

# Victoria woman receives 50-year prison sentence

Angela Lara was sentenced to 50 years in prison on June 2, 2009 after pleading guilty to Aggravated Robbery. The 26-year-old Victoria woman was sentenced by 268<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Brady Elliott for her part in the December 2007 robbery and murder of Martha Fields in the Weston Lakes subdivision near Fulshear.

According to Assistant District Attorney Mark Hanna, Martha Fields was stabbed over 17 times in her kitchen during a home invasion. Lara acted as the lookout and getaway driver while co-defendants Marwan Saeed and Kevin Cypher entered the home. Saeed is still at large, but Cypher had previously entered a plea agreement and was sentenced to 30 years in exchange for his cooperation with law enforcement and the prosecution.

"Martha Fields was a retired school teacher. She had two children and a husband," explained Hanna. "Family members testified at trial that Martha was well-liked and a wonderful mother and wife. Her death is a tragic loss to her family and the community."

Evidence presented during the hearing revealed that when Lara was confronted with the fact that Fields had been stabbed, her response was "shit happens."



**Angela Lara**

professionally and efficiently by the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office," said Hanna. "Credit goes to them for their excellent investigation."

Lara was sentenced during a punishment hearing where the court considers testimony and a written "pre-sentence investigation report" prepared by the probation department. Aggravated Robbery is a first-degree felony punishable by 5-99 years or life in prison and a fine up to \$10,000. Because a deadly weapon was used to commit the crime, Lara will have to serve at least one-half of her sentence before she becomes eligible for parole. Although Lara was probation eligible, she offered no evidence in support of probation and did not testify at her hearing.

Assistant District Attorneys Mark Hanna and Fred Felcman prosecuted the case. Emily DeToto and Luis Garcia represented the defendant.

"This case was handled