‘Lost Boy’ cleared in fellow refugee’s death

DeKalb County authorities have decided not to prosecute one of the “Lost Boys of Sudan” in the death of a fellow African refugee.

Mayen Bier Ding had been charged with involuntary manslaughter because he had fought with Ajuong Manuer in Clarkston two days before Manuer, 21, died of a head injury in July.

Assistant District Attorney Tom Clegg said Monday that Manuer, who had been drinking, may have suffered the fatal injury when he fell on his own while trying to fight with Ding over beer money.

Even if Ding, 25, inflicted the injury during the fight, Clegg said, the fight was initiated by Manuer. Ding was one of about 3,800 “Lost Boys” who were resettled in the United States in 2000 and 2001 after years of wandering as orphans to escape war in Sudan. Manuer, who suffered similar deprivations, was part of an earlier wave of refugees.

COWETA COUNTY

Work crew finds remains

Workers cutting grass along I-85 stumbled onto a decomposed body about 1 p.m. Monday, less than a mile from Exit 41 south of Atlanta in Coweta County. Worker Eddie Collins said he was mowing when he saw what appeared to be remains.

The body appeared to be that of a man and may have been at the scene for a while, said Coweta County Sheriff Mike Yager. Workers cutting the grass said they had not been to that site for about two months.

GWINNETT COUNTY

ID sought on dead man

Gwinnett County police Monday were trying to identify a pedestrian who was struck by a vehicle and killed Sunday night. The man was trying to cross Jimmy Carter Boulevard near Rockbridge School Road about 8 p.m., when he was hit by a Ford Explorer, according to Gwinnett police Cpl. Dan Huggins. Huggins said the man was not in a crosswalk. The SUV’s driver, a 38-year-old woman from Stone Mountain, was not injured and will not be charged in the incident, Huggins said.

NEWTON COUNTY

Killer denied new trial

A man sentenced to death for setting fire to a trailer containing his three children, killing them all, will not get a new trial, the Georgia Supreme Court ruled Monday. William David Riley of Covington was convicted of murder and arson for the August 2000 trailer fire that killed his son and two daughters, aged 3, 5 and 6. Riley was facing eviction from the Newton County trailer when he set it on fire. At his trial, witnesses testified that Riley said “he would kill the children before he would let DFCS take them,” and that “he would burn the trailer before he would be evicted.” Riley appealed his death sentence, saying the jury was unduly influenced by passion or prejudice. Riley has maintained that faulty wiring caused the deadly blaze, which he and his girlfriend escaped from. The state’s highest court ruled 7-0 Monday that Riley’s claim had no merit.

— Staff and news reports