OPERATION RANCHO LA ESPERANZA

AN ANIMAL RECOVERY MISSION UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION

Presented By: Animal Recovery Mission
(ARM)

Contact Information:
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Floria 33140
Email: kudo@arminvestigations.org
Phone: 305 494 2225
Wed URL: www.animalrecoverymission.org
The Animal Recovery Mission (ARM), is a vanguard investigative animal welfare organization that was developed in 2010 by Richard Couto, shortly after he was exposed to one of Miami’s darkest and most brutal animal cruelty operations. Upon this discovery of illegal animal slaughter farms and the black market horse meat trade, Couto, also known as ‘Kudo,’ invoked his vision of exposing and implementing solutions for extreme criminal acts towards animals into reality and created an unstoppable team who are dedicated to our organizations cause.

ARM Investigations has been carefully constructed as a direct-action organization. We conduct innovative investigative tactics to gather compelling evidence. ARM collaborates with local law enforcement, State attorneys, environmental protection agencies and The Animal Legal Defense Fund to produce concrete evidence to put an end to criminal acts involving animal torture.

ARM has since become the foremost expert organization in illegal horse slaughter. We specialize in condemning illegal animal slaughter farms in the United States. Our investigations, however, are not limited to slaughter farms as we are also actively investigating the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, underground animal fighting rings, fox & coyote penning games, and bear bile farms, to name a few, as well as the preservation of Wild Mustangs.

Succeeding in our investigations and exposing the truth as well as the eradication of these illegal practices have produced life changing results and permanent solutions. ARM’s goals and vision is to constantly strive to raise the bar for the welfare of animals and to prevent and reduce their pain, fear and suffering.

As an organization we strive to be the defending force for destitute animals and to make significant improvements in how they are treated by exposing the truth, implementing laws to protect and educating the public on these illegal and barbaric practices. ARM prides it self on taking up the challenges that no one else will.

Our mission is to be an uncompromising defending force for the welfare of animals, in addition to putting an end to and preventing pain, suffering and torture inflicted as a result of inhumane practices.
SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIONS - Rancho La Esperanza

During this investigation, ARM operatives obtained evidence of animal cruelty in the name of sport. The ‘Coleadero’ is an inhumane sport where participants flip cows at full running speed by pulling and twisting their tails. There are many variations of this sport, but it is usually executed while on horseback.

In Okeechobee, Florida, there is a place that holds ‘Coleadero’ events frequently and publicly. “Steer-Tailing,” as it’s called, is illegal in many countries. This sport and underground rodeo is rare in the United States, although it is performed in some states, including Florida, Texas, and Arizona.

The USDA is not currently regulating this sport, nor is any other government agency. Due to a lack of oversight, multiple animal cruelty laws are in violation.

Over the past year, ARM operatives visited Rancho La Esperanza several times posing as spectators. Rancho La Esperanza is located at 8343 Center St, Okeechobee, FL 34974, and sits on approximately 60 acres of ranch property.

Okeechobee County Property Appraiser’s information is as follows:

Owner & Property Information

Owner: SANCHEZ MARCIANO CESAR, SANCHEZ MARIA TERESA
Owner Address: 1252 SE 52ND TRL, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974
Parcel Address: E CENTER ST, OKEECHOBEE
Parcel Number: 1-16-37-36-0A00-00001-F000 (29074)

There is no registered business under any of the owners’ names or property addresses provided.

Rancho La Esperanza publicizes its events on social media platforms such a Facebook. The event details include dates, times, address, and a phone number to call.

At the event, spectators pay an entrance fee, with men being charged more than women. ARM operatives paid $10 per woman and $15 per man upon entry.

The venue hosts live entertainment and also sells food and drinks, including the illegal sale of alcohol.

The event lasts roughly eight hours, where hundreds of spectators and many participants are always in attendance.
Approximately forty head of cattle are used at the events. The cows are corralled into holding areas and are then guided through a narrow chute. Excessive force is used on the cows if they are unwilling to move forward.

The chute sits around an area where workers were witnessed poking cows with electric prods and sharp sticks to get them to move. Even when the cow’s horns and heads get stuck in between the chute’s gaping holes, the abuse and beatings intensify while the cows panicked to free themselves.

Once the cows made it to a final holding area to the arena, the participants would be ready at the release gate with another participant behind them, acting as a tag team. As the chute gate is opened, the participant on standby hits the cow, while the mounted participant to perform the Steer-Tailing whips their horse as hard as they can. As the horse and rider chase the cow down a narrow track, the rider aligns the horse and cow alongside one another. The rider then reaches out in an attempt to grab the cow’s tail. While holding on to the cow’s tail, the rider wraps their leg around the tail and uses the horse’s force to pull the cow’s tail as hard as possible.

During this chase, it gets to the point that the cow is so exhausted that it cannot outrun the horse, has no strength to fight off the participant, and can’t get up after being violently tipped over.

Cows and bulls are being run through the game without rest for eight hours and were seen collapsing with exhaustion.

It is important to note that the cow and bulls’ tails are very sensitive areas on their body, and many of the animals had multiple fractures and breaks from the pulling and twisting of the animals’ tails during the event. Animals were also seen with broken legs and severe injuries after being slammed and flipped to the ground.

ARM did not witness animals receiving medical attention for their injuries, and veterinarians were not seen onsite.

The participant’s horses are also exploited during these events and are whipped continuously as they are run to the point of exhaustion, enduring serious injuries.

Children, between the ages of seven and twelve years old, were also witnessed at these events using electric prods and sharp sticks on the cows in the pre-arena chute area. Children were seen assisting in opening the sliding doors of the chute for the next cow in line. Adult participants and spectators would be consuming alcohol in this area, making it a dangerous environment for themselves, the animals and minors in their presence.
LOCATION
Okeechobee County Property Appraiser

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# Okeechobee County Property Appraiser

**OKEECHOBEE COUNTY TAXING AUTHORITIES**

207 N. 17TH AVENUE, STE A
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972-2581

2020 REAL ESTATE PROPERTY

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**Notice of Proposed Property Taxes and Proposed or Adopted Non-Ad Valorem Assessments**

**DO NOT PAY THIS IS NOT A BILL**

The taxing authorities which levy property taxes, namely your property tax bill, are required to hold a public hearing to explain the appraisal value and assessable value for the amount of the tax. Following the public hearing, a tax bill will be mailed to the last known address of the owner of the property. If you do not receive a tax bill, make a request to your taxing authority for a tax bill. If you receive a tax bill and you disagree with the assessment, you may file an appeal with the Florida Department of Revenue to have your case heard by a Tax Appeal Board.

Legal Description:

DECEIVE A PARCE OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 31 SOUTH, RANGE 80 WEST, T8S HOMOSASSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING

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### SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPERTY VALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARKET VALUE</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>262,652</td>
<td>293,413</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Taxing Authorities**

- **Exempted**: Last Year's Total Exempted $0
- **Taxable**: Last Year's Total Taxable $201,453

**Assessment Ratios**:
- **Exempted**: 0%
- **Taxable**: 98.9%

**Exemptions**:
- **Property Owner**: Yes
- **Veteran**: No
- **Senior**: No

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

**REAL ESTATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxing District 30</th>
<th>Current Year</th>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Column 2</th>
<th>Column 3</th>
<th>Column 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LAND</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td>340.00</td>
<td>$615.11</td>
<td>14.12</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL - STATE</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>130.00</td>
<td>$516.70</td>
<td>15.70</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL - LOCAL</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>17.50</td>
<td>$315.70</td>
<td>10.60</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOMES</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>23.00</td>
<td>$85.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEVY GRANTS</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>$202.00</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILDREN'S COURT</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW ENFORCEMENT (SHERIFF)</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>$24.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total REAL ESTATE**: $652.81

**Notice of Proposed or Adopted Non-Ad Valorem Assessments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Ad Valorem Assessment</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Column 2</th>
<th>Column 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>652.81</td>
<td>620.00</td>
<td>652.81</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**2020 PROPOSED TAX RE-CAP**

- **All Valores Tax**: $620.00
- **Non-Ad Valorem**: $32.00
- **Total Tax**: $652.81

**Property Evaluation**

Your tax and bill may contain non-ad valorem assessments which may not be reflected on this notice such as assessment for roads, drainage, garbage, fire, lighting, special or other governmental services and facilities which may be levied by your county, city or any special district.
RANCHO LA ESPERANZA
DE LA FAMILIA SANCHEZ
SABADO 20 DE ABRIL 2019
PUERTAS ABREN A LAS 12PM
Gran Coleadero Baile
CELEBRANDO SABADO DE GLORIA
AL ESTILO JEREZ ZACATECAS
TAMBORAZO BANDA
MI RANCHITO
EVENTO FAMILIAR, ANTOJITOS MEXICANOS
PUEDES TRAER TU PROPIA CERVEZA SOLO SE PERMITIRA DE BOTE NO DE DE BOTELLA
MAS INFORMES AL: (863) 801-9301
8343 E CENTER STREET, OKEECHOBEE FL 34974
SABADO 28 DE DICIEMBRE
RANCHO LA ESPERANZA
DE LA FAMILIA SANCHEZ
GRAN COLEADERO
BAILE, ESTILO
JEREZ ZACATECAS

LA SALVAJE BANDA
SAN ANTONIO
de Zacatecas
DESPIDIENDO EL 2019

DJ FLAK
EVENTO FAMILIAR
ANTOJITOS MEXICANOS
PUERTAS ABREN
A LAS 12PM
PUEDES TRAER TU PROPIA CERVEZA SOLO DE LATA

MAS INFORMES AL: (863) 801-9301
8343 E CENTER STREET, OKEECHOBEE FL 34974
Crimes Violations