

THE *Pearland Edition* REPORTER NEWS

Your Independent Local News Source Since 1984

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 47

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

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50 CENTS



Around Town

Thursday, Nov. 24

PEARLAND TURKEY TROT

Pearland Turkey Trot begins with a six-mile route at 7:30 a.m. from Independence Park, followed by a four-mile, one-mile and Kids K run. Awards presented for each age division and entry fees benefit Forever Parks Foundation. Visit pearlandturkeytrot.com.

Friday, Nov. 25

COUNTY LIBRARIES CLOSED

Brazoria County libraries will remain closed for the holidays until Monday, Nov. 28. For more information, visit bcls.lib.tx.us.

HOLIDAY MARKET

Local vendors set up under the Pearland Town Center Pavilion, 11200 Broadway, for a holiday market from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and continuing through the weekend. Hosted by the Texas Shoppers Market, the series of markets ends Dec. 11. For information, visit pearlandtowncenter.com.

Saturday, Nov. 26

TOWN CENTER TREE LIGHTING

Pearland Town Center at 11200 Broadway celebrates its annual tree lighting with a free concert by Houston cover band the Slags, inflatables, swings and seesaws and outdoor games plus fireworks show. Activities will be 6 to 9 p.m. For information, visit pearlandtowncenter.com or call 713-340-0704.

Monday, Nov. 28

KNAPP CENTER ACTIVITIES

Melvin Knapp Activity Center, 2424 South Park Avenue, will hold watercolor painting at 8 a.m., Mahjong at 9 a.m. and line dancing at 9:30 a.m. Membership at the Knapp Center is \$25 per year for Pearland residents and \$50 for non-residents. For information, call 281-652-1890.

COUNCIL MEETING

Pearland City Council holds regular meetings on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3519 Liberty Drive. A period for public comment is provided and agendas are available 72 hours before each meeting at pearlandtx.gov.

Tuesday, Nov. 29

TOTS AND TALES STORYTIME

Pearland Tots and Tales Storytime meets at 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Pearland Library, 3522 Liberty Drive. Call 281-652-1677 or email pearland@bcls.lib.tx.us for information.

Wednesday, Nov. 30

KIDS CRAFT

Pearland Library Kids Craft for Wednesday, Nov. 30 will be Paint-a-Plate starting at 4pm. Create a paper plate masterpiece! Supplies are limited. The library is located at 3522 Liberty Dr.

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

West Pearland Library, 11801 Shadow Creek Parkway, hosts a children's storytime from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Library programs are free and open to the public. For information, call 713-436-0995.

Saturday, Dec. 3

SCHOOL OF MUSIC RECITAL

Pearland School of Music will hold their Fall Recital on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 1 to 7pm at Pearland Town Center, 11200 Broadway.



LADY OILERS WIN GOLD DIVISION OF THE McDONALD'S TEXAS INVITATIONAL

The Pearland Oilers beat Cibolo Steele (52-33), Cy-Fair (40-24), San Antonio Johnson (47-45), Converse Judson (54-52), and Summer Creek (46-39) for the McDonald's Texas Invitational title. The No. 6 state-ranked Lady Oilers are now 12-1 on the season.

'This is a financial hurricane'

Council takes on budget deficit, terminates city manager

By N. BRADFORD

Reporter News Staff

Pearland City Council on Monday heard proposals to band-aid a recently uncovered \$10 million budget shortfall and agreed to appoint a third-party firm to review the events that led to it.

"We have hurricanes that come and go and create a lot of havoc and issues on the ground," Mayor Kevin Cole said, describing the last two weeks. "This is a financial hurricane. It's here and we have to deal with it."

Pearland council members discovered just last month that values from Harris County properties used to build the city's budget were overstated by \$1.3 billion.

"Should we have caught it? Yes. How could we have caught it? I don't know," Cole said. "What did we hear all summer long: Exploding values. Everything is skyrocketing. And our staff did question how did our values go up that much? Questions were being asked."

The goal of the third-party review is to verify how the mistake happened and recommend best practices.

"We're really asking somebody to review the flow of information, how that gets used from one agency to the next, how it's delivered to us," Cole said.

A firm to take on the review is expected to be selected next month.

Monday's five-hour meeting ended with a closed executive session, after which the council voted unanimously to terminate the

contract of City Manager Clay Pearson and appoint Deputy City Manager Trent Epperson as interim city manager effective immediately. Terms or reasons for the separation with Pearson, who has served as city manager for eight years, were not discussed in open forum. Earlier in the meeting, city staff brought

"We have hurricanes that come and go and create a lot of havoc and issues on the ground. This is a financial hurricane. It's here and we have to deal with it."

Pearland Mayor Kevin Cole



forward a proposal that uses both fund balance, American Rescue Plan Act dollars and higher-than-projected interest to shore up the fiscal year budget.

"We did have a very good meeting with the Harris County Appraisal District last week and the Brazoria County Tax Office was in that meeting," Cole said. "During the middle of that meeting is when we discovered what happened. HCAD delivered correct values; it's how you get them applied into the worksheet that ultimately created the flashpoint that led to this."

The error resulted in a revenue shortfall of roughly \$10 million shared between the City of Pearland's general fund, which covers most city day to day services, and debt service fund.

"The tax rate that we did adopt is below the no-new-revenue rate as provided on the corrected tax calculation worksheets," Deputy City Manager Epperson told the council Monday. "The proposed plan does maintain core services, and it does meet creditors' expectations."

The proposed budget amendments do not take the city's fund balance below the required policy of maintaining a minimum of 90 days of expenditures, which had been a concern.

Proposals to balance the city's general fund include delaying vehicle and equipment lease payments for one year, as well as delaying a planned, \$300,000 update to the city's Unified Development Code, a land use guide regularly amended to adapt to growing communities.

"Nobody wants to be here, and some of this is on us," Councilman Tony Carbone said, regarding the city not catching the error. "All these slides we're throwing up we all sat here and saw — 20/20 hindsight."

The proposed budget amendments will be considered for approval next month, with a first reading Dec. 5 and second reading Dec. 12.

"Beyond that we still have to define the impacts on FY 24 and the solutions that we're working on with elected officials to address the mistake that was made in the tax rate calculation sheet," Epperson said.

A website has been set up to answer residents' questions about this issue and can be accessed on the city's site at pearlandtx.gov.

Lighted traditions return for holidays

Tour de Lites among illuminated events

From bike rides to train rides to parades, popular evening events will be lighting up plans this season.

Registration is open for the evening bike ride and hayride through the Green Tea Terrace community that provides a up close view of some of Pearland's most festive holiday light displays at a leisurely pace.

The 39th annual Tour de Lites will be held the evening of Saturday, Dec. 10, in Independence Park. The family friendly ride begins with a decorated bike contest at 4:30 p.m. followed by the one-and-a-half-hour ride. Hosted by and benefitting the nonprofit Forever Parks Foundation, the ride leaves from and returns to the park, 3449 Pearland Parkway. Entry is \$20 per bike and \$5 for each additional family member. T-shirts are guaranteed for those who register by Dec. 1.

To register, visit eventbrite.com and search Tour de Lites 2022.

Lighted parades

Lighted Christmas parades in Pearland and Friendswood are both scheduled for 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3.

Hosted by the City of Pearland, the 40th annual Christmas Parade will proceed along FM 518 beginning at Old Alvin Road and ending at Pearland Parkway. For more information on the parade, call 281-412-8900 or email events@pearland.gov.

Friendswood's parade is hosted by its Chamber of Commerce and part of its Santa in the Park celebration at Stevenson Park. Beginning at Heritage Drive, the parade will turn south on Friendswood Drive or FM 518, and end at the park, 1100 S. Friendswood Drive, where a lighted trail is open to visitors until the end of the year.

The Kemah Boardwalk offers views of the 61st annual Christmas Boat Parade in

Galveston Bay, scheduled Saturday, Dec. 10.

The parade featuring hundreds of festive boats is expected to pass by the boardwalk, 215 Kipp Ave., between 7 and 8 p.m. For information and other events, visit kemah-boardwalk.com.

Christmas Train

A lighted train ride for all ages continues each Saturday at Victory Camp in Alvin.

The Christmas Train is zoo-sized ride through lighted displays that runs from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturdays. Also open on Dec. 21, 22 and 23, the train is located at LS Church, 1407 Victory Lane, Alvin. Other activities include Santa's Speedway Golf Cart rides for \$7 per ticket, the Great Elf Show, photos with Santa, lighted walking trail and concessions.

Train tickets are \$10 to \$12 and must be purchased online or by a mobile device at least 30 minutes before the scheduled ride. Trains depart every seven to 10 minutes and the ride is about 15 minutes. For more information or tickets, visit thechristmastrain.com.

Zoo Lights

Fans of the Houston Zoo won't want to miss the annual Zoo Lights exhibit, which is open from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. most nights, with the last entry at 9:30 p.m.

While the evening holiday event won't provide access to animal exhibits, Zoo Lights includes a 33-foot color-changing holiday tree, a canopy of glowing flowers and butterflies, Santa's Workshop and more.

Tickets start at \$21 and are the same for adults and children with a 20 percent discount for military, first responders and teachers. Entry is timed and tickets can only be purchased online in advance. Parking is at the main zoo entrance at 6200 Hermann Park Drive.

For information visit houstonzoo.org.

Expansion set to be complete in summer

A major expansion under way at Kelsey-Seybold in Pearland is expected to be complete in summer 2023.

Citing a need to keep up with increasing demand for services in Pearland, the clinic broke ground in September for the expansion that will add 27,000 square feet and 17 new providers to the three-story facility at 2515 Business Center Drive.

"We're also expanding that even further in a couple of years to include an ambulatory surgery center and other services in the northern part of Brazoria County," Kelsey-Seybold's director of operations Stuart Cayer told Brazoria County Commissioners during their Nov. 8 regular meeting.

For many years, Brazoria County residents took their medical care needs to Harris County.

"It was not until 2002 that we opened our first clinic in Pearland with 8,000 square feet and six doctors, and we were immediately full," Cayer said.

The Pearland location today has more than 57,000 square feet and 27 doctors. When complete, the expansion will bring those numbers up to 80,000 square feet and 40 providers. Also added will be more space at the pharmacy along with a drive-thru and an additional X-ray machine.

New services to be offered include optometry, ophthalmology, surgery and urology.

In 2013, Kelsey-Seybold's corporate office relocated from Harris to Brazoria County. A clinic in Lake Jackson opened in 2021, and more expansion plans are in the works for northeast, central and south Brazoria County.

"We want to keep the residents and the revenue here in Brazoria County," Cayer said.

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PEARLAND POLICE REPORT

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

Wednesday, Nov. 16

Criminal mischief reported at midnight, 2400 block of Anthony Drive.

An arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia was made at 12:15 a.m., 2500 Pearland Parkway.

A warrant arrest was made at 2:21 a.m., 2800 block of Tranquility Lakes Blvd.

Property was found in the 8400 block of Hughes Ranch Road.

A warrant arrest was made at 9:10 a.m., 11400 Discovery Bay Road.

An arrest was made for misdemeanor assault, 5830 block of Josephine Drive.

Warrant was served at 12:27 p.m., 2300 block of Main St.

Death investigation was conducted at 12:38 p.m., 11500 block of Bay Crossing Drive.

An assault was reported at 12:39 p.m., 2200 block of Garden Road.

A shoplifting arrest was made at 12:51 p.m., 1900 block of Main St.

CPS referral was made at 2 p.m., 10000 block of Broadway St.

A warrant arrest was made at 2:31 p.m., 11200 block of Broadway St.

Crash report was made at 3 p.m., 2000 block of Pearland/Parkway.

Warrant arrests were made between 3 and 4 p.m. at 11200 Broadway St., 15700 South Greenway and 2555 Cullen Parkway.

An arrest for public intoxication was made at 8:15 p.m., 9800 block of Broadway St.

An arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia was made at 4400 Broadway St.

Thursday, Nov. 17

Warrants were served at 1 a.m. at 2555 Cullen Parkway and 1400 block of Richmond Parkway.

A death investigation was conducted at 3 a.m., 11100 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.

Criminal mischief was reported at 4 a.m., 1100 block of Oxford Drive.

Criminal mischief reported at 7 a.m., 11100 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.

An assault was reported at 7:55 a.m., 2400 block of Goodrich Drive.

Online impersonation reported at 8:35 a.m. 2500 block of Cullen Parkway.

Warrant was served at

9:17 a.m., 2100 block of Kingsley Drive.

An arrest for assault/family violence was made at 9:27 a.m., 2400 block of Goodrich Drive.

A warrant arrest was made at 10 a.m., 2555 Cullen Parkway.

Two people were charged with failure to maintain financial responsibility at 10:30 a.m., 14000 South Freeway North.

A report of forgery was made at noon, 2500 block of Cullen Parkway.

Report of a terroristic threat was made at 12:35 p.m., 11500 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.

Missing person reported at 1:24 p.m., 1900 block of Riverstone Ranch Drive.

Found property was reported at 2:23 p.m., 8300 block of Broadway St.

Theft reported at 2:41, 1900 block of Main St.

Graffiti reported at 3 p.m., 3200 block of McLean Road.

Warrant arrest was made at 3 p.m., 2200 block of Miller Ranch Road.

Shoplifting arrest was made at 3:16, 1919 Main St.

A death investigation was conducted at 4 p.m., 3500 block of Dixie Farm Road.

A warrant arrest was made at 4 p.m., 1000 Bass Pro Drive.

Arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia at 4:05 p.m., 11201 Broadway St.

Crash report at 4:34 p.m., 14900 block of Highway 288 North.

Vehicle burglaries reported at 6 p.m., 3000 block of Black Rock Lane.

Crashes reported at 7 p.m. in the 2800 block of Business Center Drive and 14900 block of South Freeway.

Aggravated assault was reported at 8:06 p.m., 11000 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.

Found property at 8:09 p.m., 2500 block of Cullen Parkway.

Shoplifting arrest at 8:30 p.m., 1919 Main St.

A death investigation was conducted at 9:09 p.m., 16100 block of South Freeway.

Misdemeanor assault was reported at 9:49 p.m., 1000 block of Vatican Court.

Friday, Nov. 18

Public intoxication reported at 1 a.m., 11100 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.

Crash report at 2:09 a.m., 11700 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.

Public intoxication arrest at 2:41 a.m., 11100 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.

A woman was arrested at

5:13 a.m. for assault causing bodily injury, 2555 Cullen Parkway.

A warrant arrest was made at 10 a.m., 2200 block of Cullen Parkway.

Burglary of vehicles reported at 10:30 a.m., 1900 block of Main St.

Crash report taken at 11:49 a.m., 2100 block of Hatfield Road.

Theft of vehicle parts reported at noon, 4600 block of Dixie Farm Road.

Terroristic threat reported at 12:09 p.m., 2300 block of Galveston Avenue.

Crash reported at 12:34 p.m., 11300 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.

Welfare check at 1:28 p.m., 2300 block of Old Alvin Road.

A shoplifting arrest was made at 2 p.m., 11151 Shadow Creek Parkway.

Crash reported at 3:16 p.m., 10600 block of Hughes Ranch Road.

Crash reported at 3:20 p.m., 11000 block of Broadway St.

Warrant served at 4:05 p.m., 2500 block of Cullen Parkway.

Warrant served at 4:34 p.m., 10900 block of Memorial Hermann Drive.

Crash report at 5 p.m., 1900 block of Meadow Creek Drive.

Interference with child custody reported at 6:06 p.m. 2500, block Cullen Parkway.

Crash report at 6:18 p.m., 2300 block of Smith Ranch Road.

Accident at 16700 block of Highway 288.

An arrest for failure to identify at 7:29 p.m., 4141 Bailey Road.

A man was arrested at 8:44 p.m. for assault causing bodily injury/family member, 3500 block of Pentland Downs St.

Saturday, Nov. 19

Criminal mischief reported at 12:20 a.m., 1300 block of Broadway St.

An arrest for terroristic threat was made at 12:45 a.m., 3500 block of Curley Maple Drive.

Aggravated assault/family violence was reported at 4:30 p.m., 10000 block of Dawn Brook Drive, resulting in one arrest at 5:14 a.m.

A man was arrested at 4:47 a.m. for disorderly conduct and displaying or discharging a firearm, 2555 Cullen Parkway.

Vehicle burglaries reported at 12:45 p.m., 13100 block of Shadow Creek Parkway.

Crash reported at 6:04 p.m., 10900 block of Medical Center Drive.

FRIENDSWOOD POLICE REPORT

NOVEMBER 14 thru NOVEMBER 21

THEFT

Nov. 15 (1:50 p.m.) The owner of Pet Supplies Plus, 1720 S. Friendswood Drive, dropped a check to a vendor in the drop box at the Friendswood Post Office on Nov. 1. On Nov. 14, he was contacted by his bank and advised that a check for more than \$9,000 was cashed and issued to an unknown person in Utica, NY. The check was stolen, then altered.

Nov. 18 (12:53 p.m.) An alert for catalytic converter theft suspects led to the arrest of Robert Lee Littleton, 21, of Houston, and Tyvieve Jacqual McNeil, 27, of Houston. An officer observed the suspect vehicle in the 800 block of N. Friendswood Drive. The white, four-door, BMW, had expired registration and was missing both the front and rear license plates. The vehicle turned into the Whataburger restaurant in the 100 block of N. Friendswood Dr. Littleton exited the back seat and ran. McNeil remained inside the vehicle and was taken into custody. There were three catalytic converters in the back seat along with a reciprocating saw. Littleton ran north from FM 2351 and was apprehended at the Methodist Church. He was in possession of marijuana. Additionally, a gun was recovered along the route that Littleton ran. The largest catalytic converter was still warm and was located alongside a ski mask and black gloves. Officers began checking the area and found that the catalytic converter was stolen from the transport bus belonging to The Beldon. Littleton had an outstanding probation violation warrant. He was also charged with Theft, Evading on Foot, and Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon. McNeil was charged with Theft.

FRAUD

Nov. 14 (12:01 p.m.) A Friendswood man is the victim of identity theft. An electricity account was opened using his personal identifying information. The account is in collections.

Nov. 14 (6:47 p.m.) A Friendswood woman is the victim of identity theft. She discovered that a bank account was opened using her personal information. Once she realized the identity theft had occurred, she looked through some junk mail she kept and found a debit card that she had not applied for.

Nov. 16 (10:44 a.m.) A

Friendswood woman found a suspicious transaction on her bank statement. The transaction was made online to the City of Houston. The transaction was unauthorized.

Nov. 16 (3:23 p.m.) A Friendswood man's debit card was compromised and used to make recurring vitamin purchases.

Nov. 17 (9:51 a.m.) A Friendswood man received three emails and a text message about a checking account that was opened through Capital One. His personal information was used to open the account, but it was immediately closed.

Nov. 17 (3:30 p.m.) A Friendswood woman received a text message from Capital One thanking her for updating her mobile number. She soon discovered that an account was opened using her personal identifying information and without her permission.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Nov. 19 (11:57 a.m.) A Door Dash driver is responsible for damaging a garage door in the 3300 block of Sussex Way. The victim heard a loud noise, observed the Door Dash driver back up in the driveway, and getting out to leave the food delivery. The Door Dash driver never contacted the homeowner before leaving.

Nov. 20 (12:03 a.m.) A disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Stratmore Dr. The resident's ex-husband was banging on the front door and broke out a rear window on a vehicle. The suspect left the residence before officers arrived.

ASSAULT

Nov. 18 (7:11 p.m.) A 49-year-old Friendswood man was charged with Assault Causing Bodily Injury. He was accused of assaulting his neighbor in the 300 block of Brigadoon Lane. The suspect was intoxicated.

NARCOTICS

Nov. 15 (1:07 a.m.) A 33-year-old woman from Houston was charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. She was stopped for driving in the opposing lane of traffic in the 5000 block of FM 2351. During the contact, the officer detected the smell of marijuana. A search of the vehicle yielded cocaine residue. In addition to the drug paraphernalia charge, the woman had three outstanding Friendswood warrants.

Nov. 20 (4:20 p.m.) A 22-year-old Alvin man was charged with Possession of

a Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 1, Possession of a Controlled Substance in Penalty Group 3, and Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon. Guillory was driving in the 1600 block of W. Parkwood Ave. with an expired temporary license plate. During the contact, the officer detected the strong smell of marijuana. The driver advised the officer of a weapon in the driver's side door and exited the vehicle. A search of the vehicle yielded marijuana, a gun, Xanax, and Ecstasy.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED

Nov. 18 (2:36 a.m.) A 27-year-old Alvin woman was charged with Driving While Intoxicated in the 2300 block of W. Parkwood Ave. The driver was stopped for speeding. She exhibited signs of intoxication and failed a field sobriety test.

Nov. 18 (5:57 p.m.) A 57-year-old woman from Dickinson was charged with Driving While Intoxicated - 2nd offense. The driver was involved in a crash in the 100 block of Canal Drive. When officers arrived, the suspect's vehicle was in the ditch, airbags were deployed, and the woman was in the driver's seat. A bottle of vodka was observed inside the vehicle. The woman was taken to a local hospital. She was later released and booked into jail.

Nov. 20 (4:58 a.m.) A witness reported an intoxicated driver in the 100 block of W. Parkwood Ave. An officer located the suspect vehicle, observed the vehicle to swerve from side-to-side and make an unsignaled turn onto Moore Road. As the officer approached the vehicle, he observed vomit down the side of the vehicle, coming from the driver's side window. He exhibited signs of intoxication, failed a field sobriety test, and was charged with Driving While Intoxicated. The smell of alcohol and marijuana was emitting from inside the vehicle. There were open containers of alcohol and marijuana inside the vehicle. A male passenger in the car was charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

TRAFFIC

Nov. 15 (12:38 p.m.) A 37-year-old Houston man was charged with Driving While License Invalid and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was stopped for illegal window tint on his vehicle in the 500 block of E. Edgewood Drive.

Area Briefs

Toys for Tots begins collection

The Toys for Tots holiday 2022 campaign has begun, and new, unwrapped toys and donations are being accepted through the middle December.

Pearland drop-off locations include Chic-fil-A on Broadway, all SportsClips locations, CubeSmart locations, Elite Healthcare, Enclave at Mary's Creek, Goddard School, Houston Swim Club Pearland, Children's Choice, Bogie's Pub and Grill, Attiva, Greater Love Community Church, Ivy Kids Early Learning, two locations of Robin's Nest, all Montessori School of Downtown locations, Pearland Orthodontics, Servpro, Stella at Shadow Creek Ranch, Little Gym of Pearland, Texas First Bank, Reserve at Tranquility Lake, Two Dogs Saloon, U of H Clear Lake-Pearland and more.

Last year the campaign collected and distributed more than 20,800 toys needy children throughout Brazoria County.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is a nonprofit that provides toys to children in the community where each campaign is held. To ensure delivery to children by Christmas, all toys must be collected before Dec. 15.

To apply for the program, request drop boxes or for a full list of county drop sites, visit toysfortots.org.

Park offers 'opt out' tours

Galveston Island State Park is offering a shopping alternative to Black Friday with two adult paddling tours beginning at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. this Friday.

Reservations are required, and the guided trip includes a safety and paddling lesson and use of kayak, paddle and life jackets. Each tour is about an hour and a half and is open to ages 13 and up.

On Saturday, the park will offer a 2 p.m. beach hike to learn about the harsh but unique ecosystem and how plants and animals have adapted to survive along the sandy shores and surf. The tour begins at 2 p.m. and will end at approxi-

mately 3 p.m.

For information or reservations for these events, email Ranger Taylor at taylor.galaviz@tpwd.texas.gov. For more on state parks, visit tpwd.texas.gov.

National Merit semifinalists honored

All five of Alvin ISD's National Merit Semi-Finalists are students at Shadow Creek High School, the district announced. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced names of 16,000 semifinalists in the program who have an opportunity to compete for 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million next spring.

Among Shadow Creek's semifinalists are Andrew Dongchau, Sandha Mehesh, Andrew Mooney, Ryan Piansay and Ethan Wiltz.

In addition, Shadow Creek High had 11 Commended Students recognized by the program. They included: Aaron George, Joshua George, Oluwatomi Idowu, Marin Jawe, Ainsley Niven-Merriman, Harsh Patel, Aditya Singh, Mayuri Srivaths, Joseph Suess, Sarah Walla and Eric Zhang.

Tree lighting, program set for Dec. 2

The annual Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting and Festival take place at Independence Park from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2.

The program includes the H-E-B Winter Wonderland, live entertainment, light displays and fireworks show sponsored by the University of Houston Clear Lake - Pearland.

Blitzen's Bazaar Holiday Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the park, 3449 Pearland Parkway.

City and community leaders will light the tree at approximately 8:20 p.m. with fireworks following. In addition, the evening will feature a concert and carriage race.

The 40th annual Christmas Parade will take place at 6 p.m. the following day, Saturday Dec. 3, along FM 518 beginning at Old Alvin Road and ending at Pearland Parkway.

For more information on the parade, call 281-412-8900 or email events@pearland.gov.

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SPORTS



Lady Oilers win Gold Division of the McDonald's Texas Invitational - The Pearland Lady Oilers beat Cibolo Steele (52-33), Cy-Fair (40-24), San Antonio Johnson (47-45), Converse Judson (54-52), and Summer Creek (46-39) for the McDonald's Texas Invitational title. The No. 6 state-ranked Lady Oilers are now 12-1 on the season.



TOURNAMENT MVP - Pearland junior LaNiah Thornton captured the Most Valuable Player trophy at the McDonald's Texas Invitational this past weekend in Pasadena. She led the Oilers to five victories, averaging a team-high 13 points and making several crucial 3-pointers in each game as Pearland improved its record to 12-1.

Lady Oilers win Gold Division of McDonald's Texas Invitational

By DR. DAVID DAVIS
Reporter News Staff

The Pearland Lady Oilers are continuing where they left off last year after advancing to the Class 6A Region III finals. Last season, Pearland made their first regional championship game appearance since 1991 under first-year head coach Jere' Adams, who guided the program to its 11th consecutive playoff berth. The Lady Oilers ended last season as District 23-6A co-champions with Shadow Creek and are the favorite to capture the crown this year. Coach Adams has put her stamp on this team from the beginning and the Lady Oilers are currently ranked No.6 in the state with a

12-1 record. Pearland beat Summer Creek (10-1) to avenge an earlier 50-47 overtime loss to the Lady Bulldogs the previous week. Summer Creek beat Pearland last year as the Region III representative to advance to the Class 6A state basketball tournament. The Lady Oilers beat Cibolo Steele (52-33), Cy-Fair (40-24), San Antonio Johnson (47-45), Converse Judson (54-52), and Summer Creek (46-39) for the McDonald's Texas Invitational title. In the championship game, Pearland was led on offense by senior Rylee Grays (17 points, 14 rebounds, 2 steals), junior Nyah Hardy (13 points, 4 rebounds), and senior Janae Tucker (8 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal) to get the 46-39 victory.

Summer Creek ends season for Shadow Creek

By DR. DAVID DAVIS
Reporter News Staff

Someone said during Shadow Creek's game against Summer Creek that it just wasn't the Sharks night against the Bulldogs. Shadow Creek came into the Class 6A Region III Div. II area round against Summer Creek with an 11-game winning streak, but that would come to an end as the Bulldogs won 36-20 to advance to the 6A region semifinals where they will face the Katy Tigers. Katy defeated Summer Creek last year 34-31 in a thriller. For the Sharks, they had too many miscues at the wrong times against the Bulldogs that would end up taking them out of the game. Summer Creek (8-4) scored on their first possession of the game as senior QB Jahrik Jones crossed the goal line on a 5-yard keeper for a 7-0 lead at the 9:20 mark of the first quarter. It took only five plays to complete the 60-yard drive. After both teams traded punts, the Sharks set up their second possession of the game at their own 20. Summer Creek QB Duke Butler launched a long pass to WR Josh Best covering 67-yards to the Summer Creek 13. The Bulldog defense stiffened forcing the Sharks to settle for a 39-yard field goal attempt by Aiden Bui which was blocked by Darien Hargrove and returned by William

Hill for a touchdown. The Bulldogs added a two-point conversion for a 15-0 lead with :09 seconds remaining in the first period. Shadow Creek got the ensuing kickoff at their own 25 and marched 75-yards in 9-plays for a Butler to Jacorey Watson on a fade route for a touchdown covering 3-yards with 8:35 left in the second quarter. Bui added the PAT and the Sharks cut the lead to 15-7. The key play in the scoring drive was a Butler to Watson pass covering 44-yards. With 5:49 left in the first half, Summer Creek began a drive at their own 25. Ten plays later, Lloyd Avant extended the Bulldog lead to 22-7 on a 21-yard TD run with 1:53 left in the second quarter, and that was the margin at the half. Shadow Creek had an opportunity to kick a 26-yard field goal with seconds left in the first half, but the kick was no good as the ball hit the left upright and bounced harmlessly away from the goal post. The Sharks began the third quarter moving the ball, but the Bulldog defense came up with a big interception. Later in the third quarter, Shadow Creek went on an 11-play, 64-yard scoring drive to cut the lead to 22-14 when Butler hit Watson on a 3-yard touchdown pass and Bui add the PAT. With 10:25 remaining in the fourth quarter, Summer Creek scored again on an 11-yard run by Avant to increase the lead to



PICKING UP YARDAGE - Shadow Creek senior QB Duke Butler picked up rushing yardage against Summer Creek in the Class 6A Region III Div. II area round of the football playoffs. The Bulldogs ended the season for the Sharks 36-20. Shadow Creek closed out with an 11-1 record.

29-14. After Shadow Creek was forced to punt on their next possession, Aaden Benjamin came up with a big interception to give the ball back to the Sharks. Butler would scramble to his left and throw back across the field to his right where Bet was wide-open for the score with 5:24 left in the game. However, instead of letting Bui boot the PAT to make it a one

possession game the Sharks went for the two-point conversion which failed and left Shadow Creek in a two possession game with little time remaining in the game and season. Summer Creek would drive the nail in the coffin when Avant scored on a 5-yard run with 2:01 left in the game. Shadow Creek, who won the District 23-6A crown, ends their season with an 11-1 mark.



Smithson-Valley kick returner Kyler Clarke (5) eludes Manvel's Quincy Nevins to score a touchdown. The Mavs came up short 38-28 to the Rangers in the Class 6A Region III Div. I area round to end their 2022 football season.

Smithson-Valley outlasts Manvel 38-28 in area round

By DR. DAVID DAVIS
Reporter News Staff

Manvel has reached the third round of the Class 5A Region III Div I playoffs for three consecutive years, but the Smithson-Valley Rangers ended that streak with a 38-28 win in the area round at Bastrop's Memorial Stadium. The Mavs battled the entire game but came up short in the end. Neither team scored in the opening quarter but with 6:36 to go in the second period, Smithson-Valley got on the scoreboard as QB/Kicker McClain Garrett booted a 40-yard field goal to give the Rangers a 3-0 lead. But the Mavs answered as senior QB Kaeden Smith got loose on a 52-yard scoring jaunt to give Manvel a 7-3 lead with 3:30 left in the second quarter. The lead was short-lived as the Rangers quickly answered as Kyler Clark returned the ensuing kickoff 99-yards for a touchdown to give Smithson-Valley a 10-7 lead with 3:19 left in the first half which stood as the halftime score. The Rangers got the second half kickoff and promptly scored as Doug Lantz crossed the pay station on a 5-yard run with 11:56 left in the third quarter to increase the lead to 17-7. Manvel didn't waste any time closing the gap as Smith went on another long run through the Rangers

defense as he scored on a 53-yard run with 11:32 remaining in the third quarter making the score 17-14. With 4:48 left in the third, Smith would give the Mavs a 21-17 lead as he got loose on a 29-yard scamper for his third score of the game. Once again, Smithson-Valley came up with a big play as QB Garrett hit WR Jackson Duffy on an 80-yard bomb to take back the lead with 4:26 left in the third period to make the score 24-21. The Rangers increase their lead to 31-21 when Lantz scored on another 5-yard run with 8:05 left in the game. But Manvel wasn't going away as Smith hit Ja'Vhari Tyler on a 1-yard scoring toss to bring the Mavs to within 31-28 with 2:39 left in the contest. The Rangers sealed the 38-28 win when David Dehoyas scored on a 40-yard run with less than two minutes remaining in the game. Manvel ends the 2022 football season with an 8-4 mark while Smithson-Valley continues their playoff journey with an 11-1 record. Smith closed out his outstanding Manvel career hitting 10-of-22 passing for 160 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions. He also had 218 yards rushing on 12 carries and three TDs. Joseph Paddio had five catches for 77 yards, Taylor had five grabs for 41 yards and one TD, and Donovan Sieman had three catches for 20 yards.

From the Cluttered Desk

by Dr. David Davis

Thanksgiving is a blessed time of the year



I believe Thanksgiving can be a time of reflection for all the blessings we have received over the past year. I trust you will be able to think about some things that have deep meaning in your life.

As I get older I still am amazed at the wisdom of some of our young future leaders. Consider this:

"The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints; we spend more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but fewer solutions; more medicine, but less wellness.

We have multiplied our possessions but reduced our values.

We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back but have trouble getting along with our neighbors.

We've conquered outer space, but not inner peace; we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; we've split the atom, but not our prejudice.

We have higher incomes, but lower morals; we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are the times of tall men, and short character, steep profits, and shallow relationships.

These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom."

No matter how old we get — there are still lessons to learn from others. I read this in an article.

"I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow."

"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights."

"I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life."

"I've learned that making a 'living' is not the same thing as 'making a life'."

"I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance."

"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back."

"I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision."

"I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one."

"I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back."

"I've learned that I still have a lot to learn."

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

These are words of wisdom that deserve our serious consideration.

Old friend Robert said, "I am too blessed to be stressed! The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything."

May you each have a blessed Thanksgiving!

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FAITH MATTERS

By Rev. Dr. Brian Gige

7 THINGS I'M THANKFUL FOR!

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

- Colossians 2:2-7

It was reported recently the world's population has reached eight billion people. Whoah! That's 8,000,000,000 in digits. Whoah 2.0! And we're all the same...sort of...as none of us asked to be here and yet...we all find ourselves in this life...despite the country in which we were born and the language we speak...and what we make of it and how we live together...as they say...makes all the difference. This really is where faith matters...truly... and it is said one of the keys to a long and flourishing life is to hold on to a certain sense of gratitude and maintain an attitude of 'thankfulness'...for in doing so we keep our egos in check, acknowledge a respect for those who were here before us to say nothing of how practicing being thankful has a positive impact on our body, mind and spirit. Face it. No one wants to be the Grinch who steals Christmas nor hang around with one.

The month of November ends via an official national holiday. Christians are thankful everyday... but our nation sets aside one day for everyone else to join us. So, here's what I'm thankful for as I lean into a new year of 2023...

#1... **For the family in which I was raised** ... We are all where we are today because of the way our parents or guardians raised us. For better or worse! Hopefully, glean the positive lessons from them then applying them to our own lives.

#2... **For the family I'm part of now**... If you are married and have children, be thankful for the blessing of your

family. If you are single, be thankful for parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. I have aunts, an uncle & lots of cousins who have added much to my life...

#3... **For my friends**... The older I get the fewer friends I have. But... they are great friends! True friends encourage us, motivate us, and push us to do better. Take time to call yours and thank them for all the great things they have done. Show your gratitude by also being a great friend to others.

#4... **For the roof over my head**... In my adult life, have had 18 addresses from college to this Fall! If you have a home, be thankful you have a place to rest and relax. Hopefully, your home is also a refuge of safety and encouragement. I've used my home to welcome others... as all of us have a capacity to be 'hospitable!'

#5... **For laughter**... Laughter is a gift from God which can bring great joy. Be thankful for the laughter of children, a spouse, friends and a good clean joke! Don't forget to not take yourself TOO, TOO seriously!

#6... **For the freedoms I have**... We have so many freedoms other countries do not have, and it has cost some men and women their lives. This freedom continues to cost others time away from family along with sustained bodily injuries. Take time today to say "thank you" to someone who helped or is helping protect those freedoms.

#7... **For those who have made a positive impact in my life**... All of us have had people in our lives who have inspired us in a positive way! It may be a teacher, coach, pastor, youth minister, a co-worker, and hopefully, even family members. Be thankful these people were placed in your life so you now can give to others as they have given to you. The Bible says, 'give thanks to God in all things!' So, a blessed Thanksgiving to you all as I trust God to look over you as you make your list!

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.

Heritage Gardeners thank all who made 2022 event successful

The Heritage Gardeners of Friendswood will host a luncheon Dec. 1 to thank the homeowners who opened their holiday decorated homes for the club's Annual Christmas Home Tour, A Treasured Christmas. The tours were held



Jewelry and leather designer Tania Alejandra is a popular vendor at the Heritage Gardeners Holiday Market.

Nov. 19-20.

At the luncheon the homeowners will be recognized and presented a plaque.

The garden club would also like to thank the Friendswood Historical Society for allowing the club to use the Perry Home lawn for vendors and placing the Perry Home and Frank J Brown Museum on the tour this year.

Special thanks to Friendswood ISD and Superintendent Thad Roher for the use of the Annex lawn off Spreading Oaks and Laurel Drive for vendors in the Holiday Market and allowing the Schools Museum to be on the 2022 tour.

A special thanks to the Friendswood Library and Director Matt Riley who generously let vendors set up on the parking lot Sunday due to so much rain on Saturday.

The club thanks vendors for joining the tour as well as all shoppers at the club boutique and the Holiday Market, tour-goers, bakery item buyers and raffle ticket holders (as well as winners). Thanks are extended to club members who worked as docents in the homes as well as friends of the homeowners who were also docents in some of the homes.

The two day event was a huge success.

Heritage Gardeners wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed holiday season.

Their next event will be their 2023 Annual Garden Tour and Spring Market. The event will be the last weekend in April.

Follow Heritage Gardeners on Facebook. The club meets the first Thursday in the month (September through May) at 9:30 am at 112 W. Spreading Oaks in Friendswood.

2022 PLAYER Of The Year

RONI CLARK
MANVEL TEXANS

BAY AREA FOOTBALL LEAGUE
SOPHOMORE DIVISION

Roni Clark named 2022 Bay Area Football League Player of the Year

Manvel Texans Sophomore 9U, Roni Clark, was recently awarded with the 2022 Bay Area Football League Player Of The Year Award. Roni is being recognized for his outstanding individual performance as well as his contributions to his team and organization. Roni completed his third year as a member of the Manvel Texans Youth Football Organization. His excellence extends off the field as he consistently maintains his status as an All-A Honor Roll student.



The award was presented during BAFL Youth Football Superbowl Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022 at Rice University.

Roni is extremely excited to be a recipient of the Player Of The Year award and expresses his gratitude to everyone that voted for him and aids in his success.

Special thanks to the Manvel Texans and all of its board members for their tireless efforts and time contributed; VP Jarvis Barnes, President Brian Harris and Emeritus Rod Houston.

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