

Sharks Sweep Rice On Diamond
SEE PAGE 2



Texas Farmers Concerned Over Growing Trade War
SEE PAGE 4



Getting An On The Water Education
SEE PAGE 10

PISD going to 4-day school week in '25-26

BY MARICA ELLIS
Palacios Beacon

Palacios ISD will be joining approximately 114 other school district in Texas as it will move from a FIVE-day school week to a four-day week for the 2025-26 school year.

The PISD Board of Trustees approved the move on a 5-2 vote following public comments and a lengthy executive session during last week's regular monthly board meeting.

The hot topic had been the focus of heavy social media scrutiny in recent weeks following PISD's Calendar Survey.

Brian Botbyl stepped to the podium during the public comments portion of the meeting and spoke in favor of the proposed 4-day week.

"The school year between early morning and late practices, Making Waves Theater, UIL academics, student council, cheerleading, Saturday baseball tournaments, summer workouts, Thanksgiving and Christmas break, basketball, spring break track, and baseball. Both of my kids are running about 12 to 14 hours, Monday thru Friday each week. And that doesn't even touch Friday game days that are 7:15 p.m. to midnight or so, since we go so far west," he said.

"Moving to a four-day calendar will only increase the day by approximately 40 minutes and open up Friday to recover physically and catch up on schoolwork and project assignments, allowing for time to be a kid and reducing the mental load as they both describe

it. Beyond that, the number of classes missed with these school-sponsored events will decrease dramatically."

Botbyl estimated in the past year alone, kids were out of school at least 40 days for school related events of some form or fashion.

He addressed concerns proposed by 4-day week opponents such as childcare and school spirit.

"Childcare is always a challenge, but parents figure it out," he said. "But if you give parents time and information, we will figure it out."

"School spirit is an issue, but the 4-day calendar is not the make it or break it moment," he added. He suggest the Fridays off be used for team meals, team tutoring sessions or

other bonding and team activities to increase school spirit.

"Lastly, and probably most importantly, the majority of kids want this change, and the vast majority of teachers want this change. Give it to them. They are the most invested, and they are the ones that are most affected. You should give them this opportunity," he concluded.

When the item came to the Trustees, PISD Superintendent Dr. Jared Duncum said the 4-day week was his recommendation to the board, based upon the results of the recent community survey.

Trustees Brandon Bowers and Carl Filip voted against the change.

(See PISD, Page 3)

WEDNESDAY
MAR. 19, 2025
VOL. 118 • NO. 12

PALACIOS, TEXAS

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

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



Palacios BEACON

USPS 418460 Proudly Serving The City By The Sea Since 1907 1 SECTION, 10 PAGES \$1.00

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 **118th** Year
1907-2025

BEACON BRIEFS

Blood Drive Friday at PJSHS

Palacios High School is hosting a blood drive on Friday, March 21. Volunteers are open to the community. To sign up, use this web link: https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/387410 and click on an available time slot, or email to MarkG@PalaciosISD.org. Students can volunteer at age 16 with parental permission.

St. Anthony's Lenten Fish Fry fundraiser Fri.

St. Anthony of Padua's Catholic Church in Palacios, located at 1004 Magnusson, will be holding a fried fish plate fundraiser on Fri. (Mar. 21) beginning at 4 p.m. until sold out. Plates are \$12 and includes fried fish, coleslaw, and beans.

KC's BBQ Chicken Sunday

The Knights of Columbus will hold a BBQ chicken plate fundraiser on Sun. (Mar. 23) beginning at 10:30 a.m. until sold out at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Palacios. Plates are \$15.

Blessing KC's ShrimpEtoufee/Gumbo Sunday

The Knights of Columbus Council #4307 in Blessing will hold their shrimp etoufee or gumbo meal fundraiser on Sun. (Mar. 23) at the St. Peter's Catholic Church Parish Hall. Serving will start at 11 a.m. The meal will consist of your choice of shrimp etoufee or shrimp gumbo with rice, dessert and tea or coffee. A large bowl with dessert and beverage for \$15 each.



Drainage project turns down Commerce...

THE City of Palacios' storm drainage project has taken a left off 1st St. and has begun progressing down the south side of Commerce. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

Seawall gets extension for Carl Park Boat Ramp

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

The Matagorda Co. - Palacios Seawall Commission confirmed receipt of one extension, while awaiting another on a pair of public boat ramps under its jurisdiction at last week's regular monthly meeting.

Matt Glaze, of Urban Engineering reported having had communication with Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. on the Carl Park Boat Ramp on the Tres Palacios River, and the East Bay Boat Ramp.

Glaze confirmed receipt of the extension for Carl Park, but is awaiting approval for East Bay.

With the East Bay Boat Ramp project another 6-8 months away, according to Glaze, Commission Chair Craig Wallis sought to prioritize in-house repairs of the East Bay Boat Ramp dock's loose deck boards.

Inspector's Report

Contract inspector for the Commission, Larry Lanfear reported the following:
Sidewalk Lighting: One AEP light is not burning.

(See SEAWALL, Page 3)



Renovations underway on historic Elder Building...

You may have noticed some exciting changes happening at The Elder Building on Commerce Street. In January, Zeinab Ghais and Thomas Williams purchased the property with plans to make it their home. They've been hard at work revitalizing the interior, and the installation of new windows is just around the corner. Their efforts are not only restoring this beautiful building but also preserving an important piece of our community's history. The Elder Building, constructed in 1918, was home to the Haynes Bros. Garage, which opened its doors on February 7, 1919. Keep an eye on this property as it undergoes an incredible transformation!

PISD Educational Foundation 'BINGO' Night fundraiser Sat.

You don't want to miss out on the Palacios ISD Educational Foundation "Bingo Night" on Saturday, March 22 at the Palacios Recreation Center.

Admission to this family friendly event is \$20 per person which includes 10 games of bingo for cash prizes. For \$30, you can play bingo and enjoy a delicious gourmet hamburger basket meal.

The cost for 18 and under is \$20 and includes bingo cards and meal. Additional sets of bingo cards can be purchased for \$20 per set or 3 sets for \$50. The doors open at 5:30 PM with the bingo games starting at 6:30 PM.

You will also have the chance to bid on awesome items at the online and live auctions.

Proceeds from the "Bingo Night" support dual credit classes, scholarships for our graduating seniors as well as beginning of year school supplies for all PISD students. Individual tickets

can be purchased at the Palacios Dental Center and at the door. Sponsorship tables are available. For more information, visit our website:

<https://fundraiser.bid/Bingo2025> or contact Carolyn Kubecka at 361-920-1517.



TeeBall is back...

THE Palacios Little League's TeeBall and Cutie-Ball seasons are underway with games being played throughout the week at Slone-Price Fields. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

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