

Police Pitch In At The Pump

SEE PAGE 3



Millions Of Texans Dealing With Water Supply Issues

SEE PAGE 4



5 Habits To A Healthy Mind & Body

SEE PAGE 8

Palacios survives, thaws out after deep freeze

BY ALAN C. SCHULMAN
Palacios Beacon - Reporter

Last week's deep freeze was a challenge for all of Texas, with power outages, iced roads and bridges, and frozen water pipes. How that challenge was met by local government is the question posed to three leaders in the community on Thursday as the crisis appeared to be in the rear view mirror.

Palacios Police Chief Milton Rivera responded stating, "Chief Rivera thanks the citizens of Palacios that donated food, water, and blankets for the temporary shelter at the Police Station during this winter freeze. The Chief also wants to congratulate

late the Palacios Police Department Officers who opted to stay in the city and not be home with their families. The Police Department also appreciates all the community organizations and businesses that assisted the Police Department during the freeze.

Fortunately, the Police Department did not receive any reports of accidents, injuries, or death during the freeze. The Department is still conducting welfare checks to ascertain that everyone is safe. The Police Department is looking closely at their technological resources to improve our communication center for any future events. The Chief has an open-door policy, and you can reach out to him for any concerns

or comments at 361-972-2728."

Addressing the local water supply, Palacios City Manager David Kocurek commented, "The system-wide water pressure went down for 6-8 hours Monday night through Tuesday morning due to the major water breaks, homeowners' water line breaks, and extreme water usage by homeowners to keep their water lines from breaking. The City pumped 1.2 million gallons of water during the 24-hour period. Our normal consumption is 300,000 gallons daily average. It was the extreme demand on our system (that caused the down time). We never stopped producing water for the community."

(See FREEZE, Page 2)



A homemade iced lawn sculpture.

WEDNESDAY
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PALACIOS, TEXAS

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



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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

St. Anthony's fish & shrimp fundraiser Fri.

St. Anthony of Padua's Catholic Church, located at 1004 Magnusson, in Palacios will be holding a fried fish & shrimp plate fundraiser on Fri. (Feb. 26) beginning at 4 p.m. until sold out. Plates are \$10 and includes fried fish & shrimp, coleslaw, hush puppies and french fries.

Palacios Beacon

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Sharkettes win Area crown...

THE ball bounces on for the Palacios Sharkettes after they won the Area crown in a 62-56 win over Luling's Lady Eagles in a three-time rescheduled meeting eventually played in Hallettsville last Saturday and advance to the Class 3A Region III Quarterfinals. After the final buzzer, it was all smiles for the Sharkettes. For more on the Sharkettes see Page 8. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

PISD classes cancelled all last week due to freeze

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Palacios ISD students were to resume classes this past Mon. (Feb. 22) after the winter storms forced the district to close its door for all of last week.

While students were scheduled for a day off for President's Day, the ensuing weather event had the feel of last year's spring break - which turned into summer break.

"I really thought moving to the coast, I would not have to deal with closing school due to winter weather," said PISD Superintendent Dr. Bill Chapman.

The district's initial closure was due to the winter conditions, especially the potential build up of ice.

"Then came the unforeseen bigger problems," Chapman said, "Loss of power and water."

"I really was hopeful we could get power back to our buildings and get our kids back in school, but it became apparent that there was widespread loss of utilities throughout the district. Many

(See PISD, Page 3)



PEDC bids Ferdinand farewell...

PALACIOS Economic Development Corp. Board President Bob VanBorssum (right) presents outgoing PEDC Executive Director Mike Ferdinand (left) with a commemorative plaque at a going away celebration held in Bay City last week. (Submitted Photo)



Cold forced STP's Unit 1 reactor offline

Last week's near record-setting cold that knocked out power across much of the Lone Star State was also responsible knocking the South Texas Project's Unit 1 nuclear reactor offline.

A release from the company last week reported STP Unit one reconnected to the Texas power grid on Feb. 17 at 9:07 p.m. and has returned to its full capacity of approximately 1350MW.

On Monday, Feb. 15, at 5:26 a.m., an automatic reactor trip occurred at South Texas Project in Unit 1 causing the unit to come offline. The cause of this unit trip originated from a cold weather induced failure of a feedwater pressure sensing line. STP Operators took immediate action to stabilize the unit and then to focus on promptly returning Unit 1 to the grid. Unit 2 remained online throughout this period and continues to support the Texas ERCOT grid along with Unit 1.

"STP recognizes the hardships our fellow Texans

(See STP, Page 2)

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

Main St. blanketed in snow




PALACIOS BEACON Area Briefs

No one hurt in EBISD gas leak

EAST BERNARD: No one was hurt near Memorial Stadium on the grounds of the East Bernard ISD or in the nearby neighborhood on Thursday after a gas pipe was accidentally punctured by an employee. "There was a water leak behind the stadium. In the process of locating the leak, the uncommonly shallow buried gas line was punctured by an employee," said EBISD Superintendent Courtney Hudgins. According to EBISD, after the incident occurred, a shelter had been in place for all students. Hudgins said it was 50 minutes that all staff and students were sheltered in place on the respective campuses. It took 20 minutes to repair the leak. - East Bernard Express

El Campo fugitive caught in Mexico

EL CAMPO: Mexican authorities Saturday arrested the El Campo man who became one of Texas' 10 Most Wanted. Information hasn't been made available yet on when Camillo Rodriguez, 37, will be returned to Wharton County to face charges of failure to register as a sex offender, three counts of sexual assault of a child, assault/family violence, burglary of a habitation, and criminal mischief. Rodriguez, a U.S. citizen, has been wanted since July 2019, when he absconded from El Campo, his last known address. The Texas Department of Public Safety added Rodriguez to the Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offender list in February, 2020, offering a cash reward of up to \$3,000 for information leading to arrest. "The U.S. Marshals worked with a local PD in Mexico to find him," El Campo Police Cpl. Mark Biskup said, but added he didn't know what city Rodriguez was in when he was captured. - El Campo Leader-News



THE marsh areas along Perryman Ave. were dusted in snow and nearly frozen solid during last week's frozen winter weather event. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

FREEZE

(Continued From Page 1)

Finally, for a county-wide review, County Judge Nate McDonald stated, "I can tell you that the County bridges I crossed the last four days were sanded, as well as the TXDOT bridges I crossed. Certainly there have been some fallen trees removed as well. We have worked with Jackson Electric Coop and AEP to get the communities in Matagorda County rolled on for electricity. When ERCOT dragged its feet, I enlisted the help of Senator Lois Kolkhorst and Representative Cody Vast to encourage our grid administrators to send power to Matagorda County. City Manager David Kocurek also was a big help in communicating the needs of Palacios to me, so I could work with the right groups to get those needs addressed. As we did not have adequate water in Bay City to open the Courthouse and County Office Building on Tuesday or Wednesday, we closed them until we could provide a safe and sanitary place for our County employees to carry out their duties in. On Thursday, we reopened with most County offices open and providing services.

"We opened a warming shelter at the Tidehaven ISD shelter dome on Monday evening and it remains open throughout this period of cold weather we are currently in."

It appears that local government departments prepared and executed well during this crisis. Now, if we could just get a few truck-loads of water pipe and fittings for all the home plumbing repairs taking place.

STP

(Continued From Page 1)

are experiencing due to the combination of cold weather and not having electricity and heat in their homes and businesses," said Jim Connolly, Chief Nuclear Officer for STP Nuclear Operating Company. "We have experienced an unprecedented cold weather event statewide which presented a

challenge to our systems. We will conduct a full review of the causes of this loss of generation and apply appropriate preventive and corrective actions to continuously improve the reliability of our units," said Connolly. To learn more about STP, visit stpnc.com.

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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

Dillon Devin Thomas, 27, Brazoria, was arrested in the 400 block of E. Elizabeth Ave at 8:49 p.m. on Feb. 18. Possession of a Controlled Substance, Failure to Identify.

Meghan Alexandria Naranjo, 28, 312 E. Tres Palacios, was arrested in the 400 block of E. Elizabeth Ave at 8:49 p.m. on Feb. 18. Warrant Service Out of County, Warrant Service Bay City Police Department.

INCIDENTS

Traffic Stop: Officers conducted a Traffic Stop at the intersection of 1st St. and McGlothlin Ave at 2:45 a.m. on Feb. 14. The vehicle doing 97 mph was being operated by a 16-yr-old Hispanic male with no driver's license. The vehicle was impounded and the juvenile male was issued several citations.

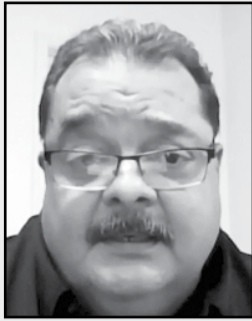
Vehicle in a Ditch: A vehicle was reported in a ditch in the 400 block of McGlothlin Ave at 6:08 a.m. on Feb. 14.

Aggravated Assault With a Deadly Weapon: Officers responded to a 911 call for service regarding a domestic violence aggravated assault at 45 Seashell Blvd. at 5:55 p.m. on Feb. 15. An investigation is ongoing.

Theft, Public Intoxication: Officers responded to a call for service at 7-11 at 10:24 p.m. on Feb. 17 in reference to a Theft. Officers located the suspect inside a vehicle matching the description given by store employees along with the products that were reported stolen. The subject was a white female in her 40s who was

From the Police Chief

By Police Chief Milton Rivera



Please be aware that after every disaster, the predators and scofflaws come out to take advantage of those in need. Please be mindful of any impersonators of power companies or contractors knocking on your door. I urge you not to let them in your home and call the Palacios Police Department to identify these unknown subjects. Remember, See something, Say something; it's essential to keep our community safe.

positively identified by store employees. Due to jail cells being used as shelter from frigid temperatures, the suspect was issued citations for Class C misdemeanor theft and public intoxication and released back to her residence.

Evading Arrest With Vehicle: Officers initiated a traffic stop resulting in a known male, who was wanted for a felony warrant, evading the scene. Officers chased the suspect, who then stole a bicycle from a residence and fled the location. The search for the suspect and investigation is ongoing.



Police called to keep order at gas stations

AFTER nearly 36 hours without power or fuel available for generations, the lights came on the the gas pumps became operational residents and outlying neighbors in the area made a dash for the fuel lines. After lines for gas backed up into Henderson Ave. and around the corner on 12th St., Palacios Police manned the gas pumps to help keep the order from breaking down into chaos. A similar scene unfolded at Porter's Ace Hardware when refilling of propane tanks became available and the Police helped keep things going in an orderly fashion. (Beacon Photos by Ryan West)



PISD

(Continued From Page 1)

of our students and staff and their families simply were not able to come to school as they needed to focus on taking care of themselves."

PISD didn't escape the freezing cold unscathed when it came to busted pipes.

"We did have a water main at the HS campus that affected a couple of buildings. Biggest issue there was getting parts. At East Side, there was one building that suffered water damage after a pipe busted. We have

taken care of cleaning it up and then making needed repairs," he added.

"We are appreciative of the time and effort put in by our maintenance staff to prepare our facilities, and then getting in to take care of repairs."

Parent's certainly breathed a sigh of relief when Monday rolled around and the kids were back in class.

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THANK YOU

The members of the Harmonie Club would like to thank all those who participated in and supported our 74th fundraiser.

It was an honor to work with the Sweetheart Candidates, their escorts and parents.

This year our event was uniquely different but your dedication, hard work and enthusiasm helped to continue to make this annual event a success.

We appreciate our Sweetheart Candidates dedication to raffle sales this year and we also wish to send a special thank you to our following raffle donors:

Beneath the Oaks Winery, Solart Design, Mad Batter Cheesecake, Palacios Prescription Shoppe, Haley Kruse Photography, 5th Street Boutique, Danny's Seafood, Massage Heights, W&W Dock, Palacios Dental Center, Vivid Memories Photography: Veronica Kacer, Jason Gibson.

Thank You to the Palacios Recreation Center and Carlos Duran Catering for preparing our delicious meal.

A Special thank you Mr. Peacock and students, Intaplast, Linda Curtis and Sally Kurtz.

We appreciate the participation of the sponsors and the support you provided your candidates.

To all of our local Merchants, thank you for allowing the Candidates to display their cans in your businesses.

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AUCTIONS

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SPECIAL FEMALE SALE

Sat. Feb. 27, noon, Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co., Hallettsville, TX. Available to buy & bid online: LiveAuctions.TV 2.0, Margo Paeltz (937) 515-1194. Kim Hagan: (361) 293-4720, Mark Hagan: (361) 293-8116, Mike Heller: (361) 293-4949, David Heller: (979) 743-0436.

EVENTS

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NEW RENEWAL



February 24, 2021 - Page 8
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 • Wedding stories must be submitted within 4 weeks of ceremony to be published at nominal rate, otherwise \$6.25 per column inch rate will apply.

5 Hobbies to Keep Your Body & Mind Healthy & Happy

(StatePoint) As the pandemic continues to restrict many of the places you are able or inclined to go, finding ways to stay active is important for keeping the body and mind healthy and happy. Here are some ideas for new hobbies to try.

jour! ¡Hola! With an array of online language classes and tutorials available at your fingertips, learning a new language is more accessible than ever. Start now while you fantasize about a post-pandemic vacation overseas.

- Play an instrument: Learning to play an instru-

ment is not only a great distraction for the current moment, it can provide you with years of joy as your skill develops. Consider starting your musical journey on a Casio tone



keyboard. By connecting the keyboard to the free Chordana Play app, you can easily learn to play your favorite songs from downloaded MIDI files. Once you've mastered the instrument, the portability of the keyboard will come in handy, whether you play solo or join a band.

• Become a home chef: From sushi to soufflé to dumplings, there are likely a range of dishes you have never attempted making at home. Tackle your culinary bucket list, one-by-one.

• Go hiking: There is no better hobby for staying fit and communing with nature than hiking, which works every muscle of the body, boosts cardiovascular health and even improves mood and mental well-being. Track your hike using a wearable tech tool geared for outdoor enthusiasts, such as a watch from the Casio's Pro Trek line. Quad Sensor technology packs all the measure-

Purchase a place in Palacios history with personalized Pavilion pavestones

The historic Palacios Pavilion is a beloved landmark for generations of those who lived in and visited Palacios. With the new pavilion completed, we have an essential feature of the pavilion, our walking trails and plazas made in part from beautiful terracotta pavers. Your company, family or friends can be a part of the new pavilion

by purchasing a paver. The cost is \$50 each. Your name, sentiment or memory will be inscribed on your paver. All proceeds from the sale of the engraved pavers will go toward funding needed to maintain the pavilion. You can find the Pavilion on Facebook: memories of the Palacios Pavilion, online at www.palaciospavilion.org or Palacios Beautification and Pavilion Committee POBox 218, Palacios, Tx. 77465. You can also call Joe Kana 361-920-0182.

Obituaries

For an obituary to be published, it must be submitted by either a funeral home or a family member. There is a \$47 charge for a standard obituary.

RAÚL FLORES, JR.

A memorial celebration of the life of Raúl Flores, Jr., 65, of Freeport, will be announced at a later date where his cremated ashes will be placed to rest in Bloomington accompanied by immediate family members.



Raúl was born in Port Lavaca, Texas June 27, 1955, the eldest of 9 children, to his parents Raul Flores and Carmen Salinas Flores, and his life did not come to an end with his peaceful passing on January 30, 2020 with his wife of 25 years, Nora Flores and stepson Brian Reading by his side, as heaven gained a shining light upon his arrival.

He was known for his gentle, loving and caring heart and for his keen and astute listening ability of all those around him.

He attended elementary schools in Palacios and learned to play golf at an early age from his father. He graduated in 1975 from Palacios High School. In 1977, he obtained an associates degree from Wharton Jr. College and honored as Mr. WCJC by his colleagues. He attended Pan AM University in 1975 and Southwest Texas State University in 1978 with an art focus later inspiring his educational materials.

He was a member of Job Corp in 1987. In 1994, Raul was a youth counselor with the Houston Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse in the Camp Twist/Shout Programs servicing young children in Houston and later with adults in Bay City. He was an educational paraprofessional from 1998-2008 with Brazosport ISD.

His loving heart will never be forgotten by all those who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his father, Raúl Flores, Sr.

He is survived by siblings: Julia Gonzales (Ruben), Flavio Flores (Christine), Richard Flores (Patricia), Pedro Flores (Diana), Gustavo Flores (Lisa), Carmen Phillips (Walt), Rita Flores, Rita Teresa Flores (Eric Matias); stepson John Reading (Donna); along with many nephews and nieces.

The Kitchen Table

By Debbie Mosier

Sweet Bread

I'm a fan of sweet breads like banana and zucchini breads. It's so easy to bake loaves and slice them into individual servings, store in individual Ziploc bags, and toss them in the freezer until ready to use. After thawing, pop the sliced bread into the microwave to warm and serve. The bread tastes like it's fresh-baked right out of the oven. If you enjoy carrot cake, you will enjoy the delicious new flavor combination of this week's recipe—carrot and zucchini. The blend of spices and addition of pecans or walnuts makes this bread a special treat.

Zucchini-Carrot Bread

- 3 c. flour
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1 t. baking powder
- ½ t. salt
- 1 t. cinnamon
- 1 t. nutmeg
- 1 c. chopped pecans or walnuts
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 ½ c. sugar
- ¾ c. vegetable oil
- ½ c. honey
- 2 t. vanilla
- 1 c. shredded, unpeeled zucchini
- 1 c. shredded carrots

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and prepare two 9 inch by 5 inch loaf pans by greasing and flouring. Combine the flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg and nuts in a bowl and set aside. In another bowl, combine the eggs, oil, sugar, honey, and vanilla. Add the zucchini and carrots. Mix well. To this mixture gradually add the dry mixture and stir until all ingredients are combined. Divide the batter evenly between the two loaf pans. Bake for one hour or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pans for ten minutes and then remove to wire racks to cool completely.

Comments and questions are always welcome by email to debbie.mosier@gmail.com.

Happy Heavenly Birthday Mom!

Missing you.

Love, Dennis

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Sharkettes clip eagle wings for Area title

Face winner of Blanco-Columbus in Regional Qtr. Finals either Wed. or Thurs.

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon Publisher

The Palacios Sharkettes show will continue for at least another week, after coach Aaron Wollam's cagers clipped the wings of Luling's Lady Eagles 62-56 for the Area basketball

championship. In a game that was rescheduled three times due to last week's winter storm event before eventually being played in Hallettsville on Sat. (Feb. 20), Palacios earned just its third trip to the Class 3A Region III Quarterfinals.

Just exactly who the Sharkettes will play, and when and where the Regional Quarterfinal contest will take place is still to be determined. Palacios will face the winner of Columbus vs. Blanco, which was slated for Mon. (Feb. 22). Look to the Palacios Beacon Online

and the Palacios Beacon on Facebook for updates on the Sharkettes' run in the basketball playoffs.

"Area champs!" exclaimed Wollam, "Let's go!" "I can't tell you how proud I am of this group of ladies. We waited a week to play thru one of the worst freezes we have ever seen," Wollam said. "All the kids wre in survival mode for four days this week. Some in town, some out of town. We got together late in the week in time to re-focus and get ready to play some basketball."

After a slow start out of the gates for both squads, the Sharkettes began to find their groove and held a 27-22 lead at halftime.

On a 9-2 run to open the second half, Luling regained the lead 31-29 with 5:09 left in the third quarter. Palacios stemmed the Lady Eagles mid-flight and retook the lead (one it'd not lose again) on a bucket by Cara Polk with 4-minutes left and kicked off a 12-2 run by the Sharkettes to close out the quarter up 45-33.

The Sharkettes went up by a much as 14 points in the fourth quarter with 6:22 left in the game, before the Lady Eagles' barrage on the bucket got Luling within four points in the closing minutes.

Fortunately, the Sharkettes were able to keep the birds at bay and seal the six point victory courtesy a pair of clutch free throws by Cyra Polk.

"We had a good game plan for them trying to take their top two players out of the mix and we did a good job of that," Wollam said. "Offensively, I thought we ran our sets great against their zone.



FEATHERS in the face couldn't stop Palacios' Cyra Polk (3) as she torched Luling's Lady Eagles for a 26 points and led Palacios to the Area basketball crown. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)



Pull-up jumper from the stripe...

PALACIOS' Cara Polk (1) pulls up for a jump shot attempt from the free throw line amidst of trio of Luling Lady Eagles in last week's 62-56 win in the Area round of the Class 3A girls basketball playoffs. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)



PALACIOS' Paris Lopez (5) struggles to keep her balance after getting whacked by a Luling Lady Eagle while trying to corral a rebound. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)



SHARKETTE Shayne Wollam (left) draws a pair of Lady Eagle defenders as Paris Lopez works to get open in the paint. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)



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<http://clubs.bluesombrero.com/palacioslittleleague>

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