

NEWS-PRESS Charlotte SECTION B FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1978 Reports From Staff Writers, Bureaus And Wire Services

County hospital permit can't be revoked

By KEVIN BLOOM News-Press Bureau
PUNTA GORDA — The county does not have the authority to revoke the occupancy permit for an addition to Fawcett Memorial Hospital, the county attorney said Thursday.

Building Code, which the county has adopted. "I don't think the county has that authority," Thompson said. "I don't think it can be shown that the lack of the self-closing doors presents an imminent danger to the public."

Verwey said there is no question that the lack of self-closing doors was overlooked by inspectors. "It should have been caught before the final inspection, this is true," Verwey said.

Verwey said that the doors should have been installed to begin with but has been an issue between Verwey and hospital officials. The hospital was granted a variance by the county's building board so they would not have to make a sprinkler system in the individual rooms.

Verwey said that the doors were included dispensing with the fire doors. Verwey disagreed, although he said signs of the discussions between the board and hospital representatives show, "the matter was not clear."



Workers continue construction on the final section of the Richard Beecher Bridge over Bass Inlet in Punta Gorda. The bridge tentatively is scheduled to open Wednesday.

Bass inlet

Workers continue construction on the final section of the Richard

Beecher Bridge over Bass Inlet in Punta Gorda. The bridge tentatively is scheduled to open Wednesday.

Animal lovers want duck-crossing signs

By KEVIN BLOOM News-Press Bureau

PORT CHARLOTTE — Never one to duck responsibility, County Commissioner Ted Fegers has embarked on an issue which is admittedly not popular.

Responding to a request from a local Cub Scout den, Fegers is looking into "Duck Crossing" signs for Cowley Boulevard. Fegers said he was contacted by Kathy Jorgensen, den mother of Pack 8, Troop 4, who told him about a family of quackers that is being decimated by chance meetings with automobiles.

"In the last six months three or four of them have been hit," Mrs. Jorgensen said. "We said we'd try to raise the money if they die on the way."

The request went straight to Fegers' heart. "It brings back childhood memories," Fegers said. "When I was a child, my family owned the largest duck farm in Florida."

"One of my jobs was getting down off the train when they came in and giving them their first drop of water," he said.

Ducklings have an aversion to water until they are force fed their first few drops, Fegers said. After that, "it's their whole life."

except sign not requiring a permit from this department.

Jim Wilman, acting county engineer, was asked for his opinion on the practicality of duck crossings.

"One of the guys out here suggested we put a culvert under the road and call it a 'road', Wilman said. "But we have the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices that talk about the way to be driven about unexpected hazards."

Most of those warnings pertain to bike paths, farm machinery and cattle. "I could find anything about a duck," he said. "I did go out and look at the road. It really are ducks crossing the road."

A traffic sign is a traffic sign, and regardless of the motivation, there are technicalities involved.

Law governing road rights-of-way have to be adhered to, Verwey said. He is involved with the actual configuration of the signs.

With no precedent for duck crossings available, Charlotte County might find itself on the threshold of innovation.

Sheriff makes CPR training mandatory for workers

By PETER G. JOHNSON Charlotte Bureau Chief

PUNTA GORDA — All employees of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department will be required to learn methods of reviving heart attack victims as a result of last week's death of a man in the parking lot of the Cultural Center.

The Red Cross had questioned the training of deputies last Monday after two Red Cross personnel were stopped from administering cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to an elderly Port Charlotte resident who apparently had suffered a heart attack.

The man, Wilfred Roman, was taken to Fawcett Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. According to the Red Cross, two certified CPR instructors were called to the Cultural Center parking lot on Oct. 30 after Roman was found slumped over the steering wheel of his car.

The instructors, Gail Devesa and Sherri DeBaker, said when they attempted to administer CPR treatment to Roman, a sheriff's deputy refused to allow them near the victim. Belle Shoemaker, chapter manager of the Red Cross, then complained the deputy did not have the right to stop anyone from attempting to revive the victim.

Devesa said the deputy was trained in CPR and in their opinion too much time had elapsed after Roman's heart attack to revive him. Devesa said the deputy was trained in CPR and in their opinion too much time had elapsed after Roman's heart attack to revive him.

Mental patient still at large

By PETER G. JOHNSON Charlotte Bureau Chief

PUNTA GORDA — An escaped mental patient who might be armed with an arsenal of weapons is still at large, contrary to earlier reports from G. P. Wood Memorial Hospital.

Ronald Insley, the hospital administrator, said reports on Wednesday that 18-year-old David Shoemaker was back in custody just a few hours after he walked off the hospital grounds. But on Thursday, Insley said he had contacted Shoemaker with another patient who had escaped at the same time.

The second patient, Ronald A. Gutierrez, is back in custody but Shoemaker has not been located yet, according to Insley. "I don't remember which patient was which," Insley said. "I guess that will reach me to talk to you before without checking my files."

Burrall gets \$22,000 in campaign funds

By PETER G. JOHNSON Charlotte Bureau Chief

PUNTA GORDA — Fred Burrall, who was easily re-elected to a third term in the state Legislature, spent more than \$24,000 convincing voters to choose him over his opponent.

Burrall also collected more than \$22,000 in contributions during his re-election campaign. Burrall's campaign contribution report was filed with the state election officer prior to Monday's deadline but a copy was not submitted with the local election office until Tuesday.

Murder suspects pass polygraph

By KAREN FELDMAN News-Press Bureau

PUNTA GORDA — Two suspects in the murder of 12-year-old Linda Plaxico received favorable results on polygraph tests they took Wednesday.

Sheriff's Department, both persons received results which were "in their favor," and added that, after further study, he believed the tests would reveal that both suspects had been truthful. So far, five persons have undergone the polygraph, in five detector tests and have received favorable results, however, Giffert said.

"They are still involved in the investigation" but not directly. He said they were "being kept to one side. We're assuming they're telling the truth and that the polygraph was correct." Clum said that a psychological profile of the killer indicates

Inside Today's B-Section

- A KEY WEST publishing firm rolls its new sublinguist to the state archives Thursday for the second time in two weeks, but this time the deflated mill was piled high with a \$2.5 million Spanish treasure.
THE FLORIDA Bar council is fur lurch criticism from some lawyers and tough questions from the state Supreme Court over a proposal that would tightly restrict attorneys' new-lawyer rights to advertise.
FLORIDA INSURANCE Commissioner Bill Genter was spotted from a large life insurance agency's office last week to require full disclosure of gains and losses when agents switch clients' coverage from one company to another.
A HUMAN skull found in a rusty paint can in the Dallas cemetery near Dallas is identified as that of a 12-year-old girl who disappeared from a school bus stop in Dallas in September.

\$24,477 in expenses, \$2,029 of which was incurred during this reporting period. Burrall also listed a total of \$22,000 in contributions with \$2,000 of that coming during this past three week period. Those who contributed \$25 or more to Burrall's campaign during the last three weeks were: Poetry and Egg Graphics Political Trust, Tampa, \$50; Beneficial Management Corp., St. Petersburg, \$50; Tallahassee, \$100; Harris of Florida, Tallahassee, \$100; Food Industry Political Action Committee, \$200; Charles F. Palmer, Arcadia, \$25; Robert H. Harrison, Sebring, \$25; Florida Bank Political Action Committee, Orlando, \$200; Everglades Agriculture Committee, Belle Glade, \$200; Percipe, Tallahassee, \$100; Cal-Pac Florida, Orlando, \$400; Barbara K. Womack, Arcadia, \$25; Florida Federal Directors' political action committee, Tallahassee, \$200; Kemper Campaign Fund, Charlotte, \$100; Bert Rogers School of Real Estate, Orlando, \$50; Management employees of General Telephone political action committee, Tampa, \$200; Marjorie R. Rhoades, Sebring, \$25; Florida Association of Registered Bank Bookkeeping Co., Tallahassee, \$100; Barrett People for Better Government, Jacksonville, \$200; Her Distributors.
Turn To BURRALL, Page 18