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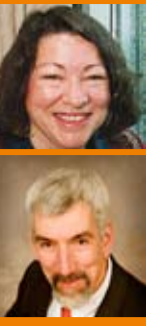
PERIÓDICO BILINGÜE

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President Back
Obama nominate
New York Judge
Sonia Sotomayor to
the Supreme Court

Mayor Mark Funk-
houser days may be
number

SEE PAGE 3



Ruben Ramos set to perform for GCI's Summer Concert

Rubén Ramos está programado a actuar en el Concierto de Verano del GCI

Ruben Ramos has performed for decades, but each time he gets on the stage, he can give you a show to remember. Tejano music fans young and old enjoy his original music of the 70's and 80's.

Rubén Ramos ha actuado por décadas, pero cada vez que se sube al escenario, él es capaz de entregarle a uno un show para recordarlo. Los fanáticos de la música tejano jóvenes y viejos disfrutan de su música original del los años setentas y ochentas.



JOE ARCE
HISPANIC NEWS

When it comes to Ruben Ramos, the veteran Tejano band leader better known as El Gato Negro (The Black Cat), it's a safe bet that hundreds of music lovers will come out to listen and dance to one of the great musical artists in the country.

Guadalupe Centers Inc. is proud to present as part of their 90th celebration, the Friday night summer series concert featuring Ruben Ramos and The Mexican Revolution on KC

KC FANS CAUGHT/PAGE 2

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Cuando se trata de Rubén Ramos, el veterano líder de una banda Tejana mejor conocido como el Gato Negro, es una apuesta segura que cientos de amantes de la música vendrán a escucharle y a bailar con uno de los grandes artistas en el país.

Guadalupe Centers Inc. están orgullosos de presentar como parte de su celebración No. 90, el viernes por la noche el concierto de las series veraniegas que presentará a Rubén Ramos y The Mexican Revolution el

FANÁTICOS DE/PÁGINA 1

IT'S A BABY BOOMER JOB FAIR

Es una feria de trabajo para quienes nacieron durante la explosión de bebés



Virginia Bueno was among the nearly 200 people handing out resumes and looking for a job last week at the Gillham Plaza Building Job Fair in Kansas City. She's proud to be 70 years young and she feels she has lots of experience to offer. By the way, she is bilingual and she considers that a plus in the job market.

Virginia Bueno se encontraba entre las casi 200 personas pasando currículos y buscando trabajo en la Feria de Trabajo del Gillham Plaza Building en Kansas City. Ella está orgullosa de tener 70 años y siente que tiene mucha experiencia que ofrecer. Por si viniera al caso, ella es bilingüe y ella lo considera una ventaja en el mercado laboral.

JOE ARCE AND TONY BALANDRAN
HISPANIC NEWS

Warmer temperatures are here. Graduations are in full swing. The flower beds are in full bloom. So begins a national summer of unemployment for millions who have lost their jobs because of a weakened economy.

However, this year is different. With health insurance costs rising and the value of retirement funds and 401Ks dropping, the demographics of the job applicants include a widening gap between age groups and experience.

"The older worker has a more reliable work ethic," said Heather Van

LATINO WORKERS/PAGE 4

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

Las temperaturas más calidas están aquí. Las graduaciones están a toda máquina. Los lechos florales están floreciendo. Pero también comienza un verano nacional de desempleo para millones que han perdido sus trabajos debido a la debilitada economía.

Sin embargo, este año es diferente. Con los costos de los seguros de salud elevándose y los valores de los fondos de jubilaciones y 401K cayendo, el perfil demográfico de los postulantes a trabajos incluye una amplia brecha entre grupos de edades y experiencia.

"El trabajador de mayor edad tiene

TRABAJADORES/PÁGINA 4

MINIMUM WAGE TO RISE IN KANSAS

Salario Mínimo subirá en Kansas en el 2010

DEBRA DECASTER
HISPANIC NEWS

The Kansas minimum wage rate has been stagnant for 20 years. Some workers in the state of Kansas have been working for \$2.65 an hour and holding down two or three jobs to support their families. Encouraging news came this month from Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson when he held a press conference at the Reardon Center in Kansas City, Kan., taking a moment to discuss the signing of Senate Bill 160, which raises the state minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour.

Democratic leaders in the Kansas House and Senate have been working during the past year to get this bill approved under former Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

State Rep. Louis Ruiz said the new law will mean hope and a better quality of life for constituents. His district represents a workforce that has a varied pay scale. His constituents range from well-paid workers to low-income workers on the verge of poverty.

"Some people in my district were stuck in minimum wage. If an employer can get away with paying you less, they are going to get away with that. That is the nature of the beast," Ruiz told *Hispanic News*.

Kansas is ranked as one of the lowest minimum-wage states. The law will bring Kansas in line with the federal minimum wage, which is scheduled to increase in July from \$6.55 an hour to \$7.25 an hour. The state law increases the state minimum wage from \$2.65 to \$7.25 an hour on Jan. 1, 2010.

The bill was signed into law by Sebelius. "This legislation is long overdue and I am so grateful of the legislators, business leaders and working Kansans who helped make this possible. While the state minimum wage only ap-

DRIVE-BY/PAGE 1



Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson talked about raising the minimum wage in the state of Kansas, which is good news for many Kansans. Many of those who attended the event wanted to share in this photo opportunity with the governor.

El Gobernador de Kansas Mark Parkinson habló respecto a subir el salario mínimo en el Estado de Kansas, lo que significa buenas noticias para muchos habitantes de Kansas. Muchos de aquellos que asistieron al evento querían compartir en esta foto una oportunidad con el gobernador.

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

El promedio del salario mínimo de Kansas ha estado languideciendo por 20 años. Algunos trabajadores en el estado de Kansas han estado trabajando por \$2.65 a la hora y laborando en dos o tres trabajos para mantener a sus familias. Noticias alentadoras se escucharon este mes de parte del Gobernador de Kansas Mark Parkinson cuando ofreció una conferencia de prensa en el centro Reardon de Kansas City, Kan., tomándose un momento para discutir la firma de la Ley 160 del Senado, la cual eleva el salario mínimo del estado a \$7,25 por hora.

Líderes Demócratas en la Casas de Representantes y en el Senado de Kansas han estado trabajando a lo largo del año pasado para hacer que este proyecto de ley sea aprobado bajo el mandato de la ex Gobernadora Kathleen Sebelius.

El representante del Estado Louis Ruiz dijo que la nueva ley significará esperanzas y una mejor calidad de vida para los representados. Su distrito representa una fuerza de trabajo que tiene una variada escala de salarios. Sus representados varían desde trabajadores bien pagados hasta trabajadores de bajos ingresos a las puertas de la pobreza.

"Algunas personas en mi distrito se habían quedado pegadas en el salario mínimo. Si un empleador se puede salir con la suya pagándole a usted menos dinero, ellos se saldrán con la suya. Esa es la naturaleza de la bestia", Ruiz le dijo a *Hispanic News*.

Kansas figura como uno de los estados de salarios mínimos. La ley pondrá a Kansas en línea con el salario mínimo federal, el cual está programado para aumentar en julio desde los \$6,55 por hora hasta los \$7,25 la hora. La ley estatal incrementará el salario

DISPAROS HECHOS/PÁGINA 2

CONNECTING WITH MEXICO & OTHER COUNTRIES ADVANCE TRADE

Conectando a México con Missouri

Because of The Greater Kansas City Foreign Trade Zone (GKCFTZ) Mexico is able to process and effectively move products throughout the United States. Mexican states import various textiles and spirits (wines and liquors) into the GKCFTZ where they are processed, stored and then distributed.

As a result of the National Association of Foreign Trade Zones (NAFTZ), most products that have their "origins" in Mexico enter the United States "duty free." Importers of these goods realize a savings in Customs fees and deferral of certain federal taxes (i.e. federal alcohol, tobacco, and firearms taxes) by "admitting" these products into the GKCFTZs. If Mexican products are exported from the U.S. to other countries, they never "enter" the U.S. since Foreign Trade Zones are declared "foreign" soil. Therefore, Mexico's importers do not have to pay Customs fees and taxes,

Along with Mexico, 15 other countries take advantage of GKCFTZs. As a consequence, in fiscal year 2008 alone the output value from the two Foreign Trade Zones (No. 17 on the Kansas side and No. 15 in Missouri) designated under the GKCFTZ was in excess of \$762 million. That amount,

A causa de la Gran Zona de Intercambio Comercial Foráneo del Gran Kansas City (GKCFTZ) México es capaz de procesar y mover productos en forma efectiva a través de los EE.UU. Los estados mexicanos importan una variedad de textiles y bebidas alcohólicas (Vinos y licores) a GKCFTZ en donde son procesados, almacenados y luego distribuidos.

Como resultado de la Asociación Nacional de Zonas para el Intercambio Comercial Foráneo (NAFTZ), la mayoría de los productos que tienen sus "orígenes" en México entran a los EE.UU. "libres de impuestos". Los importadores de estas mercancías logran ahorros en tarifas aduaneras y el pago diferido de ciertos impuestos federales (Ej. impuestos federales al alcohol, al tabaco y a las armas de fuego) al "admitir" estos productos a las GKCFTZ. Si los productos mexicanos son exportados desde EE.UU. a otros países, ellos nunca "entran" a EE.UU., ya que las Zonas para el Intercambio Comercial Foráneo son declaradas suelo "extranjero". Por lo consiguiente, los importadores de México no tienen que pagar tarifas aduaneras e impuestos.

Junto con México, 15 otros países le sacan partido a las GKCFTZ. Como consecuencia, tan sólo en el año fiscal del 2008 el valor produc-



Alfred Figuly, President and CEO

tivo de las dos Zonas para el Intercambio Comercial (No. 17 en el lado de Kansas y No. 15 en Missouri) designadas bajo la GKCFTZ, fue en exceso de \$762 millones. Esa cantidad, dice Alfred Figuly, presidente & ejecutivo de GKCFTZ, es un 2 1/2 por ciento más alto que en el 2007.

Los países de origen para los productos importados en GKCFTZ incluyen: México; Taiwán; Alemania; Italia; España; Macao; Sudáfrica; Corea; Japón; China; Pakistán; Malasia; Indonesia; Suiza, Finlandia y Francia.

GENTE FALLA/PÁGINA 6

PEOPLE FAIL/PAGE 6

KC CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF TEJANO MUSIC

CONT./PAGE 1



GCI Friday night Concert featuring Ruben Ramos and The Mexican Revolution will bring out the old school of tejanos fans. The fans are ready to dance and are looking forward to this special show.

El concierto del viernes por la noche de GCI con la actuación de Ruben Ramos y The Mexican Revolution traerán de vuelta la vieja era de los fanáticos del tejano. Los fanáticos están listos para bailar y esperan ansiosos este especial evento.

Westside on June 5 at 1015 Avenida Cesar E. Chavez.

GCI president/CEO Cris Medina told *Hispanic News*, "We wanted to do something special and do it on First Friday and connect with the Crossroad Art crawl. We are excited to bring this entertainment and event to the community." Medina admits this is also a way to bring people back into the Latino community and re-establish a tide with their friends and family. As an example earlier this month GCI conducted its annual Cinco de Mayo celebration and people came back into the community to see the expansion of the center. Medina said, "Once they see the expanded center, they are blown over. They can't believe how nice the building is or how large it is. I get overwhelmed by what they see and how they remember the center (in the early days) and then they see some of the old-timers and a lot of them start reminiscing."

Medina said he wants to attract people back into the community and into the Guadalupe Center and get them involved somehow. "They can become a volunteer or participate in a program or just come and support the center summer concerts," Medina told *Hispanic News*.

No me canso de la música Tejana de la antigua academia

CONT./PÁGINA 1

5 de junio en el Westside de KC ubicado en el 1015 de la Avenida César E. Chávez.

El presidente/gerente de GCI Cris Medina le dijo a *Hispanic News*, "Queríamos hacer algo especial y hacerlo durante el Primer Viernes y conectarlos con la multitud que asiste a los Primeros Viernes del Arte en el área de Crossroads. Estamos entusiasmados de traerle este entretenimiento y traerlo a la comunidad", Medina admite que ésta es también una manera de traer de regreso a la gente a la comunidad latina y reestablecer un lazo con sus amigos y familiares. Como un ejemplo, a comienzos de este mes GCI condujo su celebración anual del Cinco de Mayo y la gente regresó a la comunidad para ver la expansión del centro. Medina dijo, "Una vez que vieron el expandido centro, quedaron impresionados. Ellos no pueden creer lo hermoso que es el edificio o lo grande que es. Yo quedo abrumado por lo que ellos ven y cómo recuerdan al centro (En sus primeros días) y luego ellos ven a algunas de las personas antiguas y muchos de ellos comienzan a recordar".

Medina dice que quiere atraer a la gente de regreso a la comunidad y al Guadalupe Center y hacerlos que participen de alguna manera. "Ellos pueden ofrecerse como voluntarios o participar en un programa o simplemente venir y apoyar los conciertos de verano del centro", Medina le dijo a *Hispanic News*.

Nacido en Sugarland, Texas, Rubén Ramos Pérez es el heredero de una familia cuyo legado musical nació hace más de 80 años, un legado que está vivo y coleando a pesar de la férrea competencia y de reportes sobre una disminución dentro de su base de fanáticos. Como baterista tocando junto a sus hermanos y más tarde como líder de banda, El Gato Negro ha sido un embajador de la música.

Born in Sugarland, Texas, Ruben Ramos Perez is the scion of a musical family legacy born more than 80 years ago, a legacy that is alive and well despite fierce competition and reports of a dwindling fan base. As a drummer playing alongside his brothers and later as a bandleader, El Gato Negro has been an ambassador for the music.

Ruben, unlike many others, has always maintained his signature sound. He has never replaced his vibrant and fat horn section with synthesizers like most of his contemporaries. Nor did he adapt to new sounds or styles. El Gato Negro, in his own words, is "Old School."

Ricardo Hernandez, a music manager, told *Hispanic News* last year, "He was way ahead of his time with his sound back in the 70's. Tejano music is a fusion of all the music we love — R&B, Jazz, Pop, and Rock. He incorporated all these things years ago." Hernandez recalled the time in the 70's when Ramos went solo after leaving his brother Alfonso. "In the 70's there were many bands with horn sections, bands like Chicago, Tower of Power, Blood, Sweat & Tears and Motown, he was incorporating those riffs to his brass section back then,

Rubén, a diferencia de muchos otros, siempre ha mantenido su característico sonido. Él nunca ha reemplazado su vibrante y maciza sección de metales o vientos con sintetizadores como muchos de sus contemporáneos lo han hecho, ni tampoco se ha adaptado a estilo o sonidos nuevos. El Gato Negro es una fusión de toda la música que amamos, R&B, Jazz, Pop y Rock. Él incorporó todas esas cosas hace años". Hernández se recuerda de la vez allá por los setentas cuando Ramos se convirtió en solista después de haber dejado a su hermano Alfonso. "En los setentas habían muchas bandas con secciones de metales, bandas como Chicago, Tower of Power, Blood, Sweat & Tears y el estilo del Motown, él estaba incorporando todas esas líneas musicales a su sección de metales por ese entonces y continúa haciéndolo, y ahora eso no es nostalgia, es clásico".

Ricardo Hernández, un manager de la banda, le dijo a *Hispanic News* el año pasado, "Él estuvo adelantado a su tiempo con su sonido por allá por los años setentas. La música estilo tejano es una fusión de toda la música que amamos, R&B, Jazz, Pop y Rock. Él incorporó todas esas cosas hace años". Hernández se recuerda de la vez allá por los setentas cuando Ramos se convirtió en solista después de haber dejado a su hermano Alfonso. "En los setentas habían muchas bandas con secciones de metales, bandas como Chicago, Tower of Power, Blood, Sweat & Tears y el estilo del Motown, él estaba incorporando todas esas líneas musicales a su sección de metales por ese entonces y continúa haciéndolo, y ahora eso no es nostalgia, es clásico".

Al escuchar su última grabación, uno escucha la base clásica y la verdadera calidad de su música. La riqueza del sonido y las increíbles armonizaciones vocales son complementadas por el virtuoso acordeonista, vocalista y productor Rick Fuentes. Quien aporta la química necesaria para producir las bellas armonías que hacen recordar a las antiguas grabaciones hechas por Rubén y sus hermanos.

Fuentes, quien ha sido parte de la banda por 16 años dijo, "La voz de Rubén tiene mucha clase y mucho sentimiento. Él tiene mucho sentimiento. Es fácil seguirlo y armonizar con él cuando está cantando desde el corazón". Fuentes se siente muy afortunado de ser parte de esto, "puesto que Rubén Ramos es historia

and continues to do it, and now that's not nostalgic, it's classic."

Listening to his latest music, a music fan hears the classical base and true quality of his music. The rich sound and superb harmonies are complemented by a virtuoso accordionist, vocalist and producer Rick Fuentes, who adds the necessary chemistry to produce beautiful harmonies reminiscent of the ones done in earlier recordings by Ruben and his brothers.

Fuentes, who has been part of the band for 16 years said, "Ruben's voice has lots of class and lots of feel. He has mucho sentimiento. It's easy to follow and harmonize with him when he's singing from the heart." Fuentes feels very fortunate to be part of this "because Ruben Ramos is history in the making. He is 30 years older, and I have a hard time keeping up with him."

Fuentes believes the loyalty of fans is rooted in the fact that Ruben is true to his music. "People know what they're going to get, they know they are going to hear Paloma Negra, El Gato Negro, Quiero Besar Tu Boca, they know they are going to get Tejano, Chicano music."

Ramos is reticent when questioned about his legend status. "It humbles me a lot. I always think of legends as gone, when you're gone, you become a legend, but I'm still alive. And people have said, 'but you're still a legend,' so it's really humbling to me, and you know. ... I'm just a bandleader, musician."

Ramos went on to explain the purpose of his job as he changed the topic. "I've been in the business because I love what I do. I love to bring music to people. I try to make people happy, and I try to make people forget that they have to pay the utility bills or whatever problems they may have."

Hernandez described Ramos as a legend. After matching musicians such as Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Al Hirsh, and Bruce Springsteen

viva". Fuentes tiene 30 años y le cuesta ponerse a la par con él.

Fuentes cree que las lealtades de sus fanáticos están enraizadas en el hecho de que Rubén es fidedigno a su música, "la gente sabe lo que va a recibir, ellos saben que van a escuchar Paloma Negra, El Gato Negro, Quiero Besar Tu Boca, ellos saben que van a escuchar música estilo Tejano, Chicano".

Ramos se muestra reticente cuando se le pregunta respecto a su estatus de leyenda. "Me hace sentir mucha humildad. Siempre he pensado en la leyendas como algo que se ha ido, cuando uno ya se ha ido se convierte en leyenda, pero todavía estoy vivo y la gente dice, pero aún así eres una leyenda, por lo que eso me hace verdaderamente sentir humildad, y ustedes saben. ... Yo soy simplemente un líder de una banda, un músico".

Ramos luego prosiguió explicando el propósito de su trabajo mientras cambiaba el tema. "Me he mantenido en el negocio porque adoro lo que hago. Adoro llevarle la música a la gente, trato de hacer feliz a la gente y trato de hacer que la gente se olvide de que tienen que pagar las cuentas de la energía o cualquier problema que pudieran tener".

Hernández describe a Ramos como una leyenda. Luego de equiparar a músicos tales como Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Al Hirsh y Bruce Springsteen con sus respectivos grupos étnicos y contribuciones musicales, él preguntó, "¿Y a quién tenemos nosotros? Nuestro género musical, nuestra gente tiene a uno de los más increíbles tesoros que se pudieran tener, Rubén Ramos. Él es una leyenda viva de la música estilo Tejano, él es nuestro tesoro", dijo Hernández.

La atracción de esa leyenda es un factor clave para muchos fanáticos que esperan mantener una tradición musical la cual según algunos, ha sido testigo de mejores tiempos.

with their respective ethnicities and musical contributions, he asked, "And who do we have? Our genre, our people have one of the most amazing treasures that we'll ever have, Ruben Ramos. He's a Tejano music living legend, he's our treasure," said Hernandez.

The appeal of that legend is a key factor for many fans hoping to maintain a musical tradition that according to some has seen better days.

Local DJs who play in restaurants and bars say they always get requests for Ruben Ramos music. Community radio station KKFI's (90.1 FM) Tejano shows also get their fair share of requests.

The fact is that the excitement and loyalty of Tejano music fans constitute a solid base for this genre to expand and reach once again the prominence it exhibited in the 70's and 80's. There's already class and legend personified by Ruben Ramos, and many other Tejano legends such as Little Joe and Roberto Pulido.

Kansas City band Las Estrellas, a local favorite, will open for Ruben Ramos at the Guadalupe Center. Band leader David Tinoco described what it is like to open a show that highlights Ruben Ramos. "In our world, it's a privilege just to work with him, even more to perform with him," Tinoco told *Hispanic News*. "He is a legend, he's a pioneer in Tejano music. There is an aura about him."

The fans have eagerly await for Ruben Ramos and The Mexican Revolution as they prepare to perform in the heart of Kansas City's Latino community. Admission is \$5.00 per person for the concert, which is scheduled from 7 to 11p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m.



Ruben Ramos is humbled by the fans who ask for his autograph and by the sales of his CDs because he appreciates the fan base he has in Kansas City. He told *Hispanic News* that coming to Kansas City is like performing to a home-town crowd.

Rubén Ramos siente humildad cuando los fanáticos le piden autógrafos y también por las ventas de su CD ya que él aprecia la base de fanáticos que tiene en Kansas City. Él le dijo a *Hispanic News* que el venir a Kansas City es como actuar ante una muchedumbre en casa.

Disk Jockeys locales que ponen música en restaurantes y cantinas dicen que a ellos siempre la gente les pide que toquen música de Rubén Ramos. El Show Tejano de la estación radial comunitaria KKFI's (90.1 FM) también recibe su justa dosis de pedidos.

El hecho es que el entusiasmo y la lealtad de los fanáticos de la música tejano constituyen una sólida base para este genero musical para que se expanda y alcance una vez más la prominencia que exhibió en los años setentas y ochentas. Ya existe clase y la leyenda personificada por Rubén Ramos y muchas otras leyendas del Tejano como Little Joe y Roberto Pulido.

La banda de Kansas City Las Estrellas, un favorito local, abrirá el show para Rubén Ramos. El líder de la banda David Tinoco describe lo que significa abrir un show que tenga a Rubén Ramos como luminaria. "En nuestro mundo, es un privilegio el tan sólo trabajar con él, e incluso más actuar con él", Tinoco le dijo a *Hispanic News*. "Él es una leyenda, él es un pionero en la música tejano. Allí hay un aura sobre él".

Los fanáticos han esperado ansiosamente a Rubén Ramos y The Mexican Revolution mientras éstos se preparan para actuar en el corazón de la comunidad latina de Kansas City. Para el concierto programado a realizarse entre las 7 y las 11 p.m., las entradas tendrán un valor de \$5 por persona. Las puertas abrirán a las 5 p.m.

Minimum wage raise takes effect in 2010

CONT./PAGE 1



plies to a small sector of Kansas workforce, to them and their families, this legislation is critically important," Sebelius stated on the Kansas Democratic Party's Web site.

The bill was supported by Sen. Marci Francisco, the Kansas Action Network, the Kansas AFL-CIO, the Kansas National Education Association, the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas and the Kansas Department of Labor. Some business owners opposed the bill, arguing that they may have to face higher operating costs if the bill passed. Some members of the Republican Party said they did not think there was a workforce of adults in the state that was earning the low rate of \$2.65 an hour.

"The majority party didn't recognize anybody who they thought was making minimum wage unless you were a kid. They didn't think there were any adults making this low wage. I served on a scholarship committee for the Hispanic Media Association and we reviewed W-2s for scholarship applicants and I couldn't believe it, there were families of four or five people who were making \$26,000 a year. I know there are people in

El aumento en el salario mínimo entrará en efecto en el 2010

CONT./PÁGINA 1

mínimo estatal desde \$2,65 a \$7,25 la hora a partir del primero de enero del 2010.

El proyecto de ley fue firmado como ley por Sebelius. "Esta legislación ha sido esperado por mucho tiempo y estoy agradecida de los legisladores, líderes de negocios y trabajadores de Kansas que ayudaron a hacer esto posible. Aunque el salario mínimo del estado solamente aplica a un pequeño sector de la fuerza laboral de Kansas, para ellos y sus familias, esta legislación es de importancia crítica", declaró Sebelius en el Portal de la Internet perteneciente la Partido Demócrata de Kansas.

El proyecto de ley fue respaldado por la Senadora Marci Francisco, por la Red de Acción de Kansas, el sindicato laboral AFL-CIO de Kansas, la Asociación Nacional para la Educación de Kansas, el Concilio de Todo el Estado de Kansas para Vivir Independiente y por el Departamento del Trabajo de Kansas. Algunos dueños de negocios se opusieron al proyecto de ley, argumentando que ellos podrían tener que enfrentar costos operativos más altos si se aprobaba el proyecto de ley. Algunos miembros del Partido Republicano dijeron que no pensaban que en el estado pudiera existir una fuerza laboral de adultos ganando el bajo promedio de \$2,65 a la hora.

"El partido mayoritario no reconoció a ninguna persona de quien ellos tuvieran conocimiento ganando el salario mínimo a menos que uno fuera un muchacho.

Ellos no pensaban que allí hubieran adultos ganando este bajo salario. Yo me desempeñé en un comité para una beca para la Asociación Hispana de Prensa y recibimos formulario de impuestos W-2 para los postulantes a la beca y no lo pude creer, allí habían familias de cuatro o cinco personas que estaban ganando \$26.000 al año. Yo sé que hay personas en Kansas ganando el salario mínimo", dijo Ruiz.

El Gobierno Unificado en

Kansas drawing the minimum wage," Ruiz said.

The Unified Government in Kansas City, Kan., examined the minimum wage rates in their city a year ago. "We took it upon ourselves to really take a hard look at what we could do to affect the minimum wage within our boundaries, and we actually passed a local ordinance raised the minimum wage. We are pretty excited that the Legislature has taken that initiative as well and really stood up for working men and women throughout the State of Kansas in a significant way," Kansas City, Kan., Mayor Joe Reardon said.

As he stood before members of the community and local leaders, Parkinson said, "I want to thank the Unified Government for having the vision to set the example of what needed to be done at the state level. I want to thank the labor leaders who recognized that a \$2.65 minimum wage is not only an embarrassment to the state but is a wage that people simply cannot live on. You cared enough to push this as an issue, and you have improved the lives of thousands of Kansans across the state."

Ruiz said he hopes the law will give his constituents a glimmer of hope that their quality of life will improve. "I have been to grocery stores and seen people put things back because they can't afford to buy groceries for their families. That is very sad and hopefully this will give them a sparkle of hope. I have homeless school kids in my district. I am hoping this will help the parents. This increase will benefit the children and the parents who are at the low end of the salary spectrum," he said.

Kansas City, Kan., examinó los promedios del salario mínimo en su ciudad hace un año. "Nos dimos verdaderamente a la tarea de darle una minuciosa mirada a qué podíamos hacer para afectar el salario mínimo dentro de nuestros límites y efectivamente pasamos una ordenanza local elevando el salario mínimo. Estamos bastante entusiasmados de que la legislatura haya tomado esa iniciativa también y verdaderamente respaldaron a los trabajadores/as de todo el estado de Kansas de una manera significativa", dijo el alcalde de Kansas City, Kan., Joe Reardon.

Mientras se encontraba ante miembros de la comunidad y líderes locales, Parkinson dijo, "Quiero agradecerle al Gobierno Unificado por tener la visión para instaurar el ejemplo de lo que necesita hacerse a nivel del estado. Quiero agradecerle a los líderes laborales quienes reconocieron que un salario mínimo de \$2,65 no solamente es una vergüenza para el estado, sino que también es un salario con el cual la gente simplemente no puede vivir. Ustedes se preocuparon lo bastante para empujar esto como un problema y ustedes han mejorado las vidas de miles de personas en todo el estado de Kansas".

Ruiz dijo que espera que la ley le entregará a sus representados un rayo de esperanza de que su calidad de vida mejorará. "He estado en tiendas de abarrotes y he visto a la gente poner cosas de vuelta porque no pueden costear los abarrotes para sus familias. Eso es muy triste y esperamos que esto les dará un rayo de esperanza. Hay niños escolares sin hogar en mi distrito. Este incremento beneficiará a los niños y a los padres que se encuentran en la zona baja del espectro salarial", dijo él.



A HISTORIC CHOICE



The moment caught many area Latinos by surprise. Early Tuesday morning, President Barack Obama announced the nomination of federal appeals judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court where she will fill the seat being vacated by Justice David Souter. Sotomayor is the first Hispanic nominated

to the high court and would become if nominated only the third woman to serve on the bench.

Sotomayor is of Puerto Rican descent and grew up in a Bronx housing project. Her father died when she was nine and she was raised by her mother who worked to ensure a Catholic education for her

and her brother. Sotomayor acknowledge the sacrifice of her mother. "I am all I am because of her and I am only half the woman she is."

Local attorney Janell Avila upon hearing the news told *Hispanic News*, "Sonia Sotomayor is very qualified with her educational and social background. It is nice to see a Latina being nominated and considered among with people that are also equally qualified. In regard to her professionally she has to be more qualified than others perhaps that were being considered."

Indeed, if experience were the sole criteria, Sotomayor has served more time on the federal bench than many other nominees and more than all the current ones on the court. Avila believes that it is those qualifications that should set her apart. "Having Sonia Sotomayor serve in the courts for many years, I would hope she was nominated on her own merit and not on her ethnic background."

Though democrats control both houses of Congress, early indications are that the nomination will be contested by the Republicans and interest groups.

It's all in the numbers

On Memorial Day, a local group that has been working on securing enough petition signatures to force the recall of Mayor Mark Funkhouser turned over those signatures to City Clerk Vickie Thompson. Funkhouser said he was confident that the recall effort would fail.

Recall spokesperson Harris Wilder told *Hispanic News*, "We did all we could. ... We are proud of what we have done. Given the fact that we had zero support from any powerful organizations - no one supported us; not La Raza, not Freedom Inc., not the Citizens Associations none of the political clubs. Everybody let us do the dirty work for them. And that is fine. We are totally happy to have done that for them and this city."

The city clerk will work to verify the signatures to ensure that there are roughly 17,000 valid signatures required to trigger the recall process. The result should be available by the first of June.

kchispanicnews.com

ESL TEACHER SELECTED FOR TURKISH STUDY TOUR

Kansas City, Missouri School District (KCMSD) French teacher Philippe Vinaimont not only has successfully mastered the multicultural milieu himself, he is happily preparing his students at Southwest Early College Campus (SWECC) to find their place on the world stage as well. Recently, his team of six freshmen competitors performed and held their own at the 2009 Academic Worldquest competition sponsored by the International Relation Council (IRC).

"I see the world as my backyard. A little care and a lot of love make it more beautiful every day," he says. Vinaimont has a great interest in international affairs and he has made it his life goal to introduce students to critical events in the world.

Vinaimont is one of six area teachers selected by IRC to join educators from across the nation to tour Turkey this summer with the Turkish Cultural Foundation. The teachers will visit schools, engage in discussions with experts on current issues for Turkey, explore ancient buildings, and get a taste of life in modern Turkey in the big cities and in the countryside.

When the teachers return to our community, they will present programs at their schools to share with their students this new knowledge of an intriguing part of the world.

The tour is sponsored by the IRC through a grant from the World Affairs Councils of America and the Turkish Cultural Foundation. Philippe Vinaimont is a native of Belgium but has been living in Kansas City for more than 18 years. He has traveled and worked in many different countries, including Republic of Congo, Vietnam, Belgium, Indonesia and USA. Vinaimont has dedicated his life to education and has been an elementary teacher, an ESL teacher and is currently the ESL coordinator at SWECC.

In 1996, Vinaimont completed research studies in Vietnam for his master's thesis at Kansas State University on the "Preservation of a Foreign Language under Difficult Circumstances." He was also a recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities Foreign Language Fellowship from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Exile is a Democratic Experience

MARISELLA VEIGA
HISPANIC LINK NEWS SERVICE

Somehow, I manage to find it: a little "Cuban time" in downtown St. Augustine.

I go there to walk around the plaza or peer in shop windows, my handbag full of hopes.

One is that I may run into fellow Cubans. I hope to hear Spanish spoken, with my own dialect.

Sometimes hearing it is enough. Other days, I begin a simple exchange. It might end with hugs from the strangers.

Exile is a democratic experience. No matter what social or economic class we belonged to in our homeland or have adopted, we are all exiles. We recognize its difficulties and successes as well as its sadness.

Because St. Augustine is primarily a tourist town, I often meet Cubans on a heritage visit. The Spanish first settled here in 1565.

In a small courtyard on the east side of the Cathedral is a reminder of a connection between La Florida and Cuba. I

often stop by to see the bronze statue of Father Félix Varela, with his life span, 1788-1853, etched on a plaque introducing him to us visitors.

Varela first moved to town from Cuba as an infant in 1791 to live with his grandparents after both his parents had died. He returned to Cuba at age 14 after his grandmother died. Eventually, the man became an elected member of its Spanish Legislature. When the Spanish crown condemned him for his views on the island's self-rule and abolition of slavery, he left as a political exile. He was 35.

As a priest in the United States, Varela worked for decades with Irish immigrants in New York City. Because of poor health, he returned to St. Augustine in 1847 and died here in 1853.

Father Félix is held in highest esteem for his devotion to social justice and for working with poor urban immigrants. In 1997 the U.S. Postal Service put him on a postal stamp.

Through a friend, I had

learned about another Cuban, a newcomer to town — a cigar roller, a tabaquero, Julio Cordero. His shop, called "JC the Cuban Roller Cigars," is in a little mall across from the Cathedral, but Father Félix's statue isn't visible from there.

Nine years ago, Cordero and his wife left the island and moved to Tampa, where he continued to work in the cigar industry. Like me, he eventually chose St. Augustine because of its historic connection to things Spanish and Cuban.

Beside the cabinet where he stores his freshly rolled cigars is a black and white photograph of his father, Reinerio Cordero, who became a tabaquero at 16. It attracted my eye briefly.

Many who watch Julio rolling are smokers or visitors from nearby Southern states. Cuban or not, they like good cigars and they buy them. Some hang around to tell a story about their connections to Cuba or to the Miami Cuban exiles.

"I love those plantains," a North Carolina man tells me

as Cordero counts back his change. "I worked for a long time in Miami."

"You've got the mancha del plátano, the stain of the banana leaf," I say. "Once your clothes are stained by a banana leaf, it's impossible to remove the stain."

"What's that?"

"It means you've adopted some of our ways."

He nods.

Cordero provides more than good cigars. In his shop he has made a little space for community. It's for everybody who values and enjoys some of our ways.

And that is certainly satisfying one of my hopes.

(Marisella Veiga migrated from Cuba with her family as a 3-year-old child in 1960. A contributing columnist with Hispanic Link News Service, she is a lecturer and freelance writer. For information on "Square Watermelon," a Spoken Word recording of ten of her commentaries, contact her at mveiga@bellsouth.net.)

Estar en el Exilio es una Experiencia Democrática

TRADUCE PATRICIO H. LAZEN
HISPANIC NEWS

No sé como, pero de una manera u otra siempre logro encontrar un poco de "tiempo cubano" en el centro de San Agustín.

Me dirijo al centro para caminar por la plaza o para asomarme por los aparadores, y voy cargando una bolsa llena de esperanzas.

Una de ellas es toparme con otros Cubanos. Lo que espero es oír hablar el español, con mi propio dialecto.

A veces con oírlo me quedo contenta. Otros días entablo una conversación sencilla que podrá terminar con recibir un abrazo de la persona recién conocida.

El exilio es una experiencia democrática. No importa la clase social ni económica que tuviéramos en nuestra tierra natal o la que hubiéramos adoptado aquí, todos estamos en el exilio. Reconocemos las dificultades y los éxitos, así como la tristeza que el destierro acarrea.

San Agustín es un pueblo turístico que los españoles llegaron a establecer en 1565, y por eso, me encuentro frecuentemente con cubanos que llegan en busca su herencia.

En un pequeño patio al este

de la catedral hay algo que nos recuerda la conexión que hay entre la Florida y Cuba. Muchas veces me detengo a ver la estatua de bronce del padre Félix Varela con las fechas de lo que duró su vida -1788 a 1853 -- labradas sobre una placa de presentación a sus visitas.

Varela llegó inicialmente de la Cuba a la Florida de bebé, para vivir con sus abuelos después de que hubieran fallecido sus padres. Regresó a la Cuba a los 14 años, después que muriera su abuela. Con el tiempo fue elegido miembro de la legislatura española en Cuba. Al ser condenado por la realza española o por su perspectiva sobre la autonomía de la isla y la abolición de la esclavitud, huyó de Cuba como exiliado político. Tenía 35 años de edad.

De sacerdote en los Estados Unidos, Varela trabajó por décadas con los inmigrantes irlandeses en Nueva York. Ya enfermo, regresó a San Agustín en 1847 y murió aquí en 1853.

A Fray Félix se le respeta mucho por su devoción a la justicia social y por su labor con los inmigrantes urbanos pobres. En 1997 el servicio postal estadounidense lo honró con una estampilla postal con su imagen.

Gracias a un amigo, supe de otro cubano, recientemente establecido en San Agustín — un tabaquero que se llama Julio Cordero. Su taller lleva por nombre "JC the Cuban Roller Cigars" y se encuentra en un pequeño centro comercial frente a cruzando la catedral. Pero de su taller no se puede ver el monumento al padre Félix.

Hace nueve años Cordero y su esposa dejaron la isla y se mudaron a Tampa, donde siguió trabajando en la industria tabacalera. Así como yo, con el tiempo decidió residir en San Agustín, por sus lazos históricos a lo español y a lo cubano.

A un lado del gabinete donde almacena sus puros frescos, hay una foto en blanco y negro de su padre Reinerio Cordero, quien fue tabaquero desde la edad de 16 años. Me llamó la atención la foto por un momento.

Muchos de los que se paran a ver a Julio enrollar sus puros son fumadores o visitantes de otros estados sureños. Cubanos o no, les gustan los puros finos y se los compran. Muchos se quedan a platicar sobre sus vínculos con Cuba o con los cubanos desarraigados de Miami.

"Me encantan esos plátanos," me comenta un hombre de

Carolina del Norte, mientras que el señor Cordero le da su cambio. "Yo trabajé por mucho tiempo en Miami."

"Tiene la mancha del plátano", le digo. "Ya cuando su ropa se ha manchado con la hoja del plátano es imposible quitar la mancha."

"¿Qué dice?"

"Quiere decir que usted ha adoptado algunas de nuestras costumbres."

Con un gesto de su cabeza me dice que sí.

Cordero ofrece más que puros finos. En su tienda ha abierto un pequeño espacio para la comunidad. Es para todos los que valoran y disfrutan de algunas de nuestras maneras de ser.

Y en definitiva abarca una de mis esperanzas.

(Marisella Veiga emigró de la Cuba con su familia de niña, a los tres años, en 1960. Es columnista de Hispanic Link News Service, además de ser profesora y escritora independiente. Para recibir información sobre "Square Watermelon", una grabación, de diez de sus comentarios de Spoken Word, comuníquese con ella a: mveiga@bellsouth.net.)

U.S. Cellular Solves your Battery Worries

We've all been there at some point. Your cell phone or smartphone is low on battery power, you're nowhere near an outlet to recharge, and panic starts. But with U.S. Cellular's Battery Swap program, an industry first, an uncharged battery or one that is not holding a charge is no longer a worry for customers. Battery Swap simply swaps out your battery for a fully-charged one, for free.

"Battery questions are one of the most frequent subjects our service technicians help customers resolve," said Roberta Winger, director of sales for U.S. Cellular. "To meet our customer's on-the-go needs we developed the Battery Swap program. If you are out running an errand and your battery dies or if you are on a business trip and you forgot your charger, stop by any of our stores and we'll swap out your battery for free."

The Battery Swap specialists at U.S. Cellular also offer these tips to improve the performance and the life of your battery:

U.S. Cellular resuelve tus preocupaciones acerca de tu batería celular

Todos hemos estado en esta situación en algún momento. Tu teléfono celular está descargado, y no tienes ningún lugar cerca para cargarlo, y comienza el pánico. Pero con el programa de "Battery Swap" (Cambio de Batería) de U.S. Cellular, el único programa en la industria celular, una batería descargada o una que se descarga fácilmente ya no es un problema para los clientes. Con Battery Swap simplemente intercambia tu batería por una completamente recargada gratis.

"Las preguntas acerca de las baterías son una de los temas más frecuentes que nuestros asociados ayudan a nuestros consumidores a resolver," anotó Roberta Winger, director de ventas para U.S. Cellular. "Para satisfacer las necesidades de nuestros clientes que siempre están fuera diseñamos el programa Battery Swap. Si estás fuera realizando tus actividades y tu batería se descarga o si estás en un viaje de negocios y olvidas tu cargador, visita cualquiera de nuestras tiendas y cambiaremos tu batería sin costo."

Los especialistas de U.S. Cellular también ofrecen estos consejos para mejorar el funcionamiento y la vida de tu batería:

Apaga lo que no es necesario

Turn off non-essentials— Turn off Bluetooth when you are not using it. Reduce the backlight brightness and backlight timeout features if this feature is available on your phone. You can do this through your phone settings.

Power cycling—Turning your cell phone off while charging not only will help extend the life of the battery; it also acts as a reset similar to your computer. Power cycling, turning the cell phone off and then on again, will allow your cell phone to use the optimum tower for its location and clears the cache of the phone. If you get stuck on a screen or have problems texting often power cycling will help.

Don't expose to extreme temperatures —Storing the battery at extremely high or low temperatures can wear it out, so be sure to bring it in from the car on cold winter nights and hot summer days.

See a phone doctor —If your phone no longer holds a charge, U.S. Cellular service technicians are available to help.

AMERISTAR JOB FAIR SET FOR JUNE

CONT./PAGE 1

Dam, human resources coordinator for the Westin Crown Center Hotel. "Younger people are definitely reliable but they are different. They are a more relaxed crowd. I hate to generalize because we are an equal opportunity employer and we hire in all ages. We are looking for the best fit person for the job."

The Westin Crown Center was one of several employers represented recently at a job fair at the Gillham Plaza Building on Armour Boulevard last Thursday that targeted workers who were 55 years of age and older.

Like several employers at the fair, Van Dam said the hotel did not have many positions available currently, but the company wanted to maintain contact with applicants and keep its candi-

Feria de Trabajos del Ameristar programada para junio

CONT./PÁGINA 1

una ética de trabajo más confiable", dijo Heather Van Dam, coordinadora de recursos humanos para el hotel Westin Crown Center. "La gente más joven es definitivamente confiable, pero ellos son diferentes. Ellos son un grupo más relajado. Odio generalizar porque somos empleadores que ofrecemos igualdad de oportunidades y contratamos a personas de todas las edades. Nosotros buscamos a la persona mejor apta para el trabajo".

El Westin Crown Center fue uno de varios empleadores representados recientemente en una feria de trabajo realizada en el edificio Gillham Plaza Building del Armour Boulevard el jueves pasado y la cual estuvo dirigida a trabajadores que tenían 55 años o más.

Tal como varios de los empleadores en la feria, Van Dam dijo que el hotel no tiene muchas posiciones disponibles en la actualidad, pero la compañía quiere mantener contacto con postulantes y mantener un buen tamaño para su fuente de candidatos.

"El futuro es brillante", Van Dam le dijo a *Hispanic News*. "Tenemos negocios ya en los libros para los próximos tres años. ... Vamos a tener que comenzar a llenar esas posiciones probablemente durante el cuarto de este año y temprano el próximo año".

Van Dam dijo haber escuchado una variedad de razones sobre el porqué postulantes de mayor edad se encontraban buscando empleo en la feria de trabajo. Algunos eran trabajadores que habían sido despedidos, otros eran jubilados buscando suplementar sus ingresos. Ella también se ha encontrado también con postulantes más jóvenes en otros recintos.

Existe allí una diferencia entre un trabajador joven en el rango de los adolescentes versus una persona en sus cincuentas, dijo ella. "La ética de trabajo es diferente. Una persona joven pudiera tener más resistencia. Pero ellos pudieran no siempre aparecerse a trabajar cuando haya un día bonito y soleado".

Ella dijo que la mayoría de las personas en la feria de trabajo realizada en Gillham han sido positivo y creativo en lo que se refiere a sus experiencias. "Muchas personas entienden de la economía y ellos saben que es verdaderamente difícil para cada uno. Ellos saben que estamos en esto juntos y que mejorará. Es grato saber que allí existe un resquicio de esperanza. La economía está en una marcada mejoría".

Van Dam dice que también ha visto a personas que han estado en sus trabajos por 25 años y sus trabajos han sido eliminados. Ella dice que algunos de

date pool large.

"The future is bright," Van Dam told *Hispanic News*. "We have business booked for the next three years solid. ... We are going to need to start filling these positions probably during the fourth quarter this year and early next year."

Van Dam said she heard varying reasons why the older applicants at the job fair were seeking employment. Some were laid-off workers; others were retirees looking to supplement their income. She also has come across younger applicants at other venues as well.

There is a difference between a young worker in the teenage range versus someone in their 50s, she said. "The work ethic is different. A younger person may have more stamina. But they may not always make it to work

esos candidatos han preguntado qué tan pronto pueden calificar para seguros médicos.

Gene Meyer, 63, un ex escritor con 25 años de experiencia con el periódico *The Kansas City Star*, dijo que el asegurar un seguro médico era un fuerte motivador para encontrar trabajo de tiempo completo. Por ahora, él se encuentra cómodo en lo que se refiere a su situación financiera, pero él dice que siempre busca por una medida extra de seguridad en una incierta economía.

"Estoy buscando una pequeña ventaja y también quiero mantenerme ocupado", dijo Meyer. "Una de las cosas respecto al trabajo noticioso que siempre me ha atraído es que existe un importante elemento de servicio público en ello. Eso fue siempre mucha diversión por lo que estoy buscando en esa dirección".

La experiencia en hacer reportajes y escribir sobre asuntos financieros personales es lo que debería hacerlo a él atractivo para posibles empleadores, dijo él, "La necesidad está aún allí. Yo simplemente no tengo un W-2 que me acompañe en estos momentos".

Él dice que se ha encontrado con varios empleadores que están leyendo currículos, pero no están inmediatamente contratando.

Virginia Bueno, 70, una jubilada que trabaja de media jornada en el Guadalupe Center, dice que quiere más trabajo porque está aburrada con la jubilación.

"No hay nada que hacer en casa", dice Bueno. "Quiero trabajar y no es porque necesite el dinero. ... Me gusta tener un poquito de dinero extra porque me gusta gastar dinero".

Ella dice que tiene seguro médico, no como algunos ciudadanos jubilados que ella conoce, pero ella quiere mantenerse ocupada con un trabajo, así entonces ella asiste a las ferias de trabajo.

Una feria venidera de trabajos de media jornada se realizará en el Hotel Casino Ameristar de Kansas City entre las 10 a.m. y 8 p.m. del 10 de junio, en el Ameristar's Freedom Roadhouse, en el 3200 del North Ameristar Drive. Los equipos de reclutamiento y administración del Ameristar conducirán entrevistas en el terreno. Los candidatos pueden también postular vía Internet en el www.ameristar.com/careers.

Bueno dice haber quedado decepcionada con algunos prospectos, pero no me voy a dar por vencida. Ellos podrían darme una llamada puesto que tengo un buen currículo". Ella también se da cuenta que pudiera estar compitiendo con postulantes que son 40 o 45 años menores que ella. "Estoy conciente de ello, pero aceptaré menos dinero. Lo siento por la persona joven".

when it's a nice sunny day."

She said most people at the Gillham job fair have been positive and creative in terms of their experiences. "A lot of people understand the economy and they know that it's really difficult for everyone. They know we're all in this together and that it will get better. It's nice to know that there is a silver lining. The economy is in an upswing."

Van Dam said she also has seen people who have been in their jobs for 25 years and their job was eliminated. She said some of those candidates have asked how soon they can qualify for health insurance.

Gene Meyer, 63, a former writer with 25 years experience with *The Kansas City Star*, said securing health insurance was a strong motivator to find full-time work. For now, he is comfortable in terms of his financial situation, but he said he always looks for the added measure of security in an uncertain economy.

"I'm looking for a little edge and also I want to keep busy," Meyer said. "One of the things about news work that always attracted me is that there is a strong public service element to it. That was always a lot of fun so I'm looking in that direction."

Experience in reporting and writing personal financial issues is what should make him attractive to potential employers, he said. "The need is still out there. I just don't have a W-2 to go with it right now."



Job seeker Gene Meyer, formally with *The Kansas City Star*, said the bad economy forced his employer to eliminate his job several months ago. At age 63, he said finds himself looking for work for the first time in years. He said he would consider all job opportunities.

El buscador de trabajos Gene Meyer, otrora con el *Kansas City Star*, dijo que la mala economía había forzado a su empleador a eliminar su trabajo hace varios meses. A la edad de 63, él dice encontrarse a sí mismo buscando trabajo por primera vez en años. Él dice que consideraría todas las oportunidades de trabajo.

THE 12 MYTHS OF PARENTING

New Hyde Park, Ny — Although most mothers may recognize "old wives' tales" as being false, there are too many misconceptions about children's health and development that continue to fool parents and even some pediatricians.

"Parents continue to subscribe to many different myths about children's health and development, and some myths can seriously compromise the health or development of a young child," says Dr. Andrew Adesman, Chief of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics at Schneider Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park, NY, author of a new book on parenting myths titled "babyfacts."

There are many reasons why parents believe these myths. In some cases, the misconception may be an exaggeration or distortion of a related fact. For example, many people think eating carrots is good for your vision, but the truth is that it will only help the vision of individuals who have vitamin A deficiency — a rare condition in this country. A more dangerous myth that reflects an exaggeration is "teething sometimes causes a high fever in infants." According to Adesman, "Although teething may occasionally be associated with a low fever, it should never be considered the cause for a high fever. He cautions that other, more serious and potentially treatable

causes should be considered."

He said he has come across several employers who are looking over resumes but not immediately hiring.

Virginia Bueno, 70, a retiree who works part-time at the Guadalupe Center, said she wants more work because she is bored with retirement.

"There is nothing to do at home," Bueno said. "I want to work and it's not because I need the money. ... I like having a little extra money because I like to spend money."

She said she has health insurance, unlike some senior citizens she knows, but she wants to stay busy with a job so she attends job fairs.

One upcoming part-time job fair is at the Ameristar Casino Hotel Kansas City between 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 10, in Ameristar's Freedom Roadhouse, 3200 North Ameristar Drive. Ameristar's recruitment and management teams will conduct on-site interviews. Candidates can also apply on-line at www.ameristar.com/careers.

Bueno said she has been disappointed with some prospects, but "I'm not going to give up. They might give me a call because I have a good resume." She also realizes that she may be competing with applicants who are 40 to 45 years younger than her. "I'm aware of that but I'll take less pay. Sorry for the young guy."



AS I SEE IT

HOW TO SAVE THE GOP

VICTOR KAMBER

There is growing concern over the recent loss of such American icons as Circuit City, the Pontiac Firebird and the Republican Party.

Circuit City and the Firebird are gone, done in by a weak economy. The GOP has been done in by much more than the economy, but there are those who believe the party can be saved, perhaps should be saved, if you really believe our country is better off with two political parties even if one of them has spent the past two decades bad-mouthing the federal government it wants to run.

It is not a pretty picture.

Among Republicans, there are 15 million true believers. They listen to Rush Limbaugh every day, believe everything he says and worship the air-waves he unbalances.

Then there are the moderates, thoughtful, hopeful their party will come to grips with problems that trouble average citizens. At last count, there were nine of these (eight, if Rush has his way with Colin Powell).

Even though the numbers favor Rush and the ditto-heads, Republicans on Capitol Hill don't want to write off the moderates. Losing a "liberal" like Arlen Specter was okay, but those two women Senators up in Maine should be saved if the East Coast is not to be abandoned altogether.

Southern officeholders, those with the safe seats who can and do say the most outrageous things that leave GOP voters elsewhere gasping and changing their registration, are to do what they were taught as children: be silent and let the adults speak.

The party has to get some new, attractive, young leaders. Newt Gingrich has been around for such a long time people often forget why they don't like him. Minority whip Eric Cantor is a bright young man who has good ideas but comes across as someone about to foreclose on your

Los 12 Mitos sobre los Deberes de los Padres

Aunque la mayoría de las madres pudieran reconocer que los "cuentos de las antiguas esposas" son falsos, allí existen demasiadas ideas erróneas referentes a la salud y al desarrollo de los niños que continúan engañando a los padres e incluso a algunos pediatras.

"Los padres continúan suscribiéndose a muchos mitos diferentes respecto a la salud y al desarrollo de los niños y algunos mitos pueden comprometer seriamente la salud y el desarrollo de un niño pequeño", dijo el Dr. Andrew Adesman, Jefe de Pediatras para el Desarrollo y el Comportamiento en el Hospital Schneider para Niños en New Hyde Park, NY. Schneider es el autor de un nuevo libro sobre mitos de los padres titulado "babyfacts" ("Verdades Sobre los Bebés").

Existen allí demasiadas razones del porqué los padres creen en estos mitos. En algunos casos, las ideas erróneas pudieran ser una exageración o la distorsión de un hecho relacionado. Por ejemplo, muchas personas creen que comer zanahorias es bueno para la visión, pero la verdad es que solamente mejorará la visión de personas que presentan una deficiencia de vitamina A — una condición rara en este país. Un mito más peligroso que refleja una exageración, es que la "dentición causa algunas veces fiebre elevada en los bebés". Según Adesman, "Aunque la dentición puede ocasionalmente ser asociada

house. He and the party also need reminding that while "no" may be a tactic, it is not a policy for rebuilding America.

Above all, the party must put a "cone of silence" over Dick Cheney. They've got to get the man to shut up. During his last year in office, Cheney was rarely heard from, and when the economy came apart at the seams he had nothing to say, leaving all the heavy-thinking to W (and we know how that turned out).

When they left the White House, W's approval ratings were the lowest of any president, ever, but compared to Cheney he was FDR. A tight-lipped W went back to Texas, leaving his legacy to the Ari Fleishers and Fox News. Cheney bounded out of his bunker as if on steroids, appearing on more channels than "Law and Order" re-runs, praising torture and expressing disgust at Republicans like Powell.

Finally, Republicans have to get a grip on taxes. Despite everything Grover Norquist has told them, cutting taxes does not solve every problem. The party needs to understand that our government can't function without taxes. Despite what Rush tells you, taxes are needed for more than just Medicaid and food stamps. Taxes pay for schools, highways and sewer systems. Taxes pay for our military war machine that the GOP leadership can't have enough of — they keep throwing money (taxpayer money) at new weapons systems the Pentagon says it doesn't need.

While the GOP picture may look grim now, we Democrats have been there. We know they just might be one obscure community organizer away from turning it around.

Victor Kamber is the recipient of the PR News' 2006 Hall of Fame Award for his career in labor communications and politics. He has worked as a consultant in more than 100 political races and established the communications firm, The Kamber Group. His blog can be read at www.victorkamber.com.

con fiebre baja, nunca debiera ser considerada la causa de una fiebre alta. Él advierte que otras causas más serias y potencialmente tratables debieran ser consideradas".

Aquí le ofrecemos 10 otros mitos sobre los deberes de los padres que aún son ampliamente creídos:

- Las heridas sanarán más rápido si se exponen al aire fresco de la noche.
- Los suplementos de la vitamina C ayuda a proteger en contra de los resfriados.
- Baños de hielo pueden ser utilizados para hacer disminuir la fiebre en los niños pequeños.
- El leer en la oscuridad puede más tarde ser la causa de problemas a los ojos o la visión.
- Tratar una quemadura con una aplicación de hielo o mantequilla.
- Infecciones a los oídos tienen que ser tratadas con antibióticos.
- No es seguro para los niños ir a nadar inmediatamente después de comer.
- La mejor manera de detener el sangrado de la nariz, es inclinar la cabeza hacia atrás.
- Si un niño se sienta demasiado cerca del televisor, éste puede dañarle la visión.
- Fiebres de 104°F ó 105°F pueden causar daño cerebral.
- El tratar de hacer sonar los dedos al dislocarse los nudillos cuando se es niño, puede conducir a la artritis años más tarde.
- El comer mucho chocolate puede causar acné en los adolescentes.

Estos son algunos de los 160 mitos descalificados en el libro de Adesman. Los padres y otros proveedores de la salud que quieran ver cuántos mitos creen verdaderos sin darse cuenta, pueden responder a un entretenido cuestionario en www.babyfacts.com.





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Eastern Jackson County Area Workforce Investment Board

City of Kansas City, Missouri
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OPERATED BY:

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www.feckc.org

The Full Employment Council in partnership with the Missouri Department of Economic Development and the United States Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration is offering

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to youth 16 -24 years of age.

This program will provide eight-week paid internships and career exploration to low income eligible youth from

May 1, 2009 - September 30, 2009 .

Internships will be provided by healthcare facilities, government and educational agencies, community-based, faith-based, non-profit, and private-for-profit organizations.

Next Generation Jobs Team Applications are available at any of the Full Employment Council/Missouri Career Center locations.

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Kansas City, MO. 64108
(816) 471-2330
Contact: Dot Coleman
James Robinson

South Kansas City
Southern Jackson County
6801-A Longview Road
Kansas City, MO. 64134
(816) 966-0289
Contact: Lewis Smith
Larry Carr

Independence
Eastern Jackson County
15301 E. 23rd Street
Independence, MO. 64055
(816) 325-5890
Contact: Spencer Harris
Alice Mendoza

Cass County
West Central Missouri
Community Action Agency
109 Congress
Belton, MO. 64012
(816) 318-3922
Contact: Roxanne Writesman
Amanda Davidson

Clay County
Maple Woods Community College
Northland Human Services Ctr.
3100 NE 83rd Street Suite 2100
Kansas City, MO. 64119
(816) 468-8767
Contact: Tori Pankey
Richard Salazar

Platte County
Platte County Resource Center
11724 NW Plaza Circle, Ste. 500
Kansas City, MO. 64153
(816) 464-4620 / 4612
Contact: Richard Salazar

West Central Missouri
Community Action Agency
200 Oakland
Harrisonville, MO. 64701
(816) 380-6690
Contact: Roxanne Writesman

Ray County
103 E. North Main Street
Richmond, MO. 64085
(816) 776-3920
Contact: Carole Van-Bibber
Jenyl Hart

*The Full Employment Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer Program
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Revenue Growing with Trade

CONT./PÁGINA 1

says Alfred Figuly, president & CEO of the GKCFZ, is 2 1/2 percent higher than in 2007.

Countries of origin for products imported into the GKCFZ include: Mexico; Taiwan; Germany; Italy; Spain; Macau; South Africa; Korea; Japan; China; Pakistan; Malaysia; Indonesia; Switzerland, Finland and France.

Therefore, Kansas City, the city without an ocean but recognized for its inland port potential provided millions of dollars in value added labor (payroll and benefits) to the area.

Figuly explained that payroll and benefits for the GKCFZ has grown from \$185.6 million in 2001 to more than \$233 million in 2008.

"The overall increase in revenue results from tracking leads and follow-up on potential clients, strong marketing, and providing assistance to existing Trade Zone operators on matters dealing with customs classifications, admission and entry requirements," Figuly said.

In addition, close coordination between the FTZ program and other international trade programs in the greater Kansas City area has resulted in increased

international trade shipments to the area which has grown the business volume of FTZ's.

In the midst of this positive financial report a new board chairman took the reins of the GKCFZ. Blake Schreck, recently elected as chairman of the board, is president of the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce. Schreck replaces Joe Medved, a partner in the law firm of Lathrop & Gage LLC, in Kansas City, MO. Medved served three years as board chair and was first appointed to the GKCFZ board in 1990.

Tom McKenna, elected as board vice chairman, is director of marketing for the Kansas City International Airport; Connie Kamps, board secretary, is director of Real Estate Operations for Hunt Midwest; Tim McKee, elected as treasurer, is executive vice president, Economic Development, Olathe Chamber of Commerce; Jack Crocker, the new board assistant secretary, is an independent businessman in Topeka, KS.

Newly elected to the board are Joe Reardon, mayor and CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, and Kelly Schemenauer, corporate council for AMC Entertainment.



Tom McKenna, Board Vice Chair
Mayor Reardon replaces Judge Elena Franco and Tom Wertz both who completed their term of service to the board. Other GKCFZ Board of Directors members include: Judge Robert Serra; Robert Steinbach; John Wilhm; and Laura Gipson.

Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs) were created in the United States in 1934 to provide special customs procedures to U.S. plants engaged in international trade-related activities.

The GKCFZ is responsible for Foreign Trade Zone activity in the Eastern half of Kansas (Foreign Trade Zone No. 17) and the western half of Missouri (Foreign Trade Zone No. 15).

Los Ingresos Creciendo con el Comercio

CONT./PÁGINA 1

Por lo consiguiente, Kansas City, la ciudad sin un océano, pero reconocida por su potencial como puerto tierra adentro o puerto seco, ha proveído millones de dólares en labor de valor agregado (Planillas de pago y beneficios) al área.

Figuly explicó que las planillas de pago y beneficios para la GKCFZ han crecido desde los \$185,6 millones en el 2001 hasta más de \$233 millones en el 2008.

"El aumento general en ingresos resulta al seguir pistas y hacer contactos subsiguientes con posibles clientes, mercadeo intenso y entregar asistencia a existentes operadores de Zonas de Intercambio Comercial en asuntos relacionados con clasificaciones aduaneras, requisitos de admisión y entrada", dijo Figuly.

En adición, una cercana coordinación entre el programa FTZ y otros programas de comercio internacional en el área del Gran Kansas City han resultado en un incremento en los embarques de comercio internacional al área la cual ha superado en crecimiento al volumen de negocios de las FTZ.

En medio de este positivo reporte financiero, un nuevo gerente tomó las riendas de la GKCFZ. Blake Schreck, recientemente electo como gerente de la junta, es presidente de la Cámara de Comercio de Lenexa. Schreck reemplaza a Joe Medved, un socio en la firma de abogados de Lathrop & Gage LLC, en Kansas City, MO. Medved se desempeñó por tres años como gerente de la junta y fue nominado por primera vez a

la junta de GKCFZ en 1990.

Tom McKenna, electo como vicegerente, es director de mercadeo para el Aeropuerto Internacional de Kansas City; Connie Kamps, secretaria de la junta, es directora de Operaciones de Bienes Raíces para Hunt Midwest; Tim McKee, electo como tesoroero, es vicepresidente ejecutivo de Desarrollo Económico de la Cámara de Comercio de Olathe; Jack Crocker, el nuevo secretario asistente de la junta, es un empresario independiente en Topeka, KS.

Recientemente electos a la junta se encuentran Joe Reardon, Alcalde y Ejecutivo del Gobierno Unificado del Condado de Wyandotte y Kelly Schemenauer, concejal corporativa para AMC Entertainment. El Alcalde Reardon reemplaza a la Jueza Elena Franco y a Tom Wertz quienes completaron sus periodos de servicio con la junta. Otros miembros de la Junta Directiva de GKCFZ incluyen a: El Juez Robert Serra; Robert Steinbach; John Wilhm y Laura Gipson.

Zonas de Intercambio Comercial Foráneo (FTZ) fueron creadas en los EE.UU. en 1934 para ofrecer procedimientos especiales de aduanas a plantas de EE.UU. que participaban en actividades relacionadas con el comercio internacional.

La GKCFZ es responsable por la actividad de la Zona de Intercambio Comercial Foráneo en la mitad este de Kansas (Zona de Intercambio Comercial Foráneo No. 17) y en la mitad oeste de Missouri (Zona de Intercambio Comercial Foráneo No. 15).

Discovering Mexico by alphabet

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
"THE BOOKWORM"

For practically all your life, you've known you're A-B-Cs.

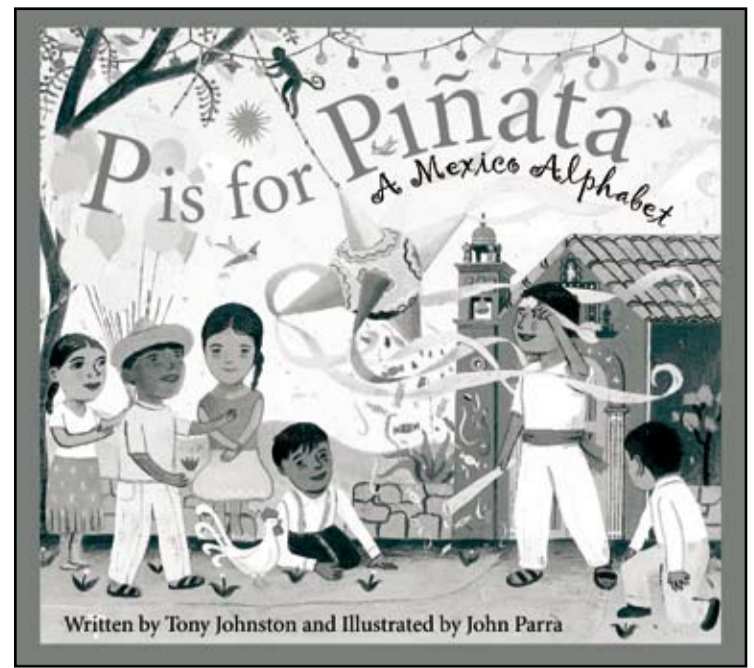
The alphabet is one of the first things your parents taught you. Even some of your favorite baby toys had the A-B-Cs on them and your teacher might even have an A-B-C poster on the wall at school.

When you think of A, you probably think of Apples. B reminds you of a Ball or a Boy. C can stand for Cat or Castle. And in the new book by Tony Johnston (illustrated by John Parra), "P is for Piñata" and all sorts of Mexican things.

If you look on a map, it's easy to find Mexico. It's right at the bottom of the United States and above South America. But what else do you know about Mexico? Do you know Mexican history or culture?

Let's start with A. In Mexico, A is for Adobe. Adobe is a building material made of straw and mud. Adobe brick makers put materials in a tub and they stomp the mud and straw together with their bare feet. They pour the mixture into wooden molds called adoberas and leave them in the sun to dry. Later, they might build a house.

Are you hungry for a snack? Then think about C, because C is for Cacao, which is chocolate. The Olmecs, who lived a long time ago, drank a beverage made of cacao. You might not like what they enjoyed, since their drink was cold and bitter. But thanks to the Olmecs, you can enjoy hot chocolate, chocolate milk, and chocolate candy.



And speaking of hot and sweet, H is for Hairless Dog. The Mexican hairless dog, or the xoloitzcuintli might be considered kind of ugly, but they were prized by ancient Mexicans because the little dogs kept their owners warm at night. Can you say "hot dog"?

Did you know that there are volcanoes in Mexico? Yep, L is for Lava because Mexico is on a land-rim where many volcanoes appear, and some of them are still active. The volcano named Popo "belches" ash now and then, which makes the streets look like they're covered with snow.

And just so you know, Z counts in Mexico, too, because Z is for Zero. The Mexicans invented the number 0, which is the basis for all math. Without it, we would be, uh, nothing.

Your 7-to-10-year-old probably thinks he (or she) is too old

for an A-B-C book, but that's not true. Yes, "P is for Piñata" includes nursery-rhyme-type poems and simple, colorful illustrations. Yes, it's an A-B-C book, but there's so much more.

In this book, author Tony Johnston includes side-bars that explain more about the history and meaning behind the word chosen to accompany the letter. Each entry brings Mexican history, art, culture, and legend to light and explains it in a way older kids will easily understand.

If you're looking for a book that will grow with your child - one he can enjoy now and later - this is one to find. "P is for Piñata" is P-E-R-F-E-C-T.

"P is for Piñata: A Mexican Alphabet" by Tony Johnston, illustrated by John Parra c.2008, Sleeping Bear Press \$17.95 / \$19.95 Canada (40 pages)

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

TEEN SEX

Latino teens cite their parents more than any other source when asked who most influences their decisions about sex. These and other findings are in a new survey commissioned by The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and the National Council of La Raza (NCLR).

The overall teen birth rate in the United States is on the increase after 14 straight years of decline and, at present, Latino teens have the highest rate of teen pregnancy and births among all racial/ethnic groups. The National Campaign estimates that fully 53% of Latinas become pregnant as teens.

Other findings from the survey of Latino teens and adults include:

- 49% of Latino teens say parents most influence their decisions about sex compared to, for example, 14% who cited friends, 6% other family members, 3% religious leaders, 2% teachers, and 2% the media.
- Although three-quarters of Latino teens say their parents have talked to them about sex and relationships, only half (49%) say their parents have talked to them

about contraception.

- 74% of Latino teens believe that parents send one message about sex to their sons and a different message altogether to their daughters.
- Latino teens in this survey report that the most common reason why teens do not use contraception is because they are afraid their parents might find out.
- 72% of sexually experienced teens say they wish they had waited longer.
- 34% of Latino teens believe that being a teen parent would prevent them from reaching their goals; 47% say being a teen parent would simply delay them from reaching their goals.
- 76% of Latino teens say it is important for a couple to be married before starting a family or having a child.
- "While Latino teen pregnancy has gained national attention in recent years, little work has been done to understand subgroup differences and similarities within the Latino community," said Ruthie Flores, Senior Manager, of The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnan-

cy's Latino Initiative. "We hope this survey shines much-needed light on the beliefs and attitudes of Latino teens and parents and helps inform teen pregnancy prevention efforts and messages nationwide."

"Scant attention has been paid to what motivates the behavior of Latino teens with regard to relationships," said Maria Rosa, NCLR, vice president, Institute for Hispanic Health. "The poll's findings are a catalyst for an important and much needed conversation about how to reverse the rising rates of teen pregnancy in the Latino community."

Findings from the survey were released at a Latino Leaders Network Issue Hour on teen pregnancy in the Latino community that took place on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. The survey examines the beliefs and attitudes within the Latino community about teen pregnancy and related issues. The Latino Leaders Network in partnership with The National Campaign hosted the event. At the event, a prominent panel of Latino experts discussed the survey's findings and efforts to prevent teen pregnancy in the Latino community.

The discussion was moderated by Mickey Ibarra, founder of the Latino Leaders Network and included the following speakers: Ben Luján, U.S. Congressman, New Mexico's 3rd District, Lucille Roybal-Allard, U.S. Congresswoman, California's 34th District, Nydia M. Velázquez, U.S. Congresswoman, New York's 12th District, Ana Sol Gutierrez, State Delegate, Maryland's 18th District, Ruthie Flores, Senior Manager, Latino Initiative, National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, Maria Rosa, NCLR, Institute for Hispanic Health, Alma Morales Rijoas, President/CEO, MANA.

International Communications Research (ICR), an independent research company with extensive polling experience, conducted the survey. Telephone surveys of 759 Latino teens and 915 Latino adults with children in the household under age 18 took place in July and August of 2008.

For more information about The National Campaign, the National Council of La Raza, and the Latino Leaders Network, please visit the following websites: TheNationalCampaign.org, NCLR.org, and LatinoLeadersNetwork.org.

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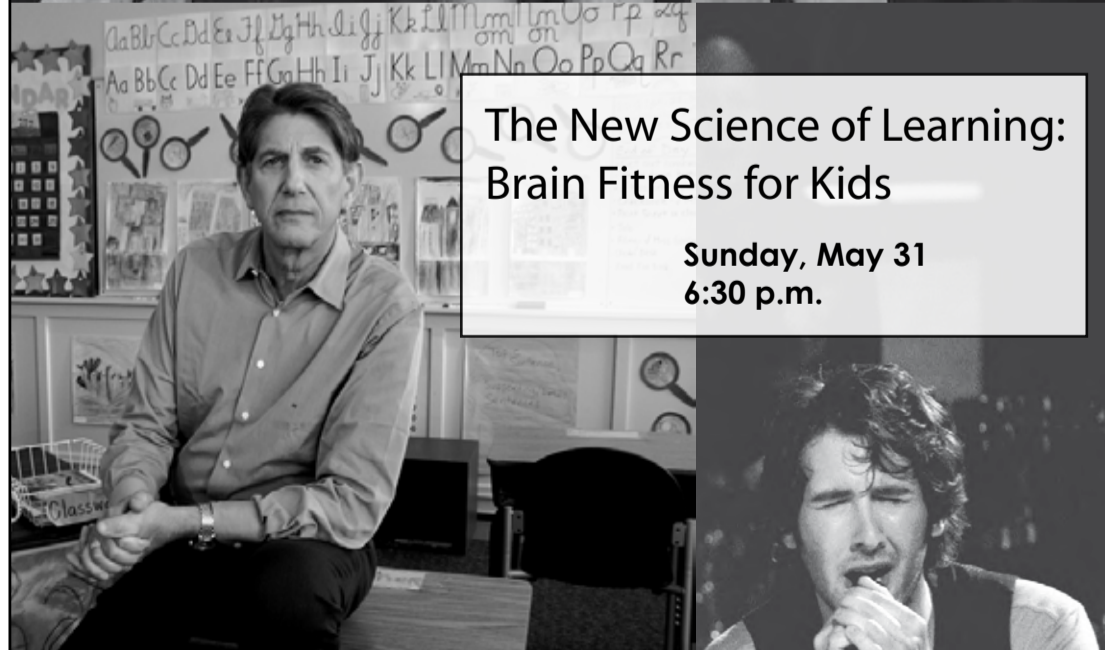


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Proposed Changes to Transportation Improvement Program Available for Public Review

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) serves as the metropolitan planning organization for the eight-county Kansas City region. Because **many of its programs are funded with your tax dollars**, MARC would like your input on changes that have been proposed to the 2008-2012 plan for transportation projects in the region. The proposed amendment includes four new and seven modified projects.

Details are available for review at the MARC offices during regular business hours, and online at www.marc.org/transportation/input.htm. If you don't have Internet access, you may use a computer at a public library.

Submit comments by **Monday, June 8, 2009**. The proposed amendments will be discussed at the Total Transportation Policy Committee meeting at MARC at 9:30 a.m. on June 23.

NEW PROJECTS:

- sidewalk project in Cleveland, Mo.
- North Oak Corridor streetscape improvements in Kansas City, Mo.
- two projects funded by Kansas American Recovery and Reinvestment Act transit funds

Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105-1659
Phone: 816/474-4240 Fax: 816/421-7758
E-mail: tip@marc.org

www.marc.org



Enmienda a las propuestas del Programa de la Mejora del Transporte está disponible para revisión pública

El Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) sirve como la organización metropolitana de la planificación para los ocho condados de la región de Kansas City. Al ser **este programa mantenido con el dinero de sus impuestos**, MARC desea saber sus comentarios para los planes de transporte del 2008-2012. Los proyectos propuestos para los cambios incluyen cuatro proyectos nuevos y siete proyectos modificados a través del área metropolitana de Kansas City.

Detalles están disponibles en las oficinas de MARC durante horas de oficina, o en la página Internet de MARC en: www.marc.org/transportation/input.htm. Si no tiene acceso a la Internet, puede usar una computadora en una biblioteca pública.

Envíe sus comentarios a MARC antes de las cuatro de la tarde del **lunes 8 de junio de 2009**. La enmienda propuesta será discutida en la reunión del Total Transportation Policy Committee en MARC a las 9:30 de la mañana del 23 de junio.

PROYECTOS NUEVOS:

- proyecto de las aceras en Cleveland, Mo.
- mejoras estéticas a la calle North Oak en Kansas City, Mo.
- dos proyectos financiados por fondos tránsitos de Kansas por la Ley de Recuperación y Reinversión de 2009

Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200, Kansas City, MO 64105-1659
Teléfono: 816/474-4240 Fax: 816/421-7758
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EOE



MBE/WBE/DBE INVITATION TO BID
Ball Kelly, LLC d/b/a Taylor Kelly, LLC seeks qualified MBE/DBE/WBE contractors/suppliers to submit bid proposals for the Bartle Hall North Dock-Contract 6 located in KCMO. Bid documents are available for review in the Ball Kelly Plan Room at 800 East 101st Terrace, Suite 120, Kansas City, MO 64131. FAX bids to 816-444-8700 no later than 2:00 p.m. CST, 6/16/09. Call Jeff or Travis at 816-444-8000 with questions. **EOE/AA**.



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MI QUINCEAÑERA BEATRÍZ GARCÍA



On May 16, 2009 Benjamin and Christina Garcia celebrated their daughter's Beatriz Adriana Garcia 15th birthday with a Quinceañera mass at Our Lady of Peace Church in Kansas City, Missouri. Family and friends witnessed a beautiful mass in her honor. Later that evening the celebration moved to the National Guard Armory in KCK. The Garcia family expressed their love for Beatriz as they danced to a waltz and later that same evening a live band performed. The Garcia family thanks the many guests. They are grateful to all those who participated and helped them to create this special day for Beatriz.

El 16 de mayo, Benjamin y Christina Garcia celebraron la Quinceañera con una misa en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora de la Paz en Kansas City. Familia y amigos atestiguaron la maravillosa misa en su honor. Más tarde esa noche la celebración continuó en la Armería Nacional en KCK. La familia Garcia expresaron su amor por Beatriz mientras bailaban el vals y luego una banda en vivo se presentó. La familia Garcia agradece a los invitados. Están muy agradecidos de aquellos que participó y ayudaron a crear este día especial para Beatriz

Cris Medina receives President's Citation Award



MCC-Penn Valley held its 31st Annual Honors Convocation in April. The gala event honored community leaders, several students, staff and faculty who have made outstanding contributions to MCC-Penn Valley this past year.

Cris Medina, President/CEO of Guadalupe Center was among the community leaders who received the President's Citation Award. Medina oversees a multi service community organization operating seven facilities on the Westside of Kansas City. The Guadalupe Centers is dedicated to improving the quality of life of Latinos throughout Metropolitan Kansas City through the development, administration and coordination of comprehensive, educational, social and recreational services.

The President's Citation Award was presented to Cris Medina for his immense contribution to the community. "We wish to strengthen and deepen ties with the Latino Community," said Dr. Bernard Franklin, president of MCC-Penn Valley. "I look forward to working with Cris to better serve Kansas City's Latino community's education needs. In this economy we need to work together to make sure that anyone who wants an education to improve their life, can get an education."

A LETTER FROM ALMA MORALES



Dearest Friends,

Jorge and I, along with our family would like to express our deepest appreciation to all of you who were able to attend my first birthday with my new heart celebration that we had on April 25, 2009. It was wonderful to see all of you there. The celebration was our way of thanking each and every one of you who supported me and my family in some way during this past year. There were those of you who attended to my medical needs in the hospital, who assisted me in my recuperation at home, who sent me cards, gifts, flowers and food, who have visited with me in person or by phone and, of course, those of you who have kept me and mine in your thoughts and prayers. I, personally, believe that my remarkable recovery is due to God and all of you. Your constant selflessness, kindness, support and love is why I am alive today. For those of you who were unable to attend the celebration, I know that all of you were with us in spirit.

My family and I are so blessed to be able to share our lives with so many good friends. You're the best! I will treasure this past year forever, God has given me a second chance at life and you will always be a part of me.

With heart-felt thanks and gratitude,
Alma and Jorge Morales and Family.



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