



Readers sound off

Squall Line appears daily. Call 850-522-5133, or go to www.newsherald.com and click on the "Squall Live" icon.

Just keep on trucking and have hope. Just remember that a good life and an easy life are not necessarily the same thing.

They say we need to be religion-tolerant but we're not being attacked by Presbyterians.

Obama's highly touted Iraq troop withdrawal is exactly the way George Bush had it scheduled.

You don't know what good-tasting water is until you taste the water here in St. Joe, and then it's too late.

The other day the Squall had Obama's motto: We have what it takes to take what you got. And they have the Gestapo to enforce it, called the United States Coast Guard. They are doing a great job.

Stone Harbor Apartments on Alf Coleman is flooded. The newspaper can't deliver. It seems like to me the city would try to fix this flooding problem. It's been like that for five years. Fix it, people.

This county is overrun with coyotes. We need someone to help us to try to eradicate them, or do something. I've lost nine cats in two months.

Isn't it fantastic that the City of Callaway suddenly found some extra money to the tune of \$5.3 million?

The driving along the major roads of Bay County is so bad; the state troopers would be better off posting double red flags along side them.

If they only would let the people that live in the district to vote for that commission seat, it would be a whole new ball game.

Environmentalists have asked the EPA to ban bullets. Proving that tyranny creeps up behind you on quiet little cat feet.

What's the big deal about golf carts? As long they aren't driving drunk, why worry about it?

I don't mind the golf carts on Lynn Haven streets, it's the 9-year-old drivers with many passengers that upset me.

PCB council approves water park

Some residents continue opposition to plan

By **PAT KELLY**
News Herald Writer
747-5076 | pkelly@pcnh.com

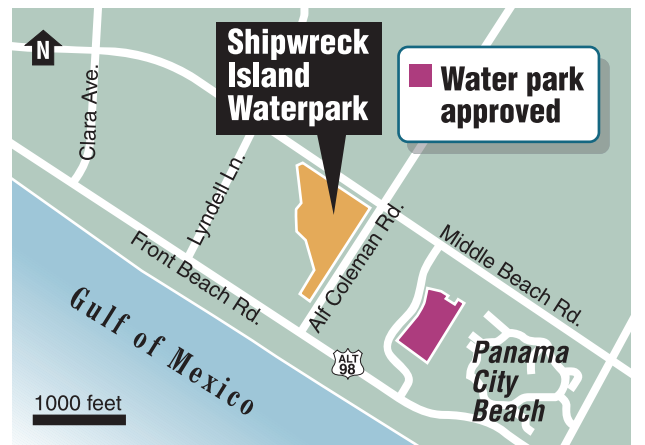
PANAMA CITY BEACH — City Council members on Thursday gave final approval to a new water park that was first given the green light by the city's planning board a year ago.

The new amusement site, which will sit on about 7.7 acres between Front Beach Road and Middle Beach Road, had generated opposition from some residents of the residential villas of

Edgewater Beach Resort, who had said they were concerned about the possible noise.

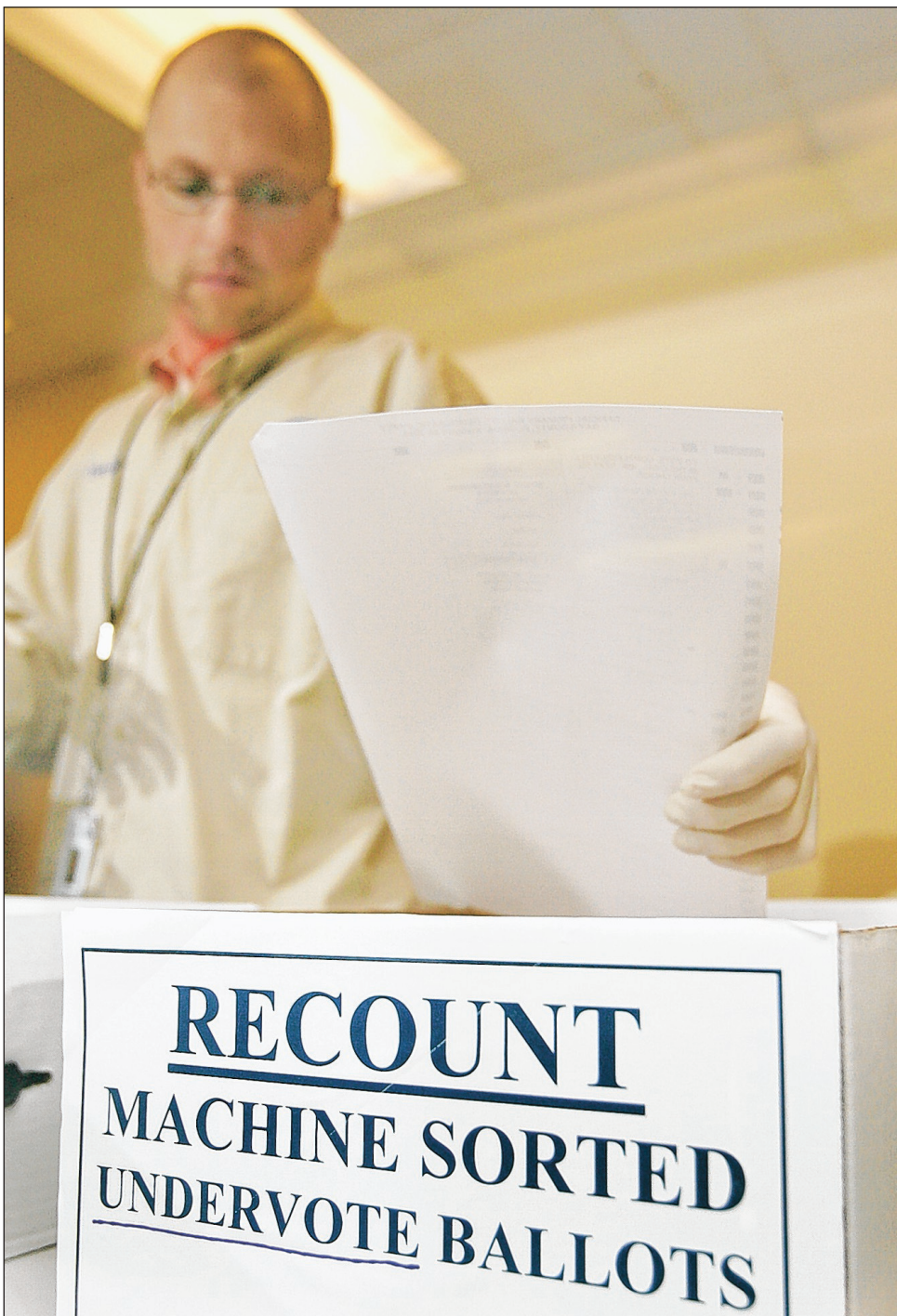
The City Council had given its preliminary approval in September 2009, but final approval was delayed while property owner Grand Panama Beach Resort met with villa residents and worked to ease the noise concerns.

The property sits adjacent to and just west of the residential villas and about 100 yards east of the site of



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KEN MAINES | Florida Freedom Newspapers



Photos by **ANDREW WARDLOW** | The News Herald
Tech Deputy David Solots sorts ballots Friday at the Bay County Supervisor of Elections Office in Panama City.

PRIMARY ELECTION

Recount continues today

By **SARAH OWEN**
News Herald Writer
747-5077 | sowen@pcnh.com

PANAMA CITY — Results from Tuesday night's too-close-to-call races won't be available until today — at the earliest, officials said Friday night.

The state required recounts for both the school board and the county commission race, in which the margin of victory was less than one-half of 1 percent. In the school board race, Jim Barr leads incumbent Donna Allen; the winner will face Steve Moss in a runoff.

After a day of counting, the three-person canvassing board will continue the machine recount for the school board race today and is expected to begin the commission's manual recount following that, according to Supervisor of Elections Mark Andersen.

The canvassing board will inspect by hand nearly 450 commission ballots the machines were unable to read, because the voter marked either too many candidates or no candidates. The team then will try to determine voter intent on those ballots.

Election-night counts showed county commission candidate Guy Tunnell leading Derrell Day by 48 votes. A tally on Thursday of provisional ballots narrowed the gap to 44 votes.

The winner of the commission race will face independent challenger Bill Busch on Nov. 2.

The preliminary audit and the recounts will cost taxpayers between \$500 and \$800 a day in employee wages, Andersen has said.

Misdirected candy raises ire of local military advocate

By **FELICIA KITZMILLER**
News Herald Writer
522-5114 | fkitzmiller@pcnh.com

PANAMA CITY — Although donating to school children might be a good cause, three local schools were not the intended recipients of a few thousand dollars worth of cookies and candies recently given out by CVS.

In what is called a mix up by CVS's corporate office and fraud by at least one member of the local Marine Corps

League, snacks donated by CVS customers for troops overseas ended up in the hands of children at New Horizons Learning Center and St. Andrews and Waller elementary schools.

Marine Corps League Commandant Ed Kline said the CVS on Sixth Street in the Cove, along with several others in the area, have been collecting items for the troops. Customers purchased items to donate and when collection boxes filled up, the store contacted someone

with the League to pick up and ship the items, Kline said.

Early this week, Kline said he heard from an employee the most recent collection had been donated to school children and not given to a military installation as clearly posted signs said they would be.

A phone call to CVS store management confirmed the rumor.

"I strongly feel it's wrong and I believe the hundreds of patriotic folks that so openly gave

to this collection will be upset, to say the least, that their contributions to the troops serving in harm's way were given to local school children," Kline said.

Management at the CVS store referred inquiries to the corporate communications office, which said the incident was a miscommunication.

CVS spokesman Mike DeAngelis said stores have done numerous drives for troops and for school children and there was some confu-

sion that goods had to be designated for one or the other.

About one-third of the snacks collected, totaling "a few thousand dollars worth," ended up at the schools, DeAngelis said. Contact has been made with management at the store to resolve the confusion, he said, and CVS will be replacing the items from its inventory.

"We're proud to support our troops and will continue to do so," DeAngelis said.

P.C. to share risk for garbage site cleanup

By **ALI HELGOTH**
News Herald Writer
522-5118 | ahelgoth@pcnh.com

PANAMA CITY — Panama City officials agreed to take on some of the risk involved in cleanup of the former garbage transfer station on Bay Avenue.

Concern that the cost of rehabilitating the property could be high was one of the reasons the only bid the city received for selling the property came in substantially less than the appraised value. In May, George Roberts submitted an offer of \$75,000 for the six acres, which was

appraised at \$360,000.

After negotiations with city officials, Roberts offered to pay \$75,000 for the property and put \$150,000 into an escrow account to be used to rehabilitate the property or revert to the city. If cleanup costs exceed \$150,000, the city would be

required to cover the additional amount. Southern Earth Sciences is overseeing property clean up.

Mayor Scott Clemons said he liked the option because "we're sharing in the risk." He said he wouldn't want to accept the as-is, where-is offer of \$75,000 because if cleanup

costs are low, the city would lose out on money.

Roberts said he plans to use the property at 1690 Bay Ave. to stockpile materials.

Commissioner Nancy Wengel voted against the agreement.

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