

**Sharks Of
The Week
At PES**

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**Texas Farmers
Concerned Over
Growing Trade War**

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**Sharkettes,
Sharks Soar
At Shark Relays**

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Comptroller's Office takes TIRZ workshop back to basics

BY MARICA ELLIS
Palacios Beacon

In a workshop meeting the Palacios Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) #1 Board, a sprinkling of citizens, and a smattering of city officials heard a ZOOM presentation by Frank Alvarez of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Office. The presentation consisted of 38 pages of graphics with outline material, explaining the nuts-bolts of a TIRZ formation.

The Texas Comptroller's website defines a TIRZ as: Tax increment financing (TIF) is method local governments can use to pay for im-

provements that will draw private investment to an area. Tax increment financing redirects property tax in a geographic area designated as a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) to pay for improvements in the zone. Tax Code Chapter 311 governs tax increment financing. A TIRZ project jumpstarts development to generate new tax revenue. The benefits of a TIRZ include: building needed public infrastructure to draw businesses; boosting development, which grows property values and long-term property tax collections; and lessening the cost of private development by providing reimbursement for qualified

public improvements. Future tax revenues from each participating taxing unit are used to pay for the cost of improvements to an area. When the improvements result in additional property tax revenue, this revenue is referred to as the tax increment. Each taxing unit determines what percentage of its tax increment, if any, it will commit to repay the cost of the financed improvements.

Alvarez's outlined criteria for the creation of a TIRZ must meet one or more of the following: deteriorated structures, inadequate sidewalks or streets, poor platting, unsanitary or unsafe condi-

tions, deterioration of site, defective or unusual conditions, conditions that endanger life or property by fire

or other disaster or be predominantly open or undeveloped and because

(See TIRZ, Page 5)



THE table was full with all members on hand at last week's meeting of the City of Paacios TIRZ #1 Board. (Beacon Photo by Marica Ellis)



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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
118th
Year
1907-2025

BEACON
BRIEFS

■ 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. 28) beginning at 4 p.m. until sold out. Plates are \$15 and includes fried fish, coleslaw, and beans.

■ All you can eat
crawfish Sat. at
El Maton CC

El Maton Country Club is hosting the 5th Annual Crawfish Cook-off on Sat. (Mar. 29) at El Maton Country Club located at 565 FM 1095 in El Maton. All are welcome to come and enjoy all you can eat crawfish with a paid entry fee of \$40 at the door and \$30 pre-sale. The crawfish serving will begin at 3 p.m. For more information or to buy tickets call Eric Kacer at 512-848-8790 or check out the website at www.elmatoncc.com

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Hollars, hoots & hamburgers at PISD Education Foundation's Bingo Night

THE Palacios ISD Education Foundation's once again packed the Palacios Recreation Center last Saturday night for it's annual annual Bingo Night Fundraiser. Citizens from across the Palacios spectrum turned out, including current State Rep. and PISD alum AJ Louderback (right) and former Matagorda Co. Judge Nate McDonald. Round after round of Bingo were accompanied by live and silent auctions. (Beacon Photos by Ryan West)



Co. jobless rate inches up to 5.7%

BY BRANDI GARCIA WEST
Palacios Beacon

Matagorda County's latest unemployment figures, according to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), increased ever-so-slightly from 5.5% in December 2024 to 5.7% during the month of January 2025. Specifically of Matagorda County's labor force of 16,234 individuals, a total of 920 are looking

(See JOBS, Page 4)

CofC Candidate Forum next Thurs.

The Palacios Chamber of Commerce will host a Political Forum at April's General Membership Luncheon on April 3 at the Texas Baptist Encampment located at 100 First St. at 12 noon. All Palacios City Council and Palacios ISD School Board Members running in the General Election (May 3) are encouraged and invited to participate. All candidates will be allotted 3 minutes to share with the community why they are an ideal candidate to be elected or re-elected highlighting his/her priorities. All interested in dining at the Chamber luncheon are encouraged to contact Pam Oliver to reserve a meal by Tuesday, April 1 by 12 noon.

Time to play ball...



THE Palacios Little League celebrated Opening Day Ceremonies last Saturday morning with team introductions followed by the cake auction fundraiser. Games got underway on both the baseball and softball diamonds and lasted throughout the day with a night cap double header featuring both Palacios Jr. Softball teams under the lights at Slone-Price Fields. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

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