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# Friendswood Edition REPORTER NEWS

Your Independent Local News Source Since 1984

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 21

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023

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## Around Town

May 26

### CLASSIC FILM MATINEE

The Friendswood Library presents "The Palm Beach Story" at their Classic Film Matinee on Friday, May 26 starting at 1:30pm. Free to the public. The library is located at 416 S. Friendswood Dr.

### CONCERT IN THE PARK

Mo Jiles will be playing country, rock, and classic music on Friday, May 26 at Concert in the Park in Stevenson Park, 1100 S. Friendswood Dr. Concerts start at 7pm and are free. Prizes are given during intermission.

May 29

### MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Everyone is invited to the Friendswood Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 29 at 9:30 am, held at the Veterans Memorial located next to City Hall, 910 S. Friendswood Drive. Those attending should bring their own lawn chairs. For additional information, contact the City of Friendswood Parks and Recreation Department at 281-996-3220.

June 1

### SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Friendswood Library Summer Reading Challenge kicks off Thursday, June 1 from 6:00 to 8:00pm in front of the Old Friendswood Junior High located at 402 Woodlawn. Free pizza, hula hoops, bubbles, chalk, and a sidewalk obstacle course. Pre-register at friendswood.beanstack.org or download the Beanstack app.

June 2

### CONCERT IN THE PARK

80's Tribute Band Mr. Wonderful will perform Friday, June 2 at Concert in the Park in Stevenson Park, 1100 S. Friendswood Dr. Concerts are free and start at 7pm. Prizes are given during intermission.

June 5-August 12

### KIDZ PACZ FOOD PROGRAM

The Kidz Pacz Summer Program will offer free food packs for qualifying children, ages 3-18 years old, from June 5 to August 12 at the Friendswood Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr. Registration is required. Library hours are: Monday-Thursday 10am to 9pm, Friday & Saturday 10am to 6pm. Call 281-482-7135 or email chicks@friendswood.com to register or for more information. The program is provided by the Galveston County Food Bank.

June 8

### HEALTH FAIR

A health fair will be held at the Friendswood Library on Thursday, June 8 from 12pm to 4pm. Free health screenings, presentations, and local authors and organizations. The library is located at 416 S. Friendswood Dr. For more information visit [www.friendswood.lib.tx.us](http://www.friendswood.lib.tx.us).

June 9

### CONCERT IN THE PARK

Queen tribute band "Queen Legacy" will perform Friday, June 9 at Concert in the Park in Stevenson Park, 1100 S. Friendswood Dr. Concerts are free and start at 7pm. Prizes are given during intermission.

June 10

### SQUARE/LINE DANCING

Join the Hanger Squares Square Dance Club on Saturday, June 10 from 7 to 9pm for Square and Line Dancing at the Friendswood Activity Center, 416 Morningside. Public welcome.

June 14

### ANNUAL BBQ FUNDRAISER

The 11th Annual BBQ Fundraiser will be held Wednesday, June 14 from 11am to 1pm at the Friendswood Activity Building, 416 Morningside Dr. Each meal includes a chopped brisket sandwich, potato salad, beans, cookie and water. Orders of 10 or more will be delivered for free within city limits. Adults \$10, Seniors and Kids \$8. For more information call 281-482-8441. Proceeds benefit the Friendswood Senior Citizen Program.



## Pool opens May 27, free entry on May 29

Stevenson Park swimming pool opens for the season on Saturday, May 27. Entry is free on May 29 from 1 to 7pm. To see more information on pool passes, the seasonal schedule, swim lessons, and fitness classes please go to <https://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us/648/Friendswood-City-Pool>. The pool is located at 900 Cedarwood Avenue.



## FRIENDSWOOD SPRING FOOTBALL

Friendswood QB Brock Foster throws a pass in the spring game at Henry Winston Stadium. Former Friendswood graduate Jordan Johnson is the new head football coach as he replaced Robert Koopmann, who retired Jan. 27 after serving as the Mustangs' head coach and AD the past 11 seasons. The Mustangs compete in one of the toughest 5A districts in the state. Photo by Lloyd Hendricks

## 'Domestic Situation' disrupts school activities

Hundreds of students were devastated this week to learn outdoor activities at Friendswood ISD were canceled due to what the district called a "domestic dispute".

An email sent out to parents on Monday evening stated "We wanted to take a moment to address a current domestic situation that has prompted us to make the difficult decision to cancel Splash Day". The email went on to also announce the cancelation of all outdoor activities for the remainder of the week, including Senior Sunset, Bales 5th Grade Celebration, recesses, and athletic practices.

While the district assured parents the situation was being addressed through local

authorities, the lack of further details left many parents in a panic. Rumors and speculation quickly spiraled out of control on social media.

Many parents took to Facebook to announce they were keeping their children home for the rest of the school year, which ends on Thursday.

Those close to the matter, who chose not to be identified, admitted the matter started as a dispute between a teacher and her ex-husband. When the ex-husband started making threats, authorities stepped in.

On Tuesday, further details were released in a follow-up email from the school district

which stated "We want to take this opportunity to explain the reasons behind the decision to cancel outside activities". The message went on to explain the difficult balance between protecting the privacy of those involved in the domestic situation and assuring parents that their children will be safe at school.

Administrators were allowing excused absences on Tuesday for any students whose parents chose to keep them home for the day.

"We are continuing to work closely with law enforcement agencies and are hopeful to resume regular outdoor school activities," said the last statement from FISD.



FHS teacher Melissa Novak received a Legacy Grant for \$4,652.67 from the Friendswood ISD Education Foundation to fund her grant titled Cooking in Culinary.



Cline teacher Chelsea Copley received a Legacy Grant for \$5,524.46 from the Friendswood ISD Education Foundation to fund her grant titled Present Ponies, Prance to New Pastures.

## FEF awards over \$20,000 at Spring Legacy Grant SurPrize Patrol

The Friendswood ISD Education Foundation (FEF) awarded FISD with more than \$20,000 in grants during its Spring Legacy Grant SurPrize Patrol held earlier this month.

FEF Legacy Grants are designed to go above and beyond the threshold of FEF's traditional Adopt-A-Grant program in size, scope and impact, and may be submitted for projects ranging from \$5,000 to \$40,000.

"More and more often, we have teachers coming to us with 'dream big ideas'," FEF Executive Director Ashley Adair said. "The Legacy Grant Program allows us to capture those and work towards securing funding to bring them to life."

Per FEF's Investment Policy Statement, 3% of FEF's endowment fund is pulled each year to fund Legacy Grants. The endowment currently sits around \$1.5 million and continues to grow with the support of FEF's Century Club members.

According to FEF Grant Committee Chair Kelly Lovell, the team received nine grants totaling more than \$200,000 during the Spring cycle which made the Committee's job very challenging.

After reviewing the submissions, five applicants were invited to present their projects in person and answer questions. Of those that presented, two were selected for funding and those teachers were informed with a surprise visit from FEF on May 5.

Grant recipients include Cline Quest Teacher Chelsea Copley who was awarded \$5,524.46 to support new Special Education programs at Cline and Friendswood High School Culinary Arts Teacher Melissa Novak who was awarded \$14,652.67 to outfit the new state-of-the-art professional kitchen coming to FHS next year.

"This new equipment will help our students expand their skills and get even more hands-

on experience in the culinary kitchen," Novak said. "Not only will it equip them to be creative when they are doing labs, but it will also support the campus, district and community catering events the class does as well."

Copley shared that her grant will help improve academic performance and social-emotional skills and will make a lasting impact on the lives of children with special needs. "I can not thank the 'Shark Tank,' AKA Friendswood Education Foundation enough for their remarkable support and for being a champion for inclusive education," Copley said.

If you would like to invest in the future of FISD, you can make a tax-deductible gift to the endowment by joining FEF's Century Club or making a general donation today. Contact [AAdair@fisd12.net](mailto:AAdair@fisd12.net) or visit [fef.myfisd.com/ways-to-give/century-club](http://fef.myfisd.com/ways-to-give/century-club) to learn more.



# AREA BRIEFS

## Hurricane season expo set June 17

The Brazoria County Hurricane and Disaster Preparedness Expo is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 17 at the County Fairgrounds in Angleton.

The free event will include informational presentations, goody bags, door prizes, free hot dogs will supplies last, exhibitor booths and emergency vehicle displays.

Presentations will cover topics such as the National Weather Service, generator safety, pet safety during an emergency and how to prepare your yard and home for hurricane season.

## Save date for popular BBQ fundraiser

Save the date June 14 for the Senior Activity Center's 11th Annual BBQ Fundraiser planned for 11 am to 1 pm.

Each meal includes a chopped brisket BBQ sandwich, potato salad, baked beans, cookie and a drink. Orders of 10 or more meals can be delivered for free within City limits. There will also be dine in and to go orders. To go orders may be called in advance. Prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (50-plus) and \$8 for kids.

All proceeds benefit the Friendswood Senior Citizen Program (FSCP).

For more information on the fundraiser, contact the Friendswood Activity Building at 281-482-8441.

## Lineup announced for country showcase

The Pearland Country Music Showcase is planned for June 25 in the open air pavilion at the Pearland Town Center. The event is 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the center, 11200 Broadway.

Coolers and lawn chairs are welcome at the outdoor event featuring headliner Britt Godwin, a Bridge City, Texas, native now based in Beaumont. Godwin has been featured on the Grand Ole Opry, Louisiana Hayride, David Letterman Show and Charlie Pruitt Country Music Show and previously performed with the B.B. & Company band. Other performers include Shalane, Ellie Townley, Zac Clifton, Allie Rae and Blair Kudelka.

For more information, go to VisitPearland.com/CountryMusicShowcase.

## Classic rock highlights Friday concert

Adrian's Fault is the featured act at this Friday's Concert in the Park Series, performing classic rock beginning at 7 p.m. at Southdown Park, 2150 Countryplace Parkway.

Food vendors will include Sauce Time and Bee-Z's Ice. Admission to the 7 p.m. show is free and guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnics. Pets must be on a leash, and glass and smoking are prohibited in the park.

Weather-related updates will be posted on the city website, [parks.pearlandtx.gov/special-events/concerts-in-the-park](https://parks.pearlandtx.gov/special-events/concerts-in-the-park) or on the event hotline, 281-412-8989.

For more information, email [events@pearlandtx.gov](mailto:events@pearlandtx.gov).

## Weekend tax-free for select products

This weekend is a designated sales tax holiday for water-efficient and Energy Star products, the Texas Comptroller's office announced.

Created by the Texas legislature, the sales tax holiday is Saturday, May 27, through Monday, May 29, and is expected to save shoppers an estimated \$14.3 million in state and local sales tax.

Products displaying a WaterSense logo can be purchased tax-free for personal or business use, including showerheads, bathroom sink faucets and accessories, toilets, urinals and landscape irrigation controls. In addition, products with an Energy Star label are sales tax free, including air conditioners priced \$6,000 or less, refrigerators, ceiling fans, compact fluorescent light bulbs, integral LED bulbs, dishwashers, dehumidifiers and clothes washers.

The sales tax holiday also applies to lawn and garden products that help conserve water outdoors. Items qualifying for the exemption include soaker or drip-irrigation hoses; moisture controls for sprinkler or irrigation systems; mulch; and plants, trees and grasses. These items can be purchased tax free for residential use only.

For more information, visit [Comptroller.texas.gov](https://comptroller.texas.gov).

## 'No Name Fest' set June 9

The Brazoria Chamber of Commerce is planning the 38th "No Name Festival" beginning Friday, June 9, through the weekend.

The event includes a barbecue and hamburger cookout, vendors, street dance and more. Festivities begin Friday at 4 p.m. at the Brazoria Heritage Foundation Civic Center, 202 W. Smith St., Brazoria

For more information, call 979-824-0455.

## Honey festival this summer at expo

The 6th annual Honey Expo is scheduled on Saturday, July 15, at the County Fairgrounds, 901 Downing Road, Angleton. This event is open to the public with educational displays on beekeeping, extracting honey and more, food and vendors.

## Become a Junior Lifeguard

Youth can find out what being a Friendswood Lifeguard is really like with the Parks and Recreation Department Junior Lifeguard program. This program offers a unique insight into the day-to-day operations with the aquatics team. Participants will have the opportunity to attend weekly in-service training where they will be introduced to water rescue procedures and CPR/First Aid skills.

Junior Lifeguards will also assist swim instructors in the Acorn Aquatic Academy swim lesson program and participate in Shadow Shifts during normal recreational swim hours.

Session 1 is June 12-23 and Session 2 is July 10-21. Cost is \$10 per person for each session. Space is limited so anyone interested is encouraged to register immediately.

To register, click on the link on the Park and Rec's Facebook page or call.

For questions and inquiries call the Parks & Rec department at 281-996-3220 or email [pool@friendswood.com/](mailto:pool@friendswood.com/).

## Signups open for adult softball

Registration is open for teams or individuals interested in the city Parks and Recreation Department's Adult Softball League, which begins play the week of June 4.

A men's league will complete on Mondays from 6 to 10 p.m., and a co-ed league will play from 6 to 10 p.m. on Fridays. Players must up 18 or older. Registration is \$235 per team and includes the 10-game regular season plus a single elimination playoff.

More information and registration is available at [pearlandparks.com](https://pearlandparks.com).



# FAITH MATTERS

By Rev. Dr. Brian Gige

## WORDS TO LIVE BY

(2nd in a series of five articles from Mother's Day to Father's Day)

*"There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. 'For whom am I toiling,' he asked, 'and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?' This too is meaningless- a miserable business! 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."*  
- Ecclesiastes 4:8-10

My mother once said to me... "You'll never get where you are going by staying where you are!" She was right and that's been true for me many times. Then there's that famous quote from Yogi Berra... "When you come to the fork in the road... take it!" or those infamous words the Rolling Stones sang... "you can't always get what you want... but if you try sometimes... you just might find you get what you need." Good advice comes from the famous and the not-so-famous more than just every once in a while. What words do you live by? Who do you trust with a truth sturdy enough to be the sail, rudder and helm of the ship that is you?

It seems everyone has an opinion... and we are normally pretty quick to share our own as we chime in to take part in a conversation over this or that. I'm one who shares quotes from all over the place... to a fault almost... like from the Bible, a good book, a song or a friend even and despite this shortcoming I find myself being asked about this or that more often than maybe I'd prefer. Perhaps it comes with the turf of being a pastor and now being older and there is also that part where some conversations about this or that aren't quite as important as others because for some... I can 'take it or leave it' and for others... it is... 'the hill I'm willing to die on...' pointing out some details in the corners of our lives are just more meaningful, important, and critical

## Chief Academic Officer to retire after 41-years with Pearland ISD

Longtime Pearland Independent School District chief academic officer, Dr. Nyla Watson, announced her plans to retire this year.

Watson, who received her master's in Humanities from University of Houston - Clear Lake, joined the district in 1981 as a journalism and photography teacher at Pearland High School. "I loved being a teacher, I had so much fun with my kids," Watson said. "I loved taking them to camp, banquets, theater, I just wanted to create opportunities for them to see and experience new things." After dedicating many years as an assistant principal, associate principal and eventually being named the principal to the district's first ninth grade center, now known as Turner College and Career High School, Watson shared "I am a dreamer, I wanted to have students go to college or be employable after high school. It was important that they be able to make choices and grow as a leader and as a follower."

As the first principal of the Pearland Ninth Grade Center, she was recognized for having the highest TAKS scores amongst all ninth graders in the state of Texas in math and English, two years in a row. The achievements were impactful and throughout her 41 years with the district, there is no stone that was left unturned. From helping to develop Pearland High School's motto "Pride, Honor, Success," to being named one of the "75 Great Legends in Texas UIL," earning the titles of Teacher and Principal of the Year and serving as a member of Commissioner Mike Morath's Chief Academic Officer Advisory Council providing state-level input of educational best practices, Watson played an inte-

gral part in almost every milestone within Pearland ISD.

Her achievements did not go unnoticed, and after receiving her doctorate in Educational Administration, she was named Executive Director of Instructional Programs in 2006. Eventually earning the role of Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Programs and now, Chief Academic Officer, Watson has had the opportunity to develop the curriculum framework for the district leading campuses to success in student performance, benchmark assessments, classroom coaching and teacher training. "I have hired every person in the Curriculum and Instruction department, and I am proud of the friendship, collegiality, and support everyone supplies for teachers and campuses," she said.

"The people in this department were all exemplary teachers and they continue to perform this way; they help people improve their craft. I am very proud of the support system that we have built."

In 2013, Dr. Watson was named Rotarian of the year and subsequently was presented by the Pearland Masonic Lodge with the Community Builder Award for her outstanding community service. Undoubtedly, the impact she leaves travels well beyond the classroom and our community. While her chapter in education will come to a close in the coming months, Dr. Watson's legacy will live on through the countless lives touched and she will continue to build Pearland strong.

Dr. Watson's last day as Chief Academic Officer is set for the end of June. She looks forward to spending time with family, traveling and enjoying time on her ranch.



WATSON

# HEALTH FAIR

Thursday, June 8  
from 12pm to 4pm

- Free Health Screenings by
- Visit with Organizations and Local Authors
- Attend Presentations

**Presentation Schedule**

- 12:00pm Texas Health and Human Services Benefits
- 12:45pm Gulf Coast Center Programs
- 1:30pm City of Friendswood EMS
- 2:15pm COM Sickle Cell Club
- 3:00pm Dr. Tim McCullough - GERD

Friendswood VED  
Neighbors Serving Neighbors  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

GULF COAST CENTER

The Arc  
Gulf Coast

Friendswood Senior Citizen Program

COM  
College of the Mainland

TEXAS Health and Human Services

Sickle Cell Club

Friendswood Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood

# SPORTS

## FROM THE CLUTTERED DESK

by Dr. David Davis

### Patience sometimes pays off...

There were two women in a grocery store approaching the cashier at the same time. One had just a few items and the other - a truck load of groceries.



Since the store was in a very small town, they didn't have separate checkout lines for 20 items or less.

So, the issue that immediately faced both ladies was, who was going to go first?

The lady with the groceries getting ready to fall off her cart forged ahead of the other lady while glaring her down as she moved to the cashier.

The young lady with the few items didn't say a word, kept her composure, and managed a smile throughout the whole ordeal.

After the rude woman was checked out, bagged out, and carted out - the other lady set her few items on the counter and waited to find out how much she owed.

The cashier looked at the young woman and said, "I am amazed at how many rude people there are in the world. But I am even more impressed with the way you handled her rudeness. You kept your sweet smile and waited patiently without a fuss."

Once the few items were placed in a bag, the cashier said, "Thank you very much."

The young lady said, "How much do I owe you?"

"Not a thing," was the reply.

"But I know groceries aren't free," said the young lady.

"You are right, they aren't," said the veteran cashier, who had seen many rude people in her years at the store. "But I watched you very closely. You had such a sweet smile, never said a word, and waited patiently. Besides, the lady was in such a big hurry, I just added your few items to her ticket and let her pay for them."

See — patience does pay off!

And then, there are times when it is just satisfying to know when you've exercised patience for your own self-preservation and peace of mind.

Recently, I made my weekly trip to Wal-Mart. I really do like Wal-Mart. After traveling for more than 30 years, I always seemed to find one no matter where I found myself on the speaking circuit.

I had a basket full of great stuff — peanut butter, powdered donuts, ice cream sandwiches, pop-sicles, Goldfish, Vienna sausages, Ore-Ida tater tots (no other will do), chips, dip, wieners, chili — well, you get the idea. I was going to stock up on diet coke, but didn't want to waste the money.

I pulled in behind a woman to check out — she too had a huge load.

That's when I experienced a first at Wal-Mart.

As the cashier was ringing up her items, she looked back and saw her son behind, looked at me and said, "He is with me, hope you don't mind."

Her son was 6-6, 280 so I shook my head and said, "Well, no, I don't mind - go ahead."

A second truck load moved in front and I just looked in amazement.

But that's not all.

While the cashier continued to ring up another record load - big mama saw a second son standing in another line - yelled out, "Honey, over here!"

It was obvious he was the smaller of the two boys, 6-4, 265. And of course, a third load moved in front of mine with the whole family gathered at the bag rack loading up the groceries while the rest of us just stood there gazing at what had just happened.

No, the cashier didn't add my items to her ticket - I had too many and there wasn't enough time, so I had to pay for mine.

But, I will tell you there are times when we are tested in life.

For example, if I had a lemon, cut in half, and squeezed it - what would come out of it? Juice? Seeds? Rhine? The truth is everything that is in it.

So when you are put in the squeeze of life - what comes out of you? Everything that is in you!

If you are filled with patience, love, joy, happiness, and encouragement, then those are the things that are most likely to come out of you.

If bitterness, jealousy, hatred, and anger fill your life, then that is what will usually surface first.

I love to go to Wal-Mart - and the train of groceries by Goliath's brothers didn't discourage me, nor did I get mad at the innocent cashier. Actually, it was a first for both of us - we chatted and laughed while she was ringing up my health food, and we vowed that we would never forget this rare sight of rudeness and insensitivity. I also made up my mind that I would be a little more sensitive the next time I get around fellow shoppers. It really doesn't stunt your character if you allow someone else to go first. Try it! It might make you feel good.

Old friend Robert said, "Replacing rudeness and impatience with the Golden Rule may not change the world, but it will change your world and your relationships."

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HEADED TO THE 6A SOFTBALL REGION FINALS - The Pearlland Lady Oilers beat Bellaire 10-0 and 9-0 in the Class 6A Region III semifinals to advance to the region finals to face the Deer Park Lady Deer with the winner moving on to the 6A state softball tournament. The Lady Oilers have won 18 consecutive games and have a 37-3 overall record.

## Lady O's rip Bellaire 10-0, 9-0 to advance to 6A Region III finals

By DR. DAVID DAVIS  
Reporter News Staff

Head coach finds herself in familiar territory once again as the Pearlland Lady Oilers totally dismantled the Bellaire Lady Cardinals in a best-of-three sweep to advance to the Class 6A Region III finals.

Pearland beat Bellaire 10-0 and 9-0 which gives them a perfect 8-0 record in the playoffs while outscoring their opponents 55-13. The Lady Oilers are now 39-3 overall and have won 18 straight games counting the post-season.

The Lady Oilers disposed of Bellaire in Game One by the score of 10-0 in five innings thanks to the 10-run mercy rule.

Pearland scored a run in the first, three in the third and six runs in the fifth for the 10-0 win.

Top hitters included Hailey Golden (2-for-3, 2 runs, 2B), Kaylee Schweitzer (1-for-2, 2 runs), Kennedy Drafton (2-for-2, 2 runs, 4 RBIs, 2B), Kristyn Whitlock (2-

for-3, 1 run, 2 RBIs, 2B), Raenna Liscano (1-for-2, 1 run, 1 RBI), Trinity Perry (1-for-2, 1 run), Lydia Njus (1-for-2, 1 run), and Gabbie Roundtree (1-for-1, 3 RBIs, 2B). Abigail Gutierrez got the win in the pitching circle after allowing one only hit, striking out seven, and walking two in five innings.

### PEARLAND 9 - BELLAIRE 0

Pearland advanced to the 6A Region III finals with their 9-0 shutout win over Bellaire.

Abigail Gutierrez allowed three hits in 6 1/3 innings and struck out six and walked one before junior Carly Carpenter, who struck out two and walked one, collected the final two outs.

The Lady Oilers scored two runs in the first, three in the second, one in the fifth, and three in the sixth for the 9-0 win while collecting 11 hits.

Pearland sophomore Kaylee Schweitzer had three hits and drove in three runs in the first two innings while Hailey

Golden was 3-for-3 with three runs scored. Kennedy Drafton was 1-for-3 with one run scored and three RBIs. Raenna Liscano was 2-for-4 with two RBIs that included a double.

"When Hailey Golden gets on and we get her around, that certainly helps Abi to relax and focus on her pitches," Pearlland head coach Laneigh Clark said. "Kaylee had a great night at the plate, too."

"As a coach, you always think there's something you can do better, but for the most part, the kids are focused."

"They know what it will take to beat a very good Deer Park team."

Pearland is a two-time state champion (1996 and 2010) and two-time runner-up (2009 and 2016) while Deer Park won state titles in 2012, 2014 and 2021 and reached the state tournament on three other occasions, including last season. Pearlland also played in the 2011 state tournament where they lost in the semifinals.

## Pearland diamondmen sweep Clear Falls to advance

By DR. DAVID DAVIS  
Reporter News Staff

It took a few innings to get the offense going but Pearlland made the runs count to get a 4-1 win over the Clear Falls Knights in the opening game of the best-of-three series in the Class 6A Region III quarterfinals.

Pearland (32-6-1) broke the scoreless tie in the top of the fourth after Oiler Caden Ferraro, a Texas A&M signee, led off with a single to left.

Damian Landry then bunted Ferraro to second. After Nicolas Partida popped out, Braeden Morse punched a single to center to produce the game's first run.

The Oilers then widened the lead to 3-0 in the sixth when Damian Landry knocked a single to left to start the inning and Partida bunted him to second base.

Morse followed with a double to left for a 2-0 lead, and Anthony Avalos, a Houston signee, drilled a run-scoring single to right to make it 3-0.

Clear Falls (23-13) scored its lone run after Partida issued one-out walks to Matt Novominsky and David Ramirez.

Alex Kubler then ripped a run-scoring single to center, but Partida stepped up to

retire Noah Paulson on a pop-up and then fanned Max Williams.

Pearland added its final run in the seventh when Landry's single to right scored Bret Smajstrla, a Sam Houston signee, after Smajstrla doubled to left.

The Oilers received a complete game from Arizona State commit and sophomore Partida, who fired a three-hitter while striking out 11.

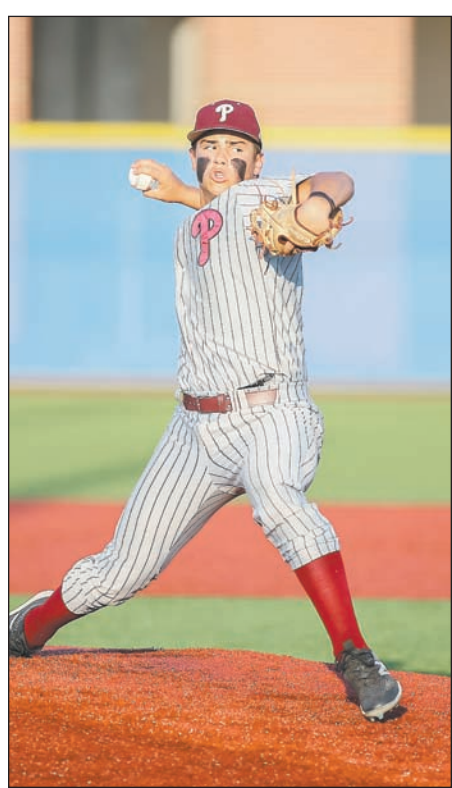
He allowed just a sixth-inning run after Pearlland established the 3-0 cushion.

### PEARLAND 6 - CLEAR FALLS 1

Leading 1-0 over the state's top-rated 6A baseball squad, Clear Falls found out for the second straight game that the Pearlland Oilers can strike at any given time and they did just that to eliminate the Knights 6-2 in the Class 6A Region III quarterfinals.

Trailing 1-0 entering the bottom of the fifth frame, Pearlland struck like lightning to blow the game wide open with six runs.

Isaiah Castaneda's one-out single led to his stolen base of second, and when Clear Falls catcher Parker Collier threw the ball into center, Castaneda moved to third.



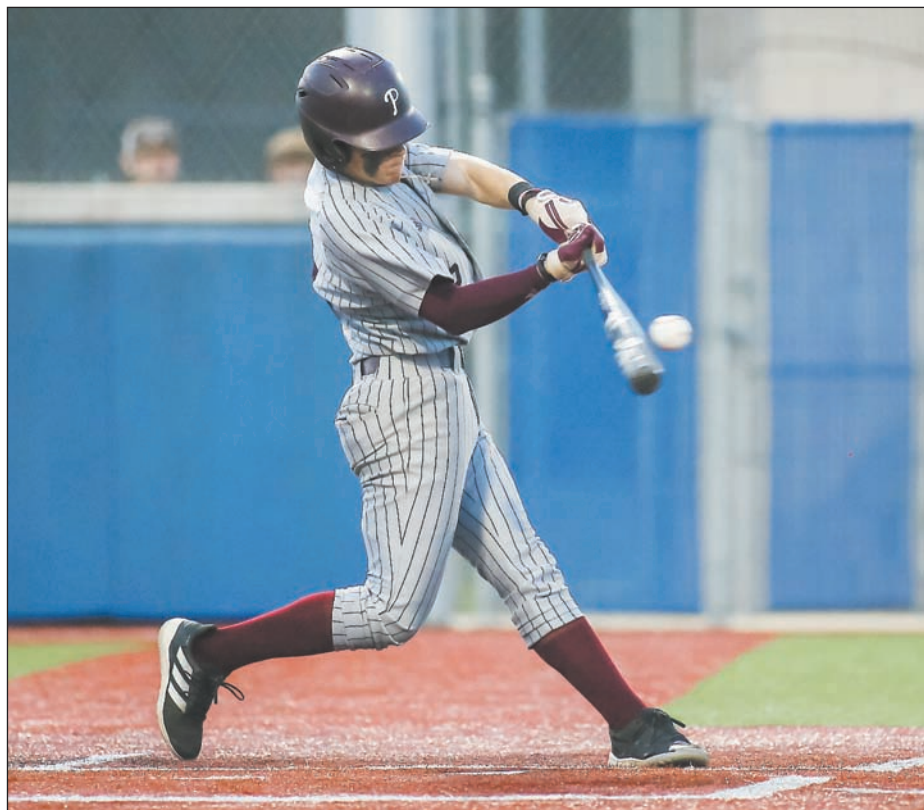
WINNING PITCHER - Pearlland sophomore pitcher Nico Partida winds up vs Clear Falls. Partida had another stellar performance tossing a complete game and giving up just three hits, two walks and only one run while tallying 11 strikeouts. The series sweep sends the Oilers back to the regional semifinal where they will face Katy Cinco Ranch at the University of Houston. Games 1 and 2 are at 7:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday followed by Game 3 (if necessary) at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Pearland then parlayed a hit batter, two more Knight errors and a wild pitch into six runs as Caden Ferraro lined a two-run single to chase Clear Falls starter David Ramirez and Braeden Morse hooked a two-run home run around the left field pole off Clear Falls reliever Cam Roberson.

In two blinks, the Oilers turned a tight 1-0 deficit into a commanding 6-1 lead.

Clear Falls coach Eddie Youngblood said, "Any crack in the armor and they're taking advantage of it. Blood in the water, whatever you want to call it. They put pressure on you until eventually something can crack."

The Oilers advance to the 6A Region III semifinals where they will face the Katy Cinco Ranch in a best-of-three series at UH beginning on Thursday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m. Game 2 will be on Friday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m and Game 3 (if needed) will be on Saturday, May 27 at 2:00 p.m.



CLUTCH HITTER - Pearlland senior second baseman Braeden Morse rips an RBI double in Game One vs Clear Falls to help the Oilers to a 4-1 win. Morse, who hit a two-run homer in Game Two, showed the clutch play he has been known for all season, with three hits and four RBI's over the two-game series sweep of the Knights. The Oilers won the second game 6-2 to advance to the 6A Region III semifinals.

# SPORTS

## Barbers Hill eliminates Friendswood in playoff sweep

By DR. DAVID DAVIS  
Reporter News Staff

Friendswood advanced to the 2022 Class 5A state baseball tournament finals last year where they lost 2-1 to state champion Georgetown.

The Mustangs had their sights set on returning back to the state baseball tournament as they had some unfinished business with a best-of-three series sweep that ended the 2023 season for Friendswood.

Game One was frustrating for the Mustangs as they watched Barbers Hill score five runs in the opening stanza to fall quickly in the hole 5-0.

The potent Mustang offense had plenty of chances to chip away at the deficit, putting runners on base in its first six at-bats.

Friendswood touched Barbers Hill starting pitcher Ayden Mooring for seven hits and benefitted from four walks and a hit batter.

But the Mustangs could only manage a run in the third and sixth innings to cut the margin to 5-2 and then the Eagles sealed the coffin with three runs in the sixth to make the score 8-2 to get a 1-0 lead in the series.

The Eagle defense used double plays to defuse Mustang threats in the third and fifth innings.

Drew Smith led off the Friendswood third with a double to left. Ayden Pearcy joined him on base by drawing a one-out walk.

Boots Landry plated the first Mustangs run with a base hit before the Eagles turned a double play to end the frame.

A walk to Smith and a single to left off the bat of Peyton Adams put the first two Friendswood hitters on to begin the fifth.

Barbers Hill third baseman Jace Martinez robbed Pearcy of extra bases with a diving stop of a grounder up the line. Martinez managed to touch third base to secure a force out.

Another Eagles twin killing ended the threat.

Friendswood put together its best chance in the sixth.

Collin Goolsby and Lane Vegas had hits and Kyle Lockhart drew a walk to load the bases with one out. Blake Encarnacion was hit by a pitch to bring in the second Mustang run.

Brady Thompson relieved Mooring and struck out the next two batters.

Friendswood ended the contest with eight runners left on base.

Friendswood pitcher Easton Tumis rebounded from the rough first inning by retiring 14 of the next 15 Barbers Hill batters before running into trouble again in the sixth.

### Barbers Hill 12 - Friendswood 3

This wasn't the way the Friendswood Mustangs wanted to see their season end but unfortunately the Barbers Hill Eagles proved to be too much for the 'Stangs which ended their season with a 12-3 romp.

Barbers Hill was relentless in its hitting attack, ending with 12 hits. The Eagles also had baserunners in every inning.

Starting pitcher Briley Van supported the Barbers Hill cause by retiring the first 10 Mustangs he faced. Van did not allow a hit until the fifth frame.

The Eagles scored runs in bunches as they pushed across four runs in the in the second inning and scored five more in the fifth inning.

Trailing 10-0, Friendswood refused to be hit by the 10-run mercy rule as they scored a run in the fifth and added two more in the sixth cutting the margin to 10-3.

Barbers Hill added a pair of scores using two hits and two walks in the seventh to make the final score 12-3.

Friendswood ends the 2023 season with a 26-6-2 record while winning the District 18-5A crown with a 10-1 mark.



## 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JP GRIFFON FISHING TOURNAMENT

There were 250 anglers who attended the 36th annual JP Griffon Fishing Tournament. It is one of the largest in-shore tournaments in the state, held at Port Mansfield in May, to help raise scholarship money for 2023 graduates. Those students receiving a \$2,000.00 scholarship to help support them in college next year include: Peyton Becker - FHS, Chole Cravens - FHS, Jackson Fiesinger - FHS, Arden Hill - FHS, Sydney Humphreys - FHS, Gabriella McGregor - FHS, Andrew Parr - FHS, Jacob Smith - FHS, Aidan Stokes - FHS, and Zoe Wyrick - FHS. Salty Seamen (left to right) Stuart Stock, Josh Griffon, Kyle Pappo, Jake Thompson.



## DAWSON SPRING GAME

Dawson QB Gage Green looks for a receiver in the Dawson spring football game. Head coach Mike Allison is optimistic that the Eagles will be a much stronger team for the 2023 football season. Dawson has never had a losing season in its young history and they've never missed the post-season. Photo by Lloyd Hendricks



## FIRST SPRING GAME

New Friendswood head football coach Jordan Johnson got his first look at his Mustangs after the spring game at Henry Winston Stadium. Friendswood is in one of the toughest 5A districts in the state but Johnson, who came from state-power Denton Guyer, is accustomed to playing tough teams. Johnson is a graduate of Friendswood HS and has said, "My time spent throughout Friendswood ISD, and just the way my teachers and coaches poured everything into my life makes this special," Johnson said. "That experience really changed my life at a pivotal moment, and it means the world to come back and have the opportunity to do that same thing for athletes at Friendswood High School." Photo by Lloyd Hendricks



## PEARLAND SPRING FOOTBALL

The Pearland Oilers just concluded the spring football game and head coach B.J. Gotte got an early look at his team for the 2023 football season. Senior QB Cole Morkovsky looks for a receiver during the game as the Maroon team played the White team. The Maroon team won the game 7-0 as both teams were evenly divided and the competition was strong on both sides of the ball. The Oilers made the playoffs last season for the 23rd straight year and coach Gotte is confident that Pearland will be even stronger in 2023. Photo by Lloyd Hendricks

## SOFTBALL/BASEBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULES

**CLASS 6A REGION III SOFTBALL FINALS:** Pearland Lady Oilers vs Deer Park Lady Deer

One Game: Friday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Game played at Crosby High School

**CLASS 6A REGION III BASEBALL SEMIFINALS:** Pearland Oilers vs Katy Cinco Ranch Cougars

Game 1: Thursday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Game 2: Friday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Game 3: (if needed) Saturday, May 27 at 2:00 p.m.

All games will be played at the University of Houston Schroeder Park

## Friendswood Library to host summer events

*Kickoff event planned for Summer Reading Challenge*

June 1 is the kickoff day for the Friendswood Library's Summer Reading Challenge. The fun kickoff event will be from 6 to 7:30 pm in front of the former Friendswood Junior High campus at 402 Woodlawn area.

Participants can download the Beanstack app at friendswood.beanstack.org.

The event will have free pizza, bubbles, hula hoops, chalk for drawing and a sidewalk obstacle course. The event is weather permitting. Share your reading on social media by tagging #FriendswoodReads.

*Library to host Health Fair*

The library is hosting a Health Fair Thursday, June 8 from noon to 4 pm. Free health screenings by UTMB Health, opportunities to visit with organizations and local authors and presentations will be offered

Presentation schedule includes Texas Health and Human Services Benefits at noon, Gulf Coast Center Programs at 12:45 pm, City of Friendswood EMS presentation at 1:30 pm, COM Sickle Cell Club presentation at 2:15 pm and Dr. Tim McCullough to speak on GERD at 3 pm.

The community is invited to attend. The library is located at 416 S. Friendswood Dr. in Friendswood.

## In The Garden by Karolyn Gephart

### Garden Tasks as Summer Approaches

Hello Summer. June is a warm month and gardens will need extra care to help them through dry periods and sunny bright days.

Water shade trees and shrubs deeply once a week during dry weather periods. Hanging baskets and other container plants need to be watered thoroughly once a day.

Water gardens and shrubs before 10 am or after 5 pm and water deeply so the roots will get the hydration. Wind and sun can cause evaporation if watered during the hot part of the day.

There is still time to put some color in to your yard. Plant Joseph's coat (*Alternanthera ficoidea*), *Vinca* and *Salvia* for summer color. Perennials such as obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), *Lantana*, *Plumbago*, coneflower and *Coreopsis* will provide both summer and fall color. For additional fall color, add Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*), Mexican mint marigold (*Tagetes lucida*) and Aromatic aster (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*).

Plant pentas (pictured) in light shade for color and to attract hummingbirds. Plant tomato seeds in a cool place to



prepare for a fall tomato garden. Southern peas may be planted May through mid-August. Both sweet potatoes and pumpkin may be planted May through mid-July while watermelon can be planted May through July.

Depending on infestation, treat lawns for white grubs now through early August. Reference Texas A&M AgriLife Extension publication *White Grubs in Texas Turfgrass* for life cycle and treatment of white grubs: [https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/E211-white-grubs-](https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/E211-white-grubs-in-texas-turfgrass.pdf)

[in-texas-turfgrass.pdf](https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/E211-white-grubs-in-texas-turfgrass.pdf)

Watch for chinch bugs in lawn. They begin in hot spots near sidewalks and driveways. Reference Aggie Turf publication *Chinch Bugs* for life cycle and management: <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/turfgrass-insects/chinch-bugs/>.

Control aphids and whiteflies with sharp streams of water, insecticidal soap or neem tree extract.

Remember to wear sunscreen and possibly a hat to protect yourself and make your garden work possible as summer days approach!

