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KANSAS CITY Hispanic News

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'IT'S THE EASIEST PETITION I'VE EVER DONE,' LONA SAYS 'Es la petición de renuncia más fácil que haya hecho', dijo Lona



Charlie Lona, former supporter of Mayor Mark Funkhouser, hits the pavement along Southwest Boulevard, asking residents to sign a petition to recall the mayor. *Charlie Lona, un ex partidario del Alcalde Mark Funkhouser, se las hecha por las calles a lo largo del Southwest Boulevard, pidiéndole a los residentes que firmen una petición para pedirle la renuncia al alcalde.*

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN
HISPANIC NEWS

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Although he is retired, Charlie Lona says he has a full-time mission these days — collecting signatures in Kansas City's West Side to oust Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser.

"I'm taking this very personally," Lona told *Hispanic News* on Mon-

A pesar de que ya está jubilado, Charlie Lona dice que tiene una misión de tiempo completo por estos días — recolectar firmas en el Westside de Kansas City para destituir al Alcalde de Kansas City Mark Funkhouser.

"Estoy tomando esto de una man-

RECALL PETITION/PAGE 6

PETICIÓN DE/PÁGINA 6

Annual Bike safety rodeo set for this weekend Circuito Anual de Seguridad Ciclista este fin de semana



BRING YOUR BIKE AND HAVE FUN

VEN TRAE TU BICICLETA Y DIVIERTETE

APRIL 26TH, 2009

You many want to polish your bicycle and head to the third annual Bike Safety Rodeo this Sunday, April 26, at Budd Park in Old Northeast neighborhood 4925 St. John Ave. The fun begins at 11 a.m. and continues to 3 p.m. Bicycle riders are taught cycling skills, safety tips and what to watch for when riding a bicycle in your neighborhoods and on the streets of Kansas City. The Mexican Consulate Offices in Kansas City, Mo., organizes the Bike Rodeo with the partnership of area businesses, banks, health care centers, social services agencies and with the help of community leaders. They work hand-in-hand to providing not only bike safety tips but also more than 30 informational booths about various topics. The event also will provide people with information about attaining healthier lives and information about how to open a checking account and other financial advice. Organizers said they think that with great weather, people will come out to the event. Last year's Bike Rodeo attracted thousands and with more vendors this year, they think the event will double in attendance.

The first 500 people who attend will receive a bicycle helmet and/or a T-Shirt. The big prizes will be 10 bicycles that will be raffled off.

For more information, call the Mexican Consulate at 816-556-0805

Lo mejor usted quiera pulir su bicicleta y asistir al Tercer Circuito Anual de Seguridad Ciclista este próximo domingo, Abril 26 en el Budd Park en el Viejo vecindario del Noroeste 4925 St. John Avenida. La diversión empieza a las 11 a.m. y continúa hasta las 3 p.m. Los Ciclistas fueron entrenados con técnicas de ciclismo, consejos de seguridad y qué cosas tener presente cuando andan en bicicleta por sus vecindarios y en las calles de Kansas City. Las oficinas del Consulado de México en Kansas City, MO., organiza este Circuito de Ciclismo en sociedad con empresas de la región, bancos, centros médicos, agencias de servicio social y con la ayuda de líderes de la comunidad. Ellos trabajan mano a mano para proveer no solo con consejos de seguridad ciclista pero también con 30 cabinas de información sobre varios temas. El evento también suministrará a los asistentes información sobre cómo lograr vidas más saludables, cómo abrir una cuenta corriente y otros consejos financieros. Los organizadores expresaron que piensan con un excelente clima, las personas atenderán el evento. El año pasado el Circuito Ciclista atrajo miles de personas y con mas agencias este año, ellos piensan el evento tendrá doble asistencia.

Las primeras 500 personas que asistan recibirán un casco y/o una camiseta. Diez bicicletas rifadas como premio mayor.

Para mayor información, llame al Consulado Mexicano al 816-556-0805

ALMA SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE Segunda oportunidad de vida para alma

JOE ARCE AND DEBRA DECOSTER
HISPANIC NEWS

Alma Moralez is celebrating an unusual anniversary this week. Her second chance at life began one year ago. Moralez, the mother of four children and grandmother to five, has always known that life is a precious gift. Her life became extremely precious last year when she received a new heart at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

Suffering from heart disease over the past 13 years, Moralez needed a heart transplant to survive. Life became uncertain for her and her family. Unsure whether a donor would be located in time, she prepared herself to face the possibility of dying.

JORGE LLORA/PÁGINA 2

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Alma Moralez está celebrando un inusual aniversario esta semana. Su segunda oportunidad a la vida comenzó hace un año. Moralez, quien es la madre de cuatro hijos y la abuela de cinco niños, siempre ha sabido que la vida es un preciado obsequio. Su vida se tornó extremadamente preciosa el año pasado cuando ella recibió un corazón nuevo en el Instituto del Corazón del Hospital St. Luke's en Kansas City, Mo.

Habiendo sufrido de una enfermedad al corazón por los pasados 13 años, Moralez necesitaba de un transplante al corazón para seguir viviendo. La vida se tornó incierta para ella y su familia. Sin tener la seguridad de que un donante pudiera ser localizado a tiempo, ella se preparó para enfrentar la posibilidad de morir.

JORGE DERRAMA/PÁGINA 2

Alma Moralez is known as number 373 at the St. Luke's Heart Institute. Just days before her party, she stopped by to visit with doctors and the staff at the center. She later ran into number 418. The figures represent the number of heart transplants that have occurred at the center.

Alma Moralez es conocida como el número 373 en el Instituto del Corazón del Hospital St. Luke's. A sólo días antes de su fiesta, ella se detuvo para hacerle una visita a los médicos y al personal del centro. Ella se topó más tarde con el número 418. Esas cifras representan la cantidad de transplantes al corazón que se han realizado en el centro.



Alma Moralez is well known on the fourth floor of the St. Luke's Heart Institute. She also is well known on the dance floor. She has a passion for dancing and loves Tejano music. At a recent dance, she and her son, Jorge (JR) Moralez, cut a rug. Her husband Jorge is amazed with her recovery, and he enjoys dancing with the love of his life.

Alma Moralez es muy conocida en el cuarto piso del Instituto del Corazón de St. Luke's. Ella también es muy conocida en la pista de baile. Ella tiene mucha pasión por el baile y ama la música Tejana. En un reciente baile, ella y su hijo Jorge (JR) Moralez rompieron la pista. Su esposo Jorge está maravillado con su recuperación y le fascina ver bailar al amor de su vida.

LOWER PHOTOS BY: MARK LOZANO

JORGE CRIES TEARS OF JOY

CONT./PAGE 1

"I was a basket case," Morales said. "I was frightened all the time. I would see my beautiful grandchildren and I couldn't even take a breath. I thought I have to see these grandchildren at least graduate from high school. I want to see them make their First Communion and I had a daughter who was planning a wedding. I prayed constantly and nothing made me feel better than prayer. I told God that I had too many things to do before I left this earth," she said.

Her prayers were answered on April 9, 2008, when a donor heart was located for her and she was rushed into surgery at 2:45 a.m. The only information she knows about her donor is that he or she is from Wyoming. She hopes one day to contact the family of the donor so she can express her gratitude.

"I only know that my heart came from Wyoming but I don't know the gender, race or age of the donor. They gave me the best gift I could possibly have. They gave me the gift of life," said Alma, tears welling in her eyes.

Her husband, Jorge, promised her a year ago that if she received a heart transplant and was well on her way to recovering, he would throw her a party to celebrate the first year of her new lease on life. As the anniversary approached, family and friends contacted Jorge and began to plan her anniversary.

Rachael Gutierrez Kelley has been Alma's friend for the past six years and considers her a sister. "The minute she enters the room, the party livens up," Kelley said. "She's very loving, very caring and loads of fun. She is always laughing and she makes you laugh."

As the party plans began, the guest list grew. Alma began passing out invitations.

"My wife loves parties," Jorge said. "She is excited about the whole party and celebration. We are very grateful she is still alive and celebrating life, and we wanted a way to say 'thank you' to everyone who has seen us through this."

Both Alma and Jorge credit her recovery to the medical team at St. Luke's Heart Institute and to all their friends who held their hands, prayed for them, cooked for them, ran errands for them and sat with them at the hospital.

Alma loves Tejano music and she has amazed many that she is able to step onto a dance floor only a year after the delicate heart procedure. "It amazes me to see her out there dancing," Kelley said. "My mother and my aunt are from an older generation, and they don't think she should be doing this (exerting herself). They think she should be taking it easy. But that is Alma, she loves to dance, she loves the music, if you didn't know her you wouldn't know that she has had a heart transplant."

Kelley is happy to see her friend enjoying life again. A year ago she was trying to face the thought that she may lose her friend. Although it was not a conversation she wanted to have, they talked about Alma not surviving. Those talks were heart wrenching for Kelley and Alma as they confronted the facts.

"The last few days before she received her heart, she was in critical condition," Kelley said. "Her heart was just barely beating and it took so long for it to beat."

Jorge told *Hispanic News* that Alma had been in and out of the hospital from January to April before news finally arrived that doctors had found a donor. "When they finally told us they found a heart, we were just ecstatic," said Kelley.

Jorge cried because their prayers had been answered. "There was another chance for us to gain our life again. Everybody was crying, but we were happy that this was going to happen," he said.

Before a donor came along, Jorge had sleepless nights, worrying about whether he would lose Alma. "A lot of things went through my mind about losing her and the kids would call and we would all cry on the phone," he said.

When she entered St. Luke's Hospital, she desperately needed the new heart. "She was very fatigued and she was short of breath with any activity. She had no energy and couldn't do most of the activities that she liked to do," said Monica Eaton, transplant coordinator and registered nurse at St. Luke's. Eaton, one of the members of the medical team that helped with Morales's transplant, said she looks forward to attending the party.

"Alma today is a positive, happy, active woman who can do exactly what she wants to do now that she couldn't do before," Eaton said.

The heart transplant staff at St. Luke's has between 300 and 500 medical personnel. The staff, patients and family members become close as they work together to help the patient recover. The staff visits with the patients every day, they talk with family members, they provide hugs to the patients and their families and put the families at ease.

Morales seems to be an exception in the recovery process. Within hours of receiving her new heart, she was able to raise her hand to her family as they saw her in the glass enclosed room. She was later moved to a room where family members could visit her. Eaton said eve-

ryone's recovery is different.

"A transplant is a very difficult process to go through not just emotionally but physically as well. The medication that they take has quite a few side effects and it takes the body a long time to adjust to that and they do have a difficult time. If one is determined as Alma is, you can overcome those obstacles and Alma has always been one to do whatever she could to be healthy," said Eaton.

Staying healthy is a message that Alma wants everyone to understand. She told *Hispanic News* that as mothers "we tend to take care of everyone else first. We don't put ourselves and our health first as we should. The moms are the glue of the family. If we don't take care of ourselves, we can't take care of our family. I was the same way. I didn't go to the doctor for high blood pressure. I had high blood pressure and didn't take care of that. I didn't go to the doctor until I had pneumonia and it was discovered then that I had an enlarged heart. The pneumonia had attacked the heart and caused me to have a very slow heartbeat. Eventually it led to me to needing a new heart," said Alma.

Since her transplant, her family has learned the importance of being a donor. At her celebration, she invited one her physicians to speak about the importance of being a donor. After her surgery, she and her husband have been attending meetings and support groups for transplant patients. She said she was surprised that they were the only Hispanic residents at the meeting of 300.

She discovered after talking with her medical staff that minority organ donor numbers are few and that they have launched a campaign to educate ethnic communities about what organ



Monica Eaton, transplant coordinator and registered nurse at St. Luke's Heart Institute, said the transplant procedure always forges a special bond between heart recipients and the hospital staff.

Monica Eaton, coordinadora de trasplantes y enfermera registrada en el Instituto del Corazón del Hospital St. Luke's, dijo que los procedimientos de un trasplante siempre forjan un vínculo especial entre quienes reciben un corazón y el personal del hospital.

donations are and how they can help someone in the country live through their donation.

Viviana Medellin, a cardiovascular technician at St. Luke's Hospital, has been listed as an organ donor for the past 25 years. When Morales was in the hospital, Medellin visited her twice a day.

"I was there with Alma in the beginning when she was in the hospital, visiting her each day, giving her support and helping her understand what she would be going through. I told her that I would be at her party," she said.

Medellin said that before the transplant, Morales was a woman preparing to die. The usual upbeat, full of life person, was slowly ebbing away. "Today she is absolutely full of life," said Medellin.

Medellin is an advocate of educating the minority population

about how they can help others live through organ donations. "The donation that a family made of the heart that Alma received helped her come back to life. We are celebrating her life starting all over again because she was knocking on death's door prior to this," she said.

Alma said she has not taken her gift of life lightly. She is grateful, and she has promised to educate the Hispanic community about becoming an organ donor. "The nurses told me that our culture does not like to do that (donate organs). I was right there with them before this happened to me. I really was. I wanted to leave the way I came in, whole, but now I have a change of heart, my whole family has, we all signed up. We need to understand that by donating an organ, you are giving someone life, and a part of you will continue to live through.

Jorge derrama lágrimas de alegría

CONT./PÁGINA 1

"No estaba en buenas condiciones," dijo Morales. "Sentía temor todo el tiempo. Cuando iba a ver a mis hermosos nietos no podía ni siquiera respirar. Pensé que a lo menos tenía que ver a estos nietos graduándose de la secundaria. Quería verlos hacer la Primera Comunión y también y una de mis hijas que estaba planeando su boda. Yo oraba constantemente y nada me hacía sentir mejor que orar. Le dije a Dios que tenía muchas cosas por hacer antes de abandonar esta tierra," dijo ella.

del donante. Ellos me dieron el mejor regalo posible. Ellos me dieron el regalo de la vida", dijo Alma mientras lágrimas brotaban de sus ojos.

Su esposo, Jorge, le prometió hace un año que si ella recibía un trasplante cardíaco y se encontraba bien adelantada en su recuperación, él le haría una fiesta para celebrar el primer año de su nuevo contrato con la vida. Mientras el aniversario se aproximaba, familiares y amigos se contactaron con Jorge y comenzaron a planear su aniversario.

Rachael Gutiérrez Kelley ha sido amiga de Alma por los

Estamos muy agradecidos que ella esté aún viva y celebrando la vida y nosotros queríamos decirle 'gracias' a todas las personas que nos acompañaron a pasar por esto".

Tanto Alma como Jorge le dan reconocimiento por su recuperación al Instituto del Corazón del Hospital St. Luke's y a todos sus amigos que entrelazaron sus manos y oraron por ellos, cocinaron para ellos, hicieron los quehaceres y estuvieron con ellos en el hospital.

Alma adora la música y ella ha impresionado a muchas personas al ser capaz de entrar a una pista de baile a tan sólo un año después de su delicada intervención cardíaca. "Me impresionó verla allí bailando", dijo Gutiérrez Kelley. "Mi mamá y mi tía son de una generación más antigua y ellas no piensan que Alma debiera estar haciendo eso (Esforzarse). Ellas piensan que ella debería tomarlo con calma. Pero esa es Alma, ella adora bailar, ella adora la música, si uno no la conociera, uno no se daría cuenta de que fue sometida a un trasplante cardíaco".

Gutiérrez Kelley está feliz de ver a su amiga disfrutar nuevamente de la vida. Hace un año ella estaba tratando de enfrentar la idea de poder perder a su amiga. Aunque no era una conversación que ella quería entablar, ellos hablaron de la posibilidad de que Alma no fuera capaz de sobrevivir. Aquellas conversaciones desgarraban los corazones de Gutiérrez Kelley y de Alma mientras ellas enfrentaban los hechos.

"Los últimos días antes de recibir su corazón, ella se encontraba en condición crítica", dijo Gutiérrez Kelley. "Su corazón apenas latía y le tomaba mucho palpar".

Jorge le dijo a *Hispanic News* que desde enero hasta abril, Alma había estado entrando y saliendo del hospital antes de que finalmente llegaran las noticias de que los médicos habían encontrado a un donante. "Cuando finalmente nos dijeron que habían encontrado un corazón, simplemente quedamos extasia-

dos", dijo Gutiérrez Kelley.

Jorge lloró porque sus oraciones habían sido escuchadas. "Allí se había dado para nosotros otra oportunidad para recapturar nuevamente nuestra vida. Todos lloraban, pero estábamos felices de que ello iba a ocurrir", dijo él.

Antes de que apareciera un donante, Jorge pasaba las noches sin dormir, preocupándose que pudiera perder a Alma. "Muchas cosas relacionadas con perderla se me pasaban por la mente y mis hijos me llamaban y todos llorábamos en el teléfono", dijo él.

Cuando ella entró al Hospital St. Luke's, desesperadamente necesitaba de un nuevo corazón. "Ella se encontraba muy fatigada y le costaba respirar al hacer cualquiera de las actividades que a ella le gustaban hacer. Ella no tenía energía y no podía realizar la mayoría de las actividades que gustaba de hacer", dijo Monica Eaton, coordinadora de trasplantes y enfermera registrada en el Instituto del Corazón del Hospital St. Luke's. Eaton, miembro del equipo médico que ayudó con el trasplante de Morales, dijo estar ansiosa de asistir a la fiesta.

"Hoy en día Alma es una mujer positiva, feliz y activa que puede hacer exactamente ahora lo que antes no podía hacer", dijo Eaton.

El equipo de trasplantes cardíacos del Hospital St. Luke's tiene entre 300 y 500 miembros en su personal médico. El personal, pacientes y familiares crean un acercamiento mutuo mientras trabajan juntos ayudando en la recuperación del paciente. El personal visita a los pacientes a diario, ellos platican con familiares, ellos abrazan a los pacientes y a sus familias y ayudan a calmar a las familias.

Morales pareciera ser una excepción en el proceso de recuperación. A horas de recibir su nuevo corazón, ella pudo levantar su mano ante su familia mientras éstos la miraban a través de un piezo protegida por un cristal. Más tarde a ella

la movieron a un cuarto donde sus familiares podían visitarla. Eaton dice que la recuperación de cada persona es diferente.

"Un trasplante es un proceso muy difícil al cual someterse y no es solamente en lo emocional, sino que también lo es en lo físico. Los medicamentos que tienen que tomar tiene varios efectos secundarios y al cuerpo le toma mucho tiempo ajustarse a ellos y los pacientes pasan por un tiempo difícil. Si una persona es tan determinada como lo es Alma, uno puede sobreponerse a esos obstáculos y Alma siempre ha sido una persona que hace lo posible para mantenerse saludable", dijo Eaton.

El mantenerse saludable es un mensaje que Alma quiere que todos entiendan. Ella le dijo a *Hispanic News* que como madres "tenemos la tendencia a cuidar primero a todos los otros. Y no nos ponemos nosotros y nuestra salud primero como debiéramos. Las madres son el adhesivo de la familia. Si no nos cuidamos a nosotras mismas, no podríamos cuidar a nuestra familia. Yo era de la misma manera. No fui a ver al médico por mi presión alta. Yo tenía la presión sanguínea elevada y no me preocupé de ello. No fui al médico hasta que tuve una neumonía y entonces fue allí que descubrieron que tenía un corazón de mayor tamaño que lo normal. La neumonía me había atacado el corazón y fue la causa de que tuviera palpitaciones lentas. Eventualmente ello llevó a que yo necesitara de un nuevo corazón", dijo Alma.

Desde el trasplante, su familia se ha dado cuenta de la importancia de ser un donante. A su celebración, ella invitó a uno de sus médicos a que hablara sobre la importancia de ser un donante. Después de su cirugía, ella y su esposo han estado asistiendo a reuniones y a grupos de apoyo para pacientes de trasplantes. Ella dijo haber quedado sorprendida de ser los únicos hispanos residentes entre las 300 personas reunidas.

Ella descubrió después de platicar con su personal médico que la cantidad de donantes de órganos provenientes de las mi-

norías es pequeña y que ellos han lanzado una campaña para educar a las comunidades étnicas respecto a qué son las donaciones de órganos y cómo ellos pueden ayudar a vivir a alguna persona en el país mediante sus donaciones.

Viviana Medellín, técnico cardiovascular en el Hospital St. Luke's, ha estado en la lista de donantes de órganos por los pasados 25 años. Cuando Morales se encontraba en el hospital, Medellín la visitaba dos veces al día.

"Estuve allí con Alma en el comienzo cuando ella estaba en el hospital, visitándola cada día, dándole apoyo y ayudándola a entender por lo que tenía que pasar. Le dije que estaría en su fiesta", dijo ella.

Medellín dijo que antes del trasplante, Morales era una mujer que estaba preparada a morir. Aquella persona animada y llena de vida, lentamente decaía. "Hoy en día ella está absolutamente llena de vida", dijo Medellín.

Medellín es partidaria de educar a las minorías respecto a cómo ellos pueden ayudar a otros a vivir mediante la donación de órganos. La donación que la familia hizo del corazón que Alma recibió, la ayudó a regresar a la vida. Estamos celebrando que su vida comienza una vez más, ya que ella estaba golpeando las puertas de la muerte antes de esto", dijo ella.

Alma dijo que no ha tomado el regalo de su vida a la ligera. Ella está agradecida y ha prometido educar a la comunidad hispana respecto a cómo convertirse en un donante de órganos. "Las enfermeras me dijeron que en nuestra cultura a la gente no le gusta hacer esto (Donar órganos). Estaba allí junto a ellos antes de que esto me sucediera. En verdad que estaba allí. Quería irme de la misma manera en que había llegado, entera, pero ahora he cambiado de parecer, toda mi familia también lo ha hecho, todos nos inscribimos. Tenemos que entender que al donar un órgano, uno le da a alguien la vida y una parte de uno continuará viviendo en esa persona", dijo Alma.



After facing the prospect of losing his wife, Jorge Morales clings more affectionately to Alma whenever they are together.

Después de haber pasado por la posibilidad de perder a su esposa, Jorge Morales se siente más aferrado afectivamente a Alma donde quiera que estén juntos.

Sus oraciones fueron escuchadas el 9 de abril del 2008, cuando un donante compatible con ella fue ubicado y llevado con prisa a la sala de cirugía a las 2:45 a.m. La única información que ella conoce respecto a su donante es que él o ella es de Wyoming.

Ella espera contactarse algún día con la familia del donante para poder expresarle su gratitud.

"Solamente sé que mi corazón vino de Wyoming, pero desconozco el sexo, raza o edad

ARTIST EXPLORES LA FAMILIA IN FIRST SOLO SHOW

This Friday, Cara and Cabezas Contemporary Gallery presents La Familia, an exhibition of new works by 2008 Charlotte Street Foundation Fellow Adolfo Gustavo Martinez.

In his notes for the show, Ben Scott writes, "Martinez is largely known for his "sofa-size" paintings, held in permanent collections such as the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art. This series of sofas presents its viewers with an odd synthesis of images and themes. The sofas, most often decorated with images from North- and Central American popular culture and history, manage to be both visually stable and thematically tense. In them, we enter a world that is as everyday and as personal as furniture, but which addresses key political themes of immigration: appropriation, absorption, and assimilation. This tension is coupled with the dark humor of the images themselves- of their content, casual style, and titles."

In this show Martinez concentrates on a series of portraits. "My subject is family and cultural history in day to day existence. I use humor and surrealism mixing specifics of my life and cultural references," said Martinez. "I use primary colors and Mayan and Aztec motifs. It is a way of documenting our history and stories. It also has to do with mortality and immortality and the relationships that we all have with our families."

"The pieces in La Familia remind their viewers that memory is a multimedia experience; just as we relate to memories through photographs and through remembering con-

versations or patterned textiles, so does art dealing with memory do so through many media," continues Scott. "In Adolfo Martinez's work we find a series of dialogues between the everyday and the emotional, the personal and the political, and hi- and low-culture that manages to be both delightful and challenging."

Martinez earned a BFA from Pan American University in Texas, in addition to studying at the Kansas City Art Institute. His work is included in the permanent collections of various museums, and he has exhibited at both private and non-profit spaces, such as Late Show Gallery, Mattie Rhodes Art Gallery, and La Esquina. In addition, Martinez was recently selected by the Charlotte Street Foundation to participate in its Creative Capital workshops. Martinez currently lives and works in Kansas City.

There is an opening night reception, Friday, April 24, 7-10 p.m. at CARA e CABEZAS Contemporary, 218 Delaware, Suite 208, Kansas City, MO 64105. Gallery is open on scheduled open house dates and by appointment. For more information call 816.352.6289 or visit the web at www.caraandcabezas.com. Show runs April 24 - June 15, 2009.

Open House Dates:

Friday, April 24, 7-10pm

Saturday, April 25, 11am-6pm

Friday, May 29, 7-10pm

Saturday, May 30, 11am-6pm

AZTECA DE GREATER KANSAS CITY PRESENTS...

18th Annual Latin American Cinco de Mayo Celebration 2009

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Friday, May 1st
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Saturday, May 2nd
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Sunday, May 3rd
12:00pm-8:00pm
Children's Parade and More Special Entertainment
\$ 3.00 ADMISSION

* Children 12 and under are free of charge for all events

Azteca de Greater Kansas City is a not-for-profit Organization. Proceeds to benefit the Azteca de Greater Kansas City Scholarship fund. For more info visit us at: www.aztecadegkc.org. or Manny Martinez @ 816-985-6606 Sonny Martinez @ 816-591-5815

Thank you!

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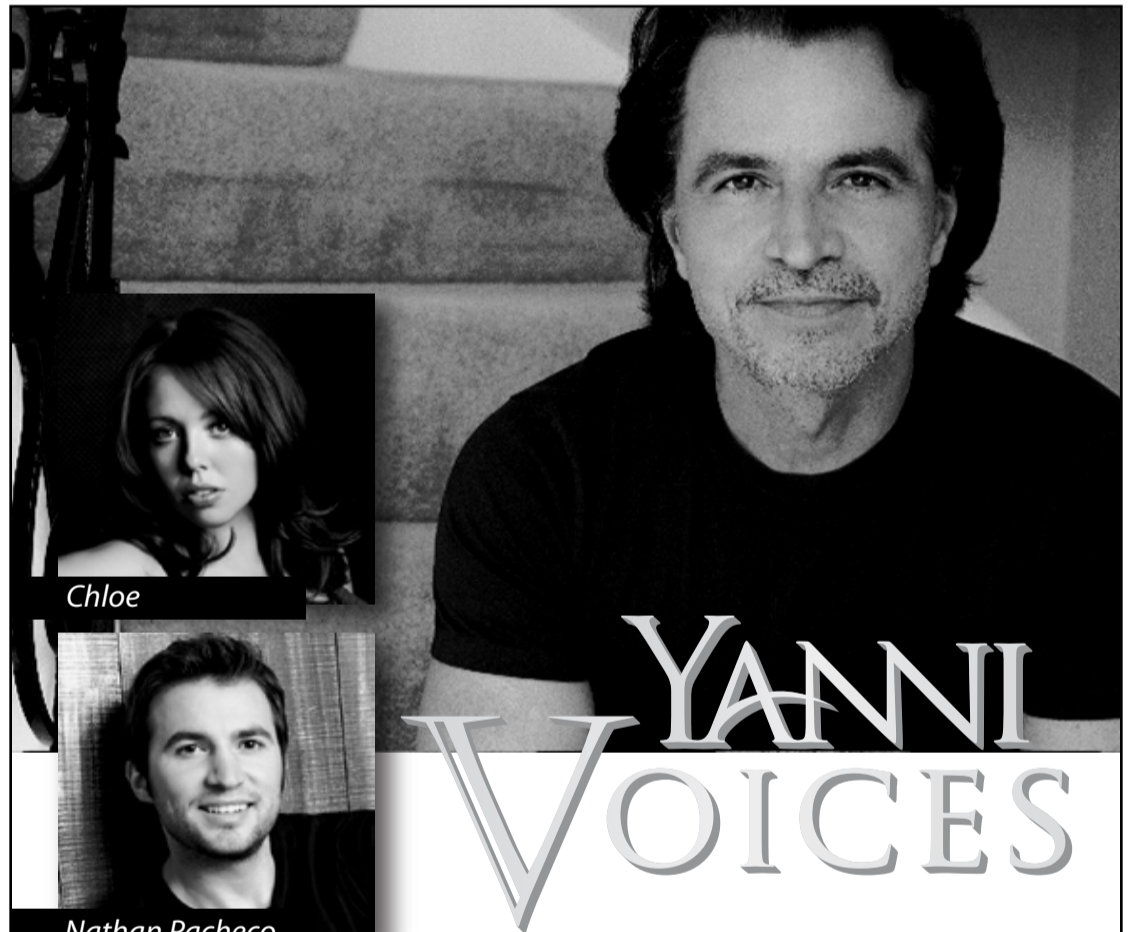
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ATTENTION

ALL RESIDENTS OF KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND a public hearing to be held on Thursday evening, May 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Unified Government Board of Commissioners Chambers in the Lobby of the Municipal Office Building. The public hearing is being sponsored by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas and the Division of Housing and Community Development. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 2009 Housing and Community Development Budget, discuss community housing needs and request citizen input into the 2009 One-Year Action Plan, and to request citizen input on issues to be considered during the Unified Government's 2009-2010 budget process.

The 2009 One-Year Consolidated Plan includes the following program applications: 35th Year Community Development Block Grant Program, 2009 HOME Investment Partnership Grant Program, and the 2009 Emergency Shelter Grant Program.

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Division of Housing and Community Development is funded through the Community Development Block Grant Program under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Division's mission is to provide safe, sanitary, and attractive housing to the city's low and moderate-income residents and to preserve and revitalize the community's neighborhoods.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas will make reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities on an as needed basis provided adequate notice (48 hours prior to) is given to the ADA Coordinator. If you require accommodations, contact the Office of disabled at 573-5680 (V) or 573-5681 (TTY).

The University of Central Missouri, a progressive, comprehensive, public university with several nationally known programs, is seeking applicants for the newly established position, Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance

The Associate Vice President will oversee Facilities Planning and Operations, risk management, real estate, and contract management, as well as assist the Vice President for Administration and Finance in other projects as directed. The Division of Administration and Finance also oversees the University Store, Department of Public Safety, Human Resources, and offices dealing with university budget, procurement, accounting, and systems coordination. As a member of the university's senior management team, the Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance will work cooperatively with other senior administrators to fulfill the university mission.

As a member of the Administration and Finance Division, the Associate Vice President will be part of a team that is key to campus growth projects including development of a new Student Recreation and Wellness Center and renovation of an adjacent classroom and office facility, launch of a new electronic procurement system, improvements to the university-owned airport, and exciting new campus energy efficiency initiatives. UCM is located in Warrensburg, about a 45-minute drive east of suburban Kansas City. It serves about 11,000 students, and offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in approximately 150 different areas of study.

Minimum qualifications for the position are as follows: master's degree in business management, public administration, finance, accounting, engineering or related field. Five years of related and progressively more responsible work experience in administration and finance within a complex organization responsible for multiple departments in higher education. Previous experience in facilities management, LEED building practices, and energy service contracts strongly preferred.

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The University of Central Missouri is currently seeking a qualified individual to serve as the Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Operations to develop, organize, and direct all phases of its facilities operations, including financial management, facilities operation and maintenance, custodial services, grounds, campus utilities and capital projects, along with energy management and sustainability programs. The position reports to the Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance.

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SPORTS ROUND UP!

Chiefs keep poker face leading up to draft



JOHN SILVA
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Football's biggest day of the offseason is the first glimpse Chiefs fans will have of a draft in the post-Peterson era. It's a day new General Manager Scott Pioli has likened to Christmas. Unlike a video game system or a piece of jewelry there are big-time prospects sitting underneath Kansas City's tree.

Just as Santa gets virtually no winks leading up to the big day, Pioli-Claus and his Head Coach Todd Haley have been burning the midnight oil trying to identify players they want to select Saturday and Sunday.

Giving no clues to go by draftniks have narrowed the favorites down to two players. Nationally it is believed that if the Chiefs hold on to the overall number three pick it will be either linebacker Aaron Curry or offensive tackle Eugene Monroe put on the big board.

The two have merit for different reasons. In his last season in charge of the Patriots draft, Pioli selected linebacker Jared Mayo with a top ten slot. The Tennes-

see tackling machine plugged into the New England starting lineup and infused youth and talent into an aging group. Kansas City has addressed perhaps the weakest unit on its team with the acquisitions of veterans Mike Vrabel and Zach Thomas to play on the inside of a 3-4 scheme. With Derrick Johnson seemingly slotted for one outside spot it would indicate one place is left to fill and that could mean Curry. If the team believes Tamba Hali can transition to a pass rushing standup backer Curry wouldn't address any immediate needs.

Curry possesses great speed and instincts on the field as well as impeccable character off the field. He is the closest thing to a no-risk pick in the top 10 this year. Where he would fit with the Chiefs is the biggest question mark because the one thing he does not excel at is the pressing need to get to the quarterback.

If the Wake Forest star doesn't get the nod most believe, it will be Branden Albert's former teammate at Virginia. Eugene Monroe represents most of what Albert represented last year for the Chiefs. A young guy that is big, strong, and agile with the versatility to play guard, Monroe projects to play left tackle in

the NFL. Why would the Chiefs pick a left tackle one year after selecting Albert to play left tackle in the NFL? This is where Pioli's second school of thought comes into play.

Last year his father-in-law, Bill Parcells, had the first overall pick. Miami had many pressing needs. Parcells passed over every other position in favor of the left tackle spot. Picking Jake Long was one of the many ointments for an ailing franchise that made the playoffs in his first year. Albert is seen as a player who can be solid at left tackle but has the skills to play equally or better on the right side of the line as a guard or tackle. Since the Chiefs signed free agent Mike Goff to play right guard, Albert could slide over to right tackle and Monroe could create a pair of Cavalier bookends to protect the Chiefs (currently) 14 million dollar man, Matt Cassel.

The third option is trading down to pick someone later and get an additional draft pick to perhaps replace the second rounder that New England now owns. Any way he goes Pioli will have the support of the Chiefs fan base as Christmas in April takes place over the weekend.

Wizards Windy City comeback memorable

After the first 45 minutes that Wizards Head Coach Curt Onalfo labeled the worst first half he's seen from his team a second half occurred that would be long remembered by KC fans.

Playing for the first of two consecutive games in front of a national audience, the Wizards continue their tough first month schedule in the Chicago suburb of Bridgeview. KC put their worst and best feet forward. Giving up two goals to Brian McBride in the first 20 minutes, the Fire controlled the action through halftime allowing zero

shots on goal.

In the second half things looked only slightly better thanks to Kevin Hartman. The Wizards keeper fended off the Fire with great saves in the 60th, 72nd, and 73rd minutes. The inability to extend their lead would cost Chicago when Claudio Lopez found forward Josh Wolff breaking toward goal. Wolff slid a shot alone in the six-yard box past off-balance keeper Jon Busch to trim the deficit to 2-1 in the 78th minute.

For the next ten minutes KC knocked on the door and Lopez helped answer in the 89th.

He switched fields from a busy left side in the Chicago end to Defender Michael Harrington who was alone on the right side. From about 30 yards out he skipped across to a streaking Wolff who headed home the ball in traffic in front of the net.

A stunned Chicago side could not regroup over the next five minutes and the Wizards picked up a point. After the game a jubilant Wolff said of the second half, "I don't know if it was the best, but it certainly was one of the most rewarding ones. Getting the point was a win for us coming into here, a great result."

FYI

Mattie Rhodes Center has Día de la Familia

On April 19 the Mattie Rhodes Center conducted its second annual Día de la Familia ("Day of the Family") celebration at its facility at 148 N. Topping Ave. in the Northeast area of Kansas City. The event celebration encouraged parents and children to spend time together as a family.

Mattie Rhodes decided to have the event on a Sunday afternoon because many families said they wanted something to do as a family after church. Carnival games and kid-friendly activities amused the children. Music and entertainment throughout the afternoon included performances from students in the agency's youth development programs. There was dancing and several raffles occurred throughout the day.

Día de la Familia was an opportunity to provide educational information and highlight community services. Mattie Rhodes provided information about its family services. Other community-based organizations and businesses provided information that covered many community issues. The event was sponsored in part by the Jackson County Safe Family Coalition, a local coalition of individuals and agencies working to reduce the co-occurrence of child abuse and domestic violence. For more information, visit www.mattierhodes.org or call 816-471-2536.



RECALL PETITION GAINING MOMENTUM, ORGANIZERS SAY

CONT./PAGE 1

day. "I have a chance to rectify something I feel I did wrong in supporting Mayor Funkhouser. I'm going to give it all I got."

Lona said he views this campaign as a civic duty to help Kansas City. He said Funkhouser has lost site of helping people. "He's not acting like a mayor. It is not a complicated issue. We don't like what he is doing."

In early April, a group of registered voters began a petition drive to collect 17,000 signatures to place the recall question on a ballot for voters to decide Funkhouser's political fate. Organizers of the recall say they are trying to secure between 20,000 and 22,000 names by May 4 to ensure the petitions qualify. The signatures then will be verified by the city clerk's office.

Some political observers say the recall effort is a long shot at best. Funkhouser, who has declined to speak directly about the recall campaign, has issued statements in the past that said he expects the recall effort to fail.

Whether a failed effort or a success, the petition drive is not a waste of time, Lona said. Either way, the recall effort is sending a message to Funkhouser, his supporters and any future mayors. The message is that Kansas City residents will not sit idly by while their city suffers from what he described as dishonest, arrogant leadership.

"He (Funkhouser) comes across as a good guy," Lona said. "He tries to come across as a people's mayor, but he may be a new kind of chameleon politician with racism that is involved too. You have people who say things one way, but they are actually thinking things another way and their heart is somewhere else."

Petición de renuncia ganando intensidad, dicen los organizadores

CONT./PÁGINA 1

era muy personal", Lona le dijo a *Hispanic News* el lunes. "Tengo la oportunidad para rectificar algo que siento haber hecho mal al haber apoyado al Alcalde Funkhouser. Voy a poner todo lo que tengo en esto".

Lona dice que considera que esta campaña es como un deber cívico para ayudar a Kansas City. Él dice que Funkhouser ha perdido la brújula en lo que va a ayudar a la gente. "Él no se está desempeñando como un alcalde. Este no es un asunto complicado. A nosotros no nos gusta lo que él está haciendo".

A comienzos de abril, un grupo de votantes registrados dio inicio a un esfuerzo para redactar una petición que recolectara 17.000 firmas para insertar la pregunta referente a una petición de renuncia en una papeleta de votación con el objeto de que los votantes puedan decidir el futuro político de Funkhouser. Las organizaciones involucradas en la petición de renuncia dicen estar tratando de obtener entre 20,000 y 22,000 nombres hasta el 4 de mayo para asegurar la calidad de la petición. Las firmas serán verificadas a continuación por la oficina del notario de la ciudad.

Algunos observadores políticos dicen que el esfuerzo para lograr la petición es a lo más, una apuesta arriesgada. Funkhouser, quien se ha negado a hablar directamente respecto a esta campaña para pedir su renuncia, ha emitido declaraciones en el pasado que dicen que él espera que el esfuerzo de esta petición falle.

Ya sea un esfuerzo fallido o un suceso, el esfuerzo para obtener la petición no es una pérdida de tiempo, dice Lona. De cualquier modo, el esfuerzo para obtener la petición le está enviando un mensaje a Funkhouser, a sus partidarios y a cualquier futuro alcalde. El mensaje es que los residentes de Kansas City no

se sentarán de brazos cruzados mientras su ciudad sufre de lo que él se refiere como un liderazgo deshonesto y arrogante.

"Él (Funkhouser) apareció como una buena persona", dice Lona. "Él trata de pasar como un alcalde del pueblo, pero él pudiera representar a un nuevo tipo de camaleones políticos en que también se involucra el racismo. Uno tiene el caso de personas que dicen las cosas de una manera, pero que en realidad están pensando de otra manera y sus corazones están en algún otro sitio".

Lona estuvo entre los residentes hispanos que trataron de negociar con la alcaldía sobre el controvertido nombramiento de Frances Semler a la Junta de Parques y Recreación de la ciudad. Hablando por su propia cuenta, Lona dice haber visto en Funkhouser y su esposa Gloria Squitiro "una indiferencia y una arrogancia y una buena porción de racismo que existe allí". Además, Lona dice que antes de que el Concilio Nacional de La Raza retirara su convención de Kansas City a causa del nombramiento de Semler, Funkhouser declaró públicamente que la pérdida de ingresos no afectaría a la ciudad. Ahora, la ciudad se encuentra en medio de un déficit financiero que no sería tan profundo si Semler hubiera sido relegada y el grupo de los derechos civiles y sus delegados hubieran venido a Kansas City, dijo Lona.

Harris Wilder, a volunteer with the recall campaign, said hundreds of copies of the petition form are on the streets, which are being circulated in all parts of the city. "The response has been overwhelming," Wilder said. However, he could not provide an estimate of the number of signatures gathered so far.

He said the city's midtown area is generating a strong portion of the daily collections. Volunteers plan to canvass several neighborhoods this weekend, including the Brookside, Waldo and Westport areas.

Wilder said the effort is being fueled by between 150 and 200 volunteers who are soliciting signatures. He said he is confident enough signatures will be collected.

Lona is among those volunteers, and he is one of the contacts listed on the recall campaign's web site. Lona admits supporting and voting for the mayor when candidate Funkhouser sought the office two



years ago. He said not helping to correct that error would be "a terrible dereliction of our responsibility."

"We didn't know him. We thought he was going to be a reformer and come across and help the little neighborhoods, but we don't see that. We don't think he can help anybody because of the attitude he takes. ... He doesn't want to be mayor of this city. He just wants to do things himself."

Lona said most people he approaches on the street to sign the petition agree he should be recalled. "It's the easiest petition I've ever done," he said.

So what message is the recall effort delivering to Funkhouser?

Lona responded, "I don't know if you can send a message to Mark Funkhouser. He won't listen."

To learn more about the effort to recall Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser, visit www.funkhouserrecall.com or call Charlie Lona at 816-337-5234.

vecindarios este fin de semana, incluyendo a las áreas de Brookside, Waldo y Westport.

Wilder dijo que el esfuerzo se está realizando con la ayuda de entre 150 y 200 voluntarios que se encuentran pidiendo firmas. Él dice estar confiado que se recolectarán suficientes firmas.

Lona se encuentra entre esos voluntarios y él es uno de los contactos cuyo nombre está en la lista para la campaña de renuncia que aparece en el portal de la Internet. Lona admite haber respaldado y votado por el alcalde cuando el entonces candidato Funkhouser buscó el cargo hace dos años. Él dice que no ayuda a enmendar ese error sería un terrible incumplimiento de nuestra responsabilidad.

"Nosotros no lo conocíamos. Pensamos que iba a ser un reformador y aparecería y ayudaría a los vecindarios pequeños, pero no estamos viendo eso. No creemos que él pueda ayudar a nadie a consecuencias de la actitud que adopta. ... Él no quiere ser alcalde de esta ciudad. Él simplemente quiere hacer las cosas por su propia cuenta".

Lona dice que la mayoría de la gente a quien él se le acerca en las calles para que firmen la petición, concuerdan que a él debe pedirle la renuncia. "Es la petición de renuncia más fácil que haya hecho", dijo él.

Entonces ¿Cuál mensaje le está enviando a Funkhouser el esfuerzo para la petición de renuncia?

Lona respondió, "Yo no sé si uno le puede enviar un mensaje a Funkhouser. Él no escuchará".

Para enterarse más sobre esfuerzo para la petición de renuncia al Alcalde de Kansas City Mark Funkhouser, visite la Internet en www.funkhouserrecall.com o llame a Charlie Lona al 816-337-5234.

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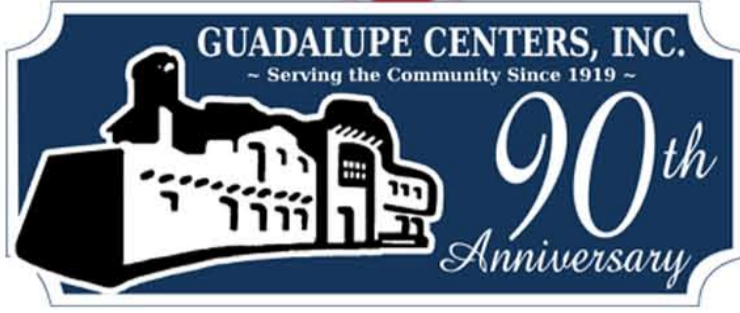
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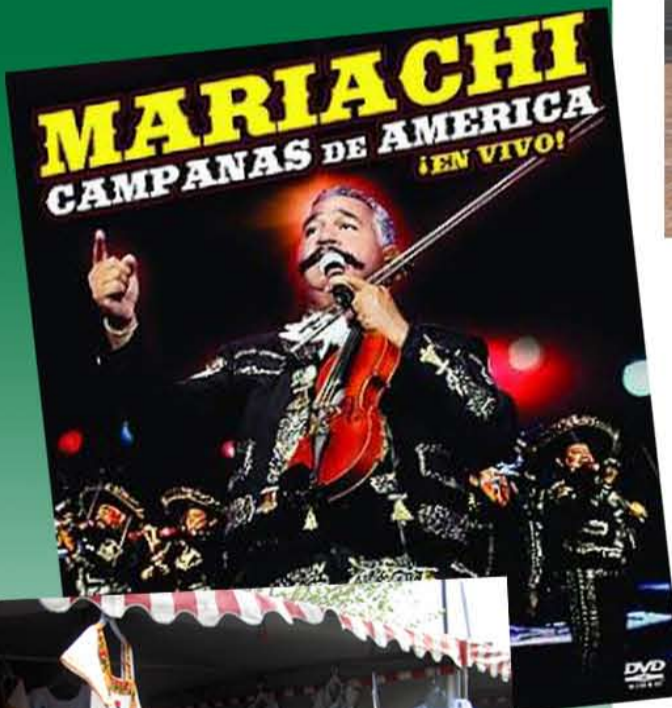
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3:30-4:45pm Las Estrellas
4:45-5:10pm ZUMBA
5:10-6:25pm Bandolero
6:25-6:45pm Grupo Atotonilco
6:45-8:00pm La Mañana Band
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8:30-10:00pm Tropical Azul

Sunday, May 3

12:00-1:00pm Mariachi Mass (Campanas de America)
1:00-2:00pm Mariachi Mexico
2:00-2:30pm Grupo Atotonilco
2:30-3:30pm Mariachi Habanero (Topeka)
3:30-4:00pm Grupo Atotonilco
4:00-5:00pm Mariachi Campanas de America
5:00-5:30pm ZUMBA
5:30-6:30pm Mariachi Luna y Sol (Omaha)
6:30-6:50pm Grupo Atotonilco
7:00-7:45pm Mariachi Campanas de America
7:45-8:00pm Atotonilco with Campanas de Amer.

