

## Football: It's time for 2-a-days



## Palacios' historic building

History page shows how Paul and Donna Christensen have given new life and elegance to a 107-year-old landmark building

# Bay City Sentinel

**Thursday**  
August 4, 2016  
Volume 2, Issue 38  
baycitysentinel.com

Independent community news that matters

75 cents

## A goal to honor Hawkins

### Enoch, chamber fundraising aims for plaque at park

From Staff Reports

Earlier this year, City Council named the youth football field in Hardeman Park on 12th Street in honor of Anthony "Andy" Hawkins who died in October 2015.

Hawkins, who served as a city councilman and Bay City Community Development Corporation board member was instrumental in the development of the youth



Anthony Hawkins

football field.

To honor the popular city leader, former council member Joseph Enoch is leading a fund-raising effort for a permanent plaque honoring Hawkins' contribution to the community.

"The goal is to unveil the

See Plaque, Page 2

## \$5.6M in COs to fund street work

### Council OKs \$227,073 bid to replace Texas Theatre roofing

By Mike Reddell  
reddell.mike@gmail.com

City Council authorized issuing \$5.6 million in certificates of obligation that won't require a tax increase to fund Bay City's extensive Phase 3 street rehabilitation project at council's regular meeting Thursday, July 28.

The city's financial advisors called the 2.2 percent rate on selling the 20-year certificates from the lowest of five bidders "real good."

The city was awarded a AA-bond rating on the COs.

Approving the issue and sale of the certificates comes is timely, since the bid opening and award on the Phase 3 work will be this

month.

The long-planned Phase 3 work includes seal coating on several streets and full-depth reconstruction on a long list of other thoroughfares.

Phase 3 also includes utility improvements identified on the Phase 3 streets.

Council also awarded a \$227,073 bid on roof replacement for the Texas Theatre building and its annex, at 2227 Ave. F, at Thursday night's meeting.

The lowest of six bidders on the work was Rio Hondo-based Argio Roofing & Construction.

Funding for the historical restoration work on the 1927 theater will come from city Hotel

See Council, Page 2



Bay City Sentinel/Mike Reddell

City Council members Julie Estlinbaum and Bill Cornman were sworn in for their new terms at council's meeting last Thursday, July 28. While the veteran council members were unopposed in their re-election May 7, an oversight delayed their swearing in until last week.

## Mayor, council meeting starts rocky, but ends with harmony

By Mike Reddell  
reddell.mike@gmail.com

A city council special meeting to address disagreements between Mayor Mark Bricker and city council over appointments to the Bay City Community Development Corporation (CDC) board ended in harmony – a word that went both directions during the session Thursday, July 28.

Council and the mayor ultimately agreed on a process for making board appointments that involves the mayor, the mayor pro tem (presently Chrystal Folse), the city's human resource director and the presidents of boards to which appointments are being made.

The mayor called last week's session after he earlier this summer tried to appoint members to the CDC, without reappointing present members Bobby Wilkinson and Maria Aguilera.

Wilkinson is the CDC president.

Council opposed that move – there was no motion made on the mayor's two BC CDC appointments - Bricker came back two weeks later with a proposal to remove Wilkinson and Aguilera from the board.

That led council to approve Councilman Bill Cornman's motion to postpone the matter - a procedural move to keep the issue permanently off council's agenda.

The special meeting last Thursday began with a PowerPoint presentation from City Attorney Shannon Kackley on the mayor-council form of government, city charter provisions related to board appointments by the mayor and council and relevant state law.

Bricker and Council Member Julie Estlinbaum both noted how appointment recommendations have been made between the mayor and council.

See Harmony, Page 2



Bay City Parks & Recreation Up, Up & Away Pool Party at Hilliard Pool Saturday, sponsored by Happy Radio 92.5, drew a lot of happy swimmers of all ages.

### 5-day forecast

|          |  |        |
|----------|--|--------|
| Thursday |  | Hi 96  |
| Aug. 4   |  | Low 77 |
| Friday   |  | Hi 95  |
| Aug. 5   |  | Low 77 |
| Saturday |  | Hi 97  |
| Aug. 6   |  | Low 77 |
| Sunday   |  | Hi 97  |
| Aug. 7   |  | Low 77 |
| Monday   |  | Hi 96  |
| Aug. 8   |  | Low 78 |

### Index

Calendar.....2 Church.....5  
History.....4 News.....8-9



## Peterson leaves MCEDC post

By Mike Reddell  
reddell.mike@gmail.com

Eva Peterson left her position as Matagorda County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) executive director Friday.

Peterson was hired for the position in May 2015 and the resignation came after she met with the MCEDC executive committee Friday morning, July 29, said D.C. Dunham, MCEDC board president.

The entire MCEDC board reviewed the evaluations of Peterson during the regular session Friday.

Peterson then met with the executive committee following the regular session.

MCEDC's executive committee

includes Dunham, County Judge Nate McDonald, Port of Bay City Authority representative George Harrison and Matagorda County Navigation District Port Director Debbie Morris.

"There were some issues we pointed out that needed to be improved upon," Dunham said of the executive panel's meeting with Peterson.

The issues raised with Peterson came from a compilation of MCEDC board members' evaluation form. No one board member's evaluation carried more weight in the job review, she pointed out.

In turn, Peterson told the group they could do a better job of communication with her, Dunham said Monday in a telephone interview with the Sentinel.

Peterson also told the committee that it was better for her to move on, Dunham added.

"I'm not sure what to say, their request for my resignation came as a complete surprise," Peterson said when she was contacted for comment Tuesday.

"I left a great job in El Campo and then turned down another job for a lot more money in El Campo to work in the community I live, so that I would be able to contribute.

"I love Bay City and have so many great friends. I really wanted this community to work as a community," Peterson said.

Dunham said she expected Peterson to tender a letter of resignation Friday, but had not received one Monday afternoon.

See Peterson, Page 2

## Sales tax holiday offers plenty of shopping savings

By Jessica Shepard  
bsentinelnews@gmail.com

Tax Free Weekend

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds shoppers the annual sales tax holiday will be this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 5-7.

The weekend exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 from the state sales tax, which could save shoppers

about \$8 on every \$100 they spend during the weekend.

The exemption also extends towards backpacks costing less than \$100, too. "A backpack is a pack with straps one wears on the back. The exemption includes backpacks with wheels, provided they can also be worn on the back like a traditional backpack, and messenger bags," says the tax holiday website.

"The exemption does not in-

See Saving, Page 2

# Crowd turns out for Williams Building ceremony

## Well over 50 on hand Saturday for 107-year-old structure's recognition as state historic landmark

From Staff, contributed reports

The historic W.C. Williams Building, built in 1909, was recognized as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) during a ceremony in Palacios that drew an impressive turnout Saturday.

Now owned by Paul and Donna Christensen, the building has been a cornerstone and anchor of the commercial and cultural life of Palacios and Matagorda County, Texas for 107 years.

The ceremony was sponsored by the Matagorda County Historical Commission (MCHC).

Attending the ceremony were members of the commission, including Ona Lea Pierce, Chairman and David Holubec, County Marker Chairman. Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald, Palacios Mayor Glenn Smith, Pam



Two Emmys are among the honors Paul Christensen has received.

Oliver, Executive Director of the Palacios Chamber of Commerce, David Kocurek, City Manager of Palacios and the Rev. Eric Young, Pastor of Agape Family Outreach Church, also took part in the ceremony.

As an additional bonus, Dreanna Belden and Jake Mangum, representatives of the University of North Texas (UNT) Library System and the UNT Digital Projects Unit were also present.

In addition several descendants of the Williams and Gillett families were in attendance.

The UNT Digital Projects Unit recently completed a scanning project of the Palacios Beacon newspaper back to 1911.

The Beacon project and the UNT sponsored Portal to Texas History provided much of the historic research leading to the Williams Building RTHL designation.

The building was built by W.C. "Billy" Williams, a childhood friend of well-known western author, Charles Angelo Siringo (1855-1928).

Siringo mentions several references to W.C. Williams, whose nickname was Billy, his wife, Martha Alice Franz Williams (1860 - 1952), and his father, John Aaron Williams (1816 - 1865), in his book, A Texas Cowboy or Fifteen Years on the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony (1886).

Billy Williams and Charlie Siringo were born and grew up on Matagorda Island in a section called Dutch Settlement (German Settlement).

As they grew older, both young men remained infatuated with their childhood friend, Martha (Martha Alice Franz Williams (1860 - 1952).

As it turned out, Billy got the girl and Charlie got the cowboy and Pinkerton detective career.

Over the years the building has hosted various businesses including Palacios Hardware, Traylor Hardware, Golden Rule Grocery, Price Cash Hardware, Dr. Joseph Wagner, Lawson Hardware, a Vocational Training Program for the Palacios ISD, Palacios Area Fund, Lacey Lowry CPA, as well as a private residence.

It has been 12 years since the last Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) Marker was dedicated in Palacios.

More information on the Williams Building history and the restoration is available at [www.williamsbuildingpalacios.com](http://www.williamsbuildingpalacios.com).



Sentinel photo/Mike Reddell

Palacios Mayor Glen Smith delivers remarks at the W.C. Williams Building state historical marker dedication ceremony Saturday.



Sentinel photo/Mike Reddell

People gather in the entrance room to the W.C. Williams Building. On the walls are just part of the awards that building owner Paul Christensen has received as a professional audio recording producer for the entertainment and music industries. Those awards include two Emmy Awards and numerous gold and platinum record and video awards and nominations.



Sentinel photo/Mike Reddell

Donna Christensen, who owns the W.C. Williams Building with her husband Paul explain the different collections in their library. The library has extensive volumes on Texana and Texas history.



Paul Christensen visits with guests, above left, in the upstairs family/living area of the W.C. Williams Building. The upstairs also features a well-appointed reading room with handsome furniture to match the age of the building and numerous historical wall paintings and numerous historical items of interest.

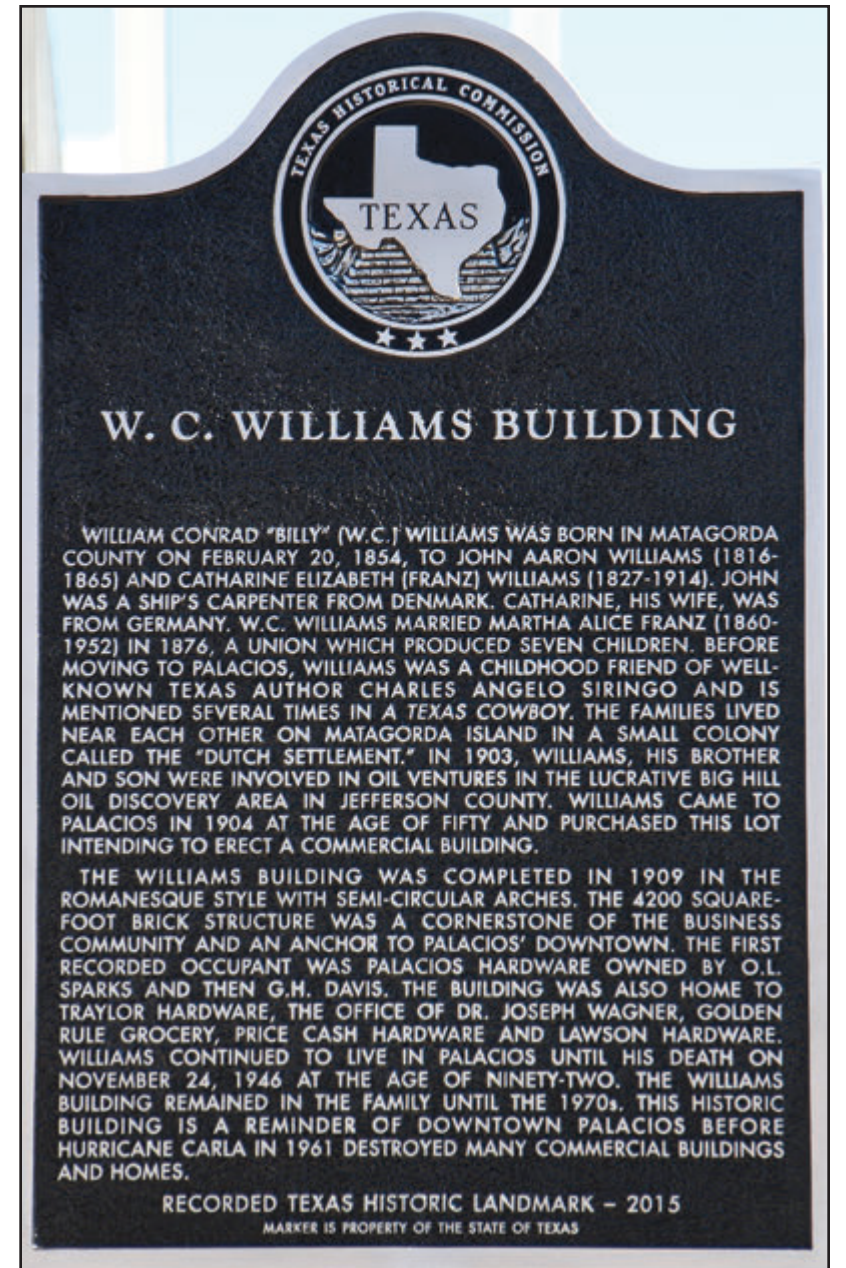


Sentinel photos/Mike Reddell



Sentinel photo/Mike Reddell

On behalf of District 25 State Rep. Dennis Bonnen, Barbara Reece, district director for State Rep. Cindy Burkett, District 113, presents W.C. Williams Building owners Paul and Donna Christensen a Texas Flag that was flown over the Texas Capitol.



Sentinel photo/Mike Reddell

The new state historical marker for the W.C. Williams Building.



Sentinel photo/Mike Reddell

One of the many fascinating objects in the reading room at the W.C. Williams Building is this circa 1880s Stereoscope that is representative of the Christensen's interest in antiques.