

MUD to close for training

The Clear Brook City MUD office will be closed for employee training Wednesday, July 29, from noon to 2 p.m. For customer convenience, check or money order payments may be left in the drop box on the drive-thru side of the building. For emergency assistance, call 281-484-2893.

Kirkwood to meet July 27

The Kirkwood Civic Club's monthly meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 27, at the Sagemont Community Center, 11507 Hughes Road near Beltway 8. Meetings are typically held for the last Monday of the month. For information, call Kirkwood Civic Club President Ericka McCutcheon at 281-989-9990.

MUD trash times may vary

Due to a major county construction project, trash collection times may vary in the coming weeks. Residents should have trash curbside no later than 6 a.m. Monday and Thursday, as collection crews will be working in coordination with construction crews and may arrive earlier than before.

All Texas Pride Disposal trucks have cameras for verification. This will continue until the project's completion.

A project of Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, the massive undertaking will make street and traffic repairs to the majority of major roads in the Clear Brook City MUD.

Work has already begun in the Sagemeadow, Highland Meadow and Wood Meadow subdivisions. Work will soon begin in the Sageglen subdivision.

Coffee with the Constable

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will be at Donut Haven, 10802 Hughes Road at Beamer, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Thursday morning as part of the weekly Coffee with the Constable series. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Freeway Manor to meet

Freeway Manor Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 23, at Bible Way Church, 10120 Hartsook. Residents of Freeway Manor, Sun Valley, Gulfway Terrace and Los Colinas are encouraged to attend.

Gulf Freeway closures set

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from SH 96/Calder/Brittany Bay in League City to FM 519/Main Street in La Marque daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

At least one northbound and one southbound frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from Deats Road in Dickinson to FM 2004/Camp Wallace Access in Texas City from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until further notice.

At least one northbound and one southbound main lane and frontage road lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 519/Main Street in La Marque to Tiki Drive in Galveston daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice.

The closures are associated with an ongoing construction project to widen the freeway from three to five lanes in each direction.

MUD offers dumping reward

Clear Brook City MUD is offering a \$1,000 reward for information on who disposed of a dead dog at Clear Brook City Park the morning of Monday, July 20. According to MUD officials, the body of a large dog was placed in a trash bag and left behind the gazebo at the park. Harris County Animal Services was called to humanely dispose of the canine. Anyone with information is urged to contact Precinct 2 Capt. Marco Leal at 713-855-6154.

Sagemont to meet Aug. 4

The Sagemont Civic Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer at Hughes. All Sagemont residents/homeowners are invited to attend. The meetings typically take place the first Tuesday of each month. For additional information, call Sagemont Civic Club President Kay Barbour at 713-419-3545.

Clear Brook Meadows meet

Clear Brook Meadows HOA will hold a virtual board meeting Monday, July 27, beginning at 6:30 p.m. To take part in the meeting, join at www.teams.microsoft.com/join/253884357262014?p=TubeUR6vHCzwDIMny. For more information, contact the management company.

Beltway closures planned

At least one northbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Spencer Highway to Greenshadow Drive continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

At least one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Pasadena Boulevard to Fairmont Parkway continuously through 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31.

The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

Man injured in Sabo car wash shooting

Shots also fired at responding Pct. 2 deputy; Suspect remains at large

A man was hospitalized Friday, July 17, after being shot around noon at a car wash in the 10800 block of Sabo Road near Fuqua. Investigators say the fleeing gunman also fired several rounds at a Harris County Precinct 2 deputy who attempted to stop him. At press time, the shooter remained at large.

Shots fired at deputy

According to Precinct 2 officials, a deputy in an unmarked car was in the area at the time of the incident and heard a gunshot. When the deputy looked up, he saw an unknown suspect running from the scene and another man collapsing

to the ground with an apparent gunshot wound. The deputy pursued the suspect, who then turned and fired several rounds, striking the deputy's vehicle. The deputy was not injured but lost sight of the suspect as he continued to flee. Investigators say the man ran into a nearby apartment complex.

Precinct 2 deputies and Houston police officers canvassed the surrounding area and apartment complex extensively after the shooting but did not locate the suspect.

Victim hospitalized

The victim, who was shot once in the chest,

was transported to a hospital. Authorities have not released an update on his condition, leaving it unclear whether the injuries were considered life-threatening. No identifying information about the victim has been made public.

Investigation and motive

The Houston Police department is leading the investigation.

While speculation has circulated about a possible robbery, investigators have not publicly established a motive.

Investigators would not confirm whether the victim and suspect knew each other or not.

At press time, no official suspect description had been released, other than that the shooter

was a male. A FOX 26 report described the suspect as a white male in a white shirt and black shorts, but this was not confirmed by investigators.

Detectives are continuing to gather witness statements and review surveillance footage from nearby businesses as they work to identify the gunman.

Anyone with any information on the suspect's identification or whereabouts is urged to contact the HPD Robbery Division at 713-308-0700 or the HPD Major Assaults Division at 713-308-8800. To report a tip anonymously, contact Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS (8477).

Police respond to shooting



Houston police are shown above responding to a shooting Friday, July 17, at a car wash in the 10800 block of Sabo Road near Fuqua that left a man hospitalized in unknown condition. Investigators say the shooter also fired at a Precinct 2 deputy as he attempted to respond to the incident. The deputy was uninjured, although his vehicle was struck. At press time, the suspect remained at large.

Photo by David Flickinger

Garcia to host annual backpack event

Now in 4th year, local backpack giveaway set for Aug. 1

Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia will host his fourth annual Back-2-School Backpack Giveaway Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Scarsdale County Annex, located at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. at Beamer Road.

The backpack distribution will begin at 11 a.m. and continue until all supplies are distributed. Backpacks will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis, and it is important that each student is present to receive their supplies.

Due to the limited number of backpacks available, families are encouraged to arrive early to ensure they receive what they need.

During the event, families can enjoy learning about the many community resources available to them, thanks to sponsors the Specialty Injury Clinic and Attorney Mario A. Rodriguez.

In addition, attendees can meet representatives from event partners, including the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, H-E-B Blackhawk, Frost Almeda Genoa Financial Center, Memorial Hermann and Judge Jo Ann Delgado, Harris County justice of the peace Precinct 2, Place 1.

Sageglen ballots deemed "counterfeit"

Sparks fly at annual election following allegation of fake ballots

Sparks flew at the annual Sageglen Civic Association election Monday, July 20, as current board members threw out dozens of votes, deeming them "counterfeit."

The move played a deciding role in determining the results of the election.

According to Sageglen Civic Association President Dawn McDonald, 82 absentee ballots – all in favor of candidate Tony Saifi – were determined to be Xerox copies and not the originals that were mailed out to residents. McDonald said

such ballots are not accepted, in accordance to the group's bylaws.

Many of the ballots appeared to be copied from Saifi's own absentee ballot, McDonald said, adding that several of the signatures were not "wet" and also appeared to be copied.

McDonald said Saifi personally delivered the ballots just 15 minutes before the deadline.

Saifi contended at Monday's meeting that he had collected the ballot as he campaigned door

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Area suffers from extreme weather

South Belt endures heat warning, followed by tropical storm rains

South Belt residents experienced more sweltering weather this past week, as the city extended its heat advisory and the National Weather Service issued an Extreme Heat Warning that remained in place at press time Wednesday.

The warning, which covered Harris County and surrounding areas, came as daytime highs climbed into the triple digits and humidity pushed the heat index well above 110 degrees. Such a warning is put in place anytime a heat index of 108 or more is expected for two consecu-

tive days.

According to the National Weather Service, temperatures reached around 100 degrees early in the week, climbing to 102–104 by Wednesday, with heat index values peaking near 115.

Overnight lows stayed close to 80, leaving little chance for relief.

To help residents cope, the city of Houston and Harris County operated more than 20 cooling centers, supported by Reliant Energy's "Beat the

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Beverly Hills pool remains closed

City cites lifeguard shortage for closure; Sagemont pool open

With the end of summer vacation now on the horizon, the city of Houston has yet to open the swimming pool at Beverly Hills Park, citing a national lifeguard shortage.

The pools at the city's Sagemont and Wilson Memorial parks each opened the first week of June after weeks of delay.

This marks the fourth consecutive year the city has faced such staffing issues. (The city's swimming pools were completely closed the summers of 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

At press time, it remained unclear if the Beverly Hills pool would open this year or not. Houston Parks and Recreation Department officials merely said that additional swimming pools will open as more lifeguards become available.

The city is currently seeking lifeguards for the 2026 season. In hopes of attracting potential lifeguards, the city has lowered its minimum age requirement from 16 to 15 years old. While all lifeguards must be strong swimmers, previous lifeguard experience is not necessary. For more information on becoming a city lifeguard, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2026/2026LifeguardFlyer.pdf.

City swimming pool hours are 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday. All pools are closed for cleaning on Monday (except on Labor Day Sept. 7, when pool hours will be 1 to 5 p.m.).

For the latest updates on the city's swimming pool openings, visit www.houstontx.gov/parks/swimming.html.

Carter promoted to U.S. Coast Guard rear admiral

A1995 Dobie grad and decorated 26-year USCG veteran, Carter assigned to Capitol Hill in new role

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Jonathan Carter, a 1995 Dobie graduate and a decorated cutterman and administrator, has been promoted to rear admiral, the Coast Guard has announced.

The promotion took effect July 14 when the Senate confirmed a new round of Coast Guard nominations.

As rear admiral, Carter immediately assumed a new assignment as the Coast Guard's Chief of Congressional Affairs. Carter will maintain an office at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C., while working with various Senate and House committees on Capitol Hill.

A "one-star" pinning ceremony has been scheduled for July 24 at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington. Carter's formal rank is Coast Guard Rear Admiral (Lower Half), which equates to a brigadier general in the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps.

A 26-year Coast Guard veteran, Carter served for the past year as team leader for the Coast Guard's Force Design 2028 overhaul. His final sea-going assignment was captain of the USCGC Stone, which made headlines on a 108-day deployment that ended in March of 2025.

On patrol in the Eastern Pacific, Carter and the crew of Stone, a 418-foot national security cutter, seized more than 45,000 pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$517 million.

At the time, it was the largest drug seizure on a single deployment in the history of the Coast Guard.

At his change of command last summer, Carter was awarded the Legion of Merit for his two years of service aboard Stone. One of the nation's highest military honors, the Legion of

Merit acknowledges exceptional contributions and dedication to the military and to the nation.

His command of Stone represented Carter's seventh sea-going assignment. He earlier served as captain of the cutters Aquidneck, Pea Island and Legare. Earlier, he served as deck watch officer for the cutter Midgett, and as executive officer for Key Biscayne and Tampa.

He commanded Aquidneck in the Arabian Gulf war zone in 2007-2008.

A baseball standout at Dobie, Carter attended Lee College and Sam Houston State on baseball scholarships. He earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Sam Houston State in 1999 and was accepted into the Coast Guard's officer candidate school in New London, Conn. He received his commission in 2000.

Carter subsequently earned a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Policy from the Naval War College and a master's in Strategic Studies from the Marine Corps War College. While attending the Naval War College, he was named a Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Warrior Scholar, charged with conducting advanced research in undersea warfare.

His staff assignments have included two years of service (2008-2009) in the President's Emergency Operations Center in the White House. Carter was the first Coast Guardsman ever selected for the position.

He also served as the Coast Guard's liaison officer to the Department of Homeland Security, as Politico-Military Affairs Officer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as the officer-in-charge of the African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership and as liaison officer to the Joint Force Headquarters, National Capitol Region.

Before taking command of Stone in 2023, Carter served as Chief of Enlisted Personnel Management and Deputy Chief of Cutter Forces at Coast Guard Headquarters. Immediately after leaving Stone, the ship was one of two honored

as cutters of the year by the Coast Guard Foundation.

His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Meritorious

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Carter changes command



Former resident Jonathan Carter – a 1995 Dobie graduate and decorated USCG veteran – was recently promoted from captain to rear admiral. Carter is shown above at a change of command ceremony in 2023 as he took command of the USCGC Stone, a cutter known for making historic drug seizures.

In My Opinion

Schoppa urges ICE church discussions

The place to have a conversation about this is in our churches; not City Hall.

God's law is being trampled, men's law predominating.

Is your church addressing this? If not, why not?

Dana Schoppa

Merrill speaks on annual Sageglen HOA meeting

Laws aren't made to be broken. They can be changed certainly but only by following the proper rules and procedures for doing so. This evening I was able to watch the Sageglen HOA annual meeting. The room was charged from the outset which is unusual for most of these neighborhood meetings. The hot topic was the election of a board member. The residents present were shocked to find out that the legally required quorum wasn't reached by absentee ballots so only the residents present and the proxy ballots would be able to vote. This normally wouldn't cause a stir by any means because this is very standard practice for HOA elections but the room was riled up. I happened to be sitting behind candidate Tony Saifi in the audience and close to Clear Brook City MUD board member Yen Rabe as they immediately started whispering to each other that the count was wrong and they definitely had enough votes to make a quorum. The HOA president Dawn McDonald stated that counterfeit votes had been submitted and therefore could not be counted per their bylaws. The crowd was outraged and demanded to know what constituted a counterfeit document and how the board could possibly know which ballots were fake and which were authentic. The president was able to show the difference between the documents to the attendees, held them up to the crowd, and had them on the front table for viewing. They had deemed these submitted votes counterfeit because they didn't come from their facility which meant there was no way to assure that they hadn't been tampered with, such as having a candidate preselected. Sageglen is one of the only HOAs that has committed to full transparency and made their bylaws and practices available to the public online without needing a residents only code. Tony was openly hostile towards the HOA president and the board itself, especially after the votes were exposed, and claimed he wasn't informed that it was against the rules to give out ballots that he brought

to people's doors. He had invested time talking to his neighbors convincing them to vote "even though they don't care and had thrown their ballots away." After a motion to return to the agenda the candidates took turns addressing the room in the order they appeared on the ballot. Sam Weeke was the serving member up for reelection and made the room laugh a few times. He talked about what it means to be on the HOA board such as focusing on arrears, legal fine print, rules and regulations, and serving the neighborhood. Tony Saifi was next to speak and started with a joke about having the street where he owns many properties renamed for himself. The laughs turned into gasps when he next said that laws are made to be broken. The rules of voting in regards to Sageglen HOA are unreasonable and that he will fight to change them. He ended by telling candidate Sam Weeke to clean up his yard because "it's in violation and looks like 'sh*t.'" It was an interesting remark that came across as retaliatory since Sam had asked him how many meetings he had attended in the past and why he was so impassioned about serving now. I did overhear an audience member say that Tony's recently retired and has the time now. I'm not sure why Tony wouldn't have just told the audience that and talk about how he wants to be involved in the neighborhood but apparently an attack was all he could manage in his outrage over the votes being tossed. The standout star was Angela Graves who gave a wonderful speech about how she was here to bring the community together and cited her experience as a paralegal with a master's degree giving her the ability to support the neighborhood within the bylaws that are written. It was a close race won by one vote in the current board member Sam Weeke's favor reminiscent of the race between Yen Rabe and Chris Clark in the Clear Brook City MUD election. A lot of the hostility of the meeting could have been absolved by voters making themselves better informed. Those who are unable to participate in person should understand that their absentee vote will not count unless a quorum is reached. If you are unable to attend please vote by proxy. However the best way to be counted is to show up on election night with your blank ballot in hand, listen to the candidates speak, and then make your choice. Those who don't care to vote correctly don't get a voice, regardless of who shows up on your doorstep telling you otherwise. Many thanks to the Sageglen HOA for allowing guests to view their annual meeting, without vocal participation, and for conducting what was a very unusual election with candor and grace.

Chelsea Merrill

Friends of PWBL seeks donations

The Friends of Parker Williams Branch Library would like to thank the South Belt community for their continuing support. The library is currently in need of new or gently used children's books, adult paperback novels (both fiction and nonfiction) and DVDs and CDs. Donations can be made during open hours at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., suite 501.

Local library events set

In case of storms or adverse weather, refer to library website for details.

Bracewell Branch Library

Bracewell Library is at 9002 Kingspoint. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon – 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1 – 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Bracewell is closed Sundays.

The following events are scheduled for Bracewell Library:

Saturday, July 25, 1:30 – 4 p.m. Fall Kickoff - Back-to-school celebration for families. Registration required.

Saturday, July 25, 2 – 4 p.m. Saturdays at HPL. Registration required.

Monday, July 27, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Bring family to storytime. Registration required.

Tuesday, July 28, 4 – 5 p.m. Family craft adventure. Registration required.

Visit <https://houstonlibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events> for more library events.

Book drop

The book drop is open. Library materials can be returned. The library continues to provide online resources to enjoy the library virtually. Large items such as FLIP kits or laptops should not be placed in the book drop, but taken inside.

Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library is at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. Customers are encouraged to visit the building to browse, check out and return materials, use the computers and Wi-Fi, and check out holds. Hours are Monday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for more information. One can also visit social media links are Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

The following events are scheduled for Parker Williams Library:

Thursday, July 23, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Toddler time.

Thursday, July 23, 11 a.m. – noon. Mommy circle by Post Baby Bliss.

Friday, July 24, 1 – 3 p.m. Genealogy.

Friday, July 24, 4 – 5 p.m. Kids chess club (Ages 6-17).

Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m. – noon. Tai Chi.

Saturday, July 25, 3 – 4:30 p.m. Korean language music class. Registration required.

Monday, July 27, Noon – 1:30 p.m. Adult computer classes with Harris County universal services. Registration required.

Monday, July 27, 1 – 2:30 p.m. ESL conversation club. Registration required.

Monday, July 27, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Tai Chi.

Tuesday, July 28, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Babies and bookish.

Wednesday, July 29, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Pathway to citizenship. Registration required.

Online services

- Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL's drive-up Wi-Fi.
- Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at www.hcpl.net.
- Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.
- Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.
- Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.
- Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.
- Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

Don't have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL's digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card.

For additional information, visit www.hcpl.net.

South Belt-Ellington Leader

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David Flickinger, owner

Elected officials share their words

Cornyn on closing Texas' GOP primary hurting voters

Texas is among a majority of states with open primaries where any eligible registered voter can vote in the primary election, regardless of their party affiliation.

Nevertheless, there has been a recent movement among some Texas Republicans to close our Republican primary to only those who register as a Republican. At best, this would be a mistake that has the potential to harm our party in the long run as we hamper our appeal by narrowing our coalition of voters. At worst, it would limit our voters' ability to have their voices heard in primary elections and undermine the American system of self-government.

The right to vote is essential to our democratic republic; voting is one of the most fundamental ways ordinary citizens participate, and the mechanism by which the people consent to be governed. When Texans fail to exercise this right, as a large majority have done by not turning out to vote in this past spring's elections, they are giving up the opportunity to have their voices heard and to influence the direction our state and country take. They are ceding to others to decide who should govern. For the party to close the primary, we would exacerbate an already worrying trend.

When fewer people participate in our elections, our very system of self-government is undermined. If only 7% of registered voters choose our nation's leaders, as was the case in Texas' recent U.S. Senate run-off election, our government becomes less like a democratic republic and more like an oligarchy, where the leaders are chosen by a select few. As our country continues to see increasingly low trust in government and low participation in elections, closing the primary elections would be a grave mistake, furthering these existing problems.

By closing the primary, we risk taking away the voices of those who are disillusioned with the current government. With 93% of registered voters sitting on the sidelines, we find ourselves in a vicious cycle. Low voter participation means that those nominated represent the views of the few. Then those who are not represented feel neglected and don't feel the need to turn out and vote in the general election, because they don't like the options on the table. Closing our primaries would take this trend a step further by actively cutting more Texans out of the electoral process.

The right to vote is one that our heroic fallen have literally bled and died to

secure for us, but it is not one that Americans have always universally enjoyed. It was first available to only white male property owners, but slowly but surely expanded. In the 1800s, most states eliminated property requirements. In 1920, the franchise was extended to women by the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, then to Native Americans with the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924. In 1964, artificial barriers like poll taxes were banned. Our nation had to endure a Civil War to guarantee equal rights to all citizens, including African Americans, culminating in the historic Voting Rights Act of 1965. But we didn't stop there: the 26th Amendment in 1971 lowered the voting age to 18 years. Now, many in the United States take this foundational right for granted.

If we want to restore trust in the government, the answer is more participation from voters, not less. While closing the primary may seem like an easy and painless way to score political points with the most vocal in our party, it could result in costly legal battles only to ultimately be thrown out in the courts. Political parties are coalitions of people with different interests who come together over shared common goals to create a governing majority. They become stronger when more people participate. Our state is blessed with a wide diversity of people, with views that do not square neatly into a cookie-cutter mold. If we limit primaries to only those whose views are in lockstep with the party line, we will only diminish voter turnout and harm the Republican party's ability to bring people into our tent.

While some contend that closing the primaries will ensure there is no foul play occurring from the other side of the aisle, that is a solution in search of a problem. There is no data to back up the idea that Democrats are voting in Republican primaries or runoffs in a meaningful way, but there is also little logic in that argument. Data does show that registered Democrats want to vote in their own primaries and are not willing to give that up in order to meddle in ours, and I'd argue that committed Republicans feel similarly.

For the parties to accurately reflect the views of the nearly 32 million people who call the Lone Star State home, we ought to give them as many choices as possible in elections, including primaries. The Republican Party can and must be a wide-tent party if it is to continue growing and last for generations. But closing the primary will be futile to that end.

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

Susan "Susie" Fay Bryant



Susan "Susie" Fay Bryant passed away peacefully at her home in Trinity, on July 12, 2026, at the age of 58.

Born on March 22, 1968, in Walthill, Neb., Susie was the beloved daughter of Ray and Martha Archer. She was known for her kind heart, unwavering faith, gentle spirit and deep love for her family and friends.

Susie's greatest joy in life was her son, Ethan Bryant, whom she affectionately called her "Monkey." She loved him fiercely, was always his safe place and strongest advocate and treasured every moment they shared.

For more than 20 years, Susie was the proud owner of TMC Home Loans in Trinity, where she helped countless families achieve the dream of homeownership with honesty, compassion and exceptional care. She also built and owned Sudsy Duds, a local laundromat that reflected her hard work, determination and entrepreneurial spirit.

Shortly before her passing, Susie became an author, writing "Sleepy Time" for her son, along with books for her great-nieces and great-nephew; lasting gifts of love that her family will cherish for generations.

Known for her wonderful sense of humor and remarkable gift for storytelling, Susie could turn everyday moments into unforgettable memories. Whether sharing funny stories from her own life or making everyone laugh around the Thanksgiving table, she had a

Deaths

special way of bringing family together.

Susie is survived by her loving husband, Gary Bryant; her beloved son; her mother; her sister, Twila Delgado and brother-in-law, Steven Delgado; her niece, Christy Keith and husband, Mitchell Keith; her great-nieces and great-nephew; and many extended family members and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, and her brother, Clifford Archer.

A celebration of Susie's life will be held at a later date at Forest Park East Funeral Home in Webster. Service details will be announced by the family.

Elia Guadalupe Saiz



Elia Guadalupe Saiz, at the age of 91, passed away peacefully on Friday, July 17, 2026, surrounded by her family. Elia was born in Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, Mexico to Concepción Jimenez and Gustavo Vargas S. on Jan. 12, 1935.

As one of 10 children, she and her siblings were raised very modestly, learning the values of hard work, perseverance and appreciation for life's simple blessings. She graduated from high school in 1953 and found employment with the corporate offices of the local theater chain in Chihuahua.

Elia met her future husband Joe Encarnacion Saiz while on leave with the U.S. Air Force; they married in Chihuahua in 1956.

Elia immigrated to the United States after getting married. She and Joe called many places home throughout their lives. Their journey took them from Roswell, N.M., to Lajes on Terceira Island in the Azores, then to Battle Creek,

Mich., and Lompoc, Calif., before they finally settled in Houston.

A devout Catholic, Elia was very active at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church for many years as a lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, member of the Guadalupanas Association and H.U.G.S. Elia was a passionate participant of eucharistic adoration. Elia also attended Saint Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, St. Luke's mother parish.

After her kids were old enough to fend for themselves, she was employed for many years as a sales associate at the Foley's Department Store and as a real estate agent.

Elia's hobbies included knitting, crocheting, painting, gardening and decorating cakes for her family.

Elia was preceded in death by husband, daughter Diana Saiz, her parents and siblings Gustavo Vargas, Daniel Vargas, Irma Vargas, Alicia Vargas and Amparito Vargas.

She is survived by sons David Saiz and wife Maria, Robert Saiz; Larry Saiz and wife Lupe; her cherished grandchildren, Clint Saiz, Katie Saiz, Lorissa Saiz, Daniel Saiz, Krist Hooper and husband Michael; and great-granddaughter Marley Hooper.

A funeral service vigil will be held at Peevey Funeral 12440 Beamer Road, Houston Friday, July 31, from 6 to 8 p.m.

A rosary will be recited on Saturday, Aug. 1, at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 11011 Hall Road at 10:30 a.m. and the funeral Mass will immediately follow at 11 a.m.

The family asks that those attending any of the funeral services honor Elia's wishes by not wearing black. She did not view her passing as a somber occasion, but rather as a joyful celebration of her homecoming. Guests are encouraged to wear colors that reflect her vibrant spirit.

A private interment will occur.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Elia's name to Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston at www.catholiccharities.org or St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church Campaign at <https://ppay.com/Khp6TeRv> can be made.

South Belt endures extreme weather

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Heat" program. These centers offered air-conditioned relief, water, snacks and safe spaces for families.

Houston Health Department Director Dr. Theresa Tran said these centers can help save lives.

"These air conditioning units are not luxuries, they are preventative medicine," said Tran. "They help people stay out of the hospital, reduce medical crises and, more importantly, save lives."

Mayor John Whitmire added that the city has been equipping cooling centers with backup generators to ensure they remain operational even during power outages.

"We want residents to know these facilities will be there when they need them most," said Whitmire.

The Houston Health Department recommends the following precautions to avoid heat-related illness such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke:

- Increase water consumption. Drink lots of liquids even before getting thirsty, but avoid beverages with caffeine, alcohol, or large amounts of sugar be-

cause these can result in the loss of body fluid.

- Conduct outdoor work or exercise in the early morning or evening when temperatures are not as high. Outdoor workers should drink plenty of water or electrolyte replacement beverages and take frequent breaks in the shade or in an air-conditioned facility. People unaccustomed to working or exercising in a hot environment need to start slowly and gradually increase heat exposure over several weeks.

- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing that permits the evaporation of perspiration.

- Do not leave infants, children, senior citizens or pets unattended in a parked vehicle, even if the windows are cracked open. Check to make sure everyone is out of the car and don't overlook children who may have fallen asleep.

- Wear a wide-brimmed hat to help prevent sunburn as well as heat-related illness. Apply sunscreen, which protects from the sun's harmful rays and reduces the risk of sunburn.

- Seek accommodations

in air-conditioned facilities during the heat of the day if the house is not air-conditioned: a relative's home, multiservice centers, malls, movie theaters, libraries, etc.

- Take frequent cool baths or showers if your home is not air-conditioned.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include weakness, dizziness, excessive sweating, cool or moist skin, nausea or vomiting, muscle cramps, and a fast and weak pulse. People experiencing these symptoms should lower their body temperature by getting to a cooler place, drinking water, taking a cool shower or bath and resting.

A throbbing headache, red, hot, and dry skin (no longer sweating), extremely high body temperature (above 103 degrees), nausea or vomiting, confusion, loss of consciousness and a rapid, strong pulse are signs of heat stroke. If these symptoms occur, call 911 immediately and try to lower the person's body temperature until help arrives.

For additional information on how to stay safe in extreme heat, visit the city's Office of Emergency Management website at www.houstonoem.org/extreme-heat.

Tropical Storm Bertha

At the same time, attention was turning to the Gulf of Mexico, where a developing tropical system has drawn concern. The National Hurricane Center reports that a tropical storm is slowly organizing offshore, with sustained winds near 60 miles per hour.

At press time Wednesday, forecasts suggested a landfall along the Louisiana coast late Wednesday, though Southeast Texas could still feel indirect effects.

For Houston and surrounding coastal areas, the storm is expected to bring scattered tropical downpours Thursday into Friday, with rainfall totals of one to two inches possible.

Gusty winds may accompany the showers, and localized street flooding could occur in low-lying neighborhoods. While the heaviest rain and storm surge are projected east of Texas, officials caution residents to remain alert as the system evolves.

For Harris County's latest updates on Tropical Storm Bertha, visit www.readyharris.org.

Firefighters respond to gas leak



Emergency crews are shown above responding to a gas leak Tuesday, July 21, on the easement between Middlelegan Lane and Rolleston Lane in the Southway Gardens subdivision near Fuqua and SH 3/0ld Galveston Road. The leak was reportedly caused by a boring company installing fiber optic cable in the

area. Firefighters went door to door in the community to make sure gas could not be detected inside homes. Personnel from Houston Fire Department stations 70 and 61 responded to the call, along with a Harris County Hazardous Materials crew.

Photo by David Flickinger

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Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
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Shots fired at Sabo car wash



A shooting took place Friday, July 17, at a car wash at Sabo and Fuqua, injuring one. A Precinct 2 deputy was nearby and heard the gunshot and attempted to apprehend the suspect, but the shooter fired multiple shots

at him and was able to flee the scene. Multiple agencies searched the area but were unsuccessful in locating the suspect, who remained at large at press time. See related story and photo on Page 1.

Beltway construction sparks ICE rumors



Construction of a new warehouse in the 10900 block of Beltway 8 between Beamer and Sabo has sparked unfounded rumors among some residents that the facility – and possibly others being erected in the area – is to be used as an ICE detention facility. According to developers, the 140,000-square-foot building is actually to be used for

industrial office/warehouse space, with leasing available to the public. Loading bays are located on the back side of the building and cannot be seen from Beltway 8. The photo above shows the loading bay and retention area in its' current state. Construction is scheduled to be complete in the last quarter of 2026.

Sageglen holds election

Continued from Page 1

to door in the neighborhood (along with recently elected Clear Brook City MUD board member Yen Huynh Rabe) and that he didn't know the copied ballots were unacceptable.

With the copied ballots tossed out, incumbent Sam Weeke defeated Saifi by just

one vote, receiving 21 votes to his opponent's 20. Third candidate Angekla Graves received 14 votes.

HOA officials said they were weighing legal options at press time.

See future editions of the Leader for more information.

See related letter on Page 2.

USCG's Carter promoted

Continued from Page 1

Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

Carter is the son of Al and Mary Carter, longtime Sagemont residents who now live in Friendswood.

Carter and his wife, the former Amy Michalczak, make their home in Stafford, Va. Their oldest daughter, Alison, recently graduated with dual degrees from Jacksonville University. Their other two children, Katelynn

and Matthew, will be students at Virginia Tech in the fall.



Jonathan Carter



LG3 leads League City LL to historic first state title

Lane "LG3" Graham, League City Little League 11-and-under All-Stars pitcher, gets a heartfelt hug from his dad Esteban Graham after he hurled five innings, striking out three, allowing only two hits and one walk to shut out Bridge City All-Stars. With the 11-0 run-rule win July 14, League City became the first-ever League City Little League Texas East State Champions. Lane's dad and mom Amy Graham are Clear Brook graduates and current Clear Creek ISD educators.

Congregation Shaar HaShalom to host garage sale

Congregation Shaar HaShalom and its sisterhood will have the synagogue's annual indoor garage/rummage sale on Sunday, July 26, and the following Sunday, Aug. 2, both between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. The sale will have household and kitchen items, clothes, books, toys, jewelry, traveling and loads of surprise treasures.

Proceeds from this sale provide the funds to support the synagogue's programs such as its school, adult education and its sisterhood's activities.

The Congregation, is located at 16020 El Camino Rea, Houston, TX 77062. For more information, visit www.shaarhashalom.org, call the office at (281) 488-5861 or email cs@shaarhashalom.org.

Hometown Heroes Park hosts free ballroom dance

A free ballroom dance is held every Wednesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 East League City Parkway, League City. Everyone is welcome regardless of skill level.

The dance is casual dress, and the purpose is to have fun, get some mental and physical exercise and make friends. A variety of rhythms are provided by Neva and Bill Schroder, including foxtrot, waltz, rumba, cha-cha, tango, Viennese waltz, swing, West Coast swing and several popular Latin dances.

Several dancers have attended regularly since the dance began in 2012. Lasting friendship is a bonus of this weekly event. Walk-ins are welcome to share in the fun.

The ballroom has a large floating hardwood floor and natural light from many windows and a wall of mirrors.

While this regular dance is provided free by volunteers, there is a fee for age-dependent non-residents and nonsenior residents. The fees are handled entirely by the front office at Hometown Heroes Park. Information is available by calling 281-554-1185.

Remember When

50 years ago (1976)

The Pasadena Independent School District Board of Trustees approved a preliminary budget. It provided raises for employees and increased funds for teaching supplies, while leaving the tax base unchanged. Counting on an anticipated carry-over, the board passed a record \$39.95 million budget, exactly matching estimated revenues and expenses.

The San Jacinto Junior College board of regents met to approve details of an upcoming bond election. If passed, the \$7 million would supply funds for an extension to be built on the Beamer Road property purchased by San Jacinto College.

45 years ago (1981)
Annual salary increases ranging from \$2,227 to \$3,097 for PISD teachers were approved by the board of trustees.

Dobie High School associate principal Jimmy Barber moved to South Houston High School as its new principal.

40 years ago (1986)
After a burglary in Wood Meadow, two men, Francisco Saucedo, 31, and Juan

Garcia, 27, were caught after being stopped for a traffic violation.

Elmer G. Bondy, PISD assistant superintendent for secondary education, retired after 39 years of service.

35 years ago (1991)
Jim Salyer was named chief executive officer of Memorial Hospital Southeast.

Clear Creek Independent School District's superintendent, Dr. Ron McLeod, created controversy when he recommended closing Weber Elementary during incineration at Brio.

30 years ago (1996)
Eliaday "Lia" McCord, a 1991 Clear Brook graduate arrested for smuggling heroin in Bangladesh, was released from prison. She was pardoned by the president of Bangladesh due to her age at the time of the crime.

The PISD school trustees approved \$84.7 million in new construction and repairs which included rebuilding Pasadena High School and Jackson Intermediate. Construction would also include additions to several campuses including Thompson Intermediate and Atkinson,

Meador and Stuchbery elementary.

25 years ago (2001)
A contract between CCISD officials and a developer to purchase 16 acres of property off Scarsdale and Blackhawk was signed.

CCISD Superintendent Dr. John Wilson said construction could begin on the new Weber Elementary before fall, which would allow usage of the new school for much of the 2002-2003 school year. The old Weber Elementary in Southend was torn down as part of the Brio cleanup. The replacement campus was in response to pressure from the community for a local elementary school.

The Sagemont Senior Little League 14-year-old All-Star team advanced to the state competition in Waco.

20 years ago (2006)
Several Harris County construction projects, including a community center, the Scarsdale/Yost connection, a county annex and a tree farm, began.

Deputies from Constable Gary Freeman's office reported a burglary of a business and arrests for cocaine

and prohibited weapons.

A family disturbance in the Kirkwood subdivision resulted in the shooting death of a suspect around 1:30 a.m.

15 years ago (2011)

The U.S. Army Reserve's 75th Mission Command Training Division celebrated a change of command. Currently stationed at Ellington Field, the unit relocated from its former base on Old Spanish Trail in 2008. Brig. Gen. Jimmie Jay Wells succeeded Maj. Gen. Eldon P. Regua, who served three years as division commander. The ceremony, presided over by Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, the commander of U.S. Army Reserve, featured the time-honored passing of the guidon between the two commanders.

10 years ago (2016)
A 19-year-old Dobie graduate died July 15, after an accidental shooting that took place in the 12000 block of Sageland near Sagedowne. Jacob Lara was pronounced dead at the scene. According to police, Lara and his 16-year-old girlfriend were trying to latch the safety lock on a gun when it discharged, striking

him in the face. The female called 911, but Lara was already dead by the time paramedics arrived. Lara had reportedly just purchased the handgun.

5 years ago (2021)

Gov. Greg Abbott appointed longtime South Belt resident Bob Mitchell, who served as president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, to the board of directors of the newly created Gulf Coast Protection District. Abbott also lauded Sen. Larry Taylor and Rep. Dennis Paul, both of whom served the South Belt community, for championing the legislation that established the GCPD. Mitchell joined fellow appointees Sally Bakko, Michel Bechel, Roger Guenther, Lori J. Traweck and Michael VanDerSnick on the board. Their terms expired on June 16, 2025.

1 year ago (2025)

A 12-year-old boy was killed around 5 p.m. Sunday, July 13, in an accidental shooting at his home in the 11100 block of Sageheather Drive.

At press time, the juvenile's identity had not been

publicly released.

According to investigators with the Houston Police Department, patrol officers responded to a shooting call at the above address and found the boy unresponsive. He had suffered a gunshot wound, and paramedics from the Houston Fire Department pronounced him dead at the scene.

Investigators learned the male and his sibling were playing inside the residence when a firearm was found. The weapon accidentally discharged, striking the boy and killing him.

At press time, no charges had been filed against the boy's parents and the case remained under investigation.

Over The Back Fence by Nicole

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOSE!

Greetings for a happy birthday July 25 are sent to **Jose Abarca** from his wife **Natalie**; children **Kelvin Lopez**, **Noah** and **Elliana Abarca** and **Isabella Delgado** and husband **Sebastian** and child **Esme**; mother-in-law **Ellie Flickinger** and her husband **David Flickinger** (Leader president); grandparent **David Flickinger**; and friends and staff at the **Leader**.

KENNY MARKS A BIRTHDAY

Break out the balloons and party favors for **Kenny Fernandez** who celebrates a birthday July 26. He is active in the community as a local businessman, president/CEO at North American Shipping Agencies and member of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber.

IRVINES ENJOY ANNIVERSARY!

Wishes for a happy anniversary July 26 are sent to **Steven** and **Rebecca (Heeth) Irvine** from Rebecca's father **Richard Heeth**, a longtime Kirkwood resident.

TORI CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY

Special birthday wishes are sent July 28 to former South Belt resident and Dobie High School graduate **Tori Mask** from friends and the **Leader** staff. She currently posts a blog about the history of the South Belt area on <http://southbelthouston.blogspot.com/>.

SCHOOL DAZE

The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 23 through July 29.

Burnett Elementary

Happy birthday wishes are sent to **Elizabeth Jimenez** July 25.

Bush Elementary

Sing a happy birthday song to **Rubi Contreras** July 25.

Genoa Elementary

Keyla Ortiz celebrates a birthday July 26. Join in the birthday celebration July 28 for **Lisette Kearns**.

Hancock Elementary

On July 24, birthday wishes are sent to **Claudia Perez** and **Frida Salazar**. Greetings for a wonderful birthday are sent to **Victor Aguilar** July 27.

South Belt Elementary

Bring out a triple cake and ice cream July 26 to **Hortencia Armenta**, **Marie Goree** and **Sara Simmons**. Marking a birthday July 27 is **Selena Saldana**. The day to send a birthday greeting to **Lakita Thomas** is July 28.

Stuchbery Elementary

Light the birthday candles July 26 for **Veronica Silva**. Send a happy birthday wish July 28 to **Linda Bravo**. Best wishes for a special birthday July 29 are sent to **Susan Brady**.

Beverly Hills Intermediate

Sing a happy birthday song July 24 to **Abraham Badiilo Tristan**. **Curtis Tucker** enjoys a birthday July 26.

Thompson Intermediate

Blow out the candles July 28 for **Angelina Herrera**.

Dobie High

Break out the balloons and party favors for the July 24 birthday celebration of **Cam Luong**. Birthday greetings are sent to **Rowena Hickman** July 25. The day for birthday fun for **Lyndsi Price** is July 27. Light the candles July 28 for **Edgar Cantu**. Send a happy birthday wish July 29 to **Sara Barajas**.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Thursday, July 23: **Mario Salazar**, **Angeles Gomez**, **Melinda Evans** and **Amanda Karsten**; Friday, July 24: **Richard Schreier**, **Montoya Wilturner**, **Connie Alberti**, **Richard Golenko** and **Pete Ortiz**; Saturday, July 25: **Kelly Jones**, **Stephanie Gutierrez**, **Cherie Cundiff**, **Mario Rodriguez** and **Brodie Riner Jr.**; Sunday July 26: **Kenneth Sublett**, **Magda Adams**, **Debra Patterson**, **Kendrick Woods**, **Jenny Batson**, **Terrie Nichols**, **Kenny Fernandez**, **Eric Madsen**, **Gina D'Orazio** and **Elizabeth Bazan**; Monday, July 27: **Lydia Garcia**, **Joanne Mata** and **Sean Kean**; Tuesday, July 28: **Ariana Mena**, **Alyssa Chambers**, **Tori Mask**, **Dana Milburn** and **Sandy Nelson**; and Wednesday, July 29: **Codie Salyer**, **Linda Brisbay**, **Gina Trevino**, **Donielle Taverner**, **Albert Perez** and **Tiffany Barras**.

LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS

Send an email with anniversary, vacation and information on other events to mynews@southbeltleader.com with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's issue.

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SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

JFD volleyball camps coming

Dobie varsity volleyball coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will offer a pair of summer camps designed to both help younger players develop their skills within the sport as well as prepare incoming high school-aged players for the upcoming 2026 season.

Players ages 14 through 18 may attend the Longhorns July 28-30 camp, to be at Dobie main at \$60 per participant.

Sexton and other experienced volleyball coaches will direct participants in skill development, team building exercises, strategy sessions, fitness and conditioning drills as well as friendly match play. Incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors will attend the camp from 9 a.m. to noon, while incoming freshmen will attend from 1 to 4 p.m.

Visit the Dobie High School volleyball website at https://dobie.pasadenaisd.org/49529_2 for a link to register for either camp. For any questions, direct email to Sexton at dsexton@pasadenaisd.org.

The regular season begins Aug. 11 as Dobie travels to Baytown Sterling to take on the Rangers at 6 p.m. for the varsity match.

Dobie volleyball hosts tryouts

Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host tryouts for all incoming freshmen through senior players Aug. 1 and Aug. 3, both inside the gymnasium at Dobie main. All players will work out from 6 to 9 a.m., with sophomores, juniors and seniors then training from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Freshmen will work out separately from 1 to 3 p.m.

On Monday, August 3, all players will work out from 6 to 8 a.m., with the 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. session involving sophomores, juniors and seniors. Freshmen will then be involved in a separate session from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The Dobie teams will then be posted at 6 p.m.

All players looking to try out must have a PISD physical on file within the Rank One system, and all necessary forms at www.rankone.com must be completed prior to any on-court training. There are no exceptions. Dobie will begin the regular season Aug. 11 at Baytown Sterling.

BHI plans Aug. 9 Community Day

Beverly Hills Intermediate will host its annual Community Day Aug. 9 as the football and the volleyball programs will scrimmage in front of Bear fans. There will also be performances by the cheer and dance teams as the school celebrates the start of the fall athletic season in conjunction with the start of school. There will be concessions available for purchase throughout the day, and Beverly Hills team merchandise will also be available.

Brook volleyball sets scrimmages

High School volleyball workouts across the state will begin Aug. 1, and the Clear Brook volleyball program has released its scrimmage details leading up to the regular season opener.

The Wolverines will scrimmage Aug. 7 at Pearland beginning at 9 a.m. A day later, Aug. 8, the Wolverines will scrimmage at Clear Falls, also at 9 a.m. Clear Brook will travel to St. Agnes to open the regular season Aug. 11, with the varsity match starting at 5:30 p.m.

SBGSA hosts fall ball sign-up till July 26

The South Belt Girls Softball Association has opened fall ball registration now through July 26 for competition within the 6-and-under through 16-and-under divisions at a cost of \$125 per player. The league is also registering a 4-and-under division at \$50 per player. Visit the league's Facebook page at South Belt Girls Softball Association-SBGSA.

Cowboys set important dates

With the regular season quickly approaching, the Sagemont Cowboys have announced several key upcoming events. The first official practice morning is coming July 25, with the annual Scrimmage Jamboree is Aug. 8, and the program-wide pep rally is Aug. 14. The first day of the regular season comes Aug. 15.

SBYSC continues fall 2026 registration

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club has continued registration for the fall 2026 season. Registration fees include \$130 per player for the under-4 through under-8 age groups, \$150 per player for the under-9 and under-10 age groups, \$170 per player for the under-11 and under-12 age groups and \$190 per player for the under-13 through under-20 age groups. The league will provide uniform items such as shirt, shorts and socks, while parents are required to provide shin guards, soccer cleats and a soccer ball. Visit www.southbelsoccer.org and click on the registration fall 2026 tab to get started on registration details.

Dobie football encouraged as preseason workouts begin Aug. 10

Just weeks away from the start of preseason workouts Aug. 11, the Dobie football program is excited about the 2026 season and what could be a huge season all around for the burnt orange.

Spring practices have come and gone long ago, 7-on-7 games have been completed and the strength and conditioning sessions

are all in the books. All that remains between now and the first day of workouts is maintaining a high level of expectation as the start date nears.

The Longhorns have had to deal with injuries to a couple of key performers both in the spring and during the late summer, but third-year head coach Danny Fitzmorris

and his staff are confident the Longhorns have what it takes to improve upon what was a 5-5 overall finish in 2025.

"We have seen a lot of guys step up in the leadership roles, which is what every program needs," Fitzmorris said.

"We have a big group of incoming juniors, and a lot of those guys that really

accepted the responsibility of doing their job and showing the coaching staff that they can go out there on a daily basis and get the job done. We are very excited to get going here and in the next couple of weeks.

"I am proud of the guys for putting in the hard work and taking advantage of some opportunities that were out there for guys to take over roles within the program.

"We have to show her up a couple of spots on the offensive line and we probably have some de-

fensive secondary roles to secure along with maybe one spot on the defensive line. Overall, though, I feel like we are in pretty good shape to really put a good football team out there."

Dobie will work out on its own for a couple of weeks and then scrimmage against La Porte Aug. 20 for the subvarsities and Aug. 21 for the varsity level.

The Longhorns will host the Bulldogs Aug. 21 in a varsity scrimmage at Veterans Stadium, beginning at 6:30 p.m. From

there, it is on to the regular season Aug. 28 as the Longhorns host Clear Springs back at Veterans Stadium. Dobie will begin play at Alief Taylor Sept. 4 at Crump Stadium.

The District 19-6A run begins for the Longhorns Sept. 10 as the locals host Pearland in a 6:30 p.m. contest at Veterans Stadium.

"Overall, we feel great about the group," Fitzmorris said. "Adrian Taylor is one of the key juniors who has really stepped up as a leader, and we feel really good about how the rest of the starting group has filled out.

"We are not very deep, so we will have to stay healthy across the board. If we do that, and execute our game the way that we plan to do things, we should be in for a pretty good season."



At left, senior Leah Hernandez (9) went up against Dobie last season as a member of the Sam Rayburn program and has now transferred to join Dobie. Hernandez now provides the locals with plenty of experience and proven results at the setter position. Dobie varsity volleyball head coach Dawn Sexton and her staff will host tryouts for all incoming freshmen through senior players Aug. 1 and Aug. 3, both inside the gymnasium at Dobie main. All players will work out from 6 to 9 a.m., with sophomores, juniors and seniors then training from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Freshmen will work out separately from 1 to 3 p.m.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf

fortable places for players. But these players have spent a lot of time working together both in the spring and the summer.

"We have had pretty good participation on a consistent basis. These ladies want to be successful and have gone out there and put in the work. The results or take care of themselves on the court, but it's our job to be as prepared as possible.

"A lot of the process plays out with just competing in matches. There is no substitution for match play against other programs.

"This year, we will play in the Port Neches tournament the first weekend of the regular season. That's a little bit different than in the past, but we need to be able to get that match experience as much as we can early on.

"Basically we have two weeks from the start of the regular season until we open district play against Pearland. And that's not really much time, but that's the way it is for a lot of teams. I really feel good about this group. We

understand that the competition is tough, but these players are excited to go out there and put on their best performance each night."

When district play does begin, Dawson, Manvel, Shadow Creek and Pearland will be the big favorites to secure postseason berths again. Dobie, meanwhile, went 16-16 overall a season ago including 7-9 in district competition.

Brazoswood has replaced Alvin in the District 19-6A mix. Realistically, it will be challenging for the Longhorns to reach the postseason, yet anything is possible with a bit of belief.

"We have had a really nice offseason leading up to now," Sexton said. "I know the ladies are very excited to get out there and start putting things together in terms of a steady rotation and so forth.

"This is a great group to work with, and it's my job to put them in the best possible position to be successful. The season is coming up on us soon, and we will be ready to compete."

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Dobie junior Adrian Taylor (9) is set to assume the top role in the offensive backfield for the Longhorns in 2026 and has already taken over as a leader within the group as the preseason continues.



Nolen Thomas (13) was the Longhorns' most productive receiver a season ago and should be able to step in during district play to help the locals gain an edge on the outside.

Photos by Donna Alsdorf

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Dobie runners ready to excel



Jordan Roman was the varsity boys’ overall gold medalist as he captured the individual title at the District 22-6A championships at Dobie main, posting a time of 16 minutes, 22.62 seconds over the 5,000-meter course and is poised for another big season.



Aracely Alvarado paced the Longhorn varsity girls’ cross-country team a season ago in the 5,000 meter event at district as she was fifth in a time of 19 minutes, 14.90 seconds to advance to regionals and is certainly aiming to get back in 2026 as a senior.

Dobie High School 2026 Varsity Tennis Schedule
July 27-30 Mandatory practice 5 - 8 p.m.
Aug. 3 Mandatory practice 9 a.m.-noon, 5-8 p.m.
Aug. 4 Katy 3 p.m.
Aug. 5 at Barbers Hill 3 p.m.
Aug. 6 Baytown Sterling 3 p.m.
Aug. 7 Clear Creek 9 a.m.
Aug. 7 Nederland 3 p.m.
Aug. 13 Clear Brook 3 p.m.
Aug. 14 Dickinson 3 p.m.
Aug. 18 Deer Park 3 p.m.
Aug. 21 Clear Springs 2:30 p.m.
Aug. 22 Alief Hastings 8:30 a.m.
Aug. 22 Alief Taylor 3 p.m.
Aug. 25 *Pearland 3 p.m.
Aug. 28 *at Sam Rayburn 3 p.m.
Sept. 1 *Shadow Creek 3 p.m.
Sept. 4 Friendswood 3 p.m.
Sept. 8th *at Brazoswood 3:30 p.m.
Sept. 11-12 at Remembering Ike Classic TBA
Sept. 15 *Dawson 3 p.m.
Sept. 18 Kingwood Park 3 p.m.
Sept. 22 *at Pasadena Memorial 3 p.m.
Sept. 25 *Manvel 3:30 p.m.
Sept. 29 *at Alvin 3 p.m.
Oct. 2 La Porte 3:30 p.m.
Oct. 3 Dobie Exes matches 9 a.m.
Oct. 5-6 Bi-district playoffs TBA
* District 18-6A matches

Dobie JV Football Orange

Aug. 20	La Porte scrimmage	4:30 p.m.
Aug. 27	at Clear Springs	6 p.m.
Sept. 3	Alief Taylor	6 p.m.
Sept. 9	*at Pearland	6 p.m.
Sept 17	*Sam Rayburn	6 p.m.
Sept. 23	*at Shadow Creek	6 p.m.
Oct. 1	*Brazoswood	6 p.m.
Oct. 14	*at Dawson	6 p.m.
Oct. 22	*Memorial	6 p.m.
Oct. 29	*at Manvel	6 p.m.
Nov. 5	*Alvin	6 p.m.
*19-6A games		
Home games at Dobie main		

Dobie Fr. Football Orange

Aug. 13	North Shore scrimm.	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 20	La Porte scrimmage	4:30 p.m.
Aug. 27	Clear Springs	6 p.m.
Sept. 3	at Alief Taylor	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 9	*Pearland	6 p.m.
Sept 17	*at Sam Rayburn	6 p.m.
Sept. 23	*Shadow Creek	6 p.m.
Oct. 1	*at Brazoswood	6 p.m.
Oct. 14	*Dawson	6 p.m.
Oct. 22	*at Memorial	6 p.m.
Oct. 29	*Manvel	6 p.m.
Nov. 5	*at Alvin	6 p.m.
*19-6A games		
Home games at Dobie main		

Clear Brook High School

2026 Varsity Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 7	at Pearland scrimmage	9 a.m.
Aug. 8	at Clear Falls scrimmage	9 a.m.
Aug. 11	at St. Agnes	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 13-15	at Pearland varsity tournament	TBA
Aug. 18	at Goose Creek Memorial	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 20, 22	at Dickinson tournament	TBA
Aug. 25	Jersey Village	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 28	at Cy-Falls	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 1	North Shore	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 3, 5	Clear Creek ISD Invitational	TBA
Sept. 9	*Deer Park	6 p.m.
Sept. 11	*at Clear Falls	6 p.m.
Sept. 15	*Barbers Hill	6 p.m.
Sept. 19	*Clear Lake	6 p.m.
Sept. 22	*at Clear Springs	6 p.m.
Sept. 25	*at Clear Creek	6 p.m.
Sept. 29	*at Dickinson	6 p.m.
Oct. 2	*at Deer Park	6 p.m.
Oct. 6	*Clear Falls	6 p.m.
Oct. 9	*at Barbers Hill	6 p.m.
Oct. 13	*at Clear Lake	6 p.m.
Oct. 16	*Clear Springs	6 p.m.
Oct. 20	*Clear Creek	6 p.m.
Oct. 23	*Dickinson	6 p.m.
* District 19-6A matches		

Dobie JV Football White

Aug. 20	La Porte scrimmage	4:30 p.m.
Aug. 27	at Clear Springs	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 3	Deer Park	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 9	*at Pearland	4:30 p.m.
Sept 17	*Sam Rayburn	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 23	*at Shadow Creek	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	*Brazoswood	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	*at Dawson	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 22	*Memorial	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 29	*at Manvel	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 5	*Alvin	4:30 p.m.
*19-6A games		
Home games at Dobie main		

Dobie Fr. Football White

Aug. 13	North Shore scrimm.	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 20	La Porte scrimmage	4:30 p.m.
Aug. 27	at Clear Springs	4 p.m.
Sept. 3	TBD	
Sept. 9	*Pearland	4:30 p.m.
Sept 17	*at Sam Rayburn	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 23	*Shadow Creek	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	*at Brazoswood	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	*Dawson	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 22	*at Memorial	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 29	*Manvel	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 5	*at Alvin	4:30 p.m.
*19-6A games		
Home games at Dobie main		

Dobie High School

2026 Varsity Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 7	at Friendswood scrimmage	9 a.m.
Aug. 8	Four-team scrimmage	9 a.m.
Aug. 10	Pasadena scrimmage	3 p.m.
Aug. 11	at Baytown Sterling	6 p.m.
Aug. 13-15	at PNG Volleyball Bash	TBA
Aug. 18	at Clear Creek	6 p.m.
Aug. 20, 22	at Dickinson tournament	TBA
Aug. 21	*Pearland	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 25	*at Sam Rayburn	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 27, 29	Longhorn Labor Day Classic	9 a.m.
Aug. 28	at Crosby	5 p.m.
Sept. 1	*Shadow Creek	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 4	*at Brazoswood	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 8	at Iowa Colony	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 11	*Dawson	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	*at Pasadena Memorial	5:30 p.m.
Sept.18	*Manvel	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 22	*at Alvin	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	*at Pearland	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	*Sam Rayburn	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 2	*at Shadow Creek	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	*at Brazoswood	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	*at Dawson	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 16	*Pasadena Memorial	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	*at Manvel	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 23	*Alvin	5:30 p.m.*
*District 19-6A matches		

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GARAGE SALE
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COLLECTION DATES
7/25 & 7/26 • 8/1 & 8/2

LOCATION
St. Luke the Evangelist, 11011 Hall Rd., Education Bldg. & church entrance

QUESTIONS?
Contact Eileen @ eileen.nicholas.cda@gmail.com

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 23
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 24
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or at <https://aahouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300 for more information. Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - **Vigilance Group of NA**, open meeting, 2930 E. FM 518, Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit www.hascona.com or <https://nastuff.com/>. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
7 p.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - All services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, Judaism classes, film series, and lunch with the rabbi, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.
8 p.m. **Serenity Now Al-Anon Group** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 8 - 9 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share and discover choices available. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Call 281-484-9243.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - meets at CrossRoads UMC Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.

SATURDAY, JULY 25
7:30 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
9:30 a.m. **Congregation Shaar Hashalom** - See Friday's notice.
8 a.m./10:15 a.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - has worship Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at 7 p.m. (Bible study, Book of Revelation, at 6 p.m.) and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., 11456 Space Center Blvd. (in back of a medical/retail community). For details, call 281-479-7285 and leave a message, or stop by.
5:30 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** - A faith-based 12-Step program, at the Life Recovery Church, 5215 Preston Ave., Pasadena TX, 77505. Call 713-419-2635 for details.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

MONDAY, JULY 27
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.
6 p.m. **Scrabble Club #511** - Meets Monday at Denny's, 19212 Gulf Freeway. Join the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Email huff_reunion@juno.com for info.
7 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - St. Luke's Group, 12-Step Recovery, open meeting Mondays, 7 p.m. in the Education Bldg. in room 6, at 11011 Hall Road. For details, call Rita at 281-309-2801.
7 p.m. **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** - Chapter #0683 Friendswood meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N. Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose 832-858-4617 or Dorothy Pourteau at 713-875-8820.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.

TUESDAY, JULY 28
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
10 a.m. Join Wise Owls on every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. For companionship and games at, United Methodist Church, 12501 Palmsprings Dr. in Houston. Call Shirley at 713-449-9959.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - See Thursday's notice.
Noon **Ballroom Dancing** - at Hometown Heroes Park, 1001 E. League City Parkway, League City, 77573, is open. Neva and Bill Schroder coordinate Wednesday sessions for casual ballroom dancing (not dance lessons). Park activity cardholders attend free. Call 281-554-1180 for details.
Noon **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** - **Imperfect Nooners Group**. See Friday's notice.
7 p.m. **St. Paul's Anglican Church** - See Sunday's notice.
7 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Alcoholics Anonymous** - See Friday's notice.
8 p.m. **Beverly Hills Sharers Group AA** - See Friday's notice.

THURSDAY, JULY 30
7 a.m. **AA Meeting** - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Hope Community United Methodist Church, 2838 Lily St. Call 713-686-6300 (24/7) or visit <https://aahouston.org/meetings/>.
7:30 a.m. **Rotary Club of Pearland** - Check website for time and location <https://pearlandrotary.com/events/calendar> or call 832-293-9860.
9 a.m. **Pasadena Heritage Park and Museum** - Exhibits include dioramas, a turn-of-the-century doctor's office and an old-time kitchen. Open Tues. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 204 S. Main, Pasadena. Call Karen Hollon at 713-472-0565 for appointment. Tours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Five with San Jac baseball ties selected, signed in 2026 MLB Draft

San Jacinto College continues its tradition of producing professional baseball talent as three former Ravens were selected in the 2026 Major League Baseball Draft, an incoming San Jac freshman was also drafted, and another former Raven signed an undrafted free agent contract.

"Seeing these players hear their names called in the MLB Draft is a proud moment for our program," said Eric Weaver, San Jac head baseball coach. "It reflects the commitment, talent, and culture that define San Jac baseball. Congratulations to each of them. We're excited to follow their professional journeys and continue building on this tradition."

Brandon Arvidson, a left-handed pitcher who earned NJCAA All-American honors at San Jac in 2024 before transferring to the University of Tennessee, was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 12th round (No. 367 overall).

In his lone season at San Jac, Arvidson posted a 3.84 ERA with 108 strikeouts and earned NJCAA Region XIV First Team honors. He struck out 44 batters in 37 innings for the Volunteers this past season.

Jake Bennett, a catcher who played two seasons at San Jac before transferring to Dallas Baptist University, was selected by the Toronto Blue Jays in the eighth round (No. 252 overall).

As a sophomore, Bennett earned conference co-offensive Player of the Year honors after batting .337 with 18 home runs and 72 RBIs, while also earning Second Team All-American and NJCAA Region XIV First Team honors. He went on to hit .346 with 19 home

runs and 53 RBIs in his final season at Dallas Baptist.

Tre Broussard, an outfielder who played at San Jac before transferring to the University of Houston, was selected by the Cleveland Guardians in the third round (No. 95 overall).

In his lone season with the Ravens, Broussard hit .409 with 17 stolen bases and earned NJCAA Region XIV First Team honors. He batted .292 with 25 stolen bases for the Cougars this spring.

The Ravens also saw one future player selected in the draft.

Incoming freshman Ross Davis, a right-handed pitcher out of Rusk High School, was selected by the Baltimore Orioles in the 20th round (No. 590 overall).

He is expected to honor his commitment to San Jac and join the Ravens this fall. He is expected to honor his commitment to San Jac and join the Ravens this fall. He is expected to honor his commitment to San Jac and join the Ravens this fall.

McCabe "Mac" Moyer, an outfielder who played two seasons at San Jac before transferring to the University of Nebraska, signed an undrafted free agent contract with the San Diego Padres.

Moyer earned first-team all-region honors at San Jac before batting .353 with four home runs and 38 RBIs in his lone season with the Huskers.

The five players continue San Jac's long tradition of developing professional baseball talent, with Ravens alumni regularly selected in the MLB Draft or signing professional contracts.



Incoming freshman pitcher Ross Davis, a right-handed pitcher out of Rusk High School, was selected by the Baltimore Orioles in the 20th round (No. 590 overall). He is expected to honor his commitment to San Jac and join the Ravens this fall. He posted a 0.45 ERA with 89 strikeouts in 46.2 innings this past season.



Tre Broussard, an outfielder who played at San Jac before transferring to the University of Houston, was selected by the Cleveland Guardians in the third round (No. 95 overall). In his lone season with the Ravens, Broussard hit .409 with 17 stolen bases and earned NJCAA Region XIV First Team honors. He batted .292 with 25 stolen bases for the Cougars this spring.



At top right, Jake Bennett, a catcher who played two seasons at San Jac before transferring to Dallas Baptist University, was selected by the Toronto Blue Jays in the eighth round (No. 252 overall). As a sophomore, Bennett earned conference co-offensive Player of the Year honors after batting .337 with 18 home runs and 72 RBIs, while also earning Second Team All-American and NJCAA Region XIV First Team honors.



At right, Brandon Arvidson, a left-handed pitcher who earned NJCAA All-American honors at San Jac in 2024 before transferring to the University of Tennessee, was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 12th round (No. 367 overall). In his lone season at San Jac, Arvidson posted a 3.84 ERA with 108 strikeouts and earned NJCAA Region XIV First Team honors.

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McCabe "Mac" Moyer, an outfielder who played two seasons at San Jac before transferring to the University of Nebraska, signed an undrafted free agent contract with the San Diego Padres. Moyer earned first-team all-region honors at San Jac before batting .353 with four home runs and 38 RBIs in his lone season with the Huskers.

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