

Day On The Bay Coloring Winners

SEE PAGE 10



Municipal Airport Recipient OF \$20,000 CARES Act Grant

SEE PAGE 2



Sharkette Trio On Academic All-State

SEE PAGE 10

City awarded \$1.4-million GLO grant for Foley streets & drainage

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced on April 14, the City of Palacios was recipient of a \$1.4-million grant for street and drainage improvements from the Texas General Land Office's Hurricane Harvey Local Infrastructure Program.

"Hurricane Harvey devastated communities across the Texas Coast," said Commissioner Bush. "These recovery funds are critical to improving local infrastructure that will protect lives, homes and businesses from future storms. We continue to work with our partners in communities across the region to leverage these resources efficiently and effectively to benefit Texans affected by Hur-

ricane Harvey."

The grant, totaling \$1,414,860, will be used to make street improvements in the City's Foley Addition, including reconstruction of the driving surface, replacing and installing culverts and regrading of roadside ditches.

The planned improvements provide for over 10,000 linear feet of repair and reconstruction for streets including: Gray Street - University Avenue to McGlothlin Road; E. Matagorda Avenue - Gray Street to E. Bayshore Drive; Elizabeth Avenue - State Highway 35 to Ruthven Street; Beecher Avenue - State Highway 35 to Gray Street; E. Texas Avenue - State Highway 35 to E. Bayshore Drive; Harrison Street - University Avenue to McGlothlin Road; and State Highway 35 - University Avenue to McGlothlin Road.

"These repairs will go a long way toward the City accomplishing the goals of its Capital Improvements Plan", said Mayor Glen Smith. "This area has been in need of these improvements for some time and these grant funds from the GLO will allow us to move forward more quickly with some of our long-term plans."

The heavy rainfall from Hurricane Harvey caused flooding of the streets and drainage areas in the northern portion of the City. The inundated streets threatened the safety and welfare of citizens and the planned street improvements will facilitate proper storm water conveyance and provide continued improvements to the area.

The GLO allocated \$413 million to the Local Infrastructure Program from HUD Com-

munity Development Block Grant for disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) based on federal approved needs assessment. The Houston Area Council of Governments then conducted methods of distribution to determine amounts for cities and counties within its jurisdiction.

"We congratulate the City of Palacios for its resilience in the days since Hurricane Harvey and for the effort to identify projects that will better protect our fellow Texans.", commented Mary Ellen Williams, Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the GLO.

Meetings have already been scheduled with the first held this past Mon. (April 20), to discuss the next steps needed to begin the projects and to coordinate contracts between

(See FOLEY, Page 3)

WEDNESDAY
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5 p.m. Friday

Except for paid advertising, all articles, photos or other information submitted on Monday will be published on a space available basis only.

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Observing Our
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1907-2020

BEACON BRIEFS

Palacios ISD, Tidehaven ISD lunch pickup

Palacios ISD and Tidehaven ISD will continue to serve curbside drive-thru week-day lunches to students.

Palacios ISD Lunch Pick Up

Mon. & Wed. Only 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at East Side Intermediate & Palacios High School campuses. Palacios ISD sack lunch Drop Off spots: TPO Main Office, Boca Chica Community Center & Collegeport Post Office. Tidehaven ISD lunch Pick Up: Markham Elementary & Blessing Elementary campuses between 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Hometown Heroes of PISD...

BY BRANDI G. WEST
Palacios Beacon

The African proverb, 'It takes a village to raise a child' is being played out in real time here in our beloved City by the Sea. Numerous parents of school age children have experienced decreased employment hours and some even total loss of employment. Some parents are able to bring work home and some, like myself, are employed at an 'essential place of employment' and are juggling working as well home-schooling with treasured increased family time. As a mother of five children, the challenges are real. Life has changed and amidst the turmoil Palacios ISD Cafeteria staff have risen to the challenge to assist all parents with the task of putting meals on the table. This assists twofold; not only feeding our children but also allowing parents to have more time in their already busy

schedules. The Palacios Beacon is incredibly grateful and honored to announce this weeks Hometown Hero is Palacios ISD Cafeteria Staff.

Dr. Missy Glenn graciously provided the Palacios Beacon with the following remarks regarding the Cafeteria Staff rising to the challenge to meet the needs of our community: "Before many households are up each morning during the current COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, Palacios ISD cafeteria staff are already at work preparing a hot meal for almost a thousand children they will be feeding through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) funded by the United States Department of Agriculture in coordination with the Texas Department of Agriculture. SFSP usually provides free meals during summer breaks, but USDA and TDA quickly



made the program available now in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Palacios ISD began the lunch outreach service on March 16th when it became evident Palacios ISD would be closed longer than expected, and added breakfast items to each day's service beginning March 23rd. The Palacios Beacon Hometown Heroes have provided 35,587 meals to children in our community since the closure of our district facilities.

The East Side and JH/HS sites provide drive-thru curbside meals. The Central Elementary cafeteria staff prepare the meals to be distributed at the four bus stop locations in the district - Cape Carancahua, Boca Chica, Tres Palacios Oaks and College Port. In addition, nutrition staff prepare packages of juice, milk, fruit, and breakfast items for children to enjoy the next morning. Idle hands don't exist in the campus kitchens, and everyone moves with a purpose to have meals prepared on time. Outside the kitchen, the caf-

(See HEROES, Page 2)



Plateau?? Who knows..

After 4 days free of new cases of COVID-19, County added 3 Sun.

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

A four-day streak of no new cases of Coronavirus COVID-19 reported in Matagorda County was snapped on Sunday as three new positive cases of the virus were reported to Matagorda County Emergency Management officials.

The total number of cases in Matagorda County sits at 54. A total of 18 stricken with the virus have made full recoveries and the virus has claimed a total of three lives in the County.

Pandemic hitting PEDC in the pocket book

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

As with just about everything else on Earth, coronavirus COVID-19 spread into discussions at last week's conference call meeting of the Palacios Economic Development Corp. Board of Directors.

Mike Ferdinand, PEDC Executive Director, said "The local banks have stepped up", in response to the federal CARES Act's Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) and Economic Injury (EI) loans."

(See PEDC, Page 3)

City extends Disaster Declaration to May 12

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

While the world swirls around during the COVID-19 pandemic, work must still get done at the City of Palacios.

At last week's regular Council meeting video-conference via Zoom, Palacios Mayor Glen Smith's Declaration of a Local State of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency on March 19 was extended thru May 12 on a

(See CITY, Page 3)

• Deadline for Articles, Classified & Display Ads 4:30 p.m. Friday •

Airport recipient of \$20,000 thru CARES Act

Palacios Municipal Airport was awarded a federal grant of \$20,000 as economic relief following the economic distress caused by the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn announced today. The funding, which was appropriated by Congress last month as part of the CARES Act, comes through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"As Texas reels from the economic

destruction caused by the coronavirus outbreak, it's important our airports have the resources they need to weather the storm," Sen. Cornyn said. "I commend both the Trump Administration and leaders in Palacios who worked to secure these funds during this trying time."

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (H.R. 748, Public Law

116-136) (PDF), signed into law by the President on March 27, 2020, includes \$10 billion in funds to be awarded as economic relief to eligible U.S. airports affected by the prevention of, preparation for,

and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CARES Act provides funds to increase the federal share to 100 percent for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and supplemental discretionary grants already planned for fiscal year 2020. Under normal circumstances, AIP grant recipients contribute a matching percentage of the project costs. Providing this additional funding and eliminating the local share will allow critical safety and capacity projects to continue as planned regardless of airport sponsors' current financial circumstances.

Additionally, the CARES Act provides new funds distributed by various formulas for all airports that are part of the national airport system. This includes all commercial service airports, all reliever airports and some public-owned general aviation airports.



HEROES

(Continued From Page 1)

eteria seating areas that usually bustle with the activity of children are now utilized to hold the large volume of take-out meals until they are distributed to families. "We don't mind doing it," cafeteria workers said about the early morning work. "We enjoy providing meals for our students because for many these are the only meals they get."

The meals are distributed in a drive-thru style to avoid close contact between people. District staff observe social distancing as closely as possible, and disinfect gloved hands and surfaces frequently. As cars roll up to the pick up location, staff ask how many packaged meals are needed. Meals and fresh milk are handed off in a pre-packaged manner to avoid hands ever having to touch during the exchange of food.

Providing these meals really goes beyond the need for food. Families really look forward to getting out of the house to see the familiar face of the PISD staff. Smiles are shared with the families behind masked faces. Administrators, alongside the child nutrition team, wave and ask the children about their classes as they document the number of children served. "Remind your friends and neighbors to come tomorrow" staff urged families as they drove away on a recent day. Meals are available to ALL children 18 and younger, regardless of whether or not they attend school in Palacios.

To further limit the chances for spread of COVID-19, PISD will begin distributing meals only two days a week. On MONDAYS, lunches will be served

for Monday and Tuesday, along with breakfasts. On WEDNESDAYS, lunches for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will be provided, along with breakfasts."

Christie Miller, Director of Finance and Operations, also provided the following statement:

"As a district, our highest priority is continuing to support our students and families on all fronts -- including providing nutritious meals in this time when food uncertainty may be even higher than normal. The entire Shark team has jumped in to find ways to best serve their students during the campus closures, and have adjusted on a constant basis as the situation changes. The dedication of the Palacios ISD staff is more evident than ever, and we all look forward



WTAMU develops antiviral door protection

CANYON: Biological warfare technology born at West Texas A&M University to protect soldiers from anthrax has been readapted and deployed across campus to protect door handles from viruses and bacteria. Doors across West Texas A&M soon will receive Copper Clean stickers over handles and push plates. The stickers - basically a highly engineered copper-alloy foil with an adhesive backing - are the newest product developed by Engineering Dean Emily Hunt and a group of ambitious graduate engineering students working to commercialize patents they have obtained for West Texas A&M University and The Texas A&M University System. "The stickers are made with a copper-alloy that has been proven to kill 99.9 percent of harmful pathogens like MSRA, Staph, aerus, and E. coli within two hours," Hunt said. Soon, they will be tested against other pathogens, including COVID-19. - *The Perryton Herald*

Passing of the Tiger legend

ROCKDALE: A man who has a legitimate claim to the title of "Greatest Rockdale Athlete of All-Time" has died at the age of 78. James Leroy Wright Sr. died on Mar. 21 in a Charlotte, North Carolina hospital. Wright, a 1956 graduate of Aycock High School was a key player on the legendary Aycock football and basketball teams of 1955-56. A 6-9, 205-pound quarterback, he sparked the state-winning 1955 football season with his passing and running. In basketball the following winter and spring, he averaged 30.5 points per game and led the Tigers to yet another state title. At the University of the Pacific he averaged 21.3 rebounds per game. He was drafted by the Boston Celtics and ended up playing in the American Basketball Association as a member of the Pittsburg Pipers who won the first ABA title in 1968. He was also the first African-American assistant coach in ABA history. - *The Rockdale Reporter*

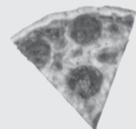
Beach camping stopped by declaration

PORT ARANSAS: Canadian camper Laurie Roberts was sleeping in the back of a GMC van near Mile Marker 9 on the beach when police knocked on his door before noon on Thursday. Authorities were there to warn him and other campers and RVers that a new beach camping ban was going into effect that evening because of mayoral restrictions put in place to deal with concerns about COVID-19. Roberts, who has camped in Port Aransas for five winters, arrived in town in late January. He has stayed with friends in the area, along with parking his van on the beach for days at a time. "I'm in a situation where I don't want to be driving across an infected country," Roberts said. "Plus, I live in a city of 6.5 million people. What's happening in New York City will likely be what it's like in Toronto. "I just don't understand it," he said. "We aren't hurting anyone out here. We are very distant from one another, and a few campers aren't going to cause any problems. It's just too bad that a certain part of the beach couldn't be designated for camping." Alice O'Leary, one of two sisters from Kewaunee, Wisconsin, also ordered to leave stated, "Port Aransas is our happy place, and they took our smile away." - *Port Aransas South Jetty*

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FROM THE MATAGORDA MEDICAL GROUP (MMG)

CALL FIRST COVID-19:

If you or someone in your care believes they have a medical condition which may be related to COVID-19, call your medical provider first about seeking medical attention. **Utilizing MMG's walk-in care services is not appropriate and may put you and others at risk.** Calling ahead to **(979) 241-6100** allows your medical provider to help you gain access to the most appropriate care in the fastest, safest way possible.

Palacios Police Reports

Individuals listed have been arrested and/or charged with an offense. Inclusion in this report does not imply that the person is guilty of any crime. The following are offense and arrest reports submitted by the Palacios Police Dept. to the Palacios Beacon as of noon Friday.

INCIDENTS

Alarm: Officer responded to the 1200 block of Newsome Ave at 8:13 a.m. on Apr. 12 in reference to an alarm system.

Concerned Citizen: Officer responded to the 12th St. Turning Basin on Apr. 12 in reference to a dog swimming in circles.

Theft: Officer was dispatched to the 400 block of E. Craymer Ave at 12:57 p.m. on Apr. 12 in reference to a report of a stolen bike which was located behind the house.

Stolen Car: Officer took a report of a Stolen Car in the 800 block of Perryman Ave at 4:56 p.m. on Apr. 12.

Assault: Officer was dispatched to the 900 block of Lucas Ave at 7:35 p.m. on Apr. 12 in reference to a fist fight which resulted in a knife being pulled by one subject who left the scene.

Suspicious Activity: Caller reported hearing knocks outside her home in the 400 block of Perryman Ave at 3:25 a.m. on Apr. 13.

Welfare Check: Officer was dispatched to the 200 block of Beecher Ave at 8:00 a.m. on Apr. 13 after receiving a request from CPS.

Request Advice: Citizen requested advice at 8:15 a.m. on Apr. 13 after sending his boat registration off for renewal and receiving a letter from Harris County stating his boat was stolen.

Civil Matter: Citizen called the Police Department at 9:45 a.m. on Apr. 13 in reference to a Civil Matter regarding a vehicle.

Request Advice: Citizen came to the Police Department at 2:08 p.m. on Apr. 13 to Request Advice.

Reckless Driver: Matagorda County Sheriff's Office advised Palacios Police Department of a Reckless Driver passing

From the Police Chief

By Police Chief David Miles



We are going through some very trying times; we will get through this virus. The citizens of Palacios have made our job much easier because of their co-operation, for this I thank you and may God bless you and your family.

the Blessing Curve at 4:00 p.m. on Apr. 13.

Request Advice: Officer received a call at 12:13 p.m. on Apr. 14 from a citizen in reference to a domestic situation.

Request Advice: Officer was dispatched to the 300 block of Welch Ave at 2:03 p.m. on Apr. 14 in reference to a call for advice on a neighbor.

Request Advice: Citizen reported at 2:20 p.m. on Apr. 14 that a neighbor in the 500 block of Welch Ave had lots of people at his residence.

Animal Call: Resident reported at 6:14 p.m. on Apr. 16 that a neighbor's dog in the 900 block of Humphrey Ave keeps getting into his property and fears for his children.

Suspicious Activity: Officer was dispatched to the 900 block of Morton Ave at 9:26 p.m. on Apr. 16 in reference to activity in the alley behind his house.

Welfare Concern: Officers were dispatched to the 2100 block of Perryman Ave at 2:36 a.m. on Apr. 17 in reference to a report of a loud noise believed to be screaming.

Sales Tax Holiday for Emergency Supplies this Sat. - Mon.

(AUSTIN) — As the nation continues to shelter in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is urging Texans to shop online or practice strict social distancing measures for in-store purchases during the sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies. The primary intent of the law that established this holiday, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 25, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 27, is to help Texans prepare for events like hurricanes and turbulent spring storms.

"Unfortunately, strong spring storms, wildfires and the upcoming hurricane season will still threaten Texans in the months ahead, and so it's important that homes and businesses have the supplies they need to face these emergencies," Hegar said. "As this pandemic continues to spread, I want to remind all Texans this sales tax holiday applies to qualifying items they purchase online, from the safety of their homes. If visiting your local retailer to purchase items, please practice appropriate social distancing as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include:

- household batteries, fuel containers and priced at less than \$75;
- hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced at less than \$300; and

- portable generators priced at less than \$3,000.

For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price. If the emergency preparation supply being purchased is taxable, the delivery charge is also taxable. Consider these charges when determining whether an emergency preparation supply can be purchased tax free during the holiday.

For example, if you purchase a rescue ladder for \$299 with a \$10 delivery charge, the total sales price is \$309. Because the total sales price of the ladder is more than \$300, tax is due on the \$309 sales price.

Unfortunately, the list of tax-free items is established by law and does not include items such as masks or personal protection equipment.

Other purchases that do not qualify include:

- batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles;
- camping stoves and camping supplies;
- chainsaws;
- plywood;
- extension ladders and stepladders; and
- tents.

A list of emergency preparation supplies that may be purchased tax free can be found on the Comptroller's website.

Local EDC's, chambers launch resources site

A local business Coronavirus COVID-19 resource site was recently launched by a combined effort of the Matagorda County Economic Development Corp. (MCEDC), Palacios Economic Development Corp. (PEDC) and all four Chambers of Commerce in Matagorda County.

The new site named Matagorda Open for Business can be found on the web at www.MatagordaOpenforBusiness.com and is made available by the MCEDC, PEDC, Bay City Community Development Corp.,

Bay City Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Palacios Chamber of Commerce, Sargent Area Chamber of Commerce and the Matagorda Area Chamber of Commerce.

The website holds 27 direct links to agencies, including, the U.S. Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan applica-

tion, the Office of the Governor of Texas' Resource Page for Business Assistance during COVID-19; and much much more.

The website also covers a wide array of issues that may be facing business owners as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic takes hold of the nation.

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PEDC

(Continued From Page 1)

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be having funding available to the fisheries, but Ferdinand noted the program hasn't been rolled out as of yet.

The financial report was bleak as Treasurer Tammy McDonald reported a good chance of revenues going down on the hotel-motel tax fund during the next quarterly report. On the EDC balance sheet, McDonald reported revenues were at 35% and said, "The sales tax is just not coming in."

PEDC, MCEDC Executive Director's Report

Ferdinand kicked off his PEDC, MCEDC Executive Director's Report with the news of German plastic manufacturer Rhoem America's plans for a \$500-million plant near Oxea, that would employ 70 "good" paying

jobs.

On the more local front, Ferdinand informed Director's with the need for sewer, drain lines along Henderson Ave. from Prosperity Bank to 10th St. which would handle the corridor of the Lynn Holding's 70-home subdivision planned behind Lowe's Market as an opportunity to update.

After finding banks currently occupied with more pressing matters at the time, Ferdinand reached out into to other funding source streams.

The best bite on the line came courtesy the H-GAC EDA grant which could cover the cost of the project, with low interest financing as well.

"I believe this would be an eligible project," Ferdinand said, "but would need the OK from the City to pursue."

The Board approved requesting Council approve the submission of the application before moving forward.

On the airport project, Ferdinand said the construction of 4-5 new hangars is entering the financing phase.

"We are at a point to have the attorney draw up leases," Ferdinand said, contingent on the projects financing.

The terms of the leases will be for 10 years with prepayment, then go year to year.

Other Items

Director Leland Singer reported making inquiries for maintenance to the front of the PEDC office.

Director Robert Garrett briefed on the Lone Star Coastal Alliance offering free website tie in for small businesses.

Approved was the Gold Sponsorship in the upcoming Lions Club 4th of July brochure.

A \$1,000 HOT Tax grant request from Poker in Palacios was tabled to next month.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PEDC Board of Directors will be held May 20 at 1:15 p.m.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

Apr. 22, 1873: The state legislature repealed the law authorizing the State Police. After repeal of the authorization law, Leander H. McNelly and at least thirty-six other State Police members became Texas Rangers.

Apr. 23, 1936: Rock and roll singer Roy Orbison was born in Vernon, Texas.

Apr. 24, 1931: O.P. DeWalt, president of the Houston NAACP, was assassinated.

Apr. 25, 1838: The United States and the Republic of Texas signed the Convention of Limits, which recognized Texas claims to disputed territory in Red River County (the present Bowie, Red River, Franklin, Titus, Morris, and Cass counties)

Apr. 26, 1874: The first of a series of twenty-three letters and poems signed "Pidge" was published in an Austin newspaper.

Apr. 27, 1907: A tornado hit Hemming, killing seven people and wiping out all but one of the town's buildings.

Apr. 28, 1900: The Southwest Texas Sacred Harp Singing Convention was organized at McMahon, ten miles east of Lockhart.

Letter To The Editor

Keep calm, stay home, take deep breaths...

Dear Editor,

Governor Abbott has closed school until the end of the school year and plans are slowly taking place to eventually re-start our economy. I'm realizing that even if folks start back to work, our lives will be forever changed. I'm now reflecting on the changes we've made so far around physical distancing, staying home, our daily schedules, and discovering what's more important to us than we may have realized.

Your frustration/aggravation at not working, staying indoors, kids not going back to school, no graduation ceremony, no parties, missing your favorite foods, activities, no money is normal. Your feeling of loss of control is normal. It doesn't feel good, but it's just a normal feeling.

My individual feelings are reflected in others in Palacios and beyond. I believe our collective "WE" as human beings is coming together to minimize the effects of this virus and mourn those we've lost.

SO, KEEP CALM, STAY HOME, and take DEEP BREATHS.

Patricia Loving

CITY

(Continued From Page 1)

unanimous vote.

The declaration allows the City apply for current and future funding from the federal and state levels due to the pandemic.

The pandemic remained the hot topic with Mayor Smith reporting a donation of 100 masks and infrared thermometer to the Police Dept. courtesy STP, and gloves and sanitizer donations from the County Emergency Operations Center.

Smith also noted good news on the Texas GLO grant the City had been working to acquire for two years for street and drainage repairs in Foley Addition had been awarded.

Approved Items

Council approved the re-adoption of local fair housing policies and practices, and the re-adoption of recording and reporting of fair housing complaints, as required for the Hurricane Harvey Grant from the GLO.

Council approved the submission of grant application

for the Local Border Security Program to the Office of the Governor. Funds from the grant are used to pay overtime to police officers.

Also approved was the submitted of a grant to the Office of Governor for a technology grant update.

Public Hearings

Council prefaced last week's meeting with a pair of public hearings.

There were no comments made on the 2017 Texas CDBG Program's Downtown Revitalization Grant.

Bob Pascasio, FACHE & CEO of PCMC, made the lone comments on the 2018 Texas CDBG Program's Community Enhancement Grant for the purchase of ultrasound equipment for PCMC, of which the City was a pass-thru for the grant funds, as he thanked the City staff for their efforts in procuring the grant.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Palacios City Council will be May 12 at 7 p.m.

FOLEY

(Continued From Page 1)

the GLO, the City of Palacios and contractors.

In accordance with an agreement between the City and the GLO, the projects outlined to improve streets and drainage must be completed by June, 2023.

CANDIDATE LISTINGS

The following have paid to have their names listed as candidates for Pos. 3 on the Palacios ISD Board of Trustees. The cost for the Candidate Listing is \$30. The cost for the candidate listing plus a one time candidate announcement article is \$50. The deadline for inclusion in the Candidate Listing or to submit a candidate announcement article is 5 p.m. Friday.

PISD TRUSTEE POS. 3

RON LAWS

[Pol. Adv. pd for by Tammy Hill, Treasurer, 222 Welch Ave, 77465]

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