

New Trash Cans Being Delivered

SEE PAGE 9



Palacios ISD Trustees Debate Chaplins On Campus

SEE PAGE 2



Sharkettes 10-Run Lady Cobras

SEE PAGE 11

Contract signed for purchase of Luther Hotel

Release Courtesy Palacios Preservation Association

After almost a year and a half of uncertainty and the looming threat of demolition, the Luther Hotel is saved and is now under contract to Palacios native Nick Herman. Thanks to the powerful support of our legal team, including John Griffin, Chris Bell, Sandra and Geep Hardy, Ernest Blansfield, Matthew Sloan, and Cal Bobbit, the legal hurdles with the probate court have been resolved. From the first announcement of demolition through the court hearings and restraining orders, the 121-year-old Luther Hotel, designed by Jules Leffland, has faced significant challenges. However, this historic landmark, which has long been

the mainstay of the Palacios economy over time, is poised for a new chapter. Nestled on 3.6 acres of land overlooking the sparkling waters of Tres Palacios Bay, the Luther Hotel will once again be hosting local families, beachside holiday makers and heritage tourists alike.

March 15th, marks a significant milestone as Nick Herman, representing South-Vest BDC, LLC, has officially signed the contract to purchase the Luther Hotel from the Findley Estate. Nick's father was stationed at Camp Hulen during World War II and married a local Palacios girl. Nick has fought steadily to save the hotel since he first heard of the demolition plans. He is ac-

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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. Beacon Closed Wednesday

Observing Our **117th** Year 1907-2024

BEACON BRIEFS

Job Fair Wed. at Rec. Center

All are welcome to attend the Job Fair this Wednesday, March 20 from 1-5 p.m. at the Palacios Recreation Center, 2401 Perryman Ave. Whether you're trying to find your first job, your dream job, or if you're changing career paths be sure to stop by this free event hosted by the Palacios Community Hub along with partners: The Linton Group, Matagorda County Navigation District #1, Palacios ISD, Bay City Chamber of Commerce, Palacios Chamber of Commerce and Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. For more information call at 972-9990.

St. Anthony's Lenten Fish Fry fundraiser Fri.

St. Anthony of Padua's Catholic Church in Palacios, located at 1004 Magnuson, will be holding a fried fish plate fundraiser on Fri. (Mar. 22) beginning at 4 p.m. until sold out. Plates are \$12 and includes fried fish, coleslaw, and beans.

Eagles' Easter Egg Hunt Sat.

The Palacios Fraternals Order of Eagles' #3821 will hold their 12th annual East Egg Hunt for children at 10 a.m. on Sat. (Mar. 23) at the soccer fields at Railroad Park on 6th St.

Live Music Sun. at El Maton

Grab your boots and head to the El Maton National Hall, located at 595 FM 1095 in El Maton, for a dance featuring Corey Davis live this Sun. (Mar. 24) from 3-5 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m.



PALACIOS Little League held opening day ceremonies last weekend. The Cutie-Ball Lil' Stros team waves to the crowd during introductions. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Alayna Garcia, Tegan Hill, Brandon Dominguez, Christopher Rubio, Nicholas Llanes, Amelia Garcia, Hazel Lee; (back) coaches Itzey Lopez, Bubba Garcia, and Nellie Lee. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

City addresses 'scuttlebutt' over new trash provider

BY RYAN WEST Palacios Beacon-Publisher

The City of Palacios and the City Council continue to be mired in the stink being raised by citizens about the new trash collection provider.

After a tumultuous week for the City in the comments section on social media over the upcoming trash transition and its preliminary rollout, Mayor Jim Gardner jumped off agenda to begin last week's Council meeting and into the refuse head first.

"There's a lot of scuttlebutt in town," Gardner said. "We're talking about the new trash pickup. All of us here are civil servants. We're here to serve y'all and do what's right. The end of the world is not coming. There is nothing that's been dictated that will

change people's lives forever and make things upside down."

"All council has done is take data and make a decision, which we think is the best use of the citizens tax payers money," Gardner added.

He explained the upcoming expiration of the City's current trash provider, Waste Connections, in April, how the City went out for bids before ultimately "looking at the data, and picked the best one."

We as a body by majority vote, selected the one we have."

"The contract is in fact saving people money," Gardner stated. "We're trying to be fiscally responsible. We had to raise water rates

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Mayoral candidates make pitch at Rotary Club Forum

BY BRANDI GARCIA WEST Palacios Beacon

The Rotary Club of Palacios sponsored a Mayoral Candidate Forum this past Wednesday at Palacios Mexican Restaurant with incumbent Mayor Jim Gardner followed by challenger Rick Cink. Both candidates were welcomed by President Larry Rausch and Sargent at Arms Joe Monk monitored the 4-minute speeches on what they can do best for Palacios and 6-minute allowed for questions.

Mayor Jim Gardner chose

not to introduce himself as he started in Palacios politics two years ago, he stated he is and remains available at any time. Instead he desired to speak on what he has accomplished and what his plans are for the future. Gardner shared how, "Two years ago there was a lot of chaos and upheaval going on within our city, city management, city staff. When I became mayor there was a new city manager that had come on board a couple of months, we spent a lot of time getting the right people on the bus. We have created a lot of stability, back then it was very contentious."

Mayor Gardner explained roles with the city manager being the Chief Executive Of-

ficer and correlated the city manager's role to the execu-

(See FORUM, Page 5)



CITY of Palacios candidates for Mayor, incumbent Jim Gardner (above) and challenger Rick Cink (right) participated in last week's Mayorla Forum hosted by the Rotary Club.

Man walking struck by truck, killed on 12th St.

BY RYAN WEST Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Palacios Police are investigating a fatal hit-and-run auto-pedestrian accident that killed a local convenience store clerk in the early morning hours last Sunday (Mar. 17).

Palacios Police responded to a call of a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle in the 1300 block of 12th St.

Upon arrival at the scene officers discovered the vic-

(See STRUCK, Page 3)

Ambitions for South Bay unveiled in proposed Pearl of Palacios PUD

Release Courtesy City of Palacios & ERF, Palacios Inc.

In the heart of Texas, nestled along the pristine coastline, the City of Palacios embarks on a visionary journey to redefine its landscape and embrace a future of prosperity, sustainability, and community pride. At the forefront of this transformative endeavor is the proposed Pearl of Palacios Planned Unit Development (PUD), a multifaceted project designed to honor the city's rich heritage while paving the way for innovative growth and tourism.

Central to the Pearl of Palacios PUD is the establishment of the first Oyster Hatchery in the State of Texas, symbolizing a significant leap towards environmental

stewardship and economic revitalization. This pioneering facility will not only contribute to the restoration of oyster populations and habitats but also serve as a cornerstone for research, education, and sustainable aquaculture practices, positioning Palacios as a leader in marine conservation and a beacon for environmental enthusiasts.

Complementing the hatchery, the PUD envisions a series of collaborative initiatives with the City of Palacios, aiming to enhance the quality of life for residents and attract visitors from near and far:

- Establishment of the first Oyster Hatchery in Texas:

(See PEARL, Page 6)



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