Students & Teacher Of The Month
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Public Info, Free Speech Rights Go Hand In Hand
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Sharks Run Over St. Joe
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Palacios opportunities for growth at CofC

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-*Publisher*

A crash course on the ins and outs of economic development preceded a main course of Palacios opportunities, a side of data center discourse and an aquatic center dessert forced last week's monthly general membership meeting of the Palacios Chamber of Commerce into overtime.

Mike Ferdinand, executive director of the Matagorda Co. Economic Development Corp., kicked off the discussions with a background on, 'What is economic development?'.

"It's not simply recruiting a factory or creating jobs and it certainly isn't about changing the community into something that it's not," Ferdinand said. "It's about creating conditions that allow businesses to invest, people to find good jobs, families to find prosperity and to great a better of quality of life for the citizens of Matagorda County."

As for Palacios, Ferdinand acknowledged it has something special.

"You're not just any community on the Texas Gulf coast," he said. "You have the bay, you have a working waterfront, a commercial fishing industry, recreational fishing, boating, birding, outdoor recreation and a small town quality of life."

"What you have is identity," added Ferdinand. "That's who you are."

A major piece of Palacios' identity is the Matagorda Co. Navigation District #1.

"It's a major economic engine to this community," Ferdinand said. "Right now our fisheries are facing significant challenges because of federal policy. In order to build a resilient economy, we need not only to continue to improve, attempt to preserve our legacy industry, but we've got to take the same skill sets that exist in those industries and try and apply them to new business coming in."

Ferdinand foresees a Port of Palacios in the future as a maritime cluster of shipbuilding, fisheries and potentially other significant industries. Ferdinand noted how logistics in Matagorda Co. and surrounding areas is very difficult because there are not enough 18-wheelers to move what's moving in and out of their county.

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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

NHS Blood Drive Thurs.

The PJSH National Honor Society will hold its annual blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thur. (Sep. 10) in front of the high school. Everyone is encouraged to donate to this worthy cause. If you are interested in donating, you may stop by when it is convenient for you. To donate blood you must be at least 16 years old, weigh 120 pounds and be in good health. Anyone under 17 needs parents' consent to donate. Please eat a hearty meal and drink plenty of fluids, preferably water, prior to donation and continue to do so throughout the day. Remember to bring an I.D. There is no substitute for blood. It has to come from one person in order to be given to another.

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.

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.

VARSITY Palacios Sharkette Ashilin Michelle crashes to the court after laying out for a dig in last week's volleyball action in the Shark Tank against Ganado. While Michelle lays out, fellow Sharkette Laila Richards eyes the airborne volleyball and Jaeilei Camp and Carly Chapman round their way into position. Palacios spiked the Maidens in straight set fashion. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

PISD approves $750 stipend to all employees

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-*Publisher*

A $750 bonus for all employees and the 2026 budget and tax rate were approved at last week's special called meeting of the Palacios ISD Board of Trustees

The trustees approved the 2026 tax rate of $0.89450 per $100 valuation. The adopted rate is less than the 2025 rate of $0.94860.

Budget approved

All employees of Palacios ISD will be getting a $750 gift courtesy the PISD Board of Trustees after the measure was included in the 2026-27 budget and was approved a 5-2 vote.

Trustees Marcos Aparicio and Carl Filip were the votes cast in opposition.

A trio of options were on the trustees table when it came to the 2026-27 budget, from without a pay increase or sti-

(See PISD, Page 3)

PEDC picks up tab on next round of golf course study

BY BRANDI GARCIA WEST
Palacios Beacon

The Palacios Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) pitched in on a feasibility study (mulligan) for the Palacios Golf Course

The PEDC directors unanimously approved up to $26,500 for a Palacios Golf Course feasibility study conducted by the National Golf Foundation. The study will provide the PEDC and the City of Palacios with golf industry expertise to evaluate the course's long-term economic potential, optimal property configuration, and amenity mix to maximize benefits for both the new community project and the broader Palacios area.

L & T's Bert West Grant

Additionally, the board approved a Bert West Grant for L&T Bar-B-Que for its upcoming opening at 200 Commerce.

Associate MCEDC membership

Unanimously the PEDC board approved the Associate Membership with the Matagorda County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) which will enable the PEDC to access quarterly newsletters and MCEDC updates, an invitation to general MCEDC networking events, recognition on MCEDC website and annual report and an opportunity to participate in surveys and provide feedback on economic development priorities.

This entry level membership will also involve annual check-in, unless specific projects warrant ad-

(See PEDC, Page 2)

Sharks, Tigers square off for 78th time Fri.

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-*Publisher*

For the 78th time, the two Matagorda County football teams west of the Colorado River and separated by 12 miles, - the Palacios Sharks (1-1) and the Tidehaven Tigers (0-2) will lock jaw and claw this Friday night at 7:30 p.m. from Tidehaven's Delvin Taska Stadium in El Maton.

The Sharks roll into the cross-county rivalry game with a 1-1 record after notching their first victory on the gridiron with a 21-7 victory over St. Joe's Flyers last Friday. The Tigers limp into the matchup having dropped their first two games of the season including a 25-20 defeat in Goliad last week.

As football fans in Texas know, when rivals hook horns - anything can happen. Toss out the records and get ready for a battle - especially between the Sharks and Tigers.

Over the course of the 77 year history, the Sharks own a 40 win, 32 loss and five tie advantage over their striped and clawed counterparts.

However, the recent record has turned heavily in Tidehaven's favor as the Tigers have won five straight over the Sharks, with a combined score advantage of 239-41.

The Tigers throttled the Sharks for the largest winning margin in the 77 game history with a 72-0 blanking of Palacios in the 2025 season opener.

Stock the Trailer

Bragging rights are always on the line when the Palacios Sharks & Tidehaven Tigers meet up on any field of play, or any sort of competition for

(See RIVALRY, Page 6)

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