



# PEDC Directors sign up for committee assignments

BY NIEVES LUCIO JIMENEZ  
Palacios Beacon

New committees with new members and new direction are taking shape out of last week's meeting of the Palacios Economic Development Corp. (PEDC) Board of Directors.

Board President D.C. Dunham outlined the current committees in place: the executive committee consisting of Dunham, Joann Linden and Jim Gardner; the informal finance committee is Dunham and City/PEDC Treasurer Maria Ayala; and the marketing committee of Dunham and Katie Hutto.

Dunham emphasized the importance of the website staying up to date and using social

media as an asset to spread the word of new happenings.

A new area to volunteer in will be the business community and BRE (business retention & expansion).

"It is important to keep this committee facilitated, networking and sharing ideas," Dunham said.

"Paying attention to available commercial properties is important," said Dunham. Ideas included having a current list of commercial properties available on the website as well as nuisance property that can possibly be serviced. Directors Diane Cartwright and Donny Tran volunteered to work on the BRE committee with minorities.

Director Chip Woolf's passion for afford-

able housing led him to volunteer to focus on vacant property, and dispersed a prepared hand out with his ideas and suggestions.

"What can we do that we can realistically accomplish with near to immediate results. We need to expand our relationship with the chamber and get them involved?" asked Woolf. "We must improve economic health. Vacant properties need to be looked into. If EDC could redevelopment these properties it would increase employment during redevelopment, increase the population with newcomers, increase the property tax base, increase the utility service base, increase revenue, increase sales tax from the people that move in that will be living here and spending money."

City Manager Cindy Raleigh suggested gathering information, finding available properties, compiling the information on a pamphlet and having it readily available to people who come to Palacios.

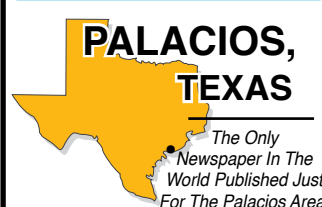
## Announcements

Newest Director Donny Tran spoke to his rejoining of PEDC.

"I care about Palacios, and I see a potential in Palacios," Tran said. "I don't see many of the minority business owners around here taking advantage of the grants. They don't know how to apply for it. I would definitely like to reach out to them and talk to them to see what they need to help their businesses

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**WEDNESDAY  
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**Beacon Deadline  
4:30 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.  
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Observing Our  
**117th**  
Year  
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**BEACON  
BRIEFS**

**Rotary hosts  
Mayoral Forum  
Wed. at PMR**

The Palacios Rotary Club will host a City of Palacios Mayoral Candidate Forum at 12-noon on Wed. (Mar. 13) at Palacios Mexican Restaurant, located at 511 Main St.

**St. Anthony's  
Lenten Fish Fry  
fundraiser Fri.**

St. Anthony of Padua's Catholic Church in Palacios, located at 1004 Magnusson, will be holding a fried fish plate fundraiser on Fri. (Mar. 15) beginning at 4 p.m. until sold out. Plates are \$12 and includes fried fish, coleslaw, and beans.

**St. Patrick's  
Day blessings Sat.  
at The Cove**

Saint Patrick's Day Blessing this Saturday, March 16 from 6-8 p.m. with Reverend Bill Bullard from St. John's Episcopal Church will lead the blessing, Holy Eucharist and Irish Tunes at the Pirate Queen's Cove in Downtown Palacios. Reuben sandwiches, cold beer, wine and charcuterie boards will be for sale and AI will be playing later at night.

**Live Music  
Sun. at El Maton**

Grab your boots and head to the The El Maton National Hall, located at 595 FM 1095 in El Maton, for a dance featuring Dameon Lev live this Sun. (Mar. 17) from 3-5 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m.

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# Palacios BEACON

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A vehicle accident on March 5 in the 1100 block of Henderson at 12:52 p.m. The scene was spread out upon the northbound lane for several hours. One individual was transported to Palacios Community Medical Center via EMS at the scene. (Beacon Photos by Brandi G. West)

*Wreck sends one to ER...*

## Palacios lottery sales topped \$3-million in '23

BY RYAN WEST  
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Palacios area residents ponied up big bucks in hopes of hitting the jackpot as local retailers tallied Lottery sales receipts in excess of \$3-million in 2023.

Grab-N-Go #5, the Texaco station at the intersection of 12th St. and Hen-

derson Ave., blew away all other lottery retailers in the 77465 zip code as it eclipsed \$1-million in sales and finished the 2023 calendar with \$1,074,243 in tickets sold.

AJ Mini Mart, outside of Cape Carancahua, was second in the 77465 zip code with a total lottery sales receipt of \$389,628.

Henderson Drive-In was the number two Lottery sales retailer in the City of Palacios with a total of \$323,073.50, followed by The Point, which tallied \$310,218.

The combination of the former 7-Eleven, now operating as Stop N Bye #4, had a cumulative lottery sales total

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*Senior Night  
on the Pitch*

(Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

THE Palacios Shark & Sharkette soccer teams capped the season with Senior Night. (Above) Juliana Cordero walks with parents Veronica & Pascual Cordero; (below) Alyn Amaro Cruz walks with parents Evelyn & Delfino Amaro.

## Sloan ousts Chau as County Attorney, DeLeon earns GOP nod for Sheriff

BY RYAN WEST  
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Just short of 6,000 ballots were cast by voters in Matagorda County in last week's Republican and Democratic Primary Elections held March 5.

In the local contested races on the Republican Party ticket, Matagorda Co. will have a new County Attorney as incumbent Jennifer Chau couldn't overcome the challenge of Matthew Hardy Sloan, who registered 2,567 votes over Chau's 2,202.

The Republican race for Matagorda Co. Sheriff Rick DeLeon won the nomination over Philip Hester with over 64% of the vote, 3,243 to 1,756.

DeLeon will advance to the November General Election, where he will face Democratic nominee Aaron Green, who was unopposed in the primary election.

On the Republican ticket for 23rd District Court Judge, voters opted for John Maher over Colleen Manske 2,432 to 2,021.

## Presidential views

Matagorda Co. Republicans cast 4,380 ballots for currently indicted former President Donald Trump

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## Tips for financial fraud protection presented at CofC

BY BRANDI GARCIA WEST  
Palacios Beacon

Losing money from financial schemes or fraud can be frustrating and possibly even devastating. The Palacios Chamber of Commerce General Membership Meeting welcomed Annette Marek, with 44 years of financial experience, as presenter at last weeks meeting. Marek educated all present on various forms of financial fraud, identifying a scam, and emphasized: if it's too good to be true; it is.

Specifically Marek spoke about how check fraud is incredibly prevalent, "You're going to send that check out in the mail and it got lost, but now it shows up but altered in all kinds of ways; and it looks so professional."

Marek encouraged all to (See CofC, Page 2)