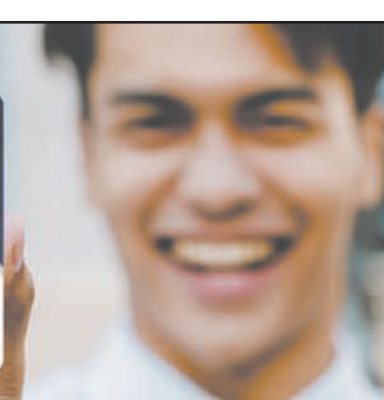


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Friendswood Edition REPORTER NEWS

Your Independent Local News Source Since 1984

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 22

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023

USPS 013362

50 CENTS

Around Town

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.

MOVIES ON THE LAWN
"Grease" is the featured movie for the June 1 "Movies on the Lawn" at Baybrook Mall in Friendswood. There will also be lawn games. Movies starts at 7pm.

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 3
HANGER SQUARES GRADUATION
Hanger Squares Graduation celebration will be held Saturday, June 3 from 7 to 9pm at Jones Hangar at Leavesley Park, 901 Buckingham. Dancing, friendship and fun! \$8 per person entry donation. Caller is Gary Belcik. For more information email hangersquaresfriendswoodtx@gmail.com or visit hangersquares.org.

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 281-482-1735 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.

MOVIES ON THE LAWN
"Secret Life of pets" is the featured movie for the June 8 "Movies on the Lawn" at Baybrook Mall that starts at 7pm. There will also be lawn games.

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 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. Adults \$10, Seniors and Kids \$8. For more information call 281-482-8441. Proceeds benefit the Friendswood Senior Citizen Program.

June 16
CONCERT IN THE PARK
Lost Shaker of Salt - a Jimmy Buffet Tribute Band - will perform Friday, June 16 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 17
COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST
The Friendswood Community Prayer Breakfast will be held Saturday, June 17 from 7:30 to 9:00am at The Harbor Church, 2821 West Parkwood, Friendswood. All are invited for the breakfast, the program with speaker Jonelle Fields from Inspira Resource Center, and a time of prayer around the tables. For more information and to RSVP, please call or text the Steve Martin Sr. at 832-607-1734. Requested donation is \$10.

June 23
CONCERT IN THE PARK
Double Vision - a Foreigner tribute band - will perform Friday, June 23 at Concert in the Park in Stevenson Park, 1100 S. Friendswood Dr. Free to public.



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY 2023

The City of Friendswood Parks & Recreation hosted the 2023 Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial (located next to City Hall). Keynote speaker was Marine Corps veteran Sergeant Jay Shaw (right). Shaw enlisted in 1997 and rose to the rank of Sergeant before he was wounded in action in Fallujah in 2004. Additional ceremony participants included the Friendswood First Baptist Church choir, the Friendswood Police Department Honor Guard, and Rob Wise performing on the bagpipes. At the end of the ceremony a group photo was taken of all the military veterans and active duty personnel in attendance.



FHS graduates 485 in the Class of 2023

Friendswood High School (FHS) proudly announced the successful graduation of its Class of 2023 during a ceremony held at Grace Church. With a total of 485 graduates, the event marked a significant milestone in the lives of these accomplished students.

Under the leadership of the class officers, the graduating class of 2023 displayed outstanding commitment and dedication throughout their academic journey. Asiya Siddiqi served as the class president, supported by Aidan Armand as the vice president and Brynli Campbell as the treasurer. Together, they demonstrated exemplary leadership skills, fostering a spirit of unity and excellence among their peers.

The graduation class Valedictorian is Ganesh Venu, with Salutatorian Asiya Siddiqi.

The class of 2023 embraced a distinctive identity, with their class color chosen as thistle, a pale shade of purple. Their chosen class flower, wisteria, represents good luck and success, characteristics that are undoubtedly reflected in the remarkable achievements of these graduates.

Throughout their time at FHS,

the class of 2023 found inspiration in their selected class song, "Party Rock Anthem," which added a touch of energy and celebration to their high school experience.



Guided by the wisdom of Dr. Seuss, their class motto, "Kid, you'll move mountains," served as a constant reminder of their limitless potential and the heights they could reach.

Mallory Migl and Matthew

Dupuis received the American Legion Girl/Boy administrative awards for possessing high qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and serv-

ice. Janelle Wilson and Alberto Archundia received girl and boy outstanding athlete. Gabriella McGregor, Arden Hill, Chloe Cravens and Connor Adams received the I Dare You Award: I Dare You To Be A Leader: Think

Tall, Stand Tall, Smile Tall and Live Tall. Friendswood High School Representatives were Ava Black, TASSP Teens Serving Texas, and Maryam Faisal, TASSP All-State Academic and Scholastic Excellence.

Seven students from this senior class will be joining the military next year. Joining the United States Army is Isaac Rodriguez Alvarez. Matthew Dupuis and Andrew Rubio will attend The United States Military Academy at West Point. Carolyn Rodriguez-Alva will be joining the United States Navy. Attending the United States Coast Guard Academy is Manon Murphy. Colin Niemeier is joining the United States Coast Guard and Ethan Eberhardt is joining the United States Air Force.

FHS's administration, faculty, and staff take immense pride in the accomplishments of the graduating Class of 2023. The commitment and perseverance exhibited by these graduates have undoubtedly prepared them for a successful future filled with endless possibilities.

See all photos on [Friendswood ISD's SmugMug](#).

Publisher's Note:

Congratulations Class of 2023

This month I would like to switch from my Publisher hat to my Teacher hat to focus on an exceptional group whose achievements deserve our heartfelt admiration: the recent graduates of the Class of 2023.

When COVID derailed their early high school years, these students demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and spirit in ways most of us can only imagine. They've pursued their education in a time of unprecedented challenges and changes, showing a tenacity that speaks volumes to their character and the promising future that lies ahead.

To the Class of 2023, I offer my sincerest "Congratulations!" on your graduation. You have passed a significant milestone that deserves to be celebrated and remembered, especially given the journey to this point that has been marred by obstacles and hurdles. Whether or not I had the privilege of teaching you in one of my classes, I am immensely proud of you.

As you embark on this new phase of life, allow me to offer these last few words of wisdom.

First, never let anyone else define your success for you. Your success is your own, defined by your own goals, dreams, and aspirations. The road you choose to follow is your own. While it may be a different path from that of your peers, that is perfectly alright.

Second, I encourage you to embrace uncertainty. The world is



changing, and sometimes your best-laid plans will fall apart. Just remember, from uncertainty and change often comes extraordinary opportunity. Fear not the unknown, but see it as an invitation to explore, innovate, and refine your boundaries. The world is your canvas. You now have the freedom to create your masterpiece.

Lastly, never stop learning. The world is vast and rich with knowledge just waiting to be discovered. Education does not end with a diploma or a college degree. It's a lifelong journey. Embrace a habit of curiosity. Ask questions and seek answers. You are better equipped for this than any generation to come before you. By doing so, you will continue to grow as an individual and perhaps even make meaningful contributions of your own to the world's collective knowledge.

In closing, let me just say that the Class of 2023 is remarkable. You have not just survived, you have thrived under the circumstances that have redefined the world as we know it.

As you step forward into the expansive and uncertain world just remember that our community is behind you. We anticipate your successes, cheer on your efforts, and stand ready to support you through your challenges.

The future is in good hands: yours.

Jim Foreman, Publisher
jim@myreporternews.com

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.

'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.

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/.

Concerts move to Independence Park

The Concerts in the Park Series will move to Independence Park beginning this Friday at 2449 Pearland Parkway. The June 2 act will be Gary Kyle and the Silverado Band. Food vendors will include Houston's Pink Box and Kona Ice.

Lawn chairs and pets on a leash are welcome; smoking is prohibited. Weather-related updates will be posted on the city website, parks.pearlandtx.gov/special-events/concerts-in-the-park or on the event hotline, 281-412-8989. For more information, email events@pearlandtx.gov.

Southdown splash pad closed

The splash pad at Southdown Park is closed for repairs until further notice.

The water feature at Centennial Park remains open, according to City Parks and Recreation.

Sales tax up for May

Sales taxes returned to the City of Pearland this month were up 7.27 percent over the prior year, according to the Texas Comptroller's office.

Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts are seeing approximately \$1.2 billion in local sales tax allocations for May, which is 4.3 percent more than the prior year, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced.

The allocations are based on sales made in March by businesses that report tax monthly, and on sales made in January, February and March for those that file quarterly.

Boaters urged to clean, drain, dry

Texas Parks and Wildlife this summer is again reminding boaters to clean, drain and dry all watercraft to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Giant salvinia and zebra mussels continue to spread to new areas in Texas and remain some of the biggest threats to Texas lakes.

A free-floating fern that can double its coverage area in a week, giant salvinia produces thick surface mats that make fishing, boating or swimming nearly impossible. It is currently present in 27 Texas lakes and numerous rivers, creeks and marshes between Houston and Beaumont.

Now in 36 Texas lakes, Zebra mussels damage boats, alter lake ecosystems and harm native species. Once they become established, nothing can be done to control or eradicate them.

Boaters are urged to clean and drain boats and gear before moving from lake to lake and allow them to dry for a week, if possible. Anyone who spots invasive species on boats, trailers or equipment that is being moved may report it to TPWD at 512-389-4848. Anyone who finds invasive species such as zebra mussels in lakes where they haven't been found before can help identify new introductions by emailing photos and location information to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov.



FAITH MATTERS

By Rev. Dr. Brian Gige

WORDS TO LIVE BY

(3rd in a series of five articles from Mother's Day to Father's Day)

"From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things, and the work of their hands brings them reward.

15 The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice. 16 Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult. An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies. 18 The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

- Proverbs 12:14-18

I have only a few memories of being around my great-grandfather. He was my dad's mom's dad. His given name was Henry but in the family he was known at 'Grandpa Hank' ... a tall slender man who some might describe as a 'hopeless romantic' caught writing poetry on the job more than once or twice and even found time to copyright some music he penned. I have two original songs of his and a folder of poems in his own handwriting in both pen and pencil I am transposing to chronicle his thoughts and prose.

But here's the memory which stands out... when I was a toddler visiting my great-great Aunt Ella's home out in the country. She was Hank's sister-in-law and the occasion for gathering matters little now as I was only three years old at the time. You see... Aunt Ella had a row of Hawthorne bushes on the side of her home and the berries were in full form and a tempting bright red. Another cousin and I were standing there admiring the almost good enough to eat prize when Grandpa Hank appeared from around the corner waving his long, thin, Methodist finger saying clearly and firmly... "Don't you eat those berries boy" and he was looking right at me. It was a fearful moment and perhaps even more ominous for him as I think I know now what was disguised in that memorable phrase. I think what he was feeling and thinking was... "I don't have time to scoop up this curious little lad and take him to the ER and have his stomach pumped because when he eats these little red berries it's likely he will experience nausea, stomach upset, dizziness, drowsiness, sweating and God knows what else and I'm try-

ing to have a grand time with my family as the pater familias and being old and all... and this won't be ruined by the newest male in the family..." and instead of that what I got was "don't you eat those berries, boy..." and I didn't. Grandpa Hank to the rescue! God save the day with a hal-lelujah, too!

How many times have any of us been placed in a moment when something needed to be said and when we did... instead of the right words rising up something totally different was spoken and yet the desired result came to be. Sometimes it's when a parent or a sibling just yells, "hey" when the youngest of the bunch is about to embark on something dumb or unnecessary or when a parent has just been blasted with a "I hate you" line from a teenager and the only reply we can come up with is ... "well, I love you and I always will". Sometimes it is just harder to love than it is to hate... requiring patience and trust and space for the emotions to clear out and provide the desired relationship to emerge allowing for both persons to experience a certain healing so the deeper details of life can be enjoyed. Meister Eckhardt once said... "If the only prayer you said in your whole life was 'thank you'... that would suffice."

Plato once wrote... "be kind... for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle." How did he know? And when we add on the words of the great 20th century spiritualist, Thomas Merton... "Love is our true destiny!" ... then we're quick to realize we are either a big part of the problem or a key part of the solution where everyone's effort is required!

And this... Memorial Day weekend in our country is the announcement of 'summer' and all that comes with it... a testing for younger souls you might say... where encounters with words of fools collide with words of wisdom. Be well. Live well! Faith matters. We all believe in something!

The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Gige is a long-time resident of Pearland, having pastored four churches over the last four decades in Texas and Louisiana. Read more following Brian's blog 'murmurings' at <https://briangige.wordpress.com/>. Send comments and/or questions to godworks247365@gmail.com.

SCHS student receives Presidential Environmental Youth Award

In April, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), announced the 2023 recipients of the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators (PIAEE) and the President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA).

Rahul Vijayan, Shadow Creek HS junior, was one of only 34 students in the nation who received this prestigious award.

His nonprofit, Farm-to-Tray (FTT) Hydroponics Farming in Schools, began in January 2022 when Earth Force granted him enough funds to purchase a hydroponic gardening system. In August 2022, after securing support from the Alvin ISD school board and Shadow Creek HS principal, Craig Rhodes, Vijayan successfully launched the system, which has since been a research tool for the school's AP Environmental Science curriculum and yielded five food harvests for 2,600 people.

Not only has Rahul brought this technology to his community, but he also encourages his community to further expand upon this work. He currently collaborates with the City of Pearland, Kroger's grocery stores, and even the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to bring the benefits of his project to a wider audience. Additionally, he intends to bring new gardens to other

schools. His garden, and his teachings, will inspire others to add fresh, organic produce to the school lunch menu while ingrain the concept of sustainable agriculture into the student core curriculum.

Vijayan recently presented his vision for Farm-to-Tray to the Alvin ISD school board during the May meeting. He also received a commendation from the Board for receiving the President's Environmental Youth Award.

The President's Environmental Youth Award was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1970 and recognizes outstanding community-level environmental projects by K-12 youth

that promote awareness of natural resources and encourages positive community involvement. Each year, PEYA honors a variety of local projects developed by students, school classes, summer camp attendees and youth organizations to promote engagement in environmental stewardship and protection.

"I would like to thank Alvin ISD, Ms. Shannon Oliver, and Principal Rhodes for their support and guidance in making my Farm-to-tray mission a success," shared Vijayan, "I could not have done any of this without each of you. I hope the future brings more success to our Hydroponic mission."



HEALTH FAIR

- Free Health Screenings by

Thursday, June 8 from 12pm to 4pm

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

- Visit with Organizations and Local Authors
- Attend Presentations

Friendswood Library, 416 S. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood

SPORTS

FROM THE CLUTTERED DESK

by Dr. David Davis

Is it just me?

I had some reflective moments this past week. What started it was when I was scanning the internet and saw something I hadn't thought about in over 50 years.



I clicked on an old show on YouTube - "This Is Your Life" with Ralph Edwards as the host. I'm not sure what the year of the show was, but I know it was around mid-1955.

The show actually honored two lives - Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. That's right! The comedy duo of Laurel and Hardy who brought laughter into my home as a young child on a black and white TV. I later saw that Hardy died of a stroke in 1957 and Laurel died in 1965. Both were born in 1890. If you never saw them, then you missed some great humor which made me realize some things in the past.

I'm a Baby Boomer. I've lived through the birth of rock-and-roll, the Jesus Movement, hippie culture, the invention of color television, the birth of FM radio, records, cassettes, CDs, MP3s, and satellite radio. I was around before the Internet and cell phones. My grandparents had a party line and growing up all our phones had cords.

I learned to drive with a stick shift, we didn't have seat belts, and the dashboard was metal. We didn't use car seats, and we didn't lock our doors at night. The streets were fairly safe for kids to play in, and we knew our neighbors. Most of us went to the same kind of church our parents and grandparents attended.

The Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the birth of the drug culture, teenage rebellion, and the catastrophic change in attitudes in our land about social, moral, and ethical issues. I've lived through 14 presidents so far.

When I started driving gas was 24.9 cents (that's right - cents!) per gallon and when I went to Texas from Oklahoma when I was in college - I would take advantage of a gas war between neighboring gas stations and get gas for 16.9 cents per gallon. Yes - you read it correctly - I could fill up my 1960 Ford Falcon for \$5 bucks!

All that being said, I think I've learned a few things. I've been around the block a few times as well as around the world and I've learned from my experiences, my mistakes, and my mentors. I'm now in my eighth decade, and I'm still learning.

Most of what I've learned in life, I've learned from people older than me. Most of the books that have profoundly impacted my life have been written by people older than me. As I've gotten older, that fact has somewhat changed, but it still is prevalent. Most of the time in life, we learn from people who have been down the road farther than we have.

While my generation rebelled against our parents, many of us have come to realize that our parents weren't as stupid as we thought they were. They had wisdom; we just had some form of limited knowledge. They fought for their freedoms; we took ours to excess. While a person can mature physically and have many birthdays, it doesn't guarantee they are wise or worth listening to.

I've said all that to ask, "Is it just me — or is our world still the same as it was 40, 50, or 60 years ago? Have we, as a nation and a society, not learned anything?"

Quite frankly, I don't watch the news much anymore because I get sick and tired of turning on the TV and all I hear is the news media taking advantage of social media to criticize and blast anyone and anything they want because they now have the social tools to do so.

Is there something wrong with this picture? The news is constantly filled with bitterness and hate that seemingly only reports about murders or injuries to innocent people. We have more hate in this country than at any time I can remember - and I grew up in the 60's where racial hatred was actually real!

Never in my wildest imagination did I ever dream that one day I would have a license to carry a gun out of the need to protect me or my family.

Is it just me?
I am curious what others think? Am I the only one who has seen the decline in our moral behavior as a nation? We would rather chastise those who try to make a difference and criticize their message or method for doing good — and yet — those who seek to infiltrate and influence our society with negative and hurtful actions go unnoticed without anyone raising a voice to their demonic behavior.

Is it just me?
Laurel and Hardy came to American TV with an innocence that made people laugh. Quite frankly — there isn't much to laugh at anymore. Or is it just me?

Old friend Robert said, "Real change requires you to change your behavior - not just your attitude. Behavior is the substance of religion. Belief is the substance of a Godly relationship."

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Miraculous comeback sends No. 3 Lady O's to state tournament

By DR. DAVID DAVIS

Reporter News Staff

The late, great baseball Hall of Famer Yogi Berra was noted for saying, "It ain't over till it's over." He might have added, in the case of the Pearland Lady Oilers, "That's the reason we play all seven innings in a softball game."

Trailing 8-5 to state-power Deer Park in the bottom of the seventh inning and no outs, Pearland junior Trinity Perry opened with a single to centerfield, senior Lydia Njus then reached base on an error to put two runners on base. Courtesy runner Kailey Monsef runs for Perry and courtesy runner Layla Bennett runs for Njus.

That set up senior Gabbie Roundtree, who was hitting for Laila Nobles, to drive a 2-2 pitch over the left field wall to plate three runs and tie up the game 8-8 as the Lady Oilers celebrated.

Clark's decision to pinch-hit Roundtree

showed a lot of trust and confidence in the senior.

"The series before when we had a couple runners on, I pinch-hit her and she got a hit that scored a couple of runs," Clark said. "Since she's a senior, and I told myself that if anybody really wants it, it's a senior.

"I just kept saying chip away, chip away. You never know. I knew it was gone. There was no doubt. We just kept fighting after that. These girls just have a lot of tenacity."

Following Roundtree's game-tying blast, Darian DeLeon walked, Hailey Golden reached on an error and Kaylee Schweitzer beat out an infield hit.

After Deer Park pitcher Aubrey Graham retired Kennedy Drafton on a fly out with the bases loaded, Kristyn Whitlock lifted a deep enough fly to right field to score pinch runner Kelsey Martin for the

walkoff win in the four-run seventh.

That propelled the No. 3 state-ranked Lady Oilers (39-3) to the Class 6A state softball tournament where they will face the No. 2 state-ranked San Benito Lady Greyhounds (40-3) in the 6A semifinals on Friday, June 3 at 4:00 p.m. at the Red and Charline McCombs Softball Field on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin.

Pearland found themselves behind for most of the game as Deer Park was seeking to make the trip to the state tournament for the third consecutive year. The Lady Deer won the state title in 2021 and came up short 8-4 to Lake Ridge last season in the state semifinals.

The Lady Oilers scored first with a run in the second, but Deer Park took a 3-1 lead thanks to a three-run homer by senior Angelina Morales in the third inning.

Pearland answered with a run in their half of the third when Raenna Liscano ripped a two-out double to left-center field to score Kennedy Drafton and make it 3-2.

The Lady Deer moved ahead, 4-2, in the fifth inning when Julia Donnell singled home Bryanna Fuentes, who led off with a single and was wild pitched to second.

Pearland refused to give in and tied the game 4-4 in the fifth on consecutive home runs from Drafton and Whitlock.

Deer Park (32-11) added four runs in the sixth and seventh innings while Pearland scored a run in the sixth to set up the 8-5 miracle comeback in the seventh frame.

Leading hitters for Pearland included Golden (2-for-4, 1 run, 2B), Kaylee Schweitzer (2-for-4), Drafton (2-for-4, 2 runs, 1 RBI, 2B, HR), Whitlock (1-for-2, 1 run, 3 RBIs, HR), Liscano (1-for-3, 1 RBI, 2B), Perry (2-for-2, 2B), Njus (1-for-2), and Roundtree (1-for-1, 1 run, 3 RBIs, HR).

Pearland goes to the 6A state softball tournament having won 18 consecutive games.

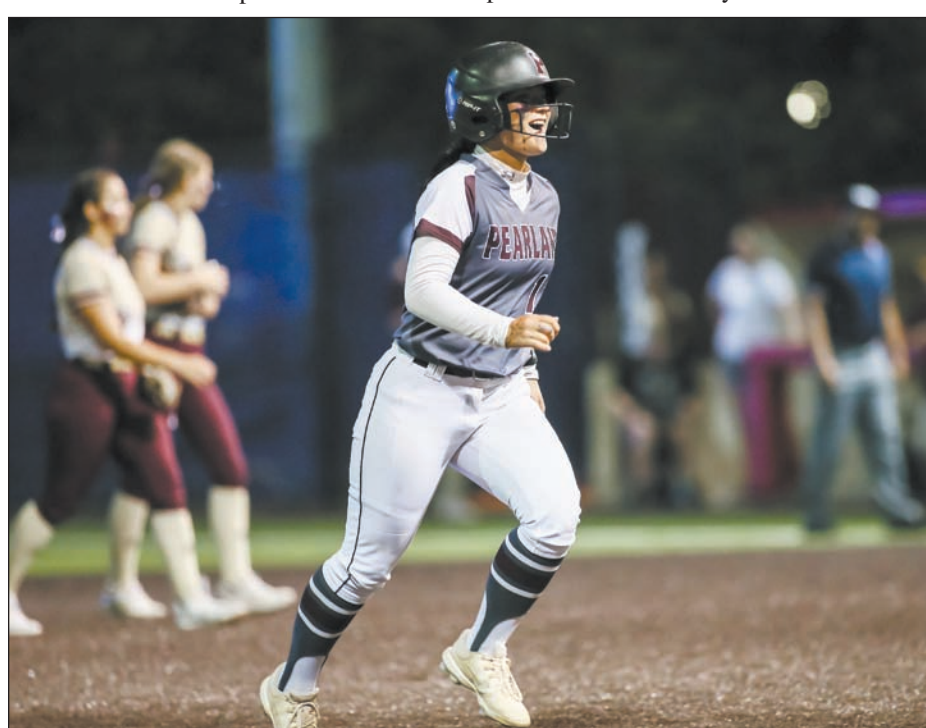


Photo by Lloyd Hendricks

CLUTCH HITTER - Senior Kristyn Whitlock rounds the bases after hitting a solo home run. Whitlock was 1-for-2 with three RBI's and two walks. She also hit the game-winning sacrifice fly that allowed the winning run to get home from third base to give the Lady Oilers the miraculous 9-8 come-from-behind win over Deer Park.



Photo by Lloyd Hendricks

6A REGION III SEMIFINAL WINNERS - The Oilers (35-6) took care of business with a 3-0, 1-0 sweep of the Katy Cinco Ranch Cougars at the UH Schroeder Park to win the 6A Region III semifinals. Pearland advances to face the Katy Tigers in a best-of-three series on Thursday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. Game 2 will be on Friday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. Game 3 (if needed) will be on Saturday, June 3 at 5:00 p.m. All games will be played at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

Oilers roll to region finals in sweeping Cinco Ranch 3-0, 1-0

By DR. DAVID DAVIS

Reporter News Staff

Pearland is one of the top teams in the state this year thanks to a strong pitching staff and timely hitting that has vaulted the Oilers to the Class 6A Region III finals where they will face the Katy Tigers (30-6).

The winner of the best-of-three series will advance to the 6A state baseball tournament at Dell Diamond in Round Rock on June 9-10.

The Oilers (35-6) took care of business with a 3-0, 1-0 sweep of the Katy Cinco Ranch Cougars at the UH Schroeder Park.

As he done all season, sophomore hurler Nico Partida pitched a four-hitter and struck out eight in 6 2/3 innings to pick up the win.

Pearland took a 1-0 lead in the second inning after Isaiah Castaneda singled to left.

He was bunted to second by Cade Adams before Brett Smajstrla stroked a run-scoring single to left.

The Oilers stretched the lead to 2-0 in

the fourth after Castaneda singled and Adams followed with a bunt single.

Following an intentional walk to Ferraro to load the bases, Landry was hit by a pitch to bring home the second Oilers run.

In the seventh-inning, Pearland got a leadoff double to right-center by Ferraro. Landry laid down a bunt, and a Cinco Ranch throwing error allowed pinch runner Jordan Hernandez to score for a 3-0 cushion.

Cinco Ranch threatened in the seventh when Cinco Ranch Ranier Castillo and Paul Acosta each reach base on bloop singles while Ethan Muniz walked to load the bases with two outs.

Enter reliever Jake Mader-Cooper to the mound to retire Brock DeYoung for the final out to preserve the 3-0 win.

Leading hitters for Pearland were Ferraro (2-for-3, 2B), Damian Landry (1-for-3, 1 RBI), Castaneda (2-for-3, 2 runs), and Brett Smajstrla (1-for-2, 1 RBI).

PEARLAND 1 - CINCO RANCH 0

Once again, the pitching was the differ-

ence for Pearland as Jaden Barfield took the hill in relief of starter Ryler Smart who got in early control trouble with four walks. Barfield pitched six innings, allowed two hits while striking out 10 Cinco Ranch hitters.

The Cougars limited the Oilers to only four hits and one run in the loss as neither team could mount a serious offensive threat.

Pearland managed to score only one run in the bottom of the third when Jace Caceres opened the frame by getting hit by a pitch. Courtesy runner Jordan Hernandez entered the game for Caceres and advanced to second on a stolen base. Brett Smajstrla had a sacrifice bunt sending Hernandez to third with one out.

With Caden Ferraro at bat, Hernandez would score on a passed ball on a 1-1 count to Ferraro for a 1-0 lead.

That would be all Pearland would need to sweep the series and advance to the region finals.

Barfield would pitch a masterful game in relief to pick up the win.

REPORTER NEWS CLASSIFIEDS 281-485-7501

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Published May 31, 2023

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) RENEWAL

General Permit Authorization No. TXR040233

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. City of Friendswood, 910 South Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, Texas 77546, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Small MS4 General Permit No. TXR040000 for a renewal of authorization number TXR040233 to discharge stormwater to surface water in the state from the City of Friendswood MS4. The notice of intent (NOI) and stormwater management program (SWMP) were received by the TCEQ on July 18, 2019.

The MS4 is located area within the City of Friendswood limits that is located within the Houston Urbanized Area in Galveston County, Texas. The discharge from the MS4 will eventually reach Clear Creek Above Tidal, Dickinson Bayou Tidal, and Dickinson Bayou Above Tidal in Segment No. 1102, 1103 and 1104, respectively, of the San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin.

A copy of the NOI, stormwater management program (SWMP), general permit, and general permit fact sheet are available for viewing and copying at City of Friendswood Library, 416 South Friendswood Drive, Galveston, Texas 77546. The SWMP can also be viewed online at the City of Friendswood's website at <https://www.ci.friendswood.tx.us/DocumentCenter/View/391/Storm-Water-Management-Plan-PDF>. Substantial changes to the MS4's SWMP during the permit term will be posted on the same website.

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and SWMP. The SWMP, if approved, would establish additional terms and conditions, not included in the general permit, under which the MS4 must operate. The Executive Director has made the preliminary decision that the SWMP meets all statutory and regulatory requirements and made a preliminary decision to approve the small MS4's authorization under the TPDES Small (Phase II) MS4 General Permit No. TXR040000.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit written or oral comments or to ask questions about the application. The TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. If significant interest exists, the Executive Director will direct the applicant to publish a notice of the public meeting and hold the public meeting. The applicant must publish notice of a public meeting at least 30 days prior to the meeting in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the MS4 is located. If the MS4 is located in more than one county, the applicant must publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county containing the largest residential population.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or electronically at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment> within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant material, or significant public comments. The response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a public meeting, or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid>. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Any personal contact information you provide to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's records; this includes your name, phone number, email address, and physical address. For more information about this application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, toll free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep>. Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Friendswood at the address stated above or by calling Ms. Leticia Brysch at 281-996-3270.

Issuance Date: May 16, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEARLAND, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Pearland, in Brazoria, Harris and Fort Bend Counties, Texas, will hold a public hearing on Monday, **June 19, 2023**, at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3519 Liberty Dr., Pearland, Texas 77581; and that the City Council of the City of Pearland will hold a public hearing and first Ordinance adoption consideration on Monday, **July 10, 2023**, at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3519 Liberty Dr., Pearland, Texas 77581, for the following cases:

1. Zone Change Application No. ZONE23-05: A request by Long Ha, H4 Architects & Engineers, applicant, on behalf of Jonathan Geren, SCI Management Corporation, representing Paradise Cemetery South, Inc., owner, for approval of a zone change for 0.9062 acres of land from Suburban Residential-12 (SR-12) District to General Commercial (GC) District, to wit:

Legal Description: Being a 0.9062-acre out of Lots 25, 26, 27 and 28, Allison Richey Gulf Coast Homes Company Subdivision in Section 19, Volume 2, Page 24, out of the Deeds Records of Brazoria County, Texas.

General Location: 8209 Hughes Ranch Road, Pearland, Texas.

At said hearing, all interested parties shall have the right and opportunity to appear and be heard on the subject. For additional information, please contact the Community Development Department at 281-652-1765.

Mohamed A. Bireima, AICP
Senior Planner

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Published May 31, 2023

CITY OF BROOKSIDE VILLAGE NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID / REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Brookside Village, Texas will accept Sealed Bids - Request for Proposals for **Debris Monitoring and Consulting Services until 4:00 p.m., on June 21, 2023**, in the City Secretary's Office.

At the location, date, and time stated below, timely proposals will be announced at that time.

All interested persons are invited to attend the opening. Attendance is not required.

Proposal Title: **DEBRIS MONITORING & CONSULTING SERVICES**
Location: **Brookside Village City Hall, 6243 Brookside Road, Brookside Village, Texas 77581**

Opening Date: **June 21, 2023**
Opening Time: **4:00 P.M. CT**

Request for Proposals with attachments may be obtained beginning May 31, 2023, in the office of the City Secretary located at Brookside Village City Hall, 6243 Brookside Road, Brookside Village, Texas 77581.

The documents are also available on the City's website at www.brooksidevillage-tx.org. Further information or questions can be addressed to Cleo Rodriguez, City Secretary at crodriguez@cobvtx.org or by phone at 281-485-3048.

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Published May 31, 2023

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Responsible Entity (City of Friendswood) under Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the CDBG-DR program under Grant No. 20-065-134-C451. The Proposed Action (project) will include the removal of an existing aerial utility crossing over Clear Creek and the installation of an 8-inch diameter water line and a 24-inch diameter force main beneath Clear Creek utilizing boring techniques. The project is located on the western side of Bay Area Boulevard, southwest of the Blackhawk Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and east of the Polly Ranch Airport, in the City of Friendswood, in Galveston and Harris Counties, Texas. Outside of Clear Creek, the pipelines will be installed through open cut. The new water line and force main will connect to existing utilities on each side of Clear Creek. The project is located on approximately 2.5 acres of land. The Proposed Action area includes approximately 2.41 acres of 100-year floodplains, including 1.05 acres of floodway.

The City of Friendswood has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values. The Proposed Action must take place in a floodplain because the existing infrastructure to be removed/replaced is already located in a floodplain. Further, it will still connect existing essential infrastructure on both sides of Clear Creek; it will not cause current residents to become displaced; it will be located on uninhabited property where the City of Friendswood either owns or has an easement to avoid costly land acquisition; it will be located within the Friendswood City limits in order for City funding contribution to be available; it will remove the existing utility bridge that poses safety risks for area residents that frequently climb and jump off of the utility bridge; and it will protect essential utility infrastructure by placing underground.

Two alternatives for utility relocation were considered, including a No Action Alternative. Alternative A would involve relocating the utilities within other areas that would be located outside of the 100-year floodplain. The portion to be relocated must still connect to existing infrastructure on either side of Clear Creek that is still located within the 100-year floodplain, so there are no other areas in this portion of Friendswood that avoid the 100-year floodplain and still allows connections to existing infrastructure on either side of Clear Creek. Rerouting in a different location would require increased construction costs and costly land acquisition outside of areas already being used for these utilities by the City of Friendswood. Alternative A is not practicable. Under the No Action Alternative, the utilities would not be relocated, 100-year floodplains would not be impacted, safety risks would still be present for area residents that climb and jump off of the utility bridge, and essential utility infrastructure will not be protected. The No Action Alternative would not contribute to a reduction in loss of life and property from flooding. The No Action Alternative would not meet the need and purpose of the project.

Given that the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts, mitigation measures are not proposed. Additionally, the Proposed Action would involve removing above-ground infrastructure which will allow for positive drainage improvements.

The Proposed Action would be in compliance with state and local floodplain protection procedures.

The City of Friendswood has reevaluated the alternatives to construction activities in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Friendswood at the following address on or before **June 08, 2023**, City of Friendswood, Attn:15355 Blackhawk Boulevard, Friendswood, Texas 77546 and 281-993-3411, Attention: City of Friendswood Engineering Department. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the address provided above. Comments may also be submitted via email at engineering@friendswood.com.



SAFE ACROSS THE PAY STATION

Junior outfielder Isiah Casteneda sliding into home for a run as the Pearland Oilers shutout the Cinco Ranch Cougars 3-0 in the Class 6A Region III semifinals. Casteneda went 2-for-3 at the plate with two runs scored. The Oilers swept the Cougars in the best-of-three series to advance to the 6A Region III finals vs the Katy Tigers. Photo by Lloyd Hendricks

SOFTBALL/BASEBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULES

CLASS 6A STATE SEMIFINALS

Pearland Lady Oilers vs San Benito Lady Greyhounds

Friday, June 3 at 4:00 p.m. at the

Red and Charline McCombs Softball Field on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin

CLASS 6A REGION III FINALS

Pearland Oilers vs Katy Tigers

Game 1: Thursday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m.; Game 2: Friday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m.;

Game 3: (if needed) Saturday, June 3 at 5:00 p.m.

All games will be played at Constellation Field in Sugar Land.

