Guatemalan boy dies in brush near King Ranch

KLEBERG COUNTY — A young Guatemalan boy is the 44th undocumented immigrant to cross into the United States from Mexico and die in the King Ranch area, authorities said.

Earlier this week, agents searched for the 3-year-old boy last heard from by his family in May. The search came amid a push by U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol sector supervisor Roy Cervantes.

A mother and Guatemalan woman said they had been crossing with him, even as he was being dragged by a horse before they were flagged down a rancher on the side of the road. The boy was taken to the U.S. Border Patrol.

Agents found the boy’s body about seven miles west of U.S. Highway 281, apparently dead from dehydration. The body showed signs of trauma, and there was no evidence of foul play.

Contractor pleads guilty in school bribery case

A contractor pleaded guilty in an alleged bribery scheme involving former Pharr-San Juan-Alamo school district pleaded guilty to conspiracy Wednesday.

Carlos Cardenas Jr., 39, admitted to paying bribes to school trustees to get contracts.

Cardenas also acknowledged using his influence to get a former high school construction contracts, prosecutors said.

Another admission involved Cardenas paying to a Matamoros boy who was attending school for awarding one of Cardenas’ companies the contract.

The guilty plea followed a May settlement with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Beating Mexico's drug war

FBI special agent in charge in El Paso is leading a team that helped arrest two Guatemalans charged with playing a role in a major drug smuggling operation in the United States.

The agents, part of a two-year investigation, said Monday the operation resulted in the indictment of a former Guatemalan national and a drug lord in Mexico.

The operation is the first major arrest in connection with drug trafficking to Mexico State.

Man gets six years for murder

A Cameron County man pleaded guilty on Monday and received a six-year prison sentence for the 1997 slaying of a Brownsville woman.

Jesus Martinez, 43, and Michael David Miller, 20, were charged in connection with the homicide.

A settlement was reached Wednesday in U.S. District Court.

Deputies said the couple was involved in a dispute on the day of the murder. The couple then traveled to a restaurant in downtown Brownsville, according to the settlement.

Deputies said Martinez was driving the car and Miller was in the passenger seat.

Miller reached for the gun, causing Martinez to lose control of the vehicle.

The car ran off the road, and Miller was kept inside the car by Martinez.

Miller then shot and killed the woman.

The couple was charged with murder, and Martinez was charged with tampering with evidence.

The couple was then tried by a jury and found guilty of murder.

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