

Council names Branson new City Manager

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Nearly 11 months after a ‘parting of ways’ the City of Palacios has a new City Manager.

Jon Branson was officially offered the position at last Thursday’s regular meeting of the Palacios City Council and on Friday was signed, sealed and delivered as the City’s top administrator.

After over an hour-and-a-half in executive session, Palacios’ elected officials emerged from executive ses-

sion to offer Branson the position.

The City’s contract with Branson is for one year at \$112,500 per year with a 3% salary raise coming after six months of employment. His first day on the job was slated for Mon. (Sep. 14).

Branson was most recently employed by the City of Texas City for the past six years, where he served as Executive Director of Management Services. His prior experience also includes 14 years with the City of Pearland in roles of Deputy City Manag-



MEMBERS of the Palacios City Council and new City Manager are: (left to right) Council’s Joe Ramirez, Victoria Duran and Ina Sonnier, City Manager Jon Branson, Mayor Rick Cink, and Council’s Larry Glenn, Troy Lewis and Mark Warny. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

WEDNESDAY
SEP. 16, 2026
VOL. 119 • NO.37

PALACIOS, TEXAS

The Only Newspaper In The World Published Just For The Palacios Area.

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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

Candlelight Vigil Thurs. at TBE for suicide prevention & awareness month

The community is invited to come together for a Candlelight Vigil for Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Texas Baptist Encampment Amphitheater. The message of the evening is simple: “Together, we remember. Together, we protect. Hope. Help. Healing.” For more information, contact Senior Life Solutions at 361-972-0395.

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.

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Pearls shimmer & shine...

THE Palacios Pearls dance squad shimmered and shined on the midfield turf of Delvin Taska Stadium in El Maton during halftime of last week’s 78th rivalry showdown between the Palacios Sharks & Tidehaven Tigers. Pearls pictured are: (left to right) Kendra Villagomez, Erlinda Zamora, Carly Chapman, Juliette Rodriguez, Adryana Stilwell, Trinity Perez, Alinna Gonzales, Zayda Sanchez, Genesis Constancio, and Ebelin Mancera. For more on last week’s rivalry game, see Sports on Page 11. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)



PD investigating Labor Day joy riders

THE Palacios Police are investigating a Labor Day joy rider of a 4-wheeler all-terrain vehicle throughout the City. The joy ride came to an abrupt end on 8th St. near the intersection with Main St. Authorities were able to identify two passenger riders but the driver managed to escape capture and remains on the loose. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

PISD adds 24 to rolls in post Labor Day count

BY RYAN WEST
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When students returned to classrooms for the first day of school on Aug. 12, Palacios ISD had a total of 1,215 students at their desks. When classes resumed following the Labor Day holiday, all the late registrations finalized and dust settled from the early start to the school year, Palacios ISD added 24 more pupils into its halls and brought the total student population 1,239.

The Palacios Elementary School campus, home to the youngest learners from EE - 5th grade, is the district’s most populous with figures, with 637 students, while the Palacios Junior Senior High has 602.

The sophomore class at PJSH is the lone class to hit triple-digit enrollment with 103 students, while the Pre-K class has the lowest enrollment in the district with 69 students, followed by the sixth grade class with 71.

Class totals at each of the PISD campuses on this year’s post-Labor Day count with 2025 totals shown in parentheses:

Palacios Junior Senior High: Seniors, 95 (99); Juniors 81 (97); Sophomores,

(See PISD, Page 2)



MATAGORDA Co. - Palacios Seawall Commissioners Joe Kana, Craig Wallis and Erwin Janszen gaze intently on the presentation. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

Seawall finalize budget & tax rate

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Derelict piers and the Palacios Preservation Association’s Palacios Pathways project led discussions at last week’s meeting of the Matagorda Co. - Palacios Seawall Commission.

The commissioners were unanimous in their approval of the 2026 budget and subsequent tax rate of \$0.01335 per \$100 valuation.

PPA’s Pathways project
Andrea Szigeti of the PPA provided a

presentation on the Palacios Pathways project, which will be a three-year long endeavor covering multiple aspects of the *City by the Sea*.

Living Currents: Oral Histories of the Bay, which will document oral histories.

Tales & Trails: Steps Through Time and Place, which will be a network of outdoor heritage and eco-interpretive exhibits, walking & driving tours, and wayfinding signage that connects Palacios’ cultural, ecological and historic sites.

(See SEAWALL, Page 2)



CROWNED the 2026 Tidehaven High School Homecoming King & Queen were Matthew Riddick and Naomi Aboytes. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)