

Pearland Edition REPORTER NEWS

Your Independent Local News Source Since 1984

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 24

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

USPS 013363

50 CENTS

Around Town

Thursday, June 15

MOVIE ON THE LAWN

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

Friday, June 16

PTG PRESENTS 'ALMOST MAINE'

Pearland Theatre Guild opens "Almost, Maine" at 7:30 p.m. at the Pearl Theatre, 14803 Park Alameda Drive. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 students and seniors. For information, call 713-340-2540, or visit pearl-theater.com.

CONCERT IN THE PARK

Concerts in the Park series continues with Davi Jay and Bourbon Street Experience from 7 to 9 p.m. at Independence Park, 3449 Pearland Parkway. Smoking and glass containers prohibited; pets must be on a leash. Picnics, lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged, and food vendors will be on site.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Juneteenth At Miller: A Celebration of Freedom takes place at 8:15 p.m. both in person and online at Miller Outdoor Theatre, 6000 Hermann Park Drive, Houston, both Friday and Saturday. For information, visit milleroutdoortheatre.com.

WRITER'S GROUP MEETING

A local writer's group meets to hone and share creative writing skills and discuss projects at 6:30 p.m. at the Tom Reid Library, 3522 Liberty Drive. For information, call 281-652-1677.

Saturday, June 17

SUMMER BLOCK PARTY

Lone Star Flight Museum, 11551 Aerospace Avenue at Ellington Airport, holds a Summer Block Party from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Lego displays and build-your-own masterpiece sessions and "Hangar Talk" with NASA astronaut Mike Foreman at 11 a.m. For information, visit lonestarflight.org.

PTG PRESENTS 'ALMOST MAINE'

Pearland Theatre Guild presents "Almost, Maine" at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Pearl Theatre, 14803 Park Alameda Drive. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 students and seniors. For information, call 713-340-2540, or visit pearl-theater.com.

HURRICANE EXPO

Hurricane and Disaster Preparedness Expo is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the County Fairgrounds in Angleton. Free event includes door prizes, presentations, booths and emergency vehicle displays.

Monday, June 19

ADULT BOOK CLUB

Novel Discussions adult book club will talk about "Memphis" by Tara M. Stringfellow at 6:30 p.m. at the Tom Reid Library, 3522 Liberty Drive. All library programs are free. Call 281-652-1677 or email pearland@bcls.lib.tx.us for information.

Tuesday, June 20

PAJAMA STORYTIME

Family Pajama Storytime is 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. at West Pearland Library, 11801 Shadow Creek Parkway. Library programs are free and open to the public. For information, call 713-436-0995.

Wednesday, June 21

MUSICAL PETTING ZOO

A musical petting zoo hosted by the Angleton Community Band for grades kindergarten through 5th is 2:30 p.m. at the West Pearland Library, 11801 Shadow Creek Parkway. Free to public. For information, call 713-436-0995.

Visit us at

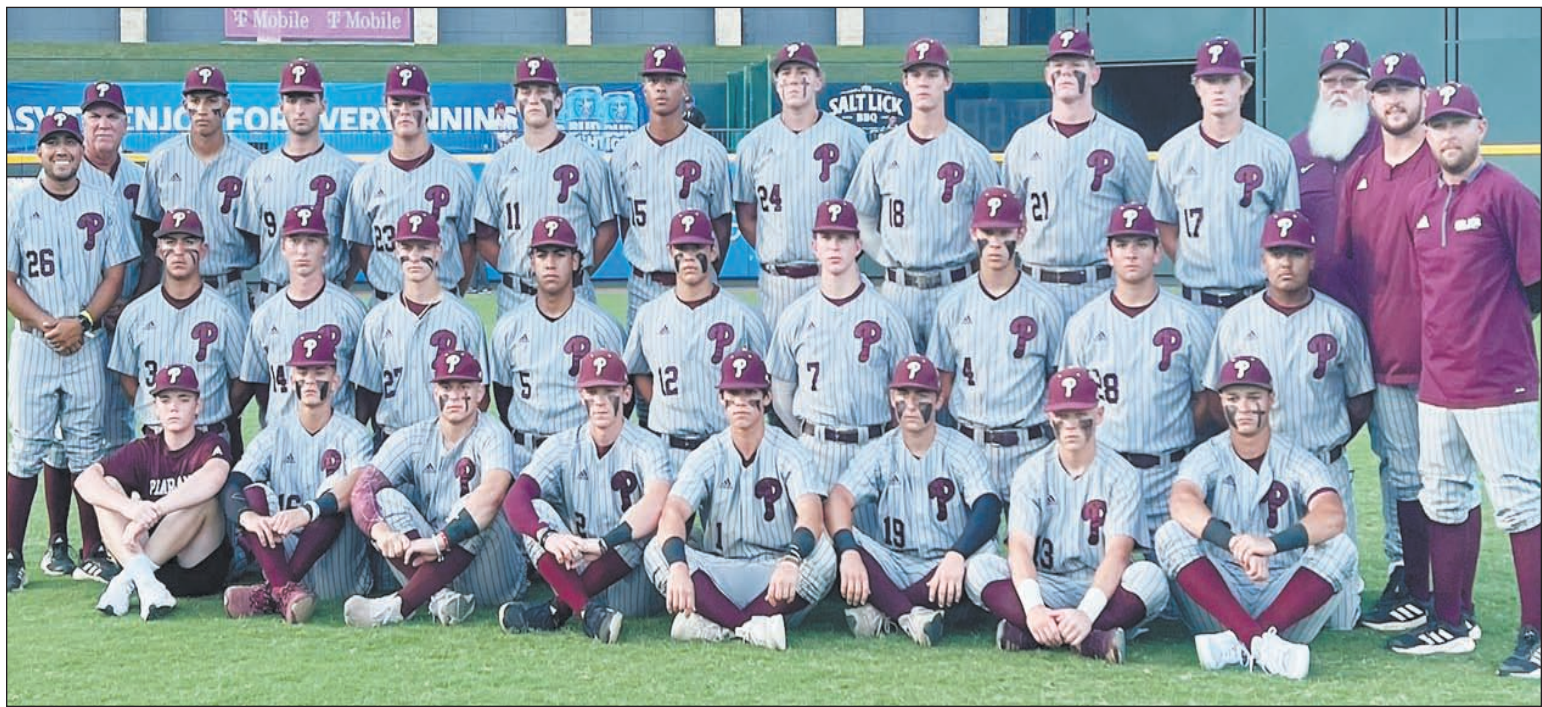
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PEARLAND PROUD

The Pearland Oilers absolutely crushed nationally-ranked Austin Westlake 11-1 in the Class 6A state semifinals to advance to the 6A state finals vs Lewisville Flower Mound. The Oilers fought hard but came up short 6-4 to the Jaguars. Pearland closed out the 2023 baseball season with a 38-7-1 record while capturing the District 23-6A title and the 6A Region III crown.

Townhomes slated for Cullen at Fite

By N. BRADFORD
Reporter News Staff

A townhome development planned for Cullen Parkway at Fite Road is set to proceed after a needed zone change passed a final reading of city council.

Houston-based Windrose Land Services is planning 109 townhomes on the currently undevel-

oped site, about half a mile from Broadway Street.

Council on Monday evening voted 4-2 to rezone the site from general business to planned development, a zoning category often used for mixed use projects.

Voting against were council members Alex Kamkar and Joseph Koza. Aside from the den-

sity of the project, an area of concern expressed by nearby residents of Tranquility Lakes is that the units could end up as rentals.

"It would be nice to have these be for sale," Kamkar said. "I truly strongly believe in home ownership."

Councilman Rushi Patel, who voted against the zone change

during a first reading last month, was absent from Monday's meeting.

The city's Planning and Zoning Commission in May voted unanimously to recommend the zone change as long as access between the townhome development and Tranquility Estates is restricted to emergency vehicles only.

Council adds censure policy for members

By N. BRADFORD
Reporter News Staff

Members of Pearland City Council unanimously agreed Monday on a censure policy that would come into play should one of them commit actions "unbecoming of their position."

A first for the City of Pearland, the policy comes a month after the council issued a reprimand to Councilman Alex Kamkar for emailing confidential information regarding finalists for the position of city manager to several members of the Pearland Police Officers Association, none of whom solicited it. One of the candidates consequently withdrew

from the running, leaving city employee Trent Epperson as the lone finalist.

"As we went through that issue, it became evident we didn't have a process should that issue arise,"

"As we went through that issue, it became evident we didn't have a process should that issue arise."

~ Mayor Kevin Cole

Mayor Kevin Cole said. "This policy is not necessarily about a member; it's about the body."

Kamkar on Monday issued an apology to fellow council members and the public.

"Sometimes you just need to own up and say you messed up,"

he said.

"The reality is I was detracting from the business of what we have to do — we are in a delicate situation with a lot of important things on our plate," Kamkar

must have an opportunity to respond in his or her defense.

The censure action is to be approved by two-thirds vote of the other council members.

"It's not something that is aimed at Mr. Kamkar at all," said Councilman Joseph Koza. "It's aimed at any of us who are up here."

The policy was created by City Attorney Darrin Coker, who said it is a first for Pearland.

"A lot of cities don't have a censure policy. Our city has been here a long time and we haven't had one," he said. "I focused on the ones that did — there are a lot in the Dallas area apparently."

Study: Price, options top Broadband problems

By N. BRADFORD
Reporter News Staff

A Houston-based engineering firm tasked with studying Broadband needs throughout Brazoria County recommends the county seek tech partners and available funding to boost access to high-speed internet.

"Digital literacy and digital divide is an issue everywhere. It's not just Brazoria County or rural areas," Cobb, Fendley, & Associates project manager Jacob Triska told county commissioners May 23. "As technologies expand, the user can get left behind in previous generations."

Once considered a luxury, Broadband networks that provide

high speed internet access is now considered a utility alongside electricity and gas, with fiber the most recommended option.

A survey of Brazoria County residents completed in February shows 9 percent don't have a home internet connection, 71 percent have used tele-health services and 57 percent work remotely.

The most dissatisfactory issues, according to the survey, are pricing and provider options.

"Pricing was the biggest negative factor," Triska said.

The study included internet speed testing to compare areas that were designated as served or underserved by the FCC.

"The reason that matters is

areas that are unserved or underserved are going to be more likely to receive funding," he said.

The firm's recommendations include recruiting providers for public-private partnerships and applying for American Rescue Act and National Telecommunications and Information funds.

The county contracted with Cobb, Fendley, & Associates for the Broadband Feasibility Study, and the firm drafted a preliminary plan calling for 355 miles of fiber infrastructure with a price tag nearing \$35 million.

"I'm not saying this is what the county needs to do, and this is what the county is going to pay," Triska said. "We plan to use this

in the next steps as a blueprint, or a giant puzzle."

The next steps include a request for proposals, or RFP, he said, "choosing a partner or partners. That is really going to shape how a lot of this goes."

About half the county has access via copper, which is moving into obsolete territory.

"In a lot of the rural areas this is almost the only option residents have," Triska said.

Many of the stakeholder companies participating in the study already have plans to expand, he said.

"In time, some of these issues could already be fixed," he said.

Plans underway for July 4th celebration

By N. BRADFORD
Reporter News Staff

Pearland's Celebration of Freedom on July 4 will include children's activities, fireworks display and live entertainment by the Junior Gordon Band.

The event is 6 to 10 p.m. July 4 at Independence Park, 3449 Pearland Parkway. The evening is free to the public courtesy of Bayway Chevrolet.

Entertainment will be on the H-E-B Stage and a Teen Zone is being provided by the Vineyard Church.

Booths are available for craft and novelty vendors as well as nonprofits. Other activities will



Blankets, lawn chairs, bug spray and sun protection are recommended for those attending the annual Celebration of Freedom, scheduled 6 to 10 p.m. July 4 at Independence Park.

include free giveaways, strolling entertainers, food trucks, and drum performances by Houston Parai.

Families are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets, sunscreen and bug spray. Outside food and beverages, non-motorized vehicles are allowed. Large tents or canopies, barbecuing or personal fireworks are prohibited at this event.

For sponsorship information, email sponsorships@pearlandtx.gov

To sign up as a craft or novelty vendor, visit pearlandtx.gov/freedom.

PEARLAND POLICE REPORT

Below are highlights from reports filed during the past week by Pearland Police. Incident and arrest reports are public record and are available in full online at p2c.pearlandtx.gov.

- Wednesday, June 7**
Possession of drug paraphernalia arrest at 1:18 a.m., 3210 McLean Road.
Hospice death at 3:40 a.m., 1200 block of Roland Rue.
DWI arrest at 4:24 a.m., 11000 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.
Fraudulent use of identifying information reported at 12:15 p.m., 1100 block of St. John Drive.
Unauthorized use of vehicle at 2:47 p.m., 3600 block of Business Center Drive.
DWI arrest with blood alcohol level over .15 at 3:53 p.m., 3500 Broadway St.
An arrest for unlawful transfer of sexually explicit material was made at 4:11 p.m., 3100 block of Yost Blvd.
Arrest for violation of protective order, 6200 block of Promenade Lane.
A 31-year-old Pearland man was charged with continuous violence against family at 8:21 p.m., 5700 block of Cantu St.
Hospice death reported just before midnight, 1900 block of Washington Irving Drive.

- Thursday, June 8**
Family violence assault arrest was made at 4:53 p.m., 5000 block of Francis Drive.
Possession of drug paraphernalia arrest at 10:33 p.m., 3000 block of Cullen Parkway.
Arrest for driving while license invalid at 11:14 p.m., 2500 Alexander Lane.

- Friday, June 9**
A 31-year-old Houston man was arrested around 1 a.m. for fleeing police officer and possession of drug paraphernalia, 11944 Shadow Creek Parkway.
A Pearland woman, 24, was arrested for DWI-enhanced, at 2 a.m., 6000 block of Ravenwood Drive.
A Houston man was arrested at 5:48 p.m. for felony theft with previous convictions, 11200 Broadway St.
A Pearland man was arrested at 6:13 p.m. and charged with two counts of aggravated assault with deadly weapon, 11900 Shadow Creek Parkway.
Death investigation at 6:37 p.m., 16100 block of South Freeway.

DWI arrest at 7:31 p.m., 3100 Dixie Farm Road.

- Saturday, June 10**
Public intoxication arrest at 12:13 a.m., 3400 block of Dorsey Lane.
A 20-year-old local resident was arrested for DWI by a minor at 2 a.m., 4600 Orange Circle.
A local man, 21, was arrested around 7 a.m. in Houston and charged with sexual assault of a child, a first-degree felony.
A Pearland woman, 26, was arrested around 8 a.m. for assault impeding breathing or circulation, 5800 block of Little Grove Drive.
Possession of drug paraphernalia arrest at 9:16 a.m., 4600 W. Orange St.
A 48-year-old Galveston man was arrested at 8 p.m. for illegal dumping of more than five pounds, 3000 Broadway St.
Public intoxication arrest at 9:27 p.m., 2500 block of Julie St.

- Sunday, June 11**
Family violence assault arrest at 1 a.m., 2800 block of Sam Houston Parkway East.
Family violence assault causing bodily injury arrest at 2:41 a.m., 3700 block of Timber Grove Court.
Family violence assault by contact at 5:18 a.m., 3100 block of Laurel Bend Lane.
Death investigation at 10:18 a.m., 11100 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.
Family violence assault causing bodily injury arrest at 1 p.m., 3000 block of Keswick Drive.
Hospice death at 4:25 p.m., 12600 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.
Death investigation at 6 p.m., 2900 block of Fountain Brook Court.

- Monday, June 12**
Arrest for family violence assault impeding breathing or circulation at 7 a.m., 2900 Waterloo Road.
An arrest for assault causing bodily injury at 4 p.m., 9700 Broadway St.
Two people were arrested and charged with shoplifting and felony theft around 6:20 p.m., 1710 Broadway St.
Shoplifting arrest at 7 p.m., 1919 Main St.

FRIENDSWOOD POLICE REPORT

JUNE 5 thru JUNE 11

THEFT

June 9 (1:46 p.m.) A theft of two Mellow Yellow Vapes was reported at Ranch Express located at 2210 S. Friendswood Dr. A male attempted to purchase the vapes, pretended to pay with his credit card, but when the charge did not go through, he grabbed the vapes and ran out the door. The store clerk was able to get a license plate as the man fled from the parking lot. The registered owner of the vehicle was contacted, and identified his son as the suspect.

June 10 (9:29 p.m.) A 43-year-old Alvin man was charged with Theft. A witness reported a man lying on the ground with a four-wheeler and a bicycle at the intersection of W. Parkwood Avenue and Falcon Ridge. When officers arrived, they found the suspect in possession of a small four-wheeler, a skateboard, and a bicycle. He was unable to provide the officer with information about where he obtained the items, and the officer was suspicious that the four-wheeler was stolen. The man was seen earlier in the evening in the 1500 block of Sunset Drive. The officer checked a vacant residence in the 800 block of W. Parkwood Avenue and found a similar four-wheeler parked there. After checking the registration on a truck parked at the location, the officer was able to identify the owner of the four-wheeler and theft charges were filed on the suspect.

June 11 (3:22 p.m.) Construction equipment was stolen from a construction site located at 14150 Beamer Road. When an employee arrived at the job-site, he noticed that a trailer was moved. Then, he realized that an orange Kubota skid steer was stolen. The equipment was equipped with GPS. The GPS showed the equipment in motion at 2:00 p.m. on June 11. The stolen equipment was found in the 1200 block of Dixie Farm Road. The equipment was vandalized but was able to be relocated back to the construction site.

check was fraudulent.

June 7 (1:16 p.m.) Chase Bank at 255 W. Parkwood Avenue reported suspicious activity. Persons were inside the bank attempting to use fraudulent identification to open a bank account. An undercover officer observed the two suspects leave the bank and get into a grey Kia. They drove within the business complex, stopped, exited the Kia and got into a white Dodge Charger. The Charger left, then pulled back into the bank parking lot. The undercover officer was watching this activity the entire time. The two suspicious persons exited the Charger and were stopped as they walked through the parking lot by a uniformed Friendswood police officer. A 51-year-old Baytown woman and a 20-year-old man from Spring were stopped. The woman presented a California driver's license with a different name on it. She had outstanding warrants. After talking with bank employees, the officers learned that the woman presented a fake New Jersey driver's license to open a savings account. The driver of the Kia was a 25-year-old Missouri City man. He was in possession of drug paraphernalia. Inside the vehicle, officers found several items showing social security numbers, checking and savings account numbers, passwords, and out-of-state drivers' licenses. All three were charged with Fraudulent Use or Possession of Identifying Information and Forgery.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
June 5 (9:11 a.m.) A 32-year-old Alvin woman was charged with Criminal Mischief. She intentionally broke a bottle of wine while at HEB, 701 W. Parkwood Ave. An employee observed her raise the bottle of wine above her head and throw it to the ground. She was found in the parking lot of HEB by police.

NARCOTICS
June 5 (3:54 p.m.) An 18-year-old Rosharon man was charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The suspect was stopped for no front license plate. During the contact, the officer detected the smell of marijuana. A search yielded marijuana, a small scale, and several small plastic bags.

June 6 (4:10 pm.) A 39-year-old Alvin man was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 1. The suspect was stopped for an insurance violation in the 1700 block of W. Parkwood Ave. He admitted to being in possession of marijuana. A search was conducted, and Ecstasy pills were found.

June 7 (7:30 p.m.) A 19-year-old Alvin man and a 19-year-old Magnolia woman were charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The man was stopped for a license plate violation

and defective brake lights in the 3500 block of FM 528. During the contact, the officer detected the smell of marijuana. A search of the vehicle yielded a THC vape pen, marijuana, glass pipes, and a grinder.

June 8 (4:08 p.m.) A 25-year-old Houston man was charged with Manufacture/Delivery of a Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 1 and Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon. A 26-year-old La Marque man was charged with Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon. The driver was stopped for failing to signal a turn in the 200 block of Whispering Pines. During the contact, the officer detected the smell of marijuana. The driver handed the officer a marijuana cigarette that was in the center cup holder. The three occupants of the vehicle exited, and a search was conducted. The officer found marijuana, amphetamine pills, and two guns.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED
June 10 (2:22 a.m.) A 36-year-old Pearland woman was charged with Driving While Intoxicated and Evading Arrest or Detention with a Vehicle. An officer attempted to stop a vehicle for speeding in the 1000 block of N. Friendswood Drive. The woman did not immediately stop. Instead, she continued driving into Pearland with the officer behind her with lights and siren blaring. Once in Pearland, the woman hit a raised turn median and drove into oncoming traffic. She continued driving until pulling into a residence in the 3500 block of Pine Tree Drive. She exhibited signs of intoxication and refused any field sobriety testing.

June 10 (7:44 p.m.) A 39-year-old Webster man was charged with Driving While Intoxicated in the 3100 block of FM 528. The driver was stopped for a defective brake light. During the contact, he exhibited signs of intoxication and failed a field sobriety test.

WEAPON
June 8 (10:59 p.m.) A 19-year-old Dickinson man was charged with Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon. An 18-year-old Houston man was charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The Dickinson man was stopped for a traffic violation in the 5100 block of Abercreek Avenue. He did not have a driver's license or proof of insurance. The 18-year-old had several outstanding warrants in Manvel. He exited the vehicle and told the officers that he had marijuana inside the vehicle. A female passenger was in possession of a stolen gun that she said was given to her to hold by one of the suspects. The officer conducted a search of the vehicle and found marijuana and promethazine.

Preparedness Expo set at fairgrounds

A Hurricane and Disaster Preparedness Expo is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 17 at the County Fairgrounds in Angleton. This event has something for all ages and is free and open to the public. Presentations will cover the National Weather Service, generator safety, preparedness for pets and preparing your yard for hurricane season. In addition to informational exhibits and presentations on storm preparedness, there will be door prizes, goody bags, booths, free hot dogs and emergency vehicle displays.

Atlantic Hurricane Season is June 1 through Nov. 30. For more information on the event, call 979-864-1596.

City to offer Severe Weather Open House



The Friendswood Office of Emergency Management is presenting a Severe Weather Open House June 17 from 5 to 7 pm at the Friendswood Library.

Be Prepared Stay Safe is the theme for the event.

Safety and weather information will be available from City of Friendswood Departments, Utility providers, Texas Wind Insurance Association and other local partners.

Attendees will be eligible to enter a drawing for free Astros tickets sponsored by Texas New Mexico Power Company.

For more information contact the Friendswood Office of Emergency Management at 281-996-3335 or [friendswood.com/](https://www.friendswood.com/) prepare.

The library is located at 416 S. Friendswood Drive in Friendswood.

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Across

1. Coalition
5. "___ the season ..."
8. More competent
13. Gypsum
14. Electrical units
16. Overly self-confident
17. Smoother
18. Passing remarks?
19. "We ___ please"
20. Town in Arizona
21. "Send it to print"
23. Contradict
25. Revolutionary Guevara
26. Kaitlin Olson's "Sunny" character
27. Ostentatious
29. North Carolina university
31. Overhead parts in an engine
32. Cut into
34. Take care of
36. Expert shooter
41. First Lady of Ukraine
42. Pub crawlers
43. Arabic for "commander"
46. Carbon-negative cryptocurrency
48. Prenatal test, for short
49. Fallen space station
50. The "I" in T.G.I.F.
51. "Beats me!"
53. Typical newspaper format
56. ___ the Terrible
59. Style of doll made of wool felt
60. Aroma
61. NBA Hall-of-Famer Archibald
62. Turn a blind ___ (ignore)

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67

63. Singer Turner
64. Technical execs
65. Palindrome for a leading lady
66. Kitchen meas.
67. Skirt lines

Down

1. Cow barn
2. Faithful, in Scotland
3. Italian veal dish
4. Headline writer
5. Chief from the Dakota tribe
6. Infused (with)
7. Pig roasting rod
8. Diminish
9. Vigor

10. Greek letter L
11. High regard
12. Kind of scholar
15. Source of shock?
22. Famous last words
24. Disinfectant brand
27. Cheat
28. Director Tran ___ Hung
30. Bar order, with "the"
31. Unit of measure in newspaper
33. Kicks out
35. Actor Killam of 'SNL'
37. Special magazine edition
38. Be creative
39. Hit the slopes

40. General on a menu
43. Insignia
44. Mayor of National Geographic
45. Straightened out
47. Concert halls
50. Manner of speaking
52. Pipe fixture found under sinks
54. Official court proceedings
55. Trim to fit, maybe
57. Bit of physics
58. Loch ___

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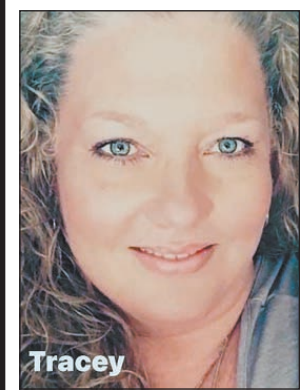
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OBITUARY



Tracey Smith

Throughout her life, Tracey provided excellent customer service in retail, banking, insurance, self-storage, and travel sectors.

She married Jay R. Smith, aka Chris St. James in the music entertainment industry, on June 14, 2005, in Missouri. Together they owned and operated Custom DJ Drops, providing promotional spots for DJs and radio stations across the nation.

Following Jay's death in 2014, Tracey joined the travel industry in an enjoyable customer service position that included meetings in business locations across America.

Surviving Tracey are her parents David and Beverly Baldwin of Friendswood; her brother Michael Dayton Boase of Houston; her bonus sister Rachel Baldwin Foster of Sacramento, CA; her aunt Diana Beard Seifried and several cousins, all in the Aurora-Springfield, MO area.

Tracey has many friends who survive her, including besties Christi Tucker Martin of Austin, Dora Silva Grogan of League City, and Tracy Gonzales Elsing of Monahans, TX. Besides her husband, Tracey is predeceased by her father John Charles Boase, and her paternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Dayton Teel Boase; her maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Beard, and uncle David A. Seifried; and her bonus sister Sarah Baldwin Rose. Tracey lost her beloved West Highland White Terrier "Ivey St. James" two months before her own cancer diagnosis.

Tracey's Celebration of Life was held on May 21, 2023 at the Baldwins' Friendswood home, from 1 to 6 p.m. Her ashes were buried at sea with those of her late husband and father on May 22, 2023.

Tracey's education continued in Gainesville TX where she moved with her brother, Michael Dayton Boase, and their then-single mother who was beginning her career in hospital management. Her family also lived in Beaumont and Texas City where Tracey graduated from high school in 1987.

She attended college briefly but loved working in customer service. Her first real job at age 15 was at Burger King. Her manager selected her for a newspaper feature highlighting area teens' desire to work and provide great customer service. Through-



FAITH MATTERS

By Rev. Dr. Brian Gige

WORDS TO LIVE BY

(Last in a series of 5 messages from Mother's Day to Father's Day)

"Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth and do not sell it— wisdom, instruction, and insight as well. 24 The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him." Proverbs 23:22-24

Father's Day 2023 is coming. I had a good one. His name was Howard, but everyone called him... 'Bud.' I wished he'd have lived longer as his death from Legionnaires' Disease was untimely and swift resulting in a huge shift to our family... and yet it's important to say ... even now that I have outlived his almost 57 years... I'm still learning from his life and the many words to live by he shared with so many ... and now... by trying to be a good dad still... it's the way I bring honor to his name.

My father was a quiet man. His actions of love, grace and kindness outnumbered his words. He never put his family at risk and provided for my mother... his mother... me and my four siblings for over 30 years. He even provided a home to my cousins when a need arose, and he always was a gracious host to my mother's very large family who often spent weekends and holidays at our home on Amberly St. And just to note... that place on Amberly St. was the only house he ever owned from the day he moved in one November 1956 until his death in 1987... and that house remains standing today with some new owners we passed the keys to his castle off to in 2011.

"Let the tool do the work," he would say to me as he taught me how to overlap the wheels of the lawn mower from one cut to the next reminding me to always cut in a different direction each time to allow the clippings the fertilize the yard in a healthy way... the same went for the paint brush and pan when slapping a new coat of paint on the weathered shingles... as well as the clippers he rarely let anyone else use to keep the hedges trimmed neatly along the

side of the driveway.

"Don't forget to vote! It's a sacred privilege we Americans have." And he'd be upset with me if I didn't as he took great pride in the fact he could go into the voting booth... close the curtain... vote his conscience... cast his ballot and then no matter who won or lost he'd walk out of the booth and back into the world to be the best citizen he could be. I think he and my mother cancelled out each other's vote a time or two, but I do not recall him painting their bedroom red and blue as a result.

I have a picture of me and my parents standing on the steps of old St. Paul's Lutheran Church on the day of my ordination into the Christian ministry. June 28, 1981... is the date on the back. But it's what he said to me just before that picture was taken that needs to be shared... as I recall he leaned into my right ear and in his quiet tone said, "This is the proudest day of my life." Wow.

But... then there's this... six years later I had called my parents in Ohio from my home in Huntsville, TX on my new cordless phone to brag a bit as my three-year-old daughter was riding her new birthday tricycle on the very large wooden deck I had recently built. My dad answered the phone and to my surprise he did not hand it off to my mom as he'd done so many times before. We had a good chat. And as he did hand off the phone he said, "I love you" ... the last words I'd ever hear my father speak. Yes... words I have embraced for a long time now... listening to them in my memory... to share with others as he did so well... words we live by... ancient and new... as words to live by are words that last. Faith matters!

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.

Clear Creek Education Foundation seeks nominees for annual awards

Nominations are now being accepted for annual awards for the 2023 Citizen of the Year, George B. Carlisle Distinguished Service, Distinguished Clear Creek Independent School District (CCISD) Alumni, Valor Award, Dennis Johnson Memorial Small Business Award. Recipients are selected by the Clear Creek Education Foundation.

The **Citizen of the Year Award** is given each year to honor an outstanding community member for their support of CCISD programs and activities. The nominee must have demonstrated a commitment to Clear Creek ISD through volunteer efforts; contributed significantly in ways that have benefited the entirety of CCISD; maintained a reputation across the Clear Creek ISD community as an individual with high standards and dedication to excellence in public education and voluntarily served the district and its students and patrons over an extended period of time.

The **George B. Carlisle Distinguished Service Award** is the highest award the foundation gives to a community member. The nominee must have made exceptional contributions that have benefited the Clear Creek Independent School District; is widely known as a community leader dedicated to excellence in education; exemplifies public service, and has served the district, the students, and patrons over an extended period of time.

The **Distinguished Alumni Award** is presented to a

CCISD graduate who has excelled in his or her chosen profession and has made a significant contribution to his/her community. One grad from each CCISD high school can be honored each year.

The **Valor Award** is awarded to an individual, living or deceased, that through their actions has demonstrated unselfish dedication to protect others; and has sacrificed for the well-being of others. The nominee must have made exceptional contributions that have benefited the Clear Creek Independent School District, is widely known as a community leader dedicated to excellence in education, and has served the district, the students, and families for a lengthy period of time. This award can be awarded posthumously.

The **Dennis Johnson Memorial Small Business Award**, created in 2013, is the award the Clear Creek Education Foundation awards to a small business or franchise in recognition of its owner's exceptional contributions that have benefited the Clear Creek Independent School District. Nominees should be widely known as a community leader dedicated to excellence in education and should have served the district, the students, and families for a lengthy amount of time.

Nomination forms may be found at www.ClearCreekEducationFoundation.org.

AREA BRIEFS

Country showcase is June 25

Pearland Town Center hosts the Country Music Showcase June 25 featuring country singer Britt Godwin.

The outdoor event is free and open to the public from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the center, 11200 Broadway St.

Coolers and lawn chairs are welcome. A Bridge City 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.

Paddling trip planned Saturday

Brazoria County Parks Department is hosting the annual paddling trip to Bird Island in San Luis Pass on Saturday, June 17. Participants will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the San Luis Pass County Park boat ramp and launch around 9 a.m., returning at noon. The 1.75-mile trip will take paddlers in view of newly hatched gulls, terns, egrets and pelicans, and binoculars and cameras are recommended along with sun protection and drinking water.

Kayaks are available from the parks department for loan but reservations are needed along with a signed liability release for all participants.

For information or to register, email mikem@brazoria-county.com or call 979-864-1152.

Davi Jay highlights Friday concert

Davi Jay and Bourbon Street Experience will perform at this Friday's Concerts in the Park Series at Independence Park, 2449 Pearland Parkway.

The 7 p.m. show is family friendly and free to the public. The series is hosted by the city's Parks and Recreation Department. Food vendors will include Cravin Poor Boys 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.

Community theater opens 'Almost, Maine'

The Pearland Theatre Guild opens performances of the play, "Almost, Maine" this Friday at 8 p.m. at the Pearl Theater, 14803 Park Alameda Drive, Houston.

Running through July 2, performances are typically at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 3 p.m. Sundays. A talk-back with director and cast will follow the June 25 performance and a buy-one, get-one-free ticket special is planned for a special 7:30 p.m. performance June 22.

Tickets are \$18 adults and \$16 for seniors and students. For information, call 832-459-4674 or email director@pearl-theater.com.

Hurricane & Disaster Preparedness Expo

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023

BRAZORIA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

901 S. DOWNING, ANGLETON

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



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IF YOU NEED ANY INFORMATION OR WOULD LIKE TO BE AN EXHIBITOR, CONTACT SHARON TROWER, BRAZORIA COUNTY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, AT 979-864-1596.

PMT YAS!
STUDIO
Sing • Act • Dance • Perform
 FRIENDSWOOD • TX

New youth theater PMT YAS! now open

There is a new youth theater in Friendswood, PMT YAS! Studio. It is located at 415 East Parkwood Ave. Eduardo Guzman is founder and artistic director of PMT Productions.

Focused on theater education and application, PMT YAS! offers weekly Creative Courses, week-long Cabaret Camps, a Broadway Concert Series, workshops, and full-scale musical theater productions for students ages 5-18.

PMT YAS! Studio offers Creative Courses in acting, dance, and ensemble music. Creative Courses occur in the spring and fall (Spring CC & Fall CC) and are non-performance based, weekly classes that focus on building fundamental skills in musical theater performance. Taught by Houston-based PMT YAS! Teaching Artists, Creative Courses maintain a regular theater schedule, strengthen fundamental performing skills, and provide opportunities to socialize with like-minded theater friends.

Occurring during summer and winter breaks, Cabaret Camps are week-long musical theater intensives that offer courses in music repertory, acting technique, production design, and collaborative study (ensemble). With small class sizes, hands-on instruction, and an emphasis on collaboration, students can hone in on those key areas of musical theater in a constructive environment. Cabaret Camps culminate in a cabaret-style performance, accompanied live by the PMT Band, showcasing the students' work throughout the week.

Broadway Concert Series is a fun-filled musical theater intensive for students ages 8-18 who love to be on stage. Students meet for four rehearsals over a month's time to rehearse a condensed Broadway musical production—concert style. Broadway Concert Series meets on Tuesday evenings and culminates in a fully-produced concert on the final Tuesday of each month.

Full-scale musical theater productions take place throughout the year in the spring, summer, and fall. With the guidance from a creative and technical team, students go through the entire production process—from audition to opening night. Throughout the production process, students will have the fundamentals of musical theater performance reinforced through real-life application of acting, dance, and voice performance. In addition to having access to the creative and technical resources of a professional production company, all YAS! productions are accompanied live by the PMT Band.

For more information and upcoming productions and classes, visit <http://www.pitchmethis.com/>.

Cheryl Johnson seeks re-election as Galveston County Tax Assessor

Galveston County Tax Assessor Collector Cheryl E. Johnson has officially declared her intention to seek re-election, aiming to continue her tenure in the role she has held since 2004. Johnson, who became the first Republican woman elected to a county-wide office, has been a resident in the Bay Area community since 1983. Her campaign will highlight her achievements in transforming the County Tax Office into an award-winning operation and her commitment to public service.

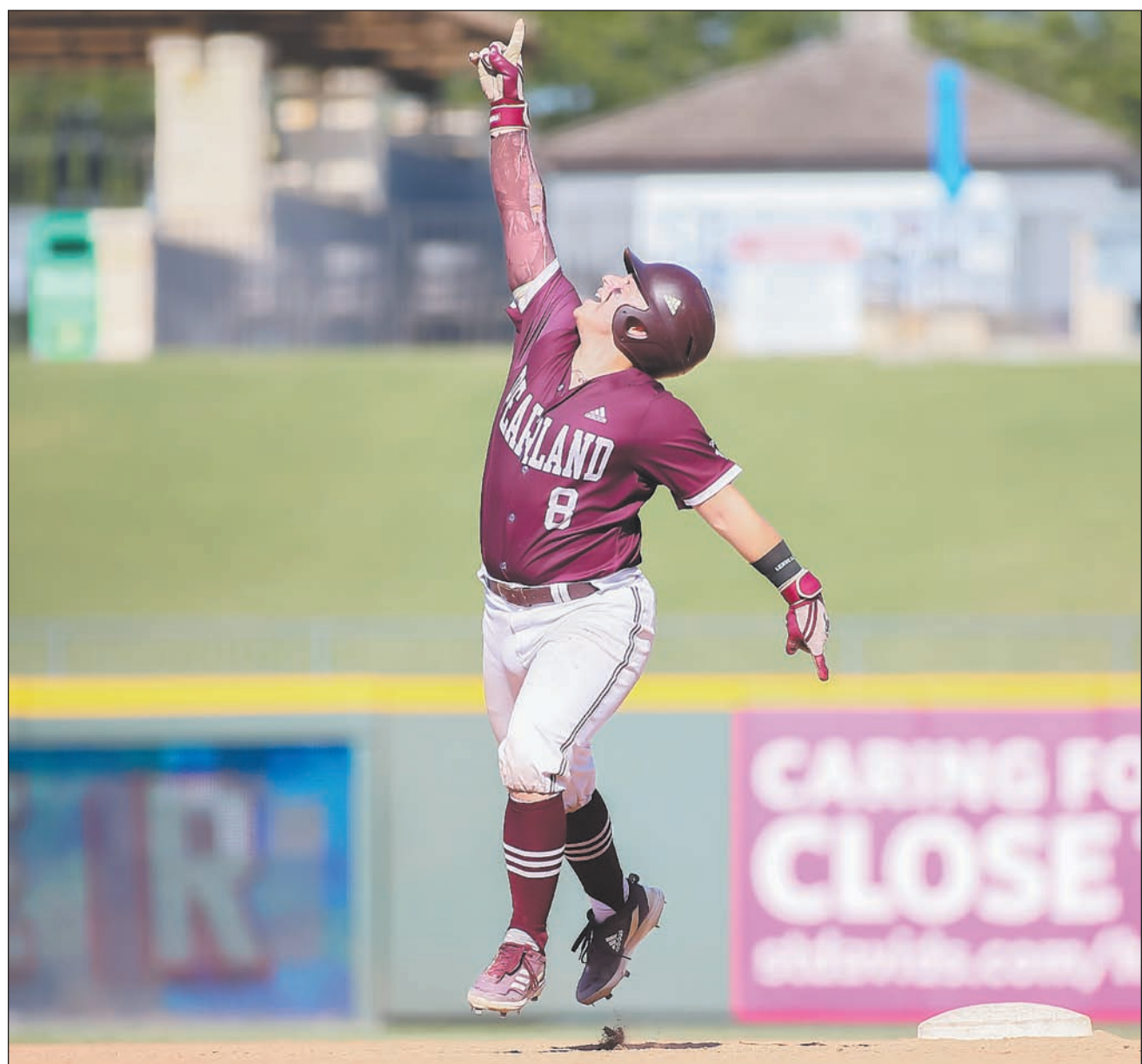
Under Johnson's leadership, the County Tax Office earned the Gold Performance Quality Recognition from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles in 2022. Johnson attributes this success to her team's commitment to excellence and her belief that the pursuit of quality is an ongoing endeavor.

Johnson's professional qualifications include certifications as a Professional County Collector and County Tax Office Professional. She serves on the boards of the Galveston and Harris Central Appraisal Districts, as well as various chambers of commerce. Additionally, she was appointed by Governor Perry to represent county tax collectors across Texas on the Consumer Protection Committee of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Board from 2009 to 2011.

In a press release announcing her candidacy, Johnson affirmed her commitment to conservative values, and says she remains focused on delivering quality service, reducing costs, and advocating for property tax relief—an agenda she intends to continue pursuing if re-elected.

For more information about Cheryl E. Johnson's campaign, interested individuals can visit her website at www.Vote4Cheryl.com or contact her directly at Cuttax2020@outlook.com.

SPORTS



HOME RUN TROT

Pearland senior Jace Caceres makes his way around the bases after blasting a home run against Lewisville Flower Mound in the 6A state championship game at Dell Diamond in Round Rock. Caceres hit his 395-foot homer in the sixth inning to bring the Oilers within one run of tying the game. The Jaguars went on to a 6-4 win for the 6A state crown. Photo by Lloyd Hendricks



DAWSON



SHADOW CREEK

Area teams qualify for 7-on-7 state tournament

By DR. DAVID DAVIS
 Reporter News Staff

The state 7-on-7 tournament will be held in College Station on June 24-26 on the campus of Texas A&M University.

Pearland Dawson, Manvel, and Shadow Creek have all qualified for this year's tournament.

Dawson and Shadow Creek both participated in the state qualifier host-

ed by Dickinson.

Dawson won their Pool to advance to the State Qualifying Round.

The Eagles beat Texas City 21-6, Pasadena Rayburn 35-7, and Clear Falls 12-6.

Shadow Creek was in another Pool where they beat Angleton 27-6, Clear Springs 13-12 while falling to FB Ridge Point 28-27.

Dawson beat Dickinson 32-15 and

Shadow Creek beat Seguin 19-13 sending both schools to the state tournament.

Manvel qualified with wins over Baytown Lee 26-6 and Willis 26-21 while dropping a close game to Houston Heights 28-20 to advance to the State Qualifying Round.

The Mavericks beat Bellaire Episcopal 27-15 to qualify for the state tournament.

FROM THE CLUTTERED DESK

by Dr. David Davis

A lasting influence

Some of life's greatest influences are learned as a result of being on an athletic team - especially in high school. I can still recall my days of playing in high school and college - especially the coaches that influenced my life.

While winning was a vital part of the experience - it would be the little things that I learned from various coaches that would have the lasting impact on my life.

I remember my college football coach, Elvan George, who was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame, would share various principles from the Bible as part of his coaching philosophy that carried over to my life experiences and not just football.

One of his favorite illustrations was pointing out that if there was a barrel of apples and somehow a rotten apple got in the barrel - it wouldn't be long before all the good apples would turn rotten.

His point was that we should be careful in who we allow to influence our lives - not just while we are on the football team - but in life on an every day basis.

That simple illustration has come to mind to me for decades as I would meet lots of people, and some would try to influence me in a negative way, and I would look at them and say silently - "They are nothing but a rotten apple trying to get in my barrel of good apples (friends)."

There are those that seek to provide a positive influence - especially some of the coaches that influence our young people.

While I can give you the names of dozens of coaches in our area schools that I believe are the good apples - I recently was touched watching a couple of our coaches in two different arenas.

One was Pearland softball coach Laneigh Clark who led

her girls to the Class 6A state softball title. She won a state championship in 2010 and now has done it again in 2023. She has also led the Lady Oilers to state in 2009, 2011, and 2016.

Clark is the winningest 6A coach in the state and yet she remains humble and shows her girls unconditional love and respect and her girls return the same.

But I saw another one of our coaches on the same stage just last week in Round Rock but the results were different.

Pearland head baseball coach David Rogers led his young men to the Class 6A baseball state finals in Round Rock. After the Oilers dismantled Austin Westlake 11-1 in the state semifinal contest - he experienced the pain of coming up short for a state championship when Pearland lost 6-4 to Flower Mound.

The most impressive thing I saw was what he did when they lost - not when they won.

As each player receive the silver medal as a state runner-up - coach Rogers went to each player and hugged each one and had words of encouragement just for that player.

I wasn't close enough to see any tears - but I could tell there were some as I watched them wipe their eyes.

It was at that moment that I realized that 10 - 20 - 30 years from now - that will be the moment that many of those players will remember when they think of coach Rogers.

In both cases I greatly admire coach Clark and coach Rogers and can say without hesitation that our kids are in good hands. Thank you coaches for showing our future leaders of America what is really important in life as you flesh-out unconditional love and respect to them.

Old friend Robert said, "If you have love and respect for people as they are, you can be more effective in helping them to become better than they are."

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SPORTS

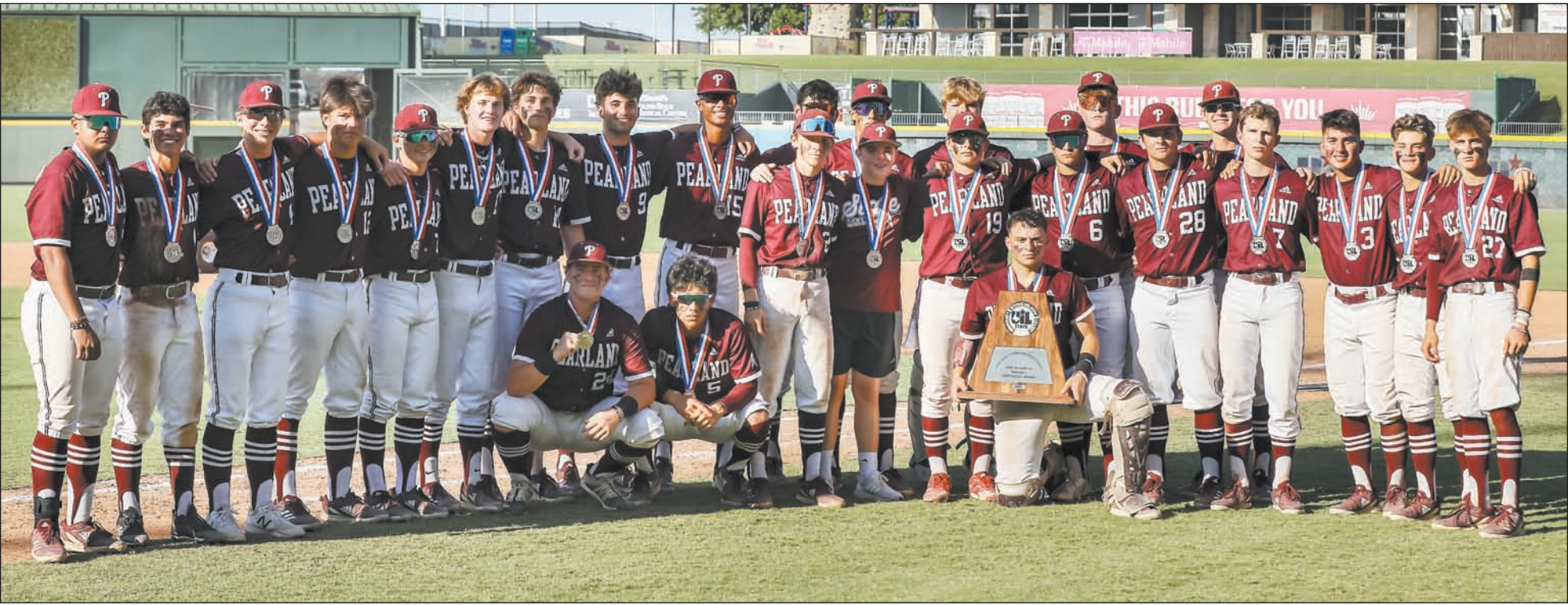


Photo by Lloyd Hendricks

STATE RUNNER-UP - The Pearland gave it their all as they thrashed Austin Westlake 11-1 in the 6A state semifinals to advance to the 6A state title game to face Lewisville Flower Mound. Unfortunately, the Oilers came up short 6-4 but they still had an outstanding season finishing 38-7-1 overall. Pearland won the District 23-6A title and the 6A Region III crown.

Pearland thrashes Austin Westlake; falls short to Flower Mound

By DR. DAVID DAVIS

Reporter News Staff

Getting to the Class 6A state baseball tournament is no easy task and the Pearland Oilers certainly proved they belonged there this year.

It has been 42 years since the Oilers last played for a state championship (1981) while they were crowned state champions in 1980.

The Oilers came into the state tournament ranked No. 1 in the state to face the nationally-ranked Austin Westlake Chaparrals (40-5) in the 6A state semifinal contest at Dell Diamond in Round Rock.

Pearland used the combination of great pitching from sophomore Rico Partida and an explosive offensive barrage that run-ruled the Chaps 11-1 after six frames to advance to the state finals against Lewisville Flower Mound.

Westlake struck first in the opening frame with a leadoff double by Braeden Babb followed by an RBI single by Theo Gillen to start the game with a 1-0 lead.

Little did Westlake know that would be the last thrill they would experience at the state tournament as the boys from Pearland flexed their muscles to totally humiliate the Chaps that sent their fans packing by the fifth inning.

While Partida, an Arizona State commit, was in total command of his pitches and the game, his teammates piled up the run support in his favor that included four runs in the third and four more in the fifth frame to give him an 8-1 advantage.

"Our offense has been so hit or miss," Pearland coach David Rogers said. "In (the region championship series) Game 1 against Katy, we jumped out and scored seven runs and we really swung the bats real well. We showed spurts. We had good scouting report on (Westlake) and our kids just really started being able to hit the ball on line drives. The hits piled up and the runs piled up."

Pearland took a 4-1 lead in the top of the third as eight batters went to the plate.

Cade Adams opened with a single and then two batters later, Caden Ferraro, a Texas A&M commit, drove a ball to the warning track in rightfield at the 400-foot mark for a ground-rule double and an RBI.

Partida supported his own cause when he drove in a run on a sacrifice fly to right.

Braeden Morse followed with an RBI single in the left field gap that got past a diving centerfielder.

Two batters later, John Moya found a hole through the right side of the infield.

In the fifth inning, Anthony Avalos, a University of Houston signee, and Moya had back-to-back two-run singles. Adams then bounced an RBI ground-rule double down the left-field side. Isaiah Castaneda scored on a wild pitch.

In the sixth inning, Avalos made it a 10-run advantage with an RBI single.

Pearland drove the final nail in the Chaps coffin when Partida was hit by a pitch in the sixth inning. After Morse flew out to left field, Avalos got his third hit to plate courtesy runner Jordan Hernandez to make the score 11-1.

Partida allowed only four hits, two strikeouts, one walk, and one run to pick up the win for the Oilers while mastering the Westlake batting order. It was a brilliant performance.

"Nico was amazing," Rogers said. "We wanted to pitch the ball in and once he was able to establish the inner-half of the zone, he was money."

Offensively, the Oilers were 12-of-28 for 11 runs with four walks and six strikeouts.

Leading hitters included Ferraro (2-for-3, 1 run, 1 RBI), Damian Landry (1-for-4, 1 run), Morse (1-for-3, 2 runs, 1 RBI), Avalos (3-for-3, 1 run, 3 RBIs), Moya (2-for-3, 1 run, 3 RBIs), and Adams (2-for-3, 1 RBI).

FLOWER MOUND 6 - PEARLAND 4

A dog fight between Lewisville and Pearland took place at Dell Diamond in Round Rock with the winner claiming the 2023 Class 6A State Baseball Championship.

While Pearland never had the lead in the game, the never-say-die Oilers were a threat even in the final inning when they loaded the bases with two outs and down 6-4.

A base hit and a run or two scores to tie up the contest but unfortunately a ground out ended the game to give the state title to Flower Mound. The Jaguars also won state in 2014.

Ironically, the Oilers faced Flower Mound in the semifinals in 2014 where they were eliminated.

The Oilers closed out this season with a 38-7-1 record. Pearland was making its sixth appearance at state.

"Effort did not equal outcome," Pearland coach David Rogers said. "At no time did I question this team and these guys' effort at any moment in this game. The mistakes we made were mistakes that were trying to make us better. Mistakes trying to put us on the board.

"Sometimes it's just not in the cards."

The Jaguars scored first in the first inning as eight hitters came to the plate that produced four hits. Zane Becker and Cole Ridenour each drove in a run giving Flower Mound the early 2-0 lead.

Pearland got those runs back in the top of the second as Brett Smajstrla brought home a run on a bases loaded walk. Leadoff man Caden Ferraro then brought home a run on an RBI grounder that cut down the runner at second.

Flower Mound's Adrian Rodriguez, a Texas A&M commit, drilled a two-run homer over the left centerfield wall that scored Josh Glaser for a 4-2 advantage in the bottom of the third.

Pearland wasn't going to go away as Jace Caceres cranked out a solo homer to cut the margin to 4-3.

Ferraro got a one-out single, Damian Landry followed with a single to move courtesy runner Franco Aguilar to third base.

With the tying run at third and only one out, Partida flew out to center allowing Aguilar to score from third to tied up the game at 4-4. However, Aguilar was called out as he left the bag too soon before the catch in center which ended the inning and the Oilers still trailing 4-3 in the sixth.

In the bottom half of the inning, Sam Erickson slammed a two-run homer into the left-field bullpen for the 6-3 lead. Andrew Robinson crossed the plate in front of him after he had doubled to lead off the inning.

The Oilers managed to add another run in the seventh as Braeden Morse singled, Anthony Avalos walked, and Caceres got a two-out RBI single to close the margin to 6-4.

Smajstrla kept the inning alive with a walk to load the bases before Ferraro grounded out to end the game.

Jake Barfield started on the mound for the Oilers and went 2.1 innings and gave up six hits, four runs, while striking out two and walking two.

Cayden Schmidt (2.2 innings, 1 run) and Jake Mader-Cooper (1 inning, 1 run, 1 hit) also saw action on the hill with Mader-Cooper taking the loss.

Leading hitters for the Oilers were Ferraro (2-for-5, 1 RBI), Landry (2-for-3), Morse (2-for-4, 1 run), Avalos (1-for-3), John Moya (1-for-3, 1 run), Isaiah Castaneda (1-for-4, 1 run), and Caceres (2-for-3, 1 run, 2 RBIs, HR).

"There's some guys taking this loss pretty hard," Rogers said. "In reality, it was a team effort. We left the bases loaded a couple times; we left runners at second base. (Flower Mound) had an answer for us, too. Give them credit. They did a great job."

Pearland won the District 23-6A title and the 6A Region III crown to advance to the state tournament. The Oilers have advanced to the playoffs every year since 2012.

"Our support was unbelievable," Rogers said. "We had people drive a long way to watch us play. The community and the outpouring of love and support that they showed us is just unquestionable. It's undeniable that this is an amazing place to be."



Photo by Lloyd Hendricks

MASTERFUL PITCHING PERFORMANCE - Pearland sophomore Nico Partida pitched a masterful complete game against the Austin Westlake Chaparrals in the Class 6A state baseball semifinals. The Oilers drilled the nationally-ranked Chaps 11-1 in a run-rule contest that sent their fans packing in the fifth inning at Dell Diamond in Round Rock. Partida allowed only four hits, two strikeouts, one walk, and one run to pick up the win for the Oilers while mastering the Westlake batting order. It was a brilliant performance.

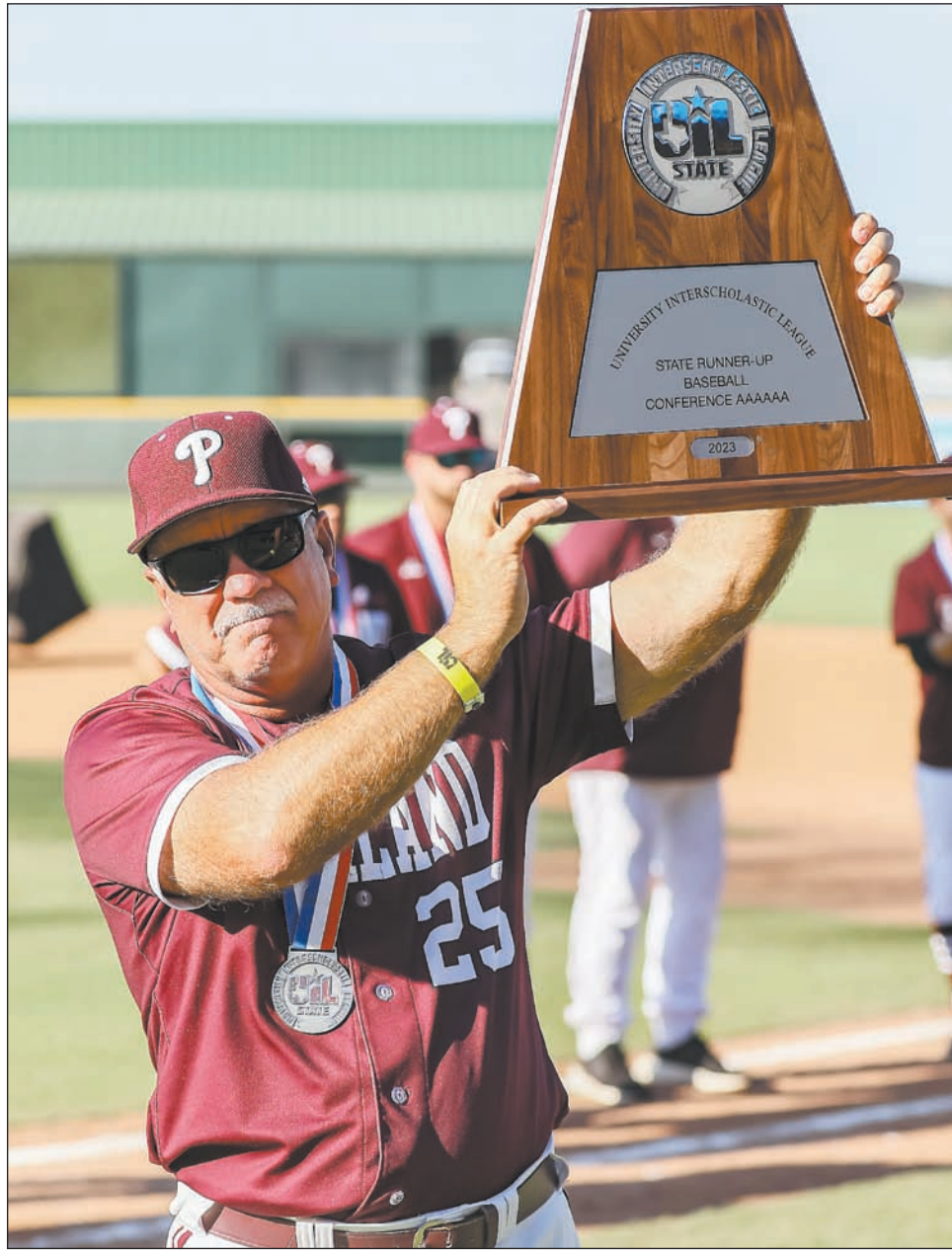


Photo by Lloyd Hendricks

STATE RUNNER-UP - Pearland head coach David Rogers holds the 6A state runner-up trophy after the Oilers dropped a close 6-4 game to Lewisville Flower Mound in the 6A state baseball state finals. Rogers led the Oilers to the District 23-6A title, the Class 6A Region III crown and a 38-7-1 season record.

