

Council proposes voter approved tax rate

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

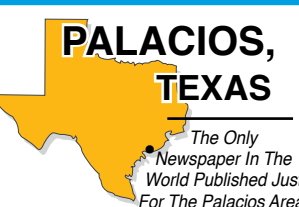
The City of Palacios set its 2026 proposed tax rate and set the dates for the public hearing on the proposed tax rate at last week's special called meeting and budget workshop. City Finance Director Jackie Miller presented the figures calculated by the Matagorda Co. Tax Assessor, with the No New Revenue (NNR) rate of \$0.53496 per \$100 valuation, which would generate the same revenue as last year, and the Voter Approved Rate (VAR) of \$0.58593 per \$100 valuation adjusted for unused increments (fractions of a cent from prior years unused increases). The VAR, the highest the City may go

without putting the measure to the voters, still comes in lower than this year's current rate, Miller noted. She cited the rising property appraisals were the result of this year's VAR coming in lower than the present rate. This year's proposed rate will raise over \$88,000 more property tax revenue for the City, which includes just short of \$13,000 from new property added to the tax rolls. While its true the City of Palacios is on the naughty list of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton for the mandated March 31 audit reporting deadline requirement and will be penalized with a one-year freeze on property tax increases. City Attorney Anne Marie Odefey acknowledged having received the letter from

the Attorney General's Office which said the City will now "suffer penalty of that failure" to meet the audit reporting deadline. She clarified the order and said it applies to 2027's property tax rate, and not the 2026 rate. Council approved to set the proposed tax at the VAR of \$0.58593 per \$100 valuation on a 5-0 vote. Absent from the special meeting were Council members Ina Sonnier and Mark Warny. Council approved to hold the Budget & Tax Rate Public hearing at the Sept. 10 Council meeting, with plans to adopt both the tax rate and budget at the Nov. 24 meeting. **Cleared for takeoff** The Council wasted no time in approved a

pair of project funding endeavors of the Palacios Economic Development Corp. (PEDC) at the Palacios Airport. Council rubber stamped both the PEDC's \$18,750 fund match for the City for a TxDOT Airport Layout Plan, and a \$600,000 project to construct a new T-Hangar. **SAFEbuilt welcomed aboard** After having a presentation by SAFEbuilt representatives at the prior Council meeting, an agreement for department services was on Council's agenda last Thursday. "I strongly believe you'll see savings and an increased service level," declared SAFEbuilt's Brad Bond. Councilwoman Victoria Duran was on (See CITY, Page 4)

WEDNESDAY
AUG. 26, 2026
VOL. 119 • NO.34



PALACIOS, TEXAS
The Only Newspaper In The World Published Just For The Palacios Area.

P. O. Box 817 • 310 Fifth St.
Palacios, TX 77465
(361) 972-3009
palaciosbeacon@gmail.com
www.palaciosbeacon.com

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

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.

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.



Palacios BEACON

USPS 418460 Proudly Serving The City By The Sea Since 1907 1 SECTION, 12 PAGES \$1.00



Saturday night single-truck rollover...

A Texas Dept. of Public Safety State Trooper inspects the mangled exterior of red pickup truck invovled in a single vehicle rollover accident last Sat. (Aug. 22) at shortly before 9 p.m. The two occupants were transported to the hospital for their injuries. The accident remains under investigation. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

Shrimpers plea for help from MCND

BY BRANDI GARCIA WEST
Palacios Beacon

The shrimping industry is facing substantial challenges, specifically skyrocketed fuel costs with prices exceeding \$4.50 per gallon making it difficult for those in the industry to maintain profitability. Many local shrimpers will be considering docking their vessels instead of shrimping due to the inability to financially sustain. Craig Wallis, owner of W W Dock, spoke to the Commissioners of the Matagorda County Navigation District #1, humbly requested dock space rent not to be increased or if there must be an increase for it to be staggered. Another factor besides rising fuel costs continues to be imported foreign shrimp flooding the market. Wallis referenced Ecuador pond-raised shrimp, which was foreign United States (See MCND, Page 2)

Warriors Weekend bringing wounded vets to town in Nov.

BY BRANDI GARCIA WEST
Palacios Beacon

Warriors Weekend is a special opportunity for the Palacios community to honor and support veterans who continue to fight battles long after returning home. Many veterans struggle with PTSD, depression, anxiety, isolation, and suicidal thoughts. This event reminds them that they are not forgotten and that their service, sacrifice and lives are deeply valued. At the Palacios Rotary Club meeting at The Cove on Thursday, August 20, Ron Kocian spoke passionately about his personal connection to veterans and why Warriors Weekend means so much to him. His words highlighted the very real struggles many veterans face after their military service and the importance of surrounding them with compassion, friendship, and appreciation. Kocian emphasized that events such as Warriors Weekend can instill hope among veterans by reminding them that their communities still care about them, recognize their sacrifices, and want (See ROTARY, Page 2)



Ron Kocian
Warrios Weekend



ROTARY'S Emily Fagan-Baker addresses the crowd at The Cove last Thurs. evening.

A Legacy Built on Compassion. A Future Filled with Promise.

After 18 Years of Extraordinary Growth, Vibrance Health Turns the Page to Its Next Chapter

Press Release Courtesy
Vibrance Health

BAY CITY, Texas — After 18 years of leadership that helped transform a small community health outreach program into one of the region's most comprehensive healthcare organizations, Celeste Harrison will conclude her tenure as CEO of Vibrance Health on Thursday, August 20, 2026. Harrison was honored August 1, at a retirement luncheon celebrating her 18 years of service to the organization and the lasting impact of her leadership across Matagorda and Wharton counties. Eighteen years ago, when Harrison first walked through the doors of what was then Matagorda Episcopal Health Outreach Program (MEHOP), the organization looked very different than it does today. There was one operational building. Seven employees. Limited resources. An uncertain future. The organization had already been denied designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center—not once, but twice—and few believed another opportunity would come. Then, in 2009, opportunity arrived. When the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act created funding for new Federally Qualified Health Centers across the country, MEHOP became one of approximately 250 organizations nationwide to receive designation, forever changing the trajectory of healthcare in Matagorda and Wharton counties. Nearly two decades later, the organization—rebranded as Vibrance Health in 2023—has grown



into one of the region's most comprehensive community healthcare providers. Today, Vibrance Health offers family medicine, pediatrics, women's health, dental care, behavioral health, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, pharmacy and imaging services, while extending its mission beyond the walls of its clinics through the Vibrance Farmstead, where fresh, affordable produce helps improve access to healthy food for local families. What began as a small outreach program has grown into an organization supporting approximately 170 direct jobs, generating an estimated 222 jobs throughout the regional economy and contributing nearly \$24 million in annual revenue. (See VIBRANCE, Page 6)

SUBSCRIBE TO THE PALACIOS BEACON \$40 A YEAR IN COUNTY \$50 A YEAR OUT-OF-COUNTY



Police Reports.....Page 3
Early Files.....Page 4
Outdoors.....Page 7
Lifestyles.....Page 9
Classifieds.....Page 10
Youth.....Page 11
Sports.....Page 12



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