



PISD Trustees tap Scantlen for Finance Director

BY BRANDI GARCIA WEST
Palacios Beacon

The Palacios ISD School Board meeting began last Thursday by recognizing so many talented students who have recently received awards and recognition for various reasons: art contest winners, UIL placements, both boy and girl basketball athletes, power lifting athletes and US history scholars. Teachers and principals beamed during the students introductions and board members smiled with great pride for all of their students accomplishments, including some of their very own children, were among those recognized.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jared Duncum, Superintendent of PISD shared his recent productive trip to Austin for Matagorda Day where he was able to talk to representatives, senators and chief of staff. Dr. Duncum indicated there's a lot going on in the legislative session, much of which is detailed in his emailed Legislative Update to staff and interested individuals.

Dr. Duncum encouraged the community to call representatives and advocate for PISD and President Karen Botbyl encouraged all to "tell our story" to request this Weekly Legislative Update email from Dr. Duncum to know what is going on in the legislature.

"We do not tell people enough, in

public education and Palacios in general, all the amazing things the students of Palacios are doing."

Technology Replacement Plan

There were two options of the technology cyclical replacement plan, instead of purchasing 1600 new chrome books all at once due to the significant cost, which was presented by Dr. Duncum. Ideally PISD would house 1,600 Chrome Books, with 300 to have as spares. Option one was to maintain the technology cyclical replacement plan in house, purchasing 250 chrome books at a time to replace outdated or damaged technology, however Dr. Duncum shared this option lacks long-term pricing security and the potential increase of

cost due to inflation and/or tariffs.

The second option presented was leasing from a third-party provider, offering stability in pricing and the ability to budget accordingly. This lease option also provides a buy-back program for existing dated Chrome Books.

Board president Karen Botbyl motioned to approve option 2, leasing new Chome Books for all of PISD, but only had board members Becky Aguleria and Haley Garcia's support. Board members Brandon Bowers and Carl Filip were against leasing but would rather set aside an allotted amount each year for the anticipated

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PISD Finance Director
Peggy Scantlen

**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 23, 2025
VOL. 118 • NO. 17**

**PALACIOS,
TEXAS**

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

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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



BEACON BRIEFS

Tres Palacios Gala Sat. at City by the Sea Museum

Get ready to put on your poodle skirts and leather jackets, and get ready to dance the night away to classic tunes, enjoy delicious retro snacks, and participate in exciting activities as we kick off our 4th Annual Tres Palacios Gala on Sat. (April 26) at the City by the Sea Museum, located at 401 Commerce. The 50's-themed sock-hop fundraiser event will feature live music by "The Georges" and food catered by Schwarmin' Up". Event dinner tickets are \$50 and general admission tickets are \$25. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m., with general admission at 7 p.m. For more info or tickets, visit. www.citybytheseamuseum.org.

Century Club membership drive underway

The Friends of the Palacios Library launched has their annual Century Club Membership Drive. Century Club membership dues are \$150. In appreciation of your support, members will two complimentary tickets to the Harvest Moon Dinner & Dance in October. The names of Century Club members are on a plaque that is prominently displayed in the library. To become a member of the Century Club, you can pay online at www.palacioslibrary.net/century-club or make your check payable to the Friends of the Palacios Library. Dues may be mailed to P. O. Box 2, Palacios, TX 77465 or taken to the Library.



Palacios BEACON

USPS 418460

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1 SECTION, 8 PAGES

\$1.00



Riding the April winds across South Bay...

THE springtime breeze over Palacios' South Bay proved to be a perfect situation for kite-surfing amidst a picturesque background, with the Palacios Pavilion and South Bay Jetty in the background. (Beacon Photo by Brandi G. West)

MCND receives audit report, declares Serendipity RVs, equipment surplus

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

The Matagorda Co. Navigation District #1 (MCND) received the highest marks it could receive, an unmodified opinion, on its annual financial audit report at last week's regular monthly meeting.

With all commissioners present, Jenna Coulter of KM&L Public Accountants

presented the District's annual financial audit and noted there were no corrected audit statements and no disagreements.

"Unmodified opinion, everything in here is materially correct," she said.

Extension negotiations

The Commissioners moved discussion from open session to executive session on the listed proposed three month

extension between outgoing and interim Port Director Victor Martinez, Jr.

Following discussions behind closed doors, the Commissioners approved an offer of a 5-hour work week schedule, on a month-to-month basis be extended to Martinez.

Surplus at Serendipity

The Commissioner's took action to approve nine RV's and three golf carts from the

Serendipity RV Resort, which the Port acquired last year.

An auction of the surplus property will be scheduled at a later date.

Tabled

The Commissioners tabled action on a Heavy Haul Road Agreement between TxDOT and MCND.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on May 21.

Early voting underway for City, PISD races

Early voting in the City of Palacios and Palacios ISD general election in May will begin on Tues. (April 22) and runs thru April 29. Ballots may be cast between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Port of Palacios Administration Building, located at 1601 Main St.

City Ticket

On the City of Palacios ticket, voters will have their say in a pair of contested races.

Voters are assured of at least one new face at the Council table as former Councilman Mike Dotson faces off against Victoria Duran in the race for Place 4. Incumbent one-term Councilmember Margie Wier decided against a reelection bid.

In the race for Place 5, incumbent Joe Ramirez must contend with the challenge from Kent Adams.

Two-time former Councilman Larry Glenn is unopposed in his bid to replace outgoing Place 3 Councilman Chip Woolf, who opted against a run at reelection.

PISD Trustee Races

Like the City ballot, the Palacios ISD Board of Trustee election features a pair of contested races and one uncontested.

In the race for Pos. 4, incumbent Brian Busby must contend with a challenge from Barbara R. Adams.

In the special election race for Pos. 7, voters will choose between former Trustee Fabian Marroquin and Adrian Rene Galvan.

Dane Kubecka is unopposed in his bid for Pos. 3 on the PISD Board of Trustees



Directing traffic after a crash at 4th & Henderson...

PALACIOS Chief of Police Tobie Bias (right) directs traffic in the intersection 4th St. and Henderson Ave. around a two-car crash shortly after 4 p.m. on April 14. No injuries were reported in the accident. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

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