

Pearland Edition REPORTER NEWS

Your Independent Local News Source Since 1984

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023

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50 CENTS

Around Town Thursday, March 2

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.

ARTS & CRAFTS FOR ADULTS
West Pearland Library hosts "Make It Easy," arts and crafts sessions for adults, on the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the library, 11801 Shadow Creek Parkway. Call 713-436-0995 for information.

LAUREN DAIGLE PERFORMS
Christian music singer Lauren Daigle headlines the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo at NRG Park. Weekday rodeos start at 6:45 p.m. with the star act taking the stage at approximately 9 p.m. Tickets start at \$25 plus convenience fee at rodeohouston.com. A mobile RodeoHouston app features daily schedules, maps and up-to-date parking and shuttle information.

Friday, March 3

FIRST FRIDAYS NETWORKING
Pearland Chamber hosts the First Fridays Networking Event from 2 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For information, visit pearlandchamber.org.

BUN B'S TO PERFORM

Bun B's Southern Takeover performs at the fourth evening of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo at NRG Park. Weekday rodeos start at 6:45 p.m. with the main act at approximately 9 p.m. Tickets start at \$25 plus convenience fee at rodeohouston.com.

Saturday, March 4

SPRING FEST TICKETS ON SALE
Spring Fest tickets are on sale now. Spring Fest will be held Saturday, March 4 from 10am to 5pm at Independence Park, 3449 Pearland Parkway. Admission is free, but a wristband is required to participate in most rides and attractions. Visit pearlandtx.gov/springfest for more information.

BREWS AND GROOVES

Pearland ISD Education Foundation presents "Brews & Grooves" on March 4 at Vallensons' Brewing Company, 4081 Rice Drier Road in Pearland. Doors open at 2pm. Live music and food truck. Free entry - all ages welcome. For more information call 281-997-4987 or visit www.pearlandisd.org/foundation.

CRAFT FAIR/GARAGE SALE

Craft Fair and Garage Sale begins at 9 a.m. at the Melvin Knapp Center, 2424 South Park Ave. This first-time event is open to the public. For information, call 281-652-1890.

Monday, March 6

BOOKWORMS BOOK CLUB MEET

Pearland Bookworms Book Club meets from 6:30 to 9 p.m. to discuss "The Woman at the Library" at the Tom Reid Library, 3522 Liberty Drive. Call 281-652-1677 for more information.

JASON ALDEAN PERFORMS

Country star Jason Aldean is Monday's featured act at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. For information and tickets, visit rodeohouston.com.

Wednesday, March 8

PARENT UNIVERSITY SESSION

A free Parent University session titled "Emotional Development" will be offered through Alvin ISD through a virtual format beginning at 11:30 a.m. For more information or to register, visit alvinisd.net/parentuniversity.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Tom Reid Library, 3522 Liberty Drive. Call 281-652-1677 for more information.

JON PARDI TO PERFORM

Jon Pardi is the featured performer at the mid-week Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Tickets start at \$25 plus convenience fee at rodeohouston.com.

City gets early tax rate preview

By N. BRADFORD
Reporter News Staff

With budget season around the corner, Pearland city leaders recently heard about long-term property tax trends in addition to a preview model of what tax bills might look like for fiscal year 2024.

"It's very early on to be doing this," City budget officer Eric Roche told city council members during a Feb. 20 discussion. "It's based off assumed tax value growth and an estimated budget. It's got room to change."

With the city's debt service rate forecast to drop by more than 4 cents for the next fiscal year, the total city tax rate could move from the current rate of 62.3 cents to 64.3 cents with 10 percent growth in the tax base, 65.9 cents with 7 percent growth or 67.1 cents with 5 percent growth.

"Where we were in '22 was just over 70 cents which in '23 was artificially dropped low because of the tax valuation issues."

~ Interim City Manager Trent Epperson

Pearland's tax rate dropped from 70 cents in fiscal year 2022 to 62.3 cents in the current fiscal year, a drop partially due to an error in tax calculations that created a \$10 million budget shortfall.

"Where we were in '22 was just over 70 cents which in '23 was artificially dropped low because of the tax valuation issues," interim city manager Trent Epperson said. "It's actually more than a cent under the no-new-revenue rate and it's 10 cents under the voter approval rate."

The city has since hired an outside firm to determine how the error happened, how the city could have caught it and how to prevent it in the future.

"In future meetings as we continue to discuss this, we need to start to understand the council's tolerance to getting back closer to where our tax rate was in '22 to forward our operational needs," Epperson said.

Individual property tax valuations will vary, city staff emphasized, since some gain value and others lose.

"We don't know what your property will be worth next year, and we don't have the budget completely dialed in," Roche said.

The city will discuss proposed bond refunding on March 6 and 20 and will hold a capital improvements workshop on March 20.



GOIN' TO STATE

The Pearland Lady Oilers captured the Class 6A Region III crown and are advancing to the 6A state basketball tournament in San Antonio at the Alamodome on Friday, March 3. The purpose-driven Lady Oilers beat the Summer Creek Lady Bulldogs 39-26 in the region finals after they throttled the Katy Lady Tigers 57-30 in the region semifinal contest. The District 23-6A champions are now 35-3 on the season. Pearland will face the DeSoto Lady Eagles (27-5) in the state semifinals on Friday, March 3 at 8:30 p.m. DeSoto has appeared in the state tournament in 2008, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The Lady Mustangs are going for a three-peat having won state in 2021 and 2022. Photo by Dr David Davis

City takes action in emergency prep

By N. BRADFORD
Reporter News Staff

Lessons learned during the record winter storm of 2021 are continuing in Pearland, where preventative measures are still being put in place. Unprecedented snow and ice accumulation and low temperatures brought by Winter Storm Uri in Feb. 2021 led to power blackouts in most of Texas, with a University of Houston study finding almost 70 percent of Texans lost power at some point and nearly half had disruptions in water service.

City Council on Feb. 20 awarded a \$63,000 contract for a remote generator monitoring system in city buildings to Houston-based Climatec LLC.

An assessment done after winter storm Uri had multiple recommendations, city staff said, including a generator monitoring system.

"(City staff) can get alerts when there are issues with them," interim City Manager Trent Epperson said, "whether it's an emergency and we're actually using them or an exercise and there's some kind of fault or

issue. We'll know about that and have better assurance that if we need them in an emergency, they will be available and running."

During that meeting, the council also approved the purchase of enclosure heaters for generators.

"When we have extremely low temperature events, those generators are going to start. That was one of the issues we identified after the winter storm," Epperson said.

The system is expected to be installed before hurricane season begins June 1.



CARLESTON ELEMENTARY PRE-K AND PPCD RODEO ROUND-UP

On Friday, Feb. 24, Carlestone Elementary Pre-K and PPCD (Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities) participated in a rodeo round-up to get in the spirit of Go Texan Day. Benjamin Vasquez went in for a close-up to show off his cowboy hat and Texas pride!

Spring Fest is this Saturday at Independence Park

By N. BRADFORD
Reporter News Staff

Pearland Parkway will close to traffic this Saturday to allow attendees Spring Fest to park and walk from Pearland High School.

Free and open to the public, Spring Fest will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Independence Park, 3449 Pearland Parkway.

Parking will be at Pearland High School, 3775 S. Main St. Pearland Parkway and will close at 9 a.m. to allow guests to park and get safely to the event.

While wristbands will be sold for \$12 for rides, games and inflatables, admission to the festival is free and there are no advance tickets being sold.

In addition to the H-E-B Imagination Station, live entertainment and food vendors, crafters and artisans will be on hand with clothing, home decor, furniture, yard decorations art and holiday items. All of the vendors are small business owners, and 90 percent are based in Texas.

Gourmet food items for sale will include salsas, dips, casserole and cobbler mixes, jelly and jams, pickles, canned vegetables, spices and rubs, sauces and chocolates.

Most vendors accept credit cards. There will not be an ATM at the festival site.

The festival is open and accessible to all ages; service pets and strollers are welcome.

For a full schedule and more information about this event, visit parks.pearlandtx.gov/special-events/spring-fest.

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AREA BRIEFS

County observes holiday Thursday

Thursday is a holiday unique to Texas.

March 2 is among county holidays for Brazoria County. Local library branches and offices such as the courthouse and local Drainage District will be closed Thursday, reopening Friday.

On March 2, 1836, the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence at Washington on the Brazos marked the beginning of the Republic of Texas. Though it didn't quite last 10 years before Texas was annexed into the United States in 1845, March 2 remains a state holiday and source of pride for many Texans.

Public celebrations on Thursday include reenactments beginning at 10 a.m. at Sam Houston Park in downtown Houston and activities from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville.

Schools, post offices, most offices and banks remain open Thursday. City offices and services remain open and will not be affected.

Benefit golf tourney set for April 17

The second annual Pearland Mayor Kevin Cole's Benefit Golf Tournament will be April 17, with proceeds benefitting the nonprofit Forever Parks Foundation.

The tournament begins at 10 a.m. at the Golfcrest Country Club, 2509 County Club Drive, Pearland. Entries begin at \$120.

The first-ever tournament raised more than \$60,000 that went toward an inclusive playground at the Shadow Creek Sports Complex. For more information or to register, visit tinyurl.com/ForeverParksTourney. Annual Ruff Runner scheduled March 25

The annual Ruff Runner and Yappy Hour pet-themed fitness event is scheduled for Saturday, March 25.

Beginning and ending at Independence Park, 3449 Pearland Parkway, the Ruff Runner includes a

5K, Kids 1K and 3K. Race times are 7:50 a.m., 8 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.

For information on this event, email events@pearlandtx.gov.

Galveston trash exhibits closes soon

A series of art installations throughout Galveston titled "Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea," will be on display only through March 5.

The traveling outdoor sculpture exhibit was created from debris found floating in the ocean and is designed to educate the public on hazards of plastic pollution in the world's waterways.

It is on display in 19 locations throughout Galveston Island. Exhibits, which include an 9-foot octopus and bald eagle with a 17-foot wingspan, opened in December and will remain until March 5.

Locations include Seawolf Park, Saengerfest Park, the Galveston Visitor Information Center, Bryan Museum, Grand 1834 Opera House, Tremont Hotel, Railroad Museum, Children's Museum, Rosenberg Library, Pier 21, Grand Galvez, Pleasure Pier, Rainforest Cafe, Moody Gardens and more. A map of all locations can be found online at tinyurl.com/WashedAshoreGalveston.

Free session tackles emotional development

A free Parent University session titled "Emotional Development" will be offered on Wednesday, March 8, and can be viewed online during the lunch hour.

Hosted by Alvin ISD through a virtual format, the session begins at 11:30 a.m. and is part of a popular ongoing series offered for all parents and guardians by the district. Participation is free, but advance registration is requested. For more information or to register, visit alvinisd.net/parentuniversity.

Deadline approaches for

Friendswood Chamber scholarships

The Friendswood Chamber of Commerce will give two scholarships to graduating seniors in May. Clear Brook and Friendswood High School Seniors can apply for the Chamber's Scholarship.

The Board of Directors has approved one scholarship to Clear Brook High School and one to Friendswood High School student for \$1000 each.

The deadline is Friday, March 10, 2023 at noon. This is the Friday before Spring Break in the area.

Students can drop off their applications to their counselor or at the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce office. The Chamber will notify school counselors who, in turn, will notify the students who will receive the scholarships.

Application requirements include that recipients must be a graduating student from Clear Brook or Friendswood High School and have at least one letter of recommendation. Students must sign the application and drop off six copies, including the originals, of the application and letter(s) of recommendation.

The criteria the scholarship review committee members will consider include scholastic achievements, course major explanation, extra-curricular activities, work activities, letter(s) of recommendation and extenuating circumstances.

"The Friendswood Chamber of Commerce has invested in the education of our youth since 1981," Chamber President and CEO Carol Marcantel said. "Our Chamber members, express a positive vote for education when they fund these scholarships."

The Chamber is located at 1100 S. Friendswood Drive in Friendswood.

For more information or to get assistance, call the Chamber at 281-482-3329 or contact Carol at carol@friendswoodchamber.com.

Repairs complete as historic site reopens

A Civil War battleground and memorial in Port Arthur recently reopened after construction closed the site last fall. Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, according to the Texas Historical Commission.

The site closed in fall 2022 to repair seawall damage and other projects.

Admission is \$5 per car and RV spaces are available to rent for \$40. A self-guided tour of the site is available. The site commemorates Confederate Lt. Richard "Dick" Dowling, who with his 46 men thwarted a Union assault on Sabine Pass, which had been the primary port for Confederate supply shipments during the war.

For more information about the site, visit Sabine Pass on Facebook or go to visitsabinepassbattleground.com.



FAITH MATTERS

...because everyone believes in something!

By REV. DR. BRIAN GIGGIE

ON LIVING AND DYING

"In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life. "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again."

—John 3:14-17

I was talking on the phone with a friend the other day. We've known each other for 30 years. I officiated his wedding and he and his family have made numerous trips to Pearland while I was serving the church here. "How's everything?" I asked... "We're making it..." he said and I could hear both the joy of life and the difficulty that gets tacked on at the same time. "How's your wife?" I continued... "O, she's terrific. She gets tired... but she keeps keepin' on" he replied. "She gets tired. But she still goes to work when she's up to it." "Good," I responded. "Good for her!" ... and then it came... "this cancer thing... God's got this... we're not worried" ... I didn't say anything and I just let God's Spirit push us on... You see... my friend's wife is a breast cancer survivor and now years later she's been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer ...to which we know there is only treatment as the world waits upon a cure. They have children... all old enough to be in college and my friend is finishing veterinary school. His wife is an R.N. serving God by serving others. "We're makin' it, my friend," he said... "every day is a gift!" I agreed.

We talked about a number of things and still our conversation got back to the family's 'health' realities and this is what I said...

"You know... I have a colleague who made an interesting comment at a conference years ago..." as this was obviously a teaching moment and God's Holy Spirit is always teaching... "yeah, what's that?" my friend asked. "Well...

we were at a conference and some pastors were standing around talking during a break... with coffee... as pastors will do... when another colleague walked by and in that small circle someone said... 'o man... that's Tom. His wife is dying of cancer.' "And then there was an interruption from that same small circle... 'yeah, that's Tom alright... but his wife is living with cancer...' "Then the whole circle got quiet." Faith matters.

"Yeah" my friend said, "Yeah... living with..." because that's what they are doing... getting on with life because of the faith they have in Jesus Christ... and I heard the joy in his heart overpower the difficulty that keeps invading their daily lives... and if you relate to this story in any way or something similar even... you get it... we're all going to die someday... and that's the gift ... to recognize that in between the day we are born and the day we take our last breath... the livin' is on us... each detail... how we embrace all that comes our way and how we deal with the copious pitfalls we cannot avoid...

One of my favorite Van Morrison songs has a chorus which echoes the title...

When will I ever learn

To live in God?

When will I ever learn?

He gives me everything I need and more

When will I ever learn?

My friend of many years has a family with a deep and abiding faith. He's taken the lead. God has tended to the details... and God will be faithful to the promises only God can keep as they keep living in the midst of the dying none of us can avoid. "We're makin' it, my friend... every day is a gift!" he said. I hope you're makin' it too... as God is always at work making the world right!

The Rev. Dr. Brian t. Giggie 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://briangiggie.wordpress.com/>. Send comments and/or questions to godworks247365@gmail.com.

March to be busy month for Friendswood seniors with trips, activities

Seniors in Friendswood will have many activities in which to participate in March.

On March 9 the group will take a trip to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo from 9 am to 4 pm. Cost is \$10 per person. The group will have a VIP tour through NRG Park with lunch on their own while there.

A trip to a performance of Potato Gumbo at the Pearl Theater in Pearland will be Friday, March 10. Cost is \$20 per person and the trip runs from 6:45 to 11 pm.

Gaming, dining and fun are planned for Thursday, March 23 when seniors take a trip to Naskila Gaming, an enterprise of the Alabama-Coushatta tribe in Livingston. The trip is 8 am to 8 pm and \$30 per person.

Seniors also have the opportunity to watch the Alvin Community College Music Department present The Concert Band Performance Thursday, March 30 from 6 to 9:30 pm. Cost is \$4 per person.

Chair Volleyball is popular and a tournament is planned for March 7 at 9 am. Teams will include groups from Friendswood, Pearland Knapp Center, the Bellaire L.I.F.E. 50+ from the City of Bellaire, and the West U Seniors City of West University Place. A trophy and bragging rights will

be presented to the winners. Friendswood Senior Program asks that only regular Thursday players be eligible to play.

The 22nd Annual Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser will be held Tuesday, March 21 from 11 am to 1 pm at the Friendswood Activity Building at 416 Morningside Drive. To place a to go order call 281-482-8441 on that day. Adults \$10 and seniors/children \$8. Proceeds benefit the Friendswood Senior Citizen Program.

For more information call 281-482-8441.



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SPORTS



GAME-HIGH SCORER - Dawson senior and East Central Oklahoma commit Jaden Miller (1) skies to the basket for two of his game-high 18 points as he led Dawson to a 63-47 win over Atascocita in the Class 6A Region III area-round basketball playoffs. The victory sends Dawson (31-5) into a regional quarterfinal meeting against District 24-6A champion Clear Falls (late Tuesday). Photo by Michael McManus

Dawson takes down Atascocita to advance to third round

By DR. DAVID DAVIS
Reporter News Staff

It looks like third times a charm for the Dawson Eagles after getting a 63-47 win over the Atascocita Eagles in the area round of the Class 6A Region III playoffs.

"We'd lost to them in the third round the last two years," Dawson head coach Mark Barre said. "Us beating them this year in the Texas Invitational created a whole different mentality for us, I thought."

"If we had lost that game, then we might be standing around saying 'We just can't beat these guys.'"

Dawson was up to the challenge with a new focus and energy that they weren't going to be denied this year.

The victory sends Dawson (31-5) into a third-round regional quarterfinal contest against District 24-

6A champion Clear Falls (late Tuesday).

As expected, the game was going to be an up-and-down battle between two Houston area powers.

Dawson took a 13-10 lead at the end of the first quarter and the game was back-and-forth in the second period as Dawson closed with a 25-24 advantage at the end of the first half.

The third quarter set the tone for the rest of the game as senior Jaden Miller led the way as he hit a 3-pointer at the end of the period giving Dawson a 41-36 lead entering the final frame.

But Miller, who is an East Central Oklahoma commit, got some help when Jaeden McCleskey and Kendrick Bailey also added 3-pointers to go with 5-of-7 free throws from Miller, Devan Brown, and Charles

Anderson.

The 3-point shooting momentum carried over into the fourth quarter as Keshawn Cotton and Larry Lyons followed Miller's long range bomb with two straight 3-point missiles for a 47-38 cushion.

With 7:20 left in the game, it became a free-throw display for Dawson down the stretch as Miller set the pace hitting 8-of-8.

Atascocita hit only one field goal in the fourth quarter but hit 9-of-10 from the charity stripe but it wasn't enough as Dawson outscored Atascocita 22-11 in the frame to post the 63-47 final score.

Miller earned game-high scoring honors with 18 points while Lyons tossed in 17 and Anderson added 11 points.

The Eagles hit 19-of-27 from the charity stripe.

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Shadow Creek senior Kameryn Phillips scores two of her team-high 12 points in the 56-30 loss to the Summer Creek Lady Bulldogs. Summer Creek advanced to the 6A Region III tournament. Photo by Michael McManus

Lady Bulldogs eliminate Lady Sharks 56-30

By DR. DAVID DAVIS
Reporter News Staff

The defending Class 6A Region III champions eliminated the Shadow Creek Lady Sharks 56-30 from the post-season.

The 6A Region III playoff contest began with the Lady Sharks finding some early offense against the aggressive Lady Bulldogs who scored 13 points in the opening quarter while Shadow Creek managed only one field goal while going 4-of-7 from the free throw line for only six points.

Both teams scored nine points each in the second period as Summer Creek had three field goals and shooting 3-of-6 from the charity stripe while Shadow Creek had two baskets and were 5-of-7 from the free throw line as the Lady Bulldogs had a 22-15 lead at intermission.

Summer Creek continued to control the game as they took the third quarter 15-11. The Lady Bulldogs got three long-range field goals as part of their arsenal while the Lady Sharks managed four baskets and 3-of-4 from the line. Summer Creek took a 37-26 lead into the final frame.

Things fell apart for the Lady Sharks down the stretch as they score only four points while the Lady Bulldogs scored 19 points to make the final score 56-30.

Shadow Creek finished the season with a 24-13 overall record and 9-3 in district.

Leading scorer for Shadow Creek was senior Kameryn Phillips who tossed in 12 points.

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SPORTS

From the Cluttered Desk

by Dr. David Davis

Pet peeves of life

Do you remember when you were in school, and someone (usually girls) would walk in the classroom and take their nails and run them down the blackboard? Gives you chills just thinking about it doesn't it?



I think we all have little things that people do that bother us.

Some things may not bother others, but you know that you have your pet peeves.

I was standing in line in the Pearland Post Office waiting to mail a package last week and there were two women being helped by a postal worker that I have known for a long time.

While I was waiting, one of the women was doing something that I haven't heard in a long time — but it revived some old memories of when someone had done it in the past that totally drove me crazy.

Now this may not serve as an irritant to you — and you may be one of the few that still does this...but keep in mind that there are those around you that would like to punch your lights out!

When the two ladies finally got their business done and my nerves were almost frazzled...I was happy to learn that the postal worker was also going crazy. It took just a couple of seconds of silence to finally bring us back to a calm.

So what was it? One of the ladies had some gum in her mouth and she was making that popping sound with the gum. But she was going way overboard with a pop about every two seconds. Some were louder than others.

It reminded me when I was an eight-year-old boy and a friend of mine and I were sitting together in church on the third row. He was chewing gum and my pastor's wife, Mrs. Epton, left her seat, sat down on the pew behind us, reached around with a Kleenex tissue, covered my friend's mouth and said, "Spit it out!" Which he did.

I can guarantee you that he nor I never chewed gum in church again. It made me want to do the same thing at the post office, but I remained silent thinking this is really a pet peeve with me.

Do you have a pet peeve? One of the last times I went to a movie theater, someone sitting behind me had a big soft drink that cost a fortune at the concession stand. You can always tell when the cup is empty because the final slurping noise is made with the straw. Which means there is nothing but ice left in the cup.

Once again I braced myself as the sound of the lid came off the cup and then the chomping of the ice began. It sounded like this guy had a hollow head. I tried to remain calm until a guy two rows back said, "Hey dude! Enough already with the ice!"

Do you have a pet peeve? I've been on an airplane when someone pulls out their own bag of Pork Rinds. You know what that sounds like don't you. And there really isn't a quiet way to eat them — and it can really drive you nuts — making you want to jump out of the plane!

Do you have a pet peeve? Or I've been in a waiting room when someone unwraps a piece of peppermint candy and puts it in their mouth.

Peppermint candy is meant to suck on until it evaporates in your mouth. But leave it to some and you begin to hear the chomping sound with the empty head effect.

Do you have a pet peeve? If you do send me your. Would be interesting to find out other pet peeves that we share together.

Old friend Robert said, "My biggest pet peeve is someone who uses the word 'like' in every other word of a sentence."

E-mail: drdaviddavis@yahoo.com
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PEARLAND LADY OILERS STATE BOUND

PEARLAND LADY OILERS STATE BOUND

Class 6A - Semifinals - San Antonio - Alamodome - March 3 Coppel (38-3) vs. San Antonio Clark (32-3), 7 p.m. Friday Pearland (35-3) vs. DeSoto (27-5), 8:30 p.m. Friday

The Pearland Lady Oilers have been to the state basketball tournament on two earlier occasions. The first time was in 1956 when Pearland was in Class B and the second time, 43 years ago, in 1980 when Pearland was in Class 4A.

Pearland lost to Hawley 63-45 in the state quarterfinals in 1956 and to Dallas South Oak Cliff 78-55 in the 4A state semifinals.

Pearland will face two-time defending Class 6A state champion DeSoto (27-5) in the semifinals who is looking to three-peat this year after winning the state title in 2021 and 2022.

Pearland Roster

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------|-------|-----|
| 2 | Janae Tucker | Senior | 5'7" | G |
| 3 | Nyah Hardy | Junior | 5'7" | G |
| 4 | Paige Bonner | Senior | 5'5" | G |
| 11 | Emily Anderson | Junior | 5'8" | G/F |
| 12 | Elice Perry | Sophomore | 6'1" | F/C |
| 22 | RyLee Grays | Senior | 6'3" | F/C |
| 23 | Ava Haynes | Freshman | 5'10" | G/F |
| 25 | Amaya Ratliff | Junior | 5'9" | G |
| 30 | La' Niah Thornton | Junior | 5'10" | G/F |
| 33 | Imani Harvey | Junior | 5'7" | G |

Head Coach: Jere' Adams

Assistant Coaches:

Andre Stokes, Corey Grays, Damita Hampton

Athletic Trainers:

Nick Holtgrieve, Catherine Windsor, Jill Flowers

Managers: Erica Anderson, Lily Lara, Ashlee Range

Lady Oilers win 6A Region III crown to advance to state

By DR. DAVID DAVIS
Reporter News Staff

Last year at this time, the Pearland Lady Oilers walked dejectedly off the basketball court in the 6A Region III finals after losing to the Summer Creek Lady Bulldogs 59-42 in the region final which sent Summer Creek to the state basketball tournament.

Second-year Pearland head coach Jere' Adams marked that day as the time to prepare for this year with the vision to avenge that loss and give the Lady Oilers an opportunity to capture the 6A Region III crown and advance to the state basketball tournament.

Adams said last year, "I feel like it was a special group, and the sky was the limit," Adams said. "I was just trying to get to the next day as a first-year head coach. I'm not surprised to be here — I want to make that clear. Our girls deserved it and worked hard to get here."

The Lady Oilers carried that work ethic over to this year and the result was an outright District 23-6A championship and now a Region III crown while punching their ticket to the 6A state basketball tournament in San Antonio on Friday, March 3 at 8:30 p.m.

One of the strengths for Pearland this season is their pressing, suffocating defense that

produces turnovers or allows opposing teams just one shot on each offensive possession.

Pearland allowed on average 31.4 points per game against five playoff teams which included a single basket by Clear Springs in all of the second half of the bi-district round contest. The Lady Oilers blanked the Lady Chargers in the third quarter 13-0.

That same defensive pressure was evident against Summer Creek as the Lady Oilers outscored the Lady Bulldogs 10-7 in the opening frame.

Both teams were trying to shake early jitters in the first eight minutes.

The second quarter saw Summer Creek manage only three field goals while Pearland's RyLee Grays tossed in two baskets as the only points for the Lady O's leaving Pearland with an anemic 14-13 advantage at intermission.

The game took a turn in favor of Pearland in the third quarter as Grays began to find her range while Summer Creek continued to struggle against the defensive pressure by the Lady Oilers.

Grays hit three close baskets and was 4-of-5 from the charity stripe giving her 10-of-the-17 third quarter points for Pearland. Nyah Hardy scored five points

and Janae Tucker was 2-for-2 from the free throw line as the Lady Oilers took a 31-18 lead into the final frame.

The teams closed out the contest with eight points each as Pearland scored a single basket but was clutch at the free throw line hitting 6-of-9 free throws.

Summer Creek had three baskets and was 2-for-5 at the line. The Lady Bulldogs were 3-of-9 from the free throw line for the game.

On the other hand, Pearland took advantage of the charity stripe as they hit 17-of-22 which would make an impact on the outcome of the game. They say offense wins games, but free throws win championships and that certainly played a factor in the win for Pearland.

In the case for the Lady Oilers, a strong and aggressive defense inside the perimeter, strong rebounding, and an unselfish offense led by a strong presence by Grays makes Pearland a complete team that is headed to the state basketball tournament.

Grays scored 16 points while Janae Tucker tossed in 12 points. Hardy chipped in seven points while Paige Bonner was 4-for-4 from the free throw line in the fourth period.

Tucker, Hardy, Bonner, and

La'Niah Thornton played strong roles in the outcome of the contest.

REGION III SEMIFINALS Pearland 57 - Katy 30

Pearland completely dominated a Katy team that entered the region semifinals with a 3 2-3 record.

The Lady Oilers used a suffocating defense against the Lady Tigers who had no answer for the defensive pressure while the Pearland offense scored consistently in each period.

Pearland opened up the game 12-9 in the first quarter and then the defense completely blanked Katy while the offense went on a 13-0 run for a 25-9 lead at half-time.

Katy scored the most points in the third quarter with 13 but it wasn't enough to top the Lady Oilers who fired in 16 for a 41-22 lead.

Pearland double the Katy scoring in the final frame 16-8 to post the final 57-30.

Leading scorer for Pearland was Paige Bonner (4 boards, 3 assists, 4 steals) who tossed in 16 while Janae Tucker (4 assists, 4 steals) and RyLee Grays (10 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 block) each pumped in 14.

The Lady Oilers hit 15-of-20 free throws.



TOP SCORER - Pearland senior Rylee Grays (22) drives to the basket to score two of her game-high 16 points while also getting 15 rebounds, 1 assist, and 2 blocked shots in the 39-26 win over Summer Creek. The win punched Pearland's ticket to the 6A state basketball tournament in San Antonio at the Alamodome on Friday, March 3 at 8:30 p.m.



DRIVING TO THE BASKET - Pearland senior Paige Bonner (4) takes a shot on goal against Summer Creek. Bonner hit four clutch free throws in the fourth quarter as the Lady Oilers beat the Lady Bulldogs 39-26 in the Class 6A Region III title game.

Photo by Michelle Robinett

Photo by Michelle Robinett

