

Kubecka Places 3rd At State
SEE PAGE 10

Cornett Presented With Quilt Of Honor
SEE PAGE 2

Palacios All Stars In Action
SEE PAGE 10

HOT Tax funds and TIRZ appointments at Council

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Discussion of Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT) - a request for some funding and a question over who gets them, along with a round of appointments to the TIRZ board led last week's meeting of the Palacios City Council.

The Palacios Preservation Association was on hand with a request for \$13,000 in HOT tax funds for work at Caboose Corner, at the corner of Main St. and 6th St.

The Palacios Preservation Association's Margaret Doughty expressed thanks to the City for its "willingness to collaborate, which has made Caboose Corner possible."

"It demonstrates what can be accomplished when community organizations and local

government work together towards a shared vision," she added.

Caboose Corner, set to open July 4, will be a permanent exhibit installation open year round to attract visitors, will feature mounted panels depicting the railroad origins in Palacios.

"It celebrates an important chapter in Palacios' history. The railroad played very significant role in the growth of our community," Doughty said.

The Caboose Corner project was recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority, which covered the exhibit and concrete slab, leaving the PPA to find funding sources for other needs.

The HOT Tax fund request is for marketing materials, water accessibility, seating and restoration of the caboose.

"We view the request as an investment in tourism infrastructure, community pride, historic preservation and economic development, that will continue generating benefit long after the July 4th holiday," Doughty stated. "This will be the gift that keeps on giving."

After discussion amongst Council, a motion was made by Mark Warny to approve the HOT tax funds request.

The motion was approved on a 4-3 vote, with Council's Victoria Duran, Troy Lewis and Ina Sonnier in opposition.

Lions roar

Palacios Lions Club member and former Mayor Jim Gardner stood at the citizens forum podium and took the PPA's Caboose Corner HOT Tax funding request to task.

Gardner took exception to the PPA's appli-

cation, which he implied were piggy-backing off the Lion's Club's July 4th Celebration.

The Lions' annual event draws approximately 3,000 visitors to town on the day of the fireworks, according to Gardner, which he said, "directly draws heads in beds."

"That obsolete train has nothing to do (America's) birthday," grumbled Gardner. "I don't want the caboose, hooking up to the Lion's Club engine."

TIRZ Board Appointments

Council approved a round of appointments to the City of Palacios Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #1 (TIRZ). Mark Warny was appointed to fill a two-year term and Donna Schulman will serve a one-year term.

Current TIRZ board member Carlos Duran was approved to serve as board chairman.

(See CITY, Page 2)

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17, 2026
VOL. 119 • NO.24

PALACIOS, TEXAS

The Only Newspaper In The World Published Just For The Palacios Area.

Palacios BEACON

P. O. Box 817 • 310 Fifth St.
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USPS 418460 Proudly Serving The City By The Sea Since 1907 1 SECTION, 10 PAGES \$1.00

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The Outrigger Events presents *Slim Bawb* at 7:30 p.m. on Sat. (June 20) at the Palacios Pavilion. For ticket information visit, www.outrigger-events.com.

FUMC annual Garage Sale Sat.

The First United Methodist Church in Palacios has extended its annual Garage Sale Fundraiser for one day only, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Sat. (June 20).

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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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City of Palacios, Seawall Commission welcome GLO feasibility study reps...

OFFICIALS from the City of Palacios, Matagorda Co. - Palacios Seawall Commission welcomed representatives from Texas General Land Office and to walk the Palacios Seawall in advance of a potential feasibility study to help strengthen, nourish and enhance Palacios' iconic waterfront walkway. On hand for the stroll were Kristen Hernandez of the General Land Office; Kim Doyle of Doyle & Wachtsetter; Chris Levitz, Taylor Squires, David Moulton, Chisha Musenda, Lexi Maddix, Cat Schuster, and Ethan Hammond of AECOM, engineering company assigned to the study; Seawall Commissioners Erwin Janszen, Joe Kana and Craig Wallis; and the City of Palacios' Mayor Rick Cink, Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem Larry Glenn; and interim City Manager Aleigha Galvan. (Beacon Photo by Brandi G. West)

ADA upgrades needed at East Bay Boat Ramp

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

While the bulk of the work on the boat ramp improvement projects are finished, additional work is needed before the Matagorda Co. - Palacios Seawall Commission's Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. grant-funded project can be closed out.

Urban Egnineering's Matt Glaze informed the commissioners at last week's regular monthly meeting it was a handicap parking spot at East Bay boat ramp that was docked by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) inspector for not meeting requirements.

"We didn't anticipate (the parking spot) being an issue. We thought it was grandfathered in," Glaze said. "We will need to tear out the piece and replace according to ADA standards."

Commissioners approved the ADA parking lot compliance work in the amount of \$11,412 to boat ramp project contractor Rhoades Land Leveling & Excavation.

Commission chair Craig Wallis urged Rhoades to put

(See SEAWALL, Page 2)

PISD Trustees recognize athletes, discuss fencing

BY BRIENN PANIAGUA
Palacios Beacon

Though school is out, the Palacios ISD Board of Trustees June meeting was rife with student recognition, academic discussion and a bit of back and forth about what it truly means to prioritize school safety.

The trustees spent a significant portion going back and forth over fencing from a security grant. Superintendent Jason Valentine deferred to Dr. Brian Williams to the matter, as Williams was familiar with the project. This funding comes from a grant the school received where the deficiencies noted were for radios and fencing. Williams recommended fencing-in of three acres at the "Bee farm" for the Ag Barn, and an additional fenced in recreational area at the elementary campus.

PISD Director of Administrative Services Williams explained the specs of the plan.

"The fences are to be 8-foot tall, or 6-feet with anti-scaling

features. What are anti-scaling features? This is the diagonal slants that you see, or the rolled edge at the top so someone can't just flop over," Williams explained.

This decision, however, did not sit right with council member Dane Kubecka, who found issue with the concept. "I know it's free money, I just think we should be open and get more with the money, the free money."

Williams seemed amenable to any improvement that was congruent with the plan.

"It doesn't matter to me what you do with it, this is just the facts," He agreed.

"There is a lot I'd like to do with it, but this grant money is specifically for this. If we don't use it we lose it."

"What about any kind of signage? For safety and security?" Kubecka asked.

"The grant can be used only for fences or radios. It is in the grant, we had to sign a document that stated it as true and

(See PISD, Page 2)



FOEC celebrates 45th anniversary

The Friends of Elder Citizens (FOEC) celebrates its 45th anniversary with a mini-festival last weekend. FOEC Board President Lillian Solis-Smith (center) made opening remarks flanked by members of the FOEC Board and staff, and Mayor of Palacios Rick Cink. Solis-Smith reiterated the FOEC's Mission to "Ensure that senior citizens 60 years and older will not be isolated, neglected nor forgotten, but remain in the mainstream of life as productive members of our community." Through its programs, the FOEC seeks to: To continue to improve the lives of the elderly and disabled through nutrition, recreation and socialization; To educate the elderly with knowledge on the services and programs available for the aged; To empower and encourage all seniors to participate in their care and quality of life, through sharing of their individual skills and experience with family and caregivers; To encourage respect for clients and co-workers within the organization and throughout the counties served; To reinforce that each person does not stand alone and FOEC is there for them with compassion shown through our actions on their behalf.

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