

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

ANNUAL MEETING IS AT
Incredible Mo's
Thursday, June 19

Chris Mohrhardt, Owner

Plus!

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What's the Buzz About?



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ON THE COVER*

Josh and Jodie Kieliszewski and their boys have made beekeeping a fun, family affair and started a buzzing business, but honeybees are also an important, and endangered, part of our food supply.

Photo Courtesy—*David Trumpie/trumpiephotography.com*

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



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Politics In Action



Tony Anderson
General Manager

Webster’s dictionary defines a “political action committee” or “PAC” as a group formed (as by an industry or an issue-oriented organization) to raise and contribute money to the campaigns of candidates likely to advance the group’s interest.

Webster defines “lobby” as an organized group of people who work together to influence government decisions that relate to a particular industry, issue, etc. I consider a PAC or a lobby to be the same thing.

Formed in 1966, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) is the PAC for almost 900 rural electric cooperatives serving 42 million Americans in 47 states. Today, ACRE has 32,000 members comprised of co-op members, employees and directors. The average annual contribution from ACRE members is \$41.

Late in 2013, Cherryland Electric Cooperative began asking our cooperative members to join “ACRE Co-op Owners For Political Action.” We have continued this effort in 2014 and you can look for the effort to continue in the years to come.

Why? This is the most obvious question and one we certainly get on a regular basis. We have important political issues that need to be heard and in today’s world, monetary contributions can have an effect on how well one is heard.

Electric cooperative’s serve a very small percentage of the total population and we need to have every tool available to us when we try to shape legislation to keep safe, reliable and affordable electricity flowing to our members.

What are the issues? They are ever changing but as I write this, our national association is dealing with issues regarding electric water heater standards, FEMA disaster relief, endangered species act reform, carbon regulations at the EPA and general education of elected officials on how electric cooperatives are different.

Where does the money go? Every dollar of contribution is split between state (49 cents) and federal (50 cents) candidates and a 1 percent federal tax. The dollars then go to candidates that support cooperative positions. ACRE doesn’t care about party affiliations. ACRE looks at voting records on issues important to cooperatives all across the country. Efforts are made to contribute an equal amount to both of the major political parties.

How can a member contribute? While checks and cash (cash has a \$100 maximum limit) are great, we can also make it easy and very affordable with a monthly contribution on your electric bill. We will accept amounts as low as \$2.10 per month. All it takes is one phone call to the Cherryland office at 486-9200. It is very important to note that contributions are voluntary and the general public cannot be solicited, just co-op members.

ACRE must follow rules set forth by the Federal Election Commission. I have sat on the national ACRE committee in the past and can tell you



The ABC's of Cherryland's Annual Meeting

Incredible Mo's, located just down the street from Cherryland at 1355 Silver Lake Crossings Blvd in Grawn, will host the 76th Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 19.

The gates will open at 4 p.m., the business meeting will run from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and the event will last until 8 p.m.

Here are the ABC's of the meeting.

Q. How will this Annual Meeting work as far as logistics?

A. The gates will open for Cherryland members at 4 p.m. Members are urged to enter Incredible Mo's from U.S.-31 and exit to the back, which will lead them to Silver Lake Rd. We will have parking attendants directing you on where to park, with the front of Mo's reserved for handicapped parking.

Once you park, please go through our registration line to receive information about the meeting and also vote for the board of directors, if you haven't already. Outside, we'll have Cherryland information booths, plus booths to highlight nonprofit agencies Freedom Builders, Red Cross and Big Brothers, Big Sisters. We'll also feature music from entertainer Kevin Reeves. Our business meeting will take place outside under our big tent.

Inside, we'll have food (pizza, salad and soft drink), bowling, laser tag, target toss and arcade games. The games are free, but some arcade games will require a pre-paid card, which Cherryland will provide at the arcade information desk.

Q. How do we vote for Cherryland directors?

A. If you didn't vote for directors with your mail-in ballot (a cover wrap on the May issue of *Country Lines*), you can vote on the day of the Annual Meeting. The ballot box closes when the business meeting starts at 5:30 p.m.

Q. What time will the business meeting take place?

A. The business meeting will start promptly at 5:30 p.m.

It is starting later than in the past to allow more people to get out of work and come right to Incredible Mo's in time for the meeting, which will last until 6:30 p.m. We'll offer food, games and entertainment from 4 to 5:30 p.m., and then after the meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Q. Why did Cherryland switch its Annual Meeting to Incredible Mo's?

A. We wanted to give another member—in this case Incredible Mo's—a chance to host the meeting. Cherryland is lucky in that we have several great commercial sites we serve that could host the Annual Meeting every year.

Q. What will there be for people to do at the Annual Meeting?

A. Lots. In fact, this is the most choices our members and their families have ever had at an Annual Meeting. They can bowl, play laser tag, or arcade games. They can get their face painted, listen to the live entertainment, and learn more about what Cherryland has to offer with our informational booths. ■

Photo top left: Chris and Sandra Mohrhardt are the owners of Incredible Mo's, a bowling and entertainment center where Cherryland Electric Co-op is holding its annual meeting this year.

Receive a pre-paid game card for use at the arcade.





SOUTHERN COMFORT

For good old fashioned Southern comfort, try out some of these hearty, homestyle recipes from down south.

Louisiana Red Beans and Rice

4 cans 16-oz. kidney or red beans, rinsed and drained
 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes, undrained
 1 lb. smoked sausage, sliced
 1 c. chicken broth
 3 celery ribs, chopped
 1 lg. onion, chopped
 1 med. green pepper, chopped
 1 sm. red pepper, chopped
 6 garlic cloves, minced
 1 bay leaf
 ½ t. crushed red pepper flakes

Combine all but sausage in slow cooker. Cover, cook on low for 6 hours. Add sausage. Continue to cook 2 hours more. Stir before serving. Serve over rice.

Tommie Schmidt, Union

Squash Cornbread

1 box corn muffin mix (Jiffy™ 8.5 oz.)
 1 package frozen winter squash (10 oz.), defrosted
 1 egg
 3 T. whole berry cranberry sauce (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Grease a 5"x 9" loaf pan.

Southern cooking means cornbread. Here is a quick, easy, and delicious one my family hopes all of yours will enjoy. Blend corn muffin mix, squash & egg to just combined and pour into prepared pan. Drop the cranberry sauce into batter & swirl gently with a knife.

Bake at 375° for 25–30 minutes. Serves 6.

Nan Couyoumjian, Bellaire

Sausage Gravy and Biscuits

1 lb. ground sausage
 4 T. butter
 ⅔ c. Kentucky Kernel (fry batter mix)
 (You can use all or part flour for less spice)
 ⅔ to 1½ c. milk, to desired consistency
 Grands!®, Bisquick™, or homemade biscuits



Brown sausage. Add and melt butter. Stir well and cook until light brown. Add fry batter mix. Slowly pour in milk until thickness desired. Serve over biscuits. This is a great meal for breakfast, brunch or dinner!

Linda Miller, Grayling

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "All About Snacks" recipes by **July 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email recipes@countrylines.com.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and Country Lines will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Find more of our readers' recipes at countrylines.com

Photos—831 Creative

Keep Cool With Attic Radiant Barriers

Q My air-conditioning costs are high, but we still feel too warm at times. Ads for radiant barriers say they save a lot. How do they work, do they save much, and what is the cost?

A: Ads about “huge” energy savings from installing attic radiant barriers are often the very maximum possible and are exaggerated for a typical retrofit installation. But, proper installation in a specific house can yield a reasonable payback and better comfort.

Before deciding if your home is a good candidate, it’s wise to understand how a house loses and gains heat. Most importantly, the rate that heat flows from a hot to cold area is determined by the temperature difference between the spaces.

Conduction heat flows through solids that touch each other. This is how an iron skillet’s handle gets hot. The walls and ceiling of a house also lose or gain heat this way because the materials are all nailed together.

Convection is where heat flows through a moving fluid or gas, which increases the flow rate. An example is how your skin loses heat faster on a windy, winter day (wind chill factor creates a lower temperature).

Radiation heat flows directly from one object to another via a vacuum, air, glass, etc. It is not dependent on touching or fluid flow. This is how you feel warm by a fire.

Radiant energy is unique because it’s affected much more by temperature difference. For conduction and convection, if indoor/outdoor temperature differences double, heat flow doubles. With radiation, the flow is 16 times greater when the difference doubles.

This is why radiant barriers are most often used in the attic to block heat flow through the roof. On a hot day, the temperature of a dark shingle roof can reach 150 degrees. The roof conducts heat to its sheathing, and radiation carries it down through the insulation and ceiling, and into your house.

Radiant barriers require an air gap to keep them from touching the hot surface or they will conduct like any other material. Reinforced aluminum foil was typically used as the radiant barrier, but now many use a reflective plastic film. Be sure to check the barrier emittance level (should be lower than 0.25, or 25 percent) before buying it or signing an installation contract. Aluminum foil is well below 0.25. There are also reflective paints, such as Low/Mit (solec.org) that can be sprayed under the roof sheathing.



To install a radiant barrier, you will need a hand construction stapler, utility knife, and a long straight edge.

Photo—James Dulley

To get a good energy savings payback, install the barrier yourself. Companies like Innovative Insulation, Inc. (radiantbarrier.com) sell double-sided reflective foil for about \$130 for a 4 x 250-foot roll. Invest in a hand construction stapler, utility knife, and a long straight edge, and you are ready to install it.

The easiest way is to cut the barrier into lengths and staple them under the roof rafters. It is not important how neatly it is installed, but it must have adequate attic ventilation—preferably both a soffit and a ridge vent. With single-sided foil, face the reflective side down to take advantage of its low emittance. It requires less radiant barrier to lay it flat over the attic floor insulation. The barrier will collect dust and may become less effective over time, so use perforated barrier material so it breathes and moisture does not get trapped in the insulation.

Savings from installing an attic radiant barrier varies considerably, depending on your climate, specific house, and orientation to the sun. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory estimates air conditioning savings can range from \$150 annually for very hot climates to only \$40 for cold ones. Attic radiant barriers provide little positive or negative effect in the heating season. If your electric co-op offers time-of-use rates, the savings may be somewhat higher. ■

A Step Back in Time

The Almira Historical Society is expanding its museum.

It looks like room after room of antiques from the hit TV show, “American Pickers.”

But the 1,500 pieces of vintage memorabilia that the Almira Historical Society has acquired since it started only 20 years ago isn't going anywhere.

It is housed in seven buildings in the Village of Lake Ann and the group is looking to expand even more when it hosts the 20th annual Lake Ann Homecoming on July 5.

“We've run out of room to display everything,” said volunteer Jean Johnson. “So we're looking to expand.”

Walking through each of the buildings is like taking a trip through time.

In the main building—the museum—items are grouped by subject. There is an old local post office, telephone switchboard, military uniforms and memorabilia, farm items, wedding dresses, quilts, an old school blackboard and reading books, a Texaco collection that would make any antique dealer proud and even 1950s Detroit Tigers pocket schedules.

“People have opened their hearts and their wallets to help us get this done,” said organizer Vera Carmien, who hosted the first meeting of the Almira Historical Society in 1992.

Besides the museum, there is a building to store a local 1947 fire truck and five other buildings that were moved onto the grounds of historical significance to Almira Township and Lake Ann.

But now, Carmien said, the museum needs to expand. So the next goal is to add an annex to the north end of the building.

The big fundraiser ever year is the Lake Ann Homecoming. This year, the 20th annual event starts with an opening ceremony on July 5 at 9 a.m. and continues throughout the day with music, a vintage car and tractor parade, luncheon, children's events and ongoing activities like a silent auction, flea market and bake sale.

The event is the big fundraiser of the year for the 12-person Almira Historical Society board of directors.

“People in the Lake Ann area are the ones who have made this all possible,” said Carmien. “Between the money they donate or the in-kind services they volunteer to do, it helps to preserve the history of our area.”

The museum will be open all day on July 5th during the celebration. Otherwise, it is open only on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1–4 p.m. from Memorial Weekend through Labor Day, or by appointment.

For more information, go to almirahistoricalsociety.org or write to them at 19440 Maple St., Lake Ann, MI 49650. ■

Photo Top: A blacksmith shop that was part of Lake Ann's history.

Photo Bottom: An old electric meter, where members put a coin in to make it work.



\$222,306
in rebates

\$75 in rebates
per share

3,667,117
kWh savings



2013 Energy Optimization (EO) Annual Report

Cherryland Electric Cooperative is proud to announce that we have achieved our Energy Optimization (EO) goal for the fifth straight year. Energy Optimization is a state-mandated program through Public Act 295. It requires utilities to meet kilowatt hour (kWh) savings goals by incentivizing energy efficiency improvements.

How do we save 3 million kWh in just one year?

We offer rebates to help our members reduce their energy consumption, which in turn helps us achieve our yearly goal. Residential and commercial members participating in our EO rebate program can get money back when they upgrade their lighting, appliances, and industrial motors.

In 2013, our members installed energy efficiency upgrades that totaled 3,667,117 in kWh savings. That's the equivalent of taking 382 homes off our system for a full year! In addition to saving energy, those members received a total of \$222,306 in rebates.

As a co-op, we are not-for-profit and we work hard to keep costs down for our member-owners. We have kept our EO program costs down by managing and administering it in-house with existing staff. We do not hire third-party consultants to process and issue your rebates. Saving money by watching our bottom line helps your bottom line, too.

When the co-op makes more money than we need to cover our costs, we return that money to our members in the form of capital credits.

Last year, we enhanced our rebate program by allowing commercial and residential members to access their capital credit account for qualifying energy efficiency upgrades. This past year, over 20 members took advantage of this additional rebate option, which resulted in over \$185,000 going back into their wallets.

You may have also heard about our SUN Alliance community solar array. Members are able to buy shares in the community solar array for \$470. In return, they receive a monthly bill credit for the output of their share for the next 25 years.

We also used our EO rebate program to help make investing in the solar project even more affordable for our members. We were able to offer a rebate of \$75 per share, with the option to tap into capital credits for an additional \$75.

We will continue to "light up" our EO program in 2014 with enhanced rebates on Energy Star®-rated LED bulbs.

If you are making any energy efficiency upgrades to your residence or business in 2014, check with us first to see if rebates are available. Rebate guidelines are available on our website at cherrylandelectric.com.

Helping you save money and energy—that's the cooperative difference.

Tammy Squires is the energy use advisor at Cherryland Electric Cooperative. ■





Backyard Beekeeping: What's the Buzz About?



Ask most people what bees contribute to the world and they'll name three things: honey, wax and stings.

Put the question to Josh and Jodie Kieliszewski and you'll get a longer list: soap, body creams, ointments, lip balms...

Another unusual fact about the Kieliszewskis: While describing the wild swarm of bees that set up housekeeping in a hollow maple tree near their home in 2007, they call it a "blessing."

One person's threat is another's opportunity. The swarm might have caused the average person to summon a pest control company. Josh and Jodie, who share an interest in the natural world, found the bees fascinating.

"We saw intelligence...a social structure," Jodie says.

The swarm moved on, but not before the Kieliszewskis were bitten by the beekeeping bug—a passion that eventually became Bee Lovely Botanicals, LLC (beelovelybotanicals.com)—a home-based business offering handmade, all natural bee-related products sold at Michigan farmers markets and on the internet.

Honeybees have taken a beating in recent years. Colony Collapse Disorder—the result, experts believe, of pesticide overuse, has forced many commercial beekeepers out of business. This is an agricultural crisis because honeybees are essential for pollinating crops like apples, blueberries and cucumbers, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) notes that one-third of the food we eat is pollinated by bees.

Recognizing the importance of honeybees in our food supply, the USDA will, according to the *Associated Press*, pay farmers and ranchers in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and North and South Dakota to reseed pastures with clover,

"Publicity surrounding Colony Collapse Disorder has ignited interest in honeybees and backyard beekeepers, like the Kieliszewskis, are stepping up to fill the gap."

alfalfa and other plants that attract bees. Publicity surrounding Colony Collapse Disorder has ignited interest in honeybees, and backyard beekeepers like the Kieliszewskis, are stepping up to fill the gap.

Josh and Jodie live in Unionville, Mich., with their three sons, where they are members of Thumb Electric Cooperative. A certified athletic trainer, Jodie now divides her time between her boys and the

family business. Josh, a fisheries and wildlife biologist, is a quality-control scientist in his day job, but beekeeping, he says, has transcended from a hobby to a second job.

Not that he's complaining. "It's all fun; it's not really work," he explains.

The business, however, is not without setbacks. This winter's extreme cold took a heavy toll on the Kieliszewskis' bees, with only five out of 40 hives surviving. An average hive holds 60,000–70,000 bees



at its peak occupancy. But the heavy losses won't stop the Kieliszewskis—they switched to a hardier breed called the Carnolian honeybee.

The Kieliszewskis pride themselves on keeping their operation friendly—to their bees, the environment, and the people who use their products.

"We do a lot of research, and are really careful about our ingredients," Jodie says. "We personally use all the things we make."

They also resist using chemicals on their hives—even if it means taking bigger losses in harsh weather.

Josh says that he's been stung "a time or two"—especially in the beginning, when he didn't own the proper gear. His dark hair doesn't help. Bees, he explains, equate the color black with bears and other predators.

Jodie casually mentions the time a swarm chased her 300 feet, and stung her 20–30 times. Bees, she says, have different personalities, and this swarm was particularly ornery.

Naturally, the Kieliszewskis know something about bee sting remedies—both conventional and unusual—noting they have "tried almost every bee sting remedy known to man." Jodie likes meat tenderizer, while Josh prefers a remedy that's free and always available: spit. It has enzymes, he says, that break down the venom. ■

Co-op News

Three Students Each Win \$4,000 Cherryland Scholarships

Three area high school seniors have been selected to receive Cherryland Electric Cooperative's college scholarships, worth \$4,000 each.

The students are:

The panel of four judges reviewed the 154 applications, and the winning students are:

- Samantha Purifoy—Glen Lake High School.
- Amanda Rottman—Grand Traverse Academy.
- Taylor Town—Traverse City West Senior High School.

The three winners will receive \$1,000 a year for four years. To be eligible, applicants have to receive their electric service from Cherryland, which serves over 34,000 members in six counties.

In addition to the high school scholarship winners, there were two adult scholarships awarded, worth \$1,000 each.

The adult scholarship winners were:

- Rebecca Webb—Traverse City
- Brittany Phipps—Traverse City

Next Member Input Session is June

The board of directors at Cherryland Electric Cooperative is offering another opportunity for members to provide direct input on a quarterly basis. Members will be able to talk to the board next on Monday, June 16, at 9 a.m. at the company office in Grawn.

Members are asked to come to the lobby and request to speak to the board. Members are asked to keep their comments to 5 minutes. Member attendance at the board meeting is allowed for the public input portion only.

Cherryland members are afforded a chance to meet with the board on a quarterly basis during meetings in March, June, September and December.

Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Applications

Area non-profit agencies who are seeking financial help can apply for a grant through Cherryland Cares.

Cherryland Cares is a five-member board, made up of Cherryland Electric Cooperative members, who distribute money from Operation Round Up to area non-profits. The next quarterly meeting of Cherryland Cares is Monday, June 16. The deadline for applications is Friday, June 6.

Operation Round Up money comes from Cherryland members who elect to round up their bills to the nearest dollar every month. This amount averages \$6 per year.

To receive a Cherryland Cares grant application or to join Operation Round Up, contact Nick Edson at Cherryland. His direct line is 486-9222 or e-mail him at nicke@cecelec.com.

Pay Your Cherryland Electric Bill Online

Want to save money and pay your Cherryland Electric Cooperative bill online?

It's easy to do. You can set up your accounts to get only an e-mail bill—no more paper bills.

If you would like to do this, access your account on cherrylandelectric.com. It will prompt you immediately after you sign in to make a decision on whether or not you want the paper bill to continue; if you do, check the box. If not, simply press "update."

Questions about online payment can be answered by Cherryland's Member Service Department at 486-9200.

Check Out Cherryland On Facebook

For the latest Cherryland news and events, members can now follow us on Facebook.

Go to cherrylandelectric.com and click "**follow us on facebook**" at the bottom left-hand corner of the home page.

We offer updates on services for our members and regular updates when outages occur. ■

Politics In Action *(Continued from page 4)*

from this experience that ACRE staff does take the rules very seriously. They are fully aware that they represent our local integrity as well as a national reputation.

There will be an in-person ask for donations at the June annual meeting. We will always respect the decision of those who don't believe in this type of political effort. In turn, we ask for the same respect of those members who do choose to make a contribution.

There are many levels of political action. I believe that giving Cherryland members an opportunity to be ACRE members is very important. I look forward to the support of many politically active members as we strive to become even more united with a louder political voice that will benefit everyone. ■

Plant the right tree, in the right place

For safety, plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



PUT SOME EXTRA GREEN IN YOUR WALLET

Make the switch to LED lighting and get more money back from Cherryland's enhanced rebate program.



Residential LED Rebate Guide

Light Type	Rebate Amount
Replacement for standard incandescent bulb	\$4 - \$6
Interior flood light	\$8
Exterior flood light	\$15

* commercial rebates vary



Download the LED rebate application at cherrylandelectric.com

COOLEDinc.

Maximize your savings by purchasing your LEDs from CoolLED. CoolLED is a local LED supplier who offers discounts to Cherryland members starting at 20% off. Email: sales@cooledinc.com • Phone: (231) 421-5981



Growing Future Leaders

The Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) is designed to grow leaders through team-building skills, including hands-on classroom exercises and a high-ropes challenge (over 30 feet in the air!). Sponsored by their electric co-op, students from across Michigan gathered at SpringHill Camp near Ewart in April and tested their decision-making skills, learned how to respond in emergency situations, and received valuable career information.

A number of students attending the Summit were then considered for participation in the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., this month.

Learn more about both programs at miYLS.com. ■

The Hunt Is On!

Enter the *Country Lines* Deer Blind Contest.

If you think you have the best deer blind in Michigan, then we want to see it. There will be one lucky winner from each deer blind category below:

Most tricked-out. What personal touches have you added to spruce up your blind? Perhaps carpet, a fringe or a custom paint job? Uniqueness counts.

Best story behind the deer blind. Tell us the story of how yours came to be. The entertainment value scores you points.

Most interestingly-engineered. Impressive architecture or strange contraption, the more interesting the better.

The 2014 *Country Lines* Deer Blind Contest starts on June 15 and ends Aug. 15. Enter online at countrylines.com/deer-blind-contest or mail a photo (a high quality print photo—not from a computer printer)



of your blind to CL Deer Blind Contest, 2859 W. Jolly Road, Okemos, MI 48864. Make sure to include your name, a short description of what makes your blind great, and your contact information. The three winners will each receive a \$50 credit on their electric bill and have a picture of their blind published in *Michigan Country Lines*. ■

'Mega' Geothermal Energy Fair is Family Friendly

A “mega” geothermal energy fair is coming June 27–28 to the Ingham County fairgrounds in Mason.

“This fair will be for everyone, and we will have workshops, exhibits, seminars, food, music, and even a kids area,” says Larry Kaufman, MGEA executive director.

Sponsors are the Michigan Geothermal Energy Association (MGEA) and the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA), and anyone is welcome to attend. On June 27, the offerings are more technical (for dealers and professionals), with an emphasis on technology, including a new product called a portable room geothermal system.

On June 28, the day will be geared towards learning about geothermal for a home or business. Topics include available rebates; an “Ask the Expert” (wind, solar, bio energy, geothermal) session; and updates on energy legislation, bio energy, electric cars, success stories, case studies, and other energy topics.

There will also be dealer booths where you can ask about specific interests or needs, such as replacing a furnace or air conditioner. Visit glrea.org or call 269-384-9915. ■

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