

City Working To Replace Bridge

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County Clerk Marriage License Bill Clears Senate

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Palacios UIL State Qualifiers

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City talks Serendipity Tax Abatement at Public Hearing

BY ALAN C. SCHULMAN
Palacios Beacon - Reporter

The City of Palacios has determined that it will be beneficial to the City for Serendipity Resort to invest nearly \$4 million in improvements to the resort, and to that end, the City of Palacios is offering Serendipity Resort a Tax Abatement over a 5 year period, with an abatement of 75% the first year, 65% the second year, and 50% the next three years. A public hearing was held prior to last Tuesday's Regular City Council Meeting to receive input from citizens on the planned tax abatement. After answering several questions, the Council received a positive response from those in attendance. One question posed was, if current tax revenues from Serendipity would be abated and

lost from City revenues. It was explained that only new real property improvements are eligible for tax abatement over the five year period, which leaves existing property at the resort taxed at the same rate with no loss of revenue to the City.

Citizens Forum

Patricia Loving asked the Council for a full accounting of the \$700,000 borrowed to fund the completion of the Pavilion and donations and expenses associated with the construction and operation of the facility.

Chip Woolf stated that he had also been trying to get information on the accounting of "the project", and that the Pavilion Committee is in the process of putting theirs together, stating, "It's important that we get a total picture of what happened there." Citing a recent

incident involving sludge in his water lines, Woolf stated, "Last night all of our faucets were running chocolate syrup. Our water infrastructure is pretty awful." As he has stated before, Woolf pointed to the absence of "capital improvements" in the City budget, and said, "When I see all that coming out of my water lines, it leads me to believe that maybe we need to address the water more urgently."

Patricia Loving, who is on the Planning and Zoning Committee, assured Woolf that "the Planning and Zoning Committee will be reviewing those (improvement plans made in 2010) in the next couple of months to see where we can go from here."

Woolf also pointed out to Council the potential revenue to the City being lost because of discrepancies in valuations of lots at

Beachside, with developer-owned lots being valued lower on the tax rolls than those that have been sold to individuals. The City of Palacios has a tax abatement agreement with that development, and Woolf stated his position saying, "It seems to me that, since it is our largest tax base taxpayer, and they do not seem to be very successful, it would seem to me that if the taxes were a little higher they would be inclined to either make something happen, or possibly sell the project to somebody that can make something happen."

Local businessman, Larry Glenn, chimed in about a meeting with officials at the Appraisal District saying, "They told me the City reduced the taxes, not the Appraisal District. The City did reduce the price."

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WEDNESDAY
APRIL 19, 2017
VOL. 110 • NO. 17

PALACIOS TEXAS
The Only Newspaper In The World Published Just For The Palacios Area.

P. O. Box 817 • 317 Commerce
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(361) 972-3009/Fax 972-2610
E-Mail: palaciosbeacon@gmail.com
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5 p.m. Friday

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BEACON BRIEFS

Annual Pal. Trailriders Kickoff Dance & Ride

The Palacios Trailriders will hold their annual Dance & Ride this weekend, beginning with the kickoff dance at 8 p.m. Fri. (April 21) at the Blessing Community Center. The two-day ride will be held Sat. - Sun. (April 22-23) with Round Robin to begin at 8 a.m. at Carl Park on the Tres Palacios River at FM 521. Memberships are available and the public is invited. For more information call 361-972-2385 or 361-920-2045.

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1 SECTION, 10 PAGES



Train collision with car claims one life, another Life Flighted



BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

While the sun shined bright last Thursday, a dark cloud of grief and sadness hit the Blessing area when a train collided with a car and claimed the life of a young woman and left her boyfriend fighting for his life.

At approximately 3 p.m. last Thurs. (April 13), a black Ford SUV driven by 18-year old Brittany Nicole Graham, a senior at El Campo High School, collided with a train at a private railroad crossing at County Road 410 in Blessing. Graham was pronounced dead at the scene.

Her passenger, 20-year old Blessing resident Alphonse Revis, was Life Flighted from the scene to Houston with serious injuries. Family members reported Revis suffered a collapsed lung and has fluid on his brain but was in stable condition. (Beacon Photo above by Ryan West) (Photo left from Facebook)

Three beaten by baseball bats in home invasion

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Three Palacios men are lucky to be alive after a savage beating with a baseball bat that sent one to Houston via Life Flight in a home invasion last week.

At approximately 12:40 a.m. on April 10 Palacios Police Officers responded to a call for shots fired in the 900 block of Magnusson.

Upon arrival authorities discovered the battered bodies of Albert Llanes, 24, Elliott Young, 20, and Joshua Heath, 24, all of Palacios.

While two shots were fired, no one was injured via gunshot - instead, the trio had

been severely beaten with a baseball bat.

Heath sustained the brunt of the attack with a deep skull splitting gash in his head, which Palacios Police Chief David Miles said made his brain matter visible. He was Life Flighted to Houston and was released last Wed. (April 12)

Young suffered a deep lac-

(See ASSAULT, Page 2)

Adopt-A-Beach Clean Up Sat. at Marine Center

Free breakfast for volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the nation's biggest all-volunteer coastal cleanup Saturday, April 22nd. The 2017 Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Coast-wide Spring Cleanup takes place at 28 of Texas' most popular tourist beaches. Volunteers can sign up at one of the locations online at TexasAdoptABeach.org to take part in

(See CLEANUP, Page 2)

Deadline Fri. to file for vacancy on MCND#1 Board

The deadline to file an application to fill the vacancy on the Matagorda County Navigation District #1 (MCND) Commissioners is set for 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 21.

The passing of former Commissioner Bryan Fields earlier this month left a vacancy on the five person board, with the remaining Commissioners to appoint a qualified applicant at the regular monthly meeting of the MCND Commissioners on April 25.

Those interested in serving on the MCND Board may inquire to the MCND #1 Port Director, Debbie Morris, at Port of

(See MCND, Page 3)

Seawall Commission given updates on ongoing projects

TERRY MOSIER

With all three commissioners present, the Matagorda County Seawall Commission met last week and discussed ongoing projects including updates on the Seawall splash apron, new Pavilion and the bay front playground equipment.

As for the Seawall Repairs-East Bayshore Stress Wall Project, Commissioners discussed the best repair option may still be to excavate behind the wall, replace the filter cloth, back fill with soil under compaction, and replace the sidewalk after the repairs are made. The wall is structurally sound and Engineers are looking at different rebar materials for the harsh

salt water environment to use for repairs. More options with non-corroding rebar may be on the table for future discussions.

Seawall Splash Apron

The failing splash apron along the bay front is due for more test digging during the next few weeks. More of this test work is scheduled to begin at the same time as the East Bayshore Stress Wall work is tested. The engineers are to develop a solution for this and present it at a future meeting. As soon as Rhoades Land Leveling and Construction has completed the Margerum Road bulkhead construction the commissioners plan to have him move and

(See SEAWALL, Page 4)



The Easter-egg dash....

DROVES of children flocked to the Sixth St. City Fields for the Fraternal Order of Eagles' annual Easter Egg Hunt. It was a mad dash at the starting line where even the Easter Bunny had to be wary of being trampled. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

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