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50 CENTS



Accomplice gets 50 years

Angela Lara was getaway driver in Weston Lakes murder

BY DON MUNSCH

dmunsch@fbherald.com

"(Excrement) happens."

That was a reply that Angela Lara gave Kevin Cypher after Cypher told her that Martha Fields had been stabbed in her Weston Lakes home in December 2007. Prosecutor Mark Hanna discussed that statement with Judge Brady Elliott and others in the 268th District Court Tuesday during the sentencing phase for Lara. Fields, 54, a retired school teacher, later died from her wounds at a hospital.

For her role in the crime, Lara, 26, of Victoria was sentenced to 50 years in prison Tuesday by Elliott. Lara had already pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery in the case in which the al-

leged killer, Marwan M. Saeed of the Alief area, 28, stabbed Fields and left her for dead during a home robbery. Lara drove the getaway vehicle and was an accomplice in the crime along with Kevin Cypher, 20, who received a 30-year sentence last month. Cypher was in the home during the robbery.

Saeed fled the country, and investigators in the case said he could have gone to Yemen, The Herald reported last month.

Family members of Fields wept and hugged after court was adjourned Tuesday. An apparent family member of Lara's cried out in the courtroom when the sentence was read and had to be escorted from the courtroom.

Prosecutors asked for a life sentence for Lara, but Hanna said afterward

that the sentence was "appropriate." Prosecutor Fred Felcman said during closing arguments Lara showed no remorse for her part in the crime and that she steadfastly refused to cooperate with detectives.

Lara will have to serve half of her sentence before she is eligible for parole, Hanna said.

"A great injustice was done in Fort Bend County and a judge has done what he could to right that, and I believe that justice was served," Hanna said.

Defense attorney Emily Detoto asked the court to not give Lara a harsher sentence in light of the sentence that Cypher received. She said Lara didn't cooperate with authorities because she didn't have a lawyer. She also men-

tioned other circumstances that she thought the court should take into consideration, such as Lara's background and personal issues that were happening at the time of the crime.

"We're disappointed in the judge's decision to punish her more severely than Kevin Cypher, who tied up a poor, defenseless woman and watched her die," Detoto said. "We thought we had a compelling case that warranted a lesser sentence, and we're going to appeal."

Saeed and Cypher entered Fields' home on Dec. 11, 2007, getting to the home in the gated community of Weston Lakes by posing as a delivery crew. They entered the victim's house and thought they would find about \$500,000 in cash in a safe.