

Alligators Discussed At Brown Bag

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Early Voting Underway In Local Elections Across Texas

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Sharkettes Corraled In Extras By Edna

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Lack of state funding puts 'bridge-the-gap' program at risk in PISD

BY BRANDI GARCIA WEST
Palacios Beacon

According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) 78.83% of Palacios ISD students are considered economically disadvantaged and Communities in Schools (CIS) tackles socioeconomic barriers helping nearly 200 students each month.

CIS collaborates with parents, educators, community-based organizations, churches, and school and district leaders to identify and overcome obstacles for students to succeed in both school and life.

Dr. Bill Chapman described this existing program (which is in its' last funded semester) as "phenomenal" and "bridging a gap" and providing needs for the students outside the

realm that can be provided by the district at last week's Palacios ISD School Board Meeting. Chapman emphasized despite having already decreased next year's budget by over \$400,000 an additional \$500,000 will need to be cut due to lack of state funding. This life-enhancing program will require \$100,000 to maintain being funded at PISD. However, only \$50,000 by PISD and the other \$50,000 will be matched by CIS, therefore, Chapman emphasized the school board members need to understand how instrumental this program is for PISD students.

CIS staff member, Samantha Starrett, was present to provide a confidential overview sharing some experiences of her 80 plus monthly student caseload to the board. Cur-

rently, Starrett is at the junior high and high school provide students with "behavioral and mental health, parent and family engagement, health and human services, attendance engagement, academic enhancement support and enrichment."

Specifically, CIS helps with food-insecure students with necessary food staples for weekends, provides assistance navigating local mental health resources and eligibility, as well as tangible needs (such as clothing, shoes, prom dresses), educational support with onsite tutoring, attendance accountability to the extent of making home visits, and empathetically and lovingly showing compassion providing emotional support to children lacking this at home.

"Majority of the students I work with don't have the home support to get them (the students) here." Starrett, stated "sometimes it's not an academic or behavioral issue," but stressed how it's nice for the students to know that they are cared about and that adults want them to succeed in school for their own well-being.

Weekly, Starrett also provides emotional support games with the lifeskill students to identify emotions and learn ways to be more expressive and navigate emotions. Starrett's colleague Gina Guerrero was not available for the board meeting, however, has a separate caseload of 94 students at East Side and Central Elementary which involves much parental involvement and also provides the fam-

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Observing Our
117th
Year
1907-2024

BEACON BRIEFS

FOEC Walk for Austim Sat.

The Friends of Elderly Citizens is hosting Palacios 2nd Annual Walk for Autism this Saturday April 27 starting at 9 a.m. at Palacios Bay. All are invited for a full day of joy, music, booths, and fun for all ages.

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 live music featuring on Sun. (April 28) from 3-5 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m.

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PISD Educational Foundation's Bingo Night Fundraiser packs Rec. Center



MEMBERS of the Palacios ISD Educational Foundatino are: (left to right) Billy Pat Peacock, Selina Garcia, Dr. Kelly Rynchek, Nellie Lee, Carolyn Kubecka, Kelly Grones, Debra Trammell and Jared Stuhrenburg. (Submitted Photos)

THE first annual Palacios ISD Educational Foundation Bingo Night Fundraiser was a popping success with the Rec. Center packed to near capacity for a night of fun, excitement and laughs. Proceeds from the PISD Educational Foundation fundraiser are used to purchase school supplies for all PISD students.



Deutschburg Community Club makes donations...

THE Deutschburg Community Club always holds its annual Seafood Benefit the last weekend in January, and this past year's event was the 70th year for the benefit. As has been the case for seven decades, the Deutschburg Community Club recently distributed donations to local area groups and organizations. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Jayden Gilbert - Round Up 4-H, Ginger Potts - Life Skills at Palacios, Christy Elliot - Friends of Elder Senior Citizens at Palacios, and Ida Ramirez - Friends of Elder Senior Citizens at Edna; (back) Dylan Gilbert - Deutschburg Scholarship recipient & Round Up 4-H, Kaitlyn Gilbert Round Up 4-H, Fernanda Garcia - Palacios Boys & Girls Club, Pat Yeager - Palacios Library, Michelle Williams - Palacios Area Fund, Mark Page - Palacios Youth Supporters, and Bernard Rother - Robert Duran Food Pantry. Not pictured but receiving donations were Edna Helping Hands Food Pantry, Troop 1441 Boy Scouts, Slade Saha - Deutschburg Scholarship recipient & Round Up 4-H. (Submitted Photo)

Early voting in City, PISD races thru Tues.

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Early voting in the City of Palacios City Council and Palacios ISD Trustee elections in May began on Mon. (April 22) and will continue thru Tues. (April 30).

The early voting polls are open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., each weekday from Mon. (April 22) thru Tues. (April 30). On Thurs. (April 25), polls for early voting will be open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Thurs. (April 25).

All early voting ballots, as well as those cast on Election Day (May 4), are being cast at the Matagorda Co. Navigation District #1 Admin Office, located at 1602 Main St.

City Ticket

There are three contested races on the City of Palacios ticket.

Incumbent one-term Mayor of Palacios Jim Gardner will have to contend with challenger Rick Cink.

In the race for Council seat Pos. 1, incumbent Larry Glenn faces off against former one-term Council woman Raylynn Samora.

The lone guarantee of a new member to the Council will come in the race for Pos. 2, where incumbent Sharon Trainor opted against a bid for reelection. Looking to jump into her seat is a pair of former Council members

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El Maton Country Club's Crawfish Cook-Off Sat.

El Maton Country Club is hosting the 4th Annual Crawfish Cook-off on Saturday, April 27 at El Maton Country Club located at 565 FM 1095 in El Maton. This family friendly event will be supporting students in countywide school scholarships: Bay City, Van Vleck, Palacios and Tidehaven schools.

All are welcome to come and enjoy all you can eat crawfish with a paid entry fee of \$35 at the door and \$30 pre-sale. The doors open at 1 p.m. with live music starting at 2:45 p.m. and

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