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## Authorities investigating an officer-involved shooting and two chases

Houston woman arrested accused of Human Trafficking

By James Munoz, Ozzy Mora

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VICTORIA COUNTY, Texas-Around 7:30 a.m. Monday deputies with the Victoria County Sheriff's Office were investigating reports of a stolen vehicle on US 87 and FB 447. Two deputies tried to pull a white pickup truck over in the 3500 block of Nursery Road. The driver took off. The driver crashed out. Authorities said 12 undocumented immigrants were in the cab and bed of the white pickup. When deputies found the crashed out pickup truck it was unoccupied.

Deputies found blood inside the vehicle which led to a further search of the area for a possible wounded passenger requiring medical treatment. Deputies used drones, ATVs and public safety agencies which included the Texas Department of Public Safety, Fordtran VFD, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Lavaca and DeWitt County Sheriff's Offices. Also assisting in the search were tracking dogs and horses from the TDCJ Stevenson Unit in Cuero.

Deputies reached an area in the 2700 block Fordtran Road that's when a small black car with a woman driver and young child arrived. When deputies made contact with her as to why she was out there and where she was heading, authorities said she was not cooperating. Deputies believe she was there to pick up the driver and others involved in the chase. While out with the woman driver, a black pickup drove up and stopped. When deputies made contact with the driver, the driver ran the stop and sped off. The driver drove the black pickup directly towards VCSO deputies forcing them to shoot at the driver of the black pickup.

This led to a second chase involving the black pickup. The driver of the black pickup drove about 18 miles through roads and pastures and then left the roadway through a fence on a private ranch. The driver drove into the heavy brush and was able to get away. Ranch employees alerted deputies to the location of the black pickup. Deputies found the vehicle stuck in the mud near a creek. Authorities said the vehicle was transporting

about 12 undocumented immigrants.

The suspects took off, but one was found at the scene with a gunshot wound. VCSO deputies rendered first aid until Victoria Fire Department/EMS personnel arrived. The wounded person was taken by helicopter to an out of town hospital.

The woman driver, Krystal Ann Ibarra, 23, of Houston, was taken into custody and is currently in the Victoria County Jail charged with Human Trafficking and Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity.

The Texas Rangers and the VCSO Criminal Investigations Division continue investigating with additional charges pending. Ibarra's child was turned over to family members.



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