



Listening Sessions On High School Referendum Scheduled

The School Board Wants Your Input!

by Michael Swartz, Superintendent

As residents of Wisconsin we have experienced many an occasion where we have heard our meteorologists report, "The conditions are right for 'the perfect storm.'" The Jefferson Board of Education is also hearing from their financial consultants that "The conditions could not be better for borrowing money for a facilities referendum."

As our community is aware, the Board of Education has studied the facility needs of Jefferson High School over the past several years and have had two failed referendums. The needs are still there, but the Board of Education understands that the state of the economy, both local and global, is not good. However, they also understand the golden opportunity that is ripe for the picking in that this is the perfect time to borrow money. Interest rates are at an all-time low, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act "ARRA" for new school bonding options is too good to pass up.

The Board of Education invites district residents to attend one of two referendum listening sessions scheduled for **January 13 and 18**, at 6:00 p.m., in the High School auditorium. They want to inform you on the "perfect borrowing storm" and to hear your thoughts on how and when to proceed with this project.

January 5 Deadline for Declaring School Board Candidacy

by Michael Swartz, Superintendent

Have you ever considered running for a vacant seat on the school board? With the spring election a few short months away, I thought it appropriate to provide an overview of the role of a school board member and the responsibilities that come with this elected position.

As elected representatives of the school district, school board members have the general responsibility of managing and supervising the district. Major areas of responsibility for these elected positions are: student achievement, policy making, evaluation, board-administrator relations, the budget, public relations, and political

relations. Also, one of the most important roles that a school board has is that of advocating for children and making decisions based on what is in their best educational interest.

The National School Boards Association has identified the following as key activities school boards engage in as they strive to improve student achievement—the ultimate goal of board service:

- Creating a vision of learning;
- Establishing standards for performance;
- Creating the proper assessment system;
- Being accountable to state authorities and the community;
- Aligning the district by harnessing needed resources;
- Creating the proper climate for learning;
- Engaging in collaborative relationships with community groups; and
- Supporting continuous improvement in student achievement.

These goals should be kept in the forefront as you define your candidacy and, if elected, in your approach to your new responsibilities.

A potential candidate for school board must be an eligible elector of the district and must be: (1) A citizen of the United States, (2) 18 years of age or older, and (3) A resident of the district for at least 10 days preceding the election.

The scheduled spring election will be

held on April 6, 2010. On this election date school board vacancies will be filled. If you are interested in becoming a candidate, please keep in mind the following time line:

- 1/5/10: Filing of Declaration of Candidacy (5:00 p.m.)
- 2/16/10: Spring Primary (if needed)
- 4/6/10: Spring Election
- 4/26/10: Board Members Take Office

The following Board members' terms will expire in April 2010: David Krause, Nicole Pupanek, and Norm Stoner. The areas of representation for the open board seats include two district at-large seats and one seat for the Towns of Concord, Sullivan, and the Village of Sullivan.

For election paperwork/questions, please contact Mary Ellen Taylor at the School District Office at (920) 675-1041.

Thanks Donors!!

by Michael Swartz, Superintendent

During 2009, the Jefferson Board of Education accepted a wide variety of donations with a combined total exceeding **\$110,000!** The district is very appreciative of the generosity of our donors, and a sincere **"THANK YOU"** is extended to those individuals/organizations listed below and to any and all others who may not be listed for their donated items and/or time and talents.

- Anhalt Memorial Music Scholarship Trust
- APV - Lake Mills
- Asleson's Hardware
- Best Buy
- East Elementary P.T.O.
- Bonnie Jean Edwards
- Kelly Erickson
- Farmer's Insurance
- Figg Bridge Inspection-WI Branch
- Fort Community Credit Union
- JAWS
- Jefferson Eagles Athletic Booster Club
- Jefferson Glass
- Jefferson Middle School P.T.O.
- Jefferson Optimist Club

- Jefferson Public Library Staff
- Jefferson Youth Basketball
- Jelli's Market - Steve & Jody Knoebel
- Kallsen Family (Lisa, Kent, Conner, Anna)
- Kearns Motor Car Company
- Tom Kellner
- Darla Keuler-Gehl
- Kiwanis Club
- Kohl's Department Stores
- Daren Maron
- LeRoy & Lisa Mendell
- Scott and Paula Mueller
- Lawrence Mullen, Class of '56
- Nestle Purina Petcare
- Orbis Corporation
- Outpost Music
- Thomas Phillips
- Physicians Plus Insurance Corp.
- Pizza Pit - Jefferson
- PremierBank-Jefferson
- PremierBank-Fort Atkinson
- Purpose Financial
- Greg Reinhardt
- Damon Schreck
- Scholarship America
- Bob Schweitzer
- Dean and Catherine Sukow
- Super Wash - Rhonn Farrell
- Tyson Foods
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- UW Health Partners
- Verizon Foundation
- Wal-Mart (Jefferson Store)
- Wal-Mart (Watertown Store)
- West Elementary PATH
- Wisconsin Dairy Council

November

Citizen of the Month Award Recipients

On December 14, the Board of Education honored the following November recipients of the Citizen of the Month Award for being positive role models and for demonstrating good character:

- Sullivan Elem.: Autumn Hettich
- East Elem.: Jenna Dinkel
- West Elem.: Sydney Renz
- Middle School: Jarad Bartelt
- High School: Esau Ramirez

Annual School Board Policy Required Notices

by Michael Swartz, Superintendent

Complaint Policy: The School District of Jefferson's Board of Education, Administrative staff, and Instructional staff strive to provide quality educational services. The programs and policies of the School Board are designed with the intent to provide a safe and healthy environment that fosters student growth and enriches learning.

As with all large organizations, occasional problems may occur. If you find yourself in need of a copy of the district's complaint policy and guidelines, please contact Michael Swartz, Superintendent of Schools, at (920) 675-1010.

Harassment Policy: The School District of Jefferson provides a safe work and school environment for students and staff. A safe work and school environment is free of verbal/non-verbal, physical, and sexual harassment and is free of intimidation or hostile/offensive behavior toward and between students and adults. Consequently, the district will not tolerate this type of behavior.

The Jefferson Board of Education supports a work and educational environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The Board's authority is derived from state laws that allow school boards to establish rules pertaining to student conduct to maintain a favorable academic atmosphere, Wisconsin fair employment laws, and student nondiscrimination laws. It is therefore the policy of the Board that employees, students, and others are prohibited from engaging in any form of harassment toward employees, students, or other persons in the school environment.

No employee, student, or other person in the school environment shall attempt

to restrain, interfere with, coerce, discriminate against, take reprisal against, retaliate against, or submit to retribution a complainant(s), witness(es), target(s) of harassment, or person(s) participating in an investigation during or after the presentation, processing, or resolution of a complaint. Follow-up interviews shall occur in every case, regardless of the outcome, to ensure compliance with district policy. Such conduct will not be tolerated by the district.

Staff and students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment or expulsion.

If you would like a complete copy of Policy ACA - Harassment, please contact Superintendent Mike Swartz at the District Office (920-675-1010).

Automatic External Defibrillators: The School District has in place throughout its school buildings six Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). AEDs are life-saving devices that shock the heart into a regular rhythm in the event of an often times fatal cardiac incident.

The School Board currently has in place a policy that defines the guidelines for placement, maintenance, training, and use of the AEDs.

In administering this policy, the District will follow the requirements of state law and will ensure that persons who use these semiautomatic defibrillators are properly trained, equipment receives maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines, and the nearest emergency medical services program is notified of the type of defibrillators being used, location of the defibrillators, intended usage, and who owns them.

In accordance with this policy, the District has in place two automatic external defibrillators (AED) at Jefferson High School and one AED at each of the elementary schools and middle school. As allowed by law, anyone completing a course approved by the Department of Health and Family Services is allowed to defibrillate using a semiautomatic defibrillator. Courses currently approved are the American Heart Association Heartsaver AED course or American Red Cross for automatic external defibrillators.

If a medical emergency arises on District grounds or at a District/community event that would require the use of an AED, staff or students who have completed the appropriate training will use the District's AED in accordance with this policy and administrative guidelines.

Senior Citizens' Lunch Days

by Rebecca Blyth,
Student Nutrition Director

Senior Citizen lunches for the month of January will be served beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Jefferson High School and Sullivan Elementary School on the following dates:

January 7:

Chicken Teriyaki Bites
Brown Rice
Oriental Vegetables
Wheat Bread
Fortune Cookie

January 21:

Beef Taco with Fixins
Spanish Rice, Salsa
Juice

If you would like to sign up for lunch, please contact Rebecca Blyth, Student Nutrition Director, at (920) 675-1035.

2010-11 Open Enrollment Dates

The time line for submitting Open Enrollment applications for the 2010-2011 school year is between February 1-19, 2010. Applications are to be made online at the Department of Public Instruction's Web site:

<https://www2.dpi.state.wi.us/OpenEnrollApp>

Contact Pati Fitzgerald, Jefferson School District Open Enrollment Coordinator, at (920) 675-1045, for any questions related to the application process or open enrollment procedures.

Dates to Remember

2010 Kindergarten Registration:

January 11-15, 2010

8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Sullivan, East, and West
Elementary Schools

K4 2010 Registration:

January 19, 2010

6:00 - 7:30 PM
East and Sullivan Elementary
Schools



Business Recognition for Character Education Participation

Just like for our families and classrooms, we want to ensure that all businesses have the opportunity to discuss, model, and practice good character. Keep in mind that if you are a business of character, your business could actually grow. I don't know about you, but I like to do business in a place where I am greeted warmly when I arrive, where I know that decisions are based on honesty, and where I believe that my just being there makes a difference. In other words, I am treated with respect and made to feel special.

Since we all have many choices on where to purchase our groceries, gas, household items, etc., I believe that shopping at businesses located in our school district benefits all of us. So, business leaders, how about participating in the Business of Character event? All you have to do is fill out a Business Participation Level form (shown at right), indicate which level of participation you are pursuing, and send it to Sandy Swartz at the School District office, 206 S. Taft Avenue, Jefferson, WI 53549. You too will be recognized at our Unity Day celebration held this coming May.

The development of good character is important for all of us to be the best citizens that we can.

"If you set goals and go after them with all the determination you can muster, your gifts will take you places that will amaze you."

~ Les Brown

APPLICATION FORM FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION PARTICIPATION AWARD

INSTRUCTIONS: After completing the requested information below, please submit your application by **May 1, 2010**, to the following address:

Character Education Coordinator
School District of Jefferson
206 S. Taft Avenue
Jefferson, WI 53549

Date: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

Authorized by: _____ Title: _____

Signature

Contact Person: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Extension: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please check all of the items you have completed below and attach supporting documentation if available.

Bronze Level

- _____ Formally adopt the Character Resolution
- _____ Display the Character Education monthly posters all year

Silver Level

- _____ Display the accumulation of posters all year
- _____ Include the Charter Trait of the month in your organization's newsletter and/or in paychecks
- _____ Display a written description of the monthly trait by the time clock, or an equivalent location (e.g. Near a service organization banner or creed, in a break room, etc.)
- _____ Post the nine character traits on your organization's bulletin board, or other visible location

Gold Level

- _____ Incorporate Character Education into your organization (e.g. Include in your staff meetings planning, goal setting, etc.)
- _____ Develop an incentive or reward program for your staff/members that practice good character
- _____ Provide a volunteer to serve on a Character in Action committee
- _____ Post some Character Education information on your web site

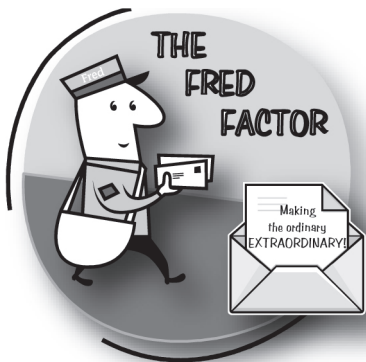
Platinum Level

- _____ Adopt a Classroom under the T.H.E. Project
- _____ Provide monetary or administrative support to the Character in Action program

A full-size form can be accessed on our School District's Web site at: <http://www.jefferson.k12.wi.us/do/CharacterEducation/charactereducation.htm>.

The "Fred Factor" Honor Roll

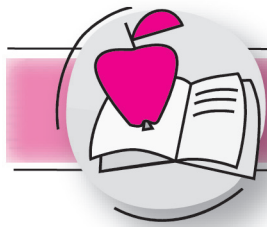
Now I know that our community has more than 11 "Fred's"—people who go above and beyond what is expected; people who make ordinary things "extraordinary"—people you can count on; people that you would like to have as your next door neighbor. For the past four months there have been articles asking you, the reader, to nominate individuals (or businesses) that you feel should be on the Fred Honor Roll—people who exhibit good character (respectful, responsible, honest, fair and/or courageous individuals). However, only 11 names have been turned in to date.



The people nominated to receive "Fred" Honor Roll recognition will also be recognized at Unity Day in May. The statement about why you are nominating them for this honor does not need to be long...just a couple of sentences explaining why they are a "Fred." You do not even need to sign your name if you do not want to. Just send your nominations to Sandy Swartz at the District Office, 206 S. Taft Avenue, Jefferson, send an e-mail to swartzs@jefferson.k12.wi.us, or phone it in to 920-675-1050. With a combined population of over 7,000 people, there must be at least 100 "Fred's." Where are they?

***"Stay the course, light a star,
change the world where'er you are."***

~ Richard Le Gallienne



Veterans Day Celebration Held at East Elementary School

by Connie Pellmann, East Elementary Principal



Pictured above (left to right) are East Elementary Principal Connie Pellmann, Auxiliary President Edith DeFraties, and East Elementary Custodian Chuck Schultz with the presented flag.

In celebration of Veterans Day 2009, Edith DeFraties, a friend of East Elementary and Auxiliary President of Endl-Gruennert VFW Post and Auxiliary #3589, presented a new United States flag to Custodian Chuck Schultz and Principal Connie Pellmann. The flag was received proudly and displayed at half staff in honor of all Veterans.

Students and staff observed Veterans Day by listening to music teacher Mrs. Kyle perform traditional Taps, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Many thanks to VFW

Post and Auxiliary #3589. East Elementary will fly the new flag with great pride and respect for our country.

“Woezo” Wows Sullivan Stingers!

by John Orcutt, Sullivan Elementary Principal

December 4 marked a multi-cultural day at Sullivan School. Woezo, a Ghanaian dancer and drummer from Madison, dazzled the Stingers with native West African dances and drumming. During the performance Woezo answered insightful questions from the students about life in Ghana, the costume worn when dancing, and why dance was important to Ghanaian culture. After a wonderful presentation, Woezo taught a gym full of Stingers some Ghanaian dance moves.

Our many thanks to the Sullivan PATHS organization for bringing Woezo to our school for a great presentation!



“Dream City” Lesson Featured on Web

by Mark Rollefson,
Jefferson Middle School Principal

Jefferson Middle School Social Studies Instructor Erich Utrie has his eighth graders learning firsthand what is so good about taxes. The students have been experimenting with different tax policies using SimCity™ software and analyzing the impact of tax policy on a city’s development and quality of life.

After designing their own virtual city using the software, students have been working together to construct a giant dream city out of recyclable materials. They even got the chance to take on the role of tax assessor in their new community.

The “Dream City” lesson, which was filmed last spring, has now been published online and can be accessed at www.ecb.org/finance/F58Utrie.html.

Congratulations to Mr. Utrie, his students, and Jefferson Middle School for a job well done!

West Shows They Care

by Mike Howard,
West Elementary Principal

The character education trait for the month of December was caring. During our monthly “Wildcat Wednesday” activity, our school developed a way to let area businesses know how much we care for them and appreciate all the nice things they do for our schools. To accomplish this, each student decorated a small construction paper Christmas tree and added a caring message to it. Then each “pride” of students took their small trees and created a large Christmas tree on poster board. Each of

the trees were then labeled and dropped off to area businesses and the School District office.

This is West Elementary's way to tell everyone in our community that we care for them and are thankful for all of the things they do for us! Look for our trees at the following locations: Tyson Prepared Foods, Wal-Mart, Badger Bank, Jefferson Utilities, Fort Community Credit Union, County-City Credit Union, County Nurses Inc., PremierBank, Jefferson Bus Services, Knutson Jewelry, Purpose Financial, and the Jefferson Area Business Center.



Pictured above holding their trees are (first row, left to right): Ali Russell, Karla Genett, Samuel Aguirre, Conrad Toth, Jared Fowle, and Jacob Schroeder; (back row, left to right) Kayda Marmes, Taylor Streng, Haylee Gess, Abby Stelse, and Cross Categorical instructor Tami Hess.

JHS Students Assist with the Christmas Neighbors Program

by Dennis Linse, High School Associate Principal



Shown above are JHS students (left to right) Matt Vogel, Sara Moldenhauer, Caylee Cottrell, and Tom Scherer assisting with the multitude of donations received for the Christmas Neighbors Program.

Now in my sixth year here at the high school, I am continually impressed by the generosity of our students and their families during this time of year. The Christmas spirit is alive and well in Jefferson as the JHS annual food drive is running like a well oiled sleigh.

The food drive at JHS is like no other in the entire state of Wisconsin. Mr. Cory Klecker and Mr. Tim Babcock, Student Council advisors, tell me that the ultimate goal is to get every student to donate 36 items during the period of December 7-14. This would amount to over 20,000 items going

to needy families in Jefferson County and to the local food pantry. In addition, the Jefferson community typically donates between \$2,500-\$3,000. Mr. Klecker believes that even though our economy is down this year, the JHS food drive will benefit over 700 families, including 2,000 children.

Once the food and money is collected, it is taken to the Jefferson County Activity Center where it becomes part of the Jefferson County Christmas Neighbors program. An integral part to the success of this program is the assistance given by a few clubs from the high school. Future Farmers of America, National Honor Society, Student Council, and Key Club members help to organize and distribute the food items while our Latino Club helps translate.

Needless to say, Jefferson's character shines at Christmas time to help take care of their own. Our high school students learn how important it is to help others and the whole community benefits by collaborating for such a worthy cause.

Parents: The Essential Piece in Keeping Teenagers Away from Drugs

by Mark Rollefson, Middle School Principal

This article is Part I of a three-part series that will appear in this newsletter on the importance of parenting in keeping teenagers safe. The information provided below was taken from the Web site: www.theantidrug.com

TEEN VIEWING OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL-RELATED VIDEOS ONLINE

Recent data from a special study conducted by Nielsen Online, on behalf of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which monitored the online viewing habits of teens in June 2008, reveals that today's tech-savvy teens are exposed to dangerous, drug-related content through the Internet.

The analysis also shows that viewer comments posted to drug-related videos overwhelmingly support or suggest acceptance of the video content. The information provided below is alarming, and parents are encouraged to monitor their child's Internet activities very carefully.

- Nearly one million teens, or 5 percent of teens online, viewed drug-related videos in June.
- More than a third (35%) of teens who viewed drug-related videos are younger than 16.
- Significantly more girls than boys watch drug-related videos. Fifty-seven percent of viewers were girls; 43 percent boys.
- Almost 40 percent of drug-related videos contain explicit use of drugs and/or intoxication.
- Eighty-five percent of videos containing explicit drug use or intoxication also have comments that promote substance abuse.
- Comments on drug-related videos with music or humor were overwhelmingly (87%) positive about the content of the video.

Watch for Part II in the February Newsletter Edition.

January Calendar of Events

- 1 • **NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK**
- 4 • 5th Gr. Girls Basketball Begins
 - First Day of 7th & 8th Girls Basketball Practice, 3:15 PM
 - First Day of Middle School Wrestling Practice, 3:15 PM
- 5 • MS P.T.O. Mtg., 5:30 PM, Cafeteria
 - 9th/JV/V B BB @ East Troy, 5:45/7:15 PM
 - 9th/JV/V G BB @ Fort, 5:30/7:30 PM
 - B Swimming @ Elkhorn, 6 PM
- 7 • 9th/JV/V G BB @ Parkview, 5:45/7:15 PM
 - JV/V Wrestling @ East Troy, 6/7 PM
 - Gymnastics vs. Whitewater (H), 6:30 PM
 - V B Swimming vs. Platteville (H), 6 PM
- 8 • Second Friday Membership Count Date
 - 9th/JV/V B BB vs. Evansville (H), 5:45/7:15 PM
- 9 • Wrestling Dual Tournament @ Palmyra-Eagle, 9 AM
 - B Swimming Connor Bourke Invitational @ Fort, 10 AM

**January 11 - 15:
Kindergarten Registration
for Sullivan, East, and West Elem. Schools
(Register at Appropriate School)**

- 11 • School Board Committee Meetings, 6 PM, HS Library

- 11 • HS Booster Club Mtg., 6:30 PM, in Room M1 @ HS
 - HS Financial Aid Presentation, 6:30 PM, Auditorium
 - Gymnastics @ Burlington, 6:30 PM
 - JV/V B BB vs. St. John's NW Military, 5:45/7:15 PM
 - MS Wrestling vs. Oconomowoc (H), 4:15 PM
- 12 • West PATH Mtg., 6 PM, West Library
 - 9th/JV/V G BB vs. Palmyra-Eagle (H), 5:45/7:15 PM
 - B Swimming @ Delavan-Darien, 6 PM
- 14 • 5th Gr. Band Concert, 7 PM, Auditorium
 - 8th G BB vs. Milton (H), 4 PM
 - 7th G BB @ Milton, 4 PM
 - 9th/JV/V B BB vs. Parkview (H), 5:45/7:15 PM
 - MS Wrestling Triangular @ L. Mills w/J. Creek, 4:15 PM
- 15 • 9th/JV/V G BB vs. McFarland (H), 5:45/7:15 PM
- 16 • V Wrestling Invite @ Poynette, 10 AM
- 18 • MS Market Day Orders Due, 3 PM
 - MS Wrestling Triangular vs. J. Creek & Fort (H), 4:15 PM
- 19 • K4 Registration @ East and Sullivan Elementary Schools, 6-7:30 PM
 - 7th & 8th G BB vs. J. Creek (H), 4 PM
 - 9th/JV/V B BB @ Palmyra-Eagle, 5:45/7:30 PM
 - B Swimming vs. Badger (H), 6 PM
 - V Wrestling vs. Hustisford, 7 PM
- 20 • HS Semester Exams
- 21 • East P.T.O. Mtg., 6:30 PM, East Library
 - MS Market Day Pick-Up, 3-4 PM, Cafeteria

- 21 • HS Semester Exams
 - 8th G BB @ Riverside MS, 4 PM
 - 7th G BB vs. Riverside MS (H), 4 PM
 - 9th/JV/V G BB @ Clinton, 5:45/7:15 PM
 - Gymnastics vs. Waterford (H), 6:30 PM
- 22 • End of Second Quarter
 - HS Semester Exams
 - 9th/JV/V B BB @ McFarland, 5:45/7:15 PM
 - V Swimming @ Wayland Academy, 4:30 PM
- 23 • Gymnastics Invite @ Watertown, 11 AM
- 25 • **3-Hour Early Dismissal**
 - PM Staff Development
 - School Board Meeting, 7 PM, East Elementary Library
 - Gymnastics @ Elkhorn, 6:30 PM
 - Wrestling vs. Columbus (H), 7 PM
 - 9th/JV/V B BB @ Whitewater, 5:45/7:15 PM
- 26 • 7th G BB @ Fort, 4 PM
 - 8th G BB vs. Fort (H), 4 PM
 - 9th/JV/V G BB vs. Brodhead (H), 5:45/7:15 PM
 - B Swimming vs. Whitewater (H), 6 PM
- 28 • 8th G BB @ L. Mills, 4 PM
 - 7th G BB vs. L. Mills (H), 4 PM
 - 9th/JV/V B BB vs. Clinton (H), 4:15/5:45/7:15 PM
 - Gymnastics vs. Westosha Central (H), 6:30 PM
- 29 • 9th/JV/V G BB @ Edgerton, 5:45/7:15 PM
- 30 • Gymnastics Invite @ Whitewater, 11 AM
 - V B Wrestling Deerfield Tourney, 9:30 AM

The School District of Jefferson does not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability in their education programs and activities and also employment practices.

For questions or information, please contact the School District Office at (920) 675-1000 or access our Web site at: www.jefferson.k12.wi.us.

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