

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 longterm 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 Community 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)



Palacios ISD.

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.

Tidehaven ISD lunch pickup

Palacios ISD and Tidehaven ISD will continue to serve curbside drive-thru weekday 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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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 homeschooling 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 ISD Palacios Cafeteria Staff. Dr. Missy Glenn graciously provided the Palacios Beacon with the following re-

marks 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 CO-VID-19 stay-at-home orders, Palacios ISD cafeteria staff are already at work preparing a hot meal for almost a thou-

sand children they will be feeding through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) funded by the United States Department of Agriculture in coordination with the Depart-Texas ment of Agriculture. SFSP usually provides free meals during summer breaks, but USDA and TDA quickly

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

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 Heros 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 curb-side 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)

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 COV-ID-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)

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DEADLINE 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





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Olubukola (Bukky) Ayeni, MD

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,

for,

preparation

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 publicowned general aviation airports.

(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 prepackaged 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 Pa lacios. 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 Wednesday, Thursday for 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, auerus, 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



Obstetrics and Gynecology

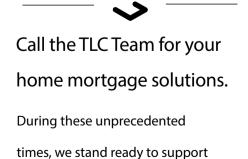
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Palacios Police Reports •

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 cooperation, 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.

(Continued From Page 1)

PE

The National Oceanic & Administra-Atmospheric tion (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

iobs.

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 ben

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

DEADLINE 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY

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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

Local EDC's, chambers launch resources site

Commerce and the Matago-

rda Area Chamber of Com-

The website holds 27 di-

rect links to agencies, includ-

ing, the U.S. Small Business

Administration Economic

Injury Disaster Loan applica-

merce.

A local business Coronavirus COVID-19 resource site was recently launched by a combined effort of Matagorda County the 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.MatagordaOpenfor-Business.com and is made available by the MCEDC, PEDC, Bay City Community Development Corp.,

THIS WEEK <u>in texas</u> 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.

H-E-B

77414

• 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.

tion, the Office of the Gover-Bay City Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Palanor of Texas' Resource Page cios Chamber of Commerce, for Business Assistance dur-Sargent Area Chamber of ing 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.

When you want LOCAL news, sports & more – choose the Palacios Beacon



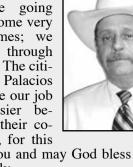
Dear Editor,

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



manufacturer Rhoem Âmeri- an eligible project," Ferdica's plans for a \$500-million nand said, "but would need plant near Oxea, that would the OK from the City to puremploy 70 "good" paying

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 readoption 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 sue.'

(Continued From Page 1)

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.

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.



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.



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 announce ment article is \$50. The deadline for inclusion in the Candidate Listing or to submit a candidate announcement article is 5 p.m. Friday

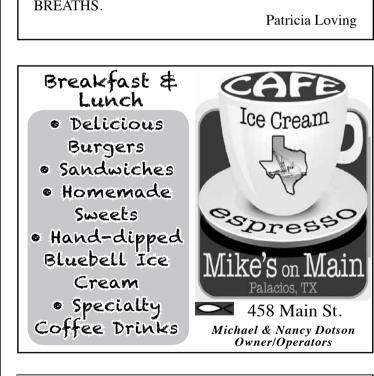
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POS. 5

RON

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





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Palacios Beacon Early Files

15 YEARS AGO - 2005

Diana Martinez, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jose Martinez, was crowned Miss Cinco De Mayo-Palacios 2005.

Twelve Palacios High School track and field athletes, led by district champions Stephanie Camp, Junior Johnson, Oscar Martinez and Martina Stepanova, head for Regional IV Class 3A track meet in Kingsville.

20 YEARS AGO-2000

The Tidehaven Tigers of the baseball diamond clinched their first playoff berth in school history with a pair of one run victories of Van Vleck and Brazos as they stretched their win streak to 10 games.

THE PHS Land Judging Team advancing to the state competition were Kelli Frankson, Michelle Beard, Mandy Benner and Jessica Evans.

Cathy Gaza and Andrea Galvan were named Rotary Club Students of the Month at PHS.

25 YEARS AGO - 1995

Hudson "Bud" Bates Jr., a former employee of U.S. Contractors working at Formosa Plastics in Point Comfort sustained severe facial injuries when a plexiglass viewing area in a pipeline ruptured, knocking him back six feet. The debris from the rupture entered both eyes causing the loss of one eye and extensive damage to the other.

A loader/backhoe built by Case Corporation was shaping the shoreline to prevent erosion at the Clive Runnells Family Mad Island Marsh project near Collegeport. Tenneco contributed the \$25,000 used to purchase the loader/backhoe.

30 YEARS AGO - 1990

Acme Systems assumed the responsibility for garbage hauling and disposal in Palacios.

The public was invited to attend an "Open House" at the newly built Recreation Center in Palacios.

Valarie Ann Rodriguez, 15 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ezequiel Garza of Palacios, was selected to be a finalist in the 1990 Miss East Texas National Teen-Age Pageant.

Over a dozen county soloists joined the County Country Opry show held at the Palacios Pavilion.

35 YEARS AGO - 1985

The Matagorda County Navigation District No. 1 made a permit application to the Corps of Engineers for a proposed marine facility at Turning Basin No. 3 that would accommodate 117 recreational boats.

The Palacios Junior High School mixed chorus sang their way into the history book at Calhoun High School Auditorium by earning the coveted Sweepstakes Trophy.

Joe Guerra advanced to the Regional Qualifier's Meet in the 3200 and 1600 meter runs held in Palacios.

The Sharkette's advanced Lisa Harvey, Eloise Segovia, Sherri Harr, Janet Brister, Christi Garcia, and Valarie Garcia to Regional Qualifier's Meet.

45 YEARS AGO - 1975

The freshman Sharks ran away with the District 26-AA title behind Luther Lee's 32 points and Fred Buckley's 30. Palacios delegates to the Future Homemakers of America State Convention were Milton Palacio Del Rio, Thomas Rodriguez, Renalyn Curtis, Ricky Buentello, Teresa Guillen and Regina Deadrick.

50 YEARS AGO - 1970

Sharks qualifying for the Regional Track Meet were Chipper Holt - pole vault, Wayne Roy - high jump, Frank Brhlik - discus, and Wayne Vacek - 100-yd dash.

Linda Stuhrenburg, junior at PHS, was crowned Queen of the Jackson Co. Farm Bureau.

55 YEARS AGO-1965

An election was held in Matagorda County on creating a



Ruin the integrity of voting...

Dear Editor, I would like to respectfully disagree with Mr. Bialek and his Letter to the Editor from last week in regards to his call to replace voting in person with voting by mail. I personally believe that going strictly to mail in voting will ruin the integrity of the voting process that we as Americans take great pride in. You don't have to search far for stories about voter fraud with mail in ballots. Go and search out articles about ballot harvesting in California and North Carolina. Ballot harvesting is where party activists go through neighborhoods to pick up ballots to turn in – you think that wouldn't be an issue? In Texas this is illegal, but it still happens. Along the Texas border with Mexico you have "politiqueros" that are paid to go out and hustle votes for certain candidates. While Mr. Bialek is concerned with unsolicited campaign literature at polling places where laws currently state that they have to be so far away from polling places, these politiqueros are going door to door. How are we going to guarantee that the ballots get to the right people? Just mail out ballots to everyone that has registered to vote? Voter lists across the country are out of date, people who have died or moved will get ballots sent to them. Who's to say that those won't get used to vote illegally? Why would there be unwanted entry to schools and churches? State law requires that polling take place at public places (government owned, ie. schools) first. After that is exhausted, churches are used mainly because they are accessible, have large parking lots, and require no usage fee. County commissioners are tasked with identifying polling places and I would be willing to bet the churches are being used with permission. I've always been politically inclined, you ask anyone I went to school with here in Palacios or my family and friends. I was so excited when I turned 18 early enough to register to vote in the 2000 presidential election. Not to get a mail in ballot to cast my vote, but to show up at a polling place, stand in line, receive my ballot, and vote for my chosen candidates. There is something that is very American about doing that and by eliminating this process for the reasons stated in Mr. Bialek's letter is taking away part of what makes this country so great. We must ensure the integrity of these elections by preventing others from taking advantage for their personal gain. If we allow mail in ballots, we cannot say for certain that those votes were not somehow tampered when the process is compared to showing up in person at a polling place. Let's keep things as they are to ensure fair elections.

hospital district and a \$900,000 bond issue for increasing the hospital facilities in Bay City.

Palacios Sharks finished 4th in the AA regional track and field meet in Kingsville, qualifying Robby Shelton in pole vault and Paul Fields in discus for the state meet.

Open house was held at the new Palacios Medical and Surgical Clinic on 4th Street, west of the hospital.

60 YEARS AGO-1960

R.C. Huddleston retired after 54 years of barbering and sold his shop to his partner Charles Wright.

Carlton Crawford was re-elected president and Eli Mayfield, executive secretary for the 6th annual meeting of Texas Mid-

Coast Water development Association in Refugio.

Formal opening of Central Power and Light Company's remodeled office was held with a public open house program.

The Sharks qualified two for state track meet at the regional meet held in Victoria. Dickie Kubecka placed first in the discus and Hensley Weaver was second in the 220 yard dash.

65 YEARS AGO-1955

Fifteen city lots went in the sheriff's sale at the court house. The district 4H entomology and tractor operator's contest were won by members of the Round Up 4-H Club. Team members were Billy Stuhrenberg, John Beard, Jr., and Billy Hurta. The tractor operator's contest was won by Norbert Eggemeyer.

Mrs. Margaret Johnson won the sweepstakes prize at the Junior Gardens Club's Flower Show.

Donnie Beard placed second in the 440 yard dash at the regional meet in Kingsville.



Offer something overlooked...

Dear Editor,

I read the two articles by Patricia Loving and Edith Gower that had offered different suggestions on taking care of yourself.

They suggested things like relax, eat, move, meditation, and others. I would like to offer some that seem to have been overlooked, and experiences that I had in a specific past situation. Key are prayer, reading your Bible, and your relationship with God. These are very real helps. This played out during a combat situation in the past.

(The picture shows two Patriot missiles streaking up into the night sky to intercept incoming Scud misdiles.) Peace like a river:

Life certainly does present challenges to us; who would have thought a few months ago that we would have the problems we face today? It was the same in 1990 when Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait without warning and were threatening Saudia Arabia.

After I was alerted to my deployment to the Persian Gulf, I told my class of teenagers in the Sunday School I taught that I would be leaving and, "No matter what happens, I just want you all to know that I love you." Reactions were immediate. I resigned my position as head of the youth program at my own Camp Ground United Methodist Church and told the youth pastor at another church where I also volunteered with the kids that I would be leaving.

In Desert Storm many of the kids wrote asking if I were afraid. One who was like a daughter to me said, "I am so scared that something is going to happen to you…" Others wrote that they were worried.

In November 1990, long before the first Scud missiles were launched against us by the Iraqis and the shooting started, I gave them my answer: "Don't worry about me or my safety. I belong to God. He is my Heavenly Father, and this is His world; He owns it and He is in complete control. Nothing is going to happen to me unless He wants it to. That means I can be at home anywhere I am. And don't worry about me when the fighting starts. Have you ever heard of a 'win-win situation' – no matter how it comes out will be good? Well, that's what I am in here. If God should choose to let me die, then I will get to be with Him. Or if He should choose to let me live and go back to the States, then I'll be able to live for Him. Either way, it will be good – and I really don't care either way. I have perfect peace. So don't pray for me that I will be safe. Rather, just pray that His will be done in my life." Still later, I received letters from a family in California who said they had read my letters to the Big Spring Middle School kids in their local newspaper which they received. I wondered what was happening. Combat is a team effort: to the extent that you can stay calm, you can do your job more effectively; this was the case. In addition, I knew the reality of what we faced: in addition to the numbers of troops, tanks, and other weapons he could use against us, Saddam Hussein had chemical and biological weapons. One time I encountered three Kuwaitis – two ladies and a girl who was about 13. The girl just stared up at me; she looked so much like one of "my kids" named Sarah who was in the Camp Ground youth group. Come what may, no way would I let her get hurt. And if things really "went south" I planned to take out 26 of the bad guys. That is not to say that I ignored precautions. I did everything we had been trained to do: always kept my protective mask, chemical suit, and weapon with me wherever I went, even sleeping with them at night. I read my Bible and prayed every day, which helped give me the sense that I was safely in God's protective care. I survived combat operations to include numerous Scud attacks and two "close calls" (similar to this picture)- but through it all, felt nothing but perfect peace and calm. All of which to say is that through it all, I had an overwhelming sense of peace, that I was completely in His care - as we are today. I did find it interesting that God can use anything, to include combat, to work His will to tell others about Jesus Christ. Roman 8:28 is so true! I would leave that message with you, that the safest thing that you could do would be to make sure that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior. Then God is your Heavenly Father - and you can rest securely in His care. Allen O. Morris US Army Retired Vietnam **Operation Desert Storm** (and a lot of things in between)

70 YEARS AGO-1950

The VFW Hall was transformed into the Shark Club for the annual junior-senior banquet.

Twenty-two attended the reunion of the Hogg family at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Hogg.

The auxiliary of St. John's Episcopal Church of Palacios entertained with a Silver Tea and Book Review at the completed summer home in Foley Village.

R.N. Grant had moved his jewelry store to the building two doors east of the post office.

75 TEARS AGO - 1945

Palacios Mayor J.L. Deutsch paid tribute to late U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt with a letter penned in the *Beacon*.

80 YEARS AGO- 1940

The site for the new bank building selected by the committee was the north 60 feet of Lots 1 and 2, Block 52, facing east on 4th Street. Construction of the building started immediately.

The American Legion had started beautifying and cleaning up East 11.

Smith and Bauer were awarded the contract for digging the turning basin for the channel leading from Palacios to the Intercoastal Canal by the city council.

The Linnie Wolf School prepared to stage a May Fete on the high school athletic field on May 4.

85 YEARS AGÓ-1935

Weldon Sullivan was elected principal of the school at Hockley. Lloyd Alton, Vernon Ryman and Arthur Randall were accepted for the CC Camp in New Mexico.

90 YEARS AGO-1930

R.D. Rawls, vocational teacher, accompanied some of his high school boys to A&M College for a number of contests.



Love belped us...

Dear Editor,

On Feb 5 of this year I lost my husband, Douglas, of 53 years. I would like to thank all family and friends for their prayers and support during his illness and after he passed. It has been really hard but the love all of you have shown has helped me and the girls to handle this a little better. We had first planned a Memorial Service on April 26th but with the virus and the stay in place request we have had to cancel that date. We are looking at May 31st. We will confirm closer to the date. We want to celebrate his life. There has been some question as to the cause of his death and I would like to clarify what happened. He had a stroke on Dec. 29th and was sent to Houston Methodist where he had a second stroke. However, he inhaled some food into his lung while in the hospital and the Death Certificate states he died of pneumonia. Lots of things happened between his first stroke and the day we lost him. May God bless all of you and be safe from the virus during this very bad time.

Helen L Callais

Thanks Beacon...

Dear Editor,

The April 15, 2020 edition of the *Beacon*, during very stressful times, was a tremendous example of the excellent hometown newspaper we are so fortunate to have in Palacios. (And Brandi, Ryan and Alan did not pay me to say that!)

Brandi's article recognizing the great staff, providers and first responders of PCMC and PMC was very well deserved and well written.

The article by Bob Pascasio, CEO of PCMC stating factually what is available at PCMC and PMC and his factual status of the positive cases in Palacios, not rumor, was informative. Alan added the eye-opening article on Modern Day Pandemics. Possibly the highlight, though, for me was the centerpiece, surreal picture by Ryan at the Baptist Encampment Amphitheater. We have been here since 1971 and I do not think I have missed an Easter Sunrise Service there, rain (inside), shine, or very cold! As Ryan said, "Absent in the body, but present in the Spirit". This picture is symbolic of what we are going through with this virus. Thanks *Beacon*. Dan and Charlotte Tucker

Ellen Batchelder



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Have An Opinion? Share Your Views. WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR



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