

THE MONITOR

SERVING THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY SINCE 1909

KILLER MOMS

Why has Texas had so many?
Valley & State | 3B



BLOW TO THE BADGE



A Hidalgo County jailer is arrested delivering drugs to federal agents. Valley & State | 1B



GIRLS NIGHT IN
VALLEY LIFE | 1D

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007 | WWW.THEMONITOR.COM | 50 CENTS DAILY

Who killed JP's son?

>> IN PURSUIT OF MURDERER, POLICE LOST IN MAZE OF MOTIVES



Garcia Jr.

By JAMES OSBORNE
JOSBORNE@THEMONITOR.COM

RIO GRANDE CITY — Police are still searching for clues in the Tuesday night homicide of a Starr County justice of the peace's son. Homero Garcia Jr., the 30-year-old son of Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Homero Garcia, was parked

in a friend's driveway on the west side of Rio Grande City around 8:30 p.m. when gunmen opened fire. Garcia was killed and his friend, Jose Rocha, was struck by bullets as he walked out of the house. Rocha was taken to an area hospital and reported in stable condition. "We say they were probably watching him. It happened so fast,"

said Zelda Garcia Sanchez, 35, the deceased's sister. "I asked my husband to take me to him, but when I got there all I heard from the police was 'You can't get any closer.'" The case took a strange turn in the hours following the homicide

See MURDER | 5A



KIRSTEN LUCE | KLUCHE@THEMONITOR.COM

Homero Garcia Jr., the son of a Starr justice of the peace, was gunned down outside this Rio Grande City house Tuesday.



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BEYOND THE VALLEY | 3A
THE WAR INSIDE

Brain damage due to injuries has taken a fierce toll on servicemembers in Iraq. Now, the military is testing its troopers beforehand in hopes that knowing more about their current health can help them if they suffer neurological damage.



SCIENCE & WEATHER | 9A
HOLE FROM HEAVEN
... OR HELL?

Scientists have no idea why Peruvians are falling ill after a meteorite crashed near their town.



TODAY'S WEATHER | 8B
Mostly sunny and hot
HIGH 92
LOW 72

FOLLOW-UP | FROM APRIL 7, 2007 REPORT

After two years, finally ...

HOPE

>> Mayra Rivera was told her son couldn't be healed. This summer, she found out he may have a fighting chance.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN LAMBRECHT | NLAMBRECHT@THEMONITOR.COM

Mayra Rivera plays with her son Rosendo Robles, 2, while home health care nurse Sonia Garza fills out paperwork in the boy's room Tuesday afternoon in McAllen. Rosendo recently was diagnosed with idiopathic cerebral folate deficiency, a treatable disease in which Rosendo could show vast improvement in a few months.

By JENNIFER L. BERGHOM
JBERGHOM@THEMONITOR.COM

Mayra Rivera just might have received the miracle for which she'd been praying.

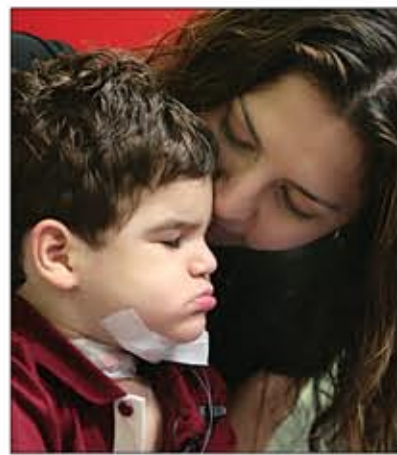
In February, her 2-year-old son, Rosendo Robles, was diagnosed with mitochondrial disease, an under-detected illness that has a poor survival rate.

But a chance meeting with a doctor she met at a seminar in California in June led to more tests for Rosendo and a new, more promising diagnosis.

Houston-based Dr. Mary Kay Koenig, the pediatric neurologist Mayra met at the seminar, believes Rosendo has idiopathic cerebral folate deficiency, a rare but treatable disease.

The McAllen family was profiled in *The Monitor* earlier

See HOPE | 5A



Mayra Rivera holds Rosendo as he receives speech therapy at Milestones on Tuesday morning in McAllen.

ONLINE: A look back at Rosendo then (in April 2007) and now WWW.THEMONITOR.COM

INSIDE: A closer look at idiopathic cerebral folate deficiency, see PAGE 5A

Walo snubs orders, works anyway

>> CONSTABLE ISN'T LETTING LACK OF LICENSE STOP HIM

By JEREMY ROEBUCK
JROEBUCK@THEMONITOR.COM

ELSA — County authorities may threaten to oust him from office, but they can't stop Eduardo "Walo" Bazan from doing his job, the embattled Precinct 5 constable said Wednesday.

A day after Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Treviño warned Bazan's deputies to hang up their badges and guns, the constable and his deputies returned to the streets of the Delta region, vowing to show the community they still had a job to do.

Bazan, who lost his state peace officer's license late last year but continues to hold his elected position, waved cars out of the Monte Alto Middle School parking lot Wednesday, proudly dressed in his full uniform and badge.

His gun, however, remained packed away. "I can be out in uniform," he said. "I just can't carry a gun. We have to help out the community, or else we're going to have problems."

Bazan — who says traffic control has always been a priority in his office — called in his deputies Wednesday morning and ordered them to duty.

Several, who did not want to give their names for fear of retaliation, reported confusion over



Bazan

See WALO | 5A