

Sharkettes Sink Alumni

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Most Americans Don't Know How to Protect Brain Health

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Back To School In Palacios

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City OK's development agreement with HTP

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

The grand plans to restore, renovate and expand the footprint of Hotel Tres Palacios cleared a major hurdle on the path towards transforming the waterfront in the City by the Sea at last week's City Council meeting.

The Hotel Tres Palacios was up for action on a trio of items on the evening's agenda - an ordinance limiting the use of the 400 block of South Bay Blvd.; a proposed .69-acre easement to the Hotel Tres Palacios, LLC.; and the long awaited 380 Agreement between the City and Hotel Tres Palacios, LLC.

Prior to Council taking action, Steve Smith of Denco Solutions, contractor for the \$27-million Hotel Tres Palacios project delivered a presentation on progress of the en-

Portion of South Bay Blvd. to be 'Limited Use' & easement granted

deavor by HTP owner, J.P. Bryan.

"We're bringing the hotel back to life," Smith said. "Our job is to preserve it and protect it. It's not 100% restoration, there is a difference. But it'll look like it did in 1904.

"Along with the hotel will be the restaurant, hotel, spa, swimming pool, along with swimming pool snack bar and restrooms."

According to Smith, the footprint of the hotel itself runs in the neighborhood of 22,000 sq. ft. and up to 28,000 with the porch included. The spa is somewhere around 2,800 sq. ft., and the restaurant today is probably close to 5,400 sq. ft.

"Every time we get together it gets bigger," he added.

As of now, the restaurant seat count is now over 100 indoors, according to Smith, with additional seating outdoors, while the spa will be full service, open to the public for fees, nails, facials, steam rooms, exercise rooms and massage.

"We're trying to make each one unique, fit in the neighborhood, and be a good compliment to the historic hotel."

Smith noted bumps in the road during the permitting processes.

"It's complicated," he said. "We're all human, but it was submitted and unfortunately reviewed maybe under the wrong code - for a new building instead of a historic rebuild. There are separate codes that need to be ap-

plied. That caused a lot of drama, but good news is we're working through it."

As for the easement request on Council's agenda, Smith acknowledged the item has been controversial at times.

"It's not that the owner wants controversy," Smith said, "but in order to get this sizable commitment - we're up to a \$27-million investment - it has to be unique and it has to be special. To attract that type of investment, we had to do something unusual."

Smith detailed the tradeoff for the granting of the easement is the commitment in the proposed 380 Agreement, is equivalent of 60 full time jobs.

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**BEACON
BRIEFS**

**CofC's Wake
Up Wednesday at
Mike's On Main**

The Palacios Chamber of Commerce invites members to its Quarterly Wake Up Wednesdays coffee social on Wednesday, August 19, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Mike's on Main, 458 Main Street in Palacios. Complimentary coffee will be provided courtesy of the Palacios Chamber of Commerce, and a \$10 breakfast bundle featuring a sweet or savory baked item with a specialty coffee will also be available. Come for the coffee and stay for the connections!

**Live music
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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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Living Shoreline taking shape on S. Bay



THE long awaited Living Shoreline project has begun taking shape in the shallows of South Bay. Contractor crews were staging riprap material at the 'Dead End' on Marine Center Dri., while crews work to install the first of multiple breakwaters. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

PISD educators receive Teacher Incentive Allotment

BY AMY LIPSCOMB
Palacios Beacon

The Palacios ISD (PISD) Board of Trustees met in regular session Monday night for the first of two scheduled August meetings.

Last week's meeting began with the newly appointed PISD Board member, Rafael Garcia, Position 2, taking his official oath of office. Trustee Garcia joined the Board in action where all

members were in attendance with the exception of Trustees Marcos Aparicio and Fabian Marroquin.

TIA Awards

Two outstanding teachers were recognized for their achievement in the State of Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment Plan. The TIA plan rewards excellence based on teacher performance and student growth. Metrics are analyzed and educators are recognized with additional compensation for the TIA distinction.

PJSH 6th Grade Teacher Hailey Davis received a TIA Recognized award and Jody Sanchez, PJSH Math Teacher/Coach earned a TIA Master designation.

Board Updates

Dr. Brian Williams, Director of Administrative Services, presented an operations update of the district maintenance and projects completed over the summer. The warehouse and byte cave renovation is finished including

(See PISD, Page 3)

First day enrollment at PISD drops by 35

When students returned to classrooms for the first day of school on last Wed. (Aug. 12) Palacios ISD registered a significant decrease of pupils in their seats, compared to the same time last year.

The figures reported by PISD, which include overall enrollment registered 1,215 pupils, a decrease of 35 students on the first day of classes in 2026-2027.

PISD's enrollment figures based on the previous 10 year average is 1,285.

The now three-year old Palacios Junior Senior High School, which houses the oldest students from 6th - 12th grade, tallied 588 students.

Three years in and Palacios Elementary School, with students from EE - 5th grade, registered 627 students within its halls, making

it the district's most populous campus.

The 10th grade class at PJSH is the largest with 100 students, while the 6th grade class registered the lowest pupil count with 70.

(See ENROLL, Page 3)

Seawall opts for voter approved tax rate proposal

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Citing decreased property values due to recent state legislation, the Matagorda Co. - Palacios Seawall Commission approved the highest tax rate it could go without ordering an election for the proposed tax rate of \$0.01216 per \$100 valuation.

(See SEAWALL, Page 3)

Tideh'A'ven tops county TEA Ratings

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2025-26 school ratings with Tidehaven ISD receiving the lone district-wide 'A' rating in Matagorda Co.

Tidehaven registered a grade of 'A' with a 91 score.

Three of Tidehaven's four campuses received 'A' grades with scores of 94, in Blessing Elementary, Markham Elementary and Tidehaven High School.

The Tidehaven Intermediate campus registered a 'B' grade with a score of 87.

The Palacios ISD was second fiddle in the countywide ratings with a 'B' grade with a score of 82.

Palacios Junior Senior High earned an 'B' with a score of 85, while Palacios Elementary tallied a 'C' grade with a score of 73.

Matagorda County's other school districts earned ratings of: Bay City - 'C' 79; Van Vleck - 'C' 76; and

(See TEA, Page 3)

MCND ballot finalized with contested races

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Barring any filing deadline frenzy, there will be two contested races for the two seats up for grabs on the Matagorda Co. Navigation District board of commissioners in the November 3 general election.

Voters will have the choice of either the incumbents or fresh faces to serve on the commission.

On the ballot for a six year-term for Pos. 3 are incumbent

(See FILING, Page 3)



THE Palacios Volunteer Fire Dept. were dispatched to assist with a landing zone for LifeFlight transportation at the Tin Top intersection of FM 521 and CR1093. No further information was available as of press time. (Beacon Photo by Brandi G. West)

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