

## Around Town

### Thursday, May 18

**DRIVING MISS DAISY PLAY**  
Pearland Theatre Guild offers a buy one, get one deal on tickets to a 7:30 p.m. performance of "Driving Miss Daisy" at the Pearl Theatre, 14803 Park Alameda Drive. Tickets are \$16 to \$18. Call 713-340-2540 or visit [pearl-theater.com](http://pearl-theater.com).

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Brazoria County Fallen Law Enforcement Memorial Service, to remember and honor fallen police officers, deputy sheriffs, and state troopers that served Brazoria County, will be held Thursday, May 18 starting at 9am at the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office, 3602 CR 45 in Angleton.

### Friday, May 19

#### CONCERT IN THE PARK

The free concerts in the Park series continues with performance by Marcus Ardoin and the Zydeco Legendz from 7 to 9 p.m. at Southdown Park, 22150 Countryplace Parkway. Picnics, lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged and food vendors will be on site.

### Saturday, May 20

#### ATHLETIC PHYSICAL DAY

Pearland High athletic physical day is 8 a.m. to noon in the Searcy Building for students in grades 6 through 12. Cost is \$25 and registration must be online: [pearlandisd.org/domain/3329](http://pearlandisd.org/domain/3329).

#### FARMERS MARKET

Old Pearland Farmers Market opens at 9 a.m. at Independence Park, 3229 Pearland Parkway, featuring season produce, eggs, beef, honey and more. Parking and entry are free and available at the park or at the City Hall annex, 3523 Liberty Drive.

#### DRIVING MISS DAISY

Pearland Theatre Guild presents the Southern drama, "Driving Miss Daisy" at 8 p.m. at the Pearl Theatre, 14803 Park Alameda Drive. A Sunday show is set for 3 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 students and seniors. For information, call 713-340-2540, or visit [pearl-theater.com](http://pearl-theater.com).

#### HISTORY IN BRICKS

Brazoria County Historical Museum, 100 East Cedar in Angleton, hosts an open house for "History in Bricks" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring Lego building clubs and sessions on building at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. For information, call 979-313-0284.

#### DISCOVER ARCHERY CAMP

Children and adults alike are invited to join the one day Discover Archery Camp on Saturday, May 20 from 10am to 12pm at Camp Mohawk, 110 County Road 193 in Alvin. All archery gear and targets are provided for the free camp. For more information or to register call the park's manager at 281-756-2319.

### Monday, May 22

#### TINY ART SHOW AT LIBRARY

Last day to turn in submissions to the Tiny Art Show at the West Pearland Library, 11801 Shadow Creek Parkway. Library programs are free and open to the public. For information, call 713-436-0995.

### Tuesday, May 23

#### SENIOR TRIP TO HMNS

A field trip for seniors to see the King Tut's Tomb exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science will leave the Melvin Knapp Center, 2424 South Park Ave., at 10:30 a.m. \$20 fee includes admission and transportation. Registration is required and can be made by calling 281-652-1890.

### Wednesday, May 24

#### STORYTIME AT LIBRARY

Storytime for children is held at 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays at the West Pearland Library, 11801 Shadow Creek Parkway. Free to public. For information, call 713-436-0995.

# Three sworn in, Owens retires

By N. BRADFORD  
Reporter News Staff

Pearland's newest city councilman was among those taking the oath of office Monday after results of the May 6 election were made official.

Position 7 Councilman Rushi Patel was sworn in along with newly reelected Position 3 Councilman Alex Kamkar and Mayor Kevin Cole, who did not face an opponent.

"We didn't get to do this in 2020," Kamkar

remarked. "It's really cool to see citizens, family members and friends up here."

Patel won the seat being vacated by longtime councilman Woody Owens.

"I've gotten to know the council and mayor and it's been an honor," Patel said. "I look forward to working with each of them."

First elected in 2000, Owens served 12 years on the council before winning his most recent seat in a runoff after Position No. 7 was

created in 2017. In total, he has 18 years of service on the council.

"Going back to (Mayor Emeritus Tom Reid), he said every time somebody comes into Pearland, it makes us that much better of a city," Owens said. "And he was right. He really was."

Owens was presented with a resolution from State Rep. Ed Thompson.

During Monday's meeting, councilman Joseph Koza was named mayor pro tem.



COLE



KAMKAR



PATEL



## PEARLAND ADVANCES TO SOFTBALL 6A REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

The No. 4 state-ranked Pearland Lady Oilers (35-3) swept Kingwood 9-6, 1-0 to advance to the 6A Region III semifinals where they will face the Bellaire Lady Cardinals in a three-game series beginning on Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Goose Creek Memorial in Baytown. Photo by Dr David Davis

# Homestead exemptions part of initial budget talk

By N. BRADFORD  
Reporter News Staff

The possibility of increasing Pearland's homestead exemption led off budget discussions for the coming year as city leaders began the arduous process of balancing the city's many needs vs. the burden on its taxpayers.

The budget discussion was the first of a series designed to create a city budget for the 2024 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

The topic of increasing the homestead exemption, which would in turn decrease the tax burden for residents who own their homes, was brought up last year, but it was too far

along in the budget process to take any action.

Pros include a potential boost in the housing market and home improvements, city staff said.

The current homestead exemption is 2.5 percent, on average about \$7,425 per home.

Increasing that to 3 percent would bump the average exemption up to roughly \$8,900. A 5 percent homestead exemption would mean an average exemption of \$14,850.

The cons, however, are that it would shift the cost burden to businesses.

"I'm concerned for our small businesses, and large businesses, about the burden we are putting on them," Councilman Tony Carbone

said. It would also push up the no-new-revenue rate and voter approval rates to make up the difference in revenue, staff said, requesting numbers on how the homestead exemption increases would affect other properties.

"If those properties are getting a higher homestead exemption, then the rate to generate the same amount of dollars (as the prior year) would be higher," City Manager Trent Epperson said.

"It costs what it costs to run the city, and you have to bring in a certain level of revenue," Chief Financial Officer Amy Buckert Johnson told the council.



## SCHS Team Liopleurodons shine at SeaPerch competition

Team Liopleurodons from Shadow Creek High School demonstrated remarkable skill and ingenuity at the international SeaPerch competition, which took place at the University of Maryland, College Park, on May 13.

The team earned a number of impressive accolades including a second-place finish in the obstacle course and third-place finish in the mission course which showcased their precision and teamwork. Additionally, they earned the Real time innovation-High School Fan favorite team award.

Team members include, Arnav Gadde, Rohan Gijupalli, Dersh Bhakta, Arjun Godavarthi, Praneel Bhagavatula, Ishan Patel, Arnav Godavarthi

SeaPerch is a remotely operated vehicle (ROV), a competition, and a community. The program guides students on building an underwater robot while supplying educators with the tools and training to help them through the process.

For more information, visit <https://seaperch.org>.

# Alvin ISD appoints assistant principals

Alvin ISD appointed five new assistant principals May 9 — with their campuses to be determined.

"We have several openings because of different promotions throughout the district or retirements," Alvin ISD Superintendent Carol Nelson said. "At a later date, we will assign them a campus, but first we want to get them on board as assistant principal."

Assistant principal appointments were: Alana Ademe, administrative intern and testing coordinator at Alvin ISD's RISE Academy; Justine Blackwell, a teacher at Passmore Elementary; Jacob Chavavaria, teacher at Nelson Elementary; Nayeli Hernandez, math instructional coach at Pasadena ISD; and Jacqueline Butteris, ELA reading coach at Alvin Elementary.

# Multifamily among options for Fite Road

By N. BRADFORD  
Reporter News Staff

A feedback session this month covered potential uses for a nearly 10-acre tract on Fite Road just east of Manvel Road, including urban apartments.

"These are smaller, urban type apartments, not necessarily large family apartments," explained Mona Malone of Infinity Real Estate Group, representing the owner and developer of the site. "The developer is willing to work with the city."

Initially proposed are two buildings with 240 living units plus green space and amenities. Malone described the proposed use during a May 8 joint workshop with city council and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The workshop is the first step in applying for a zone change needed to move forward, as well as providing feedback from city leaders.

To move forward, the apartment plan would need a rezone from single family residential to planned development.

"Our next step is speaking to (nearby) resi-

**"With citizens you don't know what you'll get as far as reaction to an apartment complex."**

- Derrell Isenberg, Planning and Zoning

dents," Malone said. "We didn't want to stir things up if this wasn't something that was going to move forward."

Amenities proposed include a coffee shop open to the public, clubhouse and pool, fitness center, walking trail and electric charging station for residents.

Feedback at the workshop was lukewarm. Potential expressed during the workshop included traffic, particularly due to its proxim-

ity to the Pearland Area Dad's Club on Fite Road.

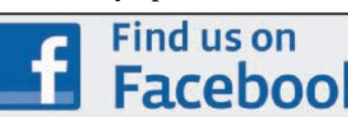
"I looked at it this weekend," Planning and Zoning Commissioner Derrell Isenberg. "With citizens you don't know what you'll get as far as reaction to an apartment complex. The school districts and others have spoken about more affordable living in Pearland. I do question the location just strictly because of the traffic."

The tract is currently surrounded by single family developments.

"The next step is reaching out to the neighbors, in term of how much time and effort you want to spend on this vs. townhomes or something less dense," Councilman Tony Carbone told the developer.

"It's the urban type living we're looking for, not sure if this is the location," Mayor Kevin Cole said.

Visit us at [www.myreporternews.com](http://www.myreporternews.com)

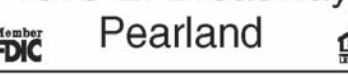


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# AREA BRIEFS

## Open house covers 'History in Bricks'

Brazoria County Historical Museum hosts an open house Saturday, May 20, for the exhibit, "History in Bricks." The 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. event will include master builders from the Brazos and Houston Brick Clubs will be on hand to talk about their special pieces. Classes will also be held to teach secret techniques to those who wish to become master builders.

"History in Bricks" includes various historical sites depicting both Texas and local Brazoria County history. These include the Alamo, Fort Velasco the San Jacinto monument. Builders of these pieces will be available to answer questions.

The Brazos Brick Club will host two classes during the event. An 11 a.m. session titled "Foliage" covers new creating landscaping such as trees and flowers.

A 1 p.m. session titled "Parts Usage" covers using various Lego pieces in new ways.

The museum is located at 100 East Cedar in Angleton and admission is free. For information, call 979-313-0284.

## Five locals among Merit Scholars

Five Pearland students are among National Merit Scholars in 2023.

The Illinois-based National Merit Scholarship Corp. selected 2,500 designees from a pool of more than 15,000 finalists in the program.

Scholars were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors based on academic records, scores from the Preliminary SAT, contributions and leadership in school and community, an essay written by each finalist and a recommendation written by a high school official.

Pearland area National Merit Scholars are Sophie F. Adams of Pearland High School, Alexander Adkins of St. John's School in Houston, Andrew C. Mooney of Shadow Creek High School, and Faith Victoria Ni and James L. Williams III, both of Dawson High School.

## County begins mosquito spraying

Brazoria County began its annual mosquito spraying program this week with trucks circulating in Pearland and Alvin.

Aerial spraying is also being used to control mosquitos, which can spread viruses.

Daily spraying schedules will be posted on the county website at [brazoriacountytx.gov](http://brazoriacountytx.gov).

Schedules are posted by 4 p.m. but ay change due to weather or other unforeseen reasons.

## Hurricane season expo set June 17

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

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

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

## Zydeco highlights concert series

Marcus Ardoin and the Zydeco Legendsz will highlight the Concerts in the Park series this Friday at Southdown Park, 2150 Countryplace Parkway.

Admission to the 7 p.m. show is free and guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnics. Pets must be on a leash, and glass and smoking are prohibited in the park.

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

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

## Save date for popular BBQ fundraiser

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

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

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

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

## Signups open for adult softball

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

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

More information and registration is available at [Pearlandparks.com](http://Pearlandparks.com).

## Boat turn-in program scheduled

A free turn-in program for inoperable boats will be May 30 through June 3 at the Clear Lake Park Community Center parking lot, 5002 NASA Road 1 in Seabrook.

Hosted by Texas Parks and Wildlife and Harris County, the event is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. all five days and is free of charge for anyone wanting to dispose of an inoperable vessel. The state sponsors the removal of al fuel, oil and batteries and Parks and Wildlife verifies ownership and clears vessels for disposal.

For information, call 713-274-2222.

## Lineup announced for country showcase

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

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

For more information, go to [VisitPearland.com/CountryMusicShowcase](http://VisitPearland.com/CountryMusicShowcase).



# FAITH MATTERS

By Rev. Dr. Brian Gige

## WORDS TO LIVE BY

*"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." - Romans 12:9-13*

What words do you live by? There are so many, and they come from all over the place. I have an old friend from college when asked, "did you ever learn anything from your parents?" replies, "yep, my dad taught me... 'always move toward the ball', 'never play for an inside straight' and 'it never hurts to be nice.'" I'm not sure who made those up but they're helpful... and my friend's dad was a faithful man!

And at the same time... there is always someone who's goal is to provide you with some unsolicited advice like when another friend's mom told him... "big boys don't cry" after he fell out of a tree and broke his leg. Now I have yet to break a bone in all my years but I'm told it really hurts and so she not only lied... she lied twice... because a little guy who falls out of a tree is not a 'big boy' and I have cried many times since becoming one... having learned it's actually very healthy for a person's body when we do...

Some of the words we live by are ancient and trustworthy... like my grandmother used to say warn when she could see the underside of the leaves on the trees as the wind would pick up outside the house... "there's a storm a brewin'..." which meant we needed to pick up our toys in the yard so we would have them for another day... and although my grandmother never set foot on a sailing vessel she would often remark at a beautiful sunset... "pink sky in the morning... sailors take warning... pink sky at night... sailors delight..." as it seems my grandmother was sensitive to life's storms more than some others... and you most likely have a pocketful of phrases too that compliment your day to day thoughts and actions... and if you are

of a mind to do so... allow me to invite you to share some of them to my email address below...

When I go strolling through the holy scriptures it doesn't take me long to figure out God is good and God's people have a penchant for wanting to be God or notice that others don't care about God at all... as many church historians have claimed the Bible to be 'the history of the mighty acts of God' echoing the words of the Psalmist... "Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; with a greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts." (Psalm 145: 3-4) while at the same time provides an account of human foolishness and disregard for one another... noting even today how this world remains full of people who try each day to build up their community while others are seeking to tear it apart. Faith matters and the words we live by point the way we go...

And please allow me to say this... there are many books I have in my library which help me take a crack at living well and being part of the building up of my community and the world... and if I had to stack them up... it would be a pretty tall thing with the Holy Bible ( holy = 'set apart' and Bible = 'book') being on the bottom of that stack... foundational to all those above... but I've found it better to keep my Bible on top of that stack... open and ready to define my life and provide direction and encouragement... with words the ancient Israelites lived by before there even was a holy book... "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your strength and all your mind..." (Deuteronomy 6:4ff) hating evil and practicing a hospitality of loving our neighbors the way we love ourselves... What words do you live by?

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](mailto:godworks247365@gmail.com).

# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DAYLILY FLOWER SHOW AND PLANT SALE



Presented by the Lone Star Daylily Society

Saturday, May 20, 2023

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pearland, Texas 77581

Plant Sale: 10:00 a.m. – Sold Out  
Flower Show: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

[www.lonestardaylilysociety.org](http://www.lonestardaylilysociety.org)

# Hurricane & Disaster Preparedness Expo

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023  
BRAZORIA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
901 S. DOWNING, ANGLETON

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

## Presentations Topics On:



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



GENERATOR SAFETY



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR PETS



PREPARING YOUR YARD FOR HURRICANE SEASON

## ACTIVITIES

Emergency Preparedness Exhibitors Booths

Free Hot Dogs  
\*While Supplies Last\*

Free Admission and Parking

Emergency Vehicle Displays

Door Prizes & Goody Bags  
\*While Supplies Last\*

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



## Expo Provided By:

City of Alvin City of Angleton City of Lake Jackson City of Clute Velasco Drainage District  
Homeland Preparedness Project Brazoria County Office of Emergency Management

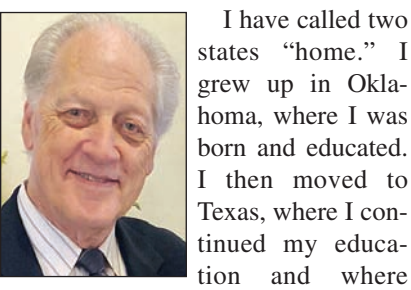
IF YOU NEED ANY INFORMATION OR WOULD LIKE TO BE AN EXHIBITOR, CONTACT SHARON TROWER, BRAZORIA COUNTY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, AT 979-864-1596.

# SPORTS

## From the Cluttered Desk

by Dr. David Davis

### State of mind



I have called two states "home." I grew up in Oklahoma, where I was born and educated. I then moved to Texas, where I continued my education and where

three of my four children were born. Recently, I got an e-mail from a friend entitled, "You know you're from Oklahoma if..."

After having lived in Oklahoma for 24 years, I recognize the peculiar differences that belong only in Oklahoma.

This e-mail pointed out several things that are quite true. You know you're from Oklahoma if:

1. You can properly pronounce Eufaula, Gotebo, Okemah, and Chickasha.

2. A tornado warning siren is your signal to go out in the front yard and look for a funnel.

3. You know in which state Miami (Oklahoma) is and in which state Miami-ee (Texas and Florida) is.

4. You aren't surprised to find ammunition and bait all in the same store. (I am proud to live in a state that pioneered the "all-in-one" convenience store concept).

5. You know that everything goes better with ranch dressing. (As long as I have lived in Texas, everyone knows that everything goes better with ketchup or Chick-fil-A sauce).

6. You know you are an Okie if you have used the word "fix'n" in the last 12 months—plus a hundred other one-syllable words.

7. It doesn't bother you to use an airport named Will Rogers after a man who died in an airplane crash.

8. You believe "Little Smokies" should only be served on special occasions.

9. You know that cowpies are not made from beef.

10. You have seen people wearing bib overalls at funerals.

11. You know a couple who has used an OU, OSU or high school football schedule to plan their wedding date.

12. Last but not least, you know you are from Oklahoma if you refer to the capital of Oklahoma as "The City."

There is a Bible verse that says, "Not that I speak in respect of want; for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

I don't think that was referring to the state you live in, but it does remind us that no matter what state or situation in life we are facing — we need to develop a sense of contentment in life.

When I was growing up — there used to be an expression — "If the creek don't rise." That was a mild type of contentment.

But the phrase "If the creek don't rise" was also related more to the commitments we were willing to make in life.

In other words — I'll do a certain thing "If the creek don't rise."

I found out early in life not to count on people who are not willing to make a more meaningful commitment than this.

For creeks do rise — you can count on it!

In order for life to be meaningful — we are to honor our commitments that will lead us to contentment.

The Texans at the Alamo made a life commitment. They took their stand despite the odds and the outcome. They were willing to stand together regardless of what the creek did.

The above words certainly apply to all who have been on a journey for a long time.

You can't buy integrity, character, and honesty. Those three words can be greatly tested when we are facing a rising creek.

In the end, it is commitment that will either win out or be compromised. And above all — our integrity, character, and honesty should never have a price tag!

Old friend Robert said, "I believe in integrity. Dogs have it. Humans are sometimes lacking it."

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Twitter: @drdavis111

## No. 4 Lady Oilers move past Kingwood in sweep 9-6, 1-0

By DR. DAVID DAVIS  
Reporter News Staff

No. 4 state-ranked Pearland was challenged by a talented Kingwood softball squad that forced the Lady O's to play their best to win the best-of-three series in the Class 6A Region III quarterfinals 9-6 and 1-0 at La Porte High School.

In the first game, Pearland jumped out to a 7-0 lead and appeared to be on their way to an easy first game win but Kingwood (31-8) wasn't going to go down so easy.

Pearland scored three runs in the top of the first inning and added two more in the second for a 5-0 advantage.

The Lady Oilers tacked on two more runs in the fourth to give them the 7-0 bulge but then Kingwood cut the lead to 7-2 with a pair of runs in the fifth and then cut the lead to 7-6 with four more runs in the sixth.

Pearland senior shortstop Kristyn Whitlock, a Sam Houston State signee, crushed a

three-run homer to center field in the top of the first inning. Leadoff hitter Hailey Golden walked before No. 2 hitter Kaylee Schweitzer reached on an error, allowing Golden to advance to third for the 3-0 lead.

Pearland widened the advantage to 5-0 in the second inning.

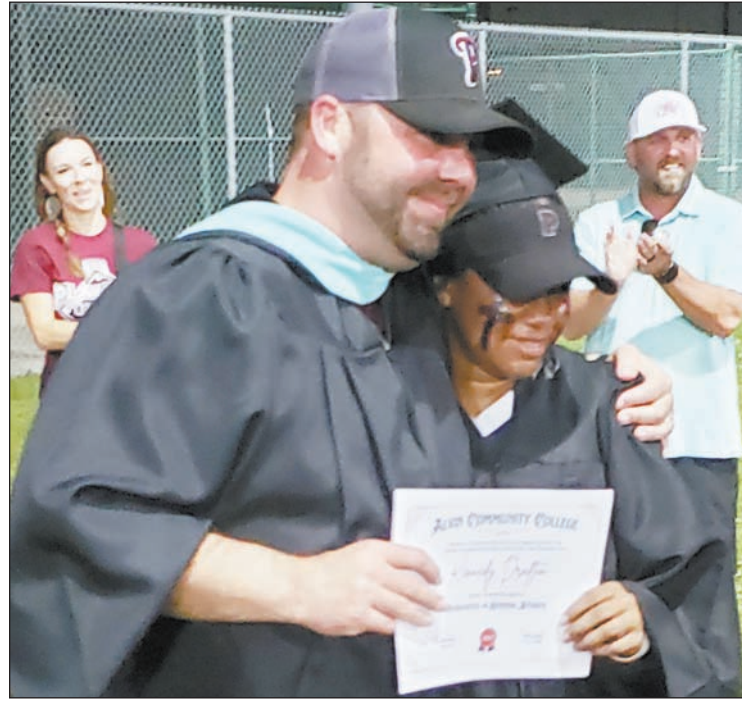
Golden's opposite field triple to left scored Darian DeLeon, who led off with a single. Golden, a Texas A&M signee, then came home on a Drafton single to left.

The Lady Oilers made it 7-0 in the fourth on a two-run single from Schweitzer.

Pearland received run-scoring doubles from Whitlock and Lydia Njus in the seventh to pull away to its 15th consecutive win 9-6.

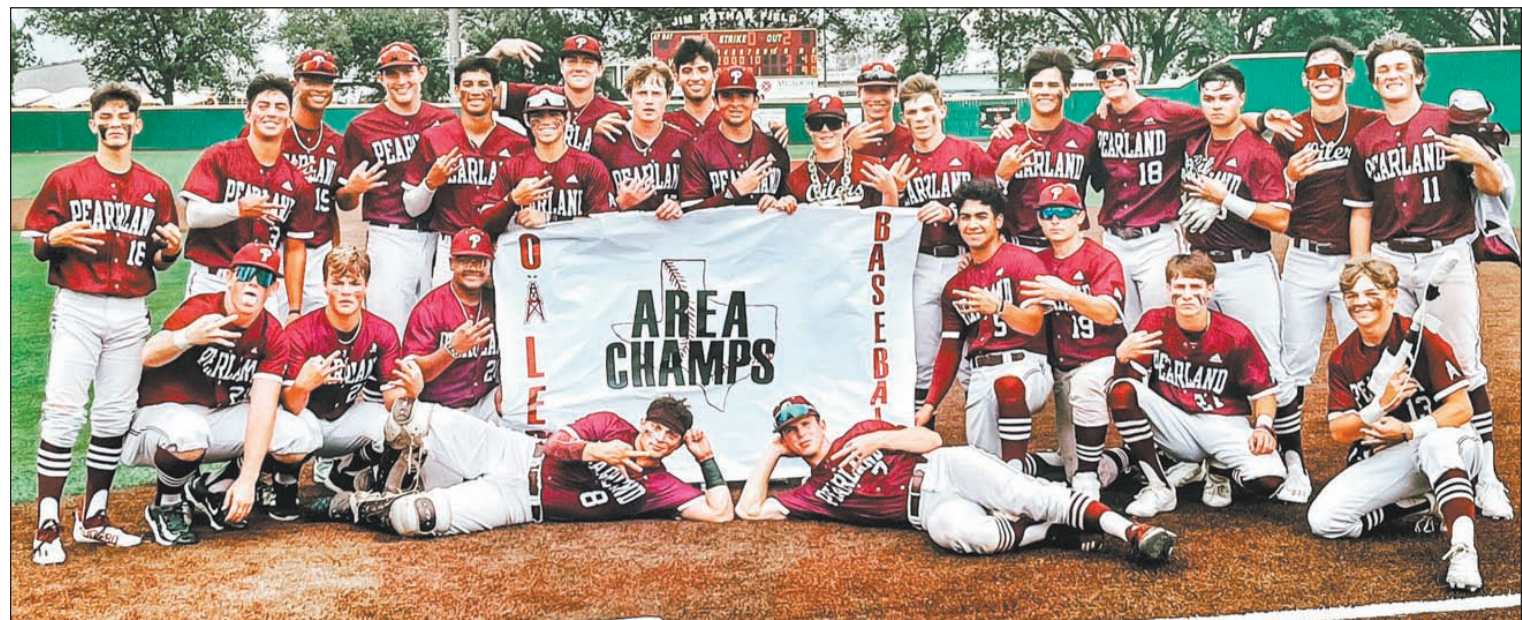
"Seven-run leads are never safe when you're playing teams as good as Kingwood," Pearland head coach Laneigh Clark said.

"It's part of the game. I think the kids came back in the seventh after realizing they had taken off



**SURPRISE PRESENTATION** - Pearland senior Kennedy Drafton received her Associate Degree from Alvin Community College after the Lady Oilers defeated Kingwood 1-0 in the region softball quarterfinals. Pearland principal John Palombo made the surprise presentation as Drafton was surrounded by her teammates, family and fans.

Photo by Dr. David Davis



**PEARLAND ADVANCES** - Pearland defeated Atascocita 2-1 in a best-of-three series to advance to the 6A Region III quarterfinals where they will face the Clear Falls Knights.

Photo by Lloyd Henricks

## Pearland gets past Atascocita in best-of-three close series

By DR. DAVID DAVIS  
Reporter News Staff

It took all three games of the Class 6A Region III best-of-three series between the Pearland Oilers and the Atascocita Eagles but the Oilers pulled out the third and final game 4-3 after eight innings.

Pearland won the first playoff game in easy fashion 8-0 as the Oilers scored a run in the second, two runs in the third, one run in the sixth and blew that game open with four more runs in the top of the seventh for the 8-0 rout.

Nicholas Partida went the distance on the mound as he allowed no runs, four hits, struck out four while walking one. He threw 94 pitches in a masterful demonstration of control against a very good team.

Meanwhile, Pearland scattered 11 hits that included two doubles and one triple to plate eight runs.

Leading hitters for the Oilers was Isaiah

Castaneda who went 3-for-4 at the plate, scored two runs, drove in three runs while hitting a double and a triple. Caden Ferraro was 2-for-4 and had two RBIs while Anthony Avalos was 1-for-4 with two runs and one RBI.

### ATASCOCITA 7 - PEARLAND 6

The second game in the series was completely opposite of the first game as Atascocita jumped on the Oilers for a 7-0 advantage after two innings.

Pearland starting pitcher Ryler Smart pitched only 1.1 innings before Jaden Barfield stepped on the mound in relief with one out in the second inning.

Smart allowed two hits, five runs, struck out two and walked three before Barfield took over.

Barfield did his job as he allowed two runs, four hits, struck out 13 and walked a pair for 5.2 innings.

The Oilers offense woke in the second

inning with four runs to cut the margin to 7-4.

While Barfield was holding the Eagles scoreless, Pearland added a run in the fourth and the sixth to move with 7-6 but that is as close as the Oilers would get to come up short to force a third and deciding game.

Leading hitters for Pearland included Texas A&M commit Caden Ferraro (3-for-4, 1 run, 1 RBI, 2B) and Nicholas Partida (1-for-3, 1 run, 4 RBIs, 1HR).

### PEARLAND 4 - ATASCOCITA 3

Pearland was tested to the limit and then some as Atascocita took the Oilers to an extra frame before Pearland came up with the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning to beat the Eagles 4-3.

Nicholas Partida, who was the winning pitcher in Game One, opened up the eighth with a single to centerfield after Atascocita tied the game 3-3 when they scored a run in

See PEARLAND, Page 5



**SAFE AT THIRD** - Pearland's Hailey Golden is safe at third after the Kingwood pitcher threw a wild pitch to home plate in the third inning. Golden was stranded at third but the Lady Oilers finally scored in the sixth inning to win the game 1-0 to sweep the best-of-three series.

Photo by Dr. David Davis

a couple of innings.

"They realized how important it was to put some more runs on the board. They found out tonight that every at-bat in the playoffs matters."

Pearland starting pitcher Abigail Gutierrez, who pitched four no-hit innings, was replaced by Isela Flores in the sixth.

Gutierrez then re-entered the game on a 3-2 pitch, struck out Hailey Laney, and eventually retired Lanie Macicek on a 4-3 groundout.

Drafton then tripled to start the seventh and was doubled home by Whitlock for an 8-6 score.

Njus followed with a double to right-center to bring home the final Pearland run.

Gutierrez retired the side in order in the seventh for the 1-0 series lead.

Leading hitters for Pearland were: Golden (2-for-3, 3 runs, 1 RBI, 3B), Schweitzer (1-for-3, 1 run, 2 RBIs), Drafton (2-for-4, 1 run, 1 RBI, 3B), Whitlock (2-for-4, 1 run, 4 RBIs, 1HR, 2B), and Njus (2-for-4, 1 RBI, 2B).

PEARLAND 1 -

### KINGWOOD 0

Pearland senior pitcher Abigail Gutierrez and Kingwood senior pitcher Meredith Schmitt were locked in a pitcher's duel for six innings before the Lady Oilers got the only run of the game to grab a 1-0 win over the Lady Mustangs to advance to the Class 6A Region III semifinals.

Gutierrez allowed only three Kingwood hits, four strikeouts, and one walk while Schmitt gave up four hits, 1 run, while striking out three and walking two.

Pearland's lone run came in the bottom of the sixth inning when Kennedy Drafton opened the frame with a walk, moved to second on a sacrifice by Kristyn Whitlock, advanced to third on a Raenna Liscano ground out to shortstop, and scored on a Trinity Perry RBI single to centerfield for a 1-0 lead.

Kingwood opened the seventh with a walk but Gutierrez got the next three batters to fly out and ground out to preserve the 1-0 win.

Pearland (35-3) moves on in the 6A Region III playoffs to face Bellaire in the region semifinals.

# SPORTS

## Friendswood diamondmen take care of Milby to advance

By DR. DAVID DAVIS  
Reporter News Staff

The No. 3 state-ranked Friendswood Mustangs dropped the Milby Buffaloes 9-1 in their first game of the Class 5A Region III best-of-three series at Goose Creek Memorial High School.

The Mustangs took a 3-0 first inning lead thanks to Collin Goolsby who blasted a three-run homer.

Milby managed to score a run in the bottom of the first to close the gap to 3-1, but the Mustangs got an RBI double from Dawson Hinson in the second inning and Boots Landry scored on an error to make the score 5-1.

Friendswood was able to jump in Milby's starting pitcher Arthur Perez who was their ace.

"That was our plan," said Mustangs coach Cory Benavides. "We were hoping we could get on him early because he's a very good pitcher."

Landry added an RBI double in the fourth while a wild pitch and a two-run single from Goolsby in the top of the sixth provided extra insurance.

Easton Tumis took the hill for the Mustangs and pitched six innings of one-run ball, striking out eight.

"We hung in there and fought," he said. "We got a lot of good pitches to hit late in counts. That's a testament to our guys."

### FRIENDSWOOD 17 - MILBY 4

Milby surprised Friendswood when they jumped on the Mustangs for an early 4-1 lead in the second game of the best-of-three series, but a mature and patient Friendswood team didn't panic as they rallied to blow out the Buffaloes by scoring 16 unanswered runs to get a 17-4 playoff win in a series sweep.

"There was a calm demeanor," said Friendswood coach Cory Benavides when he replaced starting pitcher Houston Rhodes in the top of the third. "I wasn't going to yell at them. I just needed them to be calm, and that's the confidence they have in themselves."

Rhodes allowed just two hits, but a defensive lapse led to a pair of runs in the top of the first before Arthur Perez's opposite field homer gave Milby a 4-1 lead.

The Milby crowd got a wave of overcon-

fidence and began to chant "overrated" to the Friendswood faithful which turned out to be a huge mistake as the Mustangs thrashed Milby the rest of the way.

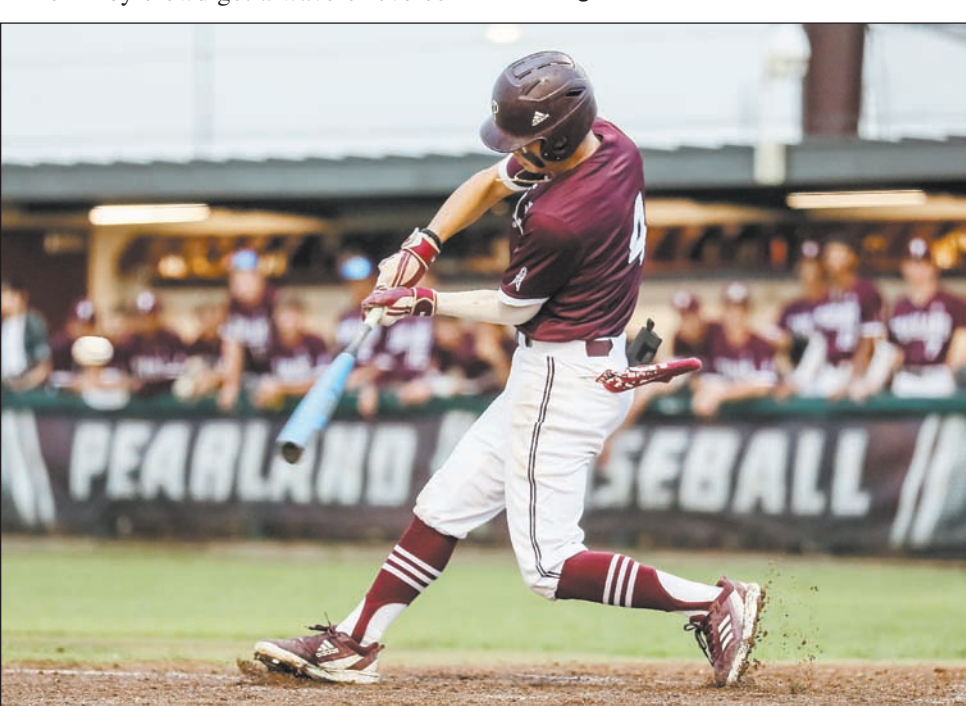
The Mustangs scored nine times in the bottom of the third, with the key hit being an RBI triple from Blake Encarnacion that was followed by a run-scoring single from Peyton Adams and an RBI double from Ayden Percy to give Friendswood a 10-4 lead.

The offensive frenzy continued in the bottom of the fourth. Ryan Duncan blasted a three-run homer to left field before Boots Landry smashed a bases-clearing triple and Dane Perry's sacrifice fly finally put the finishing touches on the Mustangs' 17-4 win.

The Mustangs move on to face Barbers Hill in a three-game series beginning on Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. Game 2 will be Friday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. Game 3 (if needed) will be on Saturday, May 20 at 1:00 p.m. All games will be played at Deer Park High School.



**CROSSING THE PAYSTATION** - Friendswood's Ayden Percy crosses the plate to help the Mustangs to a 17-4 thrashing of the Milby Buffaloes to sweep the best-of-three series and advance to the third round of the Class 5A Region III baseball playoffs. The Mustangs move on to face Barbers Hill in a three-game series beginning on Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. Game 2 will be Friday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. Game 3 (if needed) will be on Saturday, May 20 at 1:00 p.m. All games will be played at Deer Park High School.



**SERIES WINNING HIT** - Oiler junior outfielder Bubba Moya put the ball in play vs Atascocita last week. Moya was the hero for the Oilers as he hit .300 over the three-game series with two RBIs, including the series-clinching RBI in the eighth inning that scored Franco Aguilar from third base. The Oilers advance to the 6A Region III quarterfinals where they will face the Clear Falls Knights in a best-of-three series. Games One and Two will be 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 18 and Friday, May 19 with Game Three at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 (if necessary). All games will be played at Channelview HS.

## Pearland continued from Page 4

the top of the seventh.

Braeden Morse sacrificed Partida to second and then courtesy runner Franco Aguilar replaced Partida at second.

Anthony Avalos flew out to centerfield which moved Aguilar to third base as the winning run.

Junior John Moya then followed with a two-out line drive single to right field which prompted a bench-clearing celebration as Aguilar crossed the pay station with the winning run 4-3.

Pearland scored two runs in the first inning but Atascocita answered with a pair in the third frame to tie up the game.

After the Oilers took a 3-2 lead in the fifth, the Eagles tied up the game in the seventh that sent the game into an extra inning.

"This is the reason you're in high school

baseball for games like this," Pearlland head coach David Rogers said. "It was a game about guts. Caden hadn't pitched a whole lot this year and he gutted it out for 90 something pitches.

"We didn't want to run in certain situations today because Caden has been hitting the ball so well and we wanted to give him opportunities to come through, and boy he did that. John Moya came up and was the hero, but today was about more than one guy. And that's what it will take every game for us."

The Oilers advance to the 6A Region III quarterfinals where they will face the Clear Falls Knights in a best-of-three series. Games One and Two will be 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 18 and Friday, May 19 with Game Three at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 (if necessary). All games will be played at Channelview HS.



Brazoria Chapter of Master Naturalists John Boettiger, membership, and President Kathy Pittman (right) congratulates Chris Kneupper who was recognized at the recent meeting for having 5,000 volunteer hours.

## Master Naturalists meet, learn about birds of prey

By RICHARD SCHAFFHAUSEN  
*Special to the Reporter News*

The Brazoria chapter of Texas Master Naturalist held their monthly meeting Wednesday, May 10 at the AgriLife building in Angleton.

John Boettiger, membership chairman, reported that Dennis Charleton, Pam Lewis, Mel McKey, and Kristine Rivers recertified. To recertify, members must have 8 hours of advanced training and 40 volunteer hours.

Boettiger also reported that Chris Kneupper attained 5,000 and Rose Wagner attained 500 volunteer service hours. Kneupper was a member of the 2013 intern class and was instrumental in the establishment of GCBO's plant nursery. He is very involved with assorted historical societies in the area, and he has led any number of nature walks since 2013.

This year members have impacted 3,011 adults and 9,960 youth through outreach programs and educational programs such as

the "Birds of Prey" programs presented at area schools, Brazoria County Summer Library Programs and the Discovery Environmental Education Program for area 4th and 7th graders at Brazoria NWR.

Carla J Dove presented the evening program "Bird Detectives". Dove is the Program Manager, Feather Identification Lab at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. One of Carla's responsibilities is to ID birds involved with an airplane strike. By knowing the bird or birds involved in a collision, airport personnel can alter whatever habitat the birds are attracted to thus making it less desirable. Airplane /bird collisions cost the industry hundreds of million dollars a year.

The next meeting will be 8:30 am June 14 at the AgriLife building Angleton. Visitors are welcome. For more information on becoming a Texas Master Naturalist: <https://txmn.org/tmncot/>

## Summer Reading Challenge starts June 1

Join in the fun with Brazoria County Library System's annual Summer Reading Challenge for all ages beginning on June 1. This year's theme is *All Together Now*, which focuses on putting "unity in community" and programs in our branches will be both fun and entertaining.

Reading prizes will be available for everyone! To participate and earn prizes, each age group will need to reach their reading goals. To qualify, children need to read 15 hours, teens for 20 hours, and adults can even get in on the fun by reading 30 hours. Reading times can be logged in several different ways: on the free Beanstack Tracker app, online at [bclstx.beanstack.org](http://bclstx.beanstack.org) or by requesting a paper log at your nearest BCLS library branch. This summer, all ages will be able to earn an e-Ticket to put into a County Grand Prize drawing. This year's grand prizes include a Kindle Fire tablet with cover, a game set or a LEGO Brick Bundle with books. Once the challenge is

completed, keep reading for additional opportunities for prizes.

Some great programs coming to multiple branches include the *Texas A&M Chemistry Roadshow*, *Chicks to Children* with Texas A&M AgriLife, and *Texas Reptiles* presented by the Texas Master Naturalists-Cradle of Texas Chapter. Multiple branches will also host fun programs like *The Reading Magic Show* with John O'Bryant, and *Domino's Dough Show*. To find out when and where these programs will be presented, check out the Summer Reading Challenge page on the BCLS website.

Each library branch will also be offering weekly Storytimes. To find dates, times and topics at your library branch, visit their website, Facebook page, refer to their calendars, or call the branch.

For information about reading prizes and summer programs check out "Summer Reading Challenge" on our website, [mybcls.org](http://mybcls.org).

## PISD celebrates Better Hearing, Speech Month

In honor of Better Hearing and Speech Month in May, Pearland Independent School District recognizes its professional speech-language pathologists (SLPs) for supporting the academic success of students with hearing and communication challenges.

Pearland ISD's 21 SLPs help prevent, identify, assess and treat speech and language problems that impact students' achievement. Better Hearing and Speech Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and the role of the Pearland ISD SLPs in providing life-altering treatment.

"Speech-language pathologists work with people every day in settings that include schools, private practices, health care facilities and even their own homes to improve their client's speech, language, social and cognitive skills," said Pearland ISD lead SLP Mary Kate Puna.

According to many SLPs working with children aged from birth to 5 years old, over the past two years, there has been an increase in referrals for concerns about hearing, speech, and language delays. In addition, SLPs polled by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), note an increasing number of children with behavioral, social, and language difficulties and with undetected hearing loss. Factors contributing to these increased referrals include limited opportunities for social interaction and play with peers, limited preschool/daycare interaction, and increased use of screentime on tablets and smartphones compared to the pre-pandemic years.

munication disorders and provide early intervention to:

**Connect with an early intervention program for birth to 3 years of age.** Families don't need a referral from a pediatrician to connect with their early intervention program. Find contacts by state at this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/parents/states.html>

**Focus on daily interactions with your child.** Talking, singing, playing, and reading books together are simple yet immensely effective ways to boost communication and social skills. These activities actually build a child's brain. Birth to 3 years is a time when the brain is most adaptable, but these activities are crucial beyond that period. Limit recreational screen time when possible.

**Plenty of play time.** Free play develops creativity and teaches kids to entertain themselves. No need for screens to keep them busy! Children learn not only by sight and sound but by touch, taste, and smell—senses that screens can't activate.

**How Much Screen Time?**  
The American Academy of Pediatrics makes the following screen time recommendations for toddlers:

Under 18 months: No screen time except for video chatting with loved ones.

18-24 months: A small amount, at most, of high-quality programming, if you choose.

2-5 years: A maximum of 1 hour per day. "Co-view" (watch together) rather than have young children (of any age) use screens while alone.

For more information about supporting language development at home, visit [www.asha.org/public](http://www.asha.org/public). To learn more about Pearland ISD's services, contact Puna at [punam@pearlandisd.org](mailto:punam@pearlandisd.org).

## SOFTBALL/BASEBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULES

CLASS 6A REGION III SOFTBALL SEMIFINALS	CLASS 6A REGION III BASEBALL QUARTERFINALS	CLASS 5A REGION III BASEBALL QUARTERFINALS
Pearland Lady Oilers vs Bellaire Lady Cardinals	Pearland Oilers vs Clear Falls Knights	Friendswood Mustangs vs Barbers Hill Eagles
Game 1: Thursday, May 18 - 7:00 p.m. Game 2: Friday, May 19 - 6:00 p.m. Game 3: (if needed) 30 minutes after Game 2	Game 1: Thursday, May 18 - 7:00 p.m. Game 2: Friday, May 19 - 7:00 p.m. Game 3: (if needed) Saturday, May 20 at 1:00 p.m.	Game 1: Thursday, May 18 - 7:00 p.m. Game 2: Friday, May 19 - 7:00 p.m. Game 3: (if needed) Saturday, May 20 at 1:00 p.m.
All games played at Goose Creek Memorial HS in Baytown	All games will be played at Channelview High School	All games will be played at Deer Park High School

