
OPERATION BLACK CLOUD

AN ANIMAL RECOVERY MISSION UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION



Presented By: Animal Recovery Mission (ARM)

February 13th, 2019



Contact Information

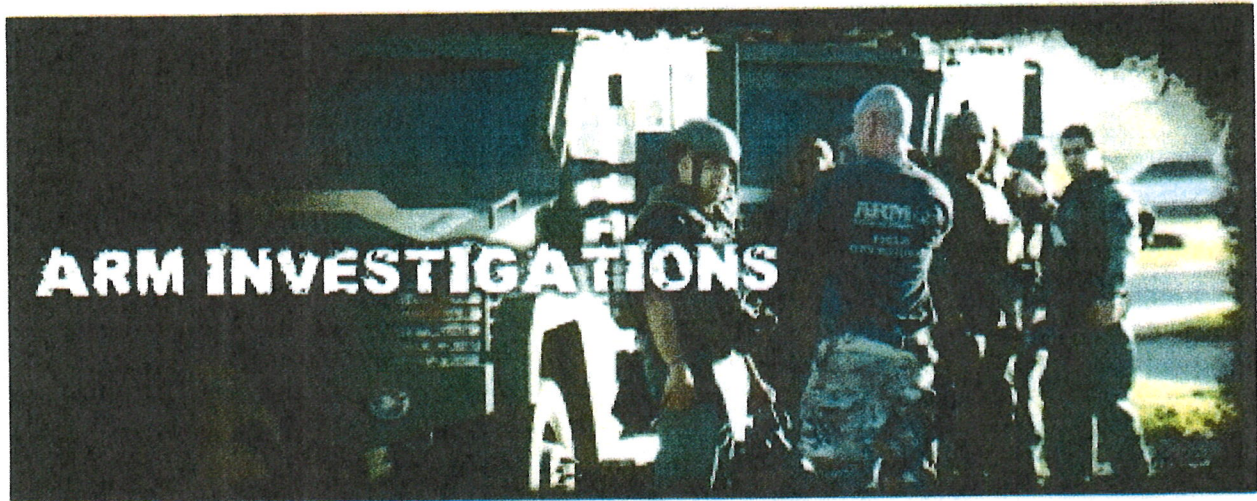
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ANIMAL RECOVERY MISSION



Established in 2010, The Animal Recovery Mission (ARM), is a non profit investigative organization dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations worldwide. ARM stands out as a vanguard and uncompromising defending force for the welfare of animals. In addition, ARM strives to put an end to, and preventing pain, suffering and torture as a result of inhumane practices.

The mission of the organization is to implement direct-action tactics to investigate, document and expose illegal activities of extreme animal cruelty. The organization's primary goals are to improve the quality of life for animals and to educate the public regarding animal cruelty, the practices that contribute to animal cruelty and the illegal animal slaughter. Achieving these goals contribute to an increased awareness of the unforeseen ethical, social and environmental implications of animal abuse and produce effective changes in the treatment of defenseless animals.

Animal cruelty investigations taken on by ARM operatives include, but are not limited to; animal slaughter farms, animal sacrifice operations, illegal horse sales and slaughter, and animal fighting operations. In addition, ARM is focusing upon the pressing issues and concerns of animal welfare within the animal agriculture and factory farming sector.

Since 2010, ARM's undercover investigations have led to the closure of up to 138 illegal animal cruelty operations in the state of Florida alone. The following report provides detailed findings gathered during ARM's investigation of a dairy farm located in Ockeechobee Florida-known as Larson Dairy.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION



ARM Investigators discovered an illegally operated slaughter farm located at 11111 County Rd 507 Fellsmere, FL 32948. There is sign at the front of the property depicting a business called "Black Cloud". The sign further states that there are animals for sale. The property is shown to be open for business. There is no gate impeding access to the property.

On June 08th, 2018 at approximately 130pm, ARM Investigators posing as customers, entered the property. They were able to drive in and park in an open field. Investigators were approached by 2 white males. One male was in a motorized chair and was later identified as Billy (owner of the property). The second male was approximately 5'10", 55 yoa, 155 lbs and identified himself as Rick. Investigators observed approximately 30 animals on the property.

Investigators spoke with the owner of the property, Billy, and requested a goat for slaughter. Rick retrieved the goat from a field and dragged it to an open area on the west side of the property. After placing the goat down, Rick, with a dull knife, began to cut into the goats neck. Rick repeatedly attempted to saw into the goats neck but was unsuccessful. The goat showed clear signs of pain and suffering as it screamed and attempted to get up. Rick then turned the knife and attempted to stab it (point first) into the throat. He was unsuccessful again at first and struck the handle of the knife down into the goats throat. Once the knife penetrated the neck, Rick continued to saw into it. Throughout this process he never made the goat insensible to pain as described in the Humane Slaughter Act. It took several minutes for the goat to die.

On this date, Investigators also requested two live chickens for religious sacrifice purposes. Rick used duct tape to secure their feet together. Once all purchases were made, Investigators payed Billy for the slaughter of the goat and the two live chickens. It was additionally stated that farm animals and domestic animals are sold for ritualistic purposes.

ARM Investigators made other attempts to return to the property but were advised that no one was on site to slaughter animals. On Dec. 23rd, 2018 at approximately 130pm, ARM Investigators acting as customers returned to Black Cloud. Again, they were able to drive

directly into the property and park within an open lot. Investigators met with Billy and a white male not previously on the property. The white male was approximately 6'0", 50yoa, 200lbs and identified himself as Dave. Investigators requested a goat to be slaughtered. Dave retrieved the goat from a field on the south side of the property and dragged it to the center of the property. Dave used a knife to cut into the throat of the goat. At no time did he attempt to make the goat insensible to pain as described in the Humane Slaughter Act. After cutting into the goats throat, the goat showed clear signs of life for several minutes as it moved and continued to breath. Dave then hoisted the goat off the ground and began to skin it while it continued to show sign of life. During this time, the goat continued to show signs of life by moving its body. Investigators made a cash payment of \$230 to Dave for the purchase of the goat and slaughter.

On Dec. 31st 2018, ARM Investigators posing as customers returned to Black Cloud. Again, they met with Billy and Dave. Investigators requested two goats. One goat to be alive and would later be used for ritualistic sacrifice purposes. The other goat was to be slaughtered on site. Dave again retrieved the goat from an enclosure located on the south end of the property. The goat was dragged to the center of the property. While dragging the goat, a dog on site continuously attempted to attack the goat. Dave again used a knife to cut directly into the throat of the goat. At no time did he attempt to make the goat insensible to pain as described in the Humane Slaughter Act. The goat kicked and screamed continuously as it showed clear signs of life. Dave then hoisted the goat in the air and skinned it. The goat that was taken alive was given to investigators with a pvc pipe taped to its head. A cash payment of \$430 for the two goats was made to Dave.

A records check of Indian River County and the State of Florida showed that this slaughter farm is not listed as a business. No business permit has been located in Indian River County. This property is not listed with the USDA as a custom exempt slaughter farm.

REFERENCES

The 2017 Florida Statutes

Title
XLVI
CRIMES

Chapter 828
ANIMALS: CRUELTY; SALES; ANIMAL ENTERPRISE
PROTECTION

View Entire
Chapter

828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

(1) A person who unnecessarily overloads, overdrives, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance or shelter, or unnecessarily mutilates, or kills any animal, or causes the same to be done, or carries in or upon any vehicle, or otherwise, any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, commits animal cruelty, a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.

(2) A person who intentionally commits an act to any animal, or a person who owns or has the custody or control of any animal and fails to act, which results in the cruel death, or excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering, or causes the same to be done, commits aggravated animal cruelty, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

(a) A person convicted of a violation of this subsection, where the finder of fact determines that the violation includes the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal that injures, mutilates, or kills the animal, shall be ordered to pay a minimum mandatory fine of \$2,500 and undergo psychological counseling or complete an anger management treatment program.

(b) A person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this subsection shall be required to pay a minimum mandatory fine of \$5,000 and serve a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of 6 months. In addition, the person shall be released only upon expiration of sentence, is not eligible for parole, control release, or any form of early release, and must serve 100 percent of the court-imposed sentence. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of this subsection.

(3) A person who commits multiple acts of animal cruelty or aggravated animal cruelty against an animal may be charged with a separate offense for each such act. A person who commits animal cruelty or aggravated animal cruelty against more than one animal may be charged with a separate offense for each animal such cruelty was committed upon.

(4) A veterinarian licensed to practice in the state shall be held harmless from either criminal or civil liability for any decisions made or services rendered under the provisions of this section. Such a veterinarian is, therefore, under this subsection, immune from a lawsuit for his or her part in an investigation of cruelty to animals.

(5) A person who intentionally trips, fells, ropes, or lassos the legs of a horse by any means for the purpose of entertainment or sport shall be guilty of a third degree felony, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#). As used in this subsection, “trip” means any act that consists of the use of any wire, pole, stick, rope, or other apparatus to cause a horse to fall or lose its balance, and “horse” means any animal of any registered breed of the genus *Equus*, or any recognized hybrid thereof. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply when tripping is used:

Title
XLVI

Chapter 828

View Entire
Chapter

ANIMALS: CRUELTY; SALES; ANIMAL ENTERPRISE
PROTECTION

CRIMES

828.24 Prohibited acts; exemption.—

- (1) No person shall kill an animal in any way except by an approved humane method.
- (2) No person shall shackle or hoist with intent to kill any animal prior to rendering the animal insensible to pain.

(3) Nothing in this section precludes the enforcement of s. 828.12 relating to cruelty to animals.

History.—s. 1, ch. 61-254; ss. 14, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 241, ch. 77-104; s. 39, ch. 2001-279; s. 2, ch. 2002-51.

LOCATION



Indian River County

Carole Jean Jordan, CFC ★ Tax Collector

[Tax Collector Home](#) [Search](#) [Reports](#) [Shopping Cart](#)

[RenewExpress](#)

TaxSys[®] Search

[Advanced search](#)

No accounts matched your search. Try using different or fewer search terms. The following tips may also help:

- Make sure you spell names, streets, etc., correctly.
- Leaving off words like drive, road, avenue, etc., that are often abbreviated. For example, search for "123 Main" instead of "123 Main Street."
- Other owners' names; some properties are in one spouse's name, and some are in both names.
- Watch out for terms that have multiple spellings, like First Street and 1st St.
- If you used quotation marks, try again without them: "John Smith" won't find properties owned by "Smith, John," but simply typing John Smith will find both.





David C. Nolte CFA, ASA
PROPERTY APPRAISER | INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

HELP QuickSearch
Enter Parcel, Owner, or Address
Submit

Home Search Map Reports Forms

DDTI Help Support Disclaim

Data For Parcel 31370000001076200002.0

Print Email Property Card

Navigate Parcels
1 of 1
Back to Search Results

Basic Data

Parcel: 31370000001076200002.0
Owner: LATHERO WILLIAM HUNTER
Legal Address: 11111 138TH AV FELLSMERE, FL 32948



[+] Map this property

Help
• Get help viewing property data.
Save This Property
Save Property

Physical Address:
Address Line 1: 11111 138TH AVE
Address Line 2:
City, State Zip: FELLSMERE FL 32948

Property Information

Prop ID: 12705
Tax Code: 1 (Unincorp Indian River County)
Property Use: 0100 (SINGLE FAMILY - IMPROVED)
Neighborhood: 010106.00 (METES AND BDS NEAR NBH 60)
Appraisal Date: 06/06/2013

Port Legal Description

FELLSMERE FARMS CO SUB PBS 2-1&2 S 250 FT OF TR 762, LESS E 25 FT FOR RD R/W PER OR BK 388 PP 115
[Click here for more](#)

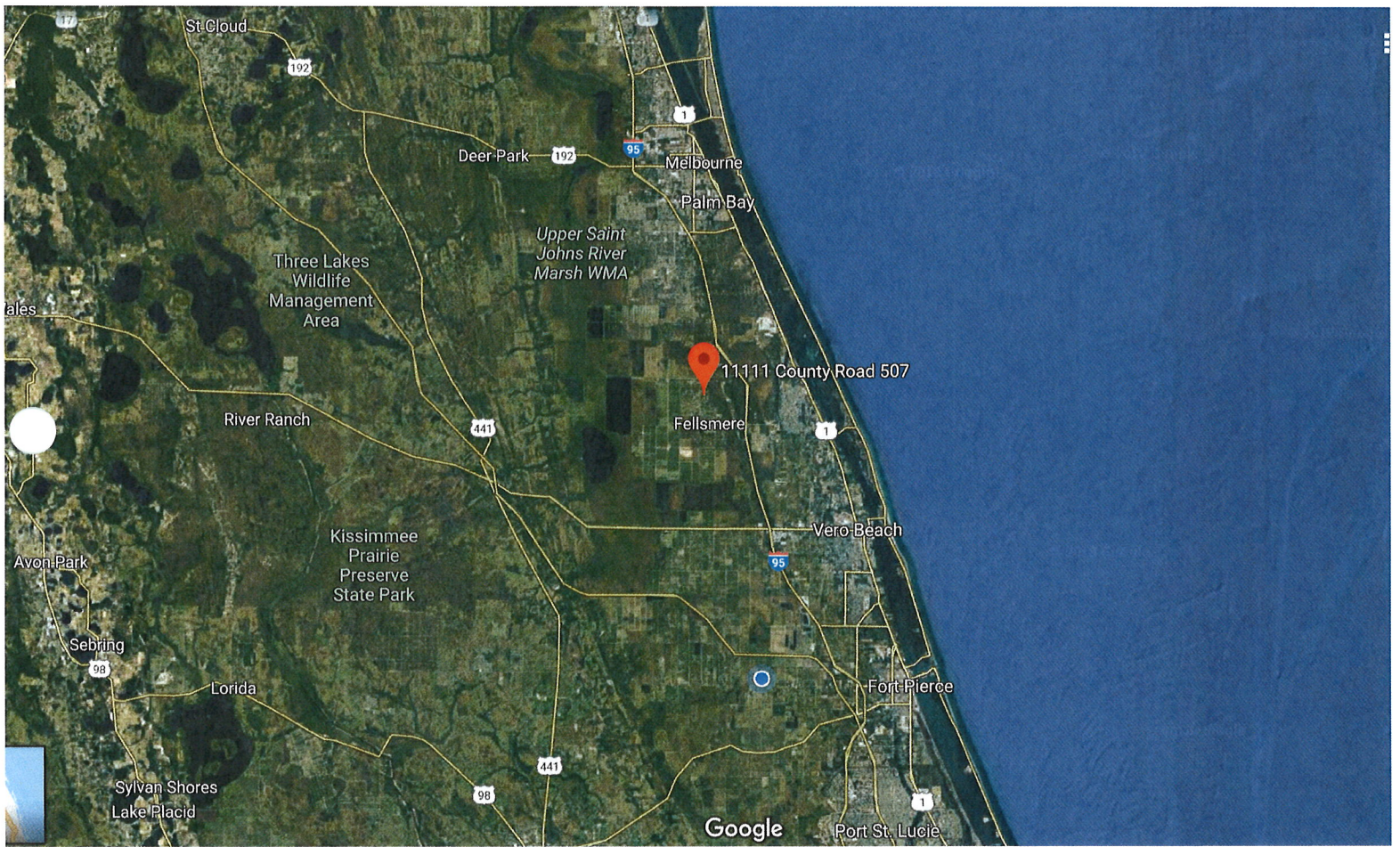
Secondary Owners

No additional owners found.

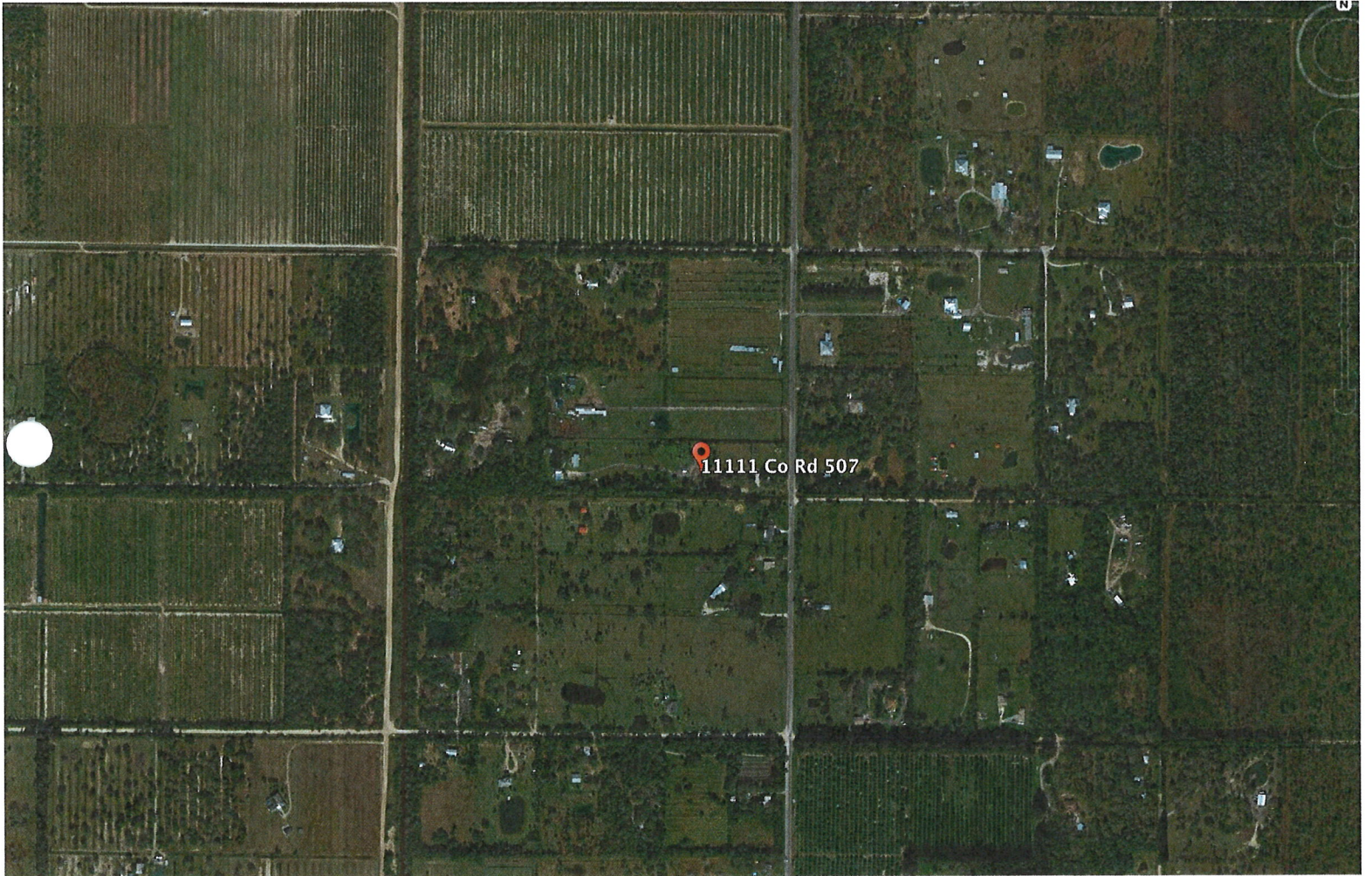
Photos



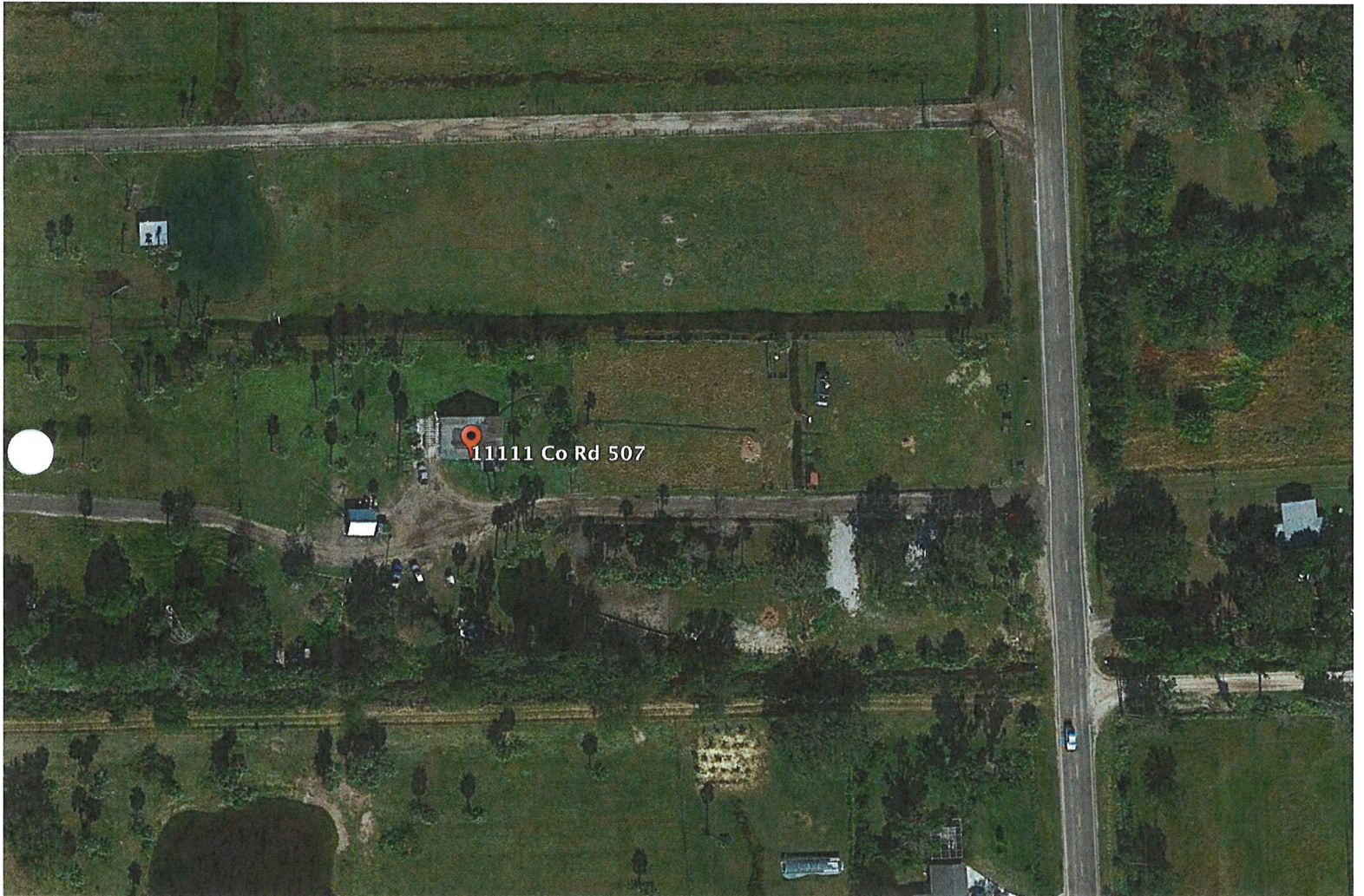
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4 SALE
Pigs

BLACK & WHITE
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PIGS STEERS
GOATS CALVES
AMERICAN HORSES
VEGETABLE SEEDINGS
772-228-0150

772-228-0150

WORKERS







PHOTOGRAPHS

BLACK CLOUD
BUY & SALE
HOGS STEERS
GOATS CALVES
CHICKENS HORSES
VEGETABLE SEEDLINGS
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311
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Burned teen grateful for prayers in past year



Layne Chesney (bottom) is surrounded by the Sacred Regional Medical Center staff members upon the Christmas holidays.

Layne Chesney can walk, ready to take next step

Staff Photo

Conservation group wants to track sea trout

John Vandenberg

There's something else about the Sacred Regional Medical Center's Christmas wish.

The Treasure Coast chapter of the Atlantic coast conservation group wants help in tracking and recovering sea trout runs in the Indian River Lagoon.

John Vandenberg, a staff member at the Sacred Regional Medical Center, said that the group has been studying the lagoon since the 1970s, and CCA members have been helping him track their nesting sites for the last couple of years.

"We want to take Chesney's wish to the next step," said Capt. Paul Pollock, a two-time fishing guide and president of the CCA's Treasure Coast chapter.

The idea is to attach transmitters on which Chesney can track and follow their travels in the lagoon. By tracking where transmitters and their fish return, conservationists can better understand the lagoon and its fish.

Pollock, Pollock and St. Johns County conservation staff will tag the fish, measure the fish's movement with GPS devices and provide funding for the fish. Pollock said.

Each transmitter costs \$200 and lasts for five years.

"We're not in yet," said Pollock, who said he would like to get a grant to fund the project.

Chesney's wish was one of the 100 wishes that were collected for the Sacred Regional Medical Center's Christmas wish drive.

The group is still looking for more wishes and is still accepting donations.

INDIAN RIVER
Press Journal
TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018 | TCPALM.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Discipline programs draw Parkland panel's scrutiny

By [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

County school officials still
[unclear] how the Parkland shooter
[unclear] through the media when names
[unclear] up by alternative school.
The commission investigating the
Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman
Douglas High School opened Tuesday

day, probing student diversion programs and Broward's PROMISE program in particular.

Commission members from law enforcement asked how they could be left in the dark as some offenses that lead students to these programs go unreported to them, creating a gap in information sharing that could be crucial.

Diversion programs such as PROMISE — an acronym for Preventing Recidivism

through Opportunities, Mentoring, Interventions, Support and Education — are designed to steer students who commit low-risk offenses away from legal consequences.

These programs have been thrust into the spotlight since the massacre in Parkland after Broward County officials revealed the gunman, Nikolas Cruz, was

See COMMISSION, Page 5A

“What looks good on paper, what sells good publicly, is not really what's happening on the ground.”

Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd

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