

Borderland

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Arrests in Juárez slayings raise questions

By Daniel Borunda
EL PASO TIMES

The arrests of a dozen suspects in the slayings of young women whose remains were found in the desert east of Juárez raised hopes, as well as questions about whether authorities arrested the right people.



Those detained include an elderly Juárez-El Paso business owner, whose family said Wednesday that he has nothing



Chavira to do with the disappearances and deaths of the 11 women. Chihuahua state investiga-



Del Real



Vital tors this week arrested 10 men and two women on charges of human trafficking and homicide in the deaths of the women whose bodies were found last year in the desert in Navajo Arroyo in

the Valley of Juárez.

State prosecutors said the young women were abducted, held in captivity and forced to use and sell drugs and work as prostitutes.

Prosecutors allege that the owners of businesses used job offers to "hook" young women, who were then threatened, tricked and forced into prosti-

tution.

Among those arrested by investigators were Victor Chavira García, the owner of a cowboy clothing store; Camilo Del Real Buendia, the owner of a modeling agency; and Manuel Vital Anguiano, the owner of a grocery store.

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GETTING READY FOR SKATE PARK



El Paso Parks and Recreation Director Nanette Smejkal balances on a skateboard after turning over a shovelful of dirt during a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday at the site of the Northeast Regional Park's future skate park. At left is city Rep. Carl Robinson.

VICTOR CALZADA / EL PASO TIMES

Construction begins on Northeast site

By Aaron Bracamontes
EL PASO TIMES

El Paso Parks and Recreation Director Nanette Smejkal jumped on a skateboard and balanced herself, steadying herself for a ride.

All that was missing was the skate park.

Smejkal's demonstration was a part of the groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday for a new state-of-the-art

skate park in Northeast El Paso. To top off the ceremony, Smejkal began shoveling dirt while on a secured skateboard.

City Rep. Carl Robinson and Bond Overview Advisory Committee Chairman Bernie Sargent, each with a shovel in his hands, joined Smejkal.

The skate park at the Northeast Regional Park, 11270 McCombs, is the first project from the 2012 quality-of-life bonds to begin construction.

"Once the construction of the park starts, it is so exciting," Smejkal said. "Because once it starts, you know it is really going to happen."

The coming skate park, which Smejkal and Robinson said will open in February, is the product of El Paso's past two bond elections.

The 2000 bond funded the construction of Northeast Regional Park, which includes four baseball-softball diamonds, three football-soccer fields

and a playground. The money for the skate park comes from the 2012 bonds voters approved in November.

The money from that election includes \$245 million to improve parks, pools and community centers, as well as to continue the revitalization of the El Paso Zoo.

Of the bond money, \$1.4 million will be used for the skate park, which was

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Man says he burned daughter with iron

By Adriana M. Chávez
EL PASO TIMES

The 22-year-old husband of a woman convicted in the 2007 beating death of her young daughter has pleaded guilty to burning the couple's daughter with a hot iron.

Court records show Arturo Ornelas pleaded guilty last week to a charge of injury to a child. He was sentenced to 10 years of deferred adjudication, a form of probation in which a guilty judgment is withheld pending the successful completion of the probation term.

Officials said Ornelas is not to have any unsupervised contact with the victim for 10 years, and Child Protective Services has begun proceedings against him.

If Ornelas successfully completes probation, he can ask to have the charge dismissed. If he violates probation, he may be convicted and sentenced to jail time.

Ornelas pleaded guilty to burning his 2-year-old daughter with a hot iron April 20. The incident was reported to law enforcement officials, and Ornelas had been expected to surrender to authorities, but he changed his mind.

Ornelas was arrested on May 2. According to Channel 14-KFOX, a parent at Address High School recognized Ornelas and told an El Paso Independent School District police officer. Ornelas was found at home near the school.

Ornelas is married to Yara Belen Perez, who was convicted last year of capital murder and injury to a child in the beating death of 3-year-old Jacqueline Gonzalez, whose body was found in the trunk of Perez's car.

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SUV, Petry said.

No charges have been filed. In a little more than a week in El Paso, there have been four motorcycle crashes, including three deaths.

In 2012, El Paso had 10 motorcycle deaths. There have been six this year. This is the city's 16th traffic death of 2013, a decline from 23 at this time last year, according to Petry.

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Site

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designed by Site Design Group. The park will be built by Medlock Commercial Contractors LLC.

"This idea of having a skate park started about three years ago," Robinson said. "Come February, if nothing goes wrong, we can have a grand opening and Paul (Zimmerman) can show his skills."

Zimmerman, president of the El Paso Skate Park Association, was a key supporter of the park and encouraged the skateboard community to attend brainstorming sessions with designers.

"We are proud of the design, and it is strictly world-class," Zimmerman said. "It has something for everybody."

Future plans for the Northeast Regional Park include more sports fields and a dog park, which Robinson said is in high demand.

"The 2012 money is providing the construction for those projects."

Nanette Smejkal
Parks and Recreation director

"The park will be a family venue where you can go picnicking and the kids can go play," Robinson said. "But the biggest attraction is that it is a safe and secure place that is

family-oriented."

Robinson is facing political newcomer Samuel Morgan in a runoff election Saturday.

On Tuesday, the City Council approved the purchase of playground equipment for Radford Park, Barron Park, Sandstone Park, Cheryl Ladd Park, Magoffin Park and Fiesta Balboa Park.

The playgrounds were designed before the 2012 bond was passed so that the construction could begin as soon as possible, Smejkal said.

"We have about six or so neighborhood parks that were designed prior to November," Smejkal said. "The 2012 money is providing the construction for those projects."

The playground construction for those six parks is expected to begin in August and to be completed in April.

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