

Fall 2021

PCHS starts year with population boom



Students in the Bullseye section cheer on the football team in their first game of the season in August

Student growth higher than projected

By Grace Crestani The Bulletin Reporter

With the arrival of the 2021-22 school year, Parrish Community High School has seen a dramatic increase in student population, even beyond original projections.

With more than 1700 students and 36 new teachers, classrooms and hallways are bursting with an overflowing student body and staff.

PCHS first opened in 2019 and enrolled a total of 561 students; this number has since tripled as expected by adding juniors and now a senior class.

Last spring, PCHS was projected to have around 1600 students. However, when the first week of school arrived, PCHS had enrolled 1723 students, more than 100 students above projections.

"Now that all works well, See Student Growth, Page 2

Staff more than doubles to keep up with student body numbers

By Gabrielle Redinger The Bulletin Reporter

With the new influx of students at Parrish Community High School, there are more teachers than ever. Just this year alone, PCHS has had to hire 36 new teachers and 47 new staff members, approximately 90 over the last three years. The school is hoping to reach the preferred ratio of 25 students to one teacher, before the end of the year.

Since the start of the school year, the administration has been on their toes, finding new teachers to fill the spots. To reach the ratio, the school is hiring teachers for at least another year.

See More Teachers, Page 2



More Teachers Continued

Each candidate is put through a process early on, which Assistant Principal Jillian Bieber, the newest addition to PCHS administration, believes is key to finding the best of the best. "We ask questions about class management, about curriculum, technology, and we spend the interview process observing," Bieber said.

Jennifer Akers, a new teacher to PCHS, has been teaching 22 years and counting. After previously teaching at North Junior High School in Indiana, Akers moved to Florida and applied to PCHS.

"I'm hoping to see growth and to help them (students) understand it's not about getting the 'A', it's just about getting better than what you did the year before," Akers said.

The positive energy is apparent all over the campus, including all the staff and students. The administration shows a tremendous amount of teamwork when it comes to keeping campus safe and thriving.

"Parrish is a new school; we are building our culture and so we want people here who want to be here and what I've found, being new, everybody is willing to help," Bieber said. "Everybody is here for the students." She explained that COVID-19 has caused more teacher absences and lack of substitutes.

However, Bieber - who is in charge of coordinating substitutes - said staff is understanding when having to sometimes give up their planning period or adminstration duties to cover classes lacking subs.

Although the school is doing well rising to the growth challenge even admist a global pandemic, expansion will be needed in the future.

Principal Craig Little said plans are already in place for a new building, identical to the two other classroom structures.

> The Pride of Parrish

Marching Band colorguard cheers on he team

The Rulletin

News Editor - Grace Crestani Sports & Bullpen Editor - Kaylani Pusateri Bullpen Admin - Hannah Mayhew Bullpen Admin - Madyson Greeman Managing Editor/Designer: Ms. Olga Peña, Journalism Teacher

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thepchsbulletin@gmail.com



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the population at school."

Avery Engelberger

Student Growth Continued

if that projected number is right; in our case it's not. They projected and gave us teaching units, teaching allocations, for a much lower number than we have," said Assistant Principal Paul Champagne.

As a result of this miscalculation, classrooms are overflowing even with the 35 new teachers that were hired for the projected influx of students.

This also is the school's first year

with a senior class, but because e-learning diswas continued,

there was an increase for every Manatee County high school graduating class.

Currently at PCHS, the freshman class consists of 539 students. There are 513 sophomores, while the junior class consists of 438 students, and the senior class has 253 soon to be graduates.

Olga Peña/BULLETIN

This has changed the dynamic for students as well, as they must account for the larger number of bodies when getting from class to class and in other social settings.

Avery Engelberger is a returning sophomore at PCHS who has seen the impact of the growth. "I have seen a big difference in the population at school," Engelberger said. "I have noticed that just getting out of the building takes three minutes,

while last year "I have seen a big difference in I got out in less than a minute."

> She also talked about the packed lunchroom and

the congested lunch lines, calling the population boom "very apparent.'

Varsity golf player Olsen Hottman agrees that there has been a change and said, "You can tell a little bit of change from last year just based on how many kids you see in between classes."

Numerous J electives back

By Cecelia Cosgrove

The Bulletin Reporter

Orchestra and T.V. production teachers Kendall Carrier and Erin Lisch are returning to normalcy after having had their various courses combined last school year, due to Covid-19 mitigation efforts.

For orchestra, Kendall taught a general music class that was created, where students studied the mechanics of music theory. For T.V. production, Lisch taught a digital photography class instead.

Neither teacher expected to teach such classes, but in some ways, it proved advantageous.

"We actually have all these students coming back to school knowing the basics of music theory, and we can really hit the ground running," Carrier said; and hit the ground running they did.

Now each individual course has been restored, and Parrish is seeing the return of the marching band, performances, competitions and more.

Although, for T.V production, things are a bit different. Because it's the first official year of T.V production, students haven't yet begun to show-case their talents.

However, Lisch has big plans for this year. "I'm really excited to start the morning announcements," she said. "It's really a great way to connect with students, and to communicate events happening on campus."

Lisch said student films also will be showcased, either through competition or the school's YouTube.

The prospect of both these classes starting fresh is exciting; however, the year of regular instruction lost to Covid-19 came with its difficulties.

Across the board, each class has mix skill sets. In orchestra, there are mixed grade levels with varying ranges of knowledge. In T.V. production, most students are starting with a new elective.

However, these teachers have taken these challenges in stride, promising a great year for their students.



Cecelia Cosgrove/BULLETII



Multiple orchestra and T.V. Production classess have been restored, following the loss of numerous electives due to Covid-19 mitigation efforts last school year.

NJHS offers peer tutoring twice a week

By Melanie Carlson

The Bulletin Reporter

Peer tutoring is helping students who are struggling with classes, with the help of National Junior Honor Society volunteers. This happens two days a week, from 2:30- 3:10 p.m., in room 5-136. Tutoring is directed by math teacher and NJHS advisor Elizabeth James.

One of the students receiving tutoring, Alexander Munjak, was really excited about attending because he said that people get guidance from other students who have gone through the classes while they also really understand what others need support on.

The NJHS volunteers, like senior Kaitlyn Reber, are happy to help. "It's kind of like sharing wealth," Reber said. The program has helped between two to six students every Tuesday and Thursday so far.

James was a peer tutor in college and believed she made a difference in people's lives through it, so she wanted to help other students just the way she helped her peers years ago.

James had originally wanted this type of tutoring to start at the beginning of last year, but it was pushed back because of Covid-19. "I am able to get everything that I am having difficulty with done," Munjak said. People are finishing everything that is strenuous so that they have more time in their day for other activities, Munjak added.

Peer tutoring is open for any PCHS student who needs support on their work.

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30-3:10 p.m. Room 5-136

Arts

New music classes grow program



From Top Left, Clockwise: The Pride of Parrish Marching Band performs their 2021-22 routine at home for the first time at the September 24 varsity football game half time and rehearse in class. Band teacher and director Kendall Carrier helps percussion get in place for the half time show. Keyboarding students enjoy new instruments.

By Marlee Davenport

The Bulletin Reporter

he music program has grown tremendously in the three short years Parrish Community High School has been open.

From the new teachers and opportunities to more classes and students, the growing department is unstoppable.

When the school first opened in 2019, the program was small. There was only one beginner class because there was not enough interest, especially from advanced students.

PCHS Performing Arts Department Head Kendall Carrier taught everything on his own; meanwhile, his wife Kerrie Carrier came to help once or twice a week. Carrier was thrilled when she was asked to officially come on board last year.

The music program has added numerous classes including, percussion and keyboarding. Several different class levels also has been added.

Another great aspect of music is the concerts and trips. This year they are planning a Winter and Spring concert for the entire music department.

The music department teachers are also looking into attending the Music Performance Assessments

along with other assessments. Senior Julianna Lugo, who is in an advanced choir class, said the concerts are great and she enjoys preparing with chorus teacher, Mrs. Carrier.

"Mrs. Carrier is a great person. She puts her all into everything she does," Lugo said.

Both Carriers and Lugo said they would like to see increased participation in music classes. Mrs. Carrier also hopes for growth in musicianship, while Lugo wants more male students to join choir.

Music teachers and students are enjoying the growth and look forward to more, since high school music classess emphasize success in groups.

"Being in a choir isn't about your voice standing out, it's about working collectively as a group so you all sound good together," Lugo said.





By Emma Harlow The Bulletin Reporter

Theatre has been around since the sixth century BCE, but it's only been around PCHS for a year and already is flourishing.

There are three theatre classes this school year, with a total of 106 students and one talented teacher. "For me the purpose of theatre class is a place where people can express their gifts, talents and abilities," said theatre teacher, Olga Peña. "It teaches a level of confidence in your body as well."

Even though this is her first year teaching theatre, Peña has been doing it her whole life. "I absolutely love sharing my passion for being on stage as well as all it takes behind the curtains to make live theatre happen," said Peña, who also teaches English and Journalism and has a music degree.

Sophomore Mars Woelfel is a theatre student who has being doing shows since she was five years old, when she started attending summer theatre camps. "Everyone has a comfort zone they prefer to stay in but being in theatre shows me that I can step out of that box for a minute," Woelfel said.

Woelfel, who is also in Drama Club, started getting serious about acting in the seventh grade and has loved it ever since, she said.

Another theatre student, Cecelia Cosgrove said theatre brings real life issues onto the stage and puts it before an audience, who can relate or learn while being entertained.

"It's really an experience when you see something you've been through up on a stage," Cosgrove said, "I think everyone should be exposed to it." Theater is an important aspect of high school and an addition to the growing performing arts department

that took a hit last school year because of COVID-19 precautions.

Peña explained that now having music, dance and theatre classes better prepares talented students for the various arts presented on stage. She added that learning about theatre and performing in class helps students gain confidence and grow in discipline, while advancing in technique for acting, singing and dancing.

"More than that, though, theatre at PCHS is a place where you're comfortable to be yourself and will find a great deal of acceptance and kindness from me and your peers," Peña said.



Left to right: Students work through blocking for a scene from *The Crucible*, the classic play by Arthur Miller. Mars Woelfel and Emily Mentzer prepare for the curtain to open during rehearsal.



Olga Peña/BULLETII

Olga Peña/BULLE

Left to right: The Blue Belles Dance Team, Pride of Parrish Marching Band and Junior Emily Mentzger perform at a varsity football game.

Abby Ganley/BULLETIN



Football Bulls rise above early season challenges



The varsity football team won 16-13 againts Discovery on Sept.24

Sports

By Tory Ziemer The Bulletin Reporter

The preseason had its challenges with weather cancellations, but the Bulls Football Team has begun winning games even with quarantines presenting serious challenges.

One of the biggest struggles the Bulls Football Team has had is COVID-19.

Parrish's Athletic Director, Coach Shawn Trent said COVID makes the situation in schools worse for everyone, but especially for team sports like football.

"It is hard for athletes and coaches to get any continuity within the team when you are constantly having athletes miss practices and games because of COVID," Trent said.

Many players could not attend or play during the first preseason game because of being quarantined, for example. That game ended in a tie, nonetheless, when lightening caused a midgame cancelation.

However, the Bulls football team is poised for its best season yet. There are many players who have *See* Football, *Page 7*

Swim upgrades, readies for success

By Kaylani Pusateri The Bulletin Reporter

During the summer, all the coaches are roaring to get the athletic seasons started, and it's no different with the players. Athletes are putting in extra work to stay fit and coaches are brainstorming about the upcoming season. Now that school has officially begun, those plans are at work, and PCHS is off to a great start.

Swim is one of the fall sports at PCHS, and the coaches and swimmers are all eager to see what they can accomplish this school year.

This year came with many new changes for the swim team. From new coaches to team swimsuits and caps, the team has upgraded and is set up for success.

Becky Willats is one of the new coaches for the swim team. She is proud of the fact that the team has grown so much in so little time. "The positive attitudes haven't changed, but just a bigger group of kids is fueling the new kids to push themselves harder," Willats said.

Willats, who has been swimming 35 years, said she is very excited to see what the swimmers can do. She explained that her favorite part about being a coach is the kids and the fact that they are all hard workers. "When you have hard workers, it's easy to be a coach because they are always willing to put the effort in," Willats

"My favorite part about swimming is the teammates. Making new friends and getting to do ... something I look forward to every day," Kaitlyn Reber said.

said. Courtney Lancaster is the other new coach this year, who is eager to accomplish team goals. Lancaster has been swimming for about 10 years.

Among one of the biggest changes this year is the amount of swimmers on the team. "We went from having just one swimmer the first year PCHS opened, to five swimmers, to now 14", Lancaster said. The English teacher said she is extremely proud of how the team has grown and how they continue to work hard. Lancaster also is happy the team now has suits and caps with the logo on them to represent the school. Her hopes include going to district, regional, and state competition. Lancaster mentioned that one of the standouts on the team is Kaitlyn Reber, who is one of the captains this year.

Reber was once the only swimmer on the team. Now that they have a full team, she has made her personal goals clear. "I want to make it to states. That's my only goal because in freshman year I always told myself I would make it to states my senior year." Reber said. She

said that the main difference between this year and last year is that they are practicing more to try and meet their personal goals and records.

"My favorite part about swimming is the teammates. Making new friends and getting to do something every day. I like that it's something I get to look forward to every day," Reber said.

Sports



Football Continued

been on the team from the start and have seen the progress the team has made since year one back in 2019.

The team started off as just freshmen and a few sophomores, but now the Bulls football team has grade levels ninth through 12th.

The team unity also is apparent in only the school's third year.

Jack Ingram, 11th grader, starting linemen said, "These guys are like my brothers, and we have gone through thick and thin together. As a team we have improved so much, and this season is going to be a great one."

As of press time, the Bulls were 2-2, with their last win on Sept. 24 againts Discovery by a score of 16-13.



Golf teams get through flooding to reach new goals

By Marissa Krone

The Bulletin Reporter

Lightning, flooding, heat, rain, and course restrictions were all problems the PCHS golf teams have had to endure starting this season, but they're triumphing over these obstacles and have big plans ahead.

During the first few weeks of golf, practice was canceled for heat, lightning, rain, and the course being flooded, but soon wins were happening and the team started reaching new goals.

Boys Golf Coach Brett Andrzejewski has been golfing for nearly 15 years. This being his fourth year of coaching and third year coaching at Parrish, his goals for the team are achievable.

Andrzejewski's main goal is making it to regionals.

Erin Lisch, the girls golf coach, has the bar set high for her 2021-2022 team.

Lisch has been golfing since she was 6.

"We've moved up a class and we have a new field of players," Lisch said. Her main goal is much like Andrzejewski's, for the team to advance from districts to regionals.

Lisch was pleasantly surprised by her team's performance on August 26. She was especially proud of Eleni Sarantopoulos and Tabitha Hanely.

Hanely shot a 37, the best out of everyone at the match; and Sarantopoulos shot a 57 at their first match. Andrzejewski said his team's biggest accomplishment so far is that everyone shot under 50, which is a large improvement considering the first year no one broke 50. Freshman Alex Angelou came in from one of their first matches with a 37, which pleasantly surprised Andrzejewski.



Hannah Ryan (above) Kaylani Pusateri (below)

So far, the girls team has won four matches, lost three and tied one.

The boys team moved to an impressive 9-1 record on Sept. 28.



Erin Lisch/PCHS PHOTOS & CONTRIBUTED



By Hannah Mayhew

The Bulletin Reporter

Leadership is an important asset to any team. Parrish Community High School has excellent student leaders taking charge of its very own cheer team, particularly Sophomores Reagan Panico and Madyson Greeman.

Panico and Greeman are the captains of the 2021-22 cheer team. This season is their second year on the team and their first year as a captain.

"I tried out not only because I felt like it would introduce a great leadership opportunity, but also give me the chance to influence all of the girls positively," said Panico.

Head Cheer Coach Jenna Davies attests to their success.

"The girls have created a positive leadership environment and have even began starting new traditions," Davies said. For example, the captains choreographed a new fight song dance that will be passed on for the school's lifetime.

"It's such an amazing opportunity to be able to create traditions that will be passed down to so many future students," Greeman said.

With PCHS being such a new school and cheerleaders acting as the spirit leaders, the captains have a vital role to take on.

Panico and Greeman are both thrilled to be taking on the challenge and have many exciting things in store.

"I am excited about all the new opportunities ahead for the team this year and working with all the girls and the student body," Panico said.

The PCHS cheer captains are excellent leaders who have what it takes to lead the cheerleaders and students into many new traditions. As the Bulls motto states, "Tradition starts now!"





Top left: Madyson Greeman and Reagan Panico are the 2021-22 PCHS Cheer Team captains.

Palmetto football transfers help grow team

By Evelyn Jordan

The Bulletin Reporter

So far this sports season has been surprising, with football team changes at the top of the list. The number of transfers the school has had this year, especially from Palmetto, has been significant: 70 to be exact.

Football Coach Christopher Culton has been coaching for 25 years and he couldn't think of any other job he rather be doing. When Culton began working at PCHS in 2019, the campus and football program were brand new.

This school year, the school asked Palmetto football players to transfer to Parrish and play for their team; because of the transfers, the program is growing faster. Although the school asked the transfers to come to Parrish and play for their team, they still had to try out; every transfer student made the team. Culton spoke with great excitement about this team and season.

Palmetto transfer Treevaris Carter says he's been playing football since he was in sixth grade and is excited that he is now playing at PCHS. Even though Carter said that he was contemplating the switch, he is enjoying his new school. He said that Parrish has a better program and good structure. He also likes his teamates and coach and thinks that they will have a good season.







The PCHS Track and Field boys and girls teams have been busy earning wins and setting records all along the way since school started. At left, Jennifer Swenson was 3rd place out of 144 at the North Port XC Invitational.

Teacher brings trials, triumphs to classroom

By Abbie Lutsch The Bulletin Reporter

rom battling cancer not once but twice, to being able to teach in China and being in the military, Euripides Rodriguez, has had a very interesting past. Being diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2019, he was able to have a one day surgery as treatment; however, back in 2011 Rodriguez was diagnosed with colon cancer. It was not as simple to treat.

Rodriguez said he knew that a positive mindset from not just himself, but others, would help him through everything. He never felt like he wouldn't make it, Rodriguez said. "I think the support, prayers and the attitude of oneself will make a difference".

It definitely helped because after his surgery, he was in the hospital teaching his students via phone call. While doing 14 sessions of chemotherapy that were each 48 hours, he had some side effects like not being able to touch or drink anything cold and felt some needling type of pain. Rodriguez said, however, the strange side effect that affected his teaching the most was hiccups. Even though the hiccups could last up to an hour and a half, they did not stop him from teaching.

After all of this, he took his positive mindset into the classroom. Rodriguez is very passionate about his teaching. This is his first year at Parrish. He has been teaching for 18 years at schools in Tampa, Orlando, China and now Parrish. As a science teacher, he is trying to get the school to start an AP Chemistry class to begin next school year.

A couple of years ago, Rodriguez was 8,027 miles away



in China still teaching chemistry. "The way students present themselves (in China) is different from the way students present themselves here," Rodriguez said, adding that he really enjoyed the difference in culture and learned a little bit of Mandarin along the way.

Besides teaching, Rodriguez also is passionate about serving his country in the military. Rodriguez was in the Army for 6½ years. After taking training in Oklahoma, 13 Bravo noticed him. This artillery career is responsible for firing howitzer cannons and tanks during combat.

Rodriguez later went back to school and joined the ROTC, which is a college program to help build up young adults into becoming officers in the U.S. Military. After he completed school and ROTC program, he became an active-duty officer and was stationed in Texas. He then was deployed to Frankfurt Germany and became a communications officer.

Rodriguez is a fighter, survivor and a global teacher who has now made PCHS home.

Teachers take on multiple subjects, love challenges

By Mathew Mason

The Bulletin Reporter

If multiple subject teachers are home runs, then PCHS has a good score. With the number of students that Parrish Community High School has, it's no wonder that some teachers have to do twice or three times as much work, especially with recent staffing struggles in midst of a pandemic.

Jessie Chiang teaches multiple levels of orchestra, as well as dance. "It definitely adds more work to my schedule and stresses my creativity," Chiang said. "It takes up all of my free time." Nonetheless, Chiang, who holds a music degree and is a trained dancer, said she loves her schedule the way it is and wouldn't change it. Olga Peña echoed similar feelings about not changing her hectic schedule. "I love the whirlwind that is running from two places on campus, three subjects and nearly 200 students," Peña said. "There is never a dull moment".

Similarly, she added that teaching multiple subjects means "added stress and challenges," but it doesn't affect her effectiveness in the classroom.

"I believe my students are affected in a positive way because they have a teacher who has had previous careers in the three subjects. I bring my varied skill set to each of these classes, as well as a great deal of energy and enthusiasm I hope to transmit to my students," said the former journalist



Jessie Chiang teaches multiple levels of orchestra as well as dance.

and lifetime performer who teaches American literature, journalism and theatre at PCHS. "I prefer teaching multiple subjects because they are those for which I am qualified and of which I'm passionate."

¹⁰ COVID causes ongoing changes in school

By Adyson Woodring and Savannah Schaefer *The Bulletin Reporters*

Even though students and staff thought things would be "back to normal" this school year, after the mask mandate was lifted in July, COVID-19 is still affecting the Manatee County school district.

The controversial mask debate raged on early in the school year as Covid reached its highest level since winter with the Delta variant. In Manatee county alone, 10,000 students within the school district had been quarantined in the first few weeks of school.

School board member Charles "Charlie" Kennedy proposed a mask mandate during an emergency meeting on August 13.

Kennedy's motion included a mandatory mask mandate for all staff and adults on campus and an "opt out" clause for students. Later that week, Kennedy decided to add an "opt out" for staff and adults as well. The modified mandate was approved.

At PCHS, during the first few weeks of school, dozens of Covid cases daily resulted in mass quarantines of students, so some staff took steps to try stopping the speedy spread.

There are those that wear masks believing it could help keep the virus contained, while most students and staff have opted out of using one on campus.

Erin Lisch digital photography and television production teacher at PCHS, said that although wearing a face mask can make communicating difficult, she wants to do her part in protecting herself and others.

With more than 1700 students at PCHS, social distancing is difficult for everyone.

"I have almost 40 kids in my class, so it's almost impossible to social distance," Lisch said, while wearing her face mask.

Music teacher Kerrie Carrier reintroduced individual plastic desk dividers in her keyboarding classes. "It is definitely important,

to follow all guidelines to ensure our school continues and maintains a safe and healthy environment for our students," Carrier said.

Paul Champagne, one of the assistant principals at PCHS, wears his mask to stay protected but thinks everyone should have the option on whether or not they choose to wear one. "Any steps that are adopted are helping and I support 100%," he said.

Not only has the pandemic affected the school day but also school events.

On August 24, the first official homecoming dance was called off by school district administrators in light of a rash of Covid cases the first three weeks of school.

Stacie Nelson, SGA sponsor at PCHS, said the student body government is working on activities to unite the school during the special week.

"We're just trying to give

students as many events as we can," Nelson said.

In September, school administrators officially changed the date of homecoming to the first week of November, with the dance scheduled for Nov. 6.

Several games in various sports have been cancelled or rescheduled because of mass quarantines, and it is still up in the air as of now if only limited people will be allowed to attend musical performances held by the school.

However, within her own choir classes, Carrier said she has not yet considered or reintroduced any social distancing since it's still early in the school year.

The number of cases is changing and lessening since the school year started, but absences are still high with illness and quarantines.

Freshman Celeste Wilson tries to keep a positive mindset even when students are sent home daily.

"I'm just trying to focus on the positives through the tough times," Wilson said.

Key Club collects items to help with Ida relief efforts

By Grace Crestani

The Bulletin Reporter

The Parrish Community High School Key Club is making an effort to support those who have been devastated by Hurricane Ida. Ida made landfall in Louisiana on August 29th as a Category 4 hurricane. It became the second most destructive storm to hit Louisiana behind Hurricane Katrina. With the Louisiana death toll climbing to 26 fatalities, Louisiana is in need of help more than ever.

At PCHS, Deputy Kristopher Townsley and the Key Club worked to spread awareness and collect donations for victims of the storm. Townsley learned that the Ellenton Urgent Care was collecting and sending donations to Louisiana on the weekend of September 4th.

"Key Club aims to provide high school students the invaluable experience of working together in making a positive impact in our community," Townsley said. "We as a club



felt compelled in doing our part in helping those in need."

The Key Club asked students, staff, and families for donations of blankets and pillows, cleaning and sanitary supplies, toiletries, cases or jugs of water, and nonperishable food items. Townsley dropped off the collected items, grateful to those who donated to such a good cause.

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