

**Palacios Police Launch Operation ID** Campaign

**SEE PAGE 3** 



## **Tigers Roll** To Bi-District **Title**

**SEE PAGE 10** 

# Council ruffled over 'incomplete report' from CRC

BY ALAN C. SCHULMAN Palacios Beacon - *Reporter* 

Last Tuesday's City Council Regular Meeting was quite lengthy, due in part to a Public Hearing regarding the Charter Review Commission's proposed changes to the Home Rule Charter, numerous agenda items, and several citizens speaking during the Visitor/ Citizen Forum.

Gary Hafernick, chairman of the Charter Review Commission, spoke at length about the group's work to make several revisions to the city's charter, however, the city council determined that the commission had failed to present a properly worded document that can be presented to the voters.

Councilmember Chip Woolf commented,

they left, we still didn't know what the proposal was. There's been no final report that's been approved by the committee, so what are we going to approve?"

The item was tabled until a later meeting. Visitor/Citizen Forum

Cathy Wakefield, representing the Palacios Prairie Wetlands, asked for city council's blessing to do a "prescribed burn" on five acres at the Wetlands for the purpose of removing undergrowth, etc., to prevent a wildfire, and provide for wildlife. It was agreed that the item will be put on the Dec. 14 meet-

Gary Hafernick stepped up to the podium again, this time as a citizen asking for relief from flooding on Beecher St. It was not the first time Hafernick has requested a resoludoing right now won't fix the problem.'

He also said, after spending \$450 for a plumber, it was found there was a 10" to 12" dip in the city's sewer line in front of his property holding water and solids and impeding the function of the sewer line.

Cha'e Neimeyer spoke to the city council, stating that she called the Palacios Police Department at 11:00 p.m. on Sept. 13 asking for a wellness check on her father at 512 Lucas

"I was told by the dispatcher that they were not sending anybody out. There were officers on duty that night. The weather was not bad, it wasn't anything crazy. By the time I had gotten to Palacios on Sept. 14, they already had my dad's house completely taped off, they had already pronounced him dead, and the funeral home was getting there to pick him up," Neimeyer said.

'I'm here today because the call was not relayed to the on-duty officers, it was taken upon the dispatcher's self that they weren't sending anybody out."

**Administrative Reports** 

City Treasurer Tammy McDonald reported the city received two grants last week; the HGAC Recycle Grant of almost \$50,000, and the Downtown Revitalization Grant of \$350k, which is for sidewalk improvements on the south side of Main Street.

McDonald said, "It was a big surprise, because we didn't think we were going to get this."

Interim City Manager Vaughn Dierlam re-

(See CITY, Page 2)

## **WEDNESDAY** NOV. 17, 2021 VOL. 114 • NO. 46

PALACIOS, **TEXAS** 

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Beacon Deadline 4:30 p.m. Friday

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

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



## **BeYOUtiful Girls Conference** Sat. at TBE

The BeYoutiful Girls Conference is an event for girls in 6th thru 12th grades. It will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20 from 3:30-8 p.m. in the Thibodaux Building at the Texas Baptist Encampment. The conference is designed to help young ladies learn their self-worth and know they are valued. They will also hear how they are loved and have a purpose. Motivational speakers, a live worship band, dinner and activities. event is free of charge for the girls. For more information call 361-



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# Palacios BEACOI

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EIGHT weeks since **Hurricane Nicholas** provided free prun-ing and five weeks since the City of Palacios' annual Fall Clean-Up, brush piles still litter the sides of roads around town and a full dumpster still sits. Requests for comment from the City last week, reamined unanswered as of press time.



# Filing underway for 2022 Texas Primary Elections

The filing period for the 2022 Texas Primary Elections is officially underway, allowing candidates to file with their respective party chairs for a place on the March 1, 2022 pri-

To view the list of candidates who have filed, please visit the Texas Secretary of

State's website at www.sos.state.tx.us

For primary elections, candidates file their applications with their state party chairs or, in the event that a district is wholly contained within a single county, their county party chairs. The state and county chairs, in turn,

(See FILING, Page 3)

# Seawall's boat ramp grant hits snag

**BY ALAN C. SCHULMAN** 

Looking to Tom Schmidt

of Urban Engineering for updates on the status of several projects, he optimistically stated, "He might make it by Christmas."

At last Wednesday's Meeting of the Commissioners of the Matagorda County-Palacios Seawall Commis-

sion, Schmidt was referring to Charles Rhoades and his work on the Jensen Point Boat Ramp Project, which has a completion requirement of December 2021.

Schmidt also reported, "The Boat Access Grant is kinda where we were last month, except there's prog-Schmidt continued after laughter subsided, "They've (Texas Parks and

Wildlife) got a new person in there and they've changed the rules, and he thought he had everything they needed and it was going to move right along. Well, they don't."

'There is no contract, that they can find, between the Seawall and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The person before him never did it so, we're waiting on y'all to sign and

(See SEAWALL, Page 3)

# Changes in store for local voters after redistricting

**BY RYAN WEST** Palacios Beacon-Publisher

There are changes in store for voters across Matagorda County and much of the State of Texas following Gov. Greg Abbott's recent signing into law the newly redistricted voting maps.

Matagorda Countians have a whole new line up of elected representatives from the federal level on down to the state level.

Matagorda County is currently part of U.S. Congressional District 27, which spans from south of Corpus Christi up the coast to Matagorda County and Wharton County, and westward to Victoria and up towards Bastrop, and represented by Michael Cloud in U.S. House of Representatives.

After redistricting Matagorda Co. joins Wharton Co. and Fort Bend Co. in Congressional District 22, currently represented by Troy Nehls.

In the Texas House Matagorda County will move south from House District 25 and State Rep. Cody Vasut into House District 30, which will also cover Jackson Co. Dewitt Co., Goliad Co., and Victoria Co.

In the Texas State Senate Matagorda County moves from District 18 with Sen Lois Kolhorst and into District 17, currently represented by Joan Huffman.

# PHS Band, Shark CC recognized by PISD

BY ALAN C. SCHULMAN

Palacios Beacon - Reporter

It was a full house at last Monday's Palacios ISD Regular Board Meeting as students filled the boardroom, but only four of seven trust-

ees were present. The board recognized the Shark Band after they reached the State Marching Competition, and also recognized the Shark cross country team after their Regional qualifying season.

**Presentations** Jamie Zavodny, Project Manager, presented an update of the 6th-12th grade campus Parkhill project, spoke about plan approvals (options, colors, kitchen layout, etc.) in February, and stated, "They went ahead and got the baseball/softball project kicked off a couple of weeks ago because we need that schedule to coincide with construction of the 6-12 campus so that when the

project gets started, the baseball/softball is getting relocated and useable while the

construction is happening." Also, the 2021-22 District & Campus Improvement Plans were presented by Dr. Julia McMains, which is an annual requirement. Superintendent Dr. Bill Chapman commented that the February and May meetings will be when it will be judged if goals have been met.

**Approved Items** -Consent Agenda (Meeting\_minutes and Employee Resignations), action to adopt the prevailing wage rates published by the United States Department of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. Section 276a et seq.), and its subsequent amendments, in connection with the construction of the 2021 Bond Projects, District & Campus Improvement Plans, and

(See PISD, Page 5)

# MCEOC announces coming of IPAWS network

Release courtesy

Matagorda County Emergency Operations Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald, along

with the Matagorda County Emergency Operations Center staff and the Emergency Management Coordinator have been working for years with local partners and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to bring IPAWS technology to the county for emergency communications.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) created the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).

This system was created to maximize the accessibility of local and national safety communication

We are excited to be implementing this technology in Matagorda County in the Spring of 2022.

'The idea of using the latest and best technology to protect the citizens and visitors of Matagorda County is the right thing to do, and this is the right time to make the change." said Amanda Campos, the Emergency Management Coordinator. "The Siren Network has been a great tool to warn people during emergency situations, but it is time to up-

grade to the best use technology."

"The goal of the Emergency Operations Center is the health and safety of every citizen and visitor to our county; the Public Alert Systems will allow

us to protect the public in a more direct way", said County Judge Nate McDonald.

This technology will speed up safety communi-

cation by reaching people faster, no matter where they are or what is happening.

One of the primary benefits of the IPAWS system is the use of Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs). WEAs are short emergency messages from authorized federal, state, local public alerting authorities that can be broadcast from cell towers to mobile devices in a locally targeted area.

Many people have already experienced receiving a WEA on their cell phone. Amber Alerts (See IPAWS, Page 5)

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

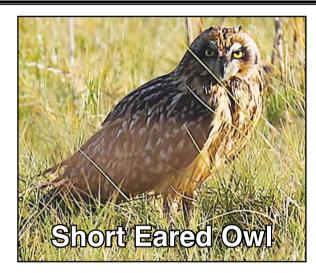
## Three arrested after game rooms shut down

**SMITHVILLE:** Investigators from the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office and the Fayette County Sheriff's Office simultaneously executed search warrants Thursday at locations in Smithville and La Grange for illegal game rooms. According to Fayette County Sheriff Keith Korenek, the search warrants stemmed from a three-monthlong investigation into the illegal gambling. Three individuals were arrested for engaging in organized criminal activity, a state felony. Investigators also seized multiple computer gaming devices, documents, and currency at both locations. - The Banner-Press Newspaper

## Killer pleads guilty, gets 40 year sentence

WHARTON: Slightly more than a year after gunning down an El Campo man in his driveway, a killer pleaded guilty to murder in Wharton County's 23rd District Court Thursday, Brandon Patrick Shimek, 27, of 610 Farenthold is now headed to prison for 40 years, half of which he must serve as part of the plea agreement made before District Judge Ben Hardin. Shimek fired a single shot into 32-year-old Justin Wayne Lipinski's head on Sept. 7, 2020 while he worked on a vehicle in the front driveway of his grandparent's Alvin Street home. Lipinski died instantly and was later found by his grandfather. Although there were no witnesses to the actual crime, the report of a truck racing through the area helped lead police to Shimek. He was arrested early the next morning and gave a full confession. The conviction was obtained despite the fact the murder weapon was never recovered. - El Campo Leader-News

**Cathy Wakefield** (361)404-1198 International Crane Foundation - Volunteer



Folks continue to see Whooping cranes in the area! Lee Raymond reported seeing the pair at Oyster Lake. Margaret Doughty reported seeing thousands of Sandhill Cranes at Oyster Lake. The habitat and isolation there must be ideal for these large iconic birds.

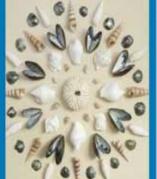
In addition to seeing Sandhill Cranes, a few of us that birded Oyster Lake this morning, saw a Shorteared Owl, and possibly Prairie Falcon (my photo was too distant...it looked the same size and had the same distinct characteristics). Other birds viewed along the shore included Reddish Egret, Black Skimmers, Oyster Catchers, Dunlin, Long-billed Curlews, Brown Pelicans, Neotropical Cormorants, Least Grebe, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, White Ibis, an Osprey, White-tailed and Red tailed Hawks and many American Kestrels.

Miss Murphy reported seeing her usual group of Ruddy Turnstones at the 4th Street Pier, a Common Loon and great Blue Heron. In addition to these, she saw two Merlins and hears a pair of Great-horned Owls during evenings near her home. She noted seeing a lot of vultures riding the thermals this morning.



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# Shell Mandala Ant



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Pelican Place beginning to take shape...

does not currently have a

city inspector, appointing

Matthew Baker as a Board

Commissioner to the Pa-

lacios Housing Authority, adopting Resolution 2021-

R-27 approving the submis-

sion of the grant application

for the Operation Lone Star

grant to the Office of the

Governor, City of Palacios

Procurement Policies and

Procedures, appointing two

(2) citizens to assist in the

hiring process of a new City

Manager (Edith Gower and

Polly Hearn were the only

two applicants), the use of

funds from the American

rescue Act for a new back-

hoe (\$113,000) purchased

THE planned 70 new home Pelican Place subdivision is beginning to take shape along the 1300 block of Seventh St., behind the Post Office., with the first three structures closed in. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

ported that smoke testing of city lines that is proposed to begin on Perryman Ave "on the 19th," but was met with suggestions of Commerce Ave as a starting point by Public Works Director, Darrell Robbins. The item to approve on the agenda was tabled. Notices will be given as to which area prior to the

**Approved Items** 

A service agreement with Bureau Veritas North America, Inc. was approved for commercial and residential inspections as Palacios

(Continued From Page 1)

TASB Policy Update 118 were approved.

Also approved were Staffing Units (adding 2 1/2 to 3 staffing units - life skills, speech language pathologist, and intervention/ enrichment specialist), Early Resignation Incentive for 2021-2022, Eduphoria Purchase, Personnel (Raymond Hines, Assistant Principal at PHS), adopting a written resolution authorizing the purchase of real property located at 2400 Perryman Ave, Palacios, Matagorda County, Texas and more particularly identified as 0.62 acres of land, more or less, part of lots 21 and 28 of T.A. Jenkins Subdivision situated in the Thomas J. Dasher Survey, Abstract 146, Matagorda County, Texas, and being a portion of Lot 21 recorded in Volume 14 Page 372, deed of records of Matagorda County, Texas, and authorizing the Superintendent to negotiate the final purchase, execute the Real Estate Contract and close the sale, and action to approve a tempolease back agreement for 2400 Perryman Ave, Palacios, Matagorda County, Texas and delegate authority to the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a lease agreement on behalf of the Board.

An agreement for the purchase of attendance credit (Option 3 Agreement) and to delegate contractual authority to the Superintendent, Staff Resolution, and Compensation Plan Adjustment

were also approved. Reports to the Board

Office Reports, Monthly Financial Reports, and Monthly Summary of Bills were presented to the board.

**Superintendent's** Reports

Dr. Bill Chapman said they are working on finalizing audits and thanked Finance Director Debbie Jones and the staff for their hard work and long hours "cleaning up audit stuff."

**Next Meeting** 

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Dec. 13

(Continued From Page 1)

from Mustang Cat for the Public Works Department of the smoke testing and sewer repair project, the use of funds from the American Rescue Act for premium pay for essential employees at a set rate of \$2.00 per hour worked excluding holidays, vacations, training, overtime, or special assignments (council members Woolf and Lewis voted against), the use of funds from the American Rescue Act for upgrades to city parks, Minutes of the October 26, 2021 Regular Council Meeting and Approve the absence of Mayor Chau from that meeting were approved.

**Tabled Items** 

Items tabled until a future meeting were the use of funds from the American Rescue Act for smoke testing and sewer repairs, the use of funds from the American Rescue Act to move the police department dispatch location from Commerce to Henderson, and, as mentioned earlier, the proposed amendments to the Home Rule Charter as suggested by the Charter Review Commit-

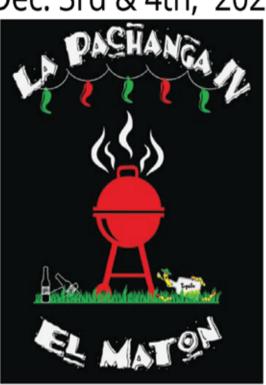
**Next Meeting** 

The next Regular City Council Meeting will be on Dec. 14, at 6:00 p.m

# **EL Maton Country club BBQ Cook-off**

Dec. 3rd & 4th, 2021

Fun For All Ages



\$100 minimum entry fee.

Includes Brisket, Pork ribs & Fajitas

Side Entry: Chilli \$25. Beans \$25. Pot luck \$20. Dutch Oven Dessert \$20. Bloody Marry \$20

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www.Elmatoncc.com



**DEADLINE 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY** Palacios Beacon - Wed., November 17, 2021 - Page 3

# **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**

Amanda Lynn Cuellar, 39, Corpus Christi, was arrested in the 400 block of Elizabeth Ave at 11:17 p.m. on Nov. 5. Warrant Service.

Micah Cabarubio Condarco, 31, Edna, was arrested in the 300 block of W. Craymer Ave at 3:30 a.m. on Nov. 7. Driving While Intoxicated.

Julian Christopher Garcia, 22, Bay City, was arrested in the 300 block of Main St. at 1:20 p.m. on Nov. 9. Warrant Out of Matagorda County Sheriff's Office.

## **INCIDENTS**

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia: A traffic stop was initiated in the intersection of 7th St. and Henderson Ave at 1:10 a.m. on Nov. 11 which resulted in a citation being given for Possession of Drug

**Criminal Mischief:** Officers were dispatched to the 1000 block of Welch Ave at 6:30 a.m. on Nov. 11 in reference to destroyed/damaged/vandalized property.

Paraphernalia.

## From the Chief

## Police Chief Milton Rivera

We are all waiting anxiously for that first Thanksgiving after COVID vaccinations. Many of us stayed home last year and did not share with our families due to the pandemic. So this year. let's start



Before you travel, check road and weather conditions at https://drivetexas.org; it will provide some insight into the road conditions.

Before you leave, make sure your vehicle is in good operating order. Check your tire pressure and spare tire. Do make sure any cargo you are taking is secure. Don't drive fatigued — allow plenty of time to reach your destination. Be aware of your defensive driving; the drunkards will be on the road also looking to spoil your holiday. Remember that holiday driving presents some unusual challenges,

upload approved candidates into the Texas Secretary of State's portal.

ty, district and statewide of- 1, 2022 Primary Elections fices ends at 6:00 P.M. on begins on Monday, February Monday, December 13th. The filing period for coun- Early voting for the March

14th.

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# Palacios Police Dept. launch Operation ID

The Palacios Police Department is launching this month Operation ID. The program involves marking property with an identifying number as a means of discouraging burglary and theft. Palacios PD recommends that you engrave or mark your valuables with your Texas driver's license number. Please do not use your social security number since The Palacios Police Dept. cannot track SSN information. A burglar will have difficulty disposing or selling marked property. The Palacios Police Dept. recommend that you engrave your driver's license beginning with the letters TX folloThe Palacios Police Dept.d by your numbers. Please make sure your home address is up to date with DPS so The Palacios Police Dept. can return your items.

Palacios PD recommends marking your valuables in two locations. One that can easily be seen, and the other concealed in the item. Photograph the item and log in to a ledger. For small items such as jeThe Palacios Police Dept.lry, The Palacios Police Dept. recommend a photo of the item next to your driver's license along with a ruler if possible to capture dimensions. For bags or suitcases, mark them on the inside with a permanent marker. Keep the ledger and the photos in a fireproof safe or bank safety deposit box.

The Palacios PD has available for your use an engraver. You can come to the police department for small items to be engraved, or



for more oversized items, or Palacios Police can send an officer to your home to assist you in engraving your property. The Palacios Police also have a sample ledger to record your

Once the property is marked and recorded in the ledger, the PD will issue you an operation ID sticker for your windows and doors. The sticker is a deterrent to a thief. The program is free of charge, and The Palacios Police Dept. only ask you to set up an appointment before you bring your items or ask for an officer to come to your home. Call Palacios PD Dispatch at 361-972-3112.

(Continued From Page 1)

then we're done," stated Schmidt.

Reporting on the South Beach Replenishment Project, Schmidt's only comment was, "Still waiting."

### **Inspector's Report** Seawall Inspector Larry

Lanfear reported the follow-Bay Front Walkway: There

has been no progress on the broken rail on the handrail at the Baptist Encampment One of the streetlight poles that light the walkway in the

beach area is loose at the base.AEP has been notified multiple times. There are four lights not

burning on the walkway. First Street Pier: There is

one area light not burning East Bay & South Bay

Walkway: There are three sidewalk lights not working. Temporary repairs have

You'll find it in the Palacios Beacon Local News • Sports •

holes in the walkway.

and set in place.

pleted on Tuesday.

is not burning.

Jensen Point Boat Ramp:

Boat ramp has been poured

First pour on the new con-

crete parking area was com-

Kayak ramp is complete.

The new dock is 99% com-

East Bay Groin: Area light

First Street Pier: Area light

Fourth Street Pier: One

on T-Head is not burning.

area light is not burning.

Construction is progressing.

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been made to most of the South Bay Groin: Area

light is not working correctly. East Bay Blvd.

Reviewed washout problems with Commissioner Kana and met with Gary Hickl to plan repair options.

East Bay Boat Ramp: There are two fender boards

missing. Maintenance: The commissioners were made aware of various washouts between Grassy Point and the Yel-

repairs to those and the East Bay Walkway. **Approved Items** 

low Windmill and discussed

Financial Reports from Ellen Dodd and Investment Reports from County Treasurer were approved, along with Payment of Bills.

**Next Meeting** 

The next Meeting of the Commissioners of the Matagorda County-Palacios Seawall Commission will be on Dec. 8, at 6:00 p.m.

## **Campbell-Huitt Insurance** 328 Commerce Palacios, TX 361-972-2551

Auto-Bonds Business



system.



## **PALACIOS ISD Announces Fiscal Accountability Rating**

Palacios Independent School District officials announced that the district received a rating of "A" for "Superior Achievement" under Texas' School FIRST financial accountability rating system. The rating system measures the quality of a school district's financial management and reporting

This is the 21st year of School FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999 and amendments under House Bill 5, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013.

The primary goal of School FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas' school finance system.

"The Schools FIRST accountability rating ensures that Texas school districts are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost- effectively and efficiently," said PALACIOS ISD Superintendent, Dr. William Chapman. "The information provided by the Schools FIRST system will guide us in our continued efforts to maximize each taxpayer dollar."

The Texas Education Agency assigned one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being "A" for "Superior Achievement," followed by "B" for "Above-Standard Achievement," "C" for "Standard Achievement" and "F" for "Substandard Achievement."

# Are you looking to read more of this week's edition of the Palacios Beacon???

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