



LEA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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News Release

Lea County- Saturday, January 17, 2015 deputies with the Lea County Sheriff's Office received information regarding a stolen vehicle from the Pilot Station on 62/180 in Hobbs. While responding to the area a deputy observed a vehicle traveling north on Lovington Highway near Gerry (Lea Regional Hospital), he confirmed the vehicle was the stolen vehicle from the Pilot. The vehicle was a 2007 White Ford truck. An attempt was made to stop the vehicle at Kansas but it refused traveling north on World Drive. The suspect travelled through fields and fences while making his way towards Lovington. Deputies attempted numerous times to place spike strips out to stop the vehicle but the suspect was able to avoid them.

While in the area near Wilks and Stiles, the suspect ran the stolen vehicle into the deputy's unit causing moderate damage, fortunately the deputy was not injured and was able to continue in the apprehension. The suspect continued fleeing from the deputies; traveling back to Hwy 18, (Lovington Hwy) then northbound into the City of Lovington. Deputies and Lovington Police Department Officers then followed the stolen vehicle into a large piped fenced yard, where his exits were blocked by units. Emilo Munoz, 31 yoa from Lovington was driving the vehicle and was taken into custody without injuries, near 17th and Avenue I in Lovington.

The Sheriff's Office is continuing its investigation into this matter. Munoz was charged with Unlawful Taking of Motor Vehicle, Aggravated Fleeing Law Enforcement, Aggravated Battery Upon a Peace Officer and Criminal Damage to Property.

Munoz was transported and booked into the Lea County Detention Facility being held under no bond.

At this time, the investigation is still on-going, we don't have an estimate on the damaged fences in the areas in which he ran through, the judge should set a bond amount later this weekend and we have not received a copy of the report from Hobbs PD regarding the stolen vehicle.

Tom Dunford

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