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Yes Weatherford Hopes to Build City Owned Family Community Center



Provided

Kelly Kay, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City (pictured far right) addressed attendees of the Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation meeting this past week ahead of a special election planned for February 13. Several Weatherford community leaders were in attendance to hear how Kay has overseen revitalizations of other community centers across the state

A special election is planned for the City of Weatherford that will determine the fate of the one half of one percent sales tax that has been used to fuel Weatherford's beautification and economic development for over 10 years. The special election, which will also feature a separate school board seat primary election, is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13th with polls opening at 7AM that morning.

The sales tax which is set to expire on June 30th, 2024, would be extended with an affirmative vote until July 1st, 2034. The City of Weatherford would build a city owned family community center that would include indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities with the revenue generated by the tax.

The sales tax is championed by the Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation which has used the monies earned from the current tax to develop projects under the Yes Weatherford banner. Yes Weatherford projects over the past decade have been instrumental in updating and maintaining Weatherford's infrastructure while also providing spaces that fuel Weatherford economic growth such as the Weatherford Fire and Police Departments, Weatherford Public Schools, the Radar Park Athletic Complex, and SWOSU's Pioneer Cellular Event Center

This past week the Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation hosted a meeting to discuss what the city-owned Family Community

Center could look like if the tax extension passes. They invited Kelly Kay, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City, who's overseen similar projects for city's across the state. Kay, who also served as the manager of Weatherford's YMCA during the 1990's, showcased several projects including the Mitch Park YMCA in Edmond, OK.

The YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City has played a managerial role for the Weatherford YMCA for nearly a year and a half and Kay as well as Weatherford Community Leaders see an opportunity to put more resources into programs and services that would benefit Weatherford as well as surrounding communities.



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Larry Clear

Larry Wayne Clear was born March 2, 1943, in Carnegie, to Lester Owen and Lois Genevieve (Coe) Clear and passed away Saturday, January 6, 2024, at his home in Sickles, at the age of 80 years, 10 months and 4 days.



Larry was raised and attended school northeast of Eakly, graduating with the Class of 1961. After graduation, he attended college for a year at SWOSU. Larry married Pamla Mills and made their home in Eakly. He worked as a machinist with 3M for a number of years and later was a farmer/rancher. On January 6, 1977, he married Betty (Ferguson) Tapper in Sickles. He was a member of the Lookeba-Sickles Fire Department. Larry enjoyed golfing, farming and ranching, and spending time with family and friends.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents Lester and Lois Clear; wife Betty; and his brother Lonnie.

He is survived by two daughters: Kehmi (Clear) Swehla of Norman and Kayli (Clear) Melendez and husband Felix of Chino, CA; two sons: Keal Clear of Eakly and Kerry Tapper and wife Taunna of Hinton; eleven grandchildren: Avery Clear, Michael Swehla, Jacob Swehla, Alyxx Melendez, Madeleine Clear, Shelbi Tapper, Courtni Covington, Kelsi Miklosko, Kerisa Tapper, Chelsea Peters and Hunter Spivey; and seven great-grandchildren: Violet Swehla, Bowen Covington, Ella Covington, Luke Miklosko, Sophie Miklosko, Hadley Peters and Hayes Peters.

Nelson Perkins

Nelson Rogers Perkins was born May 5, 1946, in Hobart, to Earnest Cecil and Mary Elizabeth (Handlin) Perkins and passed away Monday, January 8, 2024, at home, surrounded by his family, at the age of 77 years, 8 months and 3 days.



Nelson was raised and attended school in Roosevelt area. He obtained his Bachelor of Physical Education with endorsements in Art and History from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva.

On March 15, 1985, he married Alice Windecker in Brownfield, Texas. Nelson coached football at Roswell, New Mexico, and later Farmington, New Mexico. When he returned to Oklahoma, he coached football at SWOSU and was director of the Wellness Center and also obtained his Master of Education at SWOSU.

He was preceded in death by his parents Cecil and Mary Perkins; four sisters Joyce, Elaine, Kay and Jan; and one brother Cecil.

Nelson leaves his wife of 51 years, Alice Perkins; one daughter Shelli Jent and husband James of Owasso; two sons: David Williamson and wife Kim of Oklahoma City and Jon Perkins and wife Yalonda of Ben Wheeler, TX; seven grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; several nieces and nephews; and numerous friends.

Brandi Del Kerns

The family of Brandi Del Kerns is broken hearted to share that their beloved daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece and cousin passed away Tuesday, January 9th 2024, at St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City. Brandi was born December 24, 1976.



Brandi was an organ donor so because of her generosity, three people will have a chance for a new or better life. The Family has chosen to honor her passing privately. Thank you for your prayers.

Grace Holden

Grace (Kirk) Holden was born on April 18, 1941 to David and Thelma (Hanson) Kirk in Wellington, Kansas and passed away on Friday, January 12, 2024 at the Edmond OU Medical Center.



Grace was raised and attended school in Pond Creek. She accepted Christ when she was 8 years old. She married Homer H. Holden Jr. on July 21, 1957 and they made their home in Wichita, Kansas for a couple of years. They later moved to Medford and raised their family. She became a dental assistant with numerous certifications and was an active member of the Oklahoma Dental Assistant Association. Grace was passionate about her career. She taught American Red Cross CPR courses, was a clinic coordinator, and a dental scrub tech at OU Health Science. She enjoyed sponsoring teenagers at Falls Creek Camp, cooking, traveling, OU football, family get togethers, cake decorating, and was famous for her toffee.

Grace is survived by her daughter, Sherrie and Beck Johnson, of Weatherford, OK; son, Brent Holden, of Enid, OK; brother, David Kirk, of Pond Creek, OK; Five grandchildren, Jonelle Holden, Long Beach, CA, Matt Johnson, Weatherford, OK, Clayton Johnson, Ada, OK, Justin Johnson, Lawton, OK, and Annastaisia Hambright, AL, and ten great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Homer; son, Steven; and sister, Daleen.

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SCAN ME

Berry, Cantrell Named Bulldogs of the Week

Jon Chidester
Sports Asst. AD

Mark Berry and Chloe Cantrell of SWOSU

Basketball have been named the latest Bulldogs of the Week. The weekly SWOSU student-athlete recognition is brought to you by Wright Media.

Berry (Lawton, Okla.) posted back-to-back double-doubles last week to help lift SWOSU Men's Hoops to an undefeated week in GAC action. Against Henderson State, he scored a career high 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Two days later vs Ouachita, he had 10 points and another 11 rebounds. For the week, he was an efficient 11-for-15 from the field.

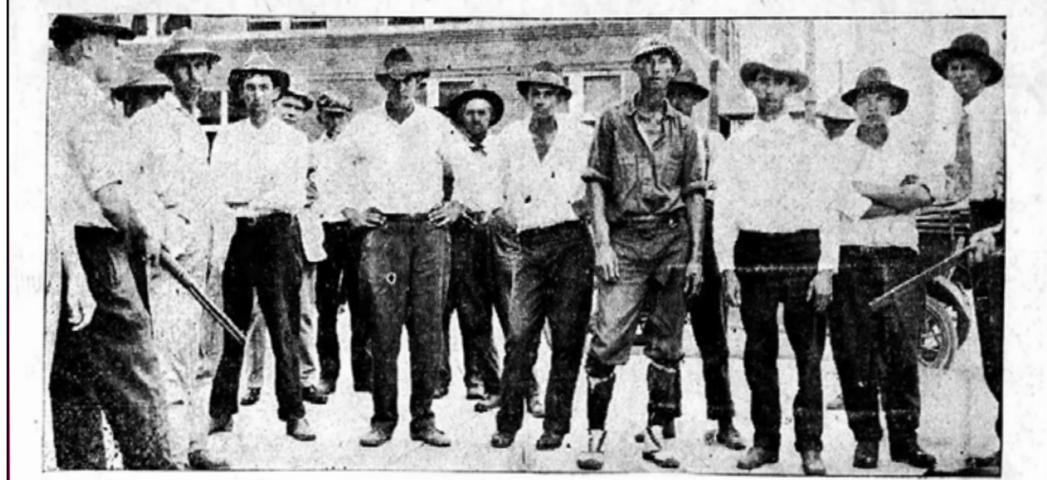
Cantrell (Anadarko, Okla.) had her best two-game stretch so far this season last week, capped off on Saturday with the most impressive showing of all. After an eight-point scoring night against Henderson State on 60% shooting, the freshman doubled her output against Ouachita with a season best 16 points on 5-of-11 shooting. Seven of those came in the fourth quarter.



BULLDOGS OF THE WEEK
Week 17 - Jan. 8-14

Oklahoma History: Economic Tensions, WWI, and the Green Corn Rebellion

First Photograph Of Oklahoma Draft Rebellion!



Wichita Beacon, Kansas (08-07-1917)

This photo is believed to be the first to capture the Green Corn Rebellion (simply referred to as the "Draft Rebellion" at the time). In a rare scene of "racial solidarity" for the time, black, white, and Native American farmers "take to the hills and wilds" together in an attempt to protest and dodge the draft.

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

The Green Corn Rebellion of 1917 was a notable but relatively short-lived protest movement that unfolded in rural Oklahoma. It was primarily a response to several interconnected issues, including opposition to World War I, frustration with economic hardships faced by farmers, and resentment towards the compulsory military draft.

At its core, the Green Corn Rebellion represented the discontent of farmers, many of whom were already grappling with difficult agricultural conditions, falling crop prices, and the encroachment of industrialization.

The call for the draft fueled these grievances, leading to a widespread sentiment of resistance among certain segments of the rural population. The rebellion's name is derived from the Native American tradition of the Green Corn Ceremony, a significant agricultural event celebrating renewal. They chose to use "Green Corn" as the name while rebelling to reflect a connection to the land and a desire for agrarian rights. There are also some consistent citations that claim the name came from

the protestors' plan to march east to Washington, D.C. to control the government, stop the war, and make the journey by living off of the green corn as it became ripe.

In August 1917, the rebellion came to a head as a group of around 800-1000 protestors, including farmers, tenant farmers, and some Socialist and Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) members, gathered by the southeast part of the Canadian River and ran immediately into a posse of townsmen. The nonevent was met with a swift response from authorities. Local law enforcement had caught wind of the gathering place thanks to an informer and along with federal troops, suppressed the rebellion, leading to arrests and trials. Only a few shots were fired.

While the rebellion itself was relatively contained, it left a lasting impact on the region, highlighting the social and economic tensions prevalent in rural Oklahoma.

The Green Corn Rebellion remains a significant episode in the state's history, illustrating the complex interplay of economic, political, and social factors during a time of considerable change and upheaval in the U.S.

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LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith
News Director

Weatherford Rotary Club Recognizes January Students of the Month



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Heston Wright / WW
The Weatherford Rotary Club of has recognized Dylan Hunt and McKinley Elwick for their academic excellence in the month of January Pictured, from left: Kyle Null, Dylan Hunt, McKinley Elwick, and Sheriff Raji.



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CORDELL / OSBI INVESTIGATION - Officials with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation are looking into what is being called a suspicious death of a 2-year-old child in Cordell, last month. Police requested the assistance of OSBI after they responded to a home near East Main and Florence Drive for a child not breathing. No arrests have been made.

ELECTION RESULTS - Voters in both Washita and Beckham Counties overwhelmingly supported sales tax renewal propositions. Voters in Washita County gave more than 90% support to renew a sales tax that will fund various areas of county government. Meanwhile, voters in Beckham County gave 94% support for the renewal of a sales tax that will help fund county rural fire departments.

BECKHAM CO / RAMIREZ - A Mangum man has entered into a plea agreement with prosecutors in Beckham County District Court and has been placed on probation. His sentence is deferred until next January. Thirty-one year-old James Ramirez entered the plea after being charged with misdemeanor negligent homicide after he failed to yield at an uncontrolled intersection and his semi collided with another vehicle, resulting in the death of Travis Lee Gartner. Ramirez was reportedly operating "for hire" without any authority and did not have a U.S. Department of Transportation number on file nor have insurance while operating the commercial vehicle in a commercial status.

CUSTER CO / HELIPAD - Custer County Commissioners took no action but did discuss the possibility of placing a helipad west of the jail in Arapaho. Commissioner Lyle Miller brought the proposal before the commissioners who plan to meet with first responder officials during a future meeting about the proposal.

WASHITA CO / SWARTZ - A Sulphur, Oklahoma, man is due back in Washita County District Court on February 1st for pre-trial after pleading not guilty to a charge of trafficking illegal drugs. Thirty-eight year-old Andrew Craig Swartz was allegedly found in possession of 46 pounds of marijuana last January.

CORN / STRUCTURE FIRE - A home in Corn sustained heavy damage from a structure fire, says Fire Chief Jeff Jaronek. No injuries occurred. Chief Jaronek says it appears the fire started as the result of a wood-burning stove. A Pancake Dinner is being held on January 30th to help fundraise money for the family.

WEATHERFORD PD / NEW LOCATION - The move into the new Weatherford Police Station/911 Center was accomplished recently, says Police Chief Angelo Orifice. Orifice says it was overall a smooth transition. He says a few bugs were still being worked out regarding communications with a couple of outlying fire departments.

WEEKLY SHOUTOUTS!



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Happy Birthday Wishes for Jan. 17 - Jennifer Avey, Haddie Mae Haynes, Jodi Lambert, Patsy Moseley, Bryan Reed, Fredona Rose, Donna Schwartz, Stephenie Watson. **Jan. 18th** - Chris Cote, Brianna Etheredge, Jeremiah Lopez, Dennis Robison, Sandy Rothmeyer, Hal Stambaugh, Kelly Taufest, Rebecca Thomason, Chrissie Warrior; **Jan. 19th** - Brodey Davis, Mary England, Allen Entz, Raydon Epp, Ryan Foster, Amy Haris, Garrett Hoffman, Jo Klingman, Candace Lanier, Phil Schmidt, Darrell Sheperd, Gracie Snow, Faye Trent, Delenna Williams; **Jan. 20th** - Kurt Conway, Gena Cornell, Christy Sheen, Carolyn Keeton, Logan Moser, Stephanie Schaunaman, Scott Steinly, Marie Stelting, Michelle Wolf; **Jan. 21st** - Brent Bellamy, Richard Carpenter, Daniel Funkhouser, Nicole Garcia, Steve Gilbert, Cassey Green, Kim King, Pamala Knuaf, Tracee Mcphearson, Danielle Merchant, Kelsey Schumacher, Joyce Skipworth, Betty Watson; **Jan. 22nd** - Brian Adler, Robert Betche, Michael Brooks Jr., Jason Davis, Alexandria Dry, Dalaina Horn, Daniel Hughes, Kassie Jackson, Jeremy Jacobs, Joyce Kenney, Brandon Murray, Fred Parrett, Gabriel Simpson, James Spain, Creed Thomas, Debbie Wagner, Renee Wilkins, Bob Yoder; **Jan. 23th** - Steve Daniel, Kristi Mackin, Janis Scott, Ally Townsley.



The Baca Family is Ready to Help with Your Financial Planning

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Bryan Baca, founder and president of Advanced Financial Strategies, started the firm in 1994 and is entering his 30th year in business. Throughout his career, he's seen many changes in the financial planning industry. He's identified that financial wellness is an ongoing process and an evolving environment that you can thrive in with an updated plan when facing today's economic adversities. This passion for serving his clients has led him to ensure each client has intimate knowledge of their assets and financial strategies and a full understanding of the risks, rewards, and effects of investment choices as their lifestyles or needs change.

One of the most important pieces of his philosophy to help his clients stay ahead of an ever-changing environment is "having a personal relationship with clients, which involves adjusting plans as needs change."

Bryan is a fiduciary who has served on many professional and community boards, and that experience allows him to navigate a diverse industry.

Bryan's son Briley Baca is the only independent Certified Financial Planner Professional, located in Western Oklahoma. He has met and exceeded the CFP Board's high standards of professional competency and ethics. The CFP Board is a non-profit, serving the public by setting "professional standards in personal financial planning." CFP-certified members are committed to expertise and excellence in financial planning, earned by financial planners who put their clients' best interests first.

Like Bryan, Briley's history, as a fiduciary, is focused on safe-money investing and mitigating risks. Highly devoted to helping retirees and those near retirement protect their money, Briley understands how to avoid

common pitfalls. "Plans people make need to be by choice and not by chance," Briley explains. "My job is to help clients follow a defined roadmap towards retirement."

The duo has made an appearance, twice, on the TV series *Retire Happy Hour*, which aired on ABC, CBS, Fox, and NBC. Bryan and Briley are client-first, single point-of-contact advisors who can coordinate your wealth management plan. With a robust network of connections and a collaborative team of specialists, each client can be confident that they're receiving the highest level of service.

Services include Efficient Tax planning, Retirement income planning, and Wealth Management. Contact Advanced Financial Strategies by phone at (580) 323-6800, in person at the Clinton, OK office, or through their website at RetireWithBaca.com.

Carissa King, King Legal Knows What Matters to Western Oklahomans

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Carissa King was born and raised in Western Oklahoma, so she understands the needs and desires of her fellow Western Oklahomans.

Whether you're a part of the business or farming communities or even a recent University graduate, Carissa King at King Legal will work hand-in-hand with you to craft a plan that addresses your individual priorities.

"You can be straight out of college and still have things you want to protect," Carissa says.

As an attorney, with over a decades worth of experience, Carissa knows the ins and outs of multiple fields like real estate, probate planning, trusts, and estate planning. In her eyes, "it's never too late to start planning and to ensure the people you love are protected."

Carissa likes to coordinate with her client's financial advisors to form a rock-solid support group with a single, steadfast goal: their clients' continued success.

Initial consultations for her clients are highly encouraged so Carissa can understand their financial situation. As a result, she lays the groundwork to develop a plan that may even exceed the client's initial goals. She wants to create a no-pressure environment.

You can read more about her new practice's services, history, resources, and contact information at the site: www.kinglegalkok.com.

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Graft & Walraven Offers Retirement Planning and More

Chase Wright
Staff Writer

Andy Carruth and Staci Masquelier-Sweedon, attorneys at Graft and Walraven, PLLC in Weatherford, routinely address common misbeliefs about estate planning and elder law. They both agree that helping folks learn the truth about estate planning and nursing home care is one of the most rewarding aspects of their jobs.

The Will and Probate Myth: “One of the most common myths we see is that wills avoid probate. Wills are important, but they do not avoid the costly and time-consuming probate process, which requires going through court. Proper planning, such as with a revocable living trust, can help families avoid probate,” Andy explains.

Nursing Home Benefits Myths: There are many myths about nursing home care benefits. The most common is that a person must be completely destitute to qualify for help with nursing home costs. “This is typically not the case,” Staci explains.

“The rules and criteria are a complex web of state and federal rules. We navigate those rules to help clients preserve family resources and legacy assets like land and minerals.” In short, you might be surprised at the resources available to you or your loved one to help with nursing home costs.

Joint Ownership: Another frequent misconception is that joint ownership is an easy way to avoid probate. “Joint ownership is certainly appropriate for a husband and wife and in other limited circumstances. However, in many cases your wishes can be defeated when ownership designations don’t provide the intended result,” Andy points out.

Estate Planning Isn’t Just for the Wealthy: “Many people think estate planning is only for the wealthy, which couldn’t be further from the truth,” Staci explains. Estate planning is beneficial for everyone. It ensures that during your lifetime and after, your assets and income are handled by the people you trust according to your wishes and your family is taken care of.

Power of Attorney: “There is a broad misunderstanding about powers of attorney,” says Andy. “It’s a powerful tool, but only during the principal’s lifetime. After your loved one passes away, it is useless for managing their affairs.”

Graft & Walraven is committed to helping clients understand how land, minerals, and other assets pass from one generation to the next. Andy & Staci agree that “the best estate plans result from collaboration between an informed client and an experienced attorney dedicated to taking care of people.”

For over 50 years, the attorneys at Graft & Walraven have served and advocated for the people of Western Oklahoma. “G&W clients know we are here to stand beside them, not just for their lifetimes, but for generations that follow.”

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SWOSU Men Have their Highest Performing Game Against Ouachita



Jon Chidester
Sports Asst. AD

SWOSU Hoops cruised to a 78-60 win over Ouachita Baptist on Saturday afternoon, representing the largest margin of victory for the Bulldogs this season.

For the second time this season SWOSU's shot accuracy was more than 50%. This game also tied a season high with 10 three-point makes on 20 attempts.

The Bulldogs enjoyed a 35-26 lead at halftime and extended the margin to as many as 24 points in the second half. SWOSU scored eight more points in the second half than they did in the first despite taking 11 fewer shots thanks to an efficient 12-for-20 (60%) shooting. They added 15 additional points at the foul line after making 23 of their 25 trips to the charity stripe in the second half.

Leading just 41-37 at the first media timeout of the second half, SWOSU outscored Ouachita 29-9 to eventually build the largest lead of the game with 3:55 to play at 70-46.

Five finished in double figures led by Ben Smith with 23 points and seven rebounds. Mark Berry secured his second straight double-double after notching 10 points and a team best 11 rebounds. Jalen Johnson provided an offensive boost in the first half by scoring all 12 of his points prior to the break.

SWOSU moves to 5-3 in GAC play and are winners of four of their last five. The Dawgs are now 4-1 at home and have still not lost a league game in Weatherford.

They'll hit the road next week to face Harding and league-leading Arkansas Tech on the usual Thursday/Saturday conference slots.

Second Half Surge in Points Helps Push Lady Bulldogs Past Ouachita



Jon Chidester
Sports Asst. AD

SWOSU Women's Basketball used a strong second half to distance themselves from Ouachita in a 66-55 win at home on Saturday.

SWOSU, now 8-6 overall with a 5-3 mark in GAC play, gets a solid bounce back win following Thursday's 78-71 setback to Henderson State.

The Lady Bulldogs trailed 25-24 at halftime

before three balls started hitting in the second half. The home Dawgs shot just 30% overall and 3-for-14 from deep through quarters one and two and battled through missed layups and tough breaks early.

While SWOSU couldn't get rolling early, neither could the Tigers. They were limited to 35% shooting in the first half and were forced into committing 10 turnovers by the Lady Bulldog pressure defense.

Ouachita's leading scorer, Laney Meers, had 15 at halftime but had that production was cut in half after halftime with just seven points the rest of the way.

Out of the halftime locker room the game's pace quickened, and the Dawgs got going. SWOSU shot 52% and connected on 8-of-11 (73%) from beyond the arc. With 3:05 left to play in the third quarter, the Lady Bulldogs trailed 33-30 before closing the quarter on a 13-7 run to lead 43-39 entering the fourth.

SWOSU knocked down all four of their three balls in the final quarter and outscored the Tigers 14-6 down the stretch after Ouachita had the game back within a possession midway through the fourth. Seven of Chloe Cantrell's season high 16 points came in the fourth quarter.

For a second consecutive game, Rees Berkey notched double figure scoring. She had 10 against Henderson State and finished with 13 on Saturday.

Despite being outrebounded 39-34 by the Tigers, it was SWOSU who led the second chance points category, 14-10. The Lady Dawgs also won the turnover battle by forcing 19 Ouachita turnovers while committing 12 themselves. SWOSU's 44% shooting (11-for-25) from the three-point line sets a new season high.

The Lady Bulldogs go back on the road next week where they will face a nationally ranked Harding squad Thursday and Arkansas Tech on Saturday.

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