



First wins, near wins and tons of TDs in Week 1

SPORTS, 1B

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A DIVE INTO HISTORY



Derek Amerman, then coach at Peoria Notre Dame, gives his team some pointers during a 2019 practice at Central Park Pool. Amerman is the coach the Peoria Area Water Wizards. JOURNAL STAR FILE PHOTOS

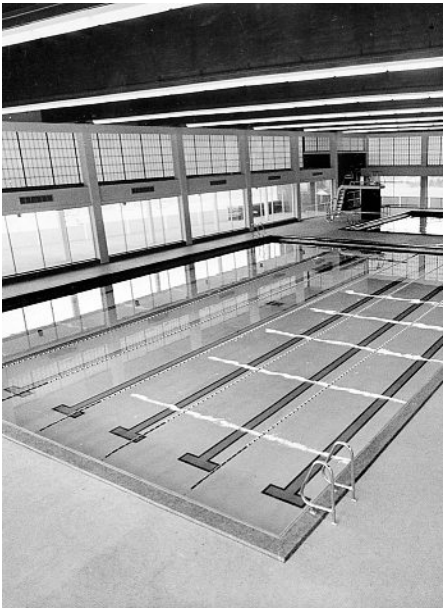
Peoria swimmers, city leaders look back on Central Park Pool

Christina Avery
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

PEORIA — The first time Derek Amerman was at Central Park Pool was in the 1980s for a Journal Star/Peoria Park District swim meet. Since then, he's seen the pool through its last 50 years, primarily as a swim coach but also as a lifetime Peoria resident. Amerman was 9 years old the first time he visited as part of the Peoria Park Porpoises, and would go on to swim with the organization for eight years before moving to other teams and pools.

But the Porpoises, now called the Peoria Area Water Wizards, always drew him back to Central Park Pool. He's on his third stint leading the team as head swim coach, but 2025 is his team's final year at the pool, before PAWW moves on to using spaces at Bradley University and Pekin High School on Sept. 15. For Amerman, coming back to lead the team where he started was a full-circle moment, and "a big honor for me." As PAWW prepares to exit the pool and the Peoria Park District contemplates options for the pool's future, Amerman wants to see his "second home"

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Central Park Pool, circa 1969.

East Peoria business celebrating its 50th anniversary

Mike Kramer
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

The East Peoria-based power solutions and energy systems company Enercon Engineering will mark its 50th anniversary in September. From its beginnings in a Chillicothe boathouse in 1975, the company has expanded to a worldwide operation and is currently headquartered in a 160,000-square-foot facility in East Peoria's Levee District. Over its five decades in business, Enercon has employed hundreds of Peoria-area

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CEO Larry Tangel, right, and his dad, founder Ed Tangel, have seen their firm, Enercon Engineering, expand from a small central Illinois operation in 1975 to a player in the world market for power generation with over 200 employees. FRED ZWICKY/JOURNAL STAR

Autism project draws over 100 proposals

Initiative announced by
Kennedy to mine data

**Robin Respaut, Ahmed Aboulenein
and Julie Steenhuysen**
REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Researchers have submitted more than 100 proposals to participate in the Trump administration's \$50 million study into possible causes of autism, with a list of up to 25 grant winners expected to be announced by the end of September, people with knowledge of the plans told Reuters. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced the Autism Data Science Initiative in May and put the National Institutes of Health in charge of it. The program aims

to mine large datasets to investigate possible contributors to autism and evaluate the outcomes of existing treatments. Studies chosen for funding might begin to show results in two to three years, according to the government's request for research proposals. The effort is proceeding separately from a review of vaccine safety commissioned by Kennedy, who has long promoted the idea that vaccines contribute to autism, contrary to scientific evidence. He has promised to announce health policy changes in September "that will dramatically impact the effects" related to autism, without providing details on the data that would support such changes. A spokesperson for the Department

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Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has promised to announce health policy changes in September "that will dramatically impact the effects" related to autism. ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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