

Border Patrol agents killed at rail crossing

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Body

Two **Border Patrol agents** in Arizona were rushing to pursue suspected illegal immigrants Thursday when their SUV was struck by a freight train, **killing** both **agents**, authorities said.

Yuma **Border Patrol** sector spokesman Kenneth Quillin said **agents** Eduardo Rojas, 35, and Hector Clark, 39, were trying to position themselves near some other **agents** who were chasing a group of suspected illegal immigrants in a rural area about 85 miles southwest of Phoenix. The crash happened at a marked railroad **crossing** that does not have **crossing** arms, Quillin said.

The suspected illegal immigrants were on foot, and none was arrested, he said.

Police: Empire State Building targeted

Two Americans were ordered held without bond on terrorism charges after authorities said they bought guns and a grenade from an undercover officer.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Ahmed Ferhani, 26, and Mohamed Mamdouh, 20, wanted to carry out a terrorist plot against the Empire State Building or a synagogue.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said the men were arrested Wednesday after Ferhani put weapons in his car that were supplied by an officer who spent months undercover.

Police arrest Calif. teachers, union chief

More than two dozen California teachers, including the president of the state's largest teachers union, were arrested at the Capitol in Sacramento as part of a week-long protest over education funding. The California Teachers Association said 26 educators were arrested, including president David Sanchez. Highway **Patrol** Officer Sean Kennedy said they will be charged with trespassing on state property, a misdemeanor.

Astronauts gather for shuttle try

The astronauts for NASA's next-to-last space shuttle flight returned to Florida for another try at launching shuttle Endeavour to the International Space Station.

The six crewmen led by Mark Kelly, husband of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords arrived at Kennedy Space Center a day before the countdown clocks begin ticking again. Endeavour, once scheduled to leave April 29, now is due to blast off Monday.

Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot in the head Jan. 8, but she is scheduled to be there for liftoff.

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40-mile pursuit in Mo. ends in arrest

A Missouri man was arrested after a four-hour, 40-mile police pursuit that began when he reportedly tried to sneak into an Army post using a fake ID, Rolla Police Chief Mark Kearse said.

Kearse said Cody Willcoxson, 31, fired on police who pursued him and then crashed a vehicle at Missouri University of Science and Technology. His motives for trying to enter Fort Leonard Wood were not immediately clear, Kearse said.

DNA test brings freedom after 27 years

A Dallas courtroom packed with family and friends burst into applause when a judge freed a man who served 27 years in prison for aggravated sexual assault before DNA cleared him.

Johnny Pinchback, the 22nd person to be exonerated through DNA testing in Dallas County since 2001, was wrongly convicted of raping two teen girls in a field in 1984. Pinchback, 55, said faith and support from his family kept him motivated to fight for his innocence.

"Even though it took 27 years, (God) did exactly what I asked him for," Pinchback said.

Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins did not contest the court finding. An investigation initiated by the Innocence Project of Texas led to tests on body hair cuttings from one of the victims that showed the DNA of another man.

Pinchback said his immediate plans were to have a steak lunch and visit with his mother, who constantly reminded him to have faith. He also will fight for other inmates: "I promised to help."

Also ...

ASHEVILLE, N.C. Evangelist Billy Graham, 92, continued to improve while hospitalized with pneumonia, physicians said. Pulmonologist Shaw Henderson said Graham's temperature is normal and his congestion is clearing up.

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