

Line Flush Results In Hydrant Bath

SEE PAGE 3



Bonnen named Speaker Pro-Tem, Chair Ways & Means

SEE PAGE 2



Sharkettes Win District

SEE PAGE 9

41st Palacios CofC Awards Banquet Thur. at Rec. Center

Honoring Palacios' Man, Woman and Business of the Year

Get your crowns and tiaras ready for the 41st annual Palacios Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet, themed 'Hands and Hearts: Together We Grow' to be held Thurs. (Feb. 16) at the Palacios Recreation Center, 2401 Perryman Ave.

The CofC's 2017 Man, Woman and Business of the Year will be announced and there are always a few unexpected surprises.

As of Monday, only a limited number of tickets remained available for purchase at the Palacios Chamber of Commerce office, located at 420 Main St., for \$20 each.

This year's entertainment remains shrouded in mystery, but of course no Chamber Banquet would be complete without some zany, side splitting entertainment so attendees need be prepared for a fun and exciting program.

Beverages to accompany the meal such as beer and wine will be available for purchase.

Last year's honorees were Ryan West, Becky Johnson and Tran's Restaurant - Voc Tran.

For more information, contact Pam Oliver, Chamber Office Director, at 972-2615.

For a full list of past award recipients and past CofC presidents, see Page 3.

Palacios goes to the birds with first annual Matagorda Bay BirdFest this weekend

Palacios will host the first ever Matagorda Bay BirdFest, a birding festival, with activities to attract all ages and interests this Sat. & Sun. (Feb. 18 - 19).

Local organizers of the festival came up with the idea of the festival to recognize and celebrate the huge number of bird species that live in Matagorda County in the winter. What many people don't know is that Matagorda County almost always has the record for the highest number of bird species counted in the nationwide annual Christmas Bird Counts conducted by

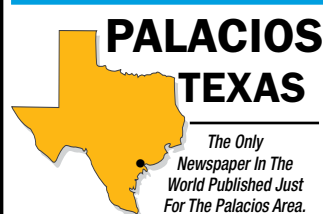
Audubon.

Many of the festival activities will take place at the Texas Baptist Encampment on the waterfront in Palacios. The festival will feature two days of activities. On Saturday, the 18th of February, the day will begin with two separate sessions: one for children and the other for adults. On Saturday morning children from age 4 and up (children ages 4-7 must be accompanied by an adult) will be able to participate in free bird related youth art program. After lunch, chil-

(See BIRDFEST, Page 2)

WEDNESDAY
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Beacon Deadline 5 p.m. Friday

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Open 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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Observing Our **110th** Year
1907-2016

BEACON BRIEFS

PCC's 4th annual African American Heritage Day Program Sat.

The Palacios Community Coalition will hold its 4th annual Palacios African American Heritage Day Program from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. on Sat. (Feb. 18) at the City By The Sea Museum, located at 401 Commerce.

Living Word Church hosts Missionary to India Sat. & Sun.

Mary Ann Johnston, Missionary to India will be at Living Word Church, 1405 12th St., this Sat. & Sun. (Feb. 18-19). A Ladies Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, with lunch served. Sunday services will begin at 10 a.m.

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Valentine Sweetheart 2017

Wilson crowned Harmonie Club's Valentine Sweetheart

CROWNED Harmonie Club's 2017 Valentine Sweetheart at last Saturday's Valentine Sweetheart Coronation Ball was (center) Cassidy Wilson, daughter of David and Linda Wilson. Jessie Cepak (left), was the First Runner-Up and Madison Hunter (right) was Second Runner-Up. The Harmonie Club event raised \$54,000. The annual Coronation Ball capped off Saturday's festivities following the Valentine's Parade down Main St. in Palacios. See the winning parade entries on Page 10. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

Friday deadline to file for PISD, City elections

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

This Fri. (Feb. 17) is the deadline to file for a place on the ballot in either the Palacios City Council or Palacios Independent School District Board of Trustees elections in May.

While there is yet to be a contested race for a seat at the PISD Trustee table, there is now enough candidates to

fill the vacancies as Lisa Harrison tossed her name into the hat for the Pos. 5, vacated by longtime Trustee Rick Cink.

She joins incumbents in Pos. 6 and 7, Fabian Marroquin and Peter Zamarripa, as the lone willing citizens thus far to file the necessary paperwork.

The City side remains the same with the lone contested

(See FILING, Page 3)

Seawall Commission projects continue, hear from Serendipity

TERRY MOSIER

The Matagorda County Seawall Commission met last week to discuss ongoing projects and view a presentation from Serendipity RV Park's Doug Jensen.

As for the Seawall repairs in regards to the East Bayshore Stress Wall Project a test section was installed on Feb. 7 in an area and the process and applicator impressed those in attendance. However, the commissioners are not convinced this is the best way to repair the problem so they authorized some more digging and exploration to fully determine the best way to correct the erosion occurring in and behind the joints. The best way may be to excavate behind the wall and replace the back under compaction after the repairs are made. This winter is almost over for low tide repairs to be done considering the time line required for advertising

and bidding the job. With time not being favorable, the

(See SEAWALL, Page 3)

Conversation aims to make Palacios a better place

BY ALAN C. SCHULMAN
Palacios Beacon - Reporter

"A dialogue among local individuals about helping to make Palacios a more caring, equitable, safe and inclusive community" is the description given by the Palacios Community Conversation.

According to the group's flyer, "Our group started to meet in August 2016 to explore whether there was an interest in a com-

(See CONVO, Page 3)

While construction nears completion, Pavilion still in need of donations

BY ALAN C. SCHULMAN
Palacios Beacon - Reporter

About twenty-five years ago, Roberta Ripke had a dream of building a new Pavilion to replace the tattered remains of the landmark in Palacios. Upon her death in 2012, the torch was passed, and the Palacios Beautification and Pavilion Committee members are standing just inches away from the goal line in seeing her dream come to fruition.

Prior to the groundbreaking last year there was great momentum for the project, with promises of donations from an array of sources. These donations, in addition to a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant,

were to fully fund the new Pavilion, but momentum waned as construction dragged on, and took many of the stakeholders with it.

As of last month's Pavilion Committee meeting, there was \$124,000 in the bank and two disbursements to be made totaling approximately \$112,000, so, you do the math.

According to Treasurer, Debbie Morris, the bank account is virtually empty, and with construction expected to be completed in less than a month, give or take some extra time for 'punch-list' items, it's crunch time!

At this time, the shortfall in funding is approximately \$500,000, with the bulk of that owed to the general contractor, Charnock &

(See PAVILION, Page 2)



• Beacon Deadline 5 p.m. Friday For Articles & Advertising •

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