

Palacios Students Of The Week

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CofC Encourages Support of Save Our Shrimpers Act

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Sharks Fall Short In Flatonía

SEE PAGE 11

City taps Martinez as MCJ

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

The Palacios City Council made the final reading transitioning a portion of South Bay Blvd. to pedestrian traffic only and approved the appointment of familiar face as new Municipal Court Judge at last week's regular meeting.

The absence of a pair of Councilmembers, Victoria Duran and Joe Ramirez, didn't stop Council from approving the final reading of the ordinance limiting usage of the 400 block South Bay Blvd.

City Attorney Anne Marie Odefey noted the proposed changes had been made from the first reading of the or-

dinance. Included were new definitions, restricting traffic to pedestrian only and bicycles under self-propelled human power. The lone exceptions to the ordinance are wheel chairs and like mobile devices, used by those with disabilities.

During Citizens Forum, Joe Monk spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance.

"I support the ordinance for South Bay Blvd," Monk said. "Anything to bring business to town is good."

The final reading was approved unanimously by Council.

Martinez appointed MCJ

Longtime Municipal Court secretary and associate Municipal Court Judge

Sonia Martinez was approved by Council to the top bench in town.

Current Municipal Court Judge Suzie Thompson reported having 'no qualms' about Martinez moving into the judge's chair.

"It'll be a good move," she said. "She's ready, confident and I'm on speed dial."

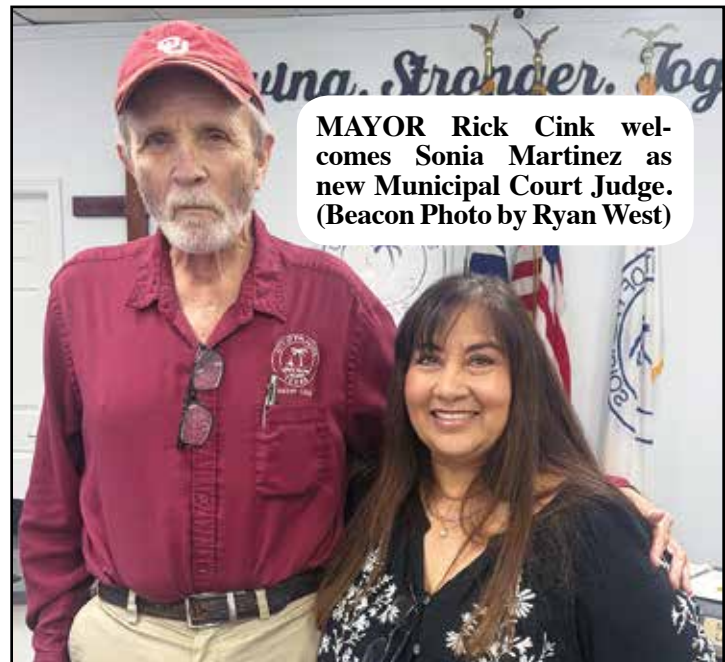
Council approved Martinez to the post on a unanimous vote.

"Thank you for your consideration," Martinez said. "I'll give it my best."

Pool Credits

Councilman Mark Warny dove into the deep end of the City's water policy

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MAYOR Rick Cink welcomes Sonia Martinez as new Municipal Court Judge. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)



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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

Did You Know?
Thurs. at *The Cove*

This month's *Did You Know?* Happy Hour, will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Thurs. (Sep. 3) at *The Cove*, located at 405 Main St. This month's featured guest speaker will be Brandi Garcia West, executive director of the Palacios Chamber of Commerce.

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.

The Outrigger Events presents
Texas Tide Sun.
at the Pavilion

The Outrigger Events presents *Texas Tide* - a Jimmy Buffet Tribute Band at 7:30 p.m. on Sun. (Sep. 6) at the Palacios Pavilion. For ticket information visit, www.outriggerevents.com.

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.

PALACIOS PRIDE
PICK IT UP

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Turning the corner in the cotton field...

IT'S cotton picking time in Texas as the fields that were once leafy and green, turned to brown stalks covered with cotton bolls white as snow when harvest season arrived. A cotton combine turns from the brown picked field to the rows of white as harvesting continues. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

Matagorda Co. jobless rate climbs to 6.3% in July

BY BRANDI GARCIA WEST
Palacios Beacon

Matagorda County's unemployment rate increased to 6.3% in July, according to the latest Local Area Unemployment Statistics released by the Texas Workforce Commission's Labor Market Information department.

The July rate represents an increase from 6.1% in June and is slightly higher than the 6.2% unemployment rate recorded in July 2025. Lo

Matagorda County's unem-

ployment rate continues to remain above the statewide average. Texas recorded a 4.8% not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in July, compared with 4.9% in June. The state's more commonly reported seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 4.5% in July.

Despite the increase in the local unemployment rate, Texas has added "more than 165,000 jobs over the last year highlighting the growth of the Texas economy and the employers who drive it," said

TWC Chairman Joe Esparza. "With our labor force expanding by 10,800 people in July, it is evident that the volume of opportunities in Texas is a powerful draw for the American workforce," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III. "To sustain this momentum, TWC is committed to investing in the success of all workers, utilizing programs like Project Search to provide the vocational rehabilitation and training necessary for Texans of all abilities to thrive."

Several counties in the region also reported unemployment rates above the

(See JOBS, Page 2)

Calculation errors forces Seawall re-do of tax rate

BY JEANETTE ALLUMS

A special called meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Matagorda County-Palacios Seawall Commission was held August 27, 2026, to address a calculation error in the proposed 2026 tax rate and to amend the \$0.01216 tax rate previously approved on August 12. After consideration and discussion, the Commissioners took action regarding the 2026 tax rate and approved the following options:

No-New-Revenue (NNR) Tax Rate: \$0.01202 per \$100 of taxable value; or

Voter-Approval Tax Rate: \$0.01335 per \$100 of taxable value.

The Commissioners voted unanimously to propose the 2026 Tax Rate at \$0.01335 per \$100 valuation.

Next meeting

Action on adopting the 2026 tax rate will take place at the Seawall's regular meeting on Wed. (Sep 9) at 6 p.m. at the Port of Palacios Administration Building.

Palacios ISD Trustees were to meet Mon. to finalize budget, set proposed tax rate

BY AMY LIPSCOMB
Palacios Beacon

The Palacios ISD School Board has been hard at work over the summer carefully reviewing all aspects of the upcoming 2026-2027 budget.

The July meeting included a first draft of the 2026-27 school budget for the board to consider. In August the board returned to the table for a second review of the district's expenses.

The Special Board meeting on August 24th was focused once again on the district budget as it aims to close the 2025-2026 budget cycle and adopt the new budget for fiscal year 2026-2027.

The Board will take the next step to finalize the budget and adopt the proposed tax rate during the Special meeting on August 31st.

Enrollment

The enrollment/attendance update was discussed while reviewing last year's report and comparing the student attendance numbers. PISD has a current enrollment of 1235 students.

The district has seen a consistent decline in student enrollment since school began on August 12th. On the first day of school student enrollment was 1271. One week later that number dropped to 1218, briefly increasing to 1221 before inching up to the current 1235.

Superintendent Jason Valentine commented the loss in attendance is a combination of students being homeschooled and transferring to other school districts. The 2026-2027 budget is projecting less revenue and the deficit budget is a result of reduced funding.

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WHAT was a monstrous bull redfish washed up on the rocks along the South Bay Seawall near the First St. Pier with a massive shark bite out of its tail section. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

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