check and told him they were laying him off, he was told it was due to the impending presidential election, the shrinking market - they had no other jobs to send their personnel too.

When he called to tell me the news, I panicked. What were we going to do? Thoughts ran through my mind. We have a daughter in college with tuition costs and our other daughter attends a catholic high school with tuition costs. How would we keep them in school, I thought. We had bills to pay, how were we going to do that without using up our savings?

My husband calmly assured me, "No problem, I will just get another job." Unfortunately, that has not happened. The construction job market in Kansas City and Topeka is shrinking. My husband and others in the industry have begun networking; keeping each other informed about leads that they find or what companies may have work beginning after the New Year. There has been talk that construction companies now may be requiring their work field to have college degrees.

When my husband entered the carpenter program, the only requirement was a high school diploma. He went through the

apprenticeship program, and began working along side his dad, a journeyman carpenter for over 45 years. When my husband was laid off from that company, he went to work for a commercial construction firm here in Kansas City. He decided to pursue a degree in construction science. When our daughters were young, my husband went back to college and received an Associate's Degree in Construction Science.

After watching his dad have a career in construction, I never thought that my husband and I would face with the situation that we face today. Although I knew that this industry does have lay offs, it has been a long run for us. You tend to forget that times can be difficult. However, you can work through those times until you find that next job. In the back of your mind, you wonder how many new buildings can go up in a city, or how many places will remodel, but it is a fleeting thought as you pray that the work keeps coming to support your family.

Now I watch my husband leave in search of construction projects and return home with the same message - No one is hiring and they are laying off after that project is finished. After seven weeks of job searching, it became increasingly hard to watch my husband walk through the door, defeat written on his face.

No one can say when the construction industry will break and jobs will begin again. When he was laid off, he was told that it could be May 2009 before the industry begins to

pick up again. Now after fifteen years, we are putting together a resume for him. He has never had to use a resume before to find work. As he approaches 30 years in the business, he is not ready to give up the time he has put in towards retirement. He continues to plunge forward seeking jobs in an industry that seems to have stopped, not only locally but in other states as well.

We began to live on a weekly unemployment check that is a third of our usual income. Before he was laid off, I was already balancing higher gasoline prices for our vehicles and higher grocery store costs and cutting out unnecessary purchases.

Now with no job in site, our family has learned to adjust. This has not been easy; it has been a stressful time. I have the usual bills to pay, car insurance each month, utilities, groceries, house insurance, taxes on the house, property taxes on our vehicles, telephone bill, and gas for our vehicles.

We have had to put several items on hold, such as the new roof for our house, a used car for my daughter to use while she is at college. We cut out my daughter's club volleyball this winter. Team fees can run over \$1,200 and then we have additional traveling and hotel expenses as the teams play weekend tournaments outside the city.

One item that can't be put on hold is my daughter's college tuition. I have had several conference calls and a meeting with the administration explaining that I can't pay off her college tuition now. While

the school administration is sympathetic, they still want the money or the student can't enroll for the spring semester. Their suggestion has been to take out a loan. A loan could be the answer, but it could be difficult to get when you don't have a job.

We are taking it one day at a time, just as many of our readers are. We are ready to see the economy turn around and hopefully that when President-elect Obama takes office in January, our country will begin to move forward again. He has promised to get our people back to work. There has been talk of starting a WPA style program to get our men and women back to work.

I am hoping that his ideas will work and begin to give our families hope for a brighter future. I do understand what is happening in our workforce locally, how we are all struggling during these difficult times, and the difficult choices made to keep our families in their homes, food on the table and clothed. While it is not our choice to lose our jobs, it seems that no one is coming forth to speak out for the local trade's people. It is not just corporate America that is suffering - families are also suffering.

We are a middleclass working family. We have paid our mortgage and our bills, but yet the financial ruin of corporations has trickled down to the average person, causing companies to lay off their employees, leaving families to wonder where will they find work and will they have to leave the city and their families to search for work. Who is going to bail us out?

"Fue un buen periodo"

CONT./PÁGINA 1

costos en las gasolineras y las tiendas de abarrotes. Algunos enfrentaban elecciones que nunca habían tenido que hacer antes. ¿Debería poner comida en la mesa o gasolina en mi carro? Remates en las hipotecas de casas estaban aumentando debido a la crisis de las hipotecas sub-prime que asolaban al país. Familias impedidas de hacer pagos por sus casas, los que repentinamente se habían doblado, se encontraron a sí mismos enfrentando remates de sus hipotecas. Una nueva clase de personas comenzó a emerger en EE.UU; el trabajador de clase media repentinamente enfrentó la posibilidad de convertirse en un trabajador pobre.

Familias de clase media, con dos fuentes de ingresos, se encontraron repentinamente en necesidad de asistencia de parte de organizaciones tales como El Centro, Caridades Católicas o el Ejército de Salvación. Familias que nunca antes habían acudido a comedores de caridad se encontraron repentinamente en sus puertas pidiendo ayuda. El alto flujo de personas atravesando sus puertas estaba dejado las estanterías de los distribuidores de comida vacías y en urgente necesidad de donaciones.

La crisis financiera comenzó a filtrarse hasta otras compañías. Las aflicciones de los fabricantes de automóviles afectaron las muchas empresas auxiliares dependientes de la industria automotriz tales como los vendedores detallistas y las compañías de repuestos. Empleados despedidos tienen un impacto en la economía local. Cuando ellos pierden sus salarios, ellos son incapaces de comprar un automóvil o una nueva casa. Ellos tienen que estirar su dinero y sus cheques del desempleo para mantenerse.

Las recientes aflicciones económicas han dejado una secuela en la industria local de la construcción. La industria de la construcción comúnmente experimenta despidos durante los meses de invierno, pero los

despidos comenzaron a fines de octubre.

"Comenzamos a ver algunos grandes trabajos en el área siendo puestos en suspenso o los propietarios decidiendo no seguir con ellos. Hemos visto los casinos en el Condado de Wyandotte no materializarse y el Schlitterbahn Water Park ha retrasado su inauguración. Éstos fueron puestos de lado a causa de una razón económica", dijo un portavoz del Concilio de Carpinteros del Distrito de Kansas City.

El Concilio de Carpinteros ha escuchado de parte de sus miembros. "No hemos tenido esta cantidad de llamadas telefónicas a nuestras oficinas a lo largo de los últimos diez años. Esto es definitivamente más que simples despidos de invierno. Nosotros no le seguimos la pista a la cantidad de personas que son despedidas en el negocio, pero sabemos que tenemos una gran cantidad de trabajadores en el sector de la construcción que se encuentran sin trabajo. Varios trabajos están siendo puestos en suspenso, trabajos que no han comenzado; estamos definitivamente siendo dañados por la economía".

La Compañía Constructora J.E. Dunn comenzó a despedir trabajadores en sus cuarteles generales de Kansas City. "Tenemos que hacer más con menos para mantenernos competitivos y fuertes en vista de los malos aires económicos. Reducir los gastos y aumentar nuestra productividad preparará mejor a la compañía para enfrentar un mercado que se está encogiendo", dijo Margaret Bowker, vicepresidenta de J.E. Dunn.

Como reportera, cuento las historias de otros, pero hoy día mi familia es una de esas historias. Mi esposo es un carpintero y ha estado en el negocio de la construcción por más de treinta años. Durante esos años, hemos experimentado los despidos que son comunes durante los meses de invierno. Este año, a finales de octubre, después de quince años sin perder un día

de trabajo, a menudo dándole su tiempo de vacaciones a la compañía, él fue despedido de una de las mayores empresas constructoras en la ciudad.

Fue un periodo bueno. Él comenzó como carpintero y trabajó ascendiendo hasta convertirse en capataz y luego en asistente del superintendente. El día en octubre, cuando le entregaron su cheque y le dijeron que lo estaban despidiendo, se le dijo que era debido a la inminente elección presidencial, al contraído mercado - además ellos tampoco tenían otros trabajos a donde enviar a su personal.

Cuando él me llamó para contarme la noticia. Me dio pánico. ¿Qué íbamos a hacer? Mi cabeza se me llenó de pensamientos. Tenemos una hija en la universidad con costos de matrícula y otra hija que asiste a una secundaria católica con costos de matrícula. "¿Cómo podíamos mantenerlas en la escuela?" pensé yo. Teníamos cuentas que pagar, ¿cómo íbamos a hacer eso sin utilizar nuestros ahorros?

Mi esposo me aseguró en forma calmada, "No es problema, simplemente obtendré otro trabajo". Desafortunadamente, eso no ha ocurrido. El mercado de la construcción se está encogiendo en Kansas City y en Topeka. Mi esposa y otras personas en la industria han comenzado a establecer redes de contacto; manteniéndose informados mutuamente sobre datos de trabajo que ellos pudieran encontrar o cuáles compañías pudieran tener trabajo comenzando después del año nuevo. Se ha hablado que las compañías constructoras pudieran ahora estar pidiendo que sus trabajadores tengan títulos universitarios.

Cuando mi esposo entró al programa de carpinteros, el único requisito era un diploma de la secundaria. Él pasó por el programa de aprendizaje y comenzó a trabajar junto a su papá, un carpintero especializado por más de 45

años. Cuando mi esposo fue despedido de esa compañía, él fue a trabajar para una firma constructora comercial aquí en Kansas City. Él se decidió a tratar de obtener un título en ciencias de la construcción. Cuando nuestras hijas eran menores, mi esposo regresó a la universidad y obtuvo un título de Asociado en Ciencias de la Construcción.

Luego de ver a su papá disfrutar de una carrera en la construcción, nunca pensé que mi esposo y yo nos enfrentaríamos con esta situación que enfrentamos hoy en día. Aunque sabía que esta industria experimenta despidos, ha sido un largo tiempo para nosotros. Uno tiende a olvidar que los tiempos pueden ser difíciles. Sin embargo, uno puede arreglárselas a lo largo de esos tiempos hasta que se encuentre ese próximo trabajo. En la mente, uno se imagina cuántos edificios nuevos pueden ser erguidos en una ciudad o cuántos lugares pueden ser remodelados, pero es un sentimiento fugaz mientras uno reza para que el trabajo continúe llegando para mantener a su familia.

Ahora veo a mi esposo salir en busca de proyectos de construcción y regresar a casa con el mismo mensaje - nadie está contratando y ellos estarán haciendo despidos una vez que ese proyecto se concluido. Después de siete semanas de búsqueda de trabajo, se tornó más y más difícil observar a mi esposo cruzar la puerta, con el fracaso dibujado en su rostro.

Nadie puede decir cuándo la industria de la construcción mejorará y los trabajos comenzarán nuevamente. Cuando él fue despedido, se le dijo que sería para mayo del 2009 antes de que la industria comenzara a retomar su curso. Ahora después de quince años, estamos componiendo un historial de trabajo para él. Él nunca antes ha tenido que utilizar un currículo para encontrar trabajo. En el momento en que se prepara a cumplir 30 años en el negocio, él no está listo a

rendir el tiempo que ha puesto hacia la jubilación. Él continúa lanzándose a buscar trabajos en una industria que pareciera haberse detenido, no solamente a nivel local, sino que también en otros estados.

Nosotros comenzamos a vivir de un cheque semanal de desempleo que es un tercio de nuestros ingresos acostumbrados. Antes de que él fuera despedido, ya me encontraba balanceando precios más altos en la gasolina para nuestros cuatro vehículos y costos más altos en la tienda de abarrotes y el recorte de compras innecesarias.

Ahora sin trabajo a la vista, nuestra familia ha aprendido a ajustarse. Esto no ha sido fácil; ha sido un tiempo agobiante. Tengo las cuentas acostumbradas que pagar, seguro automotriz cada mes, energía, abarrotes, seguro para la casa, impuestos de la casa y de nuestros vehículos, cuentas de teléfono y gasolina para nuestros vehículos.

Hemos tenido que poner varias cosas en suspenso, tales como el nuevo techo para nuestra casa, un automóvil usado para mi hija para que lo use cuando está en la universidad. Cortamos en club de voleibol de mi hija este invierno. Las tarifas de equipo pueden costar más de \$1,200 y luego tenemos los costos adicionales de viajes y hoteles cuando el equipo juegue torneos los fines de semana fuera de la ciudad.

Una cosa que no se puede suspender es la matrícula universitaria de mi hija. He tenido varios llamados a conferencias y una reunión con la administración explicando que no puedo pagar la matrícula de la universidad por ahora. Aunque la administración muestra simpatía, ellos todavía quieren el dinero o la estudiante no se podrá matricular para el semestre de la primavera. Su sugerencia ha sido la de obtener un préstamo. Un préstamo puede ser la respuesta, pero será difícil de obtener cuando no se tiene trabajo.

Estamos viviendo de día en día, tal como muchos de nuestros lectores lo están. Estamos listos a ver que la economía de un giro y esperamos que cuando el Presidente-electo Obama asuma el cargo en enero, nuestro país comenzará a avanzar nuevamente. Él ha prometido hacer que la gente retorne a trabajar. Se ha hablado de comenzar un programa estilo WPA para que nuestros hombres y mujeres retornen a los trabajos.

Estoy esperando que estas ideas funcionen y comiencen a darles esperanzas de un futuro más brillante a nuestras familias. Entiendo lo que está sucediendo localmente en nuestra fuerza de trabajo, como todos estamos luchando durante estos tiempos difíciles y las difíciles decisiones tomadas para mantener a nuestras familias en sus hogares, con comida en la mesa y con vestuario. Aunque no es nuestra elección perder nuestros trabajos, pareciera que nadie está dando un paso al frente para hablar a nombre de la gente local que trabaja en oficinas. No son solamente las corporaciones de EE.UU. las que están sufriendo - las familias también están sufriendo.

Nosotros somos una familia trabajadora de clase media. Hemos pagado nuestra hipoteca y nuestras cuentas, pero aún así la ruina financiera de las corporaciones se ha filtrado hacia la persona promedio, causando que las compañías despidan a sus empleados, dejando a las familias preguntándose ¿Dónde encontrarán trabajo y tendrán ellos que abandonar la ciudad y sus familias para buscar trabajo? ¿Quién nos va a sacar de esto?

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Accurate count is critical

CONT./PAGE 1

speak about the importance of the census to the metropolitan area.

Despite an economy that is spiraling downward causing people to be unemployed, Dennis Johnson, regional director of the US Census Bureau, announced that they are ready to employ a large workforce in Kansas and Missouri.

"We will need help. We will need workers to help us get a complete census count. We will need people to support the process. We are talking about recruiting; we are talking about jobs, paid jobs. We are excited that we can provide a service to individuals. Many people have been laid off, or their hours have been cut back or they are uncertain about their work future. We hope that our positions will be a bridge to get them through to a more permanent or more stable employment down the road," he said.

Workers with the census bureau are dedicated to educating the public about the census, how easy the form is to fill out, and why it is important for each household to fill out the census form. The form has ten questions and takes ten minutes to fill out. "We want everyone to understand that the census is safe, it is not something that can be used against an individual or anyone in the community. The information that they provide is beneficial for the community

they live in," said Johnson.

Jackson County Legislator Theresa Garza Ruiz attended the census kick off and spoke of the importance of getting an accurate population count in Kansas City. "Billions of dollars of federal, state and local funds are spent on thousands of services throughout the country. It is crucial that the Kansas City metropolitan area receive the funds in order for us to provide the necessary services to our growing population. The how and where that money is spent, is determined by the data that is on the census," she said.

Johnson told *Hispanic News* that he feels that if the population is educated about exactly what the census is and how that information is used, people will answer the questions and return the forms.

"I want people to understand and know that this information they provide will have a positive impact on them and their community. There are grants that organizations apply for all the time, it is literally thousands of dollars and in some cases, it is a lifeblood for local organizations that provide services. If the numbers are not there, they won't get the funding and therefore they can't provide the services," said Johnson.

Beginning this year, census workers will begin to canvas neighborhoods to check addresses. Census questionnaires will be mailed to each household in March 2010. Each household will fill out the

questionnaire and mail it back. Unreturned questionnaires will trigger a personal visit from a census worker later in the year.

Community leaders are speaking out to each ethnic group in the city expressing the importance of the count. The Kansas City Hispanic/Latino Complete Count Committee is encouraging the Hispanic population to respond to the census questionnaire or the census takers.

"Everyone knows that our numbers are increasing but until our numbers show up on the census we don't count. It would be advantageous to the census bureau to hire bi-lingual cultural competent persons to work in taking the count in the Latino communities. Together we can make this the most complete census ever," said Freda Mendez Smith.

"I was at the McDonald's on Prospect passing out flyers on the census. I was at the community centers, the public library and at churches letting people know that the census bureau is hiring and letting people know the importance the census plays, not only for the city of Kansas City but also for the state of Missouri," said Sharon Sanders Brooks.

Tamico Gilmore, representing Senator Claire McCaskill, told the audience that they wanted everyone to remember two numbers. "Ten and 300. It takes ten minutes to fill out the census and \$300 billion dollars will be allocated using those

numbers. It would be a shame if Missouri does not get what they deserve."

The census numbers influence the amount of funding that is given to the state for programs such as transportation, roads, funding for schools, funding for service organizations and shelters for people who are between homes. The Census count also determines how many political seats each state will have in the US Congress.

"There are many states in the Midwest that may be in jeopardy of losing a congressional seat in Congress because the population is not growing or it is not growing as fast as the states in the South or Southwest. Having an inaccurate or undercount in a certain area could dramatically impact whether we have a representative in Congress for the next ten years," explained Johnson.

The census provides demographic information for business people to use. It is also an important resource for the government health departments and service agencies. "When the Center for Disease Control and other governmental agencies are looking at distribution of funds, they want to be able to make priority decisions on what is best for the population," said Clyde Bolton, deputy director of the Kansas City Health Department.

Bolton added that the census data is a good indicator of trends identifying populations at risk.



Freda Mendez Smith (top) and Jackson County Legislator Theresa Garza Ruiz spoke during the news conference regarding the upcoming census count. They both stressed the importance of reaching the Latino community to ensure a proper count.

Freda Mendez Smith (Arriba) y la Legisladora del Condado de Jackson Theresa Garza Ruiz hicieron uso de la palabra durante la conferencia de prensa referente al conteo del censo venidero. Ambas recalcaron la importancia de llegarle a la comunidad latina para asegurar un conteo apropiado.



Un conteo preciso es de importancia crítica

CONT./PÁGINA 1

inicial a una ráfaga de actividad mientras líderes comunitarios se reúnan para hacer un tour por la oficina y platicar sobre la importancia del censo en el área metropolitana.

A pesar de una economía que se desploma causando desempleo entre la gente, Dennis Johnson, director regional de la Oficina del Censo de EE.UU., anunció que ellos se encuentran listos a contratar a una considerable fuerza de trabajo en Kansas y en Missouri.

"Nosotros necesitaremos ayuda. Necesitamos que trabajadores nos ayuden a completar el conteo del censo. Necesitaremos personas que apoyen el proceso. Nos estamos refiriendo a reclutar; nos estamos refiriendo a trabajos, trabajos remunerados. Estamos entusiasmados de poderle ofrecer un servicio a las personas. Muchas personas han sido despedidas o sus horas han sido recortadas o no están ciertos en lo que respecta a trabajar en el futuro. Esperamos que nuestras posiciones serán un puente para hacerlos atravesar hacia un empleo más permanente o estable," dijo él.

Trabajadores con la oficina del censo están dedicados a educar al público sobre el censo, lo fácil que es completar los formularios del censo y porqué es importante que cada hogar complete el formulario. El formulario contiene diez preguntas y toma diez minutos completarlo. "Queremos que todos entiendan que el censo es seguro, no es algo que pueda

ser utilizado en contra de alguna persona o alguien en la comunidad. La información que ellos proveen es beneficiosa para la comunidad en que viven", dijo Johnson.

La Legisladora del Condado de Jackson Theresa Garza-Ruiz asistió al lanzamiento del censo y se refirió a la importancia de obtener un conteo preciso de la población en Kansas City. Billones de dólares de fondos federales, estatales y locales se gastan en miles de servicios a través del país. Es crucial que el área metropolitana de Kansas City reciba los fondos para que así podamos entregarle los servicios necesarios a nuestra creciente población. El cómo y el dónde ese dinero será gastado, es determinado por los datos que se encuentran en el censo," dijo ella.

Johnson le dijo a *Hispanic News* que ella cree que si la población tiene un conocimiento exacto de qué es el censo y cómo la información es utilizada, la gente responderá a las preguntas y regresarán los formularios.

"Quiero que la gente entienda y sepa que esta información que ellos proveen tendrá un impacto positivo para ellos y para sus comunidades. Existen subsidios a los que las organizaciones postulan todo el tiempo, significa literalmente miles de dólares y en algunos casos, es un elemento vital para organizaciones locales que proveen servicios. Si las cifras no están allí, ellos no obtendrán los fondos y por lo consiguiente no podrán ofrecer servicios", dijo Johnson.

Comenzando este año, trabajadores del censo comenzarán a recorrer los

vecindarios para comprobar direcciones. Los cuestionarios del censo le serán enviados por correo a cada hogar en marzo del 2010. Cada hogar completará el cuestionario y lo enviará de regreso por correo. Cuestionarios sin ser retornados darán paso a una visita personal de parte de un trabajador del censo más tarde durante ese año.

Líderes comunitarios están dirigiéndose a cada grupo étnico en la ciudad expresando la importancia del conteo. El Comité Conteo Completo Hispano/Latino de Kansas City está exhortando a la población hispana a responder al cuestionario del censo y a quienes toman el censo.

"Todos saben que nuestras cifras están aumentando, pero hasta que nuestras cifras aparezcan en el censo, no contaremos. Sería ventajoso para la oficina del censo contratar a personas competentes que sean culturalmente bilingües para trabajar haciendo conteos en comunidades latinas. Juntos podemos hacer de éste el censo más completo que se haya hecho", dijo Freda Mendez Smith.

"Estuve en el McDonald de Prospect pasando volantes sobre el censo. Estuve en los centros comunitarios, en la biblioteca pública y en iglesias haciéndole saber a la gente sobre la importancia que juega el censo, no tan sólo para la ciudad de Kansas City, sino que también para el estado de Missouri," dijo Sharon Sanders Brooks.

Tamico Gilmore, representando a la Senadora Claire McCaskill, le dijo a la audiencia que ellos querían que recordaran dos números. "Diez y 300. Toma diez minutos completar el censo y \$300 billones de dólares serán destinados utilizando esas cifras. Sería vergonzoso si Missouri no obtiene lo que se merece".

Las cifras del censo influyen la cantidad de fondos que son entregados para programas estatales tales como transporte, caminos, financiamiento para escuelas, financiamiento para organizaciones de servicios y asilos para personas que se encuentran entre hogares. El conteo del censo también determina cuántos escaños políticos tendrá cada estado en el Congreso de los EE.UU.

"Existen varios estados en el Medio Oeste que podrían estar

en peligro de perder escaños congresistas en el Congreso debido a que la población no está creciendo tan rápido como en los estados en el Sur y en el Sureste. El tener un conteo incompleto o impreciso en cierta área, podría impactar dramáticamente la posibilidad de tener a un representante en el Congreso por los próximos diez años", explicó Johnson.

El censo ofrece información demográfica a ser utilizada por personas de negocios. Es también un importante recurso para los departamentos de salud del gobierno y para agencias de servicios. "Cuando el Centro para el Control de Enfermedades y otras agencias gubernamentales buscan cómo distribuir fondos, ellos quieren ser capaces de tomar decisiones prioritarias respecto a qué es mejor para la población", dijo Clyde Bolton, subdirector del Departamento de la Salud de Kansas City.

Bolton agrega que los datos del censo son un buen indicador de tendencias que identifican a poblaciones en riesgo. "Estamos tratando bastante la disparidad en la salud alrededor de la ciudad. La información referente a la población es vital para nosotros para poder presentar nuestros casos ante aquellas agencias que tienen dinero para gastar y ante el gobierno federal en lo que va a la distribución de fondos".

El Administrador de la Ciudad Wayne Cauthen hizo eco de la opinión de muchas personas que participaron en el tour. "Esta es nuestra oportunidad en el 2009 para ser diligentes en trabajar para que cada persona sea contada. Esto no es algo que la gente debiera temer. Este es un derecho y cada persona tiene el derecho a ser contada".

Sydnee Reynolds, subdirectora regional de la Oficina del censo, resumió la necesidad inmediata del Censo del 2010. "Nosotros estamos entusiasmados en pregonar el mensaje del censo. Pero, también tenemos que pasar la información de que necesitamos que las personas vengán a trabajar para nosotros. Nosotros tenemos trabajos, miles de trabajos que están disponibles y todo lo que necesitamos es escuchar de ustedes".

(La próxima semana, le presentaremos a dos latinos en lo que respecta a su exitoso proceso de postulación.)

Mattie Rhodes Center Celebrates New Cultural Arts Exploration Program



Mattie Rhodes' Northeast location at 144 North Topping is the location of the pilot Cultural Arts Exploration program administered by the agency in conjunction with James Elementary and funded by a grant from the Kaufman Foundation.

On Thursday, January 15, 2009, Mattie Rhodes Center celebrated the commencement of its new Cultural Arts Exploration program with a ceremony at James Elementary School. In partnership with James Elementary, Mattie Rhodes Center began providing an after-school academic arts program for underserved students.

The Cultural Arts Exploration program is provided at Mattie Rhodes Center's Northeast office at 148 N. Topping Ave. An arts program with a focus on interdisciplinary learning, Cultural Arts Explorations aims to enhance students' academic skills. Students attend classes in visual arts, creative writing and theater/creative movement. Projects in these classes will integrate science, math and social studies into the arts, and every day will start with homework assistance/tutoring. Students will also have the chance to explore various careers in the arts and will attend workshops by visiting artists in music and dance.

Led by Art Education Curator Alisha Gambino, instructors work with students to enhance grades, attendance and behavioral issues. "I believe that the arts can help reinforce information learned in other subjects and can help students be better problem

right to be counted."

Sydnee Reynolds, deputy regional director of the Census Bureau, summed Census 2010 immediate need. "We are excited to get the word out about the census. But, we also want to get the word out that we need people to come work for us. We have jobs, thousands of jobs that are available and all we need is to hear from you."

(Next week, we introduce you to two Latinos regarding their successful application process.)



Census Bureau Regional Director Dennis Johnson said that the bureau "will need help. We will need workers to help us get a complete census count. We will need people to support the process."

El Director Regional de la Oficina del Censo, Dennis Johnson, dijo que la oficina "necesitará ayuda. Necesitaremos a personas que apoyen el proceso".

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FYI

The Greater Kansas City Hispanic Collaborative is proud to announce the availability of the Leo Long/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City UMKC Scholarship. Deadline is Feb. 2, 2009.

Students must be planning to enroll at UMKC for the 2009-2010 academic year. Must be a Missouri Resident, Must be involved in the Hispanic Community Activities, and must be majoring in department within the College of Arts & Sciences. Household income should not be more than \$40,000 a year.

Contact Robert Barrientos at rjbarrientos@kc.rr.com Scholarship amount is up to \$1,500.

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High-deductible medical insurance better than none

JASON ALDERMAN

An estimated 47 million Americans live without health insurance. Even among those fortunate enough to have coverage, many struggle to pay ever-rising monthly premiums, while still others worry about losing health benefits should they be laid off.

Clearly, it's wise to know all your health insurance options and to be prepared should your situation change.

Some people opt for a high-deductible health plan (HDHP) combined with a health savings account (HSA) to help lower monthly premiums while benefiting from available tax breaks. Although not right for everyone, these plans can save money if managed carefully; and, they may mean the difference between carrying at least basic catastrophic coverage and having no coverage at all.

Here's how they work:

The federal government defines HDHPs as plans with (in 2009) annual deductibles of at least \$1,150 for individual coverage or \$2,300 for family coverage, and maximum out-of-pocket expenses not to exceed \$5,810 for individuals or \$11,600 for families. HDHPs can either be purchased through your employer, if offered, or independently.

Although HDHP monthly premiums are often considerably less than for lower-deductible PPO or HMO plans, coverage details

vary widely so compare plans carefully. For example, many HDHPs either don't include maternity coverage or charge extra for it; and preventive care, like annual physicals or vaccines, may or may not be subject to deductibles.

Among those most likely to benefit from HDHPs are:

- Younger, healthier people who probably won't reach the annual deductible amount.
- Chronically ill people whose expenses will probably exceed yearly maximum out-of-pocket limits.
- People earning more than the state's Medicaid qualifying limit but who can't otherwise afford to buy health insurance.
- Those who could afford to pay their typical medical expenses out of pocket but want the protection provided by catastrophic coverage should major expenses arise.

Many people combine an HDHP with an HSA in order to take advantage of federal tax breaks. HSA features include:

- Use your account to pay for current and future qualified medical expenses on a tax-free basis.
- Some employers' plans allow pretax payroll deductions. Otherwise, you deposit after-tax dollars in your HSA and take a credit on your federal income tax return – even if you don't itemize deductions.
- HSA contributions and their investment earnings grow tax-free.
- Unlike flexible spending accounts tied to traditional

employer-sponsored medical plans that have "use it or lose it" provisions, HSA balances roll over from year to year and are completely portable if you change jobs or plans.

- 2009 maximum annual contributions are \$3,000 for individual HDHP coverage and \$5,950 for family plans. People age 55 and older can also make annual catch-up contributions of up to \$1,000.
- Some HSAs let you pay for medical expenses as they occur using a debit card tied directly to your account balance.

- In addition to IRS-approved medical expenses, you can also use your HSA account balance to pay for: health insurance premiums if unemployed; medical expenses after retirement but before Medicare eligibility; out-of-pocket expenses when covered by Medicare; and long-term care expenses and insurance premiums.
- Many banks, credit unions, insurance companies and other financial institutions offer HSAs. For help finding one, consult your insurance broker or go to www.hsafinder.com. More information is also available at www.treas.gov/offices/public-affairs/hsa.

HDHPs and HSAs are not right for everyone, but if they're the only alternative you can afford, it's better than the risk of no coverage at all.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. Sign up for his free monthly e-Newsletter at www.practicalmoneyskills.com/newsletter.

Seguro Médico con Deducible Alto es mejor que no tener nada

JASON ALDERMAN

Se calcula que 47 millones de estadounidenses viven sin seguro médico. Aún entre aquellos afortunados de tener cobertura, muchos tienen dificultades para pagar las primas mensuales cada vez más altas mientras que otros están preocupados por no perder los beneficios del seguro médico si es que los despiden del trabajo.

Claramente, es aconsejable saber todas sus opciones de cobertura médica y estar preparado si su situación llegara a cambiar.

Alguna gente opta por un plan de salud con deducible alto (HDHP, por sus siglas en inglés) combinado con una cuenta de ahorro para la salud (HSA, por sus siglas en inglés) para tener primas mensuales más bajas y beneficiarse al mismo tiempo de deducciones impositivas disponibles. Aunque no sean adecuados para todos, estos planes pueden ahorrar dinero si se los administra cuidadosamente; y bien pueden significar la diferencia entre tener al menos cobertura básica para catástrofes y no tener ninguna cobertura.

Así es como funcionan:

El gobierno federal define a los HDHP como planes con (en el 2009) deducibles anuales de al menos \$1.1150 por cobertura individual o \$2.300 por cobertura familiar, y gastos máximos de desembolso que no excedan \$5.810 para individuos y \$11.600 para familias. Los HDHP pueden adquirirse a través de su empleador, si lo ofrece, o independientemente.

Si bien las primas mensuales de HDHP son considerablemente más bajas que en los planes HMO o PPO con deducibles más bajos, los detalles de cobertura varían así que compare los planes detenidamente. Por ejemplo, muchos planes HDHP no incluyen cobertura de maternidad o cobran extra por maternidad; y cuidado

preventivo, como vacunas o exámenes anuales, podrán estar o no sujetos a deducibles.

Aquellas personas que se beneficiarían de los planes HDHP son:

- Personas jóvenes, sanas que probablemente no alcancen la cantidad deducible anualmente.
- Enfermos crónicos cuyas expensas probablemente excediesen los límites máximos anuales de desembolso.
- Personas que ganasen más que el límite de calificación para Medicaid pero que no pueden adquirir seguro médico.
- Personas que pueden pagar de su bolsillo gastos típicos médicos pero quieren la protección proporcionada por la cobertura para catástrofes en caso de que surgiesen gastos mayores.

Mucha gente combina un plan HDHP con una HSA para sacar provecho de deducciones impositivas. Las funciones de la cuenta HSA incluyen:

- Uso de su cuenta para abonar gastos médicos actuales y futuros libres de impuestos.
- Algunos planes de los empleadores le permiten deducciones de las cargas laborales antes de los impuestos. De lo contrario, usted puede depositar dólares después de los impuestos en su cuenta HSA y tomar un crédito de su devolución del impuesto federal sobre la renta – aún si no especifica las deducciones.
- Las contribuciones a la HSA y su renta de inversión crece libre de impuestos.
- Al contrario de las cuentas flexibles de gastos que están atadas a los tradicionales planes médicos patrocinados por empleadores y que tienen cláusulas de "úselo o piérdalo", los balances de

la HSA se transfieren de año a año y son totalmente portátiles si usted cambia de plan o trabajo.

- Las contribuciones anuales máximas del año 2009 son \$3.000 para cobertura HDHP individual y \$5.959 para planes familiares. Las personas mayores de 55 años también pueden realizar contribuciones anuales de recuperación de hasta \$1.000.
- Algunas cuentas HSA le permiten pagar gastos médicos utilizando una tarjeta de débito que está directamente ligada a su balance de cuenta.

- Además de sus gastos médicos aprobados por IRS, usted también puede utilizar el balance de su cuenta HSA para pagar: primas de seguro médico si está desocupado, gastos médicos después de jubilarse pero antes de ser elegible para Medicare; gastos de desembolso cuando esté cubierto por Medicare y gastos de cuidados a largo plazo y primas de seguro.
- Muchos bancos, cooperativas de crédito, compañías de seguro y otras instituciones financieras ofrecen cuentas HSA. Si necesita ayuda para obtener una, consulte a su corredor de seguros o visite www.hsafinder.com. Hay más información disponible en www.treas.gov/offices/public-affairs/hsa.

Los planes HDHP y las cuentas HSA no son adecuadas para todo el mundo, pero si es la única alternativa que usted puede pagar, es mejor que el riesgo de no tener ninguna cobertura.

Jason Alderman dirige los programas de educación financiera de Visa. Para inscribirse y recibir un Boletín de Noticias Electrónico financiero personal gratuito mensualmente, vaya a www.practicalmoneyskills.com/newsletter.

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The Kansas City Royals is seeking a **P/T Production Animator**. Qualified candidate will be responsible for producing high-end 3D animation for all game & event presentations. Must have at least 5 years exp. in animation & graphic design, & Trade/Industry or Bachelors Degree is required. Background in Sports 3D animation, production & editing preferred. Must be able to work flex hours to include holidays, weekends, evenings & game events. We offer a competitive salary & free parking. Pre-employment screening is required. Apply on-line at www.royals.com or send resume to Kansas City Royals PO Box 419969, attn: HR Dept. Kansas City, MO 64141-6969 EOE

GRANT FUNDED BILINGUAL REHABILITATION TECH/COUNSELOR AIDE/SECRETARY I

Missouri department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. 32 hours per week. Clerical position responsible for assisting with training of staff & partner agencies regarding services to individuals from Latino or Hispanic backgrounds. Excellent benefits. \$21,216 annually. Office location at downtown KC. Submit cover letter and current resume to: Human Resources, Vocational Rehabilitation, 3024 DuPont Circle, Jefferson City, MO 65109. Job Open Until Filled. Job Order # 7670338. EOE.

WANTED: Bilingual (Spanish and English) Receptionist for busy dental clinic. Must be multi-tasking, computer knowledge necessary, fast paced with good telephone manners. Duties are answering multiple line phone, scheduling, filing, check out and money exchange. Send resume to blasater@setonkc.org. EEOC.

SE SOLICITA: Recepcionista bilingüe (español e inglés) para concurrencia clínica dental. Debe realizar multiples tareas, es necesario conocimiento de computación, dinámico/a con buen trato por teléfono. Responsabilidades incluyen contestar línea telefónica múltiple, programar citas, archivar, cobro y manejo de dinero. Envíe curriculum a blasater@setonkc.org. EEOC.

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MBE/WBE/DBE Invitation to Bid: Mega Industries Corp. is soliciting bid proposals from approved subs for the following projects:

Max Pavement Improvements (Bid # 09-5021-39) and Max Station Improvements (Bid # 09-5011-39), KCATA, Bids: 1:00 P.M., Thursday on the 22nd day of January 2009.

Plans and Specifications are available in our office for your review. Proposals must be in our office no later than 2hrs before bid time. Any questions, call our estimator at (816) 472-8722 or fax quotes to (816) 472-6722. An "Equal Opportunity Employer", Female/Minority Subcontractors encouraged to solicit bid proposals.

MBE/WBE INVITATION TO BID

Walton Construction Company, LLC, as Construction Manager for the **West Edge** project, is seeking bid proposals of qualified MBE/WBE contractors/suppliers for the following:
Bid Package 01 – Utility & Slab Support on February 3, 2009
Bid Package 02 – CO-OP Concrete on January 29, 2009
Bid Package 03 – Precast Installation on February 3, 2009
Bid Package 04 – Unit Masonry on February 3, 2009
Bid Package 05 – Building & Site Concrete on February 3, 2009
Bid Package 06 – General Trades Package on February 3, 2009
Pre-Bid Meetings for all Bid Packages will be held on **January 20, 2009** at the **Walton Construction KC Office (3242 Roanoke)**. A CD with Documents is available for pick up or you may also view a hard copy of the Documents at the Walton Construction Plan Room (3232 Roanoke). If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact **Chad Brungardt or Molly Chasteen at 816-753-2121**.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE THE FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE PARVIN ROAD CORRIDOR TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN

You are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held by the Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri, commencing at 11 a.m., Wednesday, February 11, 2009, in the Town Pavilion Conference Center, 1100 Walnut, 4th Floor, Kansas City, Missouri, regarding the proposed Fourth Amendment to the Parvin Road Corridor Tax Increment Financing Plan (the "Amendment"). The Amendment, if approved, would allow for modifications to the budget of Redevelopment Project Costs. The intent of the Plan remains unchanged other than those changes specifically mentioned herein.

The Redevelopment Plan Area is described as an irregularly shaped area generally bound by N.E. 48th Street, Parvin Road and the Kansas City city limits on the north, the Kansas City city limits and the railroad tracks on the east, Missouri Route 210 and the railroad tracks on the south and North Bennington Avenue on the west in Kansas City, Clay County, Missouri. The Amendment, as proposed, may be reviewed by any interested party on or after Wednesday, February 4, 2009 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the offices of the Tax Increment Financing Commission, 1100 Walnut, Suite 1700, Kansas City, Missouri.

According to Section 99.830.3 all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing.

Joseph P. Gonzales
Director

Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri
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Kansas City, Missouri 64106

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ROAD WORK NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed bids, addressed to
STATE OF MISSOURI, acting by and through
THE MISSOURI HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Jefferson City, Missouri

an endorsed "bid" for construction (or improving) the following route(s) and project(s) in Jackson County, will be received by the Commission until 11:00 o'clock a.m. (Prevailing Local Time) on the 23rd day of January 2009 at the office of the Secretary to the Commission in the Missouri Department of Transportation Headquarters Building at Jefferson City, and at that time will be publicly opened.

The proposed work includes: **Route 35, Job J4I2021:** Rehabilitation of 3 bridges on the above state road at the northeast corner of the downtown loop east of Route 9 in Kansas City, the total length of the improvement being 0.319 mile.

The proposed work includes: **Route 435, Job J4I1930:** Optional resurfacing (hot-in-place recycle with UBAWS cap or mill and fill with superpave) on the above state road from the Missouri River bridge to Route 24 in Kansas City, the total length of the improvement being 2.339 miles.

The proposed work includes: **Route 435, Job J4I1977:** Resurfacing with superpave on the above state road on the southbound lanes between the railroad bridge and Raytown Road in Kansas City, the total length of the improvement being 0.102 mile.

Combination bids will be Required on Route 435, Job J4I1930, Jackson County, and Route 435, Job J4I1977, Jackson County

The proposed work includes: **Route BB, Job J4S1864:** Resurfacing (thin lift overlay) with BP-2 on the above state road from Route 70 to Route 24 near Buckner, the total length of the improvement being 8.069 mile.

The proposed work includes: **Route BB, J4S2193:** Resurfacing with BP-2 on the above state road from Route 70 to Route 24 near Buckner, the total length of the improvement being 8.069 miles

Combination bids will be Required on Route BB, Job J4S1864, Jackson County, and Route BB, Job J4S2193, Jackson County

The proposed work includes: **Route 35, Job J4I1966:** Coldmill and resurfacing with superpave on travelway, and fog seal on shoulders on the above state road from 20th Street to the Kansas State line in Kansas City, the total length of the improvement being 1.61 miles.

The proposed work includes: **Route 71, Job J4S1967:** Ultrathin bonded asphaltic wearing surface on the above state road from 75th Street to north of Route W in Kansas City, the total length of the improvement being 2.02 miles.

The proposed work includes: **Route 9, Job J4S1931:** Ultrathin bonded asphaltic wearing surface on the above state road from 10th Street to Route 70 in Kansas City, the total length of the improvement being 0.84 mile.

Combination bids will be Required on Route 92, Job J4P1809, Platte County, Route 92, Job J4P1961, Platte County, and Route 9, Job J4S1931, Clay/Jackson Counties.

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

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

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

The Commission hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, ancestry, or national origin in consideration for an award. Plans and specifications may be inspected in the offices of the Commission at Jefferson City, or the District Engineer at Lee's Summit, Missouri. Plans may also be viewed on the internet at <http://modot.indoxservices.com/>. Complete instructions to bidders and bidding documents may be obtained at the Jefferson City office.

Bids must be on forms provided.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

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Image - Victor Cartagena, Labor Tea (Installation View), 2008



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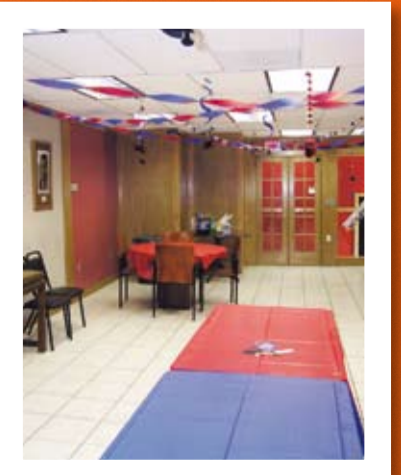
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