

Casualties of War in Iraq 4,802 Afghan 2908 as of Mar. 22, 2012



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Lubbock/Midland-Odessa Region

Southwest College of
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Governor Perry's Political Assault on Planned Parenthood

For the hundred or so people who gathered on March 9 at the Planned

abortions and could not accept federal funds if it did. According to state fig-

pay for the services. And keep in mind, that out of the approximately 130,000 women who use the service, 44% or over 57,000 women use Planned Parenthood. About two weeks ago, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

where billions of dollars were cut from state agencies and thousands of state employees lost their job to make up for budget shortfalls.

Governor Rick Perry has never been shy about stating his position when it comes to abortion. He has often let his personal feelings and religious beliefs override his obligations to all his constituents.

And in a recent CBS News interview he once again showed his callousness or at least a lack of foresight and concern

when he was asked if other health providers would "pick up the slack" for the loss of Planned Parenthood services. "Absolutely", said Perry with a look that said even he doesn't believe that another service can

Then the interviewer asked "What if they can't"? Perry's answer, "I'm not in the game of what-ifs". Abbott filed the lawsuit a few days after that story aired.

While Perry may not be in the game of "what-ifs", the reality is that as long as he is not willing to be flexible in this situation the federal government has no other option.

"We have been working with Texas. We're eager to work with Texas to find a solution," said Secretary Sebelius, "But if Texas chooses to go down a road that violates the law, we really have no choice."

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net



Parenthood Clinic in Lubbock to rally in opposition to a state law which prevents funding from going to Planned Parenthood, it can not be called anything else but a political assault on Planned Parenthood and women's reproductive rights.

In this case, the implementation of the state law passed by the Republican led Texas Legislature and readily signed by Governor Rick Perry is being used in an attempt to undermine women's rights by undermining the federal funding of the Texas Women's Health Program to the tune of \$35 million dollars.

The state law says that no public funds may go to health providers, organizations or other groups that are affiliated with abortion services. And to Perry and his political allies, Planned Parenthood, which is a service provider affiliated with the women's health program, falls into that category even though the program does not perform

ures, about 44% of the 130,000 women in the Texas Women's Health Program, or TWHP, use Planned Parenthood clinic services.

Texas accepts funding from the Department of Health and Human Services as part of the Medicaid program. The state then pays for individual patient care at clinics like Planned Parenthood which provides services like Pap smears, birth control, breast exams and other services to uninsured women and those unable to pay for services between the ages of 18 and 44.

Because the state law bars funding to Planned Parenthood, the federal government has been forced to stop funds from going to the TWHP. Federal law says that women should be free to select their own providers; which the state law will not allow. In this case, if a woman selects Planned Parenthood for services, the state won't



informed the state that the federal government would discontinue funding and asked the state to begin to phase out the program so that the services would not end abruptly.

At first Perry said that the state would find the money to replace the federal funding. But then last week, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott filed a lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services claiming that the federal government tried to "commander and coerce the States' lawmaking processes into awarding taxpayer subsidies to elective abortion providers."

So much for replacing the federal funds in a state

El Editor's Week in Review

What Would You Ask The Candidate?

On April 9 and April 23 the Lubbock Tejano Democrats (LTD) will hold political forums for candidates running for city, county and Lubbock Independent School District positions. El Editor would like to know what you would ask the candidates if you had the chance.

It is extremely important that candidates running for public office state their position on the issues important to you and also answer questions about the position they are running for.

We are inviting you to send us your questions so that we may consider using them in these forums. While we cannot guarantee that your questions will be chosen, we can assure you that they will be considered for publication in a future edition of El Editor. Send your questions to eleditor@sbcglobal.net and include the candidate's name in the subject line along with the word "Question".

Ah Que Chihuahua!

Los "Tigres del Norte" the popular Mexican conjunto band, was recently banned from performing in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. Why you ask? They performed the song, "La Reyna del Sur" which some say is a song glorifying drug cartels.

Romney Wins Puerto Rico Primary

Rick Santorum said earlier in the week that if Puerto Ricans wanted statehood then they would have to make English the official language. Did this matter on Sunday? It could have as Mitt Romney, who said the opposite, came away with over 80% of the vote. Santorum was rewarded with about 8% of the vote for his "open foot insert mouth" comment.

Pope Benedict Visits Mexico

Having to follow in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II is not an easy task. The late John Paul visited Mexico on five different occasions and Mexico was the first trip he took as Pope. This week, Pope Benedict will visit Mexico for the first time in his papacy, but by all indications, it won't resemble the visits of the previous Pontiff who was a revered figure in Mexico and the rest of Latin America.

Latin America accounts for nearly half of the one billion Catholics in the world. But in a recent survey, 77% of Mexican Catholics said that they feel indifferent to Benedict's visit.

According to a story in the Houston Chronicle, three quarters of respondents said Benedict does not excite them like Pope John Paul. "There is no comparison" said Elio Masferre who studies religious faith.

In another twist to the visit, the Vatican is none too pleased with the criminal element in the country and is upset that they have started to venerate something called "Santa Muerte". "Santa Muerte", or Holy Death, also known as "La Flaquita", is described as a "pseudo saint" which is adored by drug traffickers. The saint resembles a woman wearing a cloth around her head similar to "La Virgen de Guadalupe" but with a skeleton face. The statues have become very popular and are sold in street markets. It supposedly has spiritual powers and is supposed to help protect criminals and help them in matters of money, illness and of the heart.

In a somewhat related story, a similar skeleton figure was painted on a building's wall in the Arnett Benson neighborhood, causing some residents to complain about the figure and the face of the painting to eventually be painted over with the words, "Jesus was here".

The Pope has called for a purging of these kinds of beliefs and has advocated for a more pure Catholicism. The Pope will also visit Cuba after his trip to Mexico.

Quote of the Week

The problem is not that the churches are filled with empty pews, but that the pews are sometimes filled with some empty people. Charlie Shedd, American Presbyterian Minister and Book Author

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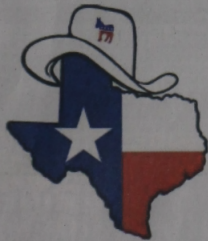
Lubbock Tejano Democrats to Host Candidates Forum

The Lubbock chapter of the Tejano Democrats, a statewide political organization, will host a candidate's forum to educate voters about the candidates.

The first forum is scheduled for Monday April 9 at Cavazos Middle School at 210 N. University. Candidates which have been invited include:

City Elections - Mayor - Tom Martin and Glen Robertson; District

4 - Dwight Fullingham, Jim Gerlt, and Paul Beane;



District 6 - LaTrelle Joy and Randy Sanders.

LISD Candidates which have been invited include: District 1 - Oralia "Lala" Chavez, Gwen Reyna and Mario Ybarra; District 3 - Eddie Kirkpatrick, Mark Blankenship; District 5 - Sara Duncan, Dan Pope; At-Large Seat - Ruby Tanner and Melissa Collier.

The second forum will be held on Monday, April 23, 2012 at 6:30PM at the same location. This forum will focus on the Precinct 3 County Commissioner race and all 3 Democratic candidates have been invited. They are Lorenzo "Bubba" Sedeno, Gilbert Flores and Richard Cal-

villo. The candidates for Constable have also been invited they are Marina Garcia and Richard Mendez.

Although candidates have been invited, it is not known just which candidates will attend.

The panel posing the questions to the candidates will be comprised of representatives from Lubbock's Hispanic media. El Editor will participate in the forum.

The forum Coordinator is Billy Martinez. His contact number is 806-441-1976. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Comentarios Opiniones

LA RE-INVENCIÓN DE LOS LATINOS

Por Ana de la Isla
Hispanic Link News Service

LA CIUDAD DE MÉXICO -- ¿Que habría pasado si John Kennedy no hubiera sido elegido en 1960? ¿Que habría pasado si no hubiera ganado Jimmy Carter en 1978 y Gerald Ford hubiera seguido de presidente? ¿Que habría sido si Al Gore hubiera ganado el estado de Florida y George W. Bush no hubiera ganado en el 2000? ¿Que si Barack Obama no hubiera sido elegido presi-

dente en el 2008? ¿Cómo habría cambiado esa nuestra narrativa nacional y la manera en que ahora percibimos las cosas? Los latinos de los Estados Unidos juegan un papel decisivo -- por no decir determinante -- en las elecciones que acabo de citar. ¿Saben eso? Si no lo sabían, sigúenme que consulten los siguientes textos, en inglés: "Almanac of Latino Politics" del U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute y mi propio libro, "The Rise of Hispanic

Political Power". El papel que jugaron los grupos y las organizaciones de hispanos, no todos de naturaleza política, forma parte del legado nacional. Esta opinión no es la de un partidario, pero más que querer jugarlos manipular así la narrativa, ¿saben que es la historia de la nación.

De alguna manera, esto no ha llegado a penetrar por completo en el conocimiento y la comprensión del público. Tal vez sea por lo que defendamos o desaprobamos lo referente a cosas éticas o versiones de nuestra historia que no son mito. Sin embargo, ¡no aprendamos ya de la candidatura de Sarah Palin que el conocimiento es importante y que de verdad se requiere de personas inteligentes para servir en los más altos niveles del gobierno?

A su vez, algunos grupos extraños -- como los seguidores del llamado Tea Party y otros con creencias raras -- han surgido para definir lo que piensan deberían ser los valores, temas y narrativas nacionales. Lo que resulta más extraño aún, es que se han expandido casi moho en el tiempo y al partido. Se susurran sus influencia sobre los resultados de algunas primarias republicanas.

La selección del candidato republicano a la presidencia, sea Romney, Santorum o Gingrich, sugiere que un liderazgo que no tenga mejor perspectiva y mayor moderación que el que ahora tenemos, probablemente hundirá al país. La historia de las elecciones pasadas nos demuestra esto. No existe manera de ganar una elección nacional sin contar con fuerte apoyo de los latinos, el tipo de apoyo que rechazan hasta ahora los protagonistas republicanos.

Incitados por los elementos innaduros y mativistas del partido republicano, los candidatos han alternado entre ser rabiosos y santurrones e hincándose ante los lujuriosos del partido. Qué pena da esto, porque el partido en el que Lincoln fue elegido fue alguna vez un partido progresista, que ofrecía respuestas en vez de repetir a sus allegados. Es por esta razón también que probablemente muera el partido republicano después de los próximos comicios.

La diferencia entre los partidos republicano y demócrata no es, en un primer desplante, ideológica, sino que se trata de quién se abre y quién responde a los grupos de electores críticos, como a los hispanos. En la política nacional, tiene importancia la inclusión y quién es excluyente. Se trata de la relación entre el partido y los

partidarios, el vínculo entre la política y la nación. Y los republicanos -- no todos, pero una mayoría -- no quieren tener una relación reciproca con grupos e intereses hispanos, sean cívicos, sociales, políticos o defensores de derechos.

La percepción que la mayoría de los latinos ven al gobierno como un asociado en los temas de su interés, como la educación, el empleo, la vivienda, la salud, la seguridad, el mejoramiento de la comunidad y la promoción de la justicia es correcta, y podrá ser la razón por la que los republicanos no tienen su apoyo. No consideran que un gobierno ausente sea un buen socio.

El hundimiento del partido republicano podría haberse evitado si se hubiera vuelto más moderado en vez de dejarse llevar por las facciones radicales y desquiciadas. Su deseo de morir probablemente empezó algo por el año 1988, cuando el senador Pat Buchanan se valió de la semántica para ganarse la atención al promover un debate espúreo sobre la inmigración dentro de la agenda del partido. Se puso excesivamente puntilloso sobre la diferencia entre "hermiantas, tecnologías y estructura" referente a la frontera entre los EE.UU. y México. En realidad, a ocultar pretendía definir a los latinos como innecesarios al futuro del partido.

Entonces Buchanan, y ahora Romney, Santorum y Gingrich no creen que los latinos sean parte de la historia y el legado políticos de nuestra nación. George H.W. Bush sí los conocía y ganó en elección al tema y también la elección.

Más tarde, George W. Bush, quién los conocía hasta mejor, salió mejor. En cambio Gore no salió. Obama los conocía mejor, McCain no. Así como Buchanan anteriormente, el Tea Party y las facciones radicales del partido republicano están ahora empujados en los tres candidatos letrados incorrectamente a los latinos, y vuelven a inventar la historia. Allí radica la auto destrucción del partido.

José de la Isla, columnista de distribución nacional con los servicios de noticias Hispanic Link y Scripps Howard, ha sido reconocido como el más destacado por New America Media. El título de su próximo libro a publicarse es "Our Men on the Ground". Sus libros previos incluyen "DAY NIGHT LIFE DEATH HOPE" (2009) y "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (2003), disponibles en joseisla@yahoo.com. Para ver información en inglés y mucho más, visite www.hispanic-link.org ©2012

EDITORIAL

Our Editorial Voice Who's Minding the Store?

While reading a newspaper story about the Martha Elerbrook case against the City of Lubbock, the statement that caught our attention the most illustrates the city's attempt to keep certain things out of public view and a city management staff that appears to be clueless.

"Attorneys for the city did not return calls Friday to answer questions about the cost of defending the Elerbrook lawsuit, filed June 26, 2009. City managers contacted didn't know the amount".

The statement was in reference to the Martha Elerbrook case which has been in litigation since 2009. Now, over 2 years later, it is a possibility that the case will wind up costing taxpayers double the amount that was awarded to Elerbrook the first go around.

In this case, lawyers representing the city, city managers, or city council members who make these kinds of decisions (decided to throw good money after bad.

At a time when taxpayers are paying a slow burn due to challenging economic times and doing \$3.55 for a gallon of gas, we should all be asking why the city is treating this case as if they can just print taxpayer money.

Martha Elerbrook filed suit against the city alleging that the city had failed to hire her for a position, which would have been a promotion for her, in retaliation for her assistance in her husband Terry's discrimination lawsuit against the city, according to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Her husband Terry Elerbrook had also filed a lawsuit against the city a couple of years before and was eventually awarded a substantial amount of money; a total of about \$250,000 tax dollars was spent on that case. That figure did not include any other legal fees paid to attorneys not employed by the city, which the city seems to always have to hire in cases such as this.

The most shameful aspect about that case was that the city could have gotten off by settling for \$95,000 dollars, but they refused, and then were finally forced to either settle for the \$250,000 amount or spend more on further litigation.

In the Martha Elerbrook case, Elerbrook was awarded \$243,000 plus court costs and attorney fees. The city then appealed the decision to a district court here in Lubbock, that court sided with the city. Elerbrook then appealed the decision and last week the fifth circuit reversed the decision and instructed the court to reinstate the jury's verdict and "consider an amended motion for attorney fees and costs".

In short the city has spent untold amounts of tax payers money defending an indefensible act. Looking at the published facts of this case, it is clear that Elerbrook was not given the job she applied for because the powers that be at city hall wanted to retaliate against her for helping her husband Terry in his lawsuit against the city.

So we add it up, a lawsuit which wound up costing the city \$250,000 plus in the Terry Elerbrook case; and the possibility of another \$500,000 for his wife Martha's case; doesn't take a math whiz to see that the total here is north of three quarters of a million dollars.

That's a heck of a tab for taxpayers able to have to pick up considering all the slicing and dicing City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld is expected to do to the city services budget this coming year.

How's that for frugal city management?

The questions we should be asking is who is responsible and who should we hold accountable?

Is it City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld who has been in charge during the whole litigation spending spree? Or how about the City Council members who approved the decisions to continue to fight the case; what is their role in the whole mess? Is it the mayor? Or is it the city's attorneys who continue to make these kinds of decisions without regard for taxpayers, spending our tax dollars as if there is no tomorrow.

Keep in mind, that the additional attorney fees that Martha Elerbrook's attorneys will probably be awarded do not include the fees that the city will pay any outside attorneys it has hired.

Many unanswered questions here.

But the most important questions in our mind are: who should we hold accountable for this dazzling display of ineptitude and who exactly is minding the store?

Editors are solely the opinion of El Editor's "editorial voice" and do not represent the views of any of our subscribers. If you would like to do a guest commentary in response to our editorials, or on any other topic, we welcome your submission. It will be considered for publication in accordance with our editorial policies.

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"Freedom of Expression"

Commentary and Q and A Why do Republicans Want to Close Planned Parenthood?

In conjunction with our article on the Texas Women's Health Program on Page 1, we offer this Q and A on Planned Parenthood. Many Republicans, including Republican Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney and Governor Rick Perry have vowed to stop funding Planned Parenthood in order to force their closure.

While we don't know what motivates the closing other than personal religious beliefs, we do know that their accusation that Planned Parenthood is an abortion provider does not hold up.

Q: What is Planned Parenthood?
A: The organization has been in existence for 95 years. Its web site says that it is "trusted health care provider, an informed educator, a passionate advocate, and a global partner helping similar organizations around the world. Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide."

Q: Does Planned Parenthood abort or perform abortions?
A: No. The clinic does not provide abortions. It does provide information about abortion and other options for persons seeking that kind of information.

Q: Who uses the program?
A: The program is used primarily by women but it also provides services related to men's health issues like male infertility, testicular cancer, and urinary tract infections among other men's health related issues.

Q: Are services free?
A: Services are not free, but fees are based on household income. No one is turned away due to an inability to pay. Q: Why do politicians like Governor Perry want to do away with it?
A: The way we see it, they are letting their personal agenda and their personal, moral, and religious views override their obligation to meet the needs of all constituents.

Q: Where can I get more information about Planned Parenthood?
A: The Lubbock clinic is located at Briercroft Center at 53rd and Ave Q. They also can be reached at 806-795-7123 or visit their web site at www.plannedparenthood.org. Email: eleditor@sbglobal.net

MEXICO'S EDUCATION BELLY FLOP

By José de la Isla
Hispanic Link News Service


MEXICO CITY -- De Panzazo is a documentary, currently showing in Mexico City theaters, that has become a topic of conversation all over the country. It is about the state of education here.

In the early part of the film, political analyst Denise Dresser states a truism that holds up throughout the film. As we are so badly educated, she says, we don't know how badly educated we are.

The reason is that the parents register satisfaction in opinion polls about the public-education system. (Later, the film will show that private education isn't much better.)

But as a national matter, to reestablish its middle class that largely disappeared after the early 1980s, Mexico is having to compete with itself to improve. It means disclosing its faults, hurting the political interests it might, and disclosing the facts.

For instance, incomes are not much better simply because on average a Mexican receives eight years of schooling, say, compared with about 13 years in the U.S. and Canada. But that also means unfinished education comes at a price. It means that somebody with college prep, compared to somebody with only secondary schooling, makes 10 percent more, while somebody with a bachelor's degree makes 2.3 times more than the prep student. And someone with a graduate degree makes 3.7 times more than the bachelor's.



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Before the data is mistaken or reinforces stereotypes, as many do, Mexico also produces more engineers than Germany and the country has an outstanding number of colleges in states with large indigenous populations that have won world recognition for their expertise in robotics.

But the fact remains that the worst schooling is in the rural areas and among the poor, wherever they live. Not surprising, they are all least learned in the U.S. that is doing not have to be this way. Also, the ethnic cast, so often given to downward sloping indicators, doesn't necessarily hold either.

The surges of U.S. Latino college enrollments and achievement rates serve as proof that functional approaches reach public expectations. There is even a possible North American network to build in supporting civic education for the public good outside of the political and reactionary interests that manipulate it.

In an international test of students in advanced countries, half of Mexico students were found unable to problem-solve and self-learn in science, math and literature. Just over a quarter "belly-flopped," de Panzazo, in the middle-range and QI percentiles.

After seeing the movie De Panzazo, the viewer is rightly outraged. Here is where this film documentary is transformative and enters the new age of social media.

Keep in mind that the muralist painters Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco and other masters used art to educate the public and they were sponsored by the Ministry of Education in the early days. But bureaucracy can also kill culture, dull minds, and offer process over content.

Today, neither the government nor the teachers' union know how many teachers there are -- maybe five to six hundred thousand for the 35 million students. Nor does they. Sixty-seven percent of school directors complain about teacher absenteeism.

Students face multiple and overlapping exams to qualify themselves but not one of consequence is administered to determine whether teachers know what they teach. (Don't laugh because this is true enough about some U.S. school systems, also.)

The point, though, is that watching a full-feature documentary at a theater leads many people with similar concerns to the website www.mexicoinspiro.org to join others in a common cause to bring up needed changes.

One candidate in the presidential race coming up in July has already announced if he wins, he would appoint the former president of the former president, Juan Ramo de la Fuente as secretary of education. The reformer Fuente has made it known, in turn, he would scrap the current system and start completely new.

Jose de la Isla, a nationally syndicated columnist for Hispanic Link and Scripps Howard news services, has been recognized for two consecutive years for his commentaries by New America Media. His forthcoming book, Our Men on the Ground. Previous books include "DAY NIGHT LIFE DEATH HOPE" (2009) and "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (2003). Reach him at joseisla@yahoo.com.

See this column in Spanish and more at www.HispanicLink.org. ©2012

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¿Que Pasa?

EASTER EGG HUNT AT HODGES COMMUNITY CENTER

Come on an Easter Egg Hunt with Hodges Community Center as they host their 6th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31, 2012. Approximately 10,000 eggs will be hidden throughout the beautiful Lubbock Municipal Arboretum. Kids of all ages are invited to this free community event. The Easter Bunny will be there for pictures as well as face painting, games, and more! Win a prize by finding one of ten golden eggs! Festivities begin at 10:00 a.m., and the hunt will kick off promptly at 11:00 a.m. Admission is free!

Hodges Community Center is located at 41st Street and University Avenue. They are open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Hodges is closed for lunch Monday-Friday from 12 Noon to 1:00 p.m. For more information, call Angela O'Brien at 767-3706.

BUDDY HOLLY CENTER SEEKING GUITAR INSTRUCTOR

The Buddy Holly Center is seeking a new guitar instructor to instruct the "6 Strings Attached" Guitar Classes beginning in April 2012. The weekly classes are offered to the general public and designed to help improve the guitar skills of beginner and intermediate learners. An instructor is required to teach the course, guide the progress of guitar study, and help participants of the class feel comfortable seeking out a new talent. Applicants must have relevant guitar experience (such as years of study or participation in a local band). Basic teaching or instruction experience is also preferred. Prospective instructors must have a positive attitude and be able to teach a diverse group of children and adult learners alike.

The "6 Strings Attached" Guitar Classes meet on Monday evenings at the Buddy Holly Center. Please ensure that you are available during these times before applying to be an instructor.

Beginner Session: Mondays, 6 - 7 pm
Intermediate Session: Mondays, 7 - 8 pm
This is a PAID adjunct position of the Buddy Holly Center. For more information, or to apply, please call Lisa Howe, Education Coordinator, at 806.775.3059 or 806.775.3567.

COVENANT COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFERS SERIES OF FREE DIABETES EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

One-in 10 U.S. adults has diabetes according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Learn how to live well with diabetes by attending a series of free educational classes offered by Covenant Community Outreach. The four-week series is free

for those who are uninsured or financially in need. The class will meet once a week for four weeks beginning on Thursday, March 22. Other class dates for the series are Thursday, March 29; Thursday, April 5 and Thursday, April 12. Each class is from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Covenant Counseling Center, located at 1302 Broadway. Throughout the series, Julie Crane, a registered and licensed dietitian for Covenant Community Outreach, will teach participants basic nutrition guidelines, the importance of carbohydrate counting, how to shop and cook with diabetes as well as how to understand food labels. Crane will also discuss the health complications associated with diabetes, the importance of exercise and tips on how to feel better during those inevitable sick days. Aside from learning diabetes management skills, participants will learn how to handle the emotional aspects of living with diabetes. Those who attend at least three of the four classes will receive a free glucometer, a medical device used to determine the approximate concentration of glucose in the blood. In addition, participants will receive a voucher to purchase 50 glucometer strips for \$5 or 100 strips for \$10. To see if you qualify for the free four-week course, call 806.725.5218. The deadline to register is Wednesday, March 21 (1.866.426.8362).

COVENANT HEALTH SYSTEM TO OFFER FREE COLONOSCOPY CLINIC FOR PATIENTS THAT QUALIFY

If you are over the age of 50 or have a family history of colon cancer, you may be in need of a colonoscopy. March marks the second annual free Colonoscopy Clinic provided by Covenant Health System. The clinic will be held Sat., March 31 at the Covenant Endoscopy Center, located at 3610 21st Street. A colonoscopy is a test that looks into the inner lining of one's large intestine using a flexible tube called a colonoscope. A small video camera is attached to the end of the colonoscope allowing the doctor to take pictures or video of the colon. This procedure can detect ulcers, tumors, areas of inflammation or bleeding and polyps - a benign mole that if left alone can turn into cancer. All materials, including anesthesia and colon prep kits, will be provided to the patients who qualify for the free colonoscopy. Qualifying patients must be 50 years of age or have a family history of colon cancer and meet the financial criteria. To see if you might qualify for the free Colonoscopy Clinic, please call 806.725.5607.

LENTEN FISH FRY DINNER

Knight of Columbus from Lubbock Saint Elizabeth invite all on March 9, 16, 23 & 30. Fridays 6-7:30 p.m. Adults/\$7 and children/\$5 (under 12). \$25 for a family of five. Menu includes baked cod or fried catfish served with cole slaw, fries, hush puppies, rolls and dessert.

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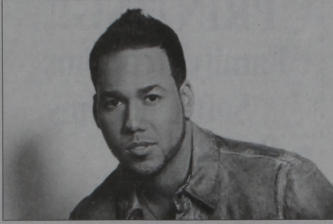
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Romeo Santos actúa en LA



Es el nuevo fenómeno musical. No por nada se le ha dado el título de "El rey de la bachata". Romeo Santos disfruta de su propia aventura.

Su primer disco como solista, Formula Vol. 1, ha vendido millones de copias y su primera gira de presentaciones ha sido imparable. Escenario donde pone un pie... es plaza llena. Su primera presentación en

Nueva York, donde nació, afianzó los pronósticos sobre su tour. En el Madison Square Garden, con capacidad para 20 mil personas, tuvieron que añadir dos fechas más. Y desde entonces la escalonada de conciertos se vislumbró hacia los escenarios más grandes de las ciudades más importantes del país.

"Estoy superemocionado por

todo esto", expresa el cantautor de 30 años. "Uno siempre es optimista y no logro prepararme para el éxito. A mí siempre me toman por sorpresa las noticias buenas y siento mariposas en el estómago".

El exigente de Aventura, el grupo que puso en alto el género bachata en el mundo, en entrevista telefónica con Jhola L.A.L, horas antes de ofrecer su concierto en Dallas, Texas, habló de su salida del grupo que lideró por más de una década, su inmersión musical al mercado anglo y su misión de hacer campaña para salir a votar en las próximas elecciones presidenciales en noviembre de 2012.

Santos, el chico del Bronx, de ascendencia dominico-portorriqueña, con sus composiciones y voz no sólo ha logrado colocar la bachata entre el gusto de los menos seguidores de ese

género, sino también de cautivar a miles de fanáticos de un mercado que no habla español pero que vibra con su música.

Por eso no fue raro ver al cantautor aparecer en varios programas de televisión en inglés. Y no es que haya hecho el crossover: Santos pertenece a la generación de artistas biculturales que desde niños han saltado de un idioma a otro de manera natural.

"Nací en el Bronx, siempre he hablado los dos idiomas, para mí eso del crossover tiene una definición totalmente distinta", explica. "Quiero hacerlo al revés, traer a la fanatizada anglo a mi mundo, a mi bachata, que puedan aprender de mi cultura, de mi sonido".

Los temas realizados por Anthony "Romeo" Santos, como es su nombre, siempre incluyeron composiciones en inglés. Una práctica que no ha dejado de hacer y que ahora canciones como You o Prom-

ise de su álbum como solista, han permanecido durante 15 semanas en el primer lugar de popularidad en el país.

Santos fue figura clave en la popularidad de la bachata y del grupo Aventura, donde fue el líder, vocalista y compositor por poco más de una década.

Y en embargo, como era natural, un día quiso brillar con luz propia.

Peró no fue una decisión que el tomó.

"Curiosamente eso fue lo interesante del caso: que no fue mi decisión [dejar el grupo]", aclara.

Tenía la inquietud de ser solista, porque yo sencillamente producía, componía, cantaba todas las canciones y obviamente mi popularidad comenzó a sobresalir un poquito".

Relata que cuando Lenny Santos -su primo-tío- la decisión de hacer su proyecto individual porque quería que el público reconociera su trabajo,

es entonces que el resto de la agrupación, Henry Santos, Max Santos -también sus primos- y él, decidieron hacer una pausa con el grupo y seguir también de manera independiente.

"Nunca fue mi idea, ni mucho menos tuve la inquietud de dejar el grupo", asegura. "Gracias a Dios las cosas pasan por un motivo y no me arrepiento de nada".

Junto con su gira de conciertos, Santos ha emprendido una nueva tarea "formar parte de la campaña Voto Latino."

"Estamos tratando de impulsar y motivar a mi fanática a que voten. Los latinos debemos votar. Es tiempo de demostrar que somos una minoría fuerte y que hagamos sentir nuestra presencia", comentó Santos.

El miércoles Romeo Santos, está listo para repetir esa faena de éxito con sus conciertos, en uno de los escenarios más grandes de Los Angeles, el Staples Center.

Wilmer Valderrama on dating and new album

Wilmer Valderrama is coming clean about dating Demi Lovato and about crossing over to the music business.

The Venezuelan stud opened up to Latino gossip king Perez Hilton about the age difference between him and Lovato (at the time he was 31 and she was 19) and about dabbling in the music business.

"It was a really interesting time for her," Valderrama tells Hilton. "We were really just best friends. She's amazing, she's a great human being. And I'm so proud of her considering all of the different obstacles and everything she's been through."

Demi Lovato is One Geogeous Latina

"I mean, she's got a pretty good head," Valderrama continued. "Like I obviously — like she said, it's going to be a struggle every day. But I was very proud to be there for her when she needed me, and she was there for me a number of times too. And we have a great friendship."

How sweet. Guess the former lovebirds did end on good terms after all.

But Lovato is not the only ex that Valderrama is on good terms with these days. The actor dished on his BFF bond

with singer/actress Mandy Moore.



"Mandy and I are also super close friends," Valderrama said

during the interview.

"If you loved once, and if you cared once, you never really stop. And if you build a true foundation, a true friendship, that never really goes away. And I think it's important."

Valderrama also told Hilton that he is releasing an album as his funny alter ego, Eduardo Fresco, later in the year.

"Music is something that has been — part of my life," revealed Valderrama. "My whole life, I've been singing and dancing since I was six years old, but acting just evolved faster."

Selena Gomez is a Fashionista!

"I'm excited to visit that arena, and do some music."

Valderrama said his fans can expect more songs from Fresco that will have you crying in laughter. He also said he will be exploring the possibilities of singing in Spanish.

"That's something I really want to embrace," Valderrama said. "When it comes to the music, I'm talking to some amazing people like — you know man a bunch of stuff by, you know by Enrique, and by Ricky Martin, and everybody. And they're really supportive and all that. And then we're saying again, they're also really important to me too."

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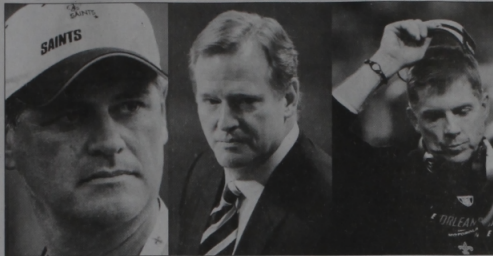
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Payton suspended one year, Williams indefinitely, Saints fined \$500K



The NFL absolutely dropped the proverbial hammer on the Saints for "Bounty gate" Wednesday, as CBS Sports.com's Mike Freeman reports Sean Payton is suspended for the entire 2012 season without pay, Saints general manager Mickey Loomis is suspended for eight games, the Saints are fined \$500,000 and former Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams is suspended indefinitely.

In addition, the Saints will lose a second-round pick in both 2012 and 2013. In addition, Jay Glazer of FoxSports.com reports that Joe Vitt, linebackers coach and assistant head coach, will be suspended as well. Vitt would've been a candidate to take over as head

coach for Payton, but now it's likely offensive coordinator Pete Carmichael.

The NFL has since announced the news, and it is an absolute stunner -- as severely as every-one expected Goodell and the league to punish, this goes far beyond what anyone could have expected.

"We are all accountable and responsible for player health and safety and the integrity of the game," Commissioner Goodell said in a statement released by the league. "We will not tolerate conduct or a culture that undermines those priorities. No one is above the game or the rules that govern it. Respect for the game and the people who participate in it will not be compromised."

"A combination of elements

made this matter particularly unusual and egregious," Commissioner Goodell continued.

"When there is targeting of players for injury and cash rewards over a three-year period, the involvement of the coaching staff, and three years of denials and willful disrespect of the rules, a strong and lasting message must be sent that such conduct is totally unacceptable and has no place in the game."

According to the NFL, Williams will "have his status reviewed" after the 2012 season, at which time Goodell will determine whether or not to reinstate him. Jason LaCanfora of the NFL Network reports that "sources close to Williams" were "shocked" by the length of the suspension.

Rangers, Holland strike \$28.5 million, 5-year deal

Derek Holland wanted to ensure his long-term future with the Texas Rangers, so he agreed to a \$28.5 million, five-year contract rather than wait to become a free agent.

The deal, announced Tuesday, calls for salaries of \$1 million this year, \$3.2 million next year, \$5.4 million in 2014, \$7.4 million in 2015 and \$10 million in 2016.

Texas holds an \$11 million option for 2017 with a \$1.5 million buyout. If the first option is exercised, the Rangers have an \$11.5 million option for 2018 with a \$1 million buyout. There are additional escalators.

He would have been eligible for free agency after the 2015 season.

"I know I gave up that stuff, the three years, but to me it's all about being in Texas and wearing that Texas uniform and going back and getting some championships," the 25-year-old left-hander said.

"I'm very excited to be a part of this. We've got an unbelievable team. We've got upcoming stars coming up through the organization, and I want to be part of that, as well. I want to be up here. That's my main objective is to carry out what I've been doing, continue to work hard."

Holland, originally from Ohio, intends to purchase a home in

Texas.

"The most important thing for me is getting a house in Dallas, being a resident in Texas," he said.

Holland was 16-5 last season, the most wins for Texas among players under 25. He pitched two-hit ball over 8 1-3 shutout innings against St. Louis in Game 4 of the World Series and is 3-0 with a 3.82 ERA in 12 postseason appearances during the past two years.

"We said at the beginning of the offseason that it was one of our goals to extend some of our core members and keep this group intact as long as possible," Rangers general

"They're going to be big parts of our rotation, no doubt about that," Daniels said. "It's certainly about the individual, but it's about our commitment to signing and developing the best pitching we can. It's an organizational mindset. We've tried to turn that corner a little bit and this is further evidence of that."

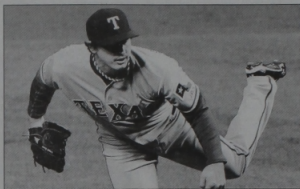
Holland made only 10 starts and four relief appearances in 2010 after rotator cuff inflammation. He went 8-13 with a 6.12 ERA in 2009.

"Baseball is full of adversity," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "There wasn't a time that Derek dealt with adversity that he didn't fight back. That's what I like about him. He's maturing."

Rangers president Nolan Ryan said most young player go through struggles.

"With Derek, he would bounce back from them and be better each time he went through a period like that," Ryan said.

Holland said there were "quite a few times" Washington chewed



him out on the mound.

"When Wash comes out there, I don't take it to heart," Holland said. "He's always out there to make you better. That's just the way it is. If he sees something, he's going to tell you. That's what makes him so good. He's not afraid to speak his mind and let you know."

manager Jon Daniels said. "I think we all saw Derek really start to reach his potential last year especially in the second half."

Texas added Japanese right-hander Yu Darvish during the offseason for a \$56 million, six-year deal.

him out on the mound.

"When Wash comes out there, I don't take it to heart," Holland said. "He's always out there to make you better. That's just the way it is. If he sees something, he's going to tell you. That's what makes him so good. He's not afraid to speak his mind and let you know."

Darvish has the stuff, he simply has to trust it

Right-hander Yu Darvish has plenty of adjustments to make as he transitions to Major League Baseball.

The one that seems to be giving him the biggest trouble this spring is how much he should respect major league hitters.

Right now, it might be too much.

Darvish is still getting used to using the fastball as his No. 1 pitch. Though he has

enough velocity, at 92-to-95 mph, to match up with U.S. hitters, he's still going to get hit hard occasionally.

In his first start, he gave up a 410-foot double off the wall in center field to Will Venable of San Diego. Since then, he's gotten timid with the fastball, trying to work the corners without much success.

In his second start, Darvish allowed four walks and was constantly behind Cleveland

hitters when he tried to lead with the fastball. It wasn't until after he moved to his off-speed and breaking stuff that he was able to get some outs.

With manager Ron Washington before to yank him before the third inning of his scheduled three-inning outing was complete, Darvish got key double play on a slider.

"He was kind of getting frustrated," catcher Yorvit

Torrealba said. "His fastball command wasn't there. He really wanted to keep throwing it. But I think when we see that, we need to mix it up. His secondary pitches are very good. He can throw them in any count, any situation."

Said Darvish, through an interpreter. "There might come a time during the season where I'm going to have an outing like this where I don't have my command and feel of

my pitches. On those days, I've got to mix my pitches, use all my different pitches and just battle through it. I think I did that and that made today a positive step."

But other observers have noticed the nibbling.

"I think the big thing he's got to get over right away, is don't give these hitters too much credit, over here," said Larry Crowe, the former shortstop and manager who

is an MLB Network analyst.

"He pitched in Japan, went right at hitters because there weren't a lot of home run hitters, guys that could do a lot of damage. Here, he's got to trust his stuff. He's got to understand the greatest hitters in baseball make seven out of 10 outs when they get up there. So, he's giving those hitters in Spring Training a little too much credit. He's trying to nibble too much."

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Schedule of Events

1 to 3 p.m.

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12:30 to 1 p.m. Bus service from end site (Cavazos) to march site (Canyon Lakes) Park car at Cavazos Middle School, shuttle will transport to Buddy Holly Lake where the march starts.

1 p.m. Gathering for the People's Honor March begins at César E. Chávez Drive & N. University.

1:15 p.m. March of organization banners flags begins at César E. Chávez to Cavazos Middle School.

Note: Please wear comfortable shoes, sunscreen, bring a water bottle, commemorative posters.

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Lubbock Catholic Diocese Bishop Placido Rodriguez, Monsignor David Cruz, Father Anthony Phelps, the Deacons, Sisters, staff and Parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Church, 3111 Erskine St. Lubbock, invite everyone to join us on Good Friday as we focus on Jesus and how He, in loving obedience to the Father, freely suffered and died for all. The Stations of the Cross are devotional works which originated with Saint Francis of Assisi about 800 years ago. They are prayerfully enacted each Friday during Lent. On Good Friday the Parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Church will gather in faith for their 16th Annual reenactment. They will meditate on the 14 scenes of Christ's suffering and death; known as the "Passion of the Christ". The devotional begins with Jesus' condemnation and ends with His death and burial. Though His death on the cross Jesus offered Himself to the Father so that all may enter into the joy of heaven. Through Him, with Him, in Him all share in His resurrection and the joy of Easter.

La Que Voló Con Los Angeles

She Who Flew With The Angels



Esperanza Gonzalez Solis died March 22, 2002 after a ten-year battle with kidney failure. After doing dialysis a couple of years, she received a transplant in 1993 from a donor in Houston. The kidney was not a good enough match to keep her from both having to take large amounts of drugs to make her body strong and keep her body from attacking the foreign organ. Having to go back to dialysis she was able to survive another seven years or so.

Esperanza was born in Corpus Christi, Texas October 20 1949 to Guillermo and Estanislada Gonzalez. After her parent's separation, the family of three girls and four boys struggled to sustain a living by working in the fields most of their school years and taking on odd jobs during the off season. Esperanza and the family were poor and she had to make do with second hand clothes and shoes that were always too small for walking the mile or more to Miller High School. She attended a christian university on a scholarship for two years and then transferred to Texas A & I where she received her Bachelors degree as a certified teacher. Upon graduation, she initially accepted a teaching job in Victoria, Texas but was persuaded by a persistent personnel officer at the Crystal City Independent School District (CCISD) to go there instead. Not being too informed about the Chicano movement and La Raza Unida Party politics, Esperanza nevertheless began her exceptional career in the classroom as well as in the community. This was in 1972

and went through 1992, when she lost her kidney function. The staff at the CCISD, beginning at the top with the superintendent, were dedicated to full implementation of bilingualism as the Bilingual Education Act of 1967 required and Throughout her tenure, Esperanza made sure students in her class were fluent in English and Spanish at the end of each year. She carried that philosophy on through her tenure in Wichita and ultimately, in Lubbock.

Those that knew Esperanza well can attest to her congeniality, unconditional love, dedication to family and profession, in addition to the firm involvement in politics and community service. She was one of the few teachers that scored 100% with the parent/teacher consultations required at the beginning of each year. Esperanza was mentor to new teachers almost every year at Hunt and Harwell elementary schools since many teachers would ask for transfers out of the area upon obtaining 2-3 years experience. She was one of the co-founders of the Hispanic Association of Women (HAW). She was active with the Conference of Organizations, the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project Regional Planning Committee. Esperanza completed her Masters Degree in Education at Texas Tech in 1984. She was runner-up at the State Bilingual Education conference in 1996. In the political arena, her only desire was walking the streets for her numerous campaigns that had her starting at 9 in the morning and never stopping

until exactly 7 pm according to other campaign volunteers. Ultimately, she compiled a list of from 150-200 names of senior citizens who were taken out to vote during the early voting period before election day. This required several visits at times since this age group required either mail ballots, rides to the voting place or assistance with curbside voting. Esperanza initiated this concept, along with other activists, that is now being attempted presently so as to increase the dire low voter turnout at in our community. In the middle 1990s, Esperanza was the lead teacher and curriculum developer for an alternative education program that led to the first Charter school in Lubbock, the South Plains Academy. At an increasingly weakened state of health, she was only able to work around 4 hours a day.

Finally, for the last two years of her life, Esperanza unwilling to just pass the time at home, decided to go into her last endeavor; that of selling maybe not the tuxedos, but probably the best educated burritos in Lubbock. She sold burritos up and down Martin Luther King Blvd until she contacted performers for the last time on late January 2012.

Esperanza was not perfect, but she was exceptional. Never wanted or claimed to lead, but provided the support to any activity that would make it succeed. She was faithful and dedicated to her family and friends, particularly her children. She was very beautiful, but never projected arrogance, conceit, or self-centeredness.

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