

Palacios Students Of The Week

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Senate Passes Approves New Property Tax Cut

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Sharks Primed For Run On Diamond

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P&Z, ZBA hearings, meetings pack City Hall

BY MARICA ELLIS
Palacios Beacon

Palacios City Hall's Council Chambers were packed by a standing-room-only assembly amidst blitzkrieg of conflicting information, as City officials combined a pair of public hearings and two regular meetings of the Planning & Zoning Commission, and the Zoning Board of Adjustments into one jam packed gathering. The first hearing pertained to the rezoning of a trio of well known properties now owned by the Ed Rachal Foundation (ERF) - the former Central Elementary and East Side Elementary campuses, and the commonly known practice fields in the 200-400 block of Perryman, from

Residential to Commercial.

In recent years these areas have become a topic within the community, over what may happen or possibly be in the works, on the properties now owned by the ERF.

Approximately 60 Palacios citizens and officials attended and heatedly debated actions to condemn and rezone several key waterfront and downtown properties within the Palacios Original Townsite area.

Several residents and tax payers posed emotionally charged questions, comments and opposition to the proposed zoning changes.

The hottest discussions surrounded the former Central Elementary campus, located in the 1001 block of 5th St., which

currently houses the Palacios Community Hub, the Robert Duran Caring & Sharing Food Pantry, and the off-site employee daycare for Palacios ISD.

Hub executive director Emily Fagan-Baker presented a community impact report and stated the importance of the Hub location at the Central Elementary location.

Being at the Central East Elementary location simplifies, streamlines and increases services to the community. She noted such as the warming station, in partnership with the Palacios PD and the City, which provided shelter, meals and entertainment during the last freeze and

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'A Night to Escape' CofC Banquet Thurs.

The Palacios Chamber of Commerce invites all to attend their Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, February 20 at 6 p.m. at the Palacios Recreation Center.

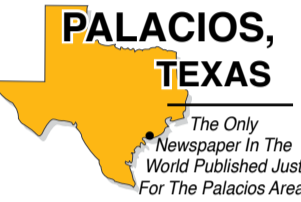
The Man, Woman, and Business of the Year will be recognized. This year's theme will be "A Night to Escape" encompasses Palacios: relaxation, great food and fellowship. A surprise energetic speaker

will engage the crowd and tickets are \$40 each and Table Sponsorships are available.

The delicious meal will be prepared by Palacios ISD's Culinary Department and will be stuffed pork loin with gravy, rice, bacon wrapped green beans, roll, salad and dessert.

To purchase tickets stop by the Palacios Chamber of Commerce located at 420 Main St.

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P. O. Box 817 • 310 Fifth St.
Palacios, TX 77465
(361) 972-3009
palaciosbeacon@gmail.com
Website: palaciosbeacon.com

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.

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Observing Our
118th
Year
1907-2025

BEACON
BRIEFS

Rotary Club
5K Walk/Run to
Make a Difference
Sat. at RR Park

The Palacios Rotary Club will hold its 1st annual 5K Walk & Run to Make a Difference Sat. (Mar. 1) beginning at 8 a.m. at Railroad Park, located at 548 Main St. Entry fee is \$40, includes t-shirt. Free entry for kids 12-under.

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@ctexas.org
• Phone: (361) 972-3960

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THE form is being framed out and a few of the featured attractions are mid-installation as the construction on the splash pad in the 500 block of South Bay Blvd. The project was funded through a grant from the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

Deadline spurs action for City, PISD tickets

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Deadlines always spur the most action and last Friday was the epitome of the phrase as the places on the ballot were filled for the multiple positions on the Palacios City Council and Palacios ISD Board of Trustees, respectively, in the elections to be held May 3.

In the races for Places 3, 4 and 5 on the Palacios City Council, two are contested and the other has a familiar face unopposed.

Former two-time councilman Larry Glenn will be unopposed on the ballot for Place 3 as neither incumbent Chip Woolf, nor any other candidate stepped forward by last Friday's deadline.

The contested race for Place 4 features another former councilman Michael Dotson, who will have to contend with Victoria Duran as she seeks a first run at the Council table.

The final place on the City ticket, Place 5 shaped up with incumbent Joe Ramirez facing off against Kent Adams.

Drawing for places on the City ballot will be held at 3 p.m. on Thurs. (Feb. 20).

PISD ballot

Voters in Palacios ISD are guaranteed two new faces on the Board of Trustees with three seats, Pos. 3, 4 and 7 up

(See FILINGS, Page 2)

PISD Trustees approve 'glorified deer stand' for band

BY BRIENN PANIAGUA
Palacios Beacon

The purchases, recognitions and surveys led the discussions at last week's meeting of the Palacios ISD Board of Trustees.

The Trustees entertained a passionate discussion about the purchase of a band tower. After research and investigation, the District administration recommended a black painted steel "Titan Tower" to be purchased for the band at \$54,000. There was some significant pushback, namely from board member Brandon Bowers.

"This is a glorified deer stand," Bowers declared multiple times, and suggested making something out of wood.

Board President Karen Botbyl cited the student's safety as a priority for the district.

"These are children," she emphasized, "And often, not so agile band directors."

"Yeah but they're 16, 17 years old," Bowers rebutted. "I know my kids climb on fences and everything."

Apparently having enough of the back and forth, PISD Superintendent Dr. Jared Duncum interjected. "I'd like to go on record saying that there are two hills I will stand on. One is safety, the other is academics. I think we should go with the district's recommendation."

The Titan Tower purchase was approved and will remain with the district for years to come.

Employee satisfaction survey

PISD delivered an employment satisfaction survey to their staff and was met with interesting results. A total of 179 responded, marking a 77% participation rate, just slightly below the 78% of 2023.

PISD Director of Curriculum, Katie Bowen told us that anything over 50% was considered positive and reminded the board that the majority of the participants were from Jr/Sr High.

The job satisfaction rate was an impressive 99% with participants stating they love the work they do and feel they can use their skills and abilities. 95% stated that they feel safe at work, 83% agree that the workload is appropriate for the position, 94% believe the district acts in the best interest of the students.

In addition, there was a 10 point increase of staff feeling that district values their employees and a 9 point increase in trusting the district to act in the best interest of students. 96% feel the trustees are committed to creating positive conditions for students. It was overall positive, with a 12 point increase across all items.

JET Grant

PISD was the recipient of a JET grant (Jobs and Education for Texans) that allowed for some serious expansion.

Students will now have the opportunity to expand their knowledge and

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15th annual African American Heritage Day in Palacios

THE 15th annual African American Heritage Day in Palacios was celebrated last Saturday at the Sanford Community Center. Troy Lewis, founding organizer of the annual celebration, read aloud the original proclamation from the City of Palacios declaring the 3rd Saturday in February as African American Heritage Day in Palacios. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

Seawall tables City request to maintain new pier on South Bay

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

The Matagorda Co. - Palacios Seawall Commission tabled a request to take over maintenance to the newest public fishing pier and received an update on one long awaited project at last week's regular monthly meeting.

On the agenda for action was a request made by City of Palacios City Manager Cindy Raleigh, who was not present at the meeting, for the Commission to take over maintenance for the recently

(See SEAWALL, Page 3)

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