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Laredo Morning Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2011



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BORDER VIOLENCE

Gunfire kills 2 in NL

Soldiers recover guns, ammunition

LAREDO MORNING TIMES

NUEVO LAREDO — Two armed civilians were killed and another arrested after an exchange of gunfire with soldiers, officials reported Wednesday.

A fourth person fled from the scene near the gas station on Avenida Ruiz Cortines in the Viveros neighborhood, where the gunbattle occurred Tuesday afternoon.

"We saw the shooting and we tried to hide to avoid getting injured," a woman told Laredo Morning Times. "We saw soldiers running and firing at armed men."

On Wednesday morning, soldiers were keeping an eye on the funeral home where the two bodies were taken. Officials were hoping someone would claim the deceased so that they could be identified.

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HONOR

Council eyes naming road for Zapata

By ANDREW KREIGHBAUM
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

Laredo City Council is pursuing a memorial that would rename a strip of Loop 20 in South Laredo from Texas 359 to U.S. 83 for fallen Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent Jaime Jorge Zapata.

Council passed a resolution at its regular Monday meeting asking city staff to come back with language to rename that roadway, which they opted for over Sinatra Parkway.

"We just want to make sure that we pay homage to someone who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country," said Laredo Mayor Raul Salinas.

Nathan Bratton, interim planning and zoning di-

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CRIME

Man indicted in wife's death

Francisco Moncada De Hoyos may be in Mexico

By DENISE BLAZ
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

A man believed to have absconded to Mexico in March after the death of his 23-year-old wife, Alma De Hoyos, was indicted in state court Wednesday on a murder charge.

According to the district attorney's office, if convicted, Francisco Moncada De Hoyos, 38, faces between five and 99 years in prison.



FRANCISCO MONCADA DE HOYOS: Charged with murder in his wife's death.

On March 14, Alma De Hoyos was found dead on the scene by first responders with stab wounds to her upper chest in a two-bedroom apartment located in the 2900 block of East Elm Street.

Three of the couple's children were present at the time of the death, at 1:30 a.m., according to police.

Neighbors in the six-apartment complex called authorities to report a do-

mestic disturbance and witnesses state they saw De Hoyos flee with his two daughters.

A boy younger than 6 was reported found on the scene with blood-stained clothing.

He was unharmed, but he "had signs (consistent) with having an encounter with the scene" on the day of the incident, according to Investigator Jose E. Baeza, Laredo Police Department spokesman.

Two of the boy's siblings were found around 10 a.m. the day of the

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A GRAND, NEW FLAG



Photo by Ulysses S. Romero | Laredo Morning Times

Veterans from the American Legion Post 59 help run the American flag up the BBVA Compass Bank flag pole.

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TODAY'S FORECAST



HIGH 104° | LOW 76°



129th Year No. 303, 90 pages

BUSINESS

Chamber: Hart is a Visionary

By DIANA R. FUENTES
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

One of Laredo's most favorite adopted sons was honored with a major award Wednesday, recognizing his many contributions in the field of oil and gas as well as his commitment to the Gateway City.

"It is a huge, huge, huge honor

for me to be recognized in front of so many friends and business associates from a community that I dearly love," said Glenn Hart, as he accepted the Laredo Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Visionary Award. "Laredo is near and dear to my heart."

During his address before the award presentation at the Texas

A&M International University Student Center, Hart delighted the audience with his self-deprecating, genial personality.

"Oftentimes people wonder, still to this day, how did this gringo from Dallas, Texas, end up in Laredo," Hart said, drawing smiles

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Photo by Danny Zaragoza | LMT

2011 Visionary Award winner Glenn Hart talks about his time in Texas on Wednesday morning.

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homicide with a relative after an Amber Alert was issued.

The couple's three children remain in the custody of their maternal grandmother in Nuevo Laredo.

Hours after the discovery of Alma De Hoyos, a \$1 million bond was set for Francisco Moncada De Hoyos.

The incident was the last for Alma De Hoyos, the allegedly repeated victim of her husband's physical abuse.

On April 18, 2010, LPD responded to a domestic disturbance call around 12:10 a.m. and was advised that a man identified as Francisco Moncada De Hoyos had assaulted his wife.

According to reports, the incident allegedly started over her disciplining one of their children.

A strong odor of alcohol came from De Hoyos when he was arrested, according to police, who also observed Alma was crying and her eyes were blood-shot.

During questioning, De Hoyos said the incident occurred when his wife spanked their then-6-year-old daughter and he became agitated, saying "he did not like anyone to touch his children, and

Two of the boy's siblings were found around 10 a.m. the day of the homicide with a relative after an Amber Alert was issued.

that he would do the same things again if he saw his wife hitting one of his children."

On the night of the April incident, Alma De Hoyos told police her husband had punched her several times in the face.

The victim's sister reported the incident to 911 after seeing the assault in progress.

"The sister added that Alma De Hoyos has been assaulted on several occasions by Francisco De Hoyos, but that she never reports the incidents to police," reads the narrative of the police report from that night.

(Denise Blaz may be reached at 728-2547 or dblaz@lmtonline.com)

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Meanwhile, the man who was arrested was taken to the military headquarters in Nuevo Laredo and was scheduled to be transferred to Mexico City.

In a news release, the Ministry of National Defense reported that soldiers of the 8th Military Zone were in the area when the gunfight ensued unexpectedly Tuesday afternoon.

"Suddenly, they (soldiers) were attacked by armed men, initiating a confrontation," the re-

lease stated.

After the air cleared, two bodies were left lying in the street and one man was in custody, according to the news release. A fourth man, whose identity is known to officials, was able to escape, officials said. His name was not immediately released.

Soldiers confiscated six assault weapons with 107 loaders with ammunition of various calibers and 1,500 rounds of ammunition of various calibers and a vehicle that had been reported stolen.

ZAPATA | Continued from Page 1A

rector; said the Texas Department of Transportation already plans to rename the roadway and would require only a resolution passed by the council.

Salinas said he hoped City Council would vote on a resolution at its next regular meeting but that the process could also involve discussions with the state.

"We'll invite the family when we officially put up the signs and it's officially named," he said.

While driving in the state of San Luis Potosi on ICE

business on Tuesday, Feb. 15, Zapata was killed and Agent Victor Avila was seriously wounded by gunmen. Mexican soldiers have arrested six suspects in connection with the attack, all members of Los Zetas.

Zapata was based in the Laredo ICE office. On April 8, Brownsville, where Zapata was born, renamed a street and a private drive in honor of the slain agent.

(Andrew Kreighbaum may be reached at 728-2538 or akreighbaum@lmtonline.com)

HONORING HIS GRANDSON, HELPING STUDENTS

Courtesy photo | LCC

Laredo Community College trustee Mercurio Martinez Jr. presents memorial scholarships in the name of his grandson, Mercurio Martinez IV, to recipients Stephanie Spring, left, and Viviana de Anda during the annual LCC Scholarship and Awards Night, held April 14 at the Guadalupe and Lilia Martinez Fine Arts Center theater.

HART | Continued from Page 1A

from many at the luncheon. He noted that he came to the Gateway City following his boss, who had started working with Sanchez-O'Brien Oil & Gas.

"That was when I began my love affair with Laredo, Texas. It was 1980, to be exact."

There was a lot to learn, he said.

"As a kid growing up in Dallas, I didn't even know what a fajita was until 1980," he said, to laughter. "I darn sure didn't know how to spell it."

Hart has spent 30 years in the energy industry. After working for others, he started his own company with a friend when each put up \$5,000 and started Michael Petroleum with the help of his friend's roommate, a banker, who loaned the two \$20,000. The company flourished and was sold to what is now known as Rosetta.

They then started Laredo Energy in 2001. Until recently, the company was busy drilling traditional wells, successfully, in Webb and Zapata counties, primarily in the Lobo-Wilcox.

"We (had) been so laser-focused and so tunnel vision on the local trend in the area that was there that when my geologist came in with an idea to move up into northern Webb County, it might as well have been Kazakhstan to me," Hart said, adding with a smile, "That was Rod Lewis' territory. How dare we go up there in Rod Lewis territory ... ?"



Photo by Danny Zaragoza | Laredo Morning Times

Second from left to right, Willie Martinez, Ed Ramirez and Javier Garza listen to Glenn Hart speak after being given the Laredo Chamber of Commerce's Visionary Award on Wednesday morning during the Vision 2011 Economic Outlook Conference.

But Laredo Energy decided to give it a try and soon hit the proverbial jackpot.

"I don't know about visionary," Hart said, shaking his head. "This is better lucky or blessed than smart, for sure. We did not go up there for the Eagle Ford Shale, I'll confess to you. We went there to dig horizontal wells in the Escondido."

Laredo Energy started drilling in about 135,000 acres or so there. The horizontal wells were working, but when good friend J.C. Martin III started talking about the success he was having with the Eagle Ford Shale, Laredo Energy decided to see whether it would work on its acreage, too. They hit pay dirt.

"It's a real thrill for me — the first time in my entire career that I have been working in the literal hot-est play in our business,"

he said of the Eagle Ford Shale. "It is the hottest play in the oil and gas industry, period — anywhere at the moment."

At one point, Laredo Energy had more than 500,000 acres. It has since sold some of that, but looking at all of what it had at one time, the figures are staggering. Since 2001, when the company was created, 500 locations have been drilled, with 356 billion cubic feet of natural gas produced.

"If we had kept all that together, we'd be a pretty good-sized company, but I'd rather have the money than a lot of well signs," he said, smiling and drawing more laughs.

In addition to his energy work, Hart also is the founding owner of the champion Laredo Bucks hockey team and was instrumental in the creation

of Laredo's entertainment center; now known as the Laredo Energy Arena.

In presenting the 2011 Visionary Award, chamber member Ed Ramirez spoke highly of Hart.

"You are very deserving of this award," Ramirez said. It was presented as the highlight of the annual Vision Economic Outlook Conference sponsored by the Laredo Chamber of Commerce at TAMU.

In accepting the award, Hart couldn't say enough good things about Laredo and said Laredoans have plenty of reasons to be proud.

"One of the things I wanted to point out to you guys is that I don't think you all realize how blessed you are," Hart said. "I hear Laredoans sort of downplay themselves all the time and it just really bothers me. One of the things I've always been attracted to about Laredo and the region is you guys have maintained your culture and your heritage and your pride more than probably any place in the United States."

"And that's a real credit to you. Your warmth and friendliness to outsiders is unprecedented."

Hart also noted that Laredo has done well for itself and continues to succeed.

"I will also say it has been a real pleasure for me to watch Laredo grow and prosper over the years," he said. "You're blessed in so many ways, it's unbelievable."

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For further information, call Imagine Awards
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