

Double Homicide Rocks Brownfield

Lone Suspect Killed in Accident Near Plains; Local Family Member 'Shocked' at Events

BROWNFIELD -- Details remain limited in the investigation of a Tuesday incident which claimed the life of two Brownfield residents who were apparently gunned down inside their home, just blocks away from a Brownfield ISD middle school.

Brownfield Police Dept. Chief Tony Serbantez confirmed Tuesday afternoon that two individuals, Jesus Antonio Contreras, 71, and Rosa Mermella Contreras, 63, were killed in their residence located at 619 E. Main Street.

The lone suspect, Jose Roel DeLuna, 42, is deceased following a two-vehicle collision on U.S. Hwy 380 two miles west of Plains. DeLuna's vehicle struck a tractor-trailer on the highway and he was killed in the impact, according to Texas Dept. of Public Safety

Troopers.

"I just couldn't believe it," said 23-year-old Seminole resident Oscar Contreras, who is a great-nephew to Tuesday's shooting victims. "We're (the Contreras family) still in a lot of shock."

Although Brownfield Police Dept. officials have not issued a motive of incident, Oscar Contreras stated Tuesday's events stemmed from a family dispute between DeLuna and the daughter of the Contreras, who will not be identified by the *Sentinel* because of the on-going police investigation.

"They had broke up and (DeLuna) was looking for her," Contreras. "I guess it was a jealousy kind of thing."

BPD officials had not identified how many times the victims had been shot, where they had

been shot, or the type of weapon involved in the incident.

Because Tuesday's shooting happened several blocks west of the Brownfield Middle School campus, BISSD officials were notified by law enforcement personnel of the happenings, which prompted school district officials to bring students who were outside their school campuses indoors.

BISSD Superintendent Jerry Jones said the district was placed on high alert, but never placed any of the school campuses on lockdown, as Terry County law enforcement officials searched for DeLuna in the area shortly following the shooting.

Joint funeral services for the Contreras' were held Saturday morning at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Brownfield, with Father Gerald Leatham officiating,

with interment following at the Brownfield Cemetery.

The couple was married in 1969, and preceded in death by their

respective parents, a son, Ray Mermella, and a grandson Jayden Xzavian.

Together, the couple is survived

by five sons, two daughters and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Brownfield News Photo

TUESDAY TRAGEDY

Family members related to Brownfield residents Jesus and Rosa Conteras, along with neighbors and friends, converge near the scene of a double homicide Tuesday afternoon in the 600 block of Main St. in Brownfield.

SPS Files Plans for Transmission Line for Terry, Gaines Co.

Plans for a project to improve electric transmission between substations in Terry and Gaines Counties was filed Thursday with the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) hopes to construct a new 115-kilovolt single-circuit transmission line costing up to \$20.5 million.

"This project came about as a result of a study done by the Southwest Power Pool," said SPS spokesman James Bagley. "It's going to improve the reliability for our customers in that part of the system."

A three-page legal description of the project and a propose map are included inside of today's issue of the *Seminole Sentinel*.

The map details 14 possible routes the line could take, pending approval by the PUC. Only one route will eventually come to fruition.

All affected land owners will be

contacted individually as well, Bagley said.

"It takes a minimum of 80 days from filing to get approval and that is if everything just goes without a hitch," he said. "If we have any land owners intervene to ask questions or they are opposed to the plan, litigation could take up to a year."

Once approval is granted, SPS will seek permission from land owners to conduct a survey and then right of way will be purchased from all those affected.

Following those steps, construction will begin.

The timeline of the project will depend on the final route selected, which range between 12 and 18 miles of transmission lines, according to information filed with the PUC.

"We anticipate the project being completed four to five months after we break ground," Bagley said.

According to the filing, the transmission line will be mostly

single-circuit, however, depending on the route selected, some portions could be double-circuit.

The line will be constructed utilizing primarily single-pole steel structures requiring a smaller surface area than H-frame structures and eliminating the need for guy wires for corner structures.

It is possible that some H-frame or double-circuit structures also will be utilized.

The proposed transmission line will be constructed entirely on new right-of-way with a proposed easement of 70 feet.

The filing presents 14 alternative routes consisting of a combined 45 segments.

The new line will connect the Sulphur Springs substation in southern Terry County with the Diamondback substation in northern Gaines County.

DPS to Be in Full Force for Spring Break

AUSTIN -- The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will have added DWI patrols from through March 17, one of the most active Spring Break periods in Texas. DPS troopers will focus DWI patrols in high-risk locations at times when alcohol-related crashes are most frequent. The enhanced patrols that target intoxicated drivers are funded through a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation.

"Too frequently people choose to drink and drive during Spring Break, which is an extremely dangerous decision that often leads to senseless tragedy," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Getting impaired drivers off the roads during Spring Break is a major priority for the department, and we also urge the public to make responsible decisions, such as designating a non-drinking driver or finding alternative transportation if they are impaired."

During last year's Spring Break enforcement period, DPS troopers made more than 1,000 DWI arrests, and approximately 300 were the direct result of the increased patrols funded by the grant. DPS enforcement also resulted in more than 9,400 speeding citations, 1,500 seat belt/child safety seat tickets and 12,500 other citations. In addition, troopers made 545 fugitive arrests and 402 felony arrests during routine patrol operations.

The drinking age in Texas is 21, and any driver under that age with any detectable amount of alcohol in their system can be charged with breaking the law. Additional troopers will also be patrolling in areas with high concentrations of Spring Break activity.

DPS offers the following tips for safe travel during the Spring Break holiday:

- Slow down—especially in bad weather, construction areas, heavy traffic and unfamiliar areas.
- Eliminate distractions while driving, including the usage of mobile devices.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle—it's the law.
- Don't drive fatigued, and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
- Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly

maintained before your trip begins.

- Slow down or move over for tow trucks and police, fire and EMS vehicles stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated—it's the law.
- Avoid travel to Mexico. (U.S. citizens who do travel to Mexico should always check the U.S. Department of State website for the latest information regarding security issues in Mexico, and they should register with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program by visiting http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html)

Pitching Clinic Signups Seminole Girls Softball is proud to welcome Bill Hillhouse!



Parent & Coaches Clinic

Open to the Public

April 5th 6pm-8pm @ Ambassador Room, \$5 cover charge at the door. This will be an open forum, pitching tips, videos, and other great products. Everyone welcome

Pitching Clinic

April 6th @ Football Big Room
Registration forms available at Brown's Ace Hardware, 119 E Ave A
March 1st thru March 18th, \$75 registration fee
Limited space, so get your spot Quick!

Private hour lessons with Bill Hillhouse

April 7th @ Football Big Room
Only 9 slots available
Signup with Vinita 806-773-7041

Community Calendar

Check Dates and Times Below for All Weekly Community Happenings

SUNDAY, March 10

Attend the church of your choice.

MONDAY, March 11

8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.--South Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Hwy.

9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.--Immunization clinic, South Plains Health Department, 704 Hobbs Highway. (Clinic in Seagraves every third Monday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. the first Monday and from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month).

9:00 a.m.--Exercise class, Senior Citizen Center.

10:00 a.m.--Gaines County Commissioners Court, Commissioners Courtroom, Gaines County Courthouse.

6:30 p.m.--Masonic Lodge #957 Meal and Meeting (meeting at 7:30 p.m.), Masonic Lodge...meet 1st Monday of every month.

7:00 p.m.--Seminole City Council Meeting, Board Room, City Hall.

7:00 p.m.--Seminole ISD Board Meeting, Board Room, SISD Administration Office.

7:00 p.m.--Seagraves ISD Board Meeting, Board Room, Seagraves.

8:00 -9:00 p.m.--Alcoholics Anonymous, CR 402K, #110.

TUESDAY, March 12

8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.

9:00 a.m.-12 noon—Seagraves shot clinic, Senior Citizen's Center, 1204 Avenue F.

12 noon—Seminole Lions Club, First Presbyterian Church.

1:30-4:00 p.m.--First Monday of the month Adult Learning Center Registration, SE 4th St.

7:00 p.m.--Al-Anon Group, 109 SW Ave G (First Assembly of God Fellowship Hall).

6:00-7:00 p.m.—Young People's Group, Gaines County Rehabilitation Center, 110 Southwest Avenue B.

7:00 p.m.--Al-Anon Group, 110 SW Ave B.

7:00 p.m.—Seminole EMT Volunteer Association. EMS building. (First Tuesday of each month).

7:00 p.m.—Gaines County Committee on People with Disabilities, Seminole City Hall. (First Tuesday of each month).

7:00 p.m.—"Wings of Glory" Chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association, Thelma's One Stop. (Fourth Tuesday of each month).

7:30 p.m.—Seminole American Legion, Legion Hall, two miles west of Seminole on U.S. 180. (First Tuesday of each month).

WEDNESDAY, March 13

8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.

9:00 a.m.—Exercise class, Senior Citizen's Building.

10:00 a.m.-12 noon—Bob Lewis Mission open, 109 Southwest Avenue B. (Open each Wednesday during the same hours.

8:00 p.m.--Alcoholics Anonymous (Spanish), Community Rehabilitation Center, 110 Southwest Avenue B.

8:00 p.m.—Al-Anon, Community Rehabilitation Center, 110 Southwest Avenue B.

THURSDAY, March 14

8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.

12 noon—Seminole Rotary Club, First Presbyterian Church.

7:00 p.m.—Alcohol and other drug education group, 110 Southwest Avenue B.

7:00 p.m. (Mountain Time, 8 p.m. Texas Time)—Alzheimer's Disease and Related Demential Disorders Support Group meeting, Columbia Lea Regional Hospital Educational Complex Room, Hobbs. (Last Thursday of each month).

8:00 p.m. (Texas Time)—Gambler's Anonymous, 800 West Bender, Hobbs, N.M., First Assembly of God Church (across from Albertsons).

FRIDAY, March 15

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-3:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.

9:00 a.m.—Exercise class, Senior Citizen's building.

SATURDAY, March 16

No scheduled activities

SEMINOLE THRIFTWAY
ANDREWS HWY. 758-9869