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By GISEELLE ARREDONDO

• Leader & Times

As soon as one walks into Liberal Family Chiropractic's waiting room, he or she can see a sign taped on a sliding glass window that announces Dr. Julio Jimenez is officially leaving town.

His last day of treating patients will be Aug. 16.

However, Dr. Jimenez is far from abandoning his patients. They will now be in the hands of Dr. Estrada.

"He's an awesome doctor," Jimenez said. "I would never have left if I didn't have someone like him to fill my place."



Estrada and his brother, Alejandro Estrada, will both be taking care of the clinic in Liberal, as

well as the one in Garden City.

“I love Liberal. Liberal is my home. This is my hometown,” Jimenez said. “I’m leaving, but it has nothing to do with Liberal and it has it everything to do with what I do. Right now, I have a great opportunity to work with one of the best doctors in the nation and it’s called ‘functional medicine’. I get to learn a whole different system and a different way to treat patients.”

The doctor who offered the opportunity to Jimenez is in San Antonio, Texas.

“It’s a really good opportunity and I feel privileged to get that opportunity, so I’m doing this move from Liberal, and it’s a sweet and sour taste for sure. It’s not easy for me at all.”

Jimenez looks forward to this opportunity with his family in his mind.

“Liberal is the best place to raise a kid. Even though we don’t have everything we want, we have everything we need. There are a lot of needs for our town,” he said. “I ran for commissioner. I ran for all these offices just to help that area of our community, too, but it never came out to where I had the opportunity to help in the area. I’ve been involved in a lot of areas in Liberal just because I love the community.”

Jimenez has been in Liberal for a long time. He graduated from Liberal High School and noted that one should constantly be looking for better opportunities.

“I’m a Redskin all the way, but at the same time, in life you can’t just – I feel that if I’m not moving forward, you always want to be moving forward. You always want to better yourself for your family, always look for better opportunities for your family. You know what I mean? I’m not saying that Liberal doesn’t have opportunities, but in a big city, you will have a lot more opportunities with education, private schools, schools that will teach different languages, schools that will teach a lot more music, all the aspects that I see my kids needing right at this age. And I think it’s the perfect age; not in their high school years yet,” he said.

In the time that he has been in Liberal, Jimenez has been very much involved with the community. He was in Liberal's Chamber of Commerce, was one of the main people who came up with the idea to have Cinco de Mayo festivals, a member of the Foundation Board for the Community College and member of the Lion's Club.

Jimenez notes that the move is a two sided coin.

"I've been involved with a lot of different organizations, and for me, to say that I'm giving up, no way. There is no way. That is never my thing. I'm not happy to leave," he said. "It's just that I see this as an opportunity for me and my family. It's an opportunity that's going to be good for my family, and that's why I'm doing it."

Not being elected for commissioner has nothing to do with his decision to move, he said.

"Politics are secondary to me. If I didn't win, it was fine. I didn't take that to heart by any means, and say, 'Oh, I'm done with this town. I'm going to get out of here, and I don't like people here.' I have my best friends in Liberal, their families."

Dr. Jimenez has really enjoyed being involved with the community.

"I think I left my mark in Liberal, especially with all the Hispanic people. I have a radio show. I have this connection, especially for what I do as far as health is concerned," he said.

Dr. Jimenez has also been involved with Kid's Inc.

"I've been coaching my boy since he was 4 years old. And I know all these kids and the competition, and I always try to put in my kids to do good – to have a good character, things like that. It's not just about the sports. I coach every year. Every sport. That's going to be one of the things that I miss the most. Just the whole interaction with the youth," he said.

Jimenez may come back to Liberal one day.

“For my career, it’s a good change. I’ll be back, but not to work. I want to concentrate in functional medicine. I’m looking for that knowledge. This is where I hang my hat,” he said.

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