

PISD employee daycare to remain; location TBD

BY BRANDI GARCIA WEST
Palacios Beacon

Despite the frigid temperature and the forecasted Arctic blast, the Palacios ISD School Board held it's regularly scheduled school board meeting last Monday evening. Supporters of the PISD Daycare were in attendance as the hot ticket item on the agenda was to review and approve the modular building purchase for a PISD Daycare Facility. Ultimately all board members present value and understand the need of the PISD daycare facility, however, a motion was made by president Karen Bothyl and seconded by board member Haley Garcia for this facility to be moved to PISD property and it failed.

Other board members present, all pro-PISD Daycare, as indicated by board member Terri Adams, desired due diligence on necessary renovations needed to the existing daycare facility, the Ed Rachel-owned building- former Pre-Kindergarten wing at Central Elementary.

Board member Carl Filip's 'no' to relocating the daycare was due to ensuring transparency for the community on existing bond monies to be spent only on the new facilities; which did not originally include this daycare facility. Board member Brian Busby abstained from voting and board members Becky Aguilera and Brandon Bowers were absent.

One of the passionate parents to speak was

Palacios ISD police officer Taylor McGrew stressed the importance of PISD's daycare, "Some of you have said "Oh it is just six percent" but the truth is that "It is six percent". Six percent matters. Six percent of staff PISD would not have without the blessing of quality childcare. Six percent of staff that can go to work daily knowing their children are cared for and loved in a safe environment. six percent of staff that can give their all to the students of our district every day because they are confident in where their children are. six percent might seem small, some might even say a drop in the bucket, but six percent makes a huge impact on PISD. Why does six percent only matter when we say "Oh attendance is down six percent this semester."

Officer McGrew provided solutions for the board regarding a possible location and encouraged the board to explore utilizing the daycare as a Continuing Training/Education Certification for PISD students.

"If a building is the concern, why can we not use some space in the Fine Arts Building or empty classrooms in the high school? Has anyone considered rolling the daycare into a CTE program/ class? There are many successful programs that utilize their high school students interested in being a teacher, welder, a minor medical certification, why not expand?.Turning this into a CTE program can help to set up current students and beyond for

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**BEACON
BRIEFS**

PAF Office
temporarily
closed thru Feb.

The Palacios Area Fund (PAF) wishes to inform the public that its office will be temporarily closed from February 3, 2025 to February 28, 2025. During this time, the office will be unavailable for in-person services or inquiries. Community members are asked to reach out via email or phone for assistance during the closure. Please be advised that responses may be delayed, and we appreciate your understanding and patience as we work through this temporary situation.

For assistance or to make inquiries, please contact us at:

• Email: mwilliams@cfctexas.org

• Phone: (361) 972-3960

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Valentine's Sweetheart voting underway...

THE candidates for the annual Harmonie Club Valentine's Sweetheart are signed up and their uniquely decorated cans are out around town as 5¢-a-vote voting in underway. The Valentine's Sweetheart crown will be bestowed at the Sweetheart Coronation Ball held next Sat. (Feb. 8) to the candidate who raises the most funds through 5¢-a-vote donations and sales of raffle tickets. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

Ring in Lunar New Year with celebration Sat.

Palacios is fortunate to be a beautifully diverse small town, so be sure to join in with this year's Lunar New Year Celebration this Saturday February 1 at Our Lady of La Vang Catholic Church located at 100 Vietnam Street.

The festivities begins with Holy Mass starting at 10 am with celebrant Bishop Brendon Cahill of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria, Texas.

Immediately following Mass at 11 a.m.

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Still no takers for City Council, PISD Trustee ballots in May

Two weeks down in the filing period and there has yet to be a candidate sign their name on the line for a run as a candidate for either the Palacios City Council or Palacios ISD Board of Trustees.

Filing began on Jan.15 and will run through Feb. 14 for the Palacios City Council and the Palacios ISD Trustee election to be held May 3, 2025.

On the City ticket, up for grabs will be Position 2, Position, 4, and Position 5; of which are currently being occupied by Councilmembers Chip Woolf, Margie Wier and Joe Ramirez.

Filing for the City races may be done in person with

City Secretary Aleigha Galvan at City Hall, located at 311 Henderson Ave. If filing by mail, applications may be mailed to Galvan at the City of Palacios, P.O. Box 845.

PISD Ticket

The PISD ballot features a trio of seats up for grabs on the Board of Trustees in Position 3, Position 4 and Position 7; of which are currently held by Trustees: Brandon Bowers, Brian Busby and Terri Adams.

Position 3 & 4 are 3 year terms, but Position 7, Terri Adams, was appointed in June 2023. Under election law, any appointed position can hold office only until

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City of Palacios sales tax receipts topped \$99k

BY BRANDI GARCIA WEST
Palacios Beacon

The City of Palacios' sales tax payment from the state comptroller's office totaled \$99,916, which is 19.33% more this month than the same time last year having received \$83,727. January sales tax revenue is based on sales made in November and reported to the state in December.

State-Wide Sales Tax

The total state sales tax revenue of \$4.1 billion in December, 1 percent more than in December 2023. Specifically State Comptroller Glenn Hagar stated, "Overall sales tax collections grew modestly compared with

December 2023, and at less than the rate of general price inflation," Hagar said. "This suggests a lack of growth in real sales taxable activity, as continued high interest rates and depleted savings constrain spending, even as overall employment and income continue to grow.

"The largest increase among major sectors was in receipts from the construction sector. Among the other large sectors driven primarily by business spending, remittances from the manufacturing sector were essentially flat, while receipts from the mining and wholesale trade sectors came in significantly

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Co. emergency delcared over cybersecurity breach

Press Release Courtesy
Matagorda Co. Emergency Operations

Matagorda County officials have confirmed a cybersecurity breach involving a virus that has affected several internal systems. The breach, identified in the early morning hours of January 24, 2025, has prompted immediate action from county IT personnel, law enforcement, and cybersecurity experts to investigate and mitigate the issue.

The virus appears to have infiltrated the county's network through an unauthorized access point, impacting various departments and disrupting some operations. While the breach has been contained, the full scope of the incident is still being assessed. As a precautionary measure, affected systems have been isolated, and an in-depth forensic analysis is underway to determine how the virus infiltrated the network and the extent of the damage.

At 3pm, Friday, January 24, 2025; Matagorda County Judge Bobby Seiferman issued a Declaration of Disaster based on the security breach.

"We are taking this incident very seriously and are working around the clock with cybersecurity professionals to fully secure our systems and ensure the protection of sensitive information," said Matagorda County Judge Bobby Seiferman. "We understand the inconvenience this may cause and are committed to providing transparent updates as we continue to work through this challenge."

Matagorda County Judge Bobby Seiferman has increased the Emergency Operations Center to level 3 "increased readiness".

At this time, the breach appears to have been limited to internal county systems. There is no indication that personal data of county residents has been compromised. However, officials are working closely with cybersecurity experts and law

enforcement including the Department of Public Safety Cybersecurity Division, Texas Department of Emergency Management, and Department of Informational Services. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has also been contacted. Additional details will be provided as they become available.

The county has also taken steps to reinforce security protocols and prevent future breaches. Local authorities are continuing to investigate the source of the virus and are collaborating with state and federal agencies to address the issue.

Matagorda County residents are encouraged to monitor official communication channels for updates. In the coming days, county officials will provide further information about any potential service disruptions and the progress of the ongoing investigation.

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