

Police chief doesn't need to back down from NRA's bullies

ERICA GRIEDER
Commentary

Police Chief Art Acevedo has a well-documented commitment to serving and protecting the general public rather than special-interest groups like the National Rifle Association. And he isn't easily intimidated by



bullies like their spokeswoman, Dana Loesch.

That's probably why he took a moment last Friday to deliver a message, via his Facebook page, about that day's mass shooting at Santa Fe High School.

"Today I spent the day dealing with another mass shooting of children and a responding police officer who is clinging

to life," Acevedo wrote in his post, which was shared more than 20,000 times.

"I know some have strong feelings about gun rights but I want you to know I've hit rock bottom and I am not interested in your views as it pertains to this issue," he continued.

His perspective is a well-informed one, and it doesn't hurt for community leaders like the police chief to give voice to the sorrow and frustration

many Texans were feeling after the day's events.

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn," wrote Paul in his epistle to the Romans about 2,000 years ago.

That's good advice, even now. And on a day like May 18, obviously, first responders like Acevedo have no shortage of important things to do.

But since he made time to share his thoughts, I was in-

terested in hearing them. And I shared his post with my Facebook friends, too, because his message was important.

"This isn't a time for prayers, and study and inaction, it's a time for prayers, action and the asking of God's forgiveness for our inaction (especially the elected officials that ran to the cameras today, acted in a solemn manner, called for prayers, and will once again do abso-

Griender continues on A15

CITY | STATE

Officer charged in death of brother

Investigation ongoing as circumstances of shooting questioned

By Keri Blakinger and Jay R. Jordan

A Stagecoach Police officer was charged with murder Saturday in the fatal shooting of his brother, a Harris County sheriff's deputy, according to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Robert Lee, a 35-year law enforcement veteran who previously worked for the Houston Police Department, initially told authorities that he shot someone who broke into his home in Stagecoach Farms around 5:30 p.m. Friday.

Investigators later learned that the victim was his brother, 57-year-old Rocky Lee — and that it may not have been a break-in. The slain deputy was a 26-year veteran of the Harris County Sheriff's Office and worked at the jail at 1200 Baker Street, law enforcement officials said.

He was shot multiple times in the bathroom of the home, near the intersection of Westward Ho and Singletree in Stagecoach Farms, about 9 miles south of Magnolia.

"The exact circumstances surrounding the shooting are under investigation," Montgomery County Sheriff's Office spokesman Scott Spencer said late Friday. "We don't believe there was a burglary at the residence."

After the shooting, Robert Lee

Shooting continues on A4

Fan crafts draw crowd at comic convention

Star Wars-inspired chip-and-dip bowl among the big hits

By Andrew Dansby

Just as the Millennium Falcon took Luke Skywalker away from his desert home of Tatooine, it also provided Deric Peveto passage out of his career as a trauma nurse. Admittedly, Peveto's escape didn't involve blasting his way out of Mos Eisley, but the Falcon still changed his life dramatically when he envisioned the Corellian freighter as a chip-and-dip bowl hand carved out of a mix of domestic and exotic wood.

Hurricane Rita turned Peveto into a woodworker when it cleaved his Beaumont home in half. "There were a lot of repairs and no one to do them," he said. "So I learned to do the repairs myself."

Peveto, now a Nacogdoches resident, saw his hobby grow into his Wood By Hand company, which was selling Falcon chip/dip vessels and other carved pieces at Comicpalooza this weekend.

"The Falcon really started it all," he said. "Somebody took a picture of it, and I didn't think anything of it. Then a friend told me it was on the front page

Marvel continues on A8

Santa Fe buries 3 teenagers with tears and remembrance



Melissa Phillip / Houston Chronicle

Mourners leave Abundant Life Christian Center in La Marque after Saturday's funeral for Shana Fisher, 16, a student who was killed during the mass shooting at Santa Fe High School. "Shana's life was taken from us too early," said Pastor Joshua Rudolph.

Emotions run deep at services for girl cut down at age 16

By Maggie Gordon

Hundreds of friends and family members trickled into the large hall at Abundant Life Christian Center in La Marque on Saturday morning to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of 16-year-old Shana Lorraine Fisher, as the words of the country song "If I Die Young" by The Band Perry filled the room.

"If I die young, bury me in satin. Lay me down in a bed of roses ..."

In the front of the room, Shana's hands grasp a rosary and a



Shana Fisher was noted by friends and family for her sense of style and good nature.

bouquet of flowers as she lies like an angel in winged eyeliner, tucked away in a too-small, too-soon coffin.

"Sink me in a river at dawn. Send me away with the words of a love song ..."

Red-nosed teenagers in tired black dresses file into their seats. They pause and go through the motions they've learned well: Offer a hand. A hug. Whisper "I'm so sorry," and try not to cry harder than

Family continues on A4

Victims' warmth, vitality will long be missed, friends say

By St. John Barned-Smith and Robert Downen

The grieving Santa Fe community gathered again Saturday for another day of funerals to lay to rest three of their friends and family killed in a school shooting that has ripped through the heart of this small southeast Texas town.

Eight days after the massacre at Santa Fe High School, residents gathered at the Abundant Life Christian Center in La Marque to grieve for 16-year-old Shana Fisher, at



Jared Black



Angelique Ramirez

Dayspring Church in Santa Fe to bury 15-year-old Angelique Ramirez, and at Aldersgate United Methodist Church to bury 17-year-old Jared Black.

They remembered their friends' warmth and enthusiasm for life, their love of family and the unfettered joy of youth.

The community has gathered for five times before Saturday to honor those lost, and

Zeal continues on A4

Mural paints message of hope

Gulfton celebrates art featuring icons of city, neighborhood

By Gabrielle Banks

Eduardo Zelaya made a colorful contribution to his neighborhood this week, just months after Hurricane Harvey wrecked havoc on his home and school. The aspiring 10-year-old artist helped create a hope-themed mural, covering layers of graffiti from rival gangs, the Southwest Cholos and MS-13.

"It makes sure people won't give up," he said, looking at his drawing that is part of a bonsai tree.

Zelaya was among dozens gathered Saturday a block from his Gulfton home at the Salvation Army to celebrate a new



Michael Wyke / For the Chronicle

Pastor Alejandro Montes, one of the faces depicted on the wall, greets Mayor Sylvester Turner before an unveiling ceremony Saturday at the Gulfton Salvation Army building.

mural on the side of the thrift shop depicting children planting and watering seeds. It also features astronaut Mae Jemison, a Houston icon, whom Chicago muralist Rahman Stationik said grew up with his mother.

Mayor Sylvester Turner, who was joined by civic leaders, the three muralists and neighbors, said he has dedicated his time in office to making sure Houston recognizes and uplifts un-

derstood communities. He recognized Gulfton as being the most diverse sector of the city and said it was a perfect candidate for a cultural enrichment project of this type.

Mural continues on A8

CITY | STATE

Family wants justice after agent killed migrant

Border Patrol officer who fatally shot woman from Guatemala is on administrative leave

By César G. Rodríguez
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

Relatives of a young female immigrant fatally shot by a U.S. Border Patrol agent are demanding justice.

Her mother, Nidia Gonzalez, could barely speak to the media in Guatemala, as she was overtaken by grief. She told the media that her daughter, Claudia Patricia Gomez Gonzalez, left the country about two weeks ago to find work in hopes of a better future.

"Mom, we're going to be alright. I'm going to make my own money," the woman recalled her daughter telling her. "My daughter did not go over there to steal anything. Right now, I just want

my daughter's body, quick."

A man identified on Facebook as Gomez Gonzalez's fiancé uploaded a video on Facebook to demand justice.

"Good night everyone. It's with great sorrow that I find out about what happened to my (fiancé) in the border in Rio Bravo. I am terribly sorry. Maybe you can provide some support so justice can be done. I ask you in all of these communities that live there for your support so we can have justice," said the man identified as Morales Yosimar.

He continued, saying he had hopes of reuniting with Gomez Gonzalez.

"Today I ask you, everyone watching this video, that you help me get justice for the person

that did this to my wife. It's a very difficult situation to lose a loved one. And I ask for your support so justice can be done," he said.

The Border Patrol said Friday that the 15-year veteran agent who used deadly force has been placed on administrative leave. Texas Rangers and the FBI, with assistance from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Professional Responsibility, are investigating the incident.

The shooting occurred about 12:22 p.m. Wednesday near a culvert on Centeno Lane in Rio Bravo. The agent had responded to an illegal activity report. He then discovered a group of people he suspected of being in the country illegally and ordered them to get on the ground.

"According to the agent, the group ignored his verbal commands and instead rushed him,"

Border Patrol said.

Authorities say he discharged one round from his service-issued firearm and fatally wounded Gomez Gonzalez. The rest of the group fled the scene. Responding agents detained three people who were allegedly linked to the case.

At 7:32 p.m. Thursday, Border Patrol sent an email informing media about a press availability slated for 1 p.m. Friday. But one hour and 15 minutes before the news conference, the agency sent out another email with red letters saying, "Press event scheduled for today has been cancelled. Please see our updated statement on incident."

A group of people went to Border Patrol headquarters in Laredo on Friday afternoon and stood across the street with banners, demanding justice.

An attorney representing the

agent has previously told Laredo Morning Times that the evidence will prove his client's innocence.

Laredo Immigrant Alliance released a statement saying it is outraged by agent's actions.

"We urge our community leaders, FBI and Texas Rangers to thoroughly investigate the case and hold those people responsible accountable for what is clearly excessive use of force as such behavior is now being normalized by Border Patrol agents throughout out border communities," the alliance said in a statement. "The Laredo Immigrant Alliance would like to extend our deepest condolences to the families involved."

The alliance is inviting community leaders and the neighboring cities of Rio Bravo and El Cenizo to come together to honor the lives lost at the border with a vigil.

Mural features work by children

Mural from page A3

Three murals and a colorful sidewalk are being added to this area as part of Turner's program, Complete Communities.

"Every community should be a community of opportunity," Turner told the crowd. "You deserve the best this city has to offer."

This 90-foot mural highlights three neighborhood icons: retired Houston Police officer Randy Bond; veteran Gulfton activist Tammy Rodriguez, who championed living conditions for the working-class area southwest of downtown; and Pastor Alejandro Montes, a volunteer police chaplain from San Mateo Episcopal Church.

The two-year effort by the UP



Michael Wyke

Attendants gather in front of the new mural on the Gulfton Salvation Army building during unveiling ceremonies.

Art Studio, the Mayor's Office and Gulfton Super Neighborhood #27 incorporates work by students from nearby Braeburn Elementary School, created with help from art teacher Rosio

Padilla.

Braeburn students had to relocate after the aging school sustained damage during Hurricane Harvey. The campus will be rebuilt, said principal Santos

Reyes.

Statik, 37, created the street-side piece, and two murals on the other side of the thrift shop were created by Houston artist Gelson Danilo Lemus, aka

w3r3on3, and Daniel Joseph Bombardier, aka Denial, from Ontario, Canada.

gabrielle.banks@chron.com
twitter.com/gabmobanks

Marvel's film stars draw some big crowds at Comicpalooza

Marvel from page A3

of Reddit. I asked, 'Is that a bad thing?'

Orders for the bowls began to pour in. Peveto's Comicpalooza booth has some Falcons, and other pieces like a triangular wooden door stop for "Game of Thrones" fans that reads "Hodor."

Peveto's story isn't terribly uncommon at events like Comicpalooza. While mass-produced shirts and toys are readily available, there remains demand for creative, handmade items by people whose hobbies sometimes reveal a professional second act.

"I never envisioned myself being in this pop culture world," Peveto says. "But I really love being part of it."

High fives to fans

Comicpalooza kicked off quietly Friday, as it often does with fans old and young at work or in school. Saturday brings the true wave of costume-clad fans.

Once on site at the George R. Brown Convention Center, they're faced with all manner of stimuli: artists and vendors selling wares; actors and writers discussing their work; and beloved stars from all corners of the fantasy, superhero, science-fiction, speculative fiction worlds doing photo ops and signing autographs.

The very tall Peter Mayhew — Chewbacca from "Star Wars" — pulled a consistently robust



Annie Mulligan

Deric Peveto shows off a handmade wooden serving tray at Comicpalooza on Saturday.

crowd, as always. And Orlando Jones from "American Gods" appeared genuinely thrilled to meet and greet fans at his booth, offering laughs and high fives to early arrivals.

Young talent from the Marvel world pulled particularly well. The line for a Q&A with "Jessica Jones" star Krysten Ritter filled a large conference room. Once it cleared, it filled again instantly with teenagers lined up for "Spider-Man" star Tom Holland — three hours before his

Q&A.

A popular draw among the artists was Joel Adams, whose booth bore the title "The Sexy, the Cute and the Ugly Art of Joel Adams." Adams is a second-generation artist. His father Neal is a beloved comic book veteran whose 1970s Batman work was influential. The younger Adams has a strong following in Texas thanks to his character development for TV's "King of the Hill."

"Texas really treats me well,"

Adams said. "In five years of doing these shows, this was my best Friday."

Costume triage

The convention center space was alive with art and new permutations on old ideas. Nate Jones' prints were particularly eye-catching. Like Peveto, Jones' prototype was an accidental success. He created a tribute to his father, a representation of his dad that focused on his prominent mustache, with

other facial features eliminated in favor of a prominent quote.

"I tried to turn it into a commission-based business, but it really didn't go anywhere," he said. "Then I did one after David Bowie died ..."

Suddenly Jones had a thing. Other things evolve over time. The McDougal Sewing Center has operated in the region since 1940; these days, it is based in JOANN Fabric and Craft Store. It has a cosplay session scheduled in August.

Cheryl Sleboda of McDougal had various costume materials available. "We do costume triage for people in need," she said.

"That's one of my favorite things about this convention. Anybody can go out and buy a costume, but you don't see many of those. This place is just full of creative people who have created their own costumes."

Some of Comicpalooza's nerdiest undertakings are its most enjoyable. Like "The Empire Striketh Back," during which six actors from the Classical Theatre Company read a Shakespeare-inflected reinterpretation of "Star Wars: Episode V," the series' most Shakespearean entry.

With lines like "I trust not Lando" and "Chewie, fear thou not," along with narration and sound effects, it was a charming exercise in fan culture.

andrew.dansby@chron.com
twitter.com/andrewdansby

AROUND THE AREA

Man shot after allegedly hitting woman with car

A Houston police officer shot a man who authorities say tried to run over a woman late Friday.

Officers were dispatched just before midnight to a gas station at 9421 Cullen for a trespassing call. While interviewing a woman there, a male driver "appeared to intentionally" hit her and a patrol car,

Executive Assistant Chief Troy Finner said.

The officer then pursued the car on foot, after which the driver reversed and tried to hit the officer, Finner said. Fearing for his life, the officer fired several times, hitting the driver once or twice, Finner said.

The woman hit by the car was hospitalized with a broken leg, and the driver was in surgery Saturday morning, Finner said.

HPD Internal Affairs and the district attorney also will investigate.

Police: Group of men killed alleged robber

A group of men killed an alleged robber in Chinatown early Saturday, Houston police said.

Investigators said it appears the man was trying to rob an apartment near the intersection of Ranchester and Clarewood just before

midnight Friday.

He quickly found himself outnumbered by a group of men inside, police said, and started thrashing at them with a broken bottle, police told a reporter at the scene.

Three of the men were cut on their arms. Two were taken to a hospital.

It's unclear whether the man died from being choked or beaten, police said.

All of the men are cooperating with investigators.

Man arrested after standoff with police

A man who police say barricaded himself inside a south Houston home with two children was arrested after a standoff Saturday morning, police said.

Houston police officers were dispatched for a domestic violence call at a home in the 6600 block of New York Street around 2 a.m.

A female at the home

then told police a man had threatened her.

"Initial reports were that he pointed a weapon at her," Assistant Chief Larry Satterwhite said.

A SWAT team was later called after the man, who police believe was armed, refused to exit the home.

The man eventually surrendered and will likely face aggravated assault charges, Satterwhite said.

From staff reports