

Perched Pelicans In Bird Notes
SEE PAGE 9



Daylight Savings Time Begins 2 a.m. Sunday
Spring forward
Set Your Clock Forward 1-Hour Before You Go To Bed Saturday



Sharkette Lifters At Regional
SEE PAGE 7

From 'grand plans' to a nightmare

Hotel Tres Palacios renderings & details release on social media backfires into firestorm

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

A whirlwind week ensnarled the City by the Sea from the proclamation of "The Future is Bright!" in a Facebook post outlining the plans of grandeur at the former Luther Hotel and soon to be Hotel Tres Palacios (HTP), to the proverbial 'poo hitting the fan' amidst a firestorm backlash from a flurry of on-line commentators and con-

struction on the \$23-million restoration effort halted. Let's start at the beginning, when the HTP preliminary renderings and plans were posted to Facebook - the known place for logical, sensible & rational discussion - on Feb. 23, by John Price - the HTP project's 'finance guy' - in hopes of 'providing clarity' on the over \$23-million endeavor and its aspirations to the public as well as answer some frequently

asked questions. Price's post, included preliminary renderings of the HTP, detailed the restoration efforts and construction plans which includes a restaurant, pool/bar, and spa, and FAQs read as follows: "We are investing over \$23 million to attract 20,000 hotel guests and 40,000 day visitors each year. The project will create 120 permanent jobs and generate over \$500,000



RENDERINGS of the Hotel Tres Palacios, formerly the Luther Hotel, were released on social media last week by representatives of the \$23-million restoration project.

(See HTP, Page 2)

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.
Beacon Closed Wednesday

Observing Our **119th** Year
1907-2026

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. 6) beginning at 4 p.m. until sold out. Plates are \$15 and includes fried fish & shrimp, coleslaw, rice and beans.

Live music each Fri. & Sat. at The Cove

Stop in for a glass of wine or a beer and enjoy live music courtesy Al Flores each Friday and Saturday night at *The Cove*, located at 405 Main St.

Live music Sun. at El Maton National Hall

The *El Maton National Hall*, located at 565 FM 1095 in El Maton, opens its doors every Sun. at 1 p.m., with live music from 3-5 p.m. Stop in, wet your whistle and hear some tunes.

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Squaring up to the ball on the tee...

LITTLE Tony Garcia of the Pirates looks to square up the ball resting on the tee as his father Anthony remains squarely in the line of fire in last week's Pittsburgh Pirates and Colorado Rockies game at the Palacios Little League Fields. The Palacios Little League Tee Ball season will continue to play on the old Slone Price Fields off of Perryman Ave., until the Opening Day Ceremonies to be held March 21 and christen the new Bowers Field youth sports complex on Johnson Rd. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

Council OK's after-hours sale of alcohol ordinance

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

While the public discussions at last week's City Council meeting were hot and heavy on the topic of the former Luther Hotel and proposed Hotel Tres Palacios and a proposed expansion, there was actual regular City business on the agenda that did get accomplished. The second reading of an ordinance to establish after-hour alcohol sales inside the Palacios City limits was approved.

Prior to Council's unanimous vote on the issue, Donald Sonnier offered questions to Council. "Why now?" he asked. "Why not before? Are you all doing this to the benefit of just one place or the whole City?"

City Attorney Anne Marie Odefey explained the ordinance would cover establishments inside the Palacios city limits. As for Sonnier's question of why?, Odefey said it was because no other proprietor had come forward with a request for the after-hour sales permitting.

New Auditor
Council approved a new auditor for the City's 2024-25 fiscal year, after their prior auditing firm bid the City farewell, mid-audit, in recent months.

(See CITY, Page 4)

Construction halted on Hotel Tres Palacios

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

After months of construction and renovation efforts on the former Luther Hotel and proposed Hotel Tres Palacios, activity has ground to a halt, with studs exposed, and windows and openings boarded up.

The cessation of construction is only temporary while the owner and man behind the over \$23-million endeavor, 87 year old J.P. Bryan, a former oil business turned historical preservationist, awaits a decision from the Palacios City Council.

Soon to be on Council's desk is Bryan's request for the conveyance and/or abandonment of 600-feet of South Bay Blvd., directly in front of the Hotel Tres Palacios footprint and a long-term lease of the the coinciding 'green space' from the roadway to the edge of the Palacios Seawall.



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