

Guest Commentary

Boys and Girls Club of Kingsville offers you a pathway to success!

By Annabelle M. Garza Board President, Boys & Girls Club of Kingsville

It all started in 1860, when three women in Hartford, Conn., decided to take in "street urchins" - undernourished, dirty-faced young boys with little more than ragged clothes on their backs, the hard-luck, forgotten kids of the Industrial Revolution. They didn't know it then, but these caring ladies were the planting seeds of what would become a true American success story. Their idea took root as Boys' Clubs, which soon began to sprout throughout New England and eventually across the nation.

By 1906, 53 independent Clubs were operating. The local leaders decided a national federation was needed to further the important mission of reaching out to children in need. They established the Federated Boys' Clubs, which later became Boys' Clubs of America. Fast forward 150 years.

Today, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, including the Boys & Girls Club of Kingsville, is a network of more than 4,000 locations around the nation and on U.S. military bases here and abroad. It is a remarkable tale that truly reflects the very story of America through the 21st century. Throughout 2010, we will tell that story - the lives changed and saved, the communities turned around, the kids who conquered overwhelming odds to succeed, the caring individuals and supporters who make it all possible.

As we celebrate National Boys & Girls Club Week, March 21 - 27, we pause to thank the many caring people who make our mission a reality and help our youth be great:

The thousands of dedicated Club professionals who devote every day of their lives to shaping our young people's future.

The countless, generous individuals - Club board

volunteers and donors - who support our work through their selfless commitment of time, talent and treasure.

The caring corporations, foundations and government leaders who actively partner with us to reach underserved communities that need the benefits of a Boys & Girls Club.

And the families and parents who, every day, entrust to us America's most precious gifts: our young people.

We can't wait to begin our second century of shaping great futures, being the safe haven for nearly 4 million youth in some 4,000 Clubs, and in doing so, changing lives and changing America.

The Boys & Girls Club of Kingsville hopes you will be a part of something GREAT and join us in celebrating National Boys & Girls Club Week, March 21 - 27, a week of hope and opportunity for the entire community. Thank you for making it possible.

AD

plans for next football season.

"Defensively we will pretty much be the same," Callis said. "On offense we could bring some changes just to kind of fit the young kids we are going to have next year.

Kent, meanwhile, is in the middle of his first year with KISD - as an assistant in football and powerlifting - but has previous experience as an athletic director and head football coach. Last year, Kent was the athletic director and head football coach at H. Grady Spruce High School in the Dallas Independent School District.

"I have been a part of a lot of programs which have been successful; I was also defensive coordinator at Kimball High School in Dallas ISD where we went several rounds into the playoffs two years in a row," Kent said in regards to his experience. "Beyond that, I have a love for coaching and expressing to the students being more than just an athlete, I want the kids to know that it is okay to be a smart jock, make good grades and still perform out on the field. I want to help them reach their potential and grow during their high school and teen years."

Kent's initiatory year with KISD has been very worthwhile, he said.

"It has been great, there are a lot of coaches who are very knowledgeable and have a burning desire to help their students succeed,"

Kent said. "With every program and business you run there is always a certain way you would want to do it. There are things that will be tweaked if I - or anyone else - were to get the job and you have to be receptive to those changes and I have really enjoyed the kids and faculty here and spending time getting to know everyone."

Should he get the job, Kent is ready to get down to business.

"The first thing I would do is sit down and evaluate the coaches and the kids," Kent said. "I pretty much know what kind of talent we have coming back for football next year and what kind of offense and defense would be good for us to run. I would also evaluate the coaches as far as what our needs are."

Also scheduled to be interviewed on Friday were Non-KISD aspirants Marcus Booker (Corpus Christi Carroll High School), Larry Calhoun (Lakeview Centennial High School), Meredith Hamilton (North Dallas High School), Kristopher Micheaux (Gonzales High School), John Martinez (L.D. Bell High School), Dusty Ortiz (Conroe Caney Creek High School) and Todd Watters (Little Elm High School).

After Friday's interviews, KISD Superintendent Emilio Castro will make his final recommendation to school trustees this week. KISD's eventual hire will replace Andrew Hrcir.

Hughes

promoting excellence." Hughes said that some of the goals he brings with him for the dean's post at Texas A&M-Kingsville include building on the strengths of the College of Arts and Sciences and examining interdisciplinary academic possibilities. "Texas A&M-Kingsville is an excellent university. I'm really looking forward to coming to the area and being part of it all."

Among his employment experience, Hughes served as chair of the department of geosciences at Idaho State University from 2001 to 2008; a professor of geosciences since 2001; division chief and assistant professor for the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology at Montana Tech; and as a NASA research associate at Oregon State University.

His honors include being named Outstanding Researcher at Idaho State University in 2004 and the Best Guidebook Award from the Geosciences Information Society in 2000. In 1999, he became an Elected Fellow of the Geological Society of America.

He holds a Ph.D. in geology/volcanology from Oregon State University and earned his master's degree in geology at Northern Arizona University. He also holds a bachelor's degree in geology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Candidate deadline is Monday

All four Kingsville city commission positions and mayor are up for re-election in May. As of noon Friday all incumbents have filed except City Commissioner Charles Wilson.

Candidates who wish to file may obtain applications at City Hall. The deadline is March 8 at 5 p.m.

KISD board members up for re-election are Jilma Vidaurri, Position 1; Annabelle M. Garza, Position 2 and Joe R. Trevino, Position 3. Garza and Trevino have filed. Vidaurri is retiring.

KISD board candidates may obtain applications at the office of Karen Griffith, Chief Administrative Officer at the Administration Building. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The deadline is March 8.

Three positions for both the Bishop City Council and Bishop Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees will be up for re-election in a joint election in May.

Bishop members up for re-election are Mayor Victor Ramos, Council Member Rafaelita Cardenas, Place 2, and LeeRoy Kieschnick, Place 4. Currently all three city incumbents have filed.

Bishop CISD board members up for re-election are Norma Jean Flores in Place 1, Gracie Barreto in Place 3, and Judy Murdoch in Place 5. All three incumbents have filed for re-election.

Candidate applications for the Bishop City Council may be picked up at Bishop City Hall located at 500 N. Texas St.

Applications for BCISD school board are available at the administration building in the office of Carolyn Lee. The deadline to file is 5 p.m. March 8.

KINGSVILLE RECORD AND BISHOP NEWS
P.O. Box 951
Kingsville, Texas 78364-0951
Phone (361) 592-4304
Second Class Postage Paid at Kingsville, Texas
Published every Wednesday and Sunday in Kingsville, Texas, by the Kingsville Publishing Co., Inc., 105 S. Fifth St.

Awards

presented Ruiz with the award for 2009 Ambassador of the Year.

Ruiz, has her own business, Ruiz Bookkeeping, and is also employed with the TAMUK Communications & Theatre Arts Department as well as serving as secretary of the Chamber Ambassadors.

Ruiz participated in many of the Chamber Ambassador activities such as the annual Pet Parade on July 4th and the handing out of baskets at Thanksgiving.

"I did not expect this at all, I was very surprised and am truly honored," Ruiz said.

Dick Messbarger, 2008 Citizen of the Year, presented Stanley Laskowski with the award for 2009 Citizen of the Year.

Messbarger had everyone in the audience raise their hands, and began naming organizations involving the recipient.

Messbarger then asked the audience to lower their hand if they were not involved in those specific organizations he was announcing and in the end the recipient would be the last person with a hand up.

Messbarger began listing organizations such as Keep Kingsville Beautiful, Adopt-A-Spot, Cactus Bowl, Douglass School renovation, Operation Paintbrush, and the Kingsville Citizens Police Academy.

The name of the recipient was becoming more obvious as the final list of organizations was cited, including Communities in Schools Board Member and past president of the Noon Lions Club.

Kingsville City Commissioner Stanley Laskowski was the last person with his hand in the air.

"You have been a constant community volunteer and I think you know who you are," Messbarger said. "Come on up here Stanley."

Laskowski walked his way up to the podium as the audience gave him a roaring applause.

"Thank you so much for this award," Laskowski said. "I want to thank one

person and that is my wife, Susan; she has been by my side through all my years of volunteer work and has been patient with me as she has to check my weekend schedule before planning a vacation. I thought I was going to retire and rest but since I retired there has not been a dull moment; however, I enjoy being a part of the community and helping others and I appreciate this award very much."

Jerry Miller of CB's Bar-B-Que, 2008 Business of the Year, presented Discount Liquor with the award for 2009 Business of the Year.

"It's an honor to pass this award to someone else," Miller said. "The business receiving the award tonight has been a sponsor of many events such as the Cactus Bowl, the Kleberg-Kenedy County Junior Livestock Show, the Kingsville Historic Downtown District Association, the King Ranch Ranch Hand Breakfast, Javelina Sports and many chamber events."

Marty and Wilva West, owners of Discount Liquor, accepted the award and acknowledged their staff for their hard work.

"I never pictured myself where I am today; I am basically blown away and don't know what to say," Marty West said. "I do want to thank our general manager Michael DeLeon. In every business there is that one person who gets work done and is a big part of the success, and for our business that person is Michael."

Milton Kimball, 2008 Otis West Lifetime Service Award recipient, presented this year's award to Martin Clement.

Clement was born and raised in Kingsville and volunteered for many years in numerous organizations such as Boy Scouts of America, the Kleberg-Kenedy County Junior Livestock Show, the Cactus Bowl, the Navy League, the Chamber of Commerce Board, the Kingsville Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the TAMUK 2010 Committee,

and many others.

"He is a member of the King Ranch Family Trust, is an the U.S. Army veteran and retired from King Ranch after serving 37 years; he has been behind the scenes in working with NAS Kingsville, the City of Kingsville, and Christus Spohn Hospital Kleberg for many years," Kimball said.

"He is one of the first men in Kingsville to go to for help and has always been a friend to the community."

Clement, who shuns the limelight, accepted his award along with a standing ovation and said he was very flattered.

Dr. Rex Gandy, TAMUK Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, served as the keynote speaker.

Gandy spoke of the many developments at TAMUK currently in progress such as the opening of new apartment-like residential hall, University Village, and the new Student Recreation Center scheduled to open next month.

"We are also in the process of planning to build a new dining facility and another new residential hall built to suit 300 students," Gandy said.

"Also with the new legislature we are looking to build a new music building and obtain a degree in veterinary technology."

"We are currently working with architects to put together a 50 year master plan for the facilities of this university and we are excited for the many beginnings our university has to look forward too," Gandy said.

Incoming Chamber President William Marin (Comfort Inn) presented outgoing Chamber President Ode Moreno (KISD) with a plaque for her service.

Serving with Marin in 2010 are President Elect Norman McBride (Spohn Hospital), Vice President for Finance Linda Hahn (Hahn & Oldham, P.C.), Vice President for Membership Lisa Munoz (Salon de Lis) and Executive Director Alice Byers.

Letters

RISD has failed to take proper approach in forging bond issue

Editor: "...County committee with regional representation ... 'to meet and consult about what is most proper to be done in this day of difficulty'"

-James Otis "The First American Patriot" 1761 Barnstable Historical Commission

It is my personal opinion and hope that the Riviera School Improvement Committee be created under the same desire to do what is "proper in these difficult times."

Many in the community have expressed concern over the need for a committee at all. The present situation has occurred due to a failure to follow existing guidelines as outlined in the Riviera Independent School District policy.

This information is online for all to read on the district's website: www.rivieraisd.esc2.net

The existing administration, in an attempt to call for a bond issue, has ignored proper protocol and procedure to advance an agenda not best for the cohesiveness of the school and surrounding community.

We now gather to voice our opinions and desire to express our concerns. The committee should act as a gatherer of information to inform the public and to advise the elected board.

Our electoral process is the best in the world, but often reactive (if you don't like what they do "vote them out").

The more positive method is to be proactive and identify any problems so the board can be effective.

The board, I am sure, knows what the policy is but is not aware that all the steps mandated by policy were not followed under the direction of the superintendent.

The board was asked at the January 13 regular school board meeting to table an agenda item calling for the bond proposal election until the board was fully informed. Very few cite-based procedures were followed!

The first step should have been "needs assessment and campus facilities evaluation" by a paid professional, and then submission of the report to the board for evaluation and consideration.

Secondly, an independent financial assessment and examination of the financial burden to families and businesses should have been performed.

The board was told by the administration "adequate research has been done" and the only answer was to pass a 30-year bond for \$ 18,500,000 (\$36,000,000 with interest).

The board voted (4 to 3) in favor of the resolution not realizing the information presented was biased and very misleading.

They were first told they could rescind their vote by their financial bond advisers but at a later date advised they could not.

The right to rescind their vote is still under investigation and has included opinions of attorneys from the Secretary of State and information requests of the Texas Attorney General's Office.

Investigations of school officials will continue. Many requests for information to clarify research data have been made and are now being analyzed. Other requests will soon follow.

Vern Crocker "Riviera patriot"