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THE LAMB COUNTY

LEADER



NEWS

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Murder investigation continues

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JOELLA LOVVORN
Investigation is continuing into the shooting death of Evangelina "Angie" Cruz, 32, of Littlefield Tuesday morning while she was working alone at the Jolly Roger Convenience Store on Highway 385.
Police Chief Gary Lightfoot said, "We've been getting lots of calls from all over the country, but we don't have anything concrete yet." He noted that lots and lots of calls have come in about gold-colored cars with Hispanic people in them.
Law enforcement officers would like to hear from the person who purchased \$10.03 worth of gasoline about 2 a.m. "We would like to talk with that person to see if they have any information concerning the case," Chief Lightfoot said.

Memorial Fund Set up at FNB

A memorial fund has been established at First National Bank in Littlefield for the children of Evangelina (Angie) Cruz, who was killed in a shooting early Tuesday. Contact any teller, Patty Zahn or Charla Chronister at the bank.

Mrs. Cruz was able to dial 9-1-1 at 2:08 a.m. after she had been shot nine times at close range at the front counter, which was also near the telephone. Two minutes later, officers were at the scene and found her still conscious, lying on the floor.

She was able to identify the attackers as two Hispanic males, 18 to 20 years of age. One had short hair and the other had shoulder-length hair, and they left in a gold-colored car.

Area counties' Crime Stoppers are offering rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the indictment and arrest of the people responsible for the crime.

Callers may remain anonymous if they give information to the Crime Stoppers of any of the counties, and they won't have to testify in court if they do not wish to do so.

Crime Stopper lines include: Plainview-Hale County Crime Stoppers 800-299-8477.

Lamb County Crime Stoppers: 638-6700.

Lubbock Crime Line: 741-1000. The Jolly Roger was re-opened for business Thursday morning, after the place was cleaned up and repairs made to the counter where

evidence was taken. The business was closed

Thursday afternoon, however, while Angie's former fellow

employees and friends attended her funeral in Lubbock.

Her obituary may be found on Page 2.

Brandt signed as concert opener

By LAURA BARNES
An up and coming country artist, Paul Brandt, has been booked as the opening act for the Tracy Lawrence concert which will conclude the Labor Day weekend Denim Festival.

The contract with Brandt was signed Wednesday.

Brandt will perform at 8 p.m., Monday, Labor Day. His performance follows a day of live entertainment provided by a medley of performers from the South Plains and the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex. His 45 minute performance will precede Lawrence's concert.

Admission for the Denim Festival is \$10, whether it be for all three days or only for the concert.

Brandt has been making a difference for many of his 23 years.

He says, "When I was growing up, I knew that whatever it was that I was going to do, I wanted to make a difference somehow."

Brandt's debut is in the form of his album Calm Before The Storm, which includes such songs as his first single "My Heart Has A History" and "I Do," a slow-burning ballad that has recently been spread across the radio waves.

The singer was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta. He sang in the church when he was growing up, so he grew up on gospel music. He took up the guitar in ninth grade. He says that his childhood surroundings, along with his love for the guitar helped the country songs come naturally to him. "It just seemed natural, with my voice and with who I was, and I decided to stick with it," he recalled.

Like many starry-eyed kids, Brandt began entering talent contests, which increased his passion for performing his own material and it helped him develop his skills as a songwriter.

Brandt had his eye on some great artists growing up, listening to their music and respecting their success. "The people who really stood out to me were George Strait, Dwight Yoakum and Clint Black—country artists with a modern edge," Brandt comments.

One contest which Brandt competed in was one held at the world-renowned Calgary Stampede. He won a \$1,000 prize at the 1992 Stampede and entered many other competitions in the United States and Canada.

Brandt continued to pursue a career in professional nursing.

This is a vocation that is probably in his genes. His father is a paramedic and his mother went back to school to become a registered nurse.

Brandt was a pediatric nurse for two years, working with often times, terminally ill children at Alberta's Children's Hospital. Brandt reflects on his experience at the Children's Hospital as human experience, when 'you're sharing emotions' with the patients.

Brandt entered a nationwide contest sponsored by SOCAN, which is the Canadian performance society. Although he finished second in performance, he won first prize for the Best Original Country Song, "Calm Before The Storm."

Fatefully, many of Nashville's makers and breakers were in Ontario for the SOCAN competition. Soon after, Warner Music Canada's Kim Cooke contacted him, and he sent a tape to Nashville.

It didn't take long for the tape to earn a reputation. Paige Levy,

City taxes to be raised