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Suspect charged with sexual assault



Gutierrez-Roblero

A local man was arrested Friday on suspicion that he broke into a house in Brownfield and raped a teenage girl.

Raul Gutierrez-Roblero, 21, is charged with burglary of a habitation with intent to commit sexual assault, a first-degree felony, and with sexual assault of a child, a second-degree felony.

Gutierrez-Roblero, who has an alias of Daniel Gutierrez, fell under suspicion last week after Brownfield police responded to

a report that he had gone to the home of a female victim younger than 16 without her permission, then sexually assaulted her.

Detectives spent the next few days collecting physical evidence and witness statements and determining the true identity of the suspect, who in the early stages of their investigation was known only by his pseudonym. They followed surveillance on his pickup truck and managed to locate him in Lubbock Friday afternoon at the parking lot of the Wal-Mart Supercenter at the intersection of Fourth Street and Avenue Q.

He was apprehended after briefly trying to flee on foot, then taken to the Lubbock County Jail and booked at 3:59 p.m. Local sheriff's deputies arrested him there at 4 p.m. Monday, then brought him back to Terry County to face his charges.

Gutierrez-Roblero is also being held without bond for Immigration and Customs Enforcement as a suspected illegal immigrant.

If convicted, he could face a prison sentence of five to 99 years for his burglary charge and two to 20 for the sexual assault. If ICE determines he is not a legal U.S. resident, he will be returned to his home country of Mexico after he completes his sentence.

BISD _____ from Page One

They began the new academic cycle not knowing how the school funding lawsuit that starts on Oct. 22 will turn out.

Also, in the aftermath of a \$5.4 billion cut to public education funding the Legislature approved last year to offset a \$27 billion shortfall, there is concern more budget cuts may be coming to offset another revenue gap, perhaps of as much as \$15 billion, when the lawmakers are back in session next year.

The current school finance lawsuit is the sixth filed since the late 1980s and the most recent ended in 2005 when the Texas Supreme Court gave the lawmakers a June 30, 2006 deadline to pass a school funding bill.

Last week, State District Judge John Dietz in Austin issued a key decision in the school finance lawsuits he has scheduled.

Dietz ruled on Aug. 23 that a group of charter school supporters and parents may participate in the case. That brings the number of separate plaintiff groups in the case to six, including more than half of the state's school districts and almost three-fourths of its public school students.

Contributing School Districts, which are designated as Chapter 41 districts in the Texas Education Code, will pump an estimated \$1.12 billion in locally generated tax revenue into the state system this school year.

Since 1993, Contributing Schools have added more than \$15 billion to the state public education budget.

Several school districts nearby are in oil-rich sections of the state and are leading contributors to the Robin Hood system.

Seminole ISD has paid \$233.82 million dollars toward public school funding through the state's "recapture" mechanism since 1993.

SISD is the highest ranking Chapter 41 district that is classified as being a Class 3A or below and is the top ranked rural school district.

Neighboring Denver City ISD is ranked 18th, with \$202.32 million in payments to the state during the same time period, while Andrews ISD is ranked 23rd.

Andrews ISD's estimated payments to the state should total \$168.54 million by the end of their current fiscal year.

COUNTY _____ from One

Wagner added that the county budget also had to account for certain unfunded mandates such as training for sheriff's department employees, and an increase in local funding to make up for state cuts in crime victims' services, juvenile probation and other areas.

Revenue from the county jail is down about \$350,000 because the opening of the Lubbock County Detention Center last year significantly reduced the number of out-of-town inmates other counties had formerly paid Terry County for housing.

In other business from Monday's meeting, commissioners agreed to award up to \$8,000 for roofing work at the Terry County Heritage Museum.

"We've got terrible roof damage," said spokesman Donnie Wade. "We're probably going to start seeing a lot of artifacts destroyed if we don't start repairing it."

Wade said he anticipated receiving a bid for the project for about \$16,000, and would request the other half of the funding from the city.

They also approved bids from Donald Dingus, Tommy Hogue and Keith Neill to renew leases at the county airport, opened bids for employee insurance and approved travel expenses for county clerk assistants Krystal Valentin and Debbie Reid to attend conferences.

Nation remembers 9-11

NEW YORK (AP) — Flags were lowered to half staff around Brownfield and West Texas Tuesday in remembrance of those lost on Sept. 11, 2001.

Large ceremonies were held in New York and Washington D.C., but smaller towns across the country observed the day as well.

There were still the tearful messages to loved ones, clutches of photos and flowers, and moments of silence. But 11 years after Sept. 11, Americans appeared to enter a new, scaled-back chapter of collective mourning for the worst terror attack in U.S. history.

Crowds gathered, as always, at the World Trade Center site in New York, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania memorial Tuesday to mourn the nearly 3,000 victims of the 2001 terror attacks, reciting their names and remembering with music, tolling bells and prayer. But they came in fewer numbers, ceremonies were less elaborate and some cities canceled their remembrances altogether. A year after the milestone 10th anniversary, some said the memorials may have reached an emotional turning point.

"It's human nature, so people move on," said Wanda Ortiz, of New York City, whose husband, Emilio Ortiz, was killed in the trade center's north tower, leaving behind her and their 5-month-old twin daughters. "My concern now is... how I keep the memory of my husband alive."

It was also a year when politicians largely took a back seat to grieving families; no elected officials spoke at all at New York's 3-hour ceremony. President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney pulled negative campaign ads and avoided rallies, with the president laying a wreath at the Pentagon ceremony and visiting wounded soldiers at a Maryland hospital. And beyond the victims of the 2001 attacks, attention was paid to the wars that followed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In Middletown, N.J., a bedroom community that lost 37 residents in the attacks, town officials laid a wreath at the entrance to the park in a small, silent ceremony. Last year, 3,700 people attended a remembrance with speeches, music and names read.

"This year," said Deputy Mayor Stephen Massell, "I think less is more."

Some worried that moving on would mean Sept. 11 will fade from memory.

"It's been 11 years already," said Michael Reneo, whose sister-in-law, Daniela Notaro, was killed at the trade center. "And unfortunately for some, the reality of this day seems to be fading as the years go by. ... I hope we never lose focus on what really happened here."

Thousands had attended the ceremony in New York in previous years, including last year's milestone 10th anniversary. In New York, a crowd of fewer than 200 swelled to about 1,000 by late Tuesday morning, as family members laid roses and made paper rubbings of their loved ones' names etched onto the Sept. 11 memorial. A few hundred attended ceremonies at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pa., fewer than in years past.

As bagpipes played at the year-old Sept. 11 memorial in New York, families holding balloons, flowers and photos of their loved ones bowed their heads in silence at 8:46 a.m., the moment that the first hijacked jetliner crashed into the trade center's north tower. Bells tolled to mark the moments that planes crashed

into the second tower, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field, and the moments that each tower collapsed.

President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama laid a white floral wreath at the Pentagon, above a concrete slab that said "Sept. 11, 2001 — 937 am." Obama later recalled the horror of the attacks, declaring, "Our country is safer and our people are resilient."

Vice President Joe Biden remembered the 40 victims of the plane that crashed in a field south of Pittsburgh, saying he understood 11 years haven't diminished memories.

"Today is just as monumental a day for all of you, for each of your families, as any Sept. 11 has ever been," he said.

Wearing white ribbons, many wearing T-shirts with their loved ones' pictures, victims' family in New York read loved ones' names, and looked up to the sky to talk to their family — even those they hadn't met.

Juan Torres wasn't old enough to remember his uncle, Luis, "but after all the stories I heard, I knew he was a good man. Although he threw himself from the building, I know God was waiting for him below and caught him in his arms."

Like 2001, this Sept. 11 was on a Tuesday, for the second time since the attacks. The cloudless blue sky and brisk, early fall weather recalled the morning of

2001.

Other ceremonies were held across the country — from New York's Long Island, where hundreds wrote messages to their loved ones on a memorial, to Boston, where more than 200 people with ties to Massachusetts were remembered. Two of the hijacked airliners took off from Boston's Logan Airport.

But other cities changed the way they remembered. The New York City suburb of Glen Rock, N.J., where 11 victims lived, did not hold an organized memorial for the first time in a decade. Past commemorations often ran for several hours, with family laying roses in front of a granite memorial built with remnants of the twin towers' steel.

"It was appropriate for this year — not that the losses will ever be forgotten," said Brad Jordan, chairman of a Glen Rock community group that helps victims' families. "But we felt it was right to shift the balance a bit from the observance of loss to a commemoration of how the community came together to heal."

Several people attending the ceremonies were related to soldiers who fought in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that followed 9/11, where the U.S. military death toll years ago surpassed the 9/11 victim count. Elna Tullock, whose son, Hassan Carter, is completing his second tour in Afghanistan and served another two

in Iraq, admired the rising One World Trade Center tower.

"This is all connected," she said, pointing to a picture of her son and the tower before her.

Allied military forces marked the anniversary at a short ceremony at NATO's headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan with a tribute to more than 3,000 foreign troops killed in the decade-long war. "Eleven years on from that day there should be no doubt that our dedication to this commitment, that commitment that was sealed into our souls that day so long ago, remains strong and unshaken," said Marine Gen. John Allen, the top commander of U.S. and coalition troops.

At least 1,987 U.S. troops have died in Afghanistan and 4,475 in Iraq, according to the Pentagon.

In Norfolk, Va., about 1,100 sailors and Marines aboard the USS New York, a warship forged with 7.5 tons of steel salvaged from the trade center, listened to "Proud to be an American" and observed moments of silence for the moments the airliners hit their targets and read the death toll out loud.

"We often tell people, it's not just about that one day," said Capt. John Kreitz, the USS New York's commanding officer. "The spirit here is really about what happened the next day and the next day and every day since."

Area's Best Business Review

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GAME: 7:30 PM

TAILGATE PARTY

FOR PARENTS & FANS

FREE Food

Stuffed Peppers
Bacon Wrapped Shrimp
Sausage Wraps

Serving 7:00-7:45

TAILGATING

Cowboys release TE Colin Cochart

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Tight end Colin Cochart has been released by the Dallas Cowboys.

The Cowboys announced the move Tuesday, 10 days after they had claimed Cochart off waivers from Cincinnati.

Dallas got Cochart when there were still questions about the health of seven-time Pro Bowl tight end Jason Witten. But Witten, who lacerated his spleen Aug. 13, was back and started in the regular-season opener last Wednesday.

Cochart had started three games as a rookie last season for the Bengals.