

Friendswood Edition REPORTER NEWS

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Around Town

AUGUST 16

STITCHING BEE
 Bring your project to the Friendswood Library from 1:30 to 3:00pm. Whether it be crochet, knitting, embroidery, huck, macrame, tatting, or other handcraft. Come and enjoy some camaraderie with fellow crafters. Beginners are welcome.

CROCHET TOGETHER
 At the Friendswood Library on Wednesdays from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. A few simple crochet patterns, yarn, and hooks will be available. Or bring your own hand work project (e.g. knitting, needle point, sewing, embroidery, cross stitch). For adults and young adults. Crochet beginners are welcome.

ADULT ESL CLASS
 Practice your English conversation skills with Martha on Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in the Friendswood Library. This is an in-person program. No registration needed.

AUGUST 17

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY
 Showing at 6:30pm this Thursday at the Friendswood Library: Edge of Tomorrow (2014) starring Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt. Rated PG-13. Free and open to the public. Feel free to bring comfortable seating, bean bags, etc. Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library.

MOVIE ON THE LAWN
 Outdoor free screening of the film, "Kung Fu Panda" begins at 7 p.m. in the parking lot of Baybrook Mall, 500 Baybrook Mall, Friendswood. Blankets and lawn chairs recommended. Baybrook's Movies on the Lawn series is held Thursdays during the summer through Aug. 31. Baybrookmall.com.

AUGUST 18

Practice your English conversation skills with Vineet on Fridays from 3:30pm to 5:00pm in the Friendswood Library. This is an in-person program. No registration needed.

AUGUST 19

DRAWING WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS
 Join other adults for a Drawing Workshop at the Friendswood Library led by Irina Varentsov. Improve your skills or try something new. Feel free to bring your current project. Come draw together. This workshop is for art lovers. Bring your pencils and paper.

AUGUST 21

CLASSIC BOOKS DISCUSSION
 Join us in our exploration of what many consider to be the greatest novel ever written. Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina is a dazzling panorama of late 19th Century Russia. More than just a story about a compelling love affair, the novel's characters reveal immense psychological depth and interpersonal subtleties. From members of the Russian Aristocracy to landowners, farmers, to intellectuals, businessmen, and peasants, Tolstoy represents every station of life in the Russia of his time. We will discuss Emperor Alexander II's Russia, Tolstoy's life, as well as explore themes and in-depth character analyses in Anna Karenina. Meetings are held monthly at the Friendswood Library, 2pm to 3pm.

BOARD GAMES MEETUP
 For youth age 11-18. Meets weekly on Mondays from 5pm to 6pm. Explore different "themed" board games each month at the Friendswood Library! For August, the theme is "Jolly Cooperation," so the selected games are cooperative ones where players have to work together to win. This session we'll be playing Pandemic at the Friendswood Library from 5 to 6pm.

CHESS NIGHT
 Come enjoy a friendly game of chess at the library on Monday nights. The library provides some chess sets, and patrons are welcome to bring their own. This event is for all ages. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. No fees and no registration required.

AUGUST 23

CROCHET TOGETHER
 At the Friendswood Library on Wednesdays from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. A few simple crochet patterns, yarn, and hooks will be available. Or bring your own hand work project (e.g. knitting, needle point, sewing, embroidery, cross stitch). For adults and young adults. Crochet beginners are welcome.

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 Practice your English conversation skills with Martha on Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in the Friendswood Library. This is an in-person program. No registration needed.

AUGUST 24

RIBBON CUTTING
 Join the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce in welcoming Gulf Shore Orthodontics. Ceremony will be held from 5 to 7pm at 108 N. Friendswood Dr. Lite bites provided. For more information call Rosly Cooper at 281-482-2640.



SURE-HANDED RECEIVER - Friendswood WR Adam Buffington (6-1, 170, 4.5) will be one of the key receivers for the Mustangs this season. Buffington caught passes for 411 yards and 3 TDs last year. The Mustangs will go to Pearland ISD Stadium to scrimmage the Dawson Eagles this Friday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Local Band Director Inducted into Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame

On July 22, 2023, Gregory Dick, former band director at Friendswood High School, was installed into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame in a ceremony held in conjunction with the annual convention of the Texas Bandmasters Association, meeting in San Antonio.

Greg grew up in Lake Jackson, Texas, and was a student of Ernest Clark, Rod Cannon, and Fred McDonald at Brazoswood High School, graduating in 1975.

He attended Sam Houston State University, graduating in 1979, and went to work at McAdams Jr. High in Dickinson, Texas, with Wade McDonald, son of Fred McDonald.

Greg taught in Dickinson ISD for 9 years, teaching band, as well as the drum line in the high school marching band. He moved on to League City Intermediate in Clear Creek ISD as the head director and earned multiple UIL awards.

After four years, Greg was chosen to open Space Center Intermediate School in Clear Lake. In eight years as the head director at Space Center, the band earned UIL Sweepstakes every year and was named Best in Class at festivals in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio.

The Space Center Band was named Texas Music Educators CCC Honor Band (state champion) twice, and performed at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. The band was awarded the Sudler



Gregory Dick

Cup by the John Philip Sousa Foundation for having an outstanding concert band program.

In 2000, Greg was named the head director at Friendswood High School, where he stayed until he retired in 2020. The Friendswood Band earned consistent UIL Sweepstakes and was named Best in Class at many festivals. The band performed in major cities around the United States.

The Wind Ensemble was named the Texas Music Educators Association 4A Honor Band twice, and performed at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago.

The band was awarded the Sudler Flag of Honor for having an outstanding concert band program. The Friendswood Marching Band was a consistent UIL State Marching Band Contest participant, qualifying for the finals seven times, earning three Silver Medals.

Greg was honored with many individual awards, including Secondary Teacher of the Year in Clear Creek ISD, the Leadership and Achievement Award from Texas Music Educators Association, the State Sponsor Excellence Award from UIL, the Meritorious Achievement Award from the Texas Bandmasters Association, and was inducted into the American Bandmasters Association.

The Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, an international bandmasters fraternity. To be eligible for consideration, a band director must have produced and maintained an outstanding and consistent band program in the Texas public schools, as well as having enjoyed a long and successful career. Hall of Fame members must be over the age of 65 and retired from active teaching.

The Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame is currently housed in the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Since Phi Beta Mu initiated the Hall of Fame in 1975, 352 band directors have been so honored. To view the recipients of this outstanding recognition, go to www.pbmalphalpha.org and click on Hall of Fame.

Friendswood ISD's Under the Oaks Celebration Ushers in the School Year with Enthusiasm, Unity

By Friendswood ISD Communication Department

Friendswood Independent School District (FISD) proudly presented its highly anticipated seventh annual Under the Oaks celebration on Thursday, Aug. 10, as a vibrant prelude to the forthcoming academic year. This remarkable event, held beneath the open skies of camaraderie, welcomed over 450 attendees, marking an extraordinary fusion of

students, parents, faculty members and the tightly-knit local community.

Against the backdrop of the mighty oaks that have become symbolic of FISD's commitment to nurturing knowledge and growth, Deputy Superintendent Lauren Ambeau addressed the crowd.

Attendees celebrated with the FISD family, snacked on kettle corn and sipped refreshing lemonade. Moreover, the celebration

resonated with resounding performances that echoed the FISD spirit. The lively rhythms of the FHS Drumline rang through the air, harmonizing with the dynamic energy exuded by the FHS Cheer team. The captivating artistry of the Wranglerettes added a flourish of grace to the festivities, leaving an impression on all in attendance.

Under the Oaks encapsulates the essence of the Friendswood community's unwavering commit-

ment to education. This event not only signifies the dawn of a new academic chapter but also embodies FISD's dedication to nurturing young minds and fostering lifelong connections.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the event, the Under the Oaks celebration encapsulated the very essence of Friendswood ISD's ethos - a collective journey towards shared growth.



Pearland ISD Board to decide Aug. 21 on VATRE

By N. Bradford

For Pearland ISD taxpayers, a possible November election comes down to nine pennies, district Superintendent Larry Berger said during the first of two public meetings addressing the topic.

Facing a budget deficit, a nearly 20 percent inflation rate and growing list of facility needs, the school district is considering a VATRE -- or Voter Approval Tax Rate Election. State law requires school districts get voter approval to raise the maintenance and operations tax rate above a maximum specified amount.

The board is expected to make a decision on whether to hold the election at its Aug. 21 regular meeting.

“We have unfunded mandates. We have teacher and staff compensation we have to keep up with. We have aging infrastructure, and these are issues that drain our limited resources.”

-Larry Berger, Pearland ISD superintendent

“We are basically asking the voters to allow us to increase the tax rate by nine pennies,” Berger said. “And that requires a vote.”

A successful election would provide the district

with an estimated \$11 million to balance the budget, provide state mandated armed guards on each cam-

pus and maintain facilities, Berger said.

“We have unfunded mandates. We have teacher and staff compensation we have to keep up with. We have aging infrastructure, and these

are issues that drain our limited resources,” he said.

The tax impact, he said, results in a tax decrease either way. With the nine cents, the school tax rate is just over \$1.13 per \$100 valuation. The owner of a \$240,000 home saves \$547 less on the annual tax bill.

“That is the lowest Pearland ISD tax rate ever,” Berger said.

Without it, the rate is just over \$1.04, saving the average homestead roughly \$764.

A second community meeting is planned for 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Virgil Gant Education Center, 1928 N. Main St.

AREA BRIEFS

Schools urge patience with buses

Local schools have begun classes and administrators are asking parents and students to be patient with both pick-up and drop off procedures as well as bus transportation the first few weeks.

“Every year we seem to forget that transportation those first couple of weeks takes a while to iron things out, and when you have a shortage of bus drivers routes run early in the morning and late dropping kids off,” Alvin ISD Superintendent Carol Nelson said. “We’re just asking parents and community to be patient. Our transportation does a great job with the resources they have.”

Alvin ISD classes began last week, and Pearland ISD classes began Tuesday.

Drivers are reminded that cellphone use is prohibited within school zones.

Pet-themed race returns Sept. 23

An annual pet-themed race for all ages titled the “Ruff Runner and Yappy Hour” is planned Sept. 23 at Independence Park.

Presented by Epic Plumbing, the race includes a timed 5K plus a Kids 1K and 3K options, with four-legged friends welcomed. All finishers will receive a T-shirt and medal.

A post-race Yappy Hour takes place at the park, 3449 Pearland Parkway along with presentations of medals. The Kids K begins at 7:50 p.m., with 5K starting at 8 a.m. and 3K race beginning at 8:15 a.m.

Registration can be completed online at pearlandtx.gov/ruffrunner. For information on sponsorships, email sponsorships@pearlandtx.gov. For event information, email events@pearlandtx.gov.

Parks and Wildlife annual drawing

An annual drawing for 10 guided hunting excursions is being held as fundraiser for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Money raised through the Big Time Texas Hunts program goes toward wildlife research, habitat conservation and public hunting access. Ten winners will be drawn for trips that include the “Exotic Safari,” at Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area, the “Texas Grand Slam,” with four separate hunts and “Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt,” in the Texas Panhandle.

Entries are available for \$9 online at tpwd.texas.gov, or for \$9 at license retailers for \$10. Locally, retailers include Academy Sports at 2804 Business Center Drive and 2550 Pearland Parkway, and at Wall-Mart, 1710 Broadway St.

The deadline to purchase is Oct. 15, and winners will be announced approximately two weeks later.

For more information, call 800-895-4248.

Houston hosts celebrity soccer gala

An International Soccer Festival Celebrity Gala happening in Houston Sept. 29 will raise money for BlueCheck Ukraine, the U.S. Soccer Foundation, and the International Soccer Festival.

The gala is 6 p.m. Sept. 29 at the Crystal Ballroom of The Rice. In 2027, the City of Houston will host the weeklong inaugural International Soccer Festival.

Keynote speakers for the gala are tech titan and philanthropist Jeff Hoffman and Liev Schreiber, Emmy Award and Tony Award-nominated actor and co-founder of BlueCheck Ukraine. Brazilian soccer star and legend “Ronaldinho” and U.S. Soccer Foundation Chief Executive Officer Ed Foster-Simeon are guest speakers at the gala. Former professional soccer player and international legend David Beckham will be providing an autographed Manchester United Jersey as one of the auction items for the gala.

Tickets range from \$500 to \$1,000 per supporter. Sponsorship packages starting at \$25,000 are available at www.international-soccer-festival.com.

Pearland moves into Stage 1 drought

With more unrelenting heat and little rain in the forecast, the City of Pearland this week entered Stage 1 drought restrictions, requesting that residents limit outdoor watering.

“We want people doing their watering between 7 p.m. at night and 9 a.m. in the morning, and also limit that to two times per week on the same days they have trash service,” City Manager Trent Epperson said.

Pearland’s water system is operating as usual and there are no current water pressure issues, he said, “but we

are seeing water use continue to rise. That coupled with seeing main breaks increase

“We hope to see usage moderate a little bit, and then we don’t have to move into a stage where it is no longer voluntary.”

**-Trent Epperson
Pearland city manager**

and really no break in the weather, we made the decision last Thursday to move to Stage 1.”

Stage 1 is voluntary.

“We hope to see usage moderate a little bit, and

moderate in the next week or so, we may consider going to Stage 2.”

Citing drought conditions, Brazoria County commissioners on Aug. 10 moved ahead with a countywide burn ban.

“Given the escalating risk of wildfires due to the prevailing weather conditions, we must take action to help prevent potential wildfire disasters,” County Judge Matt Sebesta said in a statement.

Outdoor burning is never allowed within Pearland city limits.

then we don’t have to move into a stage where it is no longer voluntary,” Epperson said. “If we don’t see things

Alvin ISD trustee resigns, plans move

By N. Bradford

With plans to move out of the district, west Pearland resident Vivian Scheibel has resigned from her seat on the Alvin ISD Board of Trustees effective Aug. 8.

“I did expect to serve this whole term, but we got an opportunity to relocate,” said Scheibel, who has served on the board for nine years. “It was unexpected, but it was something our family just couldn’t pass up.”

A resident of Shadow Creek Ranch,



Vivian Scheibel

Scheibel was instrumental in the Alvin ISD bond election that led to construction of Shadow Creek High, fellow trustees said. She is also a longtime community volunteer in west Pearland.

Her time on the board has been fulfilling and an amazing learning experience, she said.

“It’s been a blessing just to have a little bit of understanding of the tremendous complexities of serving our 29,000 kids,” she said.

Friendswood ISD’s Convocation Event Sets the Stage for a Dynamic Start to the School Year

By Friendswood ISD Communication Department

The auditorium of Friendswood Junior High buzzed with vibrant energy on Monday, Aug. 7, as 830 dedicated employees of Friendswood Independent School District (FISD) came together to herald the commencement of the eagerly awaited 2023-2024 school year at the Convocation event.

The gathering sparkled with an atmosphere of enthusiasm, marking a heartening prelude to the new school year. Leading the way, Executive Director of Communications Dayna Owen extended appreciations to the various schools and departments represented, while also extending a warm

welcome to the new additions to the FISD family. This engaging opening paved the way for the main program.

The event gained momentum with the participation of Friendswood ISD Education Foundation’s celebrated Faces of Friendswood for 2023-2024: Carter, Graham, and Kate Kirkpatrick. Their spirited lead in reciting the pledge of allegiance ignited a sense of unity among attendees. The event resonated with patriotic fervor as the FHS choir gracefully performed the National Anthem, seamlessly transitioning into the core message of the upcoming academic year.

Embracing the theme “Because Kids,” the Convocation witnessed heartfelt contributions from esteemed voices.

Tony Hopkins, President of the Board of Trustees, FJH seventh-grader Carter Kirkpatrick, distinguished Athletic Director Jordan Johnson and Deputy Superintendent Lauren Ambeau all shared personal narratives and words of encouragement, uniting the assembly with inspiring stories of dedication and purpose. Evidently, the collective commitment to nurturing young minds stood at the forefront of the FISD mission.

FISD students are poised to return to their classrooms on Tuesday, Aug. 15, marking the exciting beginning of another year of growth and achievement.



'The Beginning of a New Chapter' in Friendswood ISD

By Friendswood ISD Education Foundation

The Friendswood ISD Education Foundation (FEF) welcomed over 100 new employees to FIFD at its annual New Employee Luncheon on Thursday, Aug. 3. The celebration was held at the Lone Star Flight Museum and showcased the theme "The Beginning of a New Chapter" with an outstanding group of educators joining the Mustang family.

Event Chairs and FEF Directors Alexis DiFruscio and Judy Wiggins said this is by far one of their favorite events of the year.

"It is such an honor to roll out the 'red carpet' and warmly welcome and celebrate those who selflessly pour into our students," DiFruscio said. "I am so grateful for the opportunity to live and lead in a community that gives back to those who give so much day-to-day."

FEF Executive Director Ashley Adair agreed.

"I loved seeing the community rally around our new employees to make each feel seen, heard and connected as they begin their 'story' in FIFD," Adair said.

Dozens of businesses and individuals stepped up to sponsor including longtime Title Sponsor Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union.



The afternoon was packed with delicious food catered by Outback Steakhouse, vendor tables, goody bags full of treats donated by local businesses and a record-breaking

number of door prizes.

"With more sponsors and donors than ever before, we were able to ensure all 108 new employees won an outstanding door prize package," Adair said.

Guest speaker Colonel Terry Virts inspired new employees as they begin their journey in FIFD.

"The greatest thing I have learned in becoming an astronaut is to never tell yourself 'no.' If there is something you want to do, go for it," Virts said.

This sentiment echoes the Foundation's challenge to teachers to dream big for kids by submitting grants.

Past FEF grant recipients were recognized at the luncheon and one lucky new teacher and mentor teacher walked away with a classroom grant to kickstart or refresh their classrooms this year.

Top event sponsors included Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union, HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake, HomeTown Bank of Friendswood, Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital and Stanfield Properties - Alan & Beth Stanfield.

If you would like to learn more about opportunities to get involved with FEF, please visit fef.myfisd.com or contact Executive Director Ashley Adair at AAadair@fisd12.net.



Pearland ISD FFA receives top honors at Texas FFA Convention

Pearland Independent School District Future Farmers of America chapter recently received numerous awards and honors at the 95th annual Texas FFA Convention in Dallas, TX.

While at the convention, the Pearland ISD FFA was recognized as a three-star chapter for the National Chapter award, the highest rating a chapter can receive at the state level. The program awards FFA chapters throughout the country who actively implement the FFA mission and strategies.

These chapters improve their operations using the National Quality FFA Chapter Standards and a program of activities that emphasizes growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. Chapters are rewarded for providing educational experiences for the entire membership.

In individual competi-

tions, Turner College and Career High School's Lydia Greer placed second in the Social Systems category for Agriscience Fair. Pearland High School's Karly An-

derson placed eighth in the Junior Prepared Speaking contest, in which each contestant writes and delivers a five-to-eight-minute speech about a current agricultural

subject of their choice.

Additionally, four PHS students received the Lone Star FFA Degree, the highest degree of active membership bestowed by the

Texas FFA: Jade Arends, Kennedy Anderson, Samantha Guzzetta and Katie Stone.

FFA members apply to receive the Lone Star De-

gree only after they have received the Chapter degree.

Those wishing to receive their Lone Star Degree must have been an active FFA member for at least two years, and complete at least four semesters of agricultural science at or above the ninth-grade level.

Additionally, they must maintain a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, invest significant time and money in their SAE, demonstrate their leadership skills and show a commitment to the FFA through involvement at the chapter level and above.

During the convention, approximately 15,000 FFA members attended leadership workshops, participated in events and activities, won awards for their achievements and served as the legislative body for the Texas FFA Association.



Pearland ISD Convocation



Sablatura Middle School staff celebrate the beginning of a new school year at Pearland ISD's annual convocation held on Aug. 8.



Staff from CJ Harris Elementary cheer and dance for the new school year ahead at Pearland ISD's annual convocation held on Aug. 8.

SPORTS

Friendswood prepares for non-district schedule to start season

By Dr. David Davis

There is nothing like having to face a former rival to open up a new football season, but new Friendswood head coach Jordan Johnson is getting his chargers ready to face old nemesis Texas City in this year's season opener.

Friendswood and Texas City have a long history going back to when they were in Class 4A as district opponents. The overall series is just about a 50-50 split when they play one another.

There is no question that coach Johnson, a Friendswood grad returning back home, will get baptized by fire when the Mustangs and the Stingarees take the field to do battle in the 2023 season opener at Henry Winston Stadium.

The Mustangs have only one more non-district game before the start of league play as they will host the Fort Bend Willowridge Eagles who are in the same District 9-5A DII as Texas City.

The Eagles have struggled over the last decade to put a strong competitive team on the field so the Mustangs should have a little easier contest though coach Johnson certainly won't let his team relax to avoid an upset.

Friendswood Mustangs vs Texas City Stingarees
Friday, August 25
Henry Winston Stadium
at 7:00 p.m.

Pearland native and Texas City head coach Shone Evans completed his first year in 2022 in guiding Texas

City to a 6-5 record while advancing to the bi-district playoffs.

Texas City should be loaded this season with seven offensive and seven defensive starters returning with 20 lettermen from last year's squad.

The backbone of the offense will be RB Caleb Bell (5-10, 225, 4/5) who is the featured back after rushing for 1,381 yards and 17 TDs last season. Paired with Bell will be QB Joey Duran (5-8, 175, 4.6) who threw for 1,344 yards and 9 TDs who is considered the team leader.

WR/DB Clyde Burton (5-10, 180, 4.4) is a double impact player on both sides of the ball as he caught 36 passes for 463 yards and 5 scores while also gathering 5 INTs.

Other offensive players include WR/DB Xavier Skowron (6-2, 185, 4.5) and WR Jayden Johnson (5-10, 165, 4.6).

Defensively, LB Szyron Scott (6-1, 215, 4.5) will be an impact player as he had five sacks last year. His partner in crime is LB Camryn Grief (6-2, 190, 4.5) who had 87 tackles, 15 TFL, and 4 INTs.

The Mustangs will need to show up with their best effort against the Stings. Texas City won last year's contest 27-13. The Stings are a pre-season pick to finish in third place behind Fort Bend Marshall and Port Neeces-Groves.

Friendswood Mustangs vs Willowridge Eagles
Friday, September 1
Henry Winston Stadium
at 7:00 p.m.

It was a tough year for Willowridge in 2022 as the Eagles finished 1-9 and 1-6 in district.

Friendswood tacked on one of Willowridge's loss last year 34-0 and the Mustangs should be a heavy favorite to repeat the feat again this year.

The Eagles are picked to finish seventh in their District 9-5A Div. II district. However, they could surprise a lot of teams ahead of them as they have seven offensive starters and six defensive starters returning with 24 lettermen so they will be a more experienced squad to improve in 2023.

Willowridge has some key offensive skill people this season including QB Kendron Penson, Jr. (6-1, 180, 4.5) who has a good



TOUGH RUNNER - Friendswood running back Walker Winters will be counted on to lead the ground attack for the Mustangs this season. Winters proved he was a tough ball carrier last season. "We'll look to Walker this season to be one of our leaders on offense," Friendswood head coach Jordan Johnson said.

arm and speed after throwing for 1,494 yards and 16 TDs. He also has two danger targets to throw to in WR Momon Lattimore (6-2, 185, 4.5) who caught 26

passes for 344 yards and 1 TD while WR Marquise Hayes (5-10, 170, 4.5) snagged 26 passes for 379 yards and 2 scores, and WR Travis Willis (5-9, 165, 4.8)

grabbed 37 passes for 379 yards and 2 TDs.

RB Tylon Rydolph (5-8, 225, 4/8) gives the Eagles a balanced attack on the ground as he rushed for 371 yards and scored 4 TDs.

The defense should be better as well led by DE Royce Wilson (6-2, 225, 4.8) who had 20 tackles, three sacks, and one INT. DB Rome Jackson (5-8, 145, 4.5) had 22 tackles and a pair of INTs.

Depth will be a challenge for the Eagles as they prepare for the upcoming season.

Coach Kendron Penson says youth on the offensive and defensive lines will be concerns.

Football Scrimmage Schedule

Friendswood Mustangs vs Dawson Eagles
Friday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m.
Pearland ISD Stadium

Pearland Oilers vs College Station Cougars
Friday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m.
Cougar Field - College Station

Shadow Creek Sharks vs Barbers Hill Eagles
Friday, August 18 at 6:00 p.m.
Barbers Hill Stadium

From the cluttered desk...

by Dr. David Davis

Enjoy the coming year of sports

It is hard to believe that the start of school has begun and that the football season will begin shortly. Hundreds of area athletes have already reported to their various high school sports programs preparing to do their very best as they represent their family, school, and community.

It seems like only yesterday when my son, Landon, was getting his first taste of competitive football at the Jr. High level. Now, he is married, a successful engineer, and a father of three wonderful boys.

When he first decided to participate in the PHS football program -- I told him that he was going to have to work hard and make it on his own. He did and was an All-District tight end for the Oilers.

I made a commitment years ago that if one or more of my four children wanted to participate in competitive sports, I was going to be totally supportive of their decision, but I would remain silent and supportive to the respective coaches.

I guess that comes from the example my parents set when I played in high school and college.

My mom and dad would attend each game, watch me play, and then go home. They were never vocal, they never chastised a coach, nor did they ever berate a coach when I got home. I can honestly say that my folks never criticized any of my coaches at any level.

There were people who watched me play who didn't even know who my parents were. Only their close friends knew where they sat and who their son was on a given Friday night in high school or on a Saturday in college.

I took the same stance with my son, and he knows that I never uttered one word of criticism regarding the Pearland coaching staff.

As the 2023 sports season gets underway, it would be a good idea for parents to be totally supportive of their children. This also includes being supportive of the coaches who are committed to your student-athlete.

While all of us want to see our teams win, it is equally important to maintain a consistent level of support for each student-athlete and their coaches. No team goes out to intentionally lose. A strong support base of love and faithfulness is essential for all involved. You will be a lot happier if you look at the whole picture and maintain a sense of decency and self-control.

Also - don't forget about those who participate in the band, cheerleaders, drill team, cross country, volleyball, and tennis. They also sweat in this sweltering heat and spend countless hours preparing for their time in the spotlight or competing for their respective high schools.

I am excited as the fall sports season begins. I want every student-athlete to be successful. But remember -- they are students, first -- and then athletes. So wear your team's colors and spirit clothing with pride -- support each of the young men and women who are participating -- and enjoy this time of the year. There is nothing better than being a part of the high school sports scene.

I think I can hear the band playing now! Won't you join me?

Old friend Robert said, "I am too positive to be doubtful. Too optimistic to be fearful. And too determined to be defeated."

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Dr. David Davis

ACC Launches Biotechnology Program

As the biotechnology industry continues to grow in the region, Alvin Community College will start offering two courses this Fall to allow students to start their careers in the field.

"These courses have been meticulously designed to cultivate proficiencies essential for entry-level roles in bio-manufacturing and the development of medical devices," said Brittani Bewick, Anatomy and Physiology instructor at ACC. "The emphasis lies in furnishing students with competencies essential for effective operation within environments characterized by exacting sterility standards."

ACC worked closely with industry partners, like Lonza, and the Pearland Economic Development Center to create a curriculum to meet their workforce needs.

The courses will be offered through the Continuing Education Workforce Development department at the college. This concerted effort ensures that graduates are equipped to seamlessly integrate into the workforce.

"A student can become a Biotech Material Handler in 6 weeks or a Biotech Core Tech in only 12 weeks," said Dr. Stacy Ebert, ACC vice president of Strategic Initiatives. "The only requirement is to have a high school diploma or GED. For those that already have a college degree and want a career change, this is a great opportunity to reskill for an amazing new career."

Students will learn how to perform safety procedures in a biotechnology setting such as gowning and de-gowning for clean rooms while also using bio-safety cabinets, she said. Some of the biotechnology jobs can include manufacturing medical devices and therapeutic agents to help patients.

"This will give them skills to work in facilities where sterility is really important," Bewick said.

As the biotechnology job market continues to transform, this program allows students and those already in the workforce an opportunity to pursue a new career path. The region is expected to see an 18 percent increase in job growth of the next 10 years with a third of those positions being in pharmaceutical and medical manufacturing.

Students can earn a certificate after taking the two courses. The entire program can be completed in 12 weeks.

The program recently received a \$600 grant from the ACC Foundation to purchase the personal protective equipment and the tools that students need for the hands-on learning such as micro pipettes, gowns and more.

"This will allow students to learn how to accurately use them and dispense them which is absolutely necessary for those entry-level positions," Bewick said.

To learn more about the Continuing Education Workforce Development programs at ACC, visit www.alvincollege.edu/cewd/biotechnology or call 271-756-3787.

