



AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012

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VOLUME 104, NO. 43

FAILURE TO LAUNCH Skyrockets fall to Munday again. D1

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THEFT RING INVESTIGATION

Agents examine phones seized from illegal immigrant

BY JIM MCBRIDE
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Homeland security agents are examining two cellphones seized during the arrest of an illegal immigrant last month as part of a broader investigation into a possible theft ring, federal court records show.

Jose A. Hyrtado was indicted Wednesday on a federal weap-

ons charge after a state trooper searched a rented pickup he was driving in Carson County on Nov. 24. The trooper, who stopped Hyrtado for speeding and following too closely, found a 9 mm pistol hidden inside the 2012 Dodge Durango that Hyrtado was driving. The serial numbers on the Smith & Wesson handgun were scratched off, authorities said.

Hyrtado, a Mexican immigrant traveling illegally in the United States, gave the trooper consent to search his vehicle. He was charged with illegally possessing a weapon and remains in federal custody pending further hearings in the case.

In a search warrant affidavit unsealed Friday, a Homeland Security agent said the trooper also discovered a bag of jewelry

after the Durango's dashboard was dismantled.

After the traffic stop, the trooper told federal authorities he also was trying to stop a Ford passenger car that was traveling in tandem with the Durango at 91 mph, but Hyrtado pulled the Durango in front of the trooper's car and abruptly applied the brakes before the trooper could stop the Ford, court records

show. After reviewing the trooper's report, a Homeland Security agent said in an affidavit said he thought the jewelry was stolen and that more than one person was involved, the affidavit said.

The agent said examining data and other information on the two phones could identify other members of what he thought to be a larger criminal organization.

POWERFUL STORM POUNDS THROUGH AREA



RUSSELL ANGLIN / AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

Emergency crews work the scene of a fatal tractor-trailer rollover Friday at Washington Street and McAfee Road south of Amarillo. Winds associated with a strong line of thunderstorms created traffic problems throughout the area.

Man dies in rollover

BY JACOB MAYER
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One man died in a rollover Friday afternoon as strong thunderstorms swept through Amarillo, packing winds of nearly 60 mph.

Department of Public Safety Trooper Gabriel Medrano said a man was killed about 4 p.m. in a tractor-trailer rollover at Washington Street and McAfee Road south of Amarillo. Other details were not available Friday night.

The wind caused traffic problems elsewhere as well. A tractor-trailer jackknifed on Interstate 27 near the Canyon exit, causing delays, Medrano said. No injuries were reported. National Weather Service

cited multiple vehicle rollovers on State Highway 385 in Hartley County.

Winds toppled power lines, radio towers and damaged roofs in the region, Chief Meteorologist Jose Garcia said.

Garcia said 0.18 of an inch of rain was recorded at the weather service office near Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport.

Residents reported power outages in some Amarillo and Canyon neighborhoods. West Texas A&M University reported power briefly was out at its 3 p.m. commencement ceremony at the First United Bank Center.

Russell Anglin contributed to this report.

Rare tornadoes reported

Friday's storms marked a rare weather event, with three confirmed tornadoes being the first December tornadoes on record since the National Weather Service began keeping records in 1892, chief Amarillo meteorologist Jose Garcia said.

A tornado was reported three miles northeast of Washburn, another five miles southeast of Clarendon and a third three miles north of Lelia Lake, meteorologist Nicholas Fenner said. Only minor damage was reported, he said.

FATAL ACCIDENT

1 dead in Armstrong plane crash

BY JIM MCBRIDE
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A twin-engine aircraft crashed in Armstrong County late Friday, killing an unidentified person, an FAA spokesman said.

The plane, which left Amarillo for Fort Worth, disappeared off radar about 6 p.m., FAA spokesman Lynn Lunsford said.

"A witness reported seeing a plane come out of the sky," he said.

Trooper Gabriel Medrano said witnesses saw the plane go down south of Farm-to-Market Road 1258 in Armstrong County, but FAA officials could not confirm a

See **CRASH, A4**

PAMPA PLANT IMPLOSION

Company postpones demolition

BY MOLLIE BRYANT
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The demolition of a 300-foot stack and coal boiler at the Pampa Energy Center, the former Celanese plant site near Pampa, has been postponed because of a mechanical problem, said Clay Rice of the Pampa Economic Development Corp.

The implosion, which had been scheduled for Saturday, now will take place on Sunday between 12 and 3 p.m., he said.

See **DEMOLITION, A4**

EMPTY STOCKING FUND

Woman seeks aid with grandchildren's presents

BY BRAD NEWMAN
for the Amarillo Globe-News

After being evicted from her house, one Amarillo woman is living with her grown daughter until she

can get back on her feet.

Empty Stocking Fund Recipient No. 21, a 51-year-old woman, could not afford her mortgage payment after having her work hours slashed.

She has moved in with her 33-year-old daughter, a single mother of three.

The woman recently was hired as licensed vocational nurse, but awaits her first paycheck. Empty Stocking

Fund Recipient No. 21 is seeking assistance to buy Christmas gifts for the grandchildren with whom she is living.

See **FUND, A4**



Empty Stocking Fund 2012

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WORD OF THE DAY: seditious

DEFINITION, SEE A2 | **PARK CENTRAL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

ADVICE **B5** | BUSINESS **B4** | CALENDAR **A2** | CLASSIFIED **C1** | COMICS **C10** | CROSSWORD **B4, B5** | LOTTERY **A2** | MOVIES **B4** | OBITUARIES **A5** | OPINION **A9** | SPORTS **D1** | FAITH **B1** | WEATHER **B6**



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