

REPORTER NEWS

Pearland Edition

Your Independent Local News Source Since 1984

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023

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50 CENTS

Around Town

June 27

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEET
Brazoria County Commissioners meet at 9 a.m. at the courthouse, 111 E. Locust St., Angleton. Meetings are open to the public and public comment time is allotted. For information, minutes, video and agendas, visit brazoriacountytx.gov.

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.

June 28

CHICKS TO CHILDREN
Educational program titled "School Age: Chicks to Children" presented by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will be 10:15 to 11 a.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.

ARMADILLO'S DREAM OPERA
Houston Grand Opera: The Armadillo's Dream is 2:30 p.m. at the West Pearland Library, 11801 Shadow Creek Parkway, for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. All library events are free. For information, call 713-436-0995.

June 29

ROTARY CLUB MEETING
Rotary Club of Pearland meets at 7:30 a.m. Thursdays at the Pearland Chamber, 6117 W. Broadway St. Call 832-293-9860 for information.

SAN JACINTO FIELD TRIP
Melvin Knapp Center, 2424 South Park Ave., hosts a field trip for seniors to the San Jacinto Monument east of Houston with participants meeting at 10 a.m. Registration is required and can be made by calling 281-652-1890. Membership at the Knapp Center is \$25 per year for Pearland residents and \$50 for non-residents.

MOVIES ON THE LAWN
Outdoor free screening of "Sing 2" 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.

June 30

NATURE TRIVIA NIGHT
Delores Fenwick Nature Center hosts Nature Trivia Night for families from 6 to 8 p.m. at 5750 Magnolia Parkway. Cost is \$5 for ages 5 and up. For information, call 281-652-1960, or visit parks.pearlandtx.gov.

CONCERT IN THE PARK
Concerts in the Park series winds up for the summer with Hybrid 7 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.

July 1

ALMOST, MAINE
Pearland Theatre Guild presents an 8 p.m. performance of the play, "Almost, Maine" at the Pearl Theatre, 14803 Park Alameda Drive, Houston. Tickets are \$18 adults, \$16 for seniors and students. For information, call 832-459-4674.

ANGLETON FREEDOM FIREWORKS
City of Angleton presents Freedom Fireworks display at 9:15 p.m., synchronized to patriotic music at the County Fairgrounds, 901 Downing Road, Angleton. The display is free and open to the public.

July 3

BOOKWORMS ADULT BOOK CLUB
Bookworms adult book club will discuss "The Christie Affair" at 6:30 p.m. at Tom Reid Library, 3522 Liberty Drive. All library programs are free. Call 281-652-1677 or email pearland@bcls.lib.tx.us for information.

July 3

CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM
Celebration of Freedom presented by Bayway Chevrolet is 6 to 10 p.m. with live music, food and fireworks at Independence Park, 3449 Pearland Parkway.

City facilities such as the Knapp Activity Center, recreation center and local libraries will be closed for Independence Day.

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Pearland Mourns Former Mayor Tom Reid

By JIM FOREMAN
Reporter News Staff

Tom Reid, the iconic former mayor of Pearland, Texas, passed away yesterday, June 24, 2023. He was 97. Known for his dedication to the city and his tireless work in public service, Reid's death has left a profound sense of loss throughout the community.

Mayor Kevin Cole said "The void that is left by Mayor Reid's passing will never be filled, and he will be sorely missed. We will continue his legacy and work every day to match his level of dedication for the Pearland community."

Born on August 14, 1925, Reid was a stalwart of Pearland's civic life, serving as mayor for more than three decades. A former NASA engineer, Reid was first elected mayor in 1978 and, apart from a few short breaks, served in the role until 2020.

Reid oversaw a period of significant growth in Pearland, helping transform it from a small bedroom community into a booming suburb of Houston. Under his leadership, the city saw a number of infrastructural improvements and increased commercial development, placing Pearland on the map as one of the fastest-growing cities in Texas.

Before his time in public office, Reid worked



as a project engineer and manager for the NASA Johnson Space Center, contributing to the Apollo and Skylab missions. His experience and passion for science and engineering informed his leadership style, bringing a methodical and forward-thinking approach to city management.

Reid was known for his personal touch, reg-

ularly making time to attend local events, parades, and school functions. His commitment to the people of Pearland was evident in every aspect of his work.

Friendswood Mayor Mike Foreman expressed his grief over the passing of Reid, whom he considered not just a contemporary, but also a mentor.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of my friend and mentor, Tom Reid," Foreman said From my early days in office, Tom was there when I had a question or concern. His wisdom, experience, and unending love for his community shaped my own approach to leadership. He had a unique ability to make complex issues relatable, always finding a way to put the people first."

As Pearland mourns the loss of this civic giant, his legacy of stewardship and passionate commitment to community remains as a reminder of the lasting impact one person can have on the lives and heart of a city. His tenure in public service stands as a testament to his love for Pearland and its people, a love that will continue to inspire the city's growth and prosperity.

A come-and-go memorial will be 4 to 8 p.m. this Friday at First Church of Pearland, 1850 Broadway St. A celebration of his life will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. at the same location.

PISD Considers Tax Ratification Election

By N. BRADFORD
Reporter News Staff

Facing a daunting list of needs along with a budget deficit, Pearland ISD leaders this year are considering a tax ratification election.

"I've been struggling," Trustee Crystal Carbone said, "with how do we go back and ask the community for additional money when we passed a [tax ratification election] just two short years ago. How do we explain that we're still in a place where we're struggling with budget deficit?"

Carbone said she doesn't believe the district's staffing is bloated.

"The difference in where we were in 2021 to now is huge inflationary costs," she said. "Everyone at home has felt that. We are no different."

Trustees on Friday adopted a budget for the coming fiscal year -- the school tax rate won't be determined until August. State law requires

school districts get voter approval if they opt to raise their maintenance and operations tax rate above a set amount.

"How do we explain that we're still in a place where we're struggling with budget deficit? The difference in where we were in 2021 to now is huge inflationary costs."

~Crystal Carbone, PISD Trustee

Certified property values, which are used to calculate tax rates, won't be available until July 25.

"We will need to decide whether to consider holding a voter approval tax rate election," PISD Chief Financial Officer Jorgannie Carter told the board Friday.

PISD's general fund budget includes revenues of \$202.3 million and expenditures of \$215.1 million -- leaving a deficit of \$12.7 million.

"Since I've taken the seat as superintendent, we have entertained the idea of pushing out a (tax ratification election)," Superintendent

Larry Berger said. "That first requires the board to say, 'Yes, we give you permission to put it on the ballot' and have the community vote."

Enrollment at Pearland ISD has stopped growing, but the district still has 23 campuses, he said.

"Pearland ISD has cut 31 campuses positions and 19 central administration positions over the last three years," Berger said. "While

the general student population has decreased and has plateaued, we have increased in our at-risk students and our students served by special programs. These are students that don't necessarily fit into a student-teacher ratio."

In addition, the district hasn't raised substitute teacher pay since 1920, needs \$30 million in facilities maintenance and has another \$20 million in technology needs.

"Paper costs alone have gone from \$20 to \$40 a case," he said.

Included in the budget are 2 percent salary increases and starting teacher pay of \$60,500. Payroll makes up just over 80 percent of the district's budget.

A successful ratification election would bring in \$11 million.

"It's not the single answer and not the only answer," Berger said. "We may also need to look at a technology bond or facilities bond."

Independence Park to Host 4th of July Celebration

Don't miss this year's Celebration of Freedom Proudly Presented by Bayway Chevrolet as the City of Pearland celebrates Independence Day on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, from 6 to 10 p.m. The family-friendly event is free to attend and fun for all ages!

Attractions at Celebration of Freedom include a spectacular firework display and live music on the H-E-B Entertainment Stage featuring the Junior Gordon Band.

"Celebration of Freedom represents the ability of our diverse country to come together as one and celebrate the freedoms we have as Americans," said Kevin Carter, Assistant Director of Pearland Parks & Recreation. "I look forward every year to the Celebration of our Pearland community, to meeting new families."

Additionally, children can enjoy entertainment such as bounce houses, rides, and other attrac-



tions. A \$5 wristband ticket is required and can be purchased in advance or when you arrive at the event.

"These events would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, the value and importance of them being actively involved in the community is very much recognized and appreciated," said Special Event Coordinator Lindsey Taylor.

"We would like to make a huge shout out to our returning partner Bayway Chevrolet - presenting sponsor for the Celebration of Freedom and to our long-term partner H.E.B, our entertainment sponsor."

Attendees can bring food and drinks or purchase from a variety of food and beverage vendors at the park. The public is also encouraged to bring their own seat-

ing, such as camp chairs and picnic blankets. Don't forget, tents and canopies are not allowed. Additionally, please note that glass containers, tobacco and pets are prohibited. For additional information, please consult the FAQ located on the Celebration of Freedom website page.

The vision of the City of Pearland Parks & Recreation is to be the leader in providing quality services that connect the community through people, parks and programs. The department is dedicated to multiplying the Q4 factor: quality facilities, quality programs and quality service for your quality of life. More than one thousand programs, events and activities are planned and produced by the department every year, in service to the City of Pearland and surrounding communities. Pearland Parks & Recreation is a CAPRA accredited agency. Visit pearlandparks.com for more information.

School Board Appoints Retired Administrator

By N. BRADFORD
Reporter News Staff

The Pearland ISD school board this month appointed retired school administrator Bob Richter to fill the unexpired term of Trustee Lance Botkin.

Richter, who took the oath of office on June 23, is a frequent community volunteer who is well

known in Pearland ISD.

"If you walk into Jamison Middle School, his picture is hanging on the wall because of what he has given to that school and our district," Superintendent Larry Berger said. "He has served in every administrator capacity in Pearland ISD that you can."

Richter will serve in the role of

trustee until Botkin's original term expires.

Botkin says he is resigning due to personal and health reasons.

First elected in 2013, Botkin is a former Pearland High School teacher and coach. He and his family have lived in Pearland since 1997. During his 11 years on the board, he was a staunch advocate

for mental health resources for students and often brought a teacher's perspective to board meetings.

"I've always loved helping teachers and students," Botkin said. "I always wanted to see Larry Berger as superintendent. I knew when he was assistant principal he was destined for greatness. We're going to go from good to great."

SPORTS

Rogers, Partida Headline All-District 23-6A Selection

By DR. DAVID DAVIS
Reporter News Staff

Pearland head baseball coach David Rogers was honored as the District 23-6A "Coach of the Year" by his coaching peers after he led the Pearland diamondmen to the district title, the 6A Region III crown, and the 6A state finals.

The Oilers posted a sparkling 38-7-1 season record. Pearland thrashed Austin Westlake 11-1 in the state semifinals before falling short 6-4 in the state title contest.

After the state championship game, Rogers said, "Effort did not equal outcome. 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."

Pearland sophomore pitcher/third baseman Nico Partida had a breakout year for the Oilers as he was named as the District 23-6A Co-Most Valuable Player. The Oiler ace led Pearland to the District 23-6A title, 6A Region III crown, and to the 6A state tournament where he beat Austin Westlake 11-1 in the state semifinals.

On the mound, Partida was perfect on the year with a sensational 13-0 record with a 1.08 ERA over 77 1/3 innings of work. He struck out 82 while walking only 24. He was also instrumental at the

plate as he hit .285 with four doubles, one triple, five home runs, 30 RBIs, 20 runs scored, and 11 stolen bases.

The accolades continued for Partida as he was recently named to the 6A Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association All-State first-team. The Arizona State commit was also named Newcomer of the Year by the Houston Chronicle.

Named also to the All-District first-team was pitcher Ryler Smart (7-3, 45 innings, 2.33 ERA, 59 strikeouts), Texas A&M commit senior first baseman/pitcher Caden Ferraro (.389, 14 doubles, two home runs, 27 RBIs, 24 runs scored; 24.2 innings pitched, 3-1 record, 34 strikeouts, 2.83 ERA), senior second baseman Braeden Morse (.248, three doubles, three home runs, 18 RBIs, 22 runs scored), UH signee senior shortstop Anthony Avalos (.360, three doubles, three triples, two home runs, 32 RBIs, 35 runs scored, 17 stolen bases), Sam Houston signee senior outfielder Brett Smajstrla (.369, 11 doubles, one home run, 19 RBIs, 28 runs scored, 15 stolen bases), and Damian Landry (.280, four doubles, 17 runs scored, 16 stolen bases).

Named to the All-District second-team was junior pitcher Jaden Barfield, senior pitcher Caden Schmidt, sophomore catcher Cade Adams, junior outfielder John Moya, and junior outfielder Isaiah Castaneda.

Teams Compete at State 7-On-7 Tournament

By DR. DAVID DAVIS
Reporter News Staff

The Dawson Eagles, Manvel Mavericks, and Shadow Creek Sharks competed at the 7-on-7 state tournament in College Station.

The teams were assigned to Pool Play comprised of four teams that would play each other with the top two teams advancing to the championship bracket and the bottom two teams advancing to the consolation bracket.

Dawson (2-1) finished in a three-way tie for first place against Lake Belton, (2-1) McAllen Rowe (0-3), and McKinney (2-1). Lake

Belton and Dawson advanced to the championship bracket for winning the tie breakers. Dawson beat McKinney 12-6 and McAllen Rowe 27-20 but came up short against Lake Belton 31-25.

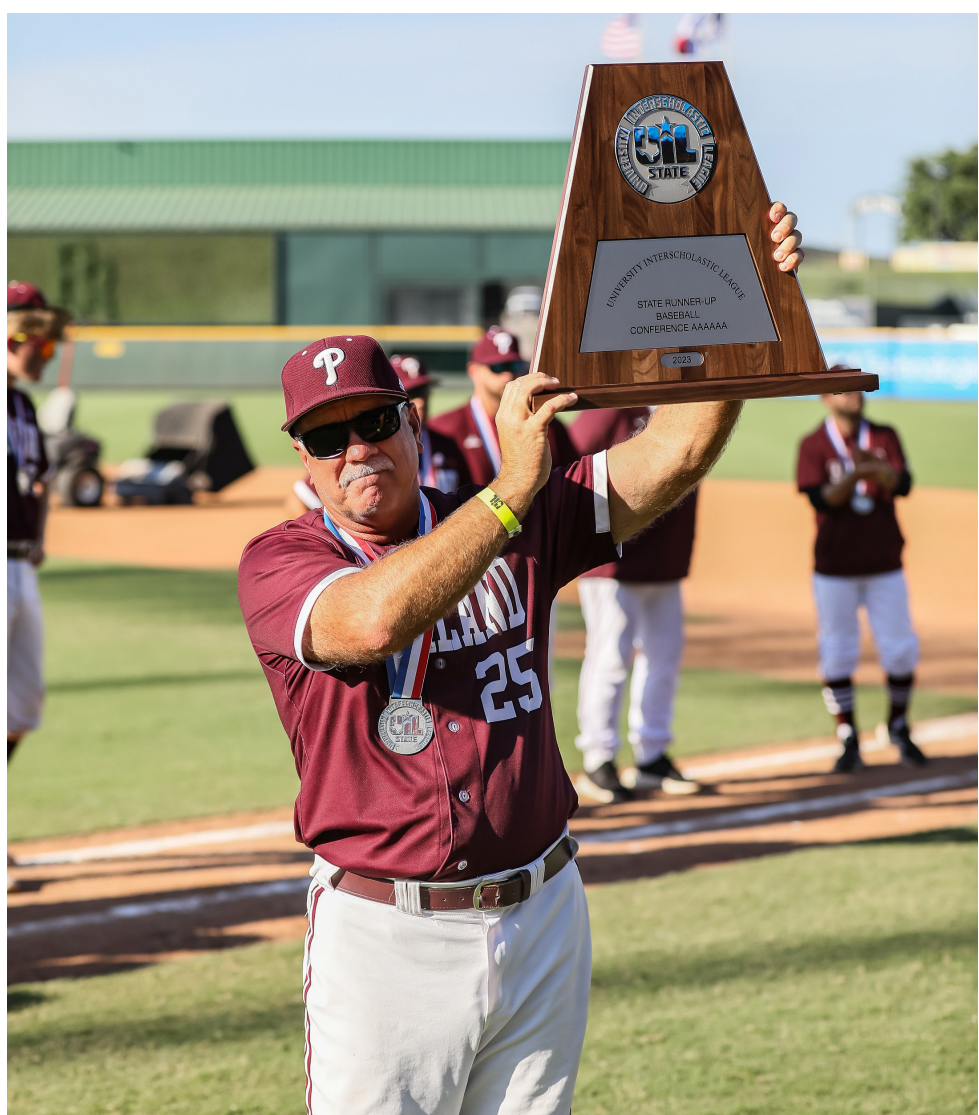
The Eagles faced Wakeland in the first game of the championship bracket and fell 27-14 that ended their tournament.

Manvel was in Pool Play against North Crowley, SA Johnson, and Westwood. The Mavs beat SA Johnson 25-19 and Westwood 26-20 while losing to North Crowley 26-20. Manvel and North Crowley advanced to the championship bracket.

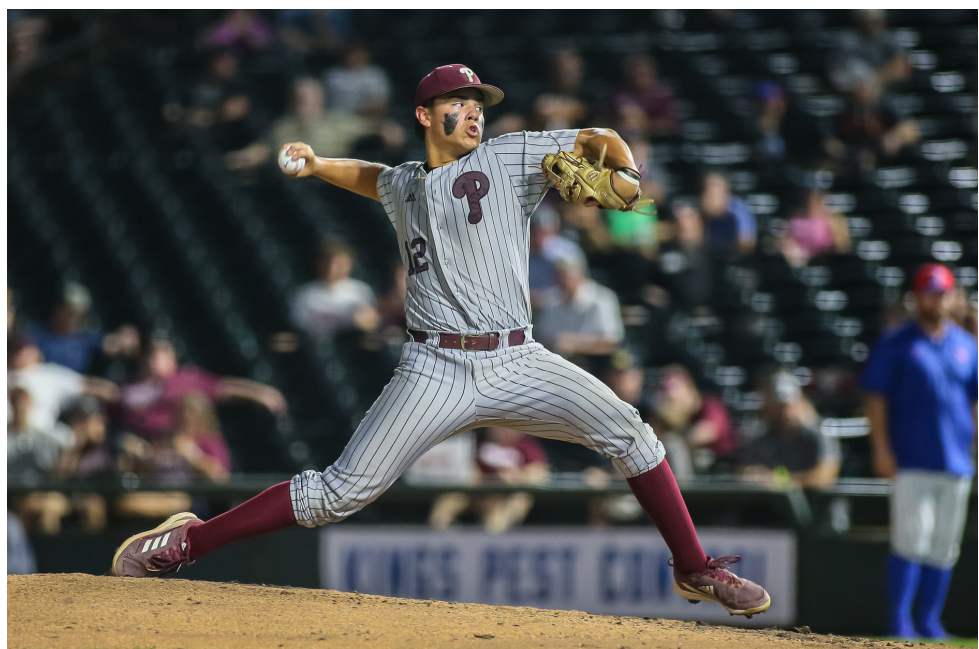
The Mavs faced Round Rock in the first game of the championship bracket and fell 26-19 to end their tournament.

Shadow Creek was in Pool Play with Eastwood, Lake Travis, and Wakeland. The Sharks beat Eastwood 20-12 but fell to Wakeland 32-13 and Lake Travis 27-20 to finish with a 1-2 record that sent them to the consolation bracket.

The Sharks stepped up their game as they beat Rowe (26-19), College Park (13-6), Pearce (39-21) and Westwood (32-7) to advance to the consolation finals where they fell to Nelson 25-0.



DISTRICT "COACH OF THE YEAR" - Pearland head baseball coach David Rogers was honored as the District 23-6A "Coach of the Year" by his coaching peers after he led the Pearland diamondmen to the district title, the 6A Region III crown, and the 6A state finals. Rogers is lifting the UIL runner-up trophy after the Oilers fell to Flower Mound 6-4 in the 6A state finals. (Photo by Lloyd Hendricks)



DISTRICT CO-MVP - Pearland sophomore pitcher/third baseman Nico Partida had a breakout year for the Oilers as he was named as the District 23-6A Co-Most Valuable Player. The Oiler ace led Pearland to the District 23-6A title, 6A Region III crown, and to the 6A state tournament where he beat Austin Westlake 11-1 in the state semifinals. (Photo by Lloyd Hendricks)

FROM THE CLUTTERED DESK

by Dr. David Davis

Bringing home vacation souvenirs

I was visiting with someone this past week and we were discussing vacations -- particularly souvenirs that people bring home for themselves and others.

It seems that one of the favorite souvenirs that people buy for themselves, and others are T-shirts. Especially those that tell you where you went on vacation.

But one headline recently caught my attention. American nabbed leaving India without souvenirs.

Since I have been to India 15 times -- I can assure you that I have returned home with plenty of things from that country. But the story I saw said:

An American woman was detained at Oakland Airport when she attempted to return from an India vacation without any souvenirs.

"I went to Jaipur on business," protested the woman. "I checked into a hotel, had my meeting and left."

I've returned from India with hand-carved elephants, leather goods, hand-painted brass, peacock feathers, etc.

Anyway - there are a couple of things that have always disturbed me regarding souvenirs.

As you are reading this - you are either a collector or you know someone who has collected these items.

One is a state silver spoon. You walk into someone's house and there they are - displayed on the wall in a wooden container.

Those silver spoons have no purpose. You will never use them to eat food. Even if you did -- you would only get a bird's helping.

Which reminds me of a story.

A pastor had dinner at the home of a couple in his church. After he left, the wife said to the husband, "I think he stole our spoon!" This bothered her for

a while. A year later the couple had the pastor for dinner again. Unable to resist, the wife asked, "Did you steal our spoon last year?"

The pastor said, "No -- I put it in your Bible."

One of the other souvenirs are the state plates that people buy. Same thing -- you will never use them -- they wouldn't hold enough food to feed a rat -- and they are simply worthless.

For my money -- buy a mug. It can show what state you visited - what amusement park you went to - what restaurant you ate at - what museum you toured. Doesn't that make more sense?

You can use your mug at any time. It doesn't fade - it doesn't lose its size -- and it will last a lifetime unless you break it.

As an example -- I made a brief tour in my kitchen and I found mugs from the Carlsbad Caverns, Roaring River Restaurant in Cassville, Missouri, a mug with the flag of India, an IHOP mug (No I didn't steal it), Blue Bell Ice Cream mug, a "Yeah Man!" cup from Jamaica, a cup that reads, "You're the bestest Daddy!" a cup from Kawai, Hawaii, a cup from The Alamo, a D.A.R.E. mug from Wisconsin, a mug from the Excalibur in Las Vegas, and a beautiful mug from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

These are just a few of over 150 mugs that I have collected over the years. Many are in boxes, but I can get them out at any time to serve a lot of people.

My latest mugs have pictures of my nine grandchildren on them. I like those!

Spoons and plates -- naw! Give me a mug any day. You know - it just dawned on me -- I have been around the world and in 36 states -- but I don't have a Pearland mug. I need to do some hunting around to see if I can find one.

Old friend Robert said, "'A mug of coffee shared with a friend is happiness tasted and time well spent."

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2023 Dawson Eagles Football Schedule

Sat	8/26	Hightower	Away	6:00 p.m.
Sat	9/2	Klein Collins	Away	6:00 p.m.
Sat	9/9	Tomball	Home	6:00 p.m.
OPEN				
Fri	9/22	*Alief Hastings	Home	7:00 p.m.
Thur	9/28	*Alief Taylor	Away	6:00 p.m.
Fri	10/6	*Strake Jesuit	Home	7:00 p.m.
Fri	10/13	*Pearland	Home	7:00 p.m.
Fri	10/20	*Shadow Creek	Home	7:00 p.m.
Fri	10/27	*Alief Elsik	Away	7:00 p.m.
Thur	11/2	*Alvin	Home	7:00 p.m.

* Denotes District 23-6A Game

2023 Pearland Oilers Football Schedule

Fri	8/25	Clear Falls	Home	7:00 p.m.
Sat	9/2	SB Memorial	Away	6:00 p.m.
Fri	9/8	C.E. King	Home	7:00 p.m.
OPEN				
Fri	9/22	*Shadow Creek	Away	7:00 p.m.
Fri	9/29	*Alief Elsik	Home	7:00 p.m.
Fri	10/6	*Alvin	Away	7:00 p.m.
Fri	10/13	*Dawson	Away	7:00 p.m.
Fri	10/20	*Alief Taylor	Away	7:00 p.m.
Fri	10/27	*Strake Jesuit	Home	7:00 p.m.
Thur	11/2	*Alief Hastings	Away	6:00 p.m.

* Denotes District 23-6A Game

2023 Shadow Creek Sharks Football Schedule

Fri	8/25	Manvel	Away	7:00 p.m.
Fri	9/1	Clear Springs	Away	7:00 p.m.
Fri	9/8	Bridgeland	Home	7:00 p.m.
OPEN				
Fri	9/22	*Pearland	Home	7:00 p.m.
Thur	9/28	*Alief Hastings	Away	6:00 p.m.
Thur	10/5	*Alief Elsik	Away	6:00 p.m.
Fri	10/13	*Alvin	Home	7:00 p.m.
Fri	10/20	*Dawson	Away	7:00 p.m.
Fri	10/27	*Alief Taylor	Home	7:00 p.m.
Fri	11/3	*Strake Jesuit	Away	7:00 p.m.

* Denotes District 23-6A Game

