

# CARDINAL CUSHING CENTERS CONNECTOR



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FALL 2017

## A community will rise at Bethany



At center, Cushing board co-chair Kevin Kiley, Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and Lisa Alberghini, president of the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, joined funders and students for the groundbreaking. PHOTO: MARK SUTHERLAND

By PAUL HALLORAN

On Oct. 23, ground was broken on a truly groundbreaking project.

The Bethany Apartments at Cardinal Cushing Centers in Hanover will be a place where people with and without disabilities live, learn, work and socialize together. Cushing is partnering with the Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA) – the nonprofit housing developer affiliated with the Archdiocese of Boston – to convert the former Kennedy

Building into 37 rental units of affordable workforce housing.

Among those participating in the groundbreaking were Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Lisa Alberghini, president of the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, Cushing board co-chair Kevin Kiley, chancellor and chief financial officer of the Diocese of Fall River, MassHousing executive director Timothy Sullivan, Dori Conlon of Bank of America, and Sister Joanne Schatzlein, OSF, Cushing's liaison to the Sisters of St. Francis

See **BETHANY** Page 7



PAGES 4-5

ROCKLAND  
TRUST

DRIVES  
SUPPORT  
FORE  
CUSHING

## Amazon delivers for Cushing

### Students gain employment at Weymouth warehouse

By PAUL HALLORAN

Cardinal Cushing Centers vocational services staff members work hard at identifying employment opportunities for students, but it isn't often that the employer comes to them.

That's what happened in the case of FBA Associates – Fulfillment by Adam – in Weymouth, where operations manager David Kelly was proactive in his desire

to form a working relationship with Cushing, a partnership that is greatly benefitting both sides.

Kelly previously worked as a job coach with an organization in California similar to Cushing, calling it "one of the most fulfilling jobs I've had." So, when he took over in January at FBA – a business that instructs people on how to run their

See **AMAZON** Page 6



Cushing students John Munnely, left, and Eion Coyne enjoy working at FBA Associates with operations manager David Kelly, right.



CARDINAL CUSHING CENTERS  
CONNECTOR

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# Together we achieve more



PETER O'MEARA

yet we are keenly aware that we can't do it alone.

We are blessed to have the support and cooperation of many partners and donors, some

At Cardinal Cushing Centers, we are fortunate to have a passionate and dedicated staff that is singularly focused on educating and improving the lives of the students and adults we serve. We are very proud of the work that goes on here every day,

of whom you will meet in this edition of the Connector. Rockland Trust. Dairy Queen. Stop & Shop. Amazon (through FBA Associates). All who attended our Springtime gala and the St. Coletta Golf Classic. We thank you all for believing in our mission and investing in our students.

These are exciting times at Cushing. The Bethany Apartments project will be a transformative initiative. Through our partnership with the Archdiocese of Boston's Planning Office for Urban Affairs, we will develop a community where people of all abilities can live, work, shop and, most important, interact.

We believe the Bethany project will serve

as a national model, one which we hope is duplicated over and over again. In addition to the Archdiocese, we are grateful to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for providing the tax credits and subsidies that will allow us to bring this concept to fruition.

The tag line in the Cardinal Cushing Centers logo includes these words: All ages. All abilities. All together. The Bethany Apartments will embody that mantra. We're thrilled about that and we hope you are, too.

*Peter O'Meara is president and CEO of Cardinal Cushing Centers.*

## Traveling to find Franciscan roots

By LEAH SALLOWAY

While spiritual in the yoga-loving, mindful-living, kind of way, I had never really identified as a religious person. When I began my career at Cardinal Cushing Centers, I had a vague base of knowledge that included our Franciscan roots and values, but no concrete picture of how those could manifest. Within a few months with the organization, a few things became clear. My staff were passionate about working with their students. The school has a long history of serving students, and the values of treating each other with kindness, dignity, and respect are evident. St. Coletta Day School quickly took hold of my heart.

In February of 2017, one of our students passed away tragically. In May, another long-standing member of our school community was lost unexpectedly. Our world was shaken. I found myself in awe of the perseverance that my staff showed as they continued through their own pain and loss to do what was best for the students. It was around this time that I was informed that I would be traveling to Italy for a Franciscan pilgrimage and to learn more about the history of our organization.

Traveling to Italy, I initially felt unsteady. Everyone seemed so well versed in the routine of the Mass and the notes of the



A group of Cardinal Cushing Centers' staff traveled to Italy to learn more about the Franciscan culture.

hymns, however, I was refreshed by how each Mass brought us back to the ideas and the messages of the Franciscan values. Thinking about how these values applied to the lives of my students and the hard work of my staff reconnected me, and grounded me in the experience. As we moved around the country and retraced the steps that St. Francis and St. Clare had taken, some of the key themes revolved around caring for marginalized people, building nurturing communities, and doing good with the resources that we have available, while keeping in mind that it is compassion most of all that keeps our organization moving forward.

Spending time delving into the Franciscan values has allowed me to come back to my

school refreshed and able to share the passion and compassion towards the students we serve with my staff. When faced with a difficult moment or situation, I feel better equipped to lead with my heart, and to ask myself if I am acting in a way that promotes building community, building relationships, and treating all with positive regard. I discovered a new respect for the mission of Cardinal Cushing Centers and a better understanding of what it meant to live the values. I believe that this transformative experience will better equip me to integrate our values into the Cardinal Cushing Centers community.

*Leah Salloway is Director of St. Coletta Day School.*

# McCaffrey bags a career at Super Stop & Shop

By MEAGHAN CASEY

Grocery shoppers throughout the Plymouth County area recognize Joe McCaffrey for his friendly disposition and efficiency in bagging.

McCaffrey, 31, has been an employee at the Super Stop & Shop on Washington Street in Norwell for the past eight years.

"I love the people," said McCaffrey, who

enjoys the interaction with customers and his co-workers.

He typically works four days each week, accumulating 12-16 hours, and is always willing to fill in and pick up an extra shift. With his routine down to a science, he has even begun training new employees in bagging and collecting carts. Known for his work ethic and swift pace (perhaps due in part

to the energy drinks he loves), he takes pride in being one of the store's quickest baggers.

"He's a great employee," said Allison Kemp, who has been the store's front-end manager for the past four months. "He has no qualms about trying anything or learning something new."

McCaffrey, who benefits from Cushing's adult services, is a participant of South Shore Industries (SSI), which helps adults with disabilities gain the training, skills and opportunities to find meaningful jobs in the community. With sites in Braintree and Hanover, SSI is committed to the exploration, development and implementation of employment plans tailored to each individual's preferences, skills and needs. Participants like McCaffrey explore employment settings, enhance their employment skills and participate in volunteer programs and community-based work crews.

McCaffrey regularly volunteers in the community, helping out with Meals on Wheels. He enjoys any work related to retail and food services. While in the vocational program at Cushing, he trained in the kitchen, learning to clean and set up the dining rooms, prepare salads and sandwiches, cook hot meals, make desserts, portion and serve meals, bus trays and wash dishes. He also had the opportunity to work in the Bass Café, another Cushing vocational site.

McCaffrey, who started out in the Holbrook



Public Schools before coming to Cushing at age 12, would love to come full cycle and work at Cushing one day. He has lived in a group home in Whitman for the past 11 years. In addition to maintaining a stable job, he's learning money management skills and other skills that would help him to live independently. He also participates in Special Olympics, playing on the basketball and flag football teams.



Joe McCaffrey bags groceries at Super Stop & Shop in Norwell.

PHOTOS: SEAN BROWNE

## Springtime gala raises \$430,000

Cardinal Cushing Centers' annual Springtime gala raised \$430,000 this year, drawing a crowd of 420 guests. The event celebrated the 70th anniversary of the organization's founding.



Secretary of Health and Human Services Mary Lou Sudders presents Joanne Jaxtimmer with the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award.



Melissa Macdonell, president of the Liberty Mutual Foundation, walked the runway with Michael Barry, adult services participant and Joanne Jaxtimmer's son.



Jeff Bellows, vice president of Corporate Citizenship and Public Affairs for Blue Cross Blue Shield, models with Cushing student Michael Ryan.



The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi received the Franciscan Leadership Award.



Cushing student Preston Linthwaite enjoyed the evening with his parents, Chris and Kristin.

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# Rockland Trust is an ace for Cushing

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	TOTAL
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PLAYER 1

PLAYER 2

PLAYER 3

PLAYER 4



BY PAUL HALLORAN

The 31st St. Coletta Golf Classic, which was played Sept. 25 at Marshfield Country Club, is on rock-solid footing. Make that Rockland Trust-solid footing.

The bank, a longtime partner of Cardinal Cushing Centers, has been running the golf tournament for 10 years, after taking it over from the capable stewardship of Dave O'Brien and Braintree Cooperative Bank.

The tournament continues to flourish, as 120 players teed it up this year, raising \$100,000 for Cushing, bringing the 10-year total to \$750,000.

"We're fortunate in that people reach out to us year after year," said Jeff Smith, Rockland Trust Senior VP, who runs the tournament with the help of colleague Heather (Barry) Ghilardi. "We usually have a full field on day one."

In addition to sponsoring and spearheading the golf tournament, Rockland Trust provides Christmas presents for Cushing students who are not able to go home for the holidays. Smith is a member of the Development Committee and a former chair of the Planned Giving Committee.

Ghilardi has a personal connection to Cushing, as her sister, Leigh Ann, is a former student and her father, Roger Barry, works in the adult residential department. Smith credited her, along with the golf committee, with doing the majority of the legwork for the golf tournament.

"The bank encourages us to volunteer our time with nonprofit organizations," he said.

Like any successful charity golf tournament, the St. Coletta Classic relies on major sponsors to set the tone. Smith mentioned three: Ted Medeiros of East Commerce Solutions and Fred Studley of Transition Solutions.

"Ted English brings three foursomes every year, all childhood friends," Smith said. "We are very fortunate to have the support of top-level sponsors, as well as many others."

Smith said the Boston Bruins Foundation and Fenway Sports Group have also been very supportive of the tournament.

Smith said one of the biggest attractions for players is the opportunity to meet and interact with Cushing students, who transfer golf bags from players' cars to their golf carts and are present throughout the day and at the post-tournament dinner. The Cushing Chorus is a huge hit as well.

"You can't replicate that interaction," he said. "I think that's one of the reasons people keep coming back year after year."



Members of the St. Coletta Classic Golf Committee include, from left, Sean Lamontagne of Nadeau Corporation Construction Development & Engineering, Rockland Trust Company Senior Vice President Jeff Smith and Heather Ghilardi, Lauren DeAngelo and Renée Morrison of Rockland Trust.



East Commerce Solutions golfers enjoy the post-tournament reception.



Bryan Abou-Rjaily drives the ball while Eric Ransden, Kevin Barnard and Kevin Walsh, all from Pinnacle Technology / Dell EMC, wait their turn.



David Brown putts on the 18th green while Todd Yazbek looks on.



Parent Jean Raymond speaks at the reception following the tournament.



The performance of the Cushing chorus is a highlight of the golf tournament.



Youssef Abdouh, who serves on Cushing's board and Development Committee, joins James Antonelli, golf pro at Marshfield Country Club.



James Burokas tees off on the first hole.



# Hear him roar

## Cushing student takes part in YMCA performance of the “The Lion King, Jr.”

By MEAGHAN CASEY

While the stage isn’t for everybody, it’s the place where Jonathan Perrault is happiest.

Perrault, 14, has been a regular in Cushing’s theater productions during his three years as a residential student. He played a police officer in the production of “Annie” in 2015, the cowardly lion in “The Wizard of Oz” in 2016 and Pinocchio in “Shrek the Musical” last year. Over the summer, he participated in ArtsCamp at Hanover’s Emilson YMCA and joined the cast of “The Lion King, Jr.”

“We wanted him to get more theater experience,” said Ali Howshall, Cushing’s music instructor and special events coordinator. “He immediately embraced it. It was really cool, because it was a typical camp and he totally opened up conversationally and made new friends.” Perrault attended the camp for two weeks, July 24 through Aug. 4, accompanied by a Cushing teaching assistant.

“He would come back absolutely beaming,” said teacher Cheryl Clark. “When we went as a class to see him perform, he

was so excited to introduce his classmates to his new friends. Acting has given his confidence level a big boost.”

“He can be a shy kid, but when he’s on stage, he lights up,” said Howshall. “I think it’s something about taking on a new character. He becomes the life of the party and has so much fun on stage.”

“I liked being in all the plays, but ‘The Lion King’ I liked the best so far,” said Perrault. “I liked it because I got to go off campus and I made a lot of new friends there. I played the part of the hyena. It was really fun. I love to be on stage. I don’t get nervous, I get really excited. When I act, I feel so happy.”

ArtsCamp was overseen by Boston native Siouxanna Ramirez-Cruz, whose directorial highlights include works with Bentley University, Emerson College, Suffolk University and schools in Milton, Canton, Brookline, Newton, Braintree, Westwood and Boston.

“When the conversation began about Jonathan’s love of the arts, our team was excited that ‘The Lion King, Jr.’ seemed to be a perfect fit,” said Ramirez-Cruz. “Jonathan brought a deep commitment and unstoppable



Jonathan Perrault, who played a hyena, with Amelia Ney, who was playing the role of Zazu in “The Lion King, Jr.”

energy to his role as a hyena. He worked within a team of four actors and within a larger cast of 28. Always prepared with his lyrics, choreography and lines, Jonathan’s presence inspired his castmates each day.”

Perrault will no doubt be able to bring new skills to the stage when he performs at Cushing as Chip in “Beauty and the Beast” this spring.

“Something I learned at the camp is that you need to use a lot of expression and

movement to make it look better when you are in a play,” he said. “I’m so glad I got to do this and I hope I get to do it again.”

Ramirez-Cruz hopes so too.

“We, as an ArtsCamp team, gained so much joy and love in having Jonathan here that we hope future opportunities are open to him,” she said. “There is no doubt that the stage speaks to Jonathan for when he is on it and before an audience, he is home.”

## Amazon business delivers jobs for Cushing students

AMAZON from Page 1

own Amazon business, and thus receives and ships a significant number of products daily – he knew what he wanted to accomplish.

“I always knew that one day I would have my own business and somehow I would do this,” he said about providing jobs for students with special needs. It only took a visit to a car dealership and some delicious pastry to help him find Cushing.

“I was at the Ford dealership (Jannell Ford of Hanover) and they had some great pastries,” he said. “I asked where they came from and they said Cardinal Cushing (Bass Village Café and Bakery). I went there and got connected to Doug Frazier (Cushing’s director of vocational services).”

Karen Conway, career development coordinator at Cushing’s St. Coletta Day School program in Braintree, met with Kelly, toured the facility and wrote a proposal. She worked with Frazier on identifying the student workers and arranging transportation.

There are currently six Cushing students, age 18-22, who combine to work at FBA Associates two hours a day, three days a week. A job coach from Cushing is present at all times to assist with training and provide whatever supports the students require.

On a sunny September Tuesday, Cushing students Eion Coyne and John Munnelly helped Kelly unload about 50 packages from a UPS truck. Students perform a variety of tasks at FBA, including packaging, labeling, cleaning and organizing. Kelly is



Eion Coyne, left, and John Munnelly help unload a UPS truck. PHOTO: PAUL HALLORAN

extremely happy with their performance.

“It has been a total success,” he said, noting that FBA owner Adam Bowser has been fully supportive of the initiative.

The feeling is mutual.

“Because of his background, David didn’t have to be sold on the idea of hiring our students,” said Conway. “He came to us wanting to structure a work program, which is unusual. Developing a worksite for multiple students requires organization and support from all involved. David has been a pleasure to work with.”

Conway said Cushing has been trying to develop employment opportunities that include more than one student, so the FBA site is perfect in that regard. The Amazon affiliation is a bonus.

“The fact that this company is part of Amazon opens up so many possibilities,” she said.

## Becker family’s legacy endures at Cushing

Many of Cushing’s staff members and families fondly remember Michael Becker, an adult resident for a number of years until his death in 2003. According to Nita Benson, a residential manager, Michael was the “mayor of Hanover.”

His parents, Angela and Dan, were strong supporters of Cushing. In 2012, Angela donated funds to renovate a group home in Michael’s name. And by naming Cushing a beneficiary of her IRA, Angela’s support has continued even after her passing in November 2016. Her foresight and generosity will ensure residents like her son will reap the benefits of Cushing’s services for years to come.

“Naming a charity as the beneficiary of a traditional IRA can not only reduce estate taxes, but also eliminate the income tax burden associated with inheriting an IRA,” said Timothy Barry, partner at BlumShapiro and chair of Cushing’s Planned Giving Advisory Committee.

“For donors who wish to have a lasting impact on future generations of individuals with intellectual disabilities, making a planned gift is a wonderful option,” said Laurie Maranian, Cushing’s Director of Development. “Charitable gifts of retirement plan and IRA proceeds is one method of giving that offers valuable tax benefits. Cardinal Cushing Centers can also accept planned gifts in the form of will bequests, life insurance and charitable trusts. These legacy gifts will help us grow our endowment to create a sustainable funding source for all of our needs.”

For more information on including Cushing in your estate planning, contact Laurie Maranian at [lmaranian@cushingcenters.org](mailto:lmaranian@cushingcenters.org) or 781-829-1247.



Michael Becker

# Driven to succeed

## Murphy is first student to receive parking permit

By MEAGHAN CASEY

There’s something about being behind the wheel that makes Sean Murphy feel like he’s achieved it all.

Murphy, 21, got his license in July 2016. He is the first Cushing student to receive a parking permit.

“I love it,” he said. “I have more freedom. I don’t have to depend on someone else to drive. I used to worry about being late if I was waiting for a ride, but now I can be more independent.”

“Even when he was younger, he used to really want to drive,” said his mother, Leslie. “He always talked about it.”

“I was definitely a backseat driver for as long as I can remember and couldn’t wait for my turn,” Murphy said.

Murphy worked with an instructor at an adaptive driving school, practicing his road skills twice a week for six months.

“Sean was trained well, but in general he’s very cautious, so he’s a very good driver,” said Leslie.

Murphy, who lives with his family in Milton, enjoys being able to drive back and forth to Cushing and to his job at George Washington Toma, a family-owned discount TV and appliances store. Some days, he is at work at 7 a.m. and returning home from school at 7 p.m. Not afraid of distances, he has even driven to Framingham to visit his former school, Reed Academy.



Sean Murphy proudly parks his pickup at Cushing.

PHOTO: HEATHER WEIKEL

Murphy has been a Cushing student for the past three years. He started out in the Vocational Inclusive Pathways Program and has since enrolled in Cushing’s ACE Transition Program. The program — which was launched two years ago to focus on academics, communication and

employability — is geared towards students ages 18-22 with autism or mild- to low-average cognitive abilities. It provides them with comprehensive academic, vocational, social and life experiences. Tools such as social language development, technology, individualized assessments and community

employment support the students in their journeys of post-secondary goal attainment.

“We wanted something that would give him more vocational training, and it’s working out very well,” said Leslie. “He’s very happy at Cushing. He’s done stints in the culinary, consignment and greenhouse shops, found jobs off campus and likes his teachers and friends.”

At Toma, Murphy is primarily doing maintenance work in the warehouse. Each week, he works nine hours and goes to class three days. He has also held jobs at Montilio’s Baking Company and Denly Gardens.

He is very interested in landscaping and would like to one day pursue that as a career. His pickup truck — his pride and joy — will come in handy in that profession.

“In high school, he started his own business, just around the neighborhood,” said Leslie. “He still does landscaping work around here on the weekends.”

Murphy is in his second year of Project Forward at Cape Cod Community College, studying horticulture and maintenance. He will graduate from there in May.

“I always wanted the college experience,” said Murphy. “I wouldn’t have had that if I hadn’t come here.”

Murphy will graduate from Cushing in August when he turns 22, and he’s looking forward to working full-time.

# A community will rise at Bethany

BETHANY from Page 1

of Assisi, the order which founded Cardinal Cushing Centers in 1947 at the behest of Richard Cardinal Cushing.

“The Archdiocese of Boston, through the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, is pleased to have partnered with the Baker-Polito Administration, the Town of Hanover and Bank of America on this affordable housing development that will benefit many people in need,” said Cardinal O’Malley. “This housing will continue the Archdiocesan commitment to develop true communities where people with a wide range of incomes and abilities can live together with dignity and respect.”

The Bethany Apartments — named for the village that was home to New Testament siblings and Jesus’ friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus — will provide 10 units for middle-income households earning up to \$103,400 for a family of four, 23 units for households earning up to \$64,530, and four units for households earning up to \$23,280 with a preference for clients of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. This broad income mix is intended to serve households and families ranging from Town and local business employees, to people with special needs.

“I am grateful to the Archdiocese, the Planning Office for Urban Affairs and all the public and private

partners who have worked to bring this development to Hanover,” said Polito. “The Commonwealth is committed to providing affordable homes for all people of modest means, and Bethany Apartments will be a key new housing resource on the South Shore.”

“This neighborhood we are creating is a model of national significance,” said Cushing board co-chair Kevin Kiley. “It will not only create a community inclusive of people with disabilities, they will also become valued members who contribute to the vitality of that community.”

The vision, originally developed eight years ago by then-CEO Jo Ann Simons and the Cushing board, is for the Bethany residents to be integrated with Cushing whether it be enjoying an outdoor movie night, dining in Bass Café or swimming at the recreation center.

The Bethany Apartments will have on-site management, laundry, a fitness room, a community room, bicycle storage, parking for residents and a modernized health center.

The new housing is part of a master plan which includes construction by Cardinal Cushing Centers of a new 20,000-square-foot Marketplace building that will house retail shops and six support classrooms along Route 53.

## At Cushing, Treppel is a work of art



Cushing’s David Treppel, pictured with his parents Jerry and Laura, was very excited to have his artwork on display at the Plymouth Center for the Arts.



# DQ Grill & Chill dishes out jobs

By Meaghan Casey

There's a new (Dairy) Queen in town, offering Cushing job seekers the royal treatment.

The DQ Grill & Chill Restaurant, located at 579 Washington St. in Hanover, opened in February. The restaurant offers burgers, sandwiches, salads and appetizers in addition to DQ's traditional frozen menu items. The franchise is owned by Denise Teixeira and Ken Gainey, who are also majority owners of the neighboring Starland Sportsplex and Fun Park (previously known as the University Sports Complex at Starland). A third owner, and the restaurant's operator, is Arthur Ramos.

"Cushing is our neighbor, so it was important for us to get involved with them and offer job opportunities," said Ramos.

Out of the 52 employees hired to work at the DQ Grill & Chill, five have been from Cushing's South Shore Industries (SSI) program. With job placement opportunities such as this one, SSI helps its participants gain the confidence and tools to find success in the workplace — which is a vital part of living full, meaningful and independent lives as active members of their community.

"They're all doing a great job in terms of following directions and safety procedures and completing their tasks, and they're very reliable about their schedules," said Ramos.

SSI participant Brooke Tuton loves her job. A resident of East Bridgewater, she works one day each week, running the food to customers and cleaning tables.

"It's great," said Tuton. "I like meeting all the people who come in."

Teixeira and her husband, Frank, are both loyal supporters of Cushing and are thrilled to see SSI participants at work. They became familiar with Cushing while looking for schools for their daughter, Sofia, who was born with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome. Frank, who is a Partner and Director of Technical Analysis at Wellington Management Company, has modeled twice in Cushing's Springtime



Brooke Tuton enjoys her job at the DQ Grill & Chill on Washington Street.

PHOTO: SEAN BROWNE

fashion show with Sofia.

"I think I was meant for the catwalk," he said, jokingly. "But Sofia just loved it. She totally hammed it up."

In addition to supporting Springtime, the Teixeiras, who are Hingham residents, have also contributed to Cushing's capital campaign. And now, Denise has been able to take her involvement one step further.

"With two businesses right down the street from Cushing, it's a perfect opportunity to give back in another way," she said. "Employment training is so important and we're happy to offer opportunities both at DQ and at Starland."



Frank Teixeira modeled in the Springtime fashion show with his daughter Sofia.

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