Students Of The Week
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Texas Public Schools Post Record Enrollment Decline
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Sharks Battle On The Court
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PORT Director Blake Welborn administers the oaths of office to new MCND#1 Commissioners in Kevin Harvey, Pos. 4, and Gary Hafernick, Pos. 3 during last week's meeting. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

MCND#1 welcomes new Commissioners

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-*Publisher*

The Matagorda Co. Navigation District #1 welcomed its two newest commissioners to the board and reorganized the officer ranks at last week's regular monthly meeting.

Following the canvassing of the election, Port Director Blake Welborn administered the oaths of office to new Commissioners Gary Hafernick in Pos. 3 and Kevin Harvey in Pos. 4.

New Officers

The board approved Commissioner Schulman to maintain residence atop the board as Chair, with Carlos Duran to serve as Vice Chair and Hafernick to serve as Secretary.

Farwell Words

Prior the oaths of office, the MCND Commissioners bid adieu to Jimmy Neeley, whose 18 year run on the board came to an end with the Nov. election.

Neeley reflected on his time on the board and noted that while much is the same in the daily operations, much has changed, including the Port's finances.

When he first came on board, the Port held $17-18-million in its accounts and that has now dropped.

"Over the past 18 years, had we left it in the bank, it would be over $30-million," Neeley said.

He urged the Commissioners to be cautious because, "the lower it gets, the faster it goes".

Commissioner chair Alan Schulman presented Neeley with a gift commemorating his

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WEDNESDAY
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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

Thanksgiving Meal Thurs. at Trinity Baptist

The Trinity Baptist Church will be holding a free Thanksgiving Meal on Thurs. (Nov. 26) from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Church, located at 1207 2nd St. Come enjoy fellowship and a meal - dine-in or drive-thru or delivery. For deilvery, call 361-972-3139 and leave a message.

Free Chantel Duran Memorial Thanksgiving meal Thurs.

The family of Chantel Duran will be holding a free Thanksgiving meal from 11 a.m. until all is served on Thurs. (Nov. 26) at the St. Anthony Catholic Church's Family Center, located at 1001 Magnusson.

Medicare Open Enrollment help Tues. at PCMC

The Palacios Community Medical Center, located at 311 Green Ave., welcomes H-GAC Medicare benefits expert Alex Rischan to help assist with Medicare Open Enrollment from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Tues. (Dec. 1). Get the facts, ask questions and get help.

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HELPING to celebrate PCMC's Top 20 Critical Hospital Access Hospital designation were: (left to right) Dan Tucker, Darian Jimenez, Alex Adair, Mona Seaman, Jennifer Webel, Alara Brumaghin, Kristan Harr, Sonia Lopez, Janice Young, Huyen Tran, Brett Gerberman, Janice Corporon, Maria Pena, Keri Berger, Hillary Nieto, Becky Garcia, Terri Corn, Hannah Carlin, Stephanie Nieto, Sandi Bystrek, Lisa Figueroa NP, Cristina Cantu (Submitted Photo)

Palacios Community Medical Center earns Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals designation

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-*Publisher*

Palacios' own Palacios Community Medical Center was recently recognized by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) as one of the nation's **Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals for Quality**. This recognition is especially meaningful because it reflects our team's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality healthcare to the Palacios community and surrounding rural areas.

The NRHA, in partnership with the Chartis Center for Rural Health, identifies Top 20 hospitals through a comprehensive evaluation of eight pillars of excellence. For the Quality category, hospitals are evaluated specifically on their quality performance, with the 20 highest-ranking hospitals receiving this distinction.

"For a small rural hospital like PCMC, this achievement is something to be incredibly proud of," said PCMC Administrator Huyen Tran "Providing quality healthcare in a rural community comes with unique challenges, but our team continues to demonstrate that high-quality care can be delivered right here at home."

"This achievement is a testament to the dedication compassion and commitment of our entire healthcare team - our physicians, nurses, employees, volunteers, board members - and community partners who

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PALACIOS' newest top cop, Chief Steven Johnson was pinned with his Chiefs badge by wife, Sherree, at last week's meeting. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

City gets new Chief of Police

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-*Publisher*

The City of Palacios' 10-month vacancy at the top of its Police Dept. is officially over, with the appointment of a 10-year Palacios Police Dept. veteran with 40 years of law enforcement experience is the newest Chief of Police for the City of Palacios.

Longtime Palacios Police Officer Capt. Steven Johnson had his interim-Chief tag replaced with his appointment as Palacios Police Chief at last week's lone-November meeting of the Palacios City Council.

City Manager Jon Branson made his recommendation of promoting Johnson to Chief to Council, as per the City Charter.

Johnson holds an associate degree in law informant from the Police Science Institute and he studied criminal justice at Central Washington University, and graduated both the Wharton Co. Junior College Police Academy and the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission Police Academy.

Council wasted no time in confirming Branson's recommendation on a unanimous 4-0 vote. Absent were Mayor Rick Cink and Council members Joe Ramirez and Mark Warny.

Chief Johnson was administered his oath of office by Municipal Court Judge Sonia Martinez and pinned

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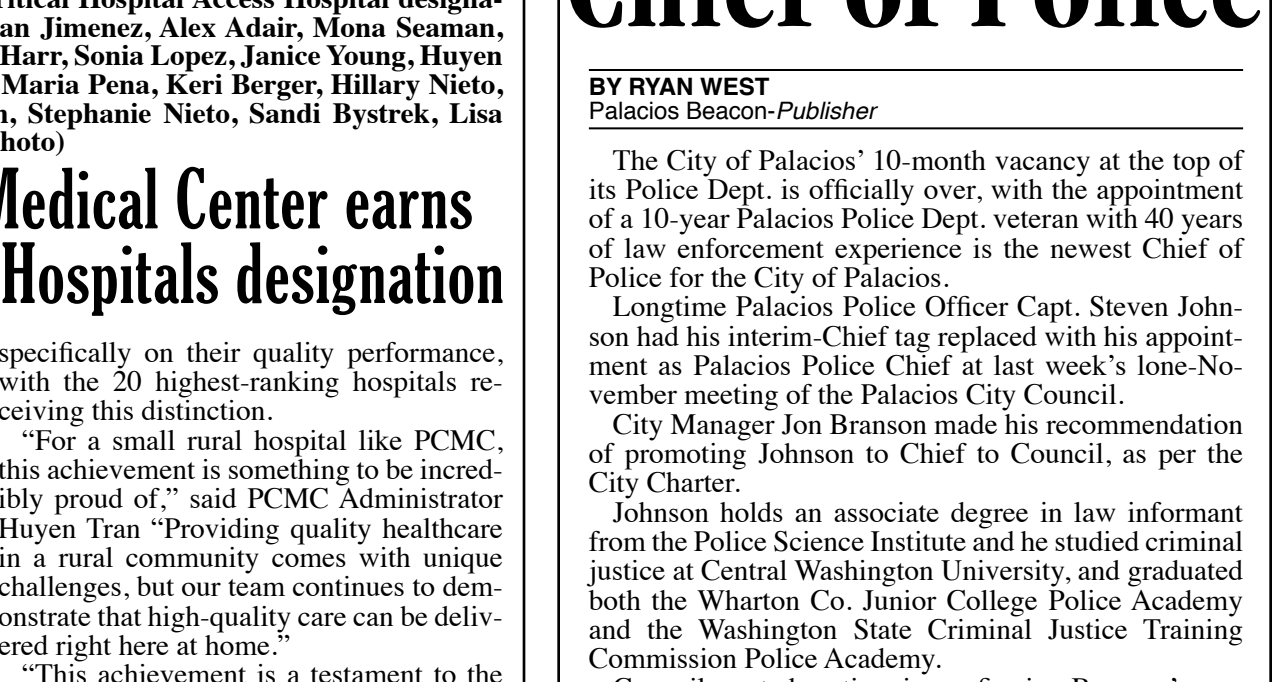
Neeley steps down as President of the Robert Duran Caring & Sharing Food Pantry



THE Robert Duran Caring & Sharing Food Pantry bid a fond farewell to longtime President Mary Jo Neeley (pictured center). Joining in to express thanks and gratitude for Neeley's years of service were board members (front, l-r) Michelle Colura and Melanie Dailey; (back) Jeanie Wilson, Ted Perkins, Debbie Sanders, Madeline & Bernard Rother and Bobbie Kana. (Submitted Photo)