



Raul Villegas, owner of Soccer Nation, celebrated their one-year anniversary last week. On hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony were members of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and soccer families and their supporters.

Raúl Villegas, propietario de la nación de fútbol, celebró su primer aniversario la semana pasada. Para la ceremonia del corte de cinta estaban presentes los miembros de la Cámara de Comercio Hispana y familias del fútbol con sus seguidores.

Villegas, propietario de Soccer Nation, agradecido por el apoyo comunitario

Soccer Nation's Villegas thankful for community support

por Debra DeCoster

Soccer Nation, es lugar de ensueño para los entusiastas del fútbol, quienes pueden jugar y practicar fútbol todo el año. La instalación de 40,000 pies cuadrados, cuenta con dos campos de césped profesionales iluminados, ubicados en el interior

LA CERCANIA JUEGA ... / PÁGINA 2

by Debra DeCoster

Soccer Nation is a soccer enthusiast's dream location where they can play and practice soccer year round. The 40,000 square foot facility has two, professional-lighted turf fields inside the building at 520 South 55th Street in Kansas City, Kansas.

PROXIMITY PLAYS ... / PAGE 2

WyCo continues to prosper

WyCo sigue prosperando



Mayor Mark Holland touted that the economic development in Wyandotte County has captured the imagination of the state as well as national leaders.

El alcalde Mark Holland promociona que el desarrollo económico en el condado de Wyandotte ha capturado la imaginación del estado, así como los líderes nacionales.

by Debra DeCoster

Mayor Mark Holland, CEO of the Unified Government (UG) of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, peppered his second State of the Government address with jokes and news of progress for Wyandotte County.

"WE HAVE HAD ... / PAGE 3

traduce Gemma Tornado

El Alcalde Mark Holland, Presidente Ejecutivo del Gobierno Unificado (GU por sus siglas en inglés) del Condado de Wyandotte/Kansas City, Kansas, salpicó su segundo Informe de Gobierno con chistes y noticias de progreso para el

"HEMOS TENIDO UN ... / PÁGINA 3

Louis Ruiz elected Assistant House Minority Leader

Louis Ruíz es electo Asistente Líder de la Cámara de Minoría



Kansas State Democrat Louis Ruiz of the 31st District has moved up in the rank and file as the Assistant Minority Leader. He is the first full Latino to achieve such a high post and the first Latino since 1998 to hold a leadership position in the State house.

El demócrata del estado de Kansas, Louis Ruiz, del Distrito 31 ha sido promovido en su posición como asistente líder de la minoría. Él es el primer latino que logra un alto cargo y el primer latino desde 1998 que logra una posición de liderazgo en la Casa de Gobierno.

by Joe Arce and Jose Faus

In February of this year, Democrat 31st District Kansas representative Louis Ruiz, was elected Assistant Minority Leader. He is the first full Latino to achieve such a high post and the first Latino since 1998 to hold a leadership position in the State house.

According to his biography, Ruiz previously held "appointments to the Board of Commissioners for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan. As a Human Relations Commissioner, Mr. Ruiz was engaged in efforts to mitigate hate crimes and intimidation, efficiently resolve neighbor disputes, enhance operation of county governmental entities, and improve performance of HUD programs."

Ruiz talked with Hispanic News at the state capital about the duties the position entails. "We are the number one and two in the Democratic house. Anything that comes through that may be divisive or decisive, we talk amongst ourselves and the leadership and try to see where our caucus is going to go and in which direction we are going to vote."

The leadership also helps "determine what issues are important and how we structure our leadership role and how we appoint ranking members into different committees that are in session this year," added Ruiz.

For Ruiz, the moment is bittersweet. "It breaks my heart that my father was not here to see any of my

PEOPLE STILL DON'T ... / PAGE 8

traduce Gemma Tornado

En febrero de éste año, el Representante Demócrata por el Distrito 31 de Kansas, Louis Ruíz, fue elegido asistente líder de la minoría. Él es el primer latino en lograr tan alto cargo y el primer latino desde 1998 en mantener un puesto de liderazgo en la Casa de Gobierno.

Según su biografía, Ruíz sostuvo previamente "nombramientos en la Junta de Comisionados del Gobierno Unificado del Condado de Wyandotte y Kansas City, Kan. Como Comisionado de Relaciones Humanas, el Sr. Ruíz participó en los esfuerzos para mitigar los crímenes de odio e intimidación, eficientemente resolvió disputas de vecinos, mejoró el funcionamiento de las entidades gubernamentales del condado, y el rendimiento de los programas HUD".

Ruíz habló con Hispanic News en la capital del estado, acerca de los deberes que el puesto conlleva. "Somos el número uno y dos en la casa Democrática. Cualquier cosa que viene a través de ella puede ser divisiva o decisiva, hablamos entre nosotros y la directiva y, tratamos de ver hacia dónde va nuestro caucus y en qué dirección vamos a votar".

La directiva también ayuda a "determinar qué temas son importantes, cómo estructuramos nuestro papel de liderazgo y cómo nombramos personas a altos rangos en diferentes comités que se encuentran en período de sesiones de este año", agregó Ruíz.

LA GENTE AUN ... / PÁGINA 8

La cercanía juega un papel en el éxito

CONT./PÁGINA 1

del edificio con número 520 Sur, de la calle 55, en Kansas City, Kansas.

Es una instalación de fútbol única en el Condado de Wyandotte. Era el sueño del propietario Raúl Villegas, el abrir y operar una instalación para niños y adultos que les guste jugar al fútbol.

“Quiero que los niños sean capaces de estar en un equipo y de que tengan la oportunidad de jugar fútbol. Hacemos todo lo posible de que así sea para ellos”, dijo.

La semana pasada, Villegas, celebró con una ceremonia de corte de listón su primer aniversario en la cancha de fútbol.

“Quería dar a todos estos niños y niñas la oportunidad de jugar. Quería que los niños jugaran en un campo profesional y también trabajar con ellos para desarrollar su talento”, dijo Villegas.

Su pasión es el fútbol. Muchos lo han descrito como una persona que come, duerme, trabaja y habla de fútbol todo el tiempo. Es por eso, que los padres de la comunidad se acercaron a él para iniciar una liga de fútbol en su patio trasero, en el Condado de Wyandotte.

Sandra Olivas, Oficial de Desarrollo de Negocios del Banco Brotherhood, otorgó a Villegas una placa en reconocimiento a su talento, dedicación y a un servicio excepcional a la comunidad.

“Él quería, que los niños tuvieran la oportunidad de jugar al fútbol, ya que no la tenían.

Cuando su familia llegó a California desde México cuando tenía 11 años de edad, tuvo que trabajar para ayudar a su familia. El quería jugar al fútbol con los otros adolescentes de su comunidad, pero no pudo”, dijo Olivas.

Avance rápido en el tiempo hasta hoy y Villegas está ayudando a que sea posible para los niños que sueñan con jugar fútbol, a que lo hagan. El formó una sociedad junto con KCP & L para ofrecer clínicas

de fútbol gratuitas para los niños. El año pasado, se llevaron a cabo dos clínicas con jugadores de Sporting

Antes de abrir Soccer Nation, los equipos de El Padrino tenían que viajar a Grandview, Missouri para

estacionamiento está lleno de coches y con familias adentro sentadas, viendo la práctica de los niños o viéndolos jugar.

Padilla, de dieciséis años de edad, van a practicar a Soccer Nation todos los miércoles y viernes. Ambos

“Yo estoy aquí cada fin de semana, ya que por lo general, tengo tres o cuatro partidos los fines de semana. Es un lugar muy agradable para jugar”, dijo Santres.

Padilla dijo que es más conveniente para su familia el conducir a la instalación para que él juegue, en lugar de tener que conducir hasta Grandview, Missouri.

“Antes, teníamos que conducir más lejos, pero ahora que está en nuestra propia comunidad, más gente hispana tiene la oportunidad de venir aquí y dejar que sus hijos participen en el fútbol”, dijo Padilla.

Le llevó a Villegas ocho meses el construir Soccer Nation en la instalación profesional que quería para los niños. “Tenemos niños con talento jugando al fútbol”, dijo.

Su trabajo en la comunidad no ha terminado aún. Él planea encontrar una propiedad en Kansas City, Kansas para construir campos de fútbol al aire libre para los jugadores y, llevar a cabo torneos en el Condado de Wyandotte. Y así, permitir que las familias y sus hijos estén cerca de casa y no tengan que viajar a lo largo de la línea estatal para jugar.

La apertura de los campos de fútbol al aire libre en su ciudad natal, hará que los gastos de viaje sean más bajos para las familias y mantendrá el dinero que se gasta en comida, gasolina y honorarios del torneo, en el Condado de Wyandotte.

“Este es el lugar donde vivo, aquí es donde está mi negocio y aquí es donde vive la mayoría de los niños. Quiero seguir en la comunidad”, dijo Villegas.



Young El Padrino soccer players warm up as they get ready to hit the field for soccer practice. Sandra Olivas, Business Development officer for Brotherhood Bank, recognized Soccer Nation's one-year anniversary with a plaque. The bank recognized owner Raul Villegas for his "talent, dedication and exceptional service to the community."

Jóvenes jugadores de fútbol de El Padrino, calientan mientras se preparan para entrar al campo y practicar fútbol. Sandra Olivas, Oficial de Desarrollo de Negocios del Banco Brotherhood, reconoció con una placa conmemorativa a Soccer Nation por su primer aniversario. El Banco reconoció al dueño del negocio, Raúl Villegas, por su "talento, dedicación y un servicio excepcional a la comunidad"

KC. KCP & L proporcionó de forma gratuita a los niños, los alimentos y camisetas; y los zapatos y balones de futbol, fueron por parte de Sporting KC.

“Las familias tienen un gran respeto por él. Lo buscan y él hace todo lo mejor que se puede”, dijo Olivas.

practicar y jugar. El viaje a Grandview era costoso para algunas de las familias y los honorarios de juego eran altos.

Las familias le dijeron, que si abría una instalación cerca de su casa, lo apoyarían. Si usted conduce cualquier día cerca de Soccer Nation, el

Jonathan Santres, de catorce años de edad; e Isaac

jóvenes disfrutan de venir a las instalaciones de fútbol de salón.

*traduce
Gemma Tórnero*

Proximity plays role in success

CONT./PAGE 1

It is a one of a kind soccer facility in Wyandotte County. It was the dream of owner Raul Villegas to open and operate a soccer facility for children and adults who want to play the game.

“I want the children to be able to be on a team and have the opportunity to play soccer. We do everything we can to make it happen for them,” he said.

Last week, Villegas celebrated his one-year anniversary with a ribbon cutting ceremony on the soccer field.

“I wanted to give all these boys and girls the opportunity to play. I wanted the kids to play on a professional field and work with them to develop their talent,” said Villegas.

His passion is soccer. Many have described him as a person who eats, sleeps, works and talks soccer all the time. That is why parents in the community approached him about starting a soccer league in their backyard in Wyandotte County.

Sandra Olivas, Business Development officer at Brotherhood Bank presented Villegas with a plaque recognizing him for his talent, dedication and exceptional service to the community.

“He wanted the children to have the opportunity to play soccer because he didn't have that opportunity. When his family came to California

from Mexico when he was 11 years old, he had to work to help his family. He wanted to play soccer with the other teens in his community, but he couldn't,” said Olivas.

Fast forward to today and Villegas is helping to make it possible for children who dream of playing soccer to be able to do so. He formed a partnership with KCP&L to provide free soccer clinics for the children. Last year two clinics were held with players from Sporting KC. KCP&L provided food and t-shirts and soccer balls and shoes were handed out to the children for free by Sporting KC.

“The families have a lot of respect for him. They look up to him and he does everything top of the line,” said Olivas.

Before opening Soccer Nation, the El Padrino teams had to travel to Grandview, Missouri to practice and play. The trip to Grandview was costly for some of the families and the playing fees were high.

Families told him if he opened a facility close to their home, they would support it. Drive by Soccer Nation any day and the parking lot is filled with cars and inside families sit and watch the children practice or play.

Fourteen-year old Jonathan Santres and sixteen-year old Isaac Padilla are at Soccer Nation every Wednesday and Friday for practice. Both boys enjoy coming to the indoor soccer facility.

“I am here every weekend as I have three or four games usually on the weekends. It is a really nice place to play,” said Santres.

Padilla said that it is more convenient for his family to drive to the facility rather than having to drive to Grandview, Missouri for him to play.

“We had to drive farther before but now with it being in our own community, more Hispanic people are able to come here and let their children participate in soccer,” said Padilla.

It took Villegas eight months to build Soccer Nation into the professional facility he wanted for the children. “We have talented kids playing soccer,” he said.

His work in the community is not finished yet. He plans to locate property in Kansas City, Kansas to build outdoor soccer fields for the players and host tournaments in Wyandotte County. Thus letting families and their children stay close to home and not have to travel across the state line to play games.

Opening outdoor soccer fields in his home town will keep travel expenses down for the families and will keep money spent on food, gas for the cars and tournament fees in Wyandotte County.

“This is where I live, this is where my business is and this is where the majority of the kids live. I want to keep it in the community,” said Villegas.

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“Hemos tenido un tremendo éxito”

CONT./PÁGINA 1

Condado de Wyandotte.

En la apertura de su discurso, en el Centro de Convenciones Reardon, Holland dijo, “La oportunidad y la posibilidad es lo que tiene Kansas City, Kansas. Durante muchos años, estas oportunidades y posibilidades estuvieron en estado inactivo. Hemos tenido un gran éxito en los últimos años”.

Durante su charla, él se refirió a varios temas que han estado en las noticias sobre el Condado de Wyandotte – las comunidades saludables del Condado de Wyandotte, el Grupo de Tareas de Seguridad Pública, y el desarrollo económico en la sección occidental del condado.

Él promociona que el desarrollo económico en el Condado de Wyandotte ha capturado la imaginación de los líderes estatales y nacionales.

El Condado de Wyandotte ha atraído a la empresa Agricultores de Lácteos de Estados Unidos (Dairy Farmers of America). La compañía estaba buscando dos sitios construidos al gusto, uno a cada lado de la línea estatal, y las noticias se extendieron rápidamente cuando Agricultores de Lácteos de Estados Unidos anunció que iba a construir una nueva sede cerca de West Village.

“Los productores de leche van a construir un espacio de oficinas de 100 mil pies cuadrados. Ellos traerán a una serie de grupos de todo el país para utilizar nuestros hoteles, restaurantes y ventas al por menor. Los productores de leche son otro ejemplo de lo que puede hacer el estado”, dijo.

El desarrollo en la ciudad se está alejando del Oeste y yendo hacia el núcleo urbano. La reciente revitalización de tiendas al por menor, que ha tenido lugar en las calles 78 y State, donde se ha abierto al público un nuevo Pet Smart, un establecimiento de donas Krispy Kreme y un Price Chopper.

Holland citó el crecimiento en las calles 39 y Rainbow, el Centro Médico de la Universidad de Kansas, el inicio de manufacturación en el Distrito Industrial de Fairfax, nuevas tiendas de comestibles en el barrio de Argentine y en los barrios del centro, así como la reinversión en el centro de la ciudad, sobre la Avenida Minnesota.

Cuando fue elegido alcalde, dijo que sus dos principales prioridades eran Indian Springs y el centro de la ciudad. El GU ha enlistado a Lane 4 Property Group para ayudarles a desarrollar la propiedad vacía de Indian Springs.

“El transformar a Indian Springs en algo productivo, es una alta prioridad. Tenemos equipos de construcción ahí, ahora mismo, llevando el asbesto afuera en preparación para una renovación o un completo desmontaje. Estamos trabajando con Line 4 para convertir el sitio en algo productivo”, dijo.

En 1995, había alrededor de 150 hogares donde West Village está hoy. Ellos estaban pagando alrededor de \$175 mil dólares en impuestos sobre la propiedad.

“Actualmente, West Village paga hoy más de 17 millones de dólares anuales en impuestos a la propiedad. El desarrollo comercial cuenta con 9 mil puestos de trabajo que no estaban allí

en 1995. Es una tremenda historia de éxito. Los Bonos STAR son las herramientas económicas más innovadoras en cualquier parte del país. Los Bonos STAR darán frutos en el 2017”, dijo Holland.

Él le dijo al público reunido en el almuerzo anual, que el dinero de los Bonos STAR podrían ayudar a poner al día los sueldos de los empleados públicos que han sido congelados desde hace varios años, puede ayudar al gobierno a implementar mejoras en la infraestructura y puede ayudar a reducir los impuestos a la propiedad.

“Tenemos que ser estratégicos en cómo gastamos el dinero”, dijo Holland.

Al acercarse la primavera, la construcción aumentará en West Village. Se construirá el Hotel Casino Hollywood y un adicional complejo de 300 apartamentos de lujo.

Actualmente, en la propiedad de Schlitterbahn, se está moviendo la tierra para traer un nuevo centro comercial de autos de 60 acres, siendo sede de seis nuevos concesionarios de automóviles, en Parallel y I-435.

“Después de que algunas generaciones han observado que los concesionarios de automóviles se van de la comunidad, es una delicia verlos regresar y traer de vuelta sus ventas y el impuesto sobre la propiedad de nuevo a nuestra comunidad. Ese será un gran motor para el desarrollo económico”, dijo el Alcalde Holland.

El Departamento de Policía y el GU están en negociaciones sobre el equipamiento a los agentes de policía para portar cámaras en el cuerpo.

“Las cámaras en el cuerpo no son el elemento más



Mayor Mark Holland delivered his second State of the Government address. He kicked off his address by saying, “In the last two years, Wyandotte County has seen an unprecedented \$1.26 billion dollars in economic investment.”

El Alcalde Mark Holland presentó su segundo Informe de Gobierno. Él comenzó su discurso diciendo: “En los últimos dos años, el Condado de Wyandotte ha visto el número sin precedentes de \$1260 millones de dólares en inversión económica”.

importante o son todo para el trabajo policial. Son una herramienta potencial que puede ayudar a proporcionar seguridad para nuestros funcionarios y para nuestros ciudadanos. Vamos a echar

un vistazo muy cuidadoso en esto. Es muy caro y además de la cámara, también necesitan equipos para monitorear los datos. Se necesita una importante inversión en tecnologías de

la información, además de personas que ejecuten el sistema. Debemos liderar a la región en la utilización de esta tecnología”, dijo.

“We have had tremendous success”

CONT./PAGE 1

Opening his speech at the Reardon Convention Center, Holland said, “Opportunity and possibility is what Kansas City, Kansas has. For many years that opportunity and possibility laid dormant. We have had tremendous success in the last few years.”

During his talk, he touched on several subjects that have been in the news about Wyandotte County—healthy communities Wyandotte, Public Safety Task Force, and economic development in the western section of the county.

He touted that the economic development in Wyandotte County has captured the imagination of the state and national leaders.

Wyandotte County have attracted the Dairy Farmers of America. The company was looking at two build-to-suit sites, one on each side of the state line, and news spread quickly when Dairy Farmers of America announced that they would build a new headquarters near Village West.

“The dairy farmers are going to build a 100,000 square foot office space. They will bring in a number of groups from around the country to use our hotels and our restaurants and retail. The dairy farmers are another example of what a state can do,” he said.

Development in the city is moving away from the West and towards the urban core. Recent revitalization of retail shops has taken place at 78th and State, where a new Pet Smart, Krispy Kreme donuts and Price Chopper are open for business.

Holland cited growth at 39th and Rainbow, the University of Kansas Medical Center, manufacturing starts in the Fairfax Industrial District, new grocery stores in Argentine and midtown neighborhoods and reinvestment in the city’s downtown Minnesota Avenue.

When he was elected mayor, he said his top two priorities were Indian Springs and downtown. The UG has enlisted Lane 4 Property Group to help them develop the empty Indian Springs property.

“Turning Indian Springs into something productive is a high priority. We have construction equipment out there right now taking the asbestos out in preparation for a renovation or a complete tear down. We are working with Lane 4 to get the site turned into something productive,” he said.

In 1995 there were about 150 homes where Village West stands today. They were paying about \$175,000 in property tax.

“Village West today currently pays over \$17 million annually in property tax. The retail development has 9,000 jobs that were not there in 1995. It is a tremendous success story. The STAR Bonds are the most innovative economic tools anywhere in the country. The STAR Bonds will pay off in 2017,” said Holland.

He told the audience gathered at the annual

luncheon that the STAR Bond monies could help them catch up government employees salaries that have been frozen for the last several years, it can help the government implement infrastructure improvements and it can help lower property taxes.

“We need to be strategic in how we spend this money,” said Holland.

As spring approaches, construction will be picking up out in Village West. The Hollywood Casino hotel will be built and an additional 300 luxury apartments will be constructed.

On the Schlitterbahn property, dirt is currently being moved to bring in a new 60-acre auto mall hosting six new auto dealerships at Parallel and I-435.

“After generations of watching auto dealerships leave the community, it is a delight to see them come back and bring back their sales and property tax back into our community. That will be a great engine for further economic development,” said Mayor Holland.

The Police department and the UG are in discussions

about equipping police officers with body cameras.

“Body cameras are not the end all or be all for police work. They are a potential tool that can help provide safety for our officers and for our citizens. We are going to take a very careful look at this. It is extremely expensive and besides the camera, you also need computers that will tract the data. It will take a significant investment in IT and people to run the system. We should lead the region in utilizing this technology,” he said.

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Signs Your Headache May Be Caused By TMJ

Nearly everyone on occasion experiences a throbbing headache that interferes with concentration at work or school, or saps the joy from the day.

But sometimes the source of that headache can be surprising. For many people, the pain that emanates from the head can be traced back to their teeth, their bite relationship and the alignment of the lower jaw.

“Pain doesn’t happen randomly or because of bad luck,” says Dr. Fred Abeles, author of the book “Break Away: The New Method for Treating Chronic Headaches, Migraines and TMJ Without Medication.”

“There’s a cause and effect to almost everything in the human body.”

With many headaches, Abeles says, the cause is the temporomandibular joint, or TMJ, the place at the front of the ear where the lower jaw and the temporal bone on the side of the head meet.

Sometimes the bite and the lower jaw are out of

alignment, putting additional strain on muscles, which leads to the headaches. And for many, TMJ headaches aren’t going away because people try to mask the pain with medication rather than correct the underlying cause, Abeles says.

But how do you know a headache is caused by TMJ? Abeles says these are some of the warning signs.

- Your jaw clicks or pops. Any joint in your body should work silently and seamlessly, Abeles says. If your jaw clicks or pops when you open or close it, it’s a clear sign that the lower half of the joint is not in the proper position. Even if the popping and clicking don’t produce pain, he says, the muscles that have to support and stabilize the joint become fatigued and will produce pain.

- Your bite feels off. The TMJ is the only joint in the human body that has 28 teeth stuck between the opening and closing motion of the joint to complicate things, Abeles says. Every other joint is completely controlled by

muscles, and the position of the joint, its movement and range of motion are mediated by muscle.

The TMJ’s position is dictated by where our teeth come together in our bite. So if your bite feels off or your teeth don’t fit together well, there’s a good chance your TMJ joints are off, too.

- You have pain around your forehead, temples, back of head or radiating down your neck. Ninety percent of pain comes from muscle, Abeles says. If your muscles are not functioning well because of fatigue from supporting one or both of your TMJ joints in an improper position, they produce pain. It’s much like when you exercise or work hard and feel muscle pain later, he says. The only difference is that TMJ is more subtle and chronic.

- You have forward head posture. Our heads are supposed to be centered over our shoulders. If yours is in front of your shoulders when you are upright, you have “forward head posture.” That relates to your bite and your

airway. The human head weighs about eight to 10 pounds. The farther forward it is off the center axis, the more strain it places on neck muscles and vertebrae.

- You snore. Snoring is a red flag that respiration during sleep is disturbed, Abeles says. Several factors can lead to snoring, but one of the most important is the position of the lower jaw, he says. If your lower jaw is a little too far back, then the tongue is farther back as well.

“If the tongue is slightly farther back than optimal it vibrates against our soft palate, closes off our airway and we snore,” Abeles says. The snoring doesn’t cause the headache, he says, but it could be a sign the lower jaw is too far back. As a result, the muscles that support the jaw in an improper position produce the headache pain.

GOes on page 4. Dr. Fred Abeles is author of the new book “Break Away: The New Method for Treating Chronic Headaches, Migraines and TMJ Without Medication.”

How to Slow Down Your Life and Enjoy the Ride – Right Now

It’s finally Friday night, the beginning of a weekend of freedom, which also happens to include your birthday. Your family, friends and spouse all have celebratory plans for you.

You have a rewarding career and a network of beautiful people who want to rejoice in your life. As you walk out to your car to officially kickoff the fun, a giddy thrill washes over you.

But as you click the seatbelt into place, rather than sitting in awe of how lucky you are, a list of concerns begin worming their way into your consciousness: “I need gas, but the conveniently located gas station charges more than others ... I hope it’s not a surprise party ... Maybe I should get the beverages I like before going home ... I haven’t been to the gym all week ... Did I pay the electric bill?”

And so it goes.

“I think we’ve all had this experience, which often has us psychically living 30 minutes into the future – no matter how great the present circumstances might be,” says Steve Gilliland, a member of the Speaker Hall of Fame and author of the widely acclaimed “Enjoy The Ride,” for which he is set to publish a follow-up that will be released in May 2015.

“Are we doomed to this torrent of noise which distracts us from enjoying our life? We don’t have to be.”

- Don’t live your life 30 minutes ahead of the present. If you won’t live your life now, in the present, then who will?

“An older man came up to me, grabbed my hand, and said he wished he’d heard me speak decades ago,” Gilliland says. “After I asked why, he said that when he was eating lunch on break or dinner with his family, he was always thinking about what he had to do after the meal, which represented his daily life. ‘At the age of 97,’ he said, ‘I’ve officially lived my life 30 minutes ahead’ – 30 minutes ahead of whatever he was doing at the moment.”

- Laugh more! It’s better than crying before you’re hurt. Don’t put your umbrella up until it rains. Worry restricts your ability to think and act effectively, and it forces you to mortgage fear and anxiety about something that may never occur. Laughter is the opposite. When you laugh, you’re living almost completely in the moment, and it’s one of the best feelings you can have.

- No one can ruin your day without your permission. As much as we cannot control in life – our genes, our past and what has led up to today – there is much control we may take upon ourselves. Today, for example, we can understand that life picks on

everyone, so when the going gets tough, we don’t have to take it personally. When we do take misfortune personally, we tend to obsess, giving a legacy to something that may make you a day poorer in life.

- Cure your destination disease. Live more for today, less for tomorrow, and never about yesterday. How? You might have to repeatedly remind yourself that yesterday is gone

forever, yet we perpetually have to deal with now, so why not live it? And what if tomorrow never occurs? There is a difference between working toward the future, which is inherently enjoyable in light of hope, and living in an unrealistic future that remains perpetually elusive. If tomorrow never comes, would you be satisfied with the way today ended? “It is not how you start in life and it is not how

you finish,” Gilliland says. “The true joy of life is in the trip, so enjoy the ride!”

About Steve Gilliland

A member of the National Speaker Association’s Speaker Hall of Fame, Steve Gilliland is one of the most in-demand and top-rated speakers in the world. Recognized by his peers as a master storyteller and brilliant comedian.

In Loving Memory

Margaret C. Chavez

Margaret C. Chavez, 89 went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She died peacefully surrounded by her family who loved her dearly on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at Shawnee Gardens Health Care.

Margaret was born on June 10, 1925 to Pedro and Aurora Cabrera.

Family and friends gathered for a visitation on Sunday, March 1 at Maple Hill Funeral Home 3300 Shawnee Dr., Kansas City, KS. So many people came out to support the family and to share fond memories of Margaret Chavez.

On Monday, March 2, a funeral mass was held in her honor at St. Agnes Church, 5250 Mission Rd., Roeland Park, KS. The family held a reception immediately following services at the parish center. A private family service was held at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery where she will be laid to rest with her husband. Margaret worked as a proud member of the UFCW Local 576. Her passion was performing as a CNA for Catholic Charities. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Roy, and son Roy Jr.; daughter Rita Margaret; brothers Peter, Roy and Rudy, and sisters Adriana Ruiz and Aurora Sztorch. She is survived by a sister Carmen Corona, sons Ralph (Erlinda), Robert (Therese), Richard (Pat), and Rudy Chavez. Daughters Rose Mary Naert (Henry), Rachel Perez (Peter Jr), and Ramona Avila, 20 grand children, 50 great grand children, and 10 great great grand children. Memorial Contributions to St. Agnes Church to Alzheimer’s and or Diabetes foundations.

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Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and raised in Dodge City, Kan., Madaí Rivera earned degrees from Kansas State University as a first-generation student. Now she helps Latino/a students achieve their dreams at Kansas State University. From dedicated clubs for Latino/a students to programs specifically for first-generation students, Kansas State University welcomes you into our family.

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BAC Local 15 Apprenticeship & Training will again be accepting applications for its annual Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program. If you are a young man or women looking for a career in the masonry trade this is your opportunity. The length of the program is only eight weeks. Applications will be taken at the Builders Association Training Center at: 105 W. 12th Ave, North Kansas City, Mo. February 16, 2015, thru February 27, 2015. Call # listed below to schedule an appointment. Must bring copies of your high school diploma/GED, birth certificate & your valid driver's license to apply.

For more information, contact Tammy Stuhlman at: 816-595-4135

NOTICE TO MINORITY & WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

McAfee Construction, Inc. is seeking MBE & WBE Subcontractors and Suppliers who are interested in bidding on the University of Missouri – Quarterdeck – Renovation Room 251 #CP150251. Plans and Specs may be viewed at <http://www.cf.missouri.edu/pdc/ad.html> Bids are due in our office by 12 pm on March 9, 2015. Interested bidders please contact McAfee Construction, Inc. at 573-474-4397.

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SPORTS

DEPORTES

“Cuban Minnie Minoso called me Chico”



by
Raoul Lowery Contreras

Saturnino Orestes Armas Minoso Arrieta died a few days ago in Chicago. Baseball fans knew him as Minnie Minoso, the second Black player in Major League Baseball's American League; the first Black Hispanic star.

Before the majors he played center field on the Triple AAA San Diego Padres in San Diego, California. The team played in Lane Field, a wooden stadium with 10,000 seats on San Diego Bay.

He called me “Chico.”

I was the luckiest kid in San Diego in 1949. My mother married my step-father, a rookie San Diego police officer who was earning \$150 a month as a police officer. He moonlighted as security at the “wrassling” and boxing matches at the downtown Coliseum, just a mile from my home at night and at daytime weekend baseball games of the Pacific Coast League San Diego Padres, the very team my cousin Ted Williams had played for before he went to Boston and I arrived from Mexico..

I was a big fan of Gorgeous George and hated Mr. Moto of professional wrestling. I adored my neighbor Light Heavyweight Champion of the world, boxing's premier knockout artist, Archie Moore, the Mongoose, who had 105 knockouts in his career and was the only man ever to knock Heavyweight Champ Rocky Marciano off his feet.

It was my pleasure to go to the fights and to “wrassling” when my step-father worked them; it was free and delightful to yell and scream along with a couple thousand others. I got to meet all the wrestlers and boxers. I even met “Pappy” Boyington, the famous U.S. Marine pilot that shot down 26 Japanese

planes in World War Two who was the first Medal of Honor winner I met. He was a referee.

I knew it was a big deal because my Navy veteran step-father didn't like Marines but he like Boyington who refereed “wrassling” matches. My high school Graphics Arts teacher who flew with Boyington's famous “Black Sheep” Marine fighter squadron introduced “Pappy” to me. Much to his surprise, “Colonel Boyington” tousled my hair and said, “I remember you from the Coliseum.” Good memory ten years later.

But my real pleasure came on Saturday and Sunday afternoons during baseball when my step-dad worked security for Padre Games. We entered the park through the ball player's entrance; I got to go on the practice field and shag balls for the players. I met a skinny Mexican American pitcher named Enrique “Hank” Aguirre who later was a star pitcher with the Detroit Tigers. I played catch with a huge guy named Luke Easter the first Black player in the American League. But my favorite was Minnie Minoso. He taught me how to slide into second base. He led the majors in triples and stolen bases three times each, he was that good.

Out of Mexico just six years, my Spanish was good and because his English wasn't, the Cuban enjoyed having me around because when he needed help with a word, I helped him just like I helped my Grandmother who never learned English.

He was so popular that one night in my neighborhood theater we were watching a movie about revolution in Cuba in which there was a scene of a Black Cuban carrying a machete and I cried “Minnie Minoso!” and the audience started clapping.

We lost him in San Diego when the parent Cleveland Indians called him up to join Luke Easter. He played 17 seasons in the American League, 12 with the Chicago White Sox. He was the first Black on the Chicago White Sox.

Minnie Minoso had a .298 lifetime batting average and career 186 homers and 1,023 RBIs. He also led the American League in triples and steals three times in each category. He made the American League All-Star team nine times.

Another Cuban ball player, Chicago White Sox shortstop Alexei Ramirez says, “I think that everybody has to respect his legacy because he did so much for the Latin players, for the Cubans, for everybody because when he arrived here it was a tough time because of racism and discrimination. He wrote a huge legacy for all of us.”

That's well and good but I remember him best for running back towards the centerfield wall at Lane Field one Saturday afternoon in 1949, turning and realizing that the ball was hit too high and would be a home run, he threw his mitt into the air and knocked the ball down.

The opposing manager came flying out of his dugout screaming that it was a fair home run; the crowd booed him, the umpires agreed with him, the crowd booed them.

The next day at batting practice, Minnie threw his mitt up and laughingly asked me in Spanish if I enjoyed his play to stop the home run the day before. We laughed and I threw my glove up in the air. We laughed more.

He died Sunday March 1st, he was 90 years old.

Raoul Lowery Contreras formerly wrote for Creators Syndicate and the New American News Service of the New York Times Syndicate

ROYALS OFFER PEANUT FRIENDLY DATES IN 2015

The Kansas City Royals have announced that they will continue to offer Peanut Friendly Games at The K – designed for individuals with peanut allergies and their families. During nine designated games during the 2015 home season, the Royals will make a private suite available for those who have difficulty attending games at Kauffman Stadium due to their peanut allergy.

A limited number of tickets for each designated game will be available in the Joe Burke Suite, which is located on the Press Box Level of Kauffman Stadium. Suite ticket prices range from \$60 to \$80 per guest depending on the game and includes a peanut-friendly food and non-alcoholic drink menu. In addition, a First Aid Attendant and Guest Services Representative will be located inside the suite for assistance. For more information and game pricing, please visit www.royals.com/peanutallergy.

The Peanut Friendly Games at The K are scheduled for the following dates.

Saturday, April 18 vs. Oakland Athletics – Prime Game – \$70 per guest ticket

Saturday, May 2 vs. Detroit Tigers – Prime Game

– \$70 per guest ticket

Wednesday, May 6 vs. Cleveland Indians – Classic Game – \$60 per guest ticket

Thursday, June 18 vs. Milwaukee Brewers – Classic Game – \$60 per guest ticket

Sunday, June 21 vs. Boston Red Sox – Prime Game – \$70 per guest ticket

Sunday, July 12 vs. Toronto Blue Jays – Select Game – \$60 per guest ticket

Tuesday, July 21 vs. Pittsburgh Pirates – Select Game – \$60 per guest ticket

Saturday, August 8 vs. Chicago White Sox – Prime Game – \$70 per guest ticket

Saturday, September 26 vs. Cleveland Indians – Marquee Game – \$80 per guest ticket

“We look forward to continuing last year's success in providing our guests with peanut allergies the opportunity to watch Royals baseball in a peanut-friendly environment,” said Anthony Mozzicato, Director of Guest Experience. “This initiative was a wonderful experience for our guests last season and we are excited to offer more game opportunities in 2015 as the demand continues to grow.”

For tickets, guests may call the Royals Ticket Services

Department at (816) 504-4040, option 3, or email ticketsservices@royals.com. Tickets are reserved for individuals with peanut allergies and their families.

All persons seated in the Peanut Friendly Suite will be required to sign a waiver before entering Kauffman Stadium. Individuals under the age of 18 also must have the waiver signed by their parent or other legal guardian. Please note that the Royals reserve the right to request a doctor's note verifying the allergy.

Royals added, Peanut friendly does not mean peanut free. Peanuts will be present in other areas throughout the ballpark. The Royals play in a venue where wind and other conditions outside of their control may impact the peanut friendly suite. While reasonable efforts will be made, including posting signs outside the peanut friendly suite to restrict peanut products in direct neighboring areas and performing additional cleaning in advance, we cannot guarantee the absence of peanut particles and residue from either. Guests with peanut allergies should take all precautions that they customarily take in public places with potential exposure.

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MDC seeks public input on proposed deer hunting regulation changes

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

– The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is seeking public input on proposed changes to the state's deer hunting regulations for the 2016-2017 hunting season.

For the fall firearms deer season, MDC proposes:

Maintaining the current timing of the November portion but reducing the length from 11 days to nine days. Expanding the late youth firearms weekend from two days to three days and having it begin the Friday after Thanksgiving instead of early January. Reducing the length of the antlerless firearms portion from 12 days to three days and beginning it on the first Friday in December, and eliminating the urban zones portion.

For the fall archery deer and turkey season, MDC proposes:

Allowing crossbows as a legal method, and reducing the limit of antlered deer during the archery season from two to one.

MDC also proposes simplifying conservation area regulations and also wants public comment on permit fees for nonresidents regarding a possible increase, decrease, or no change in price.

The proposed regulation changes are a result of public input and MDC deer management research and practices. During the summer of 2014, MDC gathered more than 4,000 public comments on deer management and possible regulation changes through open houses, online comments, letters and emails.

MDC also surveyed many deer hunters regarding potential regulation changes. MDC staff will present final regulations recommendations to the Conservation Commission in late 2015.

MDC WELCOMES PUBLIC COMMENT

To explain the proposed changes and gather public feedback, MDC will hold the following public meetings around the state from 5 to 8 p.m.:

Feb. 24 – MDC Burr Oak Woods Nature Center, 1401 N.W. Park Road in Blue Springs;

Feb. 26 – MDC Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road in Kirkwood;

March 3 – MDC Springfield Nature Center, 4601 S. Nature Center Way in Springfield;

March 5 – West Plains Civic Center, 110 St. Louis St. in West Plains;

March 10 – MDC Cape Girardeau Nature Center, 2289 County Park Drive in Cape Girardeau;

March 12 – MDC Northeast Regional Office, 3500 S. Baltimore in Kirksville;

March 16 – MDC Central Regional Office, 3500 E. Gans Road in Columbia; and March 31 – MDC Northwest Regional Office, 701 James McCarthy Drive in St. Joseph.

MDC also welcomes public comments online. To learn more about the proposed regulations, MDC's deer management plan, past public comments, and to provide comment, visit the Department's website at mdc.mo.gov/node/28079.

Mail comments to: Missouri

Department of Conservation, Attn: Policy Coordination, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

RATIONALE FOR REGULATION CHANGES

MDC expanded the November portion of firearms deer season to 11 days in 1995 in response to a rapidly growing deer population in many parts of the state. Deer numbers in most parts of Missouri are now at or below desired levels. According to MDC biologists, reducing the length of the November portion by two days will help increase those numbers.

The Department's reasoning for changing the timing of the late youth portion from early January to the weekend after Thanksgiving is that it should increase youth-hunter participation and success as a result of better deer activity and weather conditions. Adding the Friday after Thanksgiving will provide an additional hunting day when schools are closed.

MDC anticipates that reducing the length of the antlerless season from 12 days to three days will help increase deer numbers to more desirable levels. The antlerless portion of the firearms deer season was implemented in 1996 to increase the harvest of female deer, or does, in response to a rapidly growing deer population in many parts of the state. The deer population in most of Missouri is currently at or below desired levels.

According to MDC, eliminating the urban zones portion of the firearms season is being considered because firearms hunting in urban zones is significantly limited by city



MDC is seeking public input on proposed deer hunting regulation changes involving firearms season lengths, use of crossbows, archery bag limits, regulations on conservation areas, and non-resident permit fees.

ordinances and safety concerns. As a result, this portion does not significantly lower deer numbers in areas where urban deer conflicts occur.

The department anticipates that allowing crossbows as a legal method during the archery deer and turkey season will help younger hunters enter the sport and also prolong participation for older hunters. MDC research shows that most deer hunters are in favor of allowing crossbows during the archery season and bow hunters are about equally divided on the topic.

Reducing the buck harvest during archery season from two to one per hunter will make hunters more selective and help more bucks reach older age-classes. Regulations allowing bow hunters to harvest two bucks were implemented in 1988 when there were fewer than 100,000 individuals with a permit to hunt deer during the archery season compared to more than 180,000 in 2013. Also, the harvest of bucks by bow hunters has nearly doubled from 11 percent of the total harvest in 2000 to 19 percent in 2013.

The Department anticipates that simplifying deer hunting regulations on conservation areas to archery only, archery and muzzleloader only, or archery and firearms will both increase hunter satisfaction and allow area managers to adjust regulations based on current deer numbers.

MDC permit fees for nonresident hunters are competitive with those of surrounding states and have remained the same since 2009.

Source
Missouri Department of Conservation

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Grades K-3
5123 E. Truman Rd KCMO 64127
816-994-0396

WDAF – TV Dan Henry Bowser remembered

This past Saturday February 28, 2015 an icon of the WDAF-TV Fox 4 News family former weatherman Dan Henry Bowser passed way at the at his home at age of 89.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years. Estyl Olsen Bowser two sons and their wives, Brian and Becky Bowser, Bradley and Staci Bowser, Daughter Kathryn Bowser and Mark Hornsby, Grandsons Reed and Weston Bowser, two granddaughters Randi and Layne Bowser. A memorial service for family friends and church-members will be held at Old Mission Methodist Church.

Former colleague, WDAF - TV anchor Cynthia Smith said Henry was just the same off the air as he was on TV and people would asked her about it a lot. Henry had a lot of talents off-screen too. "Some people see him as a weather presenter, humorous and a great communicator, but he was one smart cookie. He was also a great engineer. The last time I was at his house, he had built a replica of a famous castle in Ireland. I think at one point he built a car and an airplane. He was always tinkering with things and loving it."

FOX 4's news anchor Phil Witt was a longtime colleague of Henry's. They worked together for nearly 15 years. Witt says Henry was a humorous guy, but he could change in an instant when he needed to be serious.

"He turned from this master showman into a serious weather journalist. If a storm was coming, it was never to scare us or threaten us, just to keep us informed so we could be safe," said Witt.

Henry's favorite charities are Old Mission Methodist Church, Salvation Army, The Barbershop Harmony Society and The Fox 4 Love Fund.



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La gente aún no vota, “Me rompe el corazón”

CONT./PÁGINA 1

Para Ruíz, el momento es agri dulce. “Me rompe el corazón que mi padre no este aquí, para ver alguna de mis aspiraciones políticas avanzar en la forma que lo han hecho. Pero me siento muy orgulloso de que hay un hispano/latino en este puesto. Eso significa que hay espacio para que otras personas vengan, continúen y participen”.

El ex representante estatal Rick Rehorn quien ocupó el asiento hasta que se retire animó Ruiz a correr unos 10 años de edad. “Yo lo apoyé para funcionar para el asiento porque me gustaba su fondo y que había trabajado tanto en el sector privado ... ambos lados trabajadores y la dirección. También formó parte de algunas placas no con fines de lucro. Estoy contento por él”.

Ruiz admitió, que puede ser un hueso duro de roer cuando se es minoría en un partido de la minoría en el ámbito estatal, especialmente si usted es un demócrata en la Legislatura del Estado de Kansas, donde son 28 demócratas de un cuerpo de 125 legisladores.

“Somos la súper minoría y eso significa que hay legislaciones buenas que nos gustaría ver que se aprueben para ayudar al estado de Kansas, pero ya que no tenemos los números para que una buena legislación sea aprobada y promovida, tenemos que ver como los buenos proyectos de ley son abandonados”.

Kansas State Representante Tom Burroughs fue elegido



líder demócrata así a principios de febrero por primera vez. Burroughs dijo a Hispanic News, “Louis es un joven de mente muy brillante que aporta mucho cuando se trata de debates y con un manejo de sí



mismo que refleja sus valores democráticos.”

John Alcalá, representa al Distrito 57, en el Condado de Shawnee, que cubre el área de Topeka. Él insistió en que Ruiz busque el puesto.

“Llamé a Louis cuando las

elecciones se acercaron, y le dije que yo sentía que tenía las cualificaciones y la capacidad de liderazgo para estar en ese puesto y le pregunté si podía nominarlo y llamar a la gente para hacer presión en su nombre”, recordó.

“Louis es un hombre que se pone de pie cuando sabe que es correcto”, insistió Alcalá. “Él es también un hombre que en situaciones donde existe un desacuerdo, está dispuesto a encontrar una solución. Creo que es muy importante - nunca dejar las líneas de comunicación. Y creo que eso es importante para un líder. Creo que se ha ganado esa capacidad aquí, en la casa del estado. Creo que era su turno para entrar en ese rol”.

Alcalá tiene la certeza, de que en algún momento, los latinos van a tomar su lugar en el sistema político convirtiéndolo a él y a Ruiz en rarezas políticas.

“Creo que vamos a ver que onda con los jóvenes y futuros latinos que están siendo más educados, fomentando su educación, participando más activamente en la comunidad. Creo que vamos a ver que suceda eso. Creo que va a llegar ese ciclo”, insiste Alcalá.

Ruiz es menos optimista. Él ha sido vocal al tratar de que la gente participe en el proceso político. Este activismo se remonta a años atrás cuando era integrante del Sindicato de Trabajadores de Comunicaciones de América. Él pasó 30 años en Lucent Technologies y sus

predecesores Western Electric y AT&T.

“La gente, hasta que quieren algo, no les importa quién está allí o por quién votaron. Si pasa algo, como el tener a un integrante de la familia en peligro con la ley, o puede ser un DUI, o necesitan alguna ayuda sobre un tema, entonces usted tiene noticias de ellos”, se lamenta Ruiz. “Yo siempre les pregunto, ‘¿Ha votado? ¿Por qué no vota y nos ayuda a traer más rostros morenos a la legislatura?’ Siempre es algo así como ‘No creo que mi voto cuente’”.

Ruiz señala, en su frustración, que ha habido legisladores que han ganado por menos de diez votos. “Ellos tienen los mismos derechos de voto y el poder como lo tengo yo, y me molesta que nuestro pueblo latino sea tan apático, tan desilusionado. Esto no es sólo a nivel local, es a lo largo y ancho de la nación. Se han referido a nosotros como un gigante dormido. Todavía estoy esperando a que se despierte”.

El precio de esa apatía está claro, según Ruiz. Él ve una gran cantidad de personas que nunca han estado involucrados en la política y entran en la legislatura.

“Gente del Tea Party, porque tienen mucho dinero y porque son Tea Party, y se plantan en los lugares correctos, reciben apoyo de ciertos individuos y organizaciones y están aquí. El dinero ha comprado sus escaños. En lugar de ser calificado y una buena persona, una o un estadista, ellos están aquí muchas veces sólo para ver cuántos estragos pueden crear”.

Ruiz es igualmente crítico de la comunidad latina.

“A los latinos les gusta quedarse en su propia burbuja y ser líderes en sus propios grupos. El tomar una oportunidad fuera de la burbuja es un gran cambio. Hay que poner un montón de uno mismo en el juego y no es una zona cómoda



“Louis Ruiz is a man that stands up when he knows he is right,” insisted Kansas State Rep John Alcala. “He is also a man in situations where there is disagreement he is willing to find resolution. I think that is really important – to never cease the lines of communication. And I think that is important for a leader. ... I think he has earned his stripes here in the state house. I think it was his turn to step into that role.”

“Louis Ruiz es un hombre que argumenta cuando sabe que esta en lo correcto”, insistió el representante estatal de Kansas, John Alcalá. “Él es también un hombre que en situaciones donde existe desacuerdo está dispuesto a encontrar una solución. Creo que eso es muy importante - para nunca dejar las líneas de comunicación. Y creo que eso es importante para un líder. ... Creo que se ha ganado su lugar aquí en la casa del estado. Creo que era su turno para ocupar ese rol”.



cuando se es tal vez el único latino aquí”.

Su consejo para las personas que buscan involucrarse en la política, es trabajar a nivel de base, trabajando en las campañas políticas, sirviendo en juntas directivas, mantenerse educados e informados sobre las cuestiones que son importantes para la comunidad.

Ruiz admitió que no está buscando retirarse pronto. “Siento que voy a seguir participando hasta que mi corazón me diga algo diferente. Siento que estoy agregando valor a la legislatura y a mi comunidad. Nadie ha pedido mi sustitución o quiere despedirme, aún, por lo que pienso que estoy haciendo un trabajo decente, al menos, para permanecer en el cargo”.

People still don’t vote “It breaks my heart”

CONT./PAGE 1

political aspirations advance the way they have. ... But I feel very proud that there is a Hispanic/Latino in this seat. That means that there is room for other people to come and follow and be involved.”

Former State Representative Rick Rehorn who held the seat until he retires encouraged Ruiz to run some 10 years old. “I endorsed him to run for the seat because I liked his background and he had worked in both the private sector ... both labor and management side. He also served on some non-for profit boards. I’m happy for him.”

Ruiz admitted it is a tough row to hoe when you are a minority in a minority party at the state level, especially if you are a Democrat in the Kansas State Legislature where Democrats count 28 out of a body of 125 legislators.

“We are the super minority and that means that some good legislation that we would like to see go through to help the state of Kansas, but because we do not have the numbers to pass and promote good legislation, we have to see good bills pass by the wayside.”

Kansas State Representative Tom Burroughs was elected House Democratic Leader as well in early February for the first time. Burroughs told Hispanic News, “Louis is a very bright minded young man and brings a lot to the table when it comes to debuts and handles himself in a matter that is reflected of Democratic values.”

John Alcala represents the 57th district in Shawnee County, which covers the Topeka area. He insisted that Ruiz seek the position.

“I called Louis when the elections came up and told him that I felt that he had qualifications and leadership ability to step into that position and I asked him if I could

nominate him and call people to lobby on his behalf,” he recalled.

“Louis is a man that stands up when he knows he is right,” insisted Alcala. “He is also a man in situations where there is disagreement he is willing to find resolution. I think that is really important – to never cease the lines of communication. And I think that is important for a leader. ... I think he has earned his stripes here in the state house. I think it was his turn to step into that role.”

Alcala is certain that at some point Latinos will take their place in the political system making him and Ruiz more than political oddities.

“I think we are going to see that wave with the young and upcoming Latinos that are being more educated, furthering their education, getting more involved in community. I thing we are going to see that happen. I think that cycle is going to come,” insists Alcala.

Ruiz is less optimistic. He has been vocal trying to get people involved in the political process. This activism goes back years to when he was a member of the Communications Workers of America. He spent 30 years at Lucent Technologies and its predecessors Western Electric and AT&T.

“People, until they want something, they could care less who’s there or who they voted for. If something happens, like they have a family member in jeopardy with the law or it may be a DUI or ... they need some help on an issue, then you hear from them,” laments Ruiz. “I always ask them, ‘Have you voted? Why don’t you vote and help us get more brown faces in the legislature?’ It is always something like ‘I don’t think my vote counts.’”

Ruiz points out in frustration that there have been legislators that have won by less than ten votes. “They

have the same voting rights and power as I do and it bothers me that our Latino people are so apathetic, so disillusioned. This is not just locally it is across the nation. ... We have been referred to as a sleeping giant. I am still waiting for it to wake up.”

The price for that apathy is clear according to Ruiz. He sees a lot of people that have never been involved in politics coming into the legislature.

“Tea Party people, because they have a lot of money and because they are Tea Party and they raise heck in the right places, get support from certain individuals and organizations and they are here. Money has bought their seats. Instead of being qualified and a good person, a statesman or stateswoman ... they are here a lot of times just to see how much havoc they can create.”

Ruiz is equally critical of the Latino community.

“Latinos like to stay in their own bubble and be leaders in their own groups. ... To take a chance outside of the bubble is a big change. You have to put a lot of skin in the game and it is not a comfortable area to be in when you have to be maybe the only Latino here.”

His advice to people looking to get involved in politics is to work at the grassroots, working on political campaigns, serving on boards, staying educated and informed on the issues that are important to the community.

Ruiz admitted that he is not looking to retire anytime soon. “I feel I will keep running until my heart tells me something different ... I feel that I am adding value to the legislature and to my community. Nobody has requested that I be replaced or wants to fire me yet, so I will consider that I am doing a decent job at least to stay in office.”

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