



# Circleville Herald

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## Possible migration from Cuba

By LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

OFF THE SOUTH FLORIDA COAST (AP) — Even as experts played down the threat of a mass exodus from Cuba if Fidel Castro dies, law enforcement agencies staged mock exercises Thursday to be prepared just in case.

During one simulation, nearly a dozen government vessels maneuvered off Fort Lauderdale to stop a craft supposedly carrying armed smugglers headed to Cuba to pick up migrants.

That simulation began hours after a real Border Patrol mission picked up more than 40 Spanish-speaking migrants who happened to arrive along Miami-Dade beaches. Arrivals like those occur often in South Florida and involve mostly people from Cuba.

But Cuba experts said they don't expect massive waves of migrants reminiscent of the 1980 Mariel boatlift — even after the death of Castro, who transferred power to his brother Raul last July because of ill health.

More than 124,000 people were stopped at sea in a six-month period during the Mariel crisis, which was triggered when Castro said anyone who wanted off the communist island could leave.

"Forget it. It ain't gonna happen," said Jaime Suchliki, a University of Miami professor and the author of "Cuba from Columbus to Castro."

"Raul would have to say, 'Anyone who wants to go, go,'" Suchliki said. Such a move would destabilize the Cuban government and cause another major crisis with the United States. Raul Castro wants neither, he said.

Also, he said, the region doesn't have enough vessels to transport half a million people out of Cuba. A more likely scenario would be thousands attempting to get into the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. "What would the U.S. do in that scenario?" Suchliki asked.

Cuban activist Ramon Saul Sanchez, head of the anti-Castro group Democracy Movement, said the focus on mass migration was overblown.

## Finalize city's storm water management plan

By WAYLON STRICKLAND  
HERALD STAFF WRITER

The Service Department is putting the final touches on the city's storm water management plan, and Service Director Louis McFarland is happy that progress is being made on the plan.

"It's only a draft, and Council still has to approve it, so we might have to make some minor tweaks," McFarland said.

McFarland recently submitted draft copies of the plan to City Council, and also announced that copies of the plan for public review and comment will be on file at City Hall, the City Administration building, and the City Utilities

department until April 2.

According to the plan, the city's storm water drainage system is comprised of approximately 35 miles of storm sewers, 935 catch basins, 477 manholes, 4 drainage ponds and 50 storm water outfalls discharging to waters of the state.

Currently \$100,000 is used annually to cover storm water related expenses.

Figures for the costs of implementing and funding the plan are not yet available, but steps are being taken to address the issue. According to the plan, "a storm water utility will be considered in the future to help pay for program/staffing needs."

"Right now, we don't have the resources to manage this plan, so a storm water utility is the most likely source of fund-

ing," said McFarland.

McFarland anticipates a need for additional staff to comply with EPA requirements and to coordinate a storm water utility, if implemented.

"We'll most likely need another person in the office and an additional maintenance employee," said McFarland. "We don't have the resources to absorb this utility, we will need more staff and more funding to meet the program goals."

Although the city's budget is tight, McFarland is confident the cost of the project outweighs any alternatives.

"According to Ohio EPA, if we refuse to implement this plan, the city could fines of up to \$35,000 a day from the federal and state EPA," McFarland said. "If we have the money to implement this



Photo courtesy of Louis McFarland

This storm sewer outfall near the Pickaway Street bridge over Hargus Creek is part of the city's storm water management program.

plan, it will have a positive impact on the quality of the watershed in Circleville," he added.

McFarland urges residents to review the plan and provide input on the direction of this project.



Matthew Forte/Herald

Surveyor's tape marks a plat on the about 23 acres of land at the northeast corner of Commercial Point Road and state Route 316. The area, known as Logan's Run, is the area of contention between Scioto Township trustees and Tom Williamson of Solid Rock Builders and Developers. This photograph, which looks east along state Route 316 toward South Bloomfield, shows part of the area.

## Continue Scioto negotiations

By MATTHEW FORTE  
HERALD STAFF WRITER

During a day's worth of negotiations, attorneys for Scioto Township trustees and a Circleville building and contracting company couldn't find a dollar amount upon which to settle.

Tom Williamson of Solid Rock Builders and Developers won a suit in November against the township trustees, who didn't approve his zoning application.

Along with a harsh ruling against the defendants, Judge P. Randall Knece ordered the rezoning approved.

Both parties decided to not involve a jury and instead, negotiate the amount of damages.

But at the end of Thursday's meeting, another date was set — 3 p.m. March 26 — to continue talks.

Knece ruled Scioto Township trustees and members of the township zoning commission violated part of the township's zoning resolution by asking Williamson for money in return for approval of a rezoning application.

Williamson had applied for rezoning of Logan's Run, a 23-acre plot of land at the northeast corner of state Route 316 and Commercial Point Road.

Knece's written opinion says trustees told Williamson he needed to pay a per-lot fee for the rezoning to be approved.

He refused to pay and the trustees denied the rezoning application.

## Bill students for missed class time

By JULIET WILLIAMS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SCOTT'S VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — Tired of parents pulling their kids out of school for a ski trip or a visit to Disneyland, the local school system is billing them for the missed class time at \$36.13 per day.

That is how much the Scotts Valley district calculates it loses under a state formula that doles out school funding according to daily attendance.

In truth, the bills are merely a request; no one is actually required to pay.

But some parents in the well-to-do community 30 miles south of Silicon Valley are paying up to ease their guilty consciences. Others are refusing, saying the request is offensive in a state where nearly half the annual budget — \$66 billion — already is devoted to education.

"I tossed it. It's a public school. I'm not going to be told to pay when I have my kids out," said Helene Handy, who received the explanatory letter three times, once for each of her children. "We've got to have a better way to pay for our schools."

School officials said the purpose is twofold — to discourage parents from aiding and abetting hooky, and to recoup money lost to absences.

The 2,800-student district — which is populated with a large number of high-tech specialists and managers and had a median household income in 2000 of more than \$72,000 — sent a letter of explanation in January to parents. It was titled "If You Play, Please Pay."

"Are the ski slopes calling? Is the beach beckoning? Are you taking the kids to Disneyland mid-week to avoid the crowds?" the letter asked. "If so, we would encourage you to reconsider. When your child misses school, there are consequences for the student and the district."

In California, under a formula that dates to the 1930s, how much a school receives in tax dollars is based on how many students are in class on any given day.

"Elective absences," or days missed for reasons other than illness, cost the Scotts Valley district \$223,000 during the 2005-06 school year, according to the school system. On average, it says, a Scotts Valley child misses 2.3 days because of elective absences.

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**Good Day,  
James R.  
Fagan**  
Thank you  
for subscribing  
to The Herald

## New DuPont plant manager

SPECIAL TO  
CIRCLEVILLEHERALD

The DuPont Circleville site announced that plant manager Rob Banerjee has been appointed Operations Business Leader, High Performance Materials.

Banerjee has been the plant manager of the Circleville site since September of 2004 and will remain at the Circleville site.

"I have enjoyed leading the site, which has a wonderful work ethic and outstanding employees," Banerjee said.

"I also have appreciated the warm welcome that Kathy and I received from the community and we are quite pleased that we do not have to relocate with this new assignment. I want to thank our employees and the community for their ongoing support. Circleville is a very unique community that

has been incredibly supportive of DuPont over the years, and remains a great partnership today," said Banerjee.

Banerjee's replacement is Tony Eichstadt, previously plant manager at the DuPont site in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Eichstadt has 32 years of service with DuPont in numerous domestic and international assignments.

He has purchased a house in Circleville and plans to relocate with his wife, LuAnn, this month.

Tony and LuAnn have two grown sons in Dallas. They are excited about the move and look forward to getting involved in the

community.

"The DuPont Circleville site has a long history of excellent operation and of being an excellent member of this community," said Eichstadt.

"I am excited about the opportunity to live in this community and to work with the Circleville site team to ensure that we remain globally competitive in the future."

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EICHSTADT

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