

Manatee River News

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Serving Communities North and South of the Manatee River

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A more en'Dearing' position?

Superintendent Roger Dearing applies for dream job of less stress, less pay.

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Manatee County School Superintendent Roger Dearing may leave by year's end for another job — but the timing and circumstances have raised questions.

As most now know, Dearing has thrown his hat into the ring for a position as the executive director of the Gainesville-based Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA).

For Dearing, it is the opportunity for a job at the center of high school sports — something he has stayed involved with throughout his career. And he said, a staff of 17 full-timers would bring far fewer headaches than



DEARING

running a school district with thousands of employees and a \$300 million budget.

Dearing, who arrived at Manatee County as superintendent five years ago, came at the height of school expansion and growth — an exciting period of expanding schools, programs and budgets. Fast forward to this year, and Dearing faces a \$21 million budget deficit and is asking teachers for a 1 percent pay cut and reducing his own pay to help meet the shortfall.

Still, Dearing says it is the unique nature of the FHSA position that attracts him, and it is the only job that would compel him to leave Manatee County.

From judge to applicant

Ironically, Dearing sits on the board of directors for the FHSA and voted against several applicants earlier this year before deciding he would like to apply himself.

The FHSA Board of Directors
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Mix of Melodies



LISA HLYWA/Manatee River News

Lincoln Middle School recently held its 2008 Band and String Concert directed by Douglas Gaines. Pictured, from left, is eighth-grader **Jacqueline Deame** playing the flute, **Bethany Burley** performing Mozart's duet, "Der Spiegel," and eighth-grader **Carlos Cadena** playing the cello.

New materials decrease home costs

Palmetto company discovers faster, cheaper way to build 'green' homes

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The "green" concept is all the rage at a time when everyone is looking to save a few dollars off

their energy bill.

Steve Lewis, vice president of Specialty Insulated Panel Systems Inc., thinks he can help. The Palmetto business is shaking up the developing community

with its "green" interpretation.

Everyone has a different definition of "green," and Lewis said the term is vague even though it is vague.

"Basically, we can build homes cheaper, faster and better," Lewis said. "We can make them more energy efficient because of advanced technology. We can make homes today more energy efficient and cost effective."

His company uses Platinum Advanced Technologies materials to produce an innovative style of houses with new and improved wall, ceiling and roof products, Lewis said. In Florida, where hurricanes are always a threat, Lewis said his building materials could withstand winds of up to 190 miles per hour. The supplies also can cut cooling and heating bills, and the faster installation means that a home can be completely built in as

little as five weeks from the laying of the first stone to the day the keys are handed out.

"This is different than anything else," Lewis said. "We use different materials than our rivals and are much more cost efficient and we can do it faster. As far as withstanding a storm, our materials have broken a hydraulic press at 25,000 pounds."

All of the Platinum panels come from recycled products to further protect the environment. The steel is about 60 to 80 percent recycled with a structural polyurethane (an oil byproduct) fill impregnated through a fiberglass mat.

So why doesn't everyone go "green" and why aren't Platinum's products more well known?

"It's a really good question," Lewis said. "Why don't people think of these things before

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JEFF BERLINICKE/Manatee River News

Steve Lewis, of Specialty Insulated Panel Systems, said his company is building energy-efficient and environmentally friendly homes in Manatee County.

NewsWorthy

Local officers to aid in 2008 inauguration

Local law enforcement officers are being sought to help with security at the presidential inauguration in January. At the last inauguration four years ago, approximately 20 Bradenton Police Department officers went to Washington, D.C., to work during President Bush's second inauguration. Again this election year, volunteers are being sought from several agencies. The request for assistance came to the Bradenton Police Department from the Metropolitan Police Department in the nation's capital.

Big lottery winner in East Manatee

A lucky winner bought a \$2 lottery ticket at an East Manatee
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