

The gun went off, but not sure how

Distraught shooter discovered outside sobbing following tragic after-prom incident

HARLAN -- Two of the most exciting events in a high school senior's life occur in late spring. The annual junior-senior prom is held in late April, followed by graduation ceremonies only a few weeks later.

Harlan Community's prom and graduation ceremonies, however, have taken on a tragic overtone for one 19-year-old HCHS senior this year. Jorge Hansen aka Jorge Lopez has been charged in the unintentional shooting death of Francisco Ruben Berrocal, 23, Audubon, in the early morning hours of April 23.

It was prom night, and the fateful events that unfolded at

When the gun was brought upward it fired and a round struck Mr. Berrocal...

-- sheriff reports

Hansen's Kirkman residence in the early morning hours that Sunday came three weeks before

Hansen is scheduled to graduate from high school, and will change the lives of all involved forever.

Shelby County Sheriff reports reveal what occurred that morning as Hansen and friends gathered at the Hansen home for a post-prom get-together.



There were eight individuals at the Hansen home, 1306 Woodland Ave., Kirkman when Berrocal was shot and killed with a handgun.

Sheriff reports indicate authorities were called to the residence at 2:10 a.m., along with Kirkman First Responders, Irwin Rescue and Medivac Ambulance/Rescue, by 18-year-old Ashley Pauley, Harlan.

Reports said Pauley and Hansen had attended the HCHS Prom the prior evening, and afterwards had met friends and headed to the Hansen residence. Included in the group and now as witnesses to the shooting are Martin Campos-Calderon, 19, Defiance; Collette E. Wilkins, 16, Logan; Gerardo E. Medina, 16, Defiance; Jose Medina, 13, Defiance; and Veronica

L. Morehouse, 15, Logan. Also at the residence was Hansen's father, Stephen L. Hansen, 61, Kirkman, reports said.

The friends played pool and sat around on couches, reports said. Hansen is alleged to have consumed a half of a beer.

At some point Hansen "remembered the handgun was in the cushion of the couch Mr. Berrocal and the females were on," reports said. He allegedly removed the gun from the couch in an attempt to put it away. The gun had allegedly been there a couple of days, and Hansen had cleaned it a couple of days earlier.

"Mr. Lopez stated as he was going to put the gun away and as he walked by Mr. Berrocal, he brought the gun upward and pointed it at Mr. Berrocal," reports said. "Mr. Lopez stated he did this to just mess with Mr. Berrocal. When the gun was brought upward it fired and a round struck Mr. Berrocal in the left side of his skull and exited the right side."

Reports indicated that Hansen believed the gun was not loaded.



Jorge Hansen's senior photo

As Campos-Calderon held a towel to Berrocal's head to help stop the bleeding, others scrambled to make sense of what had just happened, and the alleged shooter, Hansen, went outside in apparent distress. Pauley called 911 for help. Some went outside, and then came back inside and helped check for breathing.

When authorities arrived there were several subjects in the basement standing around the shooting scene. Medical personnel called for Life Net helicopter

Handwritten initials or mark.

to take the victim to Omaha for
treatment. Berrocal was alive and breathing on his own at the scene, but later died at Creighton University Medical Center, reports said.

Local officials contacted the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation for assistance in investigating the shooting.

Authorities searched for Hansen, who was found near outbuildings on the property. Reports said he was "crouched down on the ground by a tree crying, southwest of the house." He was taken into custody and transferred to the sheriff's office for questioning.

He allegedly told authorities that he "did not know what happened when the weapon went off."

Gerardo Medina led authorities to a second-floor bedroom where the handgun was found under a mattress, reports said. There was one spent round and another live round in the cylinder, reports said. How the weapon ended up in its location under the mattress was not revealed in reports.

Authorities are alleged to have found alcohol and methamphetamine at the residence. The drugs were found in a fanny pack -- one individual allegedly admitted ownership of the drugs but later recanted, so that investigation is ongoing. The fanny pack was collected by the DCI.

Search warrant records also indicate that drug paraphernalia and several other weapons were

recovered from the residence
Among the items seized include a bullet, cartridges, cartridge cases, a box of ammunition, a fanny pack and pouch, scale, bong and a gun.

Authorities are awaiting crime lab results in the case before they determine if drugs or alcohol were a factor in the shooting.



Hansen has been charged with involuntary manslaughter and assault causing serious injury, both class "D" felonies. He was initially held on \$50,000 bond after arrested last week, but has since been bonded out of jail, officials confirmed.

Hansen is accused of pointing the firearm at Berrocal in the basement of the residence and pulling the trigger.

If convicted of the charges against him, Hansen faces up to 10 years in jail with additional fines totaling \$10,000. A trial date has yet to be set.

Harlan Tribune Tuesday, May 2, 2005

Francisco Berrocal, 23

AUDUBON -- Francisco "Frank" Ruben Berrocal, 23, Audubon, died April 23 at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha.

Services were held Saturday, April 29 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church in Audubon.

Berrocal is survived by his parents, Dennis and Margaret (Salcedo) Crews of Audubon; brother Carlos Rivadeneyra-Salcedo of Audubon; grandparents Juan Pedro Salcedo Farfan and Leticia Aurora Chambergo de Salcedo, both of Chiclayo, Peru; stepbrother and sister Anthony Crews of Audubon and Tammy Kluver and children Skyler and Dylan of Buckner, Mo.; aunts and uncles Pedro and Faviola Selcedo, George and Flor Selcedo, Juanita Selcedo de Rubio and husband Cesar Rubio and their children Cesar, Jonathan and Juan Jose, all of Chiclayo and Lima, Peru.