

Harmonie Club Members

SEE PAGE 2



Valentine Sweetheart Candidate Leaderboard

Natalie Guerrero - 2,523
Jenna Jimenez - 2,479
Patricia Castanon - 2,117



Sharks Lift To Team Silver

SEE PAGE 6

MCEDC approves contract with MCND, elects officers to serve a second term

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

In a dual Zoom - phone meeting of the directors of the Matagorda County Economic Development Corporation, the current officers were elected to a second tour of duty and the contract for economic development services with the Matagorda County Navigation District #1 was approved.

For the sake of continuity amidst the pandemic, the current officers for the MCEDC

agreed to a second tour of duty.

Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald will serve as President, with Bob Van Borssum - Vice President, Mitch Thames - Secretary, and George Harrison - Treasurer.

Contract with MCND#1

MCEDC Executive Director Mike Ferdinand reported the Matagorda County Navigation District #1 Commissioners approved the funding agreement with MCEDC for economic development services for another year.

Port Director at the Port of Palacios, Victor Martinez, reported the MCND#1 commissioners had some contention and concerns from their constituents.

In Ferdinand's absence at a recent MCND#1 board meeting, Martinez reported, "I tried to do the best I could to represent Mike's views. At the end of the day, they see the benefit (of the agreement). They really like Mike a lot and what he's done for the

(See MCEDC, Page 2)

Harmonie Club to downsize Valentine's events due to COVID

Due to COVID restrictions for Matagorda County, The Palacios Harmonie Club has chosen to forgo its traditional Sweetheart Ball and Valentine Parade.

However, the Palacios Harmonie Club will have a raffle and a crowning ceremony.

The Community is encouraged to continue to show support for the Palacios community by purchasing a raffle ticket! The Harmonie Club extends gratitude to the community with a big "Thank you for 73 years of support!" See details regarding purchasing your raffle ticket on Pg. 3.



Palacios BEACON

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Beacon Deadline
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.

Open 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Beacon Closed Wednesday

Observing Our
114th
Year
1907-2021

BEACON
BRIEFS

■ New exhibit arrives Tues. at City by the Sea Museum

The City by the Sea Museum is presenting a new exhibit, *Our Journey to Palacios: The Vietnamese Immigration Story*, that will be on display from February 9th to May 21st. This exhibition focuses on their journey from Vietnam to Palacios using their oral histories. The oral histories interviews were conducted in 2008 with members of the community about their life in Vietnam, why they fled Vietnam, and how they eventually settled in Palacios. The museum is open on Tuesday-Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For booking tours, please contact the museum 2 weeks in advance at museumpalacios@gmail.com or (361)972-1148.

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Coffee With the Chief at Mike's On Main...

ONE of the first wave of visitors for *Coffee With the Chief* at Mike's On Main were: (left to right) Julia Gonzales, Nancy Dotson, Palacios Police Chief Milton Rivera, Kala Tanner, Sharon Trainor, Officer Scott Murphy, Officer David Green, Mike Dotson and Officer Marshall Johnson. (Submitted Photo)

Free COVID-19 testing in Bay City Thurs. - Fri. Registration for COVID-19 vaccination underway at PCMC, MRMC

The State of Texas is offering free COVID-19 testing Thurs. and Fri. (Feb. 4-5), from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bay City Civic Center located at 201 7th Street, across from the high school and the hospital. It is a drive thru testing site so you don't have to leave your vehicle. This is a new Company doing the tests, and we understand it is not the deep nasal swab.

There is no cost and you can registry in line or you can visit Vendor Registration link <http://www.docshealthtesting.com> or the Patients can text the word "DOCSTX" to 41411 to get the link as well.

You will need to provide them with a

phone number or email to get your results. The results are returned depending on how many get the test, but normally 3 to 5 days.

Vaccine Registry

Registration for the COVID-19 Vaccination are now available with Palacios Community Medical Center. At this time, vaccinations are allocated to those who meet criteria.

For more information please visit: <https://dshs.texas.gov/>

Eligible individuals are encouraged to register online: ptserver.fasthealth.com/web_ecmh_tx/forms/?formID=9279.

Registering online is the preferred manner to register and is may be more

efficient than calling in to register.

However, if you are unable to register online you may register by phone: Last Names A-M call: (979) 543 6251, ext 606 and for Last Names N-Z call: (361) 972-0377

If you are not able to use the online form, you can call the phone number above, and leave a message. Calls will be returned in 3-5 business days for you to be registered. Once registered, you will be put on a wait list. You will receive a call for an appointment when COVID-19 vaccinations are available to you. MidCoast Health System is will identify vaccination locations as more

(See COVID, Page 3)

Jobless rate down 1% in County

BY ALAN C. SCHULMAN
Palacios Beacon - Reporter

Wrapping up the strangest year ever, in December, all area counties' unemployment rates once again headed downward after an upward spike in November.

Several counties, including Matagorda, experienced a decrease of a full percentage point while Texas' unemployment rate decreased by slightly less while the U.S. rate showed a very slight increase.

According to the Texas Workforce Commission, in December 2020, ten counties experienced an increase in their unemployment rates over the month, while 241

counties experienced a decrease and three experienced no change.

Individuals with some college education or associate degree had an unemployment rate of 7.0 percent. Those with a bachelor's degree and higher had an unemployment rate of 4.2 percent and those with a high school diploma had a rate of 8.6 percent.

U.S., Texas, Matagorda, and surrounding counties' not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for December 2020 are shown below, with November 2020 and percentage change in parentheses. U.S.: 6.5 percent (6.4) (0.1%) Texas: 7.1

(See JOBS, Page 3)



THE Palacios Volunteer Fire Dept. received free fiber optic internet installed by Jackson Electric Cooperative last week. PVFD's Paul Saustrup shakes the hand of Jackson Electric installer, George Loader. (Beacon Photo by Alan Schulman)

Filing at a standstill for May's City, PSD elections

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

After a filing bonanza (by Palacios standards) during the first week, not a peep has been made on the front in week two in May's City and Palacios ISD elections.

One week into filing and there was already a contested race on the city ballot, as incumbent Pos. 4 Councilman Troy Lewis filed for reelection and has drawn a challenger in Lindsey Backen.

Sharon Trainor has filed

(See FILING, Page 3)

Zamarripa nominated by City to MCAD spot

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

It was a pair of joint announcements for the City and Palacios ISD, with Council approving an inter-local agreement for election services in the upcoming May local elections and the nominating of a candidate to succeed the late John Connor on the Matagorda County Ap-

(See CITY, Page 3)

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



Members of the Harmonie Club

MEMBERS of the Palacios Harmonie Club are: (front, l-r) Debra Trammell, Salina Guerrero, Amy Tapia, Nieves Jimenez, Nellie Lee and Alyson Roe; (back) Daphni Bowers, Tiara Tran, Mashelle Seaman, Chi Gibson, Alysha Diaz, Linda Wilson, Sarah Chapman, Keli Buzek and Gina Guerrero. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

Chamber of Commerce elects new officers

BY ALAN C. SCHULMAN
Palacios Beacon - Reporter

You may have noticed the absence of coverage in the *Beacon* of monthly meetings of the Palacios Chamber of Commerce since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic last year.

The Chamber has not held their

monthly luncheon meetings since the onset of the pandemic however, the business of the Chamber continues through its support of local businesses at its office, website, and social media pages. The Chamber Board of Directors have, however, been meeting recently, in person and virtually.

Members voted in November to fill

four director positions, with the results of the election naming Vikijane Mosier, Louis Rush, Mark Rusk, and Mary Van Borssum to a new 3-year term while directors completing their terms are Wayne Dodd, John Harrison, David King, James Kubecka, Sally Kurtz, Leslie Machicek, Clissa Mills, Silvia Picon, Esmerelda Salinas, Amy Tapia, and Terri Treadway.

New executive officers voted on by the directors in December are Sally Kurtz, President, David King, Vice President, and Mary Van Borssum, Treasurer.

Newly-elected President Sally Kurtz stated, "The challenges we have all faced in 2020 were numerous. Business closures, loss of jobs, separation from friends and family, and some even suffering through the virus have all certainly tested our strength and resilience. We all look forward to resuming our monthly membership meetings where we can once again enjoy the company of others while sharing ideas and fellowship."

(Continued From Page 1)

"I've got to say from where I sit, is it appropriate for this board to have a workshop, where this board and this board president clearly understand what the Navigation District wants," McDonald said. "At least on 2 to 3 occasions, we brought what I thought they were asking for, only to find out when it got here it wasn't what they wanted."

"I'm befuddled. Unless someone can give me some clear direction, I'm going to want it in writing this time. Then I'll go to work with

Mike to get it."

Thames went further than just the type of project.

"Not just what types of projects they are looking for, but what types of projects they can fund," Thames said.

"I want clear in my mind, before we bring a project, to make sure that they have legal authority to help with financials."

Executive Director's Report

There has been an increase in Request For Proposals (RFPs) fielded by Ferdinand's office after the drama of election year.

"The types of projects have changed," he noted, "Real, good projects are starting to come forward."

He noted one Governor's office RFP sent off has reached the second round, and the ongoing Rhoem America LLC project is in the final decision process of site selection.

"We are continuing to see renewable energy projects, with two active in the county, however neither are finalized," Ferdinand said.

On the manufacturing side, Ferdinand's office has been contacted by a site locator with two green projects and an RFP seeking to purchase green power in the area.

Approved Items

The MCEDC board approved the 2021 Budget, the monthly financial report and minutes.

Campbell-Huitt Insurance

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Palacios, TX

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Business

Home

&

Flood



MCEDC

county and done for Palacios as much as he can. His hard work and commitment to get something over to the port," Martinez noted, "Doesn't go unnoticed."

After discussion, Martinez reported the MCND #1 commissioners were able to go ahead and approve another year of dealing with the MCEDC.

The contention of the MCND #1 commissioners was equaled by MCEDC President McDonald, who suggested workshop to find clarity.


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PALACIOS BEACON Area Briefs

Man accidentally shot while on hike

LULING: Improper backstops at a private shooting range along a Caldwell County country road north of Luling likely resulted in an accidental shooting Sunday afternoon, investigators reported earlier this week. Caldwell County sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a private residence along Robin Ranch Road to investigate the shooting on Sunday. They arrived to find a man with a gunshot wound to his knee. He was rushed to Seton Hays for treatment and later released, the sheriff's office reported. The man told officers he'd been on a hike on his own private property when the shooting took place. Upon further investigation, officers determined that the shot came from the neighbor's place. Deadly conduct charges will likely be filed, the sheriff's department said, as the subjects there did not have a proper backstop on their range, and they were not shooting in a safe direction.

- Luling Newsboy & Signal

Whooping Crane Festival cancelled

PORT ARANSAS: The Whooping Crane Festival that normally is held each year in Port Aransas has been cancelled due to concerns about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Each February since 1996, the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Bureau hosts the festival, a celebration of endangered whooping cranes. "We didn't want our 25th year of hosting the festival to be virtual," said Lisa Shelton, special events manager with the chamber. In a normal year, festival attendees have opportunities to take guided boat tours to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge to view the world's last naturally occurring population of whooping cranes on their wintering grounds.

- Port Aransas South Jetty

Long-running dispute ends in clash

EL CAMPO: A clash between two long-quarreling men ended in a Friday night knife-fight in a Second Street store's parking lot. One man suffered non-life-threatening injuries in the 8:00 p.m. incident including cuts to his left forearm and ribcage. "They have an ongoing feud," El Campo Police Lt. Russell Urban said, adding, "They got into a fight outside the store." No one else was reportedly endangered by the fight that took place shortly before 7:00 p.m. on Friday in the parking lot of Quick N Easy 1,703 E. Second. Edgar Eduardo Jaramillo, 19, stands accused of being the attacker. Fleeing the scene of attack, his vehicle was marked by a hurled rock which smashed a window. He was arrested about an hour later on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

- El Campo Leader-News



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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.

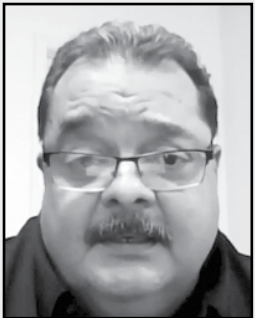
ARRESTS
Terrence Jay Poessel, 42, 517 Mertie Ave., was arrested in the intersection of 1st St. and Green Ave at 10:26 p.m. on Jan. 25. Warrant Service Out of Matagorda County Sheriff's Office.
Elliott Dean Young-Jackson, 24, 45 Seashell Blvd. 1001, was arrested at 45 Seashell Blvd. at 1:40 a.m. on Jan. 27. Warrant Service Capias.
Alex L. Rojas, 29, 316 E. Tres Palacios Ave., was arrested in the intersection of 2nd St. and Ritchie Ave at 6:08 p.m. on Jan. 27. Warrant Service Capias.
Adriel Scott Cerda, 40, 102 Sandpiper Circle 4, was arrested in the intersection of 12th St. and Perryman Ave at 11:50 p.m. on Jan. 28. Driving While Intoxicated.

INCIDENTS
Towed Vehicle: Officers initiated a traffic stop in the 300 block of W. Craymer Ave at 12:07 a.m. on Jan. 26. The vehicle was towed and the driver was issued a citation for operating a motor vehicle on a public highway without a valid driver's license.

From the Police Chief

By Police Chief Milton Rivera

The Palacios Police Department urges you that if you "SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING." No matter how small or insignificant, call us. A small thing could lead to a significant issue later; let's keep Palacios safe and clean.



Burglary of a Habitation: Officers responded to the 200 block of East University Ave at 10:30 p.m. on Jan. 25 in reference to a Burglary of a Habitation. A locked garage was broken into and items were stolen from inside the vehicle.

Breakfast & Lunch

- Delicious Burgers
- Sandwiches
- Homemade Sweets
- Hand-dipped Bluebell Ice Cream
- Specialty Coffee Drinks



Mike's on Main
Palacios, TX
458 Main St.
Michael & Nancy Dotson
Owner/Operators

JOBS-

(Continued From Page 1)

percent (8.0)	(-0.9%)
Brazoria: 8.6 percent (9.4)	(-0.8%)
Calhoun: 6.1 percent (6.4)	(-0.3%)
Colorado: 6.1 percent (6.6)	(-0.5%)
Fort Bend: 7.4 percent (8.4)	(-1.0%)
Jackson: 6.0 percent (6.5)	(-0.5%)
Matagorda: 10.4 percent (11.4)	(-1.0%)
Wharton: 7.0 percent (7.7)	(-0.7%)

Palacios City Manager's Monthly Departmental Report

HURICANE HARVEY
Harvey CDBG-DR: Engineer is 95% complete with design work; The grant award is in the amount of 1.4 million for drainage and street improvements in the Foley Subdivision utilizing Harvey CDBG-DR funds.
Harvey Mitigation Grant Project; GLO is scoring the applications with a completion date of March 2021. The grant award in the amount of \$3-5 million for drainage improvements.
Harvey Mitigation Grant Administrator and Engineer are working on the Coastal Resiliency Project application. The application is to create a living shoreline 50 to 100 feet off the shoreline to create a breakwater that will prevent erosion along the coastline.
ADMINISTRATION
Working with Grant Works to submit the Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant in Summer of 2021.
PUBLIC WORKS
Work Orders Completed: 5 water leaks, 115 misc. work orders, 10 sewer stoppage calls and repairs, 31 animal calls, 39 animals picked up and \$530 collected; 26 miscellaneous work orders, 187 completed work orders; cleaned ditches, resetting culverts and cleaning out existing culverts; repaired pot-holes.
Mowed RR Park and other city properties, water plants, and 14 lift stations.
AIRPORT
Working with PEDC on Airport Projects for new hanger and Fixed Base Operator
POLICE
Calls for Service 356

Citations 29 Warnings 59 issued, and 20 arrests
Cases Assigned 12 and 5 Cases Closed
Traffic accidents 3
Reports written 49
Warrants for Arrest 9
Police Department was given final approval for the Technology Grant for one new police vehicle and upgrade all in-car videos and body cameras. Police Chief is working with HGAC and vendor.
BUILDING PERMITS & CODE ENFORCEMENT
Permits - New construction 6, Remodel 5, Electrical 5, Plumbing 3, Mechanical 0, Gas 0, Roof 3, Leveling 0, Demo 7, Driveway 3, Misc. permits 8, Plan Reviews 12, Consultations, and Inspections 49.
Completed 8 new GLO Homes due to Hurricane Harvey damages for the 2020 calendar year.
7 new GLO Homes in plan review, permitting, or construction phase for 2021; More homes in the future to be built.
Code Enforcement- Contacts 5, Letters 7, citations 0, door hangers 0, 1 demolition, and 1 0 inspections; working on code violations and new list of demolitions to be presented to the Zoning Board of Adjustments for approval.
MUNICIPAL COURT
Citations 35 Juvenile Citations 0 Violations 45
Fines Collected \$7,380.50
Community Service and Jail Time Hours Served 68
Magistrate at Jail 34

FILING

for a run at Pos. 3 on the Council, currently held by Mary Crocker - who has yet to make her intentions known.
The race for Pos. 5, currently held by Wayne Dodd is still to be determined with neither he, nor a challenger stepping forward thus far to sign on the proverbial dotted line.
On the City ticket, up for grabs will be Pos. 3, Pos. 4 and Pos. 5, currently occupied by Crocker, Lewis and Dodd, respectively.
The filing front continues to be bare for PISD, where nary a packet has been picked up for the Trustee elections for Pos. 1 & 2, currently occupied by Rob Kessler and Peter Estraca, respectively.
Filing is now underway and runs thru Feb. 12 for the Palacios City Council and Palacios ISD Trustee elections to be held May 1.
Filing for the City races may be done in person with City Secretary Clissa Mills, at City Hall, located at 311 Henderson Ave. If filing by mail, applications may be mailed to Mills at the City of Palacios, P.O. Box 845.
For a run at the PISD ballot, applications may be filed in person at the Palacios ISD Administration Building, located at 1209 Twelfth Street. Preference is to make an appointment with Sara Trevino via phone or email. She can be reached at 361-972-5491 Ext. 1007 or email saraht@palaciosisd.org. She is a notary.

Council eligibility requirements
Each candidate for a City Council position, at the time of filing of his/her application for a place on the ballot, shall be a registered voter in the City; shall be a resident of the City and shall have resided within the corporate limits of the City for at least one (1) year preceding the date of the election at which he/she is a candidate; shall not have been convicted of a felony criminal offense or a crime involving moral turpitude; shall not be delinquent on city taxes; and shall not be in violation of any other provision of the Charter.
Trustee eligibility requirements
To be eligible to be a candidate for, or elected or appointed to, the office of school board member, a person must:
1. Be a United States citizen.
2. Be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled at the election or on the date of appointment, as applicable.
3. Have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.
4. Have not been convicted of a felony.
5. Have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the territory from which the office is elected for six months immediately preceding the following date:
a. For an independent candidate, the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot.
b. For a write-in candidate, the date of the election at which the candidate's name is written in.
c. For an appointee to an office, the date the appointment is made.
6. Be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected on the date described at item 5, above.

COVID

(Continued From Page 1)
doses become available. The vaccine may also be available through other Matagorda County medical facilities & pharmacies.
Please do not call the main phone number for PCMC or PMC to ask for the vaccine; call the numbers above.
Matagorda Regional Medical Center has launched a new COVID-19 Vaccine Wait List. You can find it online at matagordaregional.org/waitlist along with a video providing answers to the most commonly asked questions about vaccine distribution in Matagorda County.

(Continued From Page 1)
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Palacios Harmonie Club

2021 Raffle

Donation of \$5 each

Drawing will be on Saturday, February 13, 2021

1. Beneath the Oaks Winery Package (Wine tasting for 2, Two wine glasses, Charcuterie Snack Board, choice of 6 bottles of wine to take home with you) donated by Beneath the Oaks Winery
2. Solart Design 7-piece Canvas Collage (photos of your choice) donated by Solart Design (Marisol Gonzalez)
3. \$100 Gift Certificate to Mad Batter Cheesecake donated by Mad Batter Cheesecake (Brittani Riccio)
4. Oster French Door Digital Toaster Oven
5. Apple AirPods with charging case
6. TCL 40" Smart LED ROKU TV
7. Black & Decker 20V Max Cordless Drill Combo Kit
8. Consuela Purse donated by Palacios Prescription Shoppe
9. Instant Pot 6 Quart Stainless Steel
10. Blackstone Adventure Ready 2 Burner 28" Outdoor Griddle
11. Shark ION Robot Vacuum R76 with Wi-Fi
12. One Hour Photo Session with Haley Kruse Photography donated by Haley Kruse
13. \$100 5th Street Boutique Gift Certificate donated by 5th Street Boutique
14. Danny's Seafood Entrée of choice (Grilled Fish or Steak Plate) donated by Danny's Seafood
15. 60 minute massage gift certificate donated by Massage Heights
16. 5# Shrimp donated by W&W Dock
17. Bissel Crosswave All-in-One Wet Vac donated by Palacios Dental Center
18. Photo Session with Vivid Memories Photography donated by Veronica Kacer
19. 1 Alligator Tag and Guide donated by Jason Gibson

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