



PISD Trustees get FIRST Rating report

BY AMY LIPSCOMB
Palacios Beacon

The Palacios ISD Board of Trustees met Oct. 12 for the regular monthly board meeting, which included a Public Hearing of the district's Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Rating Report. School FIRST is a Texas Education Agency financial accountability system with the primary goal to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources.

Director of Finance Peggy Scanlon presented to the Board that Palacios ISD received an A rating in School FIRST. With possible scores from A, B, C, or F this year's superior rating confirms Palacios ISD provides and

maintains best financial practices and high-quality management of resources. She outlined how the rating was scored, which included 21 indicator categories of critical, solvency, and financial competency.

Trustee Dane Kubecka asked how our district compares to others in the state. In fact, 81% of school districts maintain an A rating.

Student Awards and Recognition

The Board recognized student achievement at this month's meeting. PISH Principal Stephanie Garcia presented the Matagorda County Youth Leadership Council and students who took the Advanced Placement exams in Human Geography and AP Pre-Calculus. In a change of tradition, students from the PES Student Council led the Pledge

of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge at the beginning of the meeting.

Presentations

The Board was presented the 2026-2027 proposed library book lists for both the PES and PISH school libraries. District Librarian Rosana Dendrick and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jamey Johnson noted "every title on these lists is intentional, purposeful, and chosen with care." The proposed book lists will add to the current library school catalogs and are available to view at the school website. Action was taken to approve the new library materials as presented.

District Improvement Plans

Following up on last month's PISD accountability updates is the District Improvement Plan (DIP) and 2026-2027 Campus

Improvement Plans (CIP) for Palacios Elementary School and Palacios Jr Sr High.

Dr. Johnson, Palacios Junior Senior High Principal Stephanie Garcia, and Palacios Elementary Principal Buddy Kelley presented the plans to the Board which include district goals and strategies to evaluate improvement.

Johnson explained the district plans are continuous models and "improvement plans are living documents by which we review." She mentioned this year's plans can be edited and are available at the district website.

Trustee Fabian Marroquin asked for timely progress updates and Trustee Karen Bothy also inquired when the Board can expect these updates.

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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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BEACON BRIEFS

■ **Live music each Fri. & Sat. at The Cove**

Stop in for a glass of wine or a beer and enjoy live music courtesy AJ Flores each Friday and Saturday night at *The Cove*, located at 405 Main St.

■ **Live music Sun. at El Maton National Hall**

The *El Maton National Hall*, located at 565 FM 1095 in El Maton opens its doors every Sun. at 1 p.m., with live music from 3-5 p.m. Stop in, wet your whistle and hear some tunes.

■ **St. Peter's BBQ Turkey Dinner Sun. in Blessing**

St. Peter's Catholic Church in Blessing is hosting their annual Barbecue Turkey Dinner on Sunday, October 25 starting at 11 a.m. with dine-in and drive-thru options available. Plates with pit barbecue turkey, homemade dressing with gravy, green beans, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, with dessert and tea or coffee for \$18. There will be a raffle with several prizes and a country store. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be held at 9:30 a.m. on this day at St. Peter's Catholic Church located at 306 Hickory Street in Blessing, TX. Everyone is invited to join for a day of fellowship and fun.



Palacios BEACON

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Work on second section of Living Shoreline underway

CONTRACTORS were busy laying a rip-rap ramp from the bulkhead near McGlothlin Ave. along East Bayshore Dr. out into the shallows of East Bay for the construction of the second section of the General Land Office's Living Shoreline project to help less the impacts of wave action. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

Seawall talks derelict piers & Collegeport erosion issues

BY RYAN WEST
Palacios Beacon-Publisher

Derelict piers and erosion in Collegeport were discussed at last week's regular monthly meeting of the Matagorda Co. - Palacios Seawall Commission.

After several months of leg work, Commissioner Erwin Janszen was happy to report the duty on derelict piers from Jensen Point to East Bay has now been passed off to the Texas General Land Office (GLO).

"All the derelict piers have been ID'd and property owners have been contacted," Janszen said.

While several property owners didn't respond despite multiple attempts by Janszen, the GLO agreed to take over the reigns.

"The Seawall's share of the project is done," Janszen declared.

Collegeport Erosion
Janszen reported he ap-
(See SEAWALL, Page 2)

Early voting now underway in November general election

Early voting in the November General Election began on Mon. (Oct 19) and runs through Oct. 30.

On the Nov. ballot is a host of races local voters will have a say in from U.S. Senate & Representative, to statewide races for Texas Governor, Lt. Gov, Attorney General, and more, to a pair of commissioner seats on the Matagorda Co. Navigation District #1.

Local ballots will be cast for early voting and on Election Day, Nov. 3, at the Palacios Community Hub, located at 1001 5th St.

In the most localist of races first, there are a pair of incumbents seeking another term at the commissioners table of the Matagorda Co. Navigation District #1.

Incumbent in Pos. 3, Jimmy Neeley will have to contend with challenger, Gary Hafernick.

In Pos. 4, incumbent Victor Eggemeyer draws challenger Kevin Harvey.

County Races

Republican incumbent Matagorda Co. Judge Bobby Seiferman has to contend with write-in candidate Patrick Brown for the seat at the bench.

Statewide Races

On the local voter ballot for District 30 State Rep. is incumbent Republican AJ Louderback and Democrat challenger Crystal Sedillo.

Three candidates are on the ballot in the race for Governor of Texas, with Republican incumbent Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Democratic nomi-

nee Gino Hinojosa and Libertarian nominee Pat Dixon.

Incumbent Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has three challengers on the ballot in Democrat Vikki Goodwin, Libertarian Anthony Cristo and Green Party candidate Kevin McCormick.

In the race to replace Ken Paxton as Texas Attorney General features Republican Mayes Middleton, Democrat Nathan Johnson and Libertarian Tom Oxford.

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts is a four-way race with quasi-incumbent, republican Don Huffines, Democrat Sarah Eckhardt, Libertarian V. Alonso Echavarría-Garza, and Green candi-

(See VOTE, Page 4)



Two-vehicle crash on Henderson

AFTERNOON traffic was brought to a halt after a two-vehicle crash in the 300 block of Henderson Ave. on Oct 13. While the Jeep SUV was left in the Henderson roadway, the blue four-door sedan appeared to be sneaking in the back side of the Dairy Queen drive thru. No injuries were reported. (Beacon Photo by Ryan West)

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