

Relay for Life ambassador

By PHILIP BALLI
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

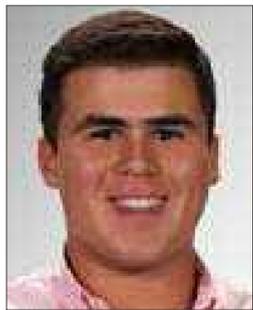
This story is part of a series of profiles on each 2016 Relay for Life ambassador of courage. Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, will be held at Texas A&M International University today.

From the ages of 5 to 8, Fernando Quiroga spent time undergoing chemotherapy after being diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia; now, 17-year-old Quiroga spends his time at the forefront of an effort to raise awareness of the millions of people diagnosed with cancer.

Success stories such as the 100 percent remission of Quiroga's cancer are, unfortunately, not the case for everyone, and he knows it.

At the age of 6, the Make-A-Wish Foundation sent Quiroga and his family to Disney World.

"He really felt like they



QUIROGA

rolled out the red carpet for him," said his mother, Denise Quiroga. "It was a really fun and great experience for him because he was able to forget about his condition."

Today, Fernando assists with Make-A-Wish Foundation's annual telethon held in Mall Del Norte.

"At the beginning, he would go with me, and now he goes on his own," Denise said. "He's interviewed every year. He speaks on the radio and talks about how much fun he had with Make-A-Wish

Foundation. This is the way he feels he can give back and to make it aware for kids his age that he supports."

This year, Fernando has been named a Relay for Life Ambassador of Courage for Webb County.

He will lead all of the Relay for Life participants today in the pledge of allegiance before it begins.

"A Relay for Life event is not only a way to join my community to fight back against cancer, but it is also a way to inspire hope by raising funds and cancer awareness to help those facing the disease," Fernando states on a profile page on the Relay for Life of Webb County website. "I participate because I know that by raising funds and walking in (the relay), I will help save lives from cancer."

Fernando also states he is proud to have been chosen as an ambassador and to serve as a role model for his generation.

Fernando is a junior at

Alexander High School.

During summers, he lifeguards at the Laredo Country Club.

Denise said he has been swimming forever.

"He started swimming to gain strength," she said. "He's been a swimmer for Alexander High School since freshman year."

Fernando was recently invited to serve as a camp counselor for a two-week summer program at Camp Longhorn.

Counselors are chosen for their leadership, patience, sense of responsibility and fun-loving spirits, according to the Camp Longhorn website.

Denise said he applied to be a counselor in January.

Fernando will be in charge of a number of campers.

"He's been blessed to live a normal life," Denise said. "He is a miracle."

(Philip Balli may be reached at 728-2528 or pballi@lmtonline.com)

THE BLOTTER

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ASSAULT

■ Juan Medina, 24, was arrested and charged with assault, family violence at about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday in the 1900 block of Chacon Street.

BURGLARY

■ Rolando Perez, 32, was arrested and charged with burglary of vehicle at about 3 p.m. Wednesday in the 5600 block of St. David Lane.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

■ Josue Solis, 19, was arrested and charged with criminal mischief at about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the 4900 block of San Felipe Lane.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS

■ Emily Garcia, 21, was arrested and charged with criminal trespass at about 12:45 p.m. Wednesday in the 600 block of Farragut Street.

EVADING ARREST

■ Robert Mastin, 27, was arrested

and charged with evading arrest at about 9:15 a.m. Wednesday in the 1100 block of Sanchez Street.

POSSESSION

■ Oscar Lara, 18, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance at about 2:15 p.m. Wednesday in the 500 block of Okane Street.

■ Carlos Canseco, 31, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance at about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday in the 3700 block of U.S. 83.

■ Gilberto Peña, 21, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana at about 7:15 p.m. Wednesday in the 1400 block of East Clark Boulevard.

■ Eddiberto Solis, 26, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance at about 1 a.m. Thursday in the 500 block of Shiloh Drive.

■ Pedro Garcia, 26, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana at about 2 a.m. Thursday in the 5300 block of Nayarit Street.



Courtesy photo

From left are UISD Superintendent Roberto Santos, LISD Superintendent A. Marcus Nelson, Texas Workforce Commission (Commissioner Representing Employers) Ruth R. Hughs, Workforce Solutions for South Texas Board Chair Lupita Canales, Mercy Rehab Kids Administrator Patsy San Miguel and Workforce Solutions for South Texas Executive Director Rogelio Treviño.

Teacher Externship program

By JUDITH RAYO
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

Four area school districts will have their teachers participate in a Teacher Externship program that will assist employees in developing curriculum and lessons plans and implementing them in the classroom.

The program will kick off this summer.

Workforce Solutions for South Texas was awarded a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission to implement the program.

This is the second year the program is in operation.

About 40 middle and high school teachers from

Workforce Solutions for South Texas was awarded a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission to implement the program.

United, Laredo, Zapata County and Jim Hogg County independent school districts will participate in the program.

The five-day externship program will focus on medical, education, trade and transportation occupations.

Organizations that will participate in the program include Excel Logistics, Skintology, Bio Mat/Grifols, Border Region,

Mercy Rehab, Ruth B. Cowl Rehab, Buckland Broker, Guerra Communication, KGNS, Martin Transportation, Univision, Doctor's Hospital, Laredo Police Department, Mann Power, Let's Go Professional, Lamar Bruni Science Center, Border Patrol, City of Laredo Fire Department, Convergys and Webb County Sheriff's Office.

Texas Workforce Com-

missioner Ruth Hughs said the program is a way to connect employers and education.

"This type of partnership will continue to make the community thrive," she said.

Workforce Solutions for South Texas officials hope to turn the program into an annual opportunity.

Rogelio Treviño, executive director for Workforce Solutions for South Texas, said he was excited to implement the program another year.

"We always want to help businesses and identify their needs," he said.

(Judith Rayo may be reached at 728-2567 or jrayo@lmtonline.com)

Man's hand slashed with knife

By CÉSAR G. RODRIGUEZ
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

A man is wanted by Laredo police for slashing a person's hand with a knife.

The alleged attack was reported at 10:17 p.m. Wednesday in the 3000 block of East Saunders

Street.

A man walked into a store seeking help because he had an injury to his hand. He told police that a scuffle occurred in the 3200 block of East Saunders. A male suspect had walked up to him and put a knife to his chest, according to police.

"(The) victim tried to push the male suspect away and that is when the suspect managed to slash his right hand causing a severe laceration," states the police report.

EMS crews took the complainant to Laredo Medical Center for treatment.

Authorities said the suspect was dressed in black and was believed to be in his 30s.

To provide information, call police at 956-795-2800 or Laredo Crime Stoppers at 727-TIPS (8477).

(César G. Rodriguez may be reached at 728-2568 or cesar@lmtonline.com)

Woman disrupts funeral, busted

By CÉSAR G. RODRIGUEZ
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

A woman was arrested Wednesday for disrupting a funeral procession near downtown Laredo, police said.

LPD responded to a report of a woman causing a



SANTOS

disturbance at 8:50 p.m. in the 800 block of Coke Street.

Witnesses told police that Santos, who appeared to be

fluenced by alcohol, began disrupting a gathering for a funeral, LPD reports state.

LPD identified the suspect as Veronica Santos, 52. Officers located her inside her vehicle.

"Santos became verbally aggressive with the officers

and was placed under arrest," states an LPD news release.

Santos was charged with disrupting a meeting or procession and resisting arrest.

(César G. Rodriguez may be reached at 728-2568 or cesar@lmtonline.com)

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