



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142

ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

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APRIL 2023

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IND. SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142
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Superintendent's Update



Supt. Reggie Engebretson, Ed.D

When you were a kid, did you have snow days? If yes, what did you do on those days? I can remember going outside and making snowmen and snow angels and then coming in for cocoa and cookies. I also liked to read so I would hunker down in my room, away from my annoying younger brothers (I say lovingly now), and read.

As you may know, some school districts in the area have e-learning days when we are having a snow day. What are e-learning days, you ask? Well, they are days that students learn via their computer with or without their teacher. There may be assignments posted online for students to complete or a checklist of tasks for students to do during their snow day. There may also be instruction with the teacher over Zoom or Google Meets.

Currently, school boards have to approve e-learning days for a district and this needs to be done before the school year starts. We can use five school days as e-learning days, according to the MN Department of Education (MDE).

(Continued on page 2)

Parents – We are here for you!

Check out the Parenting Resources section on our website at <https://www.isd2142.net/page/3003>

On the website you will find four different newsletters that are changed monthly, along with a family engagement library full of short brochures on a variety of topics for parents.

Iron Mosquitos to take on the world

Northeast Range robotics team makes the big stage

By Lee Bloomquist

Northeast Range's FIRST Robotics program is as cool as it gets.

The 20-member "Iron Mosquitos" team scored its biggest accomplishment to date, receiving the FIRST Impact Award at regional competition in March in Duluth. The prestigious award is given to a robotics team for its impact on kids' lives, the school, community, and for bringing awareness and opportunity for people to experience robotics.

For Tuuli Koivisto, Eva Morgan and other team members, the award is the pinnacle of the program's eight years of existence.

"It was huge getting to walk down from the stands with everybody clapping for us," Morgan said. "Everybody was going crazy."

The award sends the team to Houston, Texas for the April 19-22 "Worlds" competition. The "Worlds" includes robotics teams from across the globe.

"Every year we've been trying to make it," Koivisto said. "Now, it's finally happening. It's such an



The Northeast Range Iron Mosquitos FIRST Robotics team is headed to Texas for "Worlds" competition after winning the prestigious FIRST Impact Award at regional competition in Duluth.

incredible opportunity, especially for a small school."

Fundraising to help the team make the trip to Houston is underway. A GoFundMe page, raffle, grants, and contributions from the public, are raising money for the trip.

"We have multiple funding opportunities," Koivisto said. "There's a \$100 club where anyone who contributes \$100 on GoFundMe or by sending a check to the school will have their name on a banner in Houston."

(Continued on page 2)



Northeast Range robotics students Natalie Backe, Hailey Lindquist and Owen Koivisto receive the FIRST Impact Award from emcee Yoji Shimizu (left) at regional competition in Duluth.

Help us build our Early Childhood Mailing List!

Do you have a child under the age of 5? If so, we would like to add you to our Early Childhood mailing list.

Please call and leave a message for DaNeil at 218-749-8130 ex 1116 or email her at dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us

We need: Parent and child's name (legal names), child's birthday, mailing address, phone number and if you have an email we would like that too!

Robotics teams showcased at leadership conference in Minneapolis



Students from the Iron Mosquitos robotics team and the new Grizzlies robotics team combined and were one of six teams invited to showcase robotics at the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference in Minneapolis in January. Students met school administrators and board members from all over the state, networking to show the benefits of robotics programs. There was a full field set up and adults were invited to have fun operating the robots. Kristi Berlin, director of Teaching and Learning, did a pretty solid job running the robot climb, ending up hanging barely by one single hook. Also enjoying the show were Dr. Reggie Engebretson, superintendent, and school board members Lynn Hilde and Nathan Briggs.



• Supt’s. Update... *(Continued from front page)*

We do not have e-learning days because I cannot guarantee that every student and teacher has adequate Internet to go online and learn. This is the same issue we had during our two years of COVID and why I am grateful that we were able to keep our schools open, so kids had the option of attending in person. I know that when the weather is not clear and sunny out, my home Internet might not always connect. So, if I’m a student or teacher and I’m expected to do lessons on a snow day or teach on a snow day, what happens if my Internet is not connecting?

It’s a bit hard for me to believe that it is 2023 and we all still do not have adequate Internet service for all who want to be connected. Especially if there is more than one child in the house who needs to do school work and an adult or two who is working from home. It’s a frustrating situation.

So, for me, I will not be able to propose e-learning days to our school board in place of snow days. I’m hoping kids will get out and play, if able, and also help their parents or guardians out by doing some shoveling and clearing the walkways. Maybe even helping a neighbor with their shoveling could be an option. Or, what about this idea? Play board games with family members or do a project together inside. There are a lot of things that could maybe happen on snow days that are meaningful and fun and will help to make memories for kids for years to come.

While I’m talking about snow days, I’d also like to remind parents and guardians of a few things:

- If I call for a snow day, I notify the five principals in our district and they start the snowball rolling (pun intended)

to send out a message to all families, school staff, and the news and radio stations. Make sure you are set up in our CAMPUS system to receive weather-related messages. You can call your school’s secretary to be sure.

- If I don’t call a snow day and you think the weather is bad, you always have the option of keeping your child at home. Just be sure to call the school and let them know that your child(ren) will be home that day due to the weather.

- Sometimes, the buses or vans can’t get down your road or driveway, if it hasn’t been plowed. You have the option of keeping your child at home that day or bringing them to meet the bus or van. The bus or van driver will be in touch with you to let you know if the road conditions are poor and you need to meet the bus or van at a different location.

- Some school districts have a two-hour late start. I try to avoid those, if possible. It can be confusing as to when to get to the bus and it can be a hardship for parents/guardians to find child care for a couple of hours, if they need to go to work. I can’t promise I won’t call for a two-hour late start, but I try to avoid them.

Calling a snow day is not an easy thing for me to do as I know it can place a burden on families who need to find child care. Also, for some of our students school is where they can get breakfast and lunch, if food is limited at home. But, if I don’t call a snow day then people are put at-risk while driving to get to school or walking to the bus stop. It can be a no-win situation. Which then makes me want to go outside and make a snow angel. Ok, not really. But escaping into a good book while drinking cocoa sure sounds like a good idea, doesn’t it?

• Iron Mosquitos... *(Continued from front page)*

Checks can be sent to Northeast Range Robotics, 30 South Drive, Babbitt, Minn. 55706.

With a K-12 enrollment of about 200, Northeast Range is one of the smallest schools in the region competing in FIRST Robotics. But the team, guided by robotics, industrial tech, manufacturing, and welding instructor Ryan Lindsay, has proven its mettle within the community and at competitions.

“Mr. Lindsay works with us every day and every Saturday,” Koivisto said. “Team members are often working at the school until midnight. We’re so thankful he spends his time with us. We could not ask for a better coach.”

Students have different interests from the technical side to programming, designing promotional items and team gear, and marketing and speaking opportunities, Lindsay said.

“Like a successful business, you require different people to make the system all work,” Lindsay said. “The award is the most prestigious in FIRST, I think because the program hopes to change how we do things. It takes all the passion of sports, but for the mind. The award shows the students are models for teams across the country to learn from. We should be proud.”

In its early years, robotics was viewed as a “nerdy” activity by some students, Koivisto said.

However, the program has blossomed

and students are now asking how they can participate, Koivisto said.

“A lot of kids just kind of blew it off as a kind of nerdy sport, but now, it’s like we’re not nerds and they’re asking, ‘How can I join?’” Koivisto said.

Team members have gone on to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education in college or engineering degrees.

“I want to be a bio-medical engineer to be able to design things that help someone,” Koivisto. “I like helping people who need help. If I get a mechanical engineering degree, it’s the gateway to being able to do anything you want.”

Morgan is following in the footsteps of her older sister Phoebe, who graduated from Northeast Range in 2021.

“My sister talked about it all the time and I got to see her (compete) and go into the shop and see them building robots,” Morgan said. “I’ve done some wiring on the robots and done structure work. A lot of it is wiring up the wires to the motors.”

The team currently has 14 members from Northeast Range and six others from Ely, Mesabi East, and Tower-Soudan, Morgan said.

The team is also mentoring a robotics team at North Woods Campus, Morgan said.

“In general, it’s growing,” Koivisto said of robotics. “It’s incredible.”

Learn And Enjoy

South Ridge Math Masters Compete



The South Ridge sixth-grade Math Masters team competed in Duluth in early March. The team included Braidon Bergeron, Matthew Simonson, Regan Klemetsen, Ellie Fish and Arianna Johnson. Congratulations to Arianna Johnson, who placed third out of 72 students in the fact drill; Ellie Fish, who placed fifth out of 72 students in the fact drill; and Braidon Bergeron, who placed 12th out of 72 students in the individual rounds. 'Way to go, Panthers!'

Introducing South Ridge Arts Education

South Ridge Arts Education is an organization started in early 2023 by students, teachers, and parents to help boost exposure to the amazing work being done by the South Ridge students in band competition, culinary, speech, and visual arts. The mission is to promote and develop the arts in the South Ridge community. This consortium was designed to partner the extra-curricular South Ridge arts community and create opportunities for students to showcase, volunteer and experience the arts in a variety of ways.

Please join the South Ridge arts students for an Evening with the Arts on April 21, 2023, at the South Ridge Forum, 8162 Swan Lake Road. The event promises to be an evening of entertainment and will include a three-course gourmet meal prepared by culinary arts students and staff, musical performances by state band competitors, student speakers, raffle and more. Art display and refreshments will be served at 6:30, performances and dinner at 7. Tickets must be purchased in advance by sending an email to SRartseducation@gmail.com for registration information (\$30 for adults and \$15 for students).

We're Hiring!
Apply online at: www.isd2142.net
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SOUTH RIDGE GEOGRAPHY BEE WINNERS



South Ridge School recently held their annual Geography Bee. Thirty students, grades 5-8, competed in the event. Congratulations go out to these South Ridge Geography Bee winners: 1st place Aili Fenlason (8th grade), 2nd place Blake Nelson (5th grade), and 3rd place Logan Hunstad (8th grade)!

Congratulations to the South Ridge School Spelling Bee winners!



1st place Aili Fenlason (gr 8), 2nd place Jaxson Hunt (gr 7), 3rd place Dakota Sleen (gr 8).

KINDERGARTEN 2023-2024

Kindergarten registration information has been mailed to all families on our Early Childhood census who are not attending the district preschool program. If you are new to the area and have not received any information, please contact your local school. Families with children in our preschool program will confirm registration for kindergarten at their child's school conference in March.



NORTHEAST RANGE HIGH SCHOOL BAND



The Northeast Range High School Concert Band participated in the Section 7A Contest held in Eveleth on February 28. This band, consisting of 7th-12th grade students, received two superior and one excellent rating that day. During the week of April 3-8, the band went to Orlando, Fla., to participate in a music workshop through the Orlando Fest Music Festival. Their last concert, including the elementary band, will be on April 27 at the school's auditorium starting at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend and celebrate their achievements. The HS band is directed by Mrs. Christine Mackai.

Congratulations, Austin!!!



Congratulations to South Ridge basketball player Austin Josephson for grabbing his 1,000th rebound this season! We wish you the best of luck next year as you suit up for Bemidji State University!



CHERRY PRESCHOOLERS EXCEED READING GOAL



Preschool teacher Ms. Deb recently presented her students with a reading challenge ... could they read 450 books in the month of February? For each book read, parents helped their preschoolers complete a paper snowball form to turn in. Ms. Deb then created a mystery picture with the "snowballs," leaving students to guess what it was going to be. This year's picture was of two owls sitting on a branch under a full moon. The preschoolers read a total of 494 books! A pajama party, which is a favorite activity for students, will take place in the near future to celebrate their reading accomplishments!

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Cherry School Reading Wall of Fame

The following students became members of the “Reading Wall of Fame” during the months of December, January and February: □ Orion Brekkestran (6), Josey Carver (6), Hailey Lindula (6), Hailey Warwas (6), Ivy Cooper (6), Kiyrah Kangas (6), Isaac Wiita (5), Radlee Cooper (5), Addison Nelson (5), Reese Samson (4), Ethan Vanderhoof (4), Ayvah Majerle (4), Anna Greenly (4), Sophia Warwas (4), Bianka Steele (4), Kristen Rajkovich (4), Adam Weiss (4), Micah Biles (4), Elli Celley (4), Aubrey Incontro (4), Owen Kimmes (4), Lydia McKenney (4), Easton Olson (4), Natalie Pink (4), Kaitlyn Rajkovich (4), Bri Verral (4), Michael Peterson (3), Ellie Besemann (3), Aubree Pittman (3), Dominic Bergerson (3), Sailie Baasi (3), Sylas Abramson (3), Lilianna Acosta (3), Lydia Cossalter (3), Clara Halley (3), Danyka Kangas (3), Zoey Biles (2), Mackenzie Haapala (2), Natalie Kemppainen (2), Andrew Peterson (2), Levi Lind (2), Preston Pew (2), Lydia

Acosta (2), Berkley Olson (2), Ruby Zimmer (2), Matthew Lossing (2), Lacey Pink (1), Odin Flannigan (1), Weston Scovill (1), Ezmay Osen (1), Rowan Lever (1), Ava Gillum (1), Frankie Hamilton (1), Tyler Vaughn (1), Kaiya Collier (1), Jareth Kallio (1), Emersyn Galbreath (K), Finn Jalonen (K), Jovannah Fleetwood (K), Karisa Peterson (K), Lottie Tuominen (K), Paisley Beckman (K), Timothy Manzoline (K), Amelia Courteau (K), Avery Mayre (K), Ayla Kimmes (K), Brantley Newhouse (K), Brydal Olson (K), Gracyn Whelecor (K), Lucas Fassett (K), Micah Heitzman (K), Vivian Halley (K), Zander Ellis (K), Gracelyn Syverson (K), Uriah Majerle (K)

Students had to read books and take AR quizzes to earn 40 points. Kindergarten and 1st-grade students had to read 900 minutes. Their pictures are posted in our main hall at the school.

Cherry School is so proud of □ its Reading Tigers!!!

Bookmark Contest held at North Woods



Above and below, a bookmark contest was held in the library at North Woods School during February for “I Love to Read” month. Every student who participated designed their own bookmark. Each class had a winner chosen by Art Teacher Mrs. Betterley. All winners received a new book and a treat. The grand prize winner was sixth-grader Laurin Glass. Her bookmark will be copied, and each student will receive one.



Peek in to Kindergarten Events

If your child will be attending Kindergarten with us in the fall, we invite you and your child to come Peek in to Kindergarten!

Where and When?

North Woods School, Thursday, April 13th from 3:15-4:15pm
Northeast Range School, Thursday, April 13th from 5-6pm
South Ridge School, Tuesday, April 18th from 5:30-7pm
Tower-Soudan School, Wednesday, April 19th from 3:30-4:30pm
Cherry School, Thursday, April 20th from 4:30-6:30pm

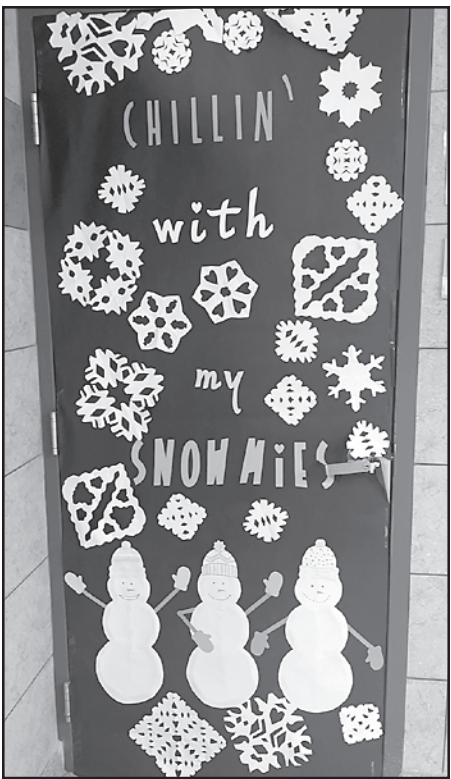
Peek in to Preschool Events

If your child will be attending Preschool with us in the fall, we invite you and your child to come Peek in to Preschool!

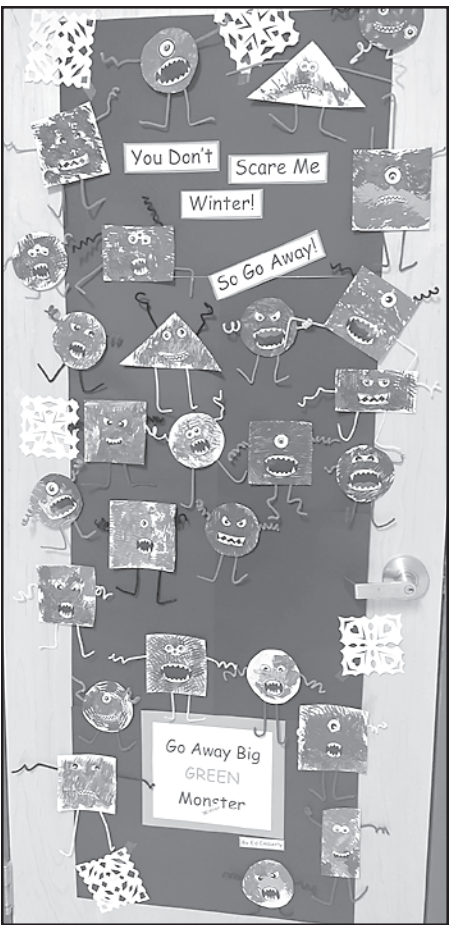
Where and When?

North Woods School, Thursday, April 13th from 3:30-4:30pm
Northeast Range School, Thursday, April 13th from 5-6pm
South Ridge School, Tuesday, April 18th from 5:30-7pm
Tower-Soudan School, Wednesday, April 19th from 3:30-4:30pm
Cherry School, Thursday, April 20th from 4:30-6:30pm

NW holds Door Decorating Contest



A door decorating contest was held at North Woods School in the month of February for “I Love to Read” month. The staff voted for their door of choice. The theme was “winter” and staff members voted for their “door of choice.” In the elementary school, there was a three-way tie between Mrs. Wilenius' kindergarten class, Mrs. Thiel's first-grade class, and Mrs.



Pierce's first-grade class. In the high school, Mrs. Sandberg's class was the winner. Students in each winning class will receive a gift certificate to the spring book fair.

SOUTH RIDGE BAND NEWS

South Ridge band members were very busy on Tuesday, February 28.

Eight high school students participated in the MSHSL Music Contest at Eveleth-Gilbert high school. Following is a list of the students and their ratings:

- Scarlett Vanderscheuren - clarinet solo - superior rating
- Zheniya Perhus-Peterson - clarinet solo - superior rating
- Aili Fenlason & Quinn FierkeLepp - duet - superior rating
- Quinn & Sawyer FierkeLepp - duet - excellent rating
- Derreck Greensky Martineau - solo - excellent rating
- Elayna Simonson & Ethan Lennartson - flute solo with guitar - good rating

On the same day, four South Ridge band students attended the UMD Junior High Honor Band Festival at UMD. Students in grades 7-9 were nominated from two states and over 30 different schools. Students gathered in two giant bands, practiced all day, and put on a concert that evening for family and friends. Ten students from South Ridge School were nominated:

Attending Honor Band: Grace Hennager, Violet Vanderscheuren, Taylor Pirkola, and Aria Benson.



MSHSL Contest Participants: Row 1 (l to r) - Zheniya Perhus Peterson, Scarlett Vanderscheuren, Elayna Simonson, Aili Fenlason. Row 2 (l to r) - Derreck Greensky Martineau, Ethan Lennartson, Sawyer FierkeLepp, Quinn FierkeLepp.

Accepted and unable to attend:
Lily Johnson, Sonia Rubottom, and Kaija Snickers.

Nominated but not accepted this year: Logan Hunstad, Darren Larson, and Damien Gauthier.

Way to represent South Ridge in style!



Scarlett Vanderscheuren performing



ECFE – Early Childhood Family Education

Classes are offered at all of our schools for children infants to kindergarten entrance and their parents. If you have questions about ECFE, please contact the ECFE staff at your school!

Special events are provided for families in their local school communities for parents with young children. We would love to see you there! Information will be mailed to all families on our Early Childhood mailing list.



School	Staff	email
Cherry	Lori Udovich, Parent Educator Amber Asbach, Child Educator	ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us aasbach@isd2142.k12.mn.us
North Woods	Lori Udovich, Parent Educator Alyssa Hughes, Child Educator	ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us ahughes@isd2142.k12.mn.us
Northeast Range	Sarah Hansen, Parent Educator Amanda Murfin, Child Educator	shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us amurfin@isd2142.k12.mn.us
South Ridge	Christina Nelson, Child Educator Sara Lorbiecki-Brown, Parent Educator	chrisnelson@isd2142.k12.mn.us slorbieckibrown@isd2142.k12.mn.us
Tower-Soudan	Sarah Hansen, Parent Educator Alyssa Hughes, Child Educator	shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us ahughes@isd2142.k12.mn.us

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North Woods holds 10th Empty Bowls Fundraiser



North Woods School celebrated its 10-year anniversary of Empty Bowls! \$2,000 was raised for the food shelves and art club. Miss Minnesota, Rachel Evangelisto, the state's first indigenous titleholder, was in attendance. This pottery-inspired event teaches students how to use their talents to impact the community.

Cherry Preschoolers Learn About Pets



Cherry preschoolers recently participated in and completed a pet study. They learned about various pets, what pets need, and how to care for them. Children shared photos of their pets and made a class pet book. At the conclusion of the study, the class went to Range Regional Animal Rescue to visit the animals and to bring donations of food, toys, etc.

Keep Fire Lanes & No Parking Areas Clear

When picking up and dropping off your children at school, or if you are attending a game or special event, please remember to keep fire lanes and "No Parking" areas clear of vehicles. These areas are marked and need to be kept clear for emergency vehicle use only.

ISD 2142 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

April, May, June and July meetings, beginning at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 25	District Office
Tuesday, May 23	Northeast Range School
Tuesday, June 27	District Office
Tuesday, July 25	District Office

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Sled dogs visit South Ridge

On Tuesday, March 21, South Ridge students and staff were excited to welcome Richard Loucks and Billie Thompson from Rock Creek Kennels along with their friend Cristen Burge who have participated for many years in the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon. Students had been studying how the marathon is historically connected to the community and the local Anishinabek culture. On this day, students were able to meet the sled dog team and learn about how they prepare for the race. Students also got to take a ride on the sled while Billie mushed the team around the school grounds. It was a very special day for all and who knows ... it's possible there were future mushers in the student group!



Students were happy to pose for a picture with their favorite dog sled team.



Students from first grade were ready to take their ride.

VISIT OUR PARENTING RESOURCE PAGE AT
<http://www.isd2142.net/page/3003>

PRESCHOOL 2023-2024

Preschool registration information has been mailed to all families on our Early Childhood mailing list. If you did not receive information by mail, we will need to add you to our mailing list. Please call or email DaNeil the following information: Child's legal name, birthday, parent name, mailing address, phone number and email. Children must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2023, to register for preschool. Peek in to Preschool events will be held at each school in April! DaNeil 218-749-8130 ex 1116 or dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us

A young girl is sitting in a chair, reading a book. She is wearing a patterned shirt and patterned pants. There are books on the floor next to her, including one titled "Chimpanzees for TEA!" and another titled "I'llama llama red pajama".

BUILD A CHILD A LIBRARY BY AGE 5!

Donations to United Way of Northeastern Minnesota support our local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program!

To sign up a child you know for this FREE program, contact 218-254-3329 or info@uwnemn.org

The United Way logo is located in the bottom right corner of the advertisement.

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