

NEWS-PRESS Charlotte THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1978 SECTION 8

Absentee ballots give victory to Ross

By PETER G. JOHNSON
Charlotte Bureau Chief
PUNTA GORDA — Democrat Franz Ross was declared the winner in the three-man race for the District 4 seat on the Charlotte County Commission after election officials finished counting more than 800 absentee ballots late Wednesday evening.

On the two critical wide races, favoring incumbent Joseph D'Almeida for state attorney and Xavier Fernandez for public defender.
The absentee ballots made no appreciable difference in any of the races, either state or local.

More than 90 absentee ballots had been returned to the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office but about 100 of them had to be voided for one reason or another, officials said.
With the absentee included in the voter turnout figures, election officials estimated

about 46 percent of the registered voters in Charlotte County cast ballots in Tuesday's general election.
The absentee ballots made no appreciable difference in any of the races, either state or local.

while Democrat Dana Carr received 7,877 votes.
School Board District 4, Republican Lawrence Paul received 11,175 votes while Democrat Bernard Santanillo received 6,444 votes.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS TOSE HENDMAN ... is counting absentee ballots Wednesday after Tuesday's election.

Precinct vote totals at-a-glance

Table with columns: Precinct, Votes Cast, Registered Voters, Voter Turnout %. Lists precincts 1 through 27 with corresponding vote counts and turnout percentages.

Profile of girl's killer making probe difficult

By PETER G. JOHNSON
Charlotte Bureau Chief
PUNTA GORDA — A psychological profile of the killer of 12-year-old Linda Pilgritz indicates that, while most murderers, this one is not a braggart and that fact, as much as anything, is hampering investigators in their efforts to catch him.

According to L. William Clement, of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department, psychologists have told him the unknown killer possibly might be the type person who has tucked the murder neatly into his subconsciousness and forgotten it.

After Porter was arrested for the murder of Harry and Margaret Walrath in August, Sheriff Alan LeBlond reported the suspect had confided to one of his associates that he had killed the elderly Port Charlotte couple.

The murder of Linda Pilgritz now is nearly a month old and lawmen say they still don't know what the motive was for the killing.
After Porter was arrested for the murder of Harry and Margaret Walrath in August, Sheriff Alan LeBlond reported the suspect had confided to one of his associates that he had killed the elderly Port Charlotte couple.

might have been heavily under the influence of some mind-altering drug.
The drug theory, Clement said, could explain why the killer does not consciously remember the murder, if indeed he doesn't.

Escaped mental patient steals guns; is captured

By PETER G. JOHNSON
Charlotte Bureau Chief
ARCADIA — A mental patient who escaped from St. Pierce Wood Hospital on Tuesday has been recaptured but not before he stole cache of guns from hunting cabins near the hospital.
David Shumacher, 28, walked off the hospital grounds Tuesday morning but was found later that evening a few miles from the institution in State Road 31, according to hospital administrator Barbara Isley.

Isley said Shumacher told the hospital staff that while he was outside the institution he broke into a cache of two hunting cabins and stole a number of weapons.
Shumacher said he then established the weapons in the woods, according to Isley.

A bulletin issued area law enforcement agencies to be on the lookout for the escaped mental patient said Shumacher was armed with .22 caliber rifle, a .306 rifle, a .38 caliber special, a .357 magnum and a .22 caliber rifle.
However, Isley said, "he was not armed when he left the hospital and he was not armed when he came back."

Isley said he has instructed his staff to let Shumacher accompany a sheriff's deputy and postpone the cabins he broke into as well as the rifles he hid the weapons.
Isley said he did not know if any were state-registered.

Sgt. Frank West of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department would not release any information on the incident. He said no information would be released until the sheriff's department completed its investigation. The investigation probably will be finished today, he said.

City hires new public works supervisor

By KAREN FELDMAN
News-Press Bureau
PUNTA GORDA — The city public works department will be split into two divisions under separate supervisors when a new public works director is installed Dec. 4.

City Manager Robert Hollander announced the hiring of Ross L. Allen, Jr., 46, who presently is superintendent of water treatment and distribution in Belle Glade.

Allen will oversee the operation of the street, water treatment, water distribution, sewage treatment and sewer collection departments at an annual salary of \$17,276, according to Finance Director Mit Fiedler.

Don Ross, who is public works director, will become the director of municipal properties and will be in charge of parks, sanitation, municipal trailer park, garage and building maintenance, according to Hollander.

The division of the public works department was approved by the city council during an August budget session.

Inside Today's B-Section

- A PAKISTANI couple is being sought by FBI agents after failing to appear for trial on slavery charges in violating a 12-year-old West African girl.
ALMOST THREE YEARS after former Florida Insurance Commissioner Thomas O'Malley was indicted by a federal grand jury here on charges of extortion and mail fraud, a trial jury of eight women and four men is scheduled to begin hearing testimony today.
A FEDERAL APPEALS court upholds the dismissal of a suit attacking an amendment to the Florida Constitution empowering the state to appoint appeals court judges.

Adult education praised

By KAREN FELDMAN
News-Press Bureau
PORT CHARLOTTE — A state audit of the Charlotte County adult education program has found the district to be in compliance with all federal regulations and has commended the program for its scope and quality.
The state Department of Education (DOE) is required to conduct the audits on one sixth of the state's school systems each year, which means that each district is audited about once every 10 years, Meas said.

The audit report states, "The district is commended for the outstanding organization and record keeping which was apparent during the audit with Mr. Robb and Mrs. Kay Glaze, his secretary.
It also said that "Charlotte County can boast of an exemplary community education system particularly as it services senior citizens."

State to give county road funds

By KEVIN BLOOM
News-Press Bureau
PUNTA GORDA — State Department of Transportation (DOT) officials have agreed to release gas tax funds for the county's road reaping program.
Clerk of the Court Buddy Alexander said Wednesday that DOT accountants will release \$28,000 in 5th and 6th cent gas tax funds for a 25-mile street revitalization project.

A road improvement program has been a priority of the county commission. The lack of one was cited as one of the major reasons for firing Wideman's predecessor, Donald Lowrey.
Alexander said according to DOT district accountants in Bartow, the county engineer must draw up a withdrawal order, which has to be approved by the commission.

Once the funds are in hand, the board must take formal action to appropriate the funds to the road and bridge department.
"Once all this is done, we are obligated to use the funds for the specified purpose," Alexander said.
"They can be used for any aspect of that operation, but we couldn't use them for something like lot mowing."

Wideman said the program could receive additional funds by taking \$150,000 from the contract services account of the county's consolidated street unit.
That money would be used for purchase of asphalt and other materials.

Wideman said the commission Tuesday, with sufficient funds in hand and having had weather or equipment break downs, the project could be completed in three months.