



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER

CODY
LASATER

Feast of Blessings

LATER THIS MONTH, folks will sit down at dinner tables with family and friends for their annual Thanksgiving Day feast (followed by the traditional post-dinner nap and football games).

But Thanksgiving isn't just about full bellies and full kitchens. It's also a time we set aside for reflecting, counting our blessings and enjoying the company of our loved ones.

Speaking for myself, the blessings are many, including the fact that I am privileged to work for an electric cooperative.

As general manager at Hamilton County Electric Cooperative, I am thankful for members like you who support the mission of this cooperative: not just the provision of reliable electricity at a reasonable rate—no small task in itself—but also to be a strong presence in sustaining the communities we serve. Your participation in co-op meetings, elections and activities enables Hamilton County EC to be a vital community partner, one that can be counted on to support volunteer fire departments, food banks, scholarships and other mainstays of a healthy community.

I am thankful for our directors, those civic-minded members who give of their time and talents to represent your interests as we set policies and plan for our future. With each passing year, as financial and regulatory challenges mount, your board members must stay abreast of the factors that influence the efficient and cost-effective delivery of electricity to your home.

I am thankful for Hamilton County EC's employees, who day in and day out demonstrate dedication and professionalism in performing their duties. Electric cooperatives seem to attract and retain people who commit to making their living in an environment where service comes first.

And last—but certainly not least—I am thankful for my understanding family, who sometimes has to share me with my job. They know that in a crisis, the phone may ring in the middle of the night, calling me away to work, and that sometimes my duties include time away on business. With their support and love, my job and my life are much easier.

I hope that this Thanksgiving, you also have plenty for which to give thanks. May you and your loved ones have a happy, healthy and blessed holiday. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Veterans Day
Thursday,
November 11

Thanksgiving
Thursday,
November 25
Our offices will be
closed November
25–26 in observance
of the holiday.

Hanukkah
Begins Sunday,
November 28

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Official Notice of Capital Credit Allocations

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC Cooperative recently allocated capital credits to its members for 2020.

At the end of each fiscal year, cooperatives determine margins made during the year by deducting the expenses of operating the cooperative from the revenue received from the sale of electricity. These margins are then allocated to each member's account based on their electricity use for the year. Allocated margins are called capital credits.

Capital credits remain invested in the cooperative until the co-op's board of directors determines that a return would not weaken the cooperative financially. To date, Hamilton County EC has returned \$4,749,064.29 in capital credits obligations for the years 1947–1988.

It's very important that departing members keep the co-op informed of their current mailing addresses so they can receive capital credits when they are returned.

Members can calculate their capital credits for 2020 by multiplying the sum of their electric service bills for 2020 by 0.0605. For example, if the total of your electric bills from the cooperative for 2020 was \$1,000, simply multiply that amount by 0.0605, and the result is \$60.50—your capital credits allocation for 2020. In calculating your total bill, do not include any sales tax, miscellaneous charges, membership fees or deposits.

If you have any questions concerning your capital credits account, contact Hamilton County EC.

This article is intended to serve as the official notice of allocations of capital credits for 2020. ■

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

CONTACT US

112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton
P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531
Local (254) 386-3123
Toll-Free 1-800-595-3401
Web hamiltonelectric.coop

General Manager

Cody Lasater

Board of Directors

Robert Straley, President, District 4
Dusty Duncan, Vice President, District 5
Brandon Haile, Secretary-Treasurer, District 2
Jack Caldwell, District 1
Sam Campbell, District 6
Ervin Koerth, District 3
John Priddy, District 7

24/7

**Outage
Hotline
Numbers**

For information and to report outages, please call us.

LOCAL
(254) 386-3123

TOLL-FREE
1-800-595-3401

ABOUT HAMILTON COUNTY EC

HCEC owns and maintains more than 4,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 12,000 members in Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills and San Saba counties.

PAYMENT OPTIONS AND LOCATIONS

Online at hamiltonelectric.coop

Call 1-877-833-4031 to pay using our automated phone system (credit/debit card or check).

Bank draft can be set up or bill payments can be charged to a debit or credit card monthly.

Hamilton County EC Office

112 E. Gentry, Hamilton

Brown & Wesson Insurance

915 Third St., Goldthwaite

Fort Gates Water Corporation

103 Gateway Circle, Gatesville

Kempner Water Supply

11986 E. Highway 190, Kempner

Lometa City Hall

109 W. San Saba St., Lometa

VISIT US ONLINE

hamiltonelectric.coop



CATHERINE LANE | ISTOCK.COM



SKYNEHER | ISTOCK.COM

Entertain Safely This Thanksgiving

AS THANKSGIVING APPROACHES, use this checklist to ensure your home is ready for all the festivities of the holiday season.

Fire Safety

- ▶ Test your smoke alarms monthly and make sure your house is protected by an adequate number of working alarms, which should be installed in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- ▶ Keep halls, stairs and doorways properly illuminated and free of clutter and other objects that could hinder an escape during a fire emergency.
- ▶ Plan for older guests or those with mobility issues to sleep on the ground floor.

Decorating Safety

- ▶ Avoid overloading electrical outlets, which can overheat and cause a fire.
- ▶ Do not place extension cords where they could be tripping hazards.

- ▶ Do not run extension cords under rugs or furniture.
- ▶ Keep all decorations at least 3 feet from heat sources, including space heaters and fireplaces.
- ▶ Think of youngsters: Place cords, breakables, candles and other potentially dangerous items out of children's reach.
- ▶ Turn off and unplug all decorations before leaving home or going to sleep at night.
- ▶ Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outdoor activities and protect those devices from moisture.

Home Heating Safety

- ▶ Have your heating system inspected annually by a licensed, qualified professional.
- ▶ Use space heaters properly and safely. Keep them out of high-traffic areas and at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- ▶ Do not leave a space heater running unattended. Turn off and unplug space heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- ▶ Never leave an open flame—especially in a fireplace—unattended.

Child Safety

- ▶ If you are hosting small children, put away small items that are choking hazards.
- ▶ Use safety gates at the top and bottom of stairways to keep babies and toddlers safe.
- ▶ Move all cleaning products and other dangerous items out of the reach of children and store them in a locked area.
- ▶ Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120 degrees to reduce the risk of scalding.
- ▶ Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent electric shocks and burns, or use safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children.
- ▶ Never allow children to play with electrical decorations or cords. ■

Keep Utility Poles Free of Obstructions

A **UTILITY POLE** might look like a convenient and free bulletin board, fence post or light pole, but before you tack on a yard sale sign, wrap it in barbed wire or attach a light fixture, think twice.

Safety issues caused by pole attachments place the lives of lineworkers and the public at risk.

It might seem innocent, but a small nail partially driven into a pole can pierce a lineworker's glove, damaging critical gear that protects against high-voltage electricity. It could also cause a lineworker to get snagged while working at heights.

Your electric cooperative's line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night—in even the worst weather conditions—to maintain and restore power. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples and barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution.

Your cooperative's lineworkers have reported poles used as community bulletin boards and satellite mounts and even poles that support legs for deer stands, lights and carports. These attachments put at risk not only line crews but also anyone who illegally places items on poles; they come dangerously close to power lines with thousands of volts of electricity streaming overhead.

Additionally, large attachments could compromise the structural integrity of the pole, putting it at risk of weakening or failing. A fallen pole means downed power lines, which are extremely dangerous and can lead to outages.

It's always smart to keep any structure at least 10 feet away from utility poles.

Unauthorized pole attachments violate the National Electrical Safety Code. In Texas it's a crime to attach any unapproved item to a utility pole, and doing so can result in a daily fine.

Please help us keep our linemen—and our community—safe. Do not attach any unauthorized items to utility poles, and contact your electric cooperative to remove any unauthorized items you see. ■



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DID YOU KNOW?

You can use baking soda to put out small kitchen fires. Never put water on a grease fire; it will only cause the flames to spread.

YELENAYEMCHUK | ISTOCK.COM



POWER TIP

Avoid using your gaming console to stream videos and opt instead to watch shows through smart TV apps. A gaming console can use up to 10 times the electricity.

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Community Calendar

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative is actively monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. The following community event information was gathered in late September with sincere hopes that these events will be held. Please contact event sources directly to confirm event dates and details.

Comanche

Deer Hunter Chili Supper, November 5, Comanche courthouse square, 101 W. Central Ave.

Veterans Luncheon and Tribute, November 14, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. For more information, call the museum at (325) 356-5115.

Comanche Market, December 4, 9 a.m.–noon, Comanche courthouse square, 101 W. Central Ave.

Christmas Party and Open House, December 5, 1–4 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Class of '57 band, snacks and desserts. For more information, call the museum at (325) 356-5115.

Christmas Lighted Parade, December 11, Comanche courthouse square, 101 W. Central Ave.

Jingle Mingle, December 12, noon–1 p.m., at the depot.

Tour of Homes, December 12, 1–4 p.m.

For more information about Comanche County events, contact the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at (325) 356-3233 or comancheevents@gmail.com.

Copperas Cove

Krist Kindl Markt Charity Pageant, December 4, 10 a.m., Civic Center, 1206 W. Avenue B. Pageant is open to girls and women of all ages and boys up to age 8. Winners are provided a float to ride in both the Copperas Cove and Killeen Christmas parades. Applications will be accepted at kristkindlpageant.myfreesites.net through November 15. All proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

Tree Lighting Ceremony, December 2, 5–9 p.m., City Park, 1206 W. Avenue B.

Krist Kindl Markt, December 2–5, City Park, 1206 W. Avenue B. The Markt welcomes shoppers looking for Christmas gifts and will boast great food, unique goods, and arts and craft vendors and celebrates the spirit of the holidays.

Lighted Christmas Parade, December 4, 6 p.m., Avenue D.

For information about Copperas Cove events, contact the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce at (254) 547-7571, email chamber@copperascove.com or visit copperascove.com.

Evant

Evant Chamber Member Appreciation Dinner, November 6, 6–8 p.m., Evant square.

Feed the Hunters Chili Event, November 13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Evant square.

Tree Lighting, December 4, Evant City Park.

For information about Evant events, contact P-Cay Burkhalter at (254) 791-5441 or pcay@buenavistawildlifesafari.com.

Gatesville

Chamber Market Days, every second Saturday, 8 a.m.–noon, the parking lot of the historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36. Browse vendors offering fresh fruits and veggies, metal décor, honey, salsa, jellies, baked goods, plants, homemade crafts, furniture, clothing, and much more.

Cork & Kegs, November 20, downtown. Sample wine and beer from area wineries and brewpubs, shop local vendors, and enjoy food and music in the shadows of the beautiful Coryell County Courthouse. Tickets to Corks & Kegs cost \$20 until November 1; \$30 until the day of the event. Admission includes a souvenir beer mug or wine glass and tastings with each winery or brewery. Glasses, bottles and cases of wine and beer can be purchased directly from vendors.



Star VFD Annual Fish Fry
November 13
STAR

Holiday Open House
November 13
HICO



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Food for Families, November 22, Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department, Highway 84 and Highway 36. This one-day food drive collects nonperishable food to help stock the shelves of area food banks and pantries beyond the holiday season.

Book Signing for *The Rifleman*, November 27, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Coryell Museum, 718 E. Main St. *The Rifleman* is a memoir by Cotton Davidson, NFL and AFL quarterback, Baylor player and coach, and Coryell County rancher. For more information, contact co-author Wayland Corgill at (254) 216-0792 or ewcorgill@yahoo.com.

Christmas Parade, December 11, 10 a.m., Main Street.

For more information about Gatesville events, call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617 or visit gatesvilletx.info.

Goldthwaite

Hunters' Appreciation Chili Lunch, November 6, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. \$5 donation for a single bowl, \$10 for all you can eat. Both include cornbread and tea or water. Gun Drawings start at noon. Gun raffle tickets are for sale up to the day of the event. Cold adult beverages will be available. VIP reserved tables and Trophy Buck cups can be purchased by calling the chamber or visiting goldthwaiteareachamber.com. Gun tickets are also available online.

Photos With Santa, December 4, 5–6 p.m., Welcome Center.

Parade of Lights, December 4, 6–7 p.m., downtown. The theme for the parade is *The Night Before Christmas*.

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit goldthwaiteareachamber.com or call the Goldthwaite Area Chamber of

Commerce at (325) 648-3619.

Hamilton

Circle T Arena, 4007 W. Highway 36. For information on upcoming events, visit circuitarena.net/calendar or call (254) 386-3559.

Veterans Memorial, October 1–May 30, 2022. Hamilton American Legion Cunningham Post 222 is planning a new permanent memorial to Hamilton County veterans. The plan, designed by Riley-Gardner Monument Company, includes three large black granite tablets engraved with the names of the 151 Hamilton County veterans who died in battle during the various conflicts of our country. The centerpiece of the memorial will feature a large hand-carved black granite eagle resting on a black granite hexagonal base. This base will be laser-engraved with the POW/MIA emblem on the front and the emblems of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard on the other five sides. Donations to assist in the cost of the memorial are welcome, and inquiries should be directed to Darryl Moore at (337) 654-2235, Glenn Jones at (254) 784-9141 or Bob Self at (254) 386-3992.

Veterans Memorial Commemorative Brick Pavers, October 1–November 30. Commemorative brick pavers to be included with the veterans memorial are available to honor current and former members of the military, regardless of when or where they served and where they lived. The engraved pavers will be used to line the sidewalk approach and outer edges of the planned Hamilton veterans memorial, to be located on the Hamilton County Historical Museum grounds. Each paver is 4 by 8 inches with

the honoree's name, rank, branch of service, years of service, conflict served or any combination of significant items. The cost is \$50 for one brick; \$40 each for two to five ordered at one time; and \$35 each for more than five bricks ordered at one time. Contact Darryl Moore at (337) 654-2235, Ira Kerby at (325) 812-4630 or Glenn Jones at (254) 784-9141 for more information.

104th Annual Anvil Shoot and Free Breakfast, November 11, Veterans Day, American Legion Cunningham Post 222, 412 N. Highway 281. Activities begin at 5 a.m. with a loud explosion created when a hot iron is touched to a fuse leading to a pool of black powder between two large anvils. After everyone who wants to do so has had an opportunity to set off an explosion or the supply of black powder is exhausted, a free breakfast of pancakes, sausages, biscuits and coffee will be served. A drawing will also be conducted to award the winner of the raffle a crossbow valued at over \$300. Tickets for the raffle are \$10 each and can be purchased by contacting Glenn Jones at jerryglennjones@gmail.com or (254) 784-9141.

Hico

Holiday Open House, November 13, downtown.

Christmas Parade and Market, December 4, downtown.

Girls Night Out, December 16, 4–8 p.m., downtown.

For information about Hico events, visit hicochamber.com or [facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce](https://www.facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce), call (254) 434-1249, or email chamberhico@gmail.com or bluestarhico@gmail.com.

Kempner

For information about Kempner events, call Kempner City Hall at (512) 932-2180.

Lampasas

Lampasas Trade Days; November 6–7, December 4–5; 9 a.m.–4 p.m., 2646 E. Highway 190. Antiques, collectibles, quilts, crafts, folk and fine art, new home furnishings, shabby chic furniture, new clothing, jewelry, candles, handbags, electronics, iron works, outdoor décor, plants, tools, food and more. For more information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

Lampasas Farmers Market, every Saturday through December 18, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., courthouse square, Fourth Street downtown. For information, contact Bob Davis at (214) 970-7556.

Hunters' Welcome, November 5, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., H-E-B parking lot, 705 S. Key. Join the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center in welcoming the hunters to the Lampasas County communities and enjoy some great barbecue. The barbecue lunch is \$8, and includes a Texas-size sandwich, chips, cookie and drink.

Christmas on the Creek, Thanksgiving–New Year's Day, along the banks of Sulphur Creek between Highway 190 (Key Avenue) and Highway 281. Visitors will delight to see Santa's Village, giant 12 Days of Christmas cards, a larger-than-life lighted Nativity and a beautiful lights display.

Carol of Lights, December 4, 11 a.m.–7 p.m., courthouse square, 501 Fourth St. The county courthouse is filled with boutique vendors, and the \$1 admission fees fund a Town and Country Study Club scholarship and some grown-up activities, but everything is free for children. Santa is on hand to see good boys and girls, and Mrs. Santa reads stories and has crafts for the kids.

Christmas Tree and Gingerbread House Contests, November 27–December 18. Sponsored by the Lampasas County Museum. For more details, contact the Lampasas County Museum at (512) 556-2224 or visit lampasasmuseum.org.

Lighted Christmas Parade, December 4, 6:30 p.m., downtown courthouse square, 501 Fourth St.

Holiday Tour of Homes, December 5, 1–5 p.m. Lampasas County Museum fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 and available at the museum, 303 S. Western Ave., starting in November. As always, ticketholders will have the opportunity to visit some special historic properties along with a couple of newer and contemporary homes. For specifics, watch the *Lampasas Dispatch Record* each week starting in early November, when a home will be featured with a photograph and description. For more information, contact the Lampasas County Museum at (512) 556-2224.

Christmas on the Creek Event, December 11, 5–8 p.m., W.M. Brook Park, 310 Highway 281. Guests will enjoy hot cocoa, a snow machine and Santa's Village.

For more information about Lampasas events, contact the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce at (512) 556-5172 or lampasasinfo@sbcglobal.net, or visit lampasaschamber.org.

Lometa

For information about Lometa events, contact the city of Lometa at (512) 752-3331.

Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass; November 6, December 4; doors open at 7 a.m.; Pearl Community Center; 6301 FM 183. Jams and stage shows throughout the day. Acoustic bands (no electric instruments) and musicians are invited. No fee to play on the stage or watch the stage shows. For information on how to sign up for the stage show, contact Anji Pearl Day at (325) 665-7996. Kitchen open 11 a.m.–5 p.m. RV parking with full hook-ups available on a first-come, first-park basis; 30 amps are \$20 and 50 amps are \$25. For more information, visit pearltxcommunitycenter.com or the Pearl Community Center Facebook page.

Pearl Book Cottage; November 6, December 4; 10 a.m.–5 p.m. All kinds of books and resale items. Payment by donation with all proceeds going to charity. For information, call (254) 865-9282 or (254) 865-5864.

San Saba

Pecan Capital Trade Days, November 6, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., courthouse square, 500 W. Wallace St. Handcrafted bowls, beautiful

crafts, baked goods, jellies, tamales and more. For vendor information, call (325) 372.4029 or email sansabaedc@gmail.com.

SSVFD Steak Supper and Raffle, November 5, 4:30–6:30 p.m., San Saba firehouse, 104 S. Water St. Annual volunteer fire department fundraiser. The steak dinner meal is \$15 per plate. Additional donations welcome.

Hunters Welcome Weekend, November 5, Lowe's Grocery Store and Market. Hunters will receive goody bags compliments of the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce while supplies last.

Dancing Lights of Mill Pond Park, November 26–January 4, 6–10 p.m., Mill Pond Park, 1007 E. Wallace St. Set your radio to 88.7 FM and enjoy music synced to over 30 acres of seasonal magic. Admission is free.

Sip-N-Stroll Wine Tasting Event, December 11, 2–6 p.m., downtown, Wallace Street. You are invited to come take a leisurely stroll through historic downtown, where several wineries will offer tastings and sales of their wines in our beautifully decorated businesses.

Lighted Christmas Parade, December 11, downtown, 6 p.m. Enter your business, organization, sports team, wagon, tractor or unique vehicle as a lighted float.

For more information about San Saba events, contact the San Saba Visitor Center at (325) 372-5200 or the chamber at (325) 372-5141, or visit sansabatexas.com/calendar or sansabachamber.org.

Star

Star Volunteer Fire Department Annual Fish Fry, November 13, 5 p.m., Star Volunteer Fire Dept., Highway 84. Everyone is invited, and all donations are appreciated.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative welcomes your local event submissions. If you have any events that you would like listed in the Community Calendar, please contact Donna Harris. Information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. The calendar will be published monthly, and it will contain events scheduled in the month of publication and the following month. HCEC reserves the right to edit and exclude events based on space available and other considerations. We do not certify the accuracy or reliability of any information posted in any listing in this Community Calendar. Please contact the event source directly to confirm event details. Email donna.harris@hamiltonelectric.coop, write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531, or call 1-800-595-3401.



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Conserve Energy as the Weather Cools

IT'S TEMPTING TO turn the heat on as soon as the weather starts to cool in the fall and early winter. But holding off for a few weeks until you really need to rely on heat can keep your energy bills low.

If you must turn the heat on:

Set it no higher than 68 degrees. This will make your indoor air comfortable without wasting energy.

Put on another layer. Try putting on a sweater and slippers if you're feeling cold. Adding another layer of clothing might keep you cozy enough to delay turning up the thermostat.

Move furniture and drapes away from warm air registers and baseboard heaters so they don't block the heat from circulating. The freer the airflow, the lower you can set your thermostat.

Close the flue damper of your wood-burning fireplace. In fact, consider fitting an electric fireplace into it so you can enjoy a light show without sending heated air up the chimney.

Have a heating, ventilating and air conditioning professional inspect your heating system before it gets too cold outside. Regular maintenance can prevent an expensive, inconvenient problem later in the winter—when it would be uncomfortable to go even a day without a working heater.

Seal indoor openings on external walls, such as around the areas where the cable and phone lines come into the house and around penetrations for water pipes and sewer lines. Caulking those openings can keep your heated air in and the cool air out.

Add or repair weatherstripping. The spaces around doors and windows can allow cold air to sneak in, so before it gets too cold out, inspect your weatherstripping to make sure it's blocking air movement. If it's missing or worn out, replace it. ■

Peach Sweet Potatoes

- 6 medium sweet potatoes**
- ½ cup packed brown sugar**
- ⅓ cup coarsely chopped nuts**
- ½ teaspoon salt**
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger**
- 1 can (15 ounces) sliced peaches, drained**
- Butter**
- ⅓ cup chopped cashews or pecans, for garnish**

- 1.** Place potatoes in a large pot, cover with water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and cook 30–45 minutes or until potatoes are tender.
- 2.** Drain and allow to cool, then peel and cut potatoes into cubes. In a small bowl, combine brown sugar, nuts, salt and ginger.
- 3.** Put half of potatoes in an ungreased baking dish. Top with half of peaches and half of brown sugar mixture. Repeat layers, then dot with butter.
- 4.** Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 10 minutes longer or until bubbly and heated through. Garnish with nuts.

SERVES 10

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com.

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