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15th Poker
In Palacis**
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Insurers See
Record Profits**
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**Alligator
Wrangled
From Canal**
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Council offers contract to CM, gets HTP update

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

There was plenty to report from last week's Palacios City Council meeting. From the long awaited audit report, a Pelican Place update report - however, the biggest news was, there's now a name to go with the offer.

The Palacios City Council emerged from a near hour behind Executive Session's closed doors with a motion to extend a contract for the City Manager vacancy to to Tamela Louvrier at last week's first regular meeting in July.

Louvrier is currently City Administrator for the City of Florence, Texas, a role she's held since March of 2025.

The details of the contract offer have yet to be released.

Audit

Andrew Sherwood, of Sorren CPA, presented Council with the City's 2025 fiscal year audit. The City received an unmodified opinion on its financial statement, something Sherwood said is, "What you want to see".

Of the findings of note, Sherwood said they were similar to findings from previous years. Balances on sheet needed adjustment, from payables to receives - across the board.

"This is not unexpected with small municipalities, but with repeated findings, the matter needs to be addressed," Sherwood added.

Asked by Councilman Mark Warny, what letter grade, would be given to the City on

its audit.

"An A+," Sherwood said of the working with City staff, and a "C-" on its accuracy in accounting records.

With additional controls put in place, Sherwood was confident the City could improve its grade.

Hotel Tres Palacios Update

Steve Smith of Denco Construction, contractor for the Hotel Tres Palacios project reported work continues on site plans and permitting, and architects are working on the pool building, restaurant and spa.

The plan is for the hotel and all amenities to go live at the same time.

"We want to be full service," Smith said. "We don't want to open half way."

The current push is getting the hotel structure stabilized as the threat of hurricane season remains.

Pelican Place Update

Alicia Waters of Lynn Development provided an update as required by the 380 Agreement for the Pelican Place subdivision.

Waters reported Phase 1 of the project, Flycatcher Dr. consists of 36 lots, with eight lots remaining. Once the lots remaining reaches three in Phase 1, Phase 2 will kick off.

Phase 2, Spoonbill Lane, will have 33 lots, with three lots already sold and one home under construction.

Waters noted the beginning land value of

(See CITY, Page 2)



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THE Bay City Civic Center side room was packed near capacity for last week's public meeting with Highly Innovative Fuels (HIF) officials following the announcement the proposed e-fuels 1,200 acre site in Matagorda Co. had been acquired by MARA, Holdings. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

HIF Matagorda Co. site acquired by MARA

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

The plug has been pulled on the proposed \$6-billion plant to produce e-fuels in Matagorda Co. near Tin Top, with plans now to transition the site to a data center and Bitcoin mining operation.

Representatives from HIF Global held a community meeting on the day the news broke nationally that it sold rights to the 1,200-acres site to Bitcoin mining giant, MARA, Holdings Inc. to the tune of \$600-million.

The agreement between HIF and MARA, a leading energy and digital infrastructure company, for which MARA acquires the 1,200-acre powered land site, which had already won full permits and secured grid connect for approximately 1.8 gigawatts of power.

The process to permit and obtain approval for grid connection could take years, with this route, MARA is bypassing the hoops to jump through and purchasing them outright.

A press release last Thursday from both HIF and MARA announced the

land acquisition agreement, along with local HIF representatives calling a community meeting at the Bay City Civic Center.

Prior to facing the Matagorda Co. public, HIF's Meg Gentle, an Executive Director of the Board of HIF Global and local representative James Outtrim sat with local press to provide a peek behind the curtain of the transaction.

After years of work on HIF original hydrogen e-fuel, efforts began to culminate in 2025, followed by a strong

(See HIF, Page 3)

Seawall wraps up a pair of projects

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

The Matagorda Co. - Palacios Seawall Commission received word that a pair of their projects are completed with another one mid-way to the finish line at last week's regular monthly meeting.

Matt Glaze of Urban Engineering reported the boat

(See SEAWALL, Page 2)

Gulf opens for shrimping today



The Gulf of Mexico commercial shrimp season for state and federal waters officially reopened 30 minutes after sunset on Wednesday, July 15.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Coastal Fisher-

(See SHRIMP, Page 2)

Blessing Hotel Car Show & Fundraiser returns Sat.

The Annual Blessing Hotel Fundraiser and Car Show will be held at the Historic Blessing Hotel, located at FM 616 in Blessing, will be held next Sat. (July 18).

All proceeds from this annual fundraiser will go to the Blessing Hotel to help with upkeep and improvements.

Car Show

Registration for the Car Show begins at 10 a.m. with awards at 3 p.m. There will be 27 classes and five special awards including a Peoples Choice Award and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

(See HOTEL, Page 3)

PVFD Fire Chief Adams addresses Rotary

BY EMILY FAGAN-BAKER
Palacios Rotary Club

The Palacios Rotary Club welcomed Palacios Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ryan Adams as its guest speaker during this week's meeting, where he shared updates on the department's work, the dedication of its volunteers, and an exciting community fundraiser planned for this fall.

Chief Adams introduced the department's first annual "Lines for Ladders & Community" Fishing Tournament, scheduled for October 2-3. Proceeds from the tournament will help the Palacios Volunteer Fire Department maintain existing lifesaving equipment and purchase additional equipment needed to continue serving the community safely and effectively.



Rotary members engaged in an informative discussion, asking thoughtful questions about the extensive training required of volunteer firefighters, the wide variety of emergency calls they respond to, and the demands placed on those who serve. Adams explained that today's firefighters undergo significant

(See ROTARY, Page 3)



Palacios' newest B&B, *The Saint Claude*

BY OLIVIA RANGEL
Palacios Beacon

A dainty two-story pinkhouse on the corner of Main Street and Third Street is believed to make a great impact for the City of Palacios. Welcome this new jewel of Matagorda Bay, a new bed and breakfast, *The Saint Claude*.

Eric and Martine Pelegrin had lived in Austin, Texas and worked as high standing chefs. For retirement, they thought about moving to France but it was believed to be expensive and difficult to build a business, so they stayed in Texas and moved down to Palacios.

"We love the area," Mrs. Pelegrin said. "We thought more people need to know about it, that Palacios could draw a lot more people."

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Observing Our
119th
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1907-2026

BEACON
BRIEFS

Rotary Club
hosts PISD Supt.
Valentine Thurs.

The Palacios Rotary
Club will meet at 5:30
p.m. on Thurs. (July 165)
at *The Cove*, located at
405 Main St. Palacios
ISD Superintendent Jason
Valentine will be the guest
speaker.

Live music Fri.
& Sun. at *El Maton*
National Hall

The *El Maton National
Hall*, located at 565 FM
1095 in El Maton, will
feature Chase Richburg
at 8 p.m. on Fri. (July 17),
and 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.

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
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