

## Peoria could see up to 60% reduction in CAP water as soon as 2027

City shares recovery efforts

By Philip Haldiman  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Peoria could see a 40% to 60% reduction to its Colorado River water allocation beginning as soon as 2027, officials say.

Melinda Whittington, Peoria's water resources adviser, said that means the city's 34,000 acre-foot allocation from the Central Arizona Project would be reduced to 14,700 acre-feet.

An acre-foot represents about 326,000 gallons, or enough to supply two to three homes for a year.

"We've run a variety of scenarios. We believe that 57% is probable for our reduction. I don't believe that will fully occur in 2027, but we are prepared for that," she said. "We have plenty more supplies than we have demand, which is a good thing."

Peoria delivered just over 11 billion

• See **CAP** on page 10

## Let's go to the Lake

Memorial Day  
weekend kicks off  
summer season at  
Lake Pleasant

By Philip Haldiman  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

**T**he 2026 summer season at Lake Pleasant is chock full of things to do, including a new attraction for those with a competitive nature.

A new floating pickleball court will open May 26 at Pleasant Harbor in Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

• See **Lake** on page 16

**This floating pickleball court is a new attraction at Pleasant Harbor in Lake Pleasant Regional Park. Pictured are Clint Gregory, owner of Boats 4 Rent, and Jami Reagan, owner of Floating Pickle. (Pleasant Harbor)**



**See Frank May's monthly real estate article  
in the center of Upper Westsider**



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**ON YOURVALLEY.NET****Peoria Council approves tentative FY 2027 budget**

Peoria City Council approved the fiscal year 2027 tentative budget and capital improvement program at its regular meeting May 5.

The proposed budget is set at \$1.185 billion, which is a decrease from the fiscal year 2026 budget, which was \$1.2 billion.

Officials say the budget supports existing service levels and growth needs within public safety, water services and general city services without any tax increases. The proposed \$579.8 million capital improvement budget for fiscal year 2027 represents a 1.3% increase from last year. It includes large, one-time capital projects, such as streets, water and sewer infrastructure.

The final budget is planned to go before council for approval May 19. Results were not available by press time.

**Roundabout improvements planned in north Peoria**

The city of Peoria is designing a new roundabout at Lone Mountain Road and Vistancia Boulevard to improve safety, traffic flow and overall efficiency.

To minimize impacts, construction is planned during the school's summer break. The intersection will be temporarily closed beginning May 26 to allow for an expedited construction schedule, officials say.

For project updates and more information, visit [www.LM-VistanciaRAB.com](http://www.LM-VistanciaRAB.com) or call the project hotline at 602-532-6250.

**ELECTION 2026**

# Q&As with Peoria mayoral candidates

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

**Name:** Michael Finn**Age:** 59**Council position sought:**

Mayor

**Hometown:** Phoenix/Peoria**Years as a Peoria resident:** 26**Employment:** Current vice mayor and executive vice president at Modigent**Michael Finn****Community involvement:** City council member for Palo Verde District since 2015**Why did you choose to run for mayor?** It's been my honor to serve on the

Peoria City Council for the past 10 years. We've accomplished a lot — and over the past few years, we've built incredible momentum in developing a premier city to live, work, and raise a family. I'm running for mayor because we are at a critical juncture that requires experience, leadership, and vision to ensure Peoria continues moving in the right direction.

**What do you hope to accomplish if elected?** As mayor, I will deliver practical solutions that strengthen Peoria's future with a focus on public safety, protecting our water future, promoting strong economic development, and fiscal responsibility. At my core I'm a consensus builder and will prioritize collaboration with residents and businesses to ensure that the decisions we make reflect the values of our community and protect our quality of life.

**Name:** Art Miller**Age:** 69**Council position sought:**

Mayor

**Hometown:** Born and raised in Glendale, California. My wife, Linda, and I lived in Santa Clarita. In California, we raised our family and lived for 35 years prior to moving to Peoria.**Art Miller****Years as a Peoria resident:** More than five years**Employment:** Spent the majority of career, from 1978 to 2012, with the Los Angeles Police Department.

For 20 years, held upper-level management and leadership roles in the LAPD. Served as the South Pasadena police chief, and then as Peoria chief of police for more than five years.

**Why did you choose to run for Mayor?** While contemplating whether to run for mayor, I met with residents in communities throughout Peoria where they expressed frustration with the direction our city was headed. Common complaints concerned the lack of transparency and that their concerns were ignored. My running for mayor is not for my legacy, but for the legacy of Peoria families and their desires for their community. I'm ready to get to work on their behalf!

**What do you hope to accomplish if elected?** As your next mayor, I commit to full transparency, smart growth that benefits Peoria families and ensuring that Peoria residents know their concerns are being

**LEARN MORE ONLINE**

Due to limited space in the print edition, these are abbreviated versions of the candidate responses. For the full responses, including the mayoral candidates and other council hopefuls throughout Peoria, go to [yourvalley.net/peoria-independent/get-to-know-peoria-mayoral-council-candidates](http://yourvalley.net/peoria-independent/get-to-know-peoria-mayoral-council-candidates).

heard, valued and acted upon.

Together, Peoria will thrive as one of the most vibrant and family-focused communities in Arizona.

**Improvements underway on Peoria trails**

Residents who use Peoria's trails may notice some new activity over the next several weeks. Peoria began an eight-week preservation project to maintain and extend the life of its multi-use pathway system.

Peoria maintains more than 22 miles of multi-use paths across the city. This project will focus primarily on asphalt trail segments, along with improvements to two trailhead parking areas:

- New River Trail (Northern Avenue to Greenway Road);
- Skunk Creek Trail (Rio Vista Community Park to 75th Avenue);
- New River Trailhead: Westbrook Village parking lot;
- New River Trailhead: Fletcher Heights parking lot.

Work will vary by location depending on trail conditions.

People should not enter closed work zones. Fresh materials, construction equipment and uneven surfaces can be hazardous.

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# Compass International Holdings Names Greg Hague Director of Home Sale Strategy

**Founder of 72SOLD will provide voluntary, no-cost strategy training to more than 300,000 agents across the company's portfolio of brands**

New York, NY – April 23, 2026 – Compass International Holdings, a global real estate services company, announced that Greg Hague, founder of 72SOLD and one of the most credentialed and experienced home sale strategists, has been appointed Director of Home Sale Strategy. Hague brings more than 50 years of experience to the role, with a career spanning brokerage, law, and real estate innovation. His work is grounded in the idea that the market is not a fixed constraint but a dynamic environment in which skilled real estate professionals can influence outcomes through strategy, positioning, and execution.

“My passion has always been helping real estate professionals unlock what’s possible for the clients they serve,” said Hague. “It’s about mastering how to position, market, show, and negotiate homes in ways that drive better results. When agents have access to the right strategies and the freedom to use them, the impact for sellers can be significant. I’m excited to share that with agents across this incredible network.”

Hague’s approach is designed to complement the company’s listing marketing strategies, giving agents additional tools around home positioning, buyer demand creation, showing strategy, and negotiation. Agents can adopt and adapt these strategies as they see fit, with the goal of delivering stronger outcomes for sellers.

“Greg and I share a belief that the future of this industry is one where agents are empowered to lead, and sellers have more choice in how their homes are marketed and sold,” said Robert Reffkin, Chairman and CEO of Compass International Holdings. “The best outcomes happen when the professional closest to the client has the flexibility and tools to act in their client’s best interest. Greg has spent his career building strategies that do exactly that, and we’re excited to make that expertise available to every agent across our network.”

Hague’s training will be available to all agents across Compass International Holdings’ brands at no cost, with participation entirely optional. Agents maintain full discretion over how and whether to incorporate these strategies into their business.

## About 72SOLD

Founded in Scottsdale, Arizona, 72SOLD is a home-selling strategy consulting and training company operating across major U.S. markets. Inc. 5000 ranked it #211 among America’s top 250 fastest-growing private companies and the number one fastest-growing real estate company in the Southwest. The company has been recognized as one of the Most Admired Companies in Arizona. Seven independent studies over five years have documented higher seller net proceeds from agents trained on 72SOLD’s methods. Learn more at 72SOLD.com.

## About Greg Hague

Greg Hague is one of the most credentialed and experienced home sale strategists in the country. A licensed real estate attorney who earned the top score on the Arizona bar exam,



Greg Hague

he is a 50-year real estate professional who made a deliberate choice early in his career: that the real estate business needed better thinking more than it needed another lawyer.

He began selling homes in the 1970s at his father’s Cincinnati real estate firm and never looked back. Over the decades that followed, he has personally listed and sold thousands of homes, and has trained agents across the country who have collectively effected the sale of tens of thousands more. Realtor Magazine ranked him among the Top 20 home-selling agents in the United States.

Hague founded 72SOLD, a home sale strategy consulting and training company that Inc. 5000 ranked #211 among America’s top 250 fastest-growing privately held firms and the number one fastest-growing real estate company in the Southwest. 72SOLD has been recognized as one of the Most Admired Companies in Arizona.

Seven independent studies over five years have documented higher net proceeds for sellers represented by agents trained on Hague’s methods. The most recent, a 2025 study of 11,618 Phoenix Metro MLS transac-

tions, showed a 5.8% higher median sale price compared to other homes sold in the same market.

Hague has built a fully integrated infrastructure supporting agent training and seller results, including a proprietary CRM, an in-house advertising agency, a buyer lead generation platform, an appointment-setting center, and an AI partnership with PolyAI.

## About Compass International Holdings

Compass, Inc. (“Compass International Holdings”, “CIH” or the “Company”) (NYSE: COMP) is a global real estate services company with a presence in every major U.S. city and approximately 120 countries and territories. Compass International Holdings serves millions of buyers and sellers through a portfolio of some of the most recognized and iconic brands: @properties, Better Homes and Gardens® Real Estate, CENTURY 21®, Christie’s International Real Estate, Coldwell Banker®, Compass, Corcoran®, ERA®, and Sotheby’s International Realty®. Every day, we empower a global network of 300,000 real estate professionals and affiliate broker-owners to grow their businesses and deliver exceptional service to consumers.

The Company empowers real estate professionals to streamline operations and seamlessly guide clients through every phase of residential and commercial transactions, leveraging powerful tools, including its modern technology platform. Compass International Holdings brings together integrated services, including brokerage, franchise, mortgage, title, insurance, escrow, and relocation.

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SUMMER

# Cooling centers, hydration stations now open throughout Peoria

The city has launched its seasonal heat relief efforts, opening cooling centers and hydration stations across the city as part of the regional Heat Relief Network led by the Maricopa Association of Governments.

Cooling centers and hydration stations will remain open through Sept 30.

Peoria is also kicking off a bottled water donation drive, with collection sites available at participating locations to support those most in need.

Anyone can be affected by heat-related illness, regardless of age, fitness level, or how long they've lived in Arizona. Taking simple precautions now can make a life-saving difference later.

- Drink water regularly, don't wait until you feel thirsty;
- Replenish electrolytes if you're



Peoria has launched its seasonal heat relief efforts. (Metro Creative)

- active or sweating heavily;
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing and sun protection;
- Use air conditioning whenever

possible; fans alone are not effective above 95°F;

- Check on older adults, neighbors, and those living alone;
- Never leave children, pets, or anyone in a parked car;
- Find nearby cooling centers at [www.azmag.gov/heatrelief](http://www.azmag.gov/heatrelief);
- Call 2-1-1 (English/Spanish, daily 9 a.m.-7 p.m.) for heat relief resources, transportation, or A/C assistance.

## Cooling Centers

- William L. Patena Community Center, 8335 W. Jefferson St.  
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Peoria Main Library, 8463 W. Monroe St.  
Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Friday-Saturday 12-5 p.m.

- Sunrise Mountain Library, 21109 N. 98th Ave.  
Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Friday-Saturday 12-5 p.m.

- Rio Vista Recreation Center, 8866 W. Thunderbird Rd.  
Monday-Friday 5 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Hydration Stations

- Peoria City Hall, 8401 W. Monroe St.  
Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-6 p.m.
  - Peoria Development and Community Services Building, 9875 N. 85th Ave.  
Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-6 p.m.
- For more information about the city of Peoria's heat relief efforts, contact Peoria SUPPORT at 623-773-7770 or [peoriaSUPPORT@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:peoriaSUPPORT@peoriaaz.gov).



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## CAP

• From page 1

gallons or about 34,000 acre-feet of water to city water customers last year. Nearly 60% of that, or around 21,000 acre-feet, came from the CAP. Officials say Peoria has about 80,000 acre-feet worth of water supplies available for delivery.

## Concerns

Officials say the city has been preparing for drought for decades and is pursuing water security issues. Staff says the city is continuing to look at resilience, redundancy and long term water security.

As surface water supplies become more variable and less reliable, staff is advancing a balanced approach and aggressive both near-term and long-term sustainability to protect the city's water future, officials said.

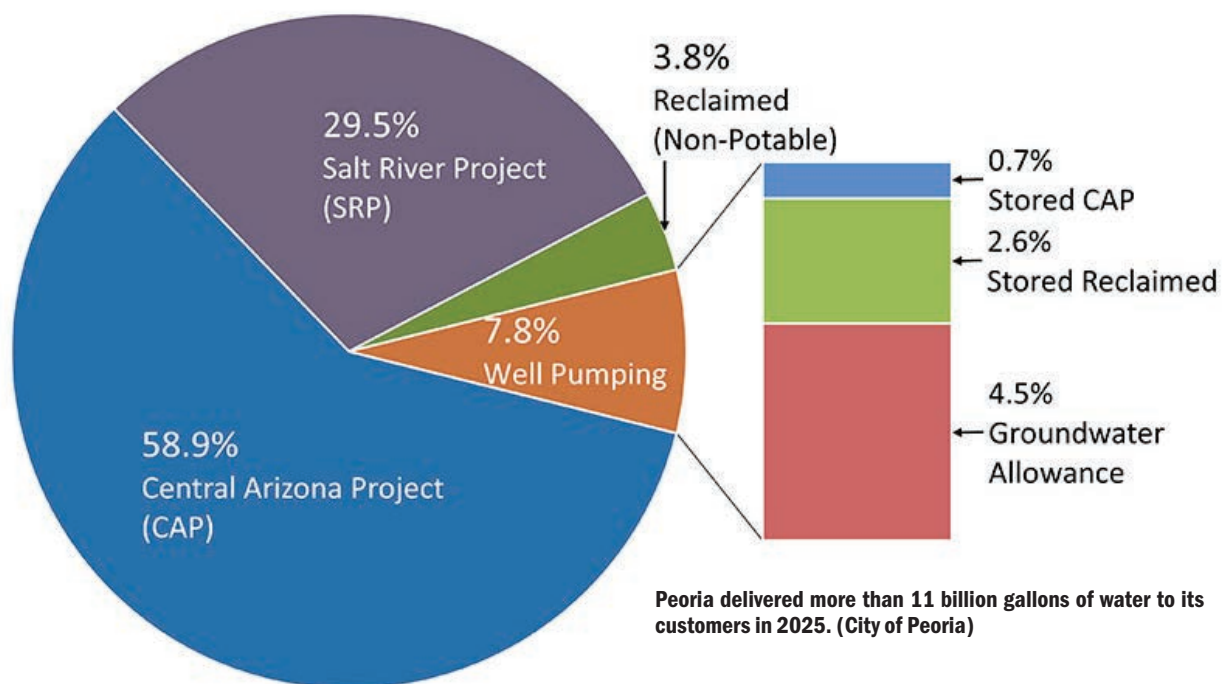
Deputy City Manager Kevin Burke said there is no worry for the city's existing water customers.

He said the city's system is absolutely secure and redundant to its water supplies.

• See **Water** on page 14

2025 Total Water Delivered = 11.19 billion gallons or 34,341 acre-feet

\*May not sum exactly due to rounding



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# Aging Well Isn't an Accident

**By Jenna Meyer**  
Executive Director, Sierra Winds

May is Older Americans Month, a time set aside nationally to recognize the contributions of older adults and to think about what it means to age well. I find myself reflecting on that phrase every year. Aging well. What does it actually take?

I've been in senior living long enough to have watched a lot of people navigate this chapter of life. And one pattern holds true more consistently than almost anything else. The people who planned are the people who seem most settled, most engaged, most like themselves. They made decisions before circumstances made hard decisions for them.

The ones who struggle most are almost never the ones who faced the hardest health challenges. They're the ones

who were caught off guard. Who assumed things would stay the same a little longer. Who kept meaning to have a conversation, but they kept putting it off.

I don't say that to create anxiety. I say it because I think aging with intention is one of the most loving things a person can do for themselves and for the people around them.

What does intentional aging look like in practice? It looks like talking openly with a spouse or adult children about preferences before a crisis makes the conversation urgent. It looks like understanding your financial picture well enough to make a real choice about where and how you want to live. It looks like asking yourself, honestly, whether your current situation is set up to support you five years from now, not just today.

It also looks like something people



**Jenna Meyer**

don't always expect: staying curious. The residents I admire most aren't the ones who had everything figured out before they arrived. They're the ones who walked in, open to something new. Who joined a group they would never have tried before. Who built friendships they

hadn't anticipated.

Planning ahead opens a door, but walking through it takes a kind of ongoing intention that doesn't stop once the moving boxes are unpacked.

Older Americans Month is a good time to start a conversation you've been circling. Not because something is wrong, but because the people who gave themselves time to make a good decision almost always say the same thing afterward: they wish they'd started sooner.

At Sierra Winds, we see it regularly. Residents who chose this community while they were active and independent and had the luxury of choosing carefully, visiting unhurried, and settling in on their own terms. That is what planning ahead buys you. Not just security, but time.



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# Peoria Unified plans to bring 2 items to ballot this year

## 2 school board members do about-face on override vote

By Philip Haldiman  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Peoria Unified School District governing board will bring two items before voters in November — a 13% override and the other regarding district properties.

But the override almost didn't make it to the ballot.

After supporting the new override proposed for the upcoming November election and an override that failed in 2025, two Peoria Unified governing board members did an about-face regarding a resolution to place the new override on the ballot.

Boardmember Heather Rooks at the April 23 meeting abstained from voting on the resolution. Board member Janelle Bowles at the meeting voted against the resolution.

This came two weeks after the April 9 meeting when the board unanimously directed staff to move forward with the resolution, as well as a meeting earlier this year when they unanimously voted to begin the process of putting the override on the ballot.

The final vote on April 23 was approved 3-1, with members Jeff Tobey, Becky Proudfit and Melissa Ewing voting to place the override on the ballot.

Staff will now work to make sure Maricopa County receives the ballot language before the June 8 deadline.

Rooks did not explain her reason for abstaining on the April 23 vote.

Bowles said enrolling more students in the district is the sustainable way to run public schools.

A district should not be sustained on an override, she said

"No more than a grant. You can't sustain a program on a grant," Bowles said. "We are supposed to be enrolling more students. We get paid for butts in seats."

In November 2025, a proposed 15% override, which Rooks and



Heather Rooks



Janelle Bowles

## HAVE AN OPINION ON THIS ISSUE?

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Bowles voted to place on the ballot, was not approved by voters.

As a result, in February, the district took its first step in planning for a new override on the Nov. 3 general election ballot — the board voted unanimously to direct administration to work with legal counsel to prepare a resolution to call the election. The unanimous vote included yes votes from Rooks and Bowles.

With the failure of the 15% over-

• See **Ballot** on page 13

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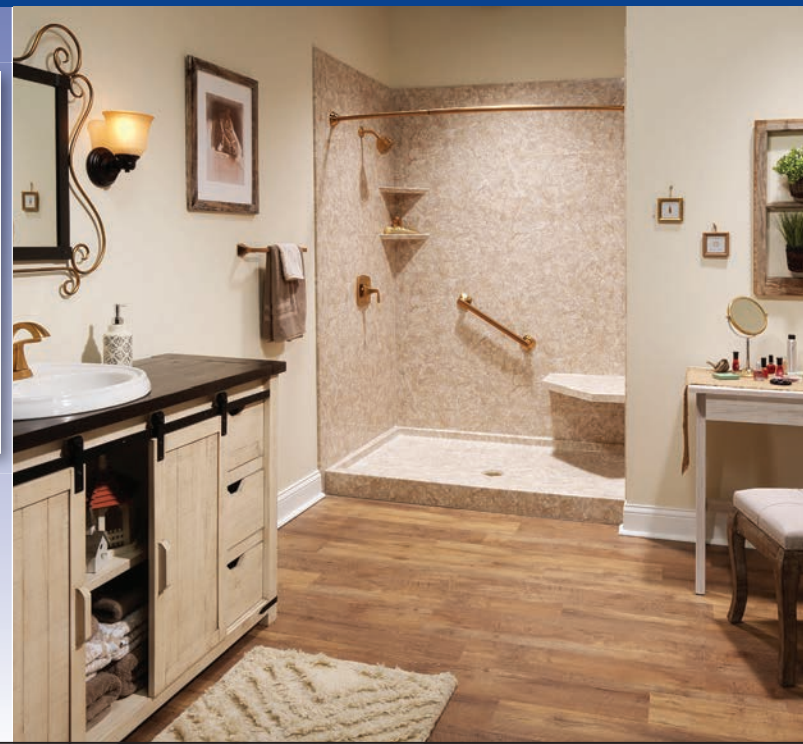
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BEFORE



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## Ballot

• From page 12

ride last year, the district will lose \$11 million in funding in 2027. If voters do not approve the override in November, the district will lose another \$11 million in 2028, and then another \$11 million in 2029, said Marcie Rodriguez, deputy superintendent of business support services.

If voters approve the proposed 13% override offered this time, it would close those financial gaps and generate a little less than \$33 million annually that would go to people and programs.

### The other ballot measure

The other ballot measure will call for a special election to request authorization to sell, lease or exchange Kachina Elementary School and the district administra-

tion center.

In March, the governing board unanimously approved the closure of Pioneer and Kachina elementary schools.

The voters will decide the fate of Kachina, while the district plans to repurpose Pioneer as a new alternative education campus dubbed Peoria Pathways.

The school closures have come about due to declining enrollment, increasingly under-utilized facilities, and rising costs, among other factors.

*Senior News Editor Philip Haldiman can be reached at [phaldiman@inusa.org](mailto:phaldiman@inusa.org), or on X @philiphaldiman. Please submit comments at [yourvalley.net/letters](https://yourvalley.net/letters) or email them to [AzOpinions@inusa.org](mailto:AzOpinions@inusa.org). We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our [Civility Guidelines](#).*

## ON YOURVALLEY.NET

### Peoria senior wins General Dynamics scholarship

Kylie McEwen received the National Merit General Dynamics Corp. Scholarship.

McEwen has worked throughout high school as a mentor in the Girl Scouts, a certified lifeguard and swim instructor, and a math tutor for elementary and high school students, according to a news



Kylie McEwen

release.

McEwen represents less than 1% of high school seniors nationwide.

In September, McEwen, along with three other Peoria Unified seniors, was named a National Merit semifinalist.

### PUSD board votes Rooks out of president's seat

In an unprecedented mid-year move, the Peoria Unified School District governing board has a new president.

The board voted to remove President Heather Rooks from her seat and replace her with board member Jeff Tobey. Applause rang out after the approval at the special meeting in a packed boardroom largely filled with opponents of Rooks May 5.

Rooks will remain on the board, just not as president.

Read the full story online at [yourvalley.net/peoria-independent/stories/peoria-unified-board-votes-rooks-out-of-presidents-seat,688231?](https://yourvalley.net/peoria-independent/stories/peoria-unified-board-votes-rooks-out-of-presidents-seat,688231?)



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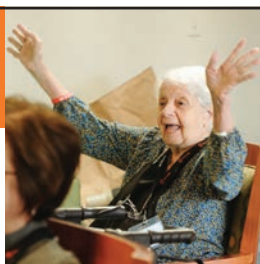


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## Water

• From page 10

The city's forward thinking is creating an even greater water security moving forward, Burke said.

Peoria has about 10 years worth of water stored underground in the form of long-term water storage credits.

"We are always looking at and planning for the next drought, the next interruption to service, the next water quality challenge. Those things are always being planned by the water services department. The city is constantly looking ahead to make sure we are anticipating, and being prepared for those kinds of things," Burke said.

## Recovery

For years, the city has been storing water for scenarios like this, officials say, and it will use groundwater credits to compensate for the CAP reduction. The city will also increase well pumping to backfill the CAP water reduction, and do not plan to deplete groundwater.

Burke said the city has about 260,000 acre-feet of CAP water stored, where in years past they have taken excess capacity and put Colorado River water into local underground aquifers.

"We are in a position where even with the Colorado River going down, first we have the 260,000 acre-feet of CAP water that we've been storing underground for exactly this occasion, so that we can bridge bad years to

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good years," Burke said.

## Planning

Peoria has around \$1 billion in funding planned for water services over the next 10 years, ranging from new infrastructure to new technologies.

The city has put a focus on drilling new wells to address the potential CAP water allocation reduction.

Water Services Deputy Director Daniel Kiel said three wells are being installed in the Peoria Innovation Core that can produce about 3 million gallons of water per day to help offset any surface water restrictions.

Additional plans include as many as 13 new and offline wells that could come online to provide necessary redundancy in the coming years.

"The primary need is in the north, mainly north of bell road, where we primarily use CAP water," Kiel said. "However, we are also focused on ensuring redundancy in the southern part of the city on SRP project land as well."

Whittington said Peoria is working on a pilot program with Salt River Project for additional space at Roos-

• See **Reduction** on page 15



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## Reduction

• From page 14

evelt Lake so when there is excess water available in that system, it can deliver as much as 2,500 acre-feet of water directly to the city.

Last year, Peoria commissioned a study on the feasibility of developing an advanced water purification plant, which would use multiple technologies to remove contaminants from water, most significantly producing high-quality drinking water from wastewater.

The plant would cost more than \$800 million over 15 to 20 years.

Although a site has not been decided upon, the study recommended a facility be built at the Beard-sley Water Reclamation plant, 19912 N. 111th Ave.

Officials say the advanced water purification plant is included in the city's capital improvement program.

As far as conservation, the city's programs currently offset around 161 acre-feet annually, or enough water to supply around 400 homes a year.

The Parks and Recreation Department has reduced water supply by 45% for their department



The city's 34,000 acre-foot water allocation from the Central Arizona Project could be reduced to 14,700 acre-feet as soon as 2027. (Jeff Kucharski)

in two years, saving enough water for around 350 homes.

Officials say more conservation efforts are planned for the future.

"So all those things we're still working on," Whittington said.

## LEARN MORE ONLINE

For more information on this subject, visit [yourvalley.net/peoria-independent/](http://yourvalley.net/peoria-independent/).

Senior News Editor Philip Haldiman can be reached at [phaldiman@inusa.org](mailto:phaldiman@inusa.org), or on X @philiphaldiman. Please submit comments at [yourvalley.net/letters](http://yourvalley.net/letters) or email them to [AzOpinions@inusa.org](mailto:AzOpinions@inusa.org). We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our [Civility Guidelines](#).

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## Lake

• From page 1

Reservations will be available on the hour, for one- or two-hour sessions. Cost is \$100 for one hour and \$175 for two hours.

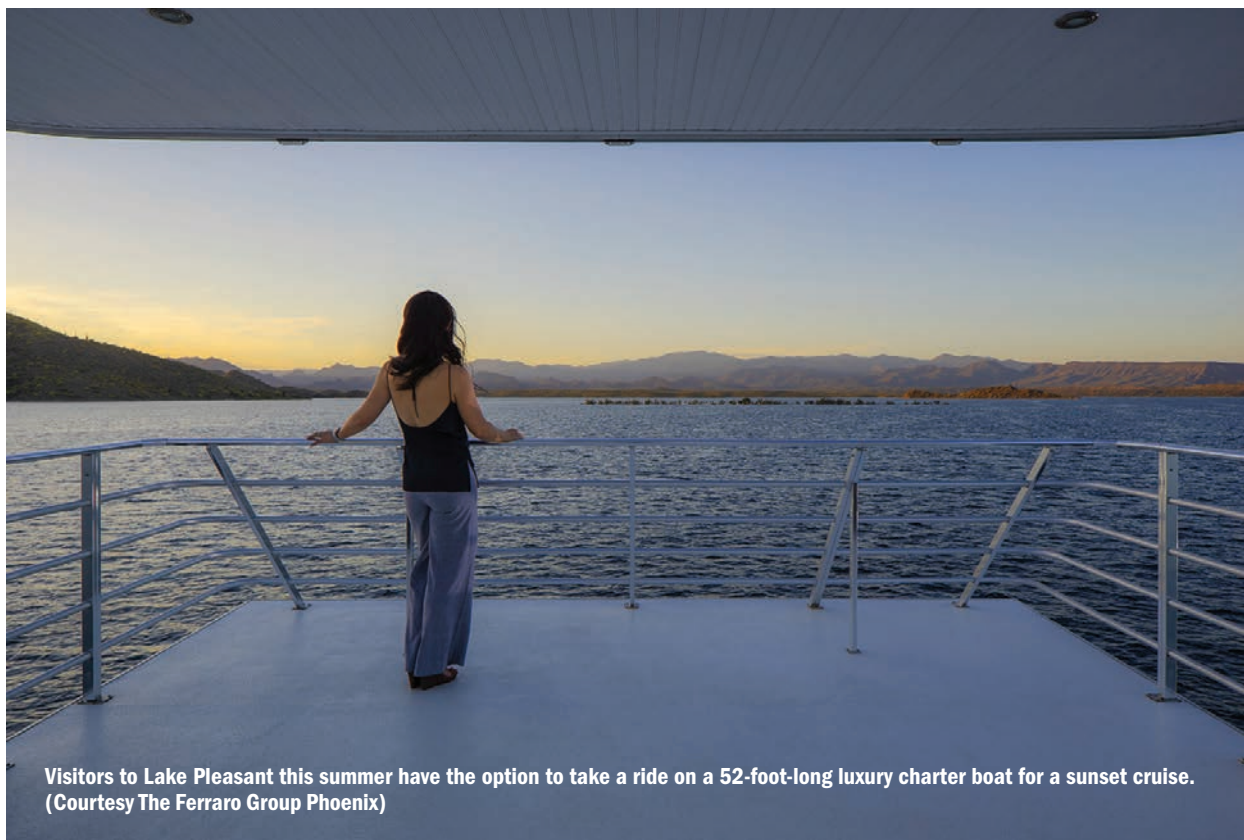
The new attraction joins the Whoa Island Waterpark and waterslide just in time for Memorial Day, the lake's summer kick off.

Located in the marina, Pleasant Harbor Water Park features an interactive inflatable waterpark, allowing visitors to climb, bounce, balance and splash their way across the marina, said Pleasant Harbor Activities Director Deneen Ramirez.

The waterslide offers three launch lanes, views of the park and a splash down. The H2-Whoa slide also features club lighting and additional underwater effects to create a nighttime party atmosphere, Ramirez said.

"With the addition of our new floating pickle ball court, we now have it all," Ramirez said. "With our close proximity to Phoenix, and seven day a week public access, we are one of the hidden gems of the Valley."

• See **Summer** on page 17



Visitors to Lake Pleasant this summer have the option to take a ride on a 52-foot-long luxury charter boat for a sunset cruise. (Courtesy The Ferraro Group Phoenix)

# Arizona Heart Specialists Welcomes Dr. Navya Vipparla, M.D. – A Dedicated Advocate for Heart Health



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## Summer

• From page 16

Pleasant Harbor is also home to the Pleasant Harbor RV Resort and Marina, featuring Dillon's Bayou restaurant, as well as lakeside operators providing boat, kayak, paddle board, sailing and jet ski rentals.

Across the shore, Scorpion Bay Marina features a variety of summer events, including live music every Saturday at Scorpion Bay Grill. On holiday weekends, such as the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, there will be live music Saturday, Sunday and Monday 1-4 p.m., plus sunset cruises most Saturdays. Firework viewing charter cruises will be available July 4.

Scorpion Bay Marina General Manager Lynn Lovelady said throughout the summer, Scorpion Bay welcomes guests to hop aboard one of the marina's 52-foot-long luxury charter boats for a sunset cruise throughout the lake.

"We love being able to offer such a serene lake experience to our guests," Lovelady said. "You don't need to rent the entire charter boat to enjoy this exclusive experience, we've made it accessible for individuals, couples and even small groups to pay just \$43 a person for their spot on the cruise adventure."

Public safety officials also want to remind visitors to the lake to wear a life jacket. State law requires all passengers 12 and younger to wear a life jacket while on board and each passenger must have a properly fitting, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket available.

Josh Hoffman, Arizona Game and Fish Department's boating safety education coordinator, said most who drown in recreational boating incidents do not have a life jacket on — it is the most important piece of safety gear one can wear, whether on a boat, personal watercraft or paddlecraft.

"Life jackets save lives," Hoffman said.

## ENTRANCE INFO

Pleasant Harbor, on the southeastern shores of Lake Pleasant, is open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. It is also home to the Pleasant Harbor RV Resort and Marina, featuring Dillon's Bayou restaurant, as well as lakeside operators providing boat, kayak, paddle board, sailing and jet ski rentals.

**Where:** 8708 W. Harbor Boulevard, off Carefree Highway and 87th Avenue Peoria.

**Admission fee:** \$10 per vehicle

**More information:** Visit [pleasantharbor.com](http://pleasantharbor.com) or call Pleasant Harbor Marina at 623-235-6130. For additional information on hours of operation, pricing and booking call 480-466-2904.

## WEBSITES

**Pleasant Harbor RV Resort & Marina:** [pleasantharbor.com](http://pleasantharbor.com)

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Scorpion Bay: [scorpionbayaz.com/events-calendar/](http://scorpionbayaz.com/events-calendar/)

**Dillon's restaurant:** [dillonsrestaurant.com/dillons-bayou/](http://dillonsrestaurant.com/dillons-bayou/)

**Go Paddle AZ:** [gopaddleaz.com](http://gopaddleaz.com)

Pleasant Harbor boat rentals: [boats4rent.com/lake-pleasant/](http://boats4rent.com/lake-pleasant/)

**Go Sail AZ:** [gosailaz.com](http://gosailaz.com)

**Lake Pleasant Boat Cruises:** [lakepleasantcruises.com](http://lakepleasantcruises.com)

**Tiller and Kites Sailing:** [tillerandkites.com](http://tillerandkites.com)

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**WEST VALLEY PREPS**

## **Sherrin the love: 22 siblings help fuel Liberty senior's baseball success**



Liberty senior pitcher Abram Sherrin delivers in a March 6 home game against Chandler Hamilton. (Courtesy Picture Lady Photography/For West Valley Preps)

**By Jared Figueroa**  
CRONKITE NEWS

Abram Sherrin is one of the most dynamic, two-way baseball players in the state. The University of Arizona-bound shortstop and pitcher led Liberty High School in home runs (eight), while also boasting a 1.70 ERA on the mound for a team that was eliminated by Chandler in the 6A state playoffs.

But Sherrin isn't just known for his stellar play on the field. He is known for something far bigger off the field: a family unlike most.

James and Lorraine Sherrin adopted Abram when he was just 1, while his biological mother, Aundrea Jarred, recovered from addiction and worked

full time. With that, he entered a family that includes 22 siblings, 16 of them adopted.

Despite the eclectic mix of personalities — six of the siblings still live at home and come to his games — Sherrin said he has grown up surrounded by constant support and energy. It's a dynamic that has shaped both his character and his approach to baseball, helping him realize a dream as a Division I commitment to Arizona.

"I'd say they're very outgoing," Sherrin said of his family. "They're very open. We're a very Catholic family, so we're pretty tight. We'd go out of our way to help someone, and we give back a lot."

• See **Sherrin** on page 20

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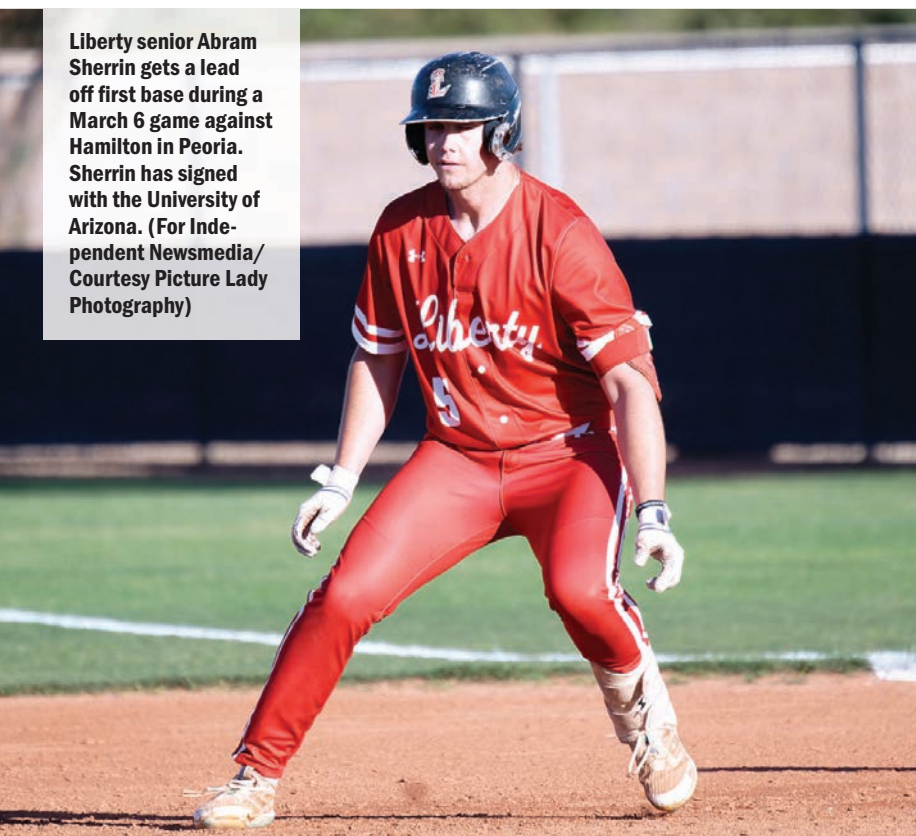


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Liberty senior Abram Sherrin gets a lead off first base during a March 6 game against Hamilton in Peoria. Sherrin has signed with the University of Arizona. (For Independent Newsmedia/ Courtesy Picture Lady Photography)



## Sherrin

• From page 18

The household environment that surrounds Sherrin has instilled a strong sense of composure and accountability — traits that can be seen every time he steps on the field.

“I just try to be the bigger person,” Sherrin said. “We’re about our character ... so I think holding myself to a standard on the field and off the field is just the biggest thing for me.”

Growing up in such a large family gave him a unique perspective on leadership. With siblings spanning multiple ages, Sherrin said he learned how to adapt and lead by example, traits that seamlessly fit on a baseball team.

“I see all ages,” Sherrin said. “I think it’s having so many brothers at home and then coming out here and having another brotherhood — it’s the same thing. They’re my family as

well.”

Liberty coach Chris Raymond saw that maturity early. By Sherrin’s freshman season, it was clear he was something special.

“His freshman year, he was already really skilled,” Raymond said. “As the year went on, it just became more and more evident that he was going to be a player of that caliber.”

Sherrin quickly earned a starting role at shortstop and even contributed on the mound, showcasing versatility and poise beyond his years. Raymond said what separates Sherrin is not just his talent, but his mindset.

“It’s quiet confidence,” Raymond said. “He’s never too high, he’s never too low. He just performs at a constant level. It doesn’t matter what it is, he goes out there and does his job.”

That consistency, Raymond believes, is rooted in Sherrin’s upbringing.

“His parents are just tremendous

• See **Baseball** on page 21



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## Baseball

• From page 20

human beings,” Raymond said. “That support structure creates a young man with so many moral values.”

At home, Lorraine watched that growth unfold from the beginning, even before baseball became serious.

“Before he could walk, he could throw a ball at a target,” Lorraine said. “We didn’t know what it would become, but it’s exciting.”

Despite the chaos that comes with raising such a large family, Abram emphasized the joy and unpredictability of it all.

“There’s a lot of craziness,” Sherrin said. “You never know what’s going to happen, but it’s great.”

Balancing that environment with the demands of becoming a Division I athlete wasn’t always easy for Sherrin, who still keeps in touch with his birth mom.

“Growing up, it was definitely tough,” he said. “Balancing time with all my family wasn’t easy, but as I got older, it’s gotten a lot better.”

With college on the horizon, Sherrin is preparing for his next chapter in Tucson, one that will take him just far enough from home to grow, but close enough to stay connected.

“I’ll miss them for sure,” he said. “But it’s a quick two-hour drive back here if I really need to see them.”

As he reflects on everything his family has given him, one message stands above the rest.

“I’m thankful,” Sherrin said. “I love them all very much ... it’s basically a second chance at life.”

As Sherrin takes that next step, he’ll carry not just his talent, but the strength and support of 22 siblings behind him.

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## BRIEFS

### Glendale Prep boys win division track title

The following athletes from schools in Peoria won division track and field title May 7-9:

- Andrew Fastrup, senior, Sunrise Mountain, Division II 3,200-meter run.
  - Julian Henao, senior, Glendale Prep, Division V 200-meter dash.
  - Zack Rich, senior, Glendale Prep, Division V 800-meter run.
  - Boys 4x400-meter relay and 4X800-meter runway, Division V.
  - Pearl Dunkin, senior, Glendale Prep, Division V triple jump.
- Glendale Prep edged out St. Johns by a point for the boys Division V state team title.

### Seniors choose college sports programs

These athletes from Peoria have signed a letter of intent to play their sport in college since April 1:

- Mason Lombardi, Liberty track and field, sprinter, Fresno State.
- Logan Russell, Sunrise Mountain football, wide receiver, Arizona Christian.
- Korbyn Blow, Peoria football, offensive line, Buena Vista.
- Johnny Rios, Centennial basketball, guard, Glendale Community College.
- Jesse Kirby, Sunrise Mountain football, safety, Lindenwood.
- Sekou Sackor, Centennial basketball, guard, Glendale Community College.



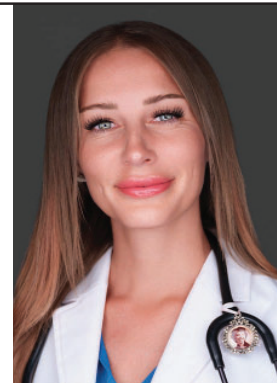
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PERFORMANCE

# Arizona Broadway Theatre launches largest summer program in its history

Arizona Broadway Theatre in Peoria has unveiled its largest summer camp program in the organization's 21-year history.

This year, there are eight unique programs for kids, tweens and teens to choose from, doubling the offerings provided last year. During the one- and two-week-long sessions, participants can escape into a world of creativity and discover the magic of live theater.

Registration is now open for kids, tweens and teens.

"With the growing demands in our community, we felt it was our duty to provide more arts education opportunities than ever before," said Stephen



• See **Theatre** on page 26

The Arizona Broadway Theatre summer camp program is going to be big this year. (File photo)

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# Overcoming trauma ‘the other way around’

Massage, wellness school sees growth in north Peoria

By Philip Haldiman  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

As a massage therapist of more than 30 years, Tammy Roecker has long valued the gifts of massage therapy.

But its value really came to the forefront once she started working toward having her own clinic in north Peoria.

She opened Arizona School of Medical Massage and Wellness in January 2023 with one class and nine students. Now her clinic offers six classes and has 60 students, and the teacher center has been booked for a year.

There is certainly a demand for massage therapy education in Peoria, she said.



Arizona School of Medical Massage owner  
Tammy Roecker

Her latest class is really good, Roecker said, with the students possibly surpassing the teacher.

“Many come in and they’re not happy and they’re looking to start a different career,” she said. “Massage is

a great career, and if you want to try something different that helps people, it could be done in nine months and you’ll probably be making more money than you are now.”

Roecker teaches medical massage therapy, which separates her from the normal massage education world. The medical part of the massage aims to reduce specific pain, improve function, and rehabilitate injuries. Roecker said the program’s 700-hour medical massage and wellness program prepares students for a career as a licensed massage therapist with a focus on clinical and medical massage. She said students learn how to assess, treat, and track real client conditions, not just perform techniques.

Roecker said she wants to integrate massage therapy into the medical community because going to a counselor isn’t the only way to learn how to overcome trauma.

## MORE INFORMATION

Arizona School of Medical Massage and Wellness

Address: 8279 W. Lake Pleasant Parkway

Website: az-medicalmassageschool.com

Email: azmedicalmassageschool@gmail.com

Phone: 800-615-1342

Cost: \$9,800 with a \$1,500 tuition deposit to reserve a seat. Financial options available

“We work the other way around — on the body first,” she said.

The massage program at the Ari-

• See **School** on page 26

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## Theatre

• From page 22

Hohendorf, education director at Arizona Broadway Theatre. “This is our biggest and best summer program yet.”

Participants in Arizona Broadway Theatre’s summer programs will learn the ins and outs of what it takes to put on a musical, both in front of and behind the curtain.

All classes focus on acting as well as music, auditioning, staging, choreography, design and performance.

Students will also get behind-the-scenes experience as they learn about costumes, props and set design for each musical. Classes are taught by industry professionals and are not only great for beginners but are also valuable for those with theater experience.

“As a theatre educator, it is so exciting for me to watch kids grow in our programs, not only improving performance skills but increasing in

confidence, discipline and creativity,” Hohendorf said. “Being a ‘theater kid’ teaches a wealth of skills that are valuable in all facets of life, not just on the stage, and we are proud to help cultivate these skills through our programs.”

Summer programs at Arizona Broadway Theatre include eight sessions running Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for one or two weeks. All participants will perform on Arizona Broadway Theatre’s stage in front of friends and family members on the Saturday following the last day of class.

“At Arizona Broadway Theatre, we feel a tremendous responsibility to provide a supportive and educational environment for the next generation of performers,” Hohendorf added. “These kids are our future actors, singers, dancers, costume makers and designers, not to mention theater-going patrons. We want to cultivate a life-long love of theater, and it starts here.”

## School

• From page 24

zona School of Medical Massage and Wellness clinic fulfills the requirements by the state and includes a variety of

foundational and advanced hands-on clinical training. Roeker said it prepares students with the techniques to begin a new career in nine months.

“It is good to know that it works, but the students here know why it works,” she said.



Richard Abisia teaches class at the Arizona School of Medical Massage and Wellness. The clinic has seen growth since it opened in January 2023. (Independent Newsmedia/Philip Haldiman)

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