



City to meet with out-of-state builder

By Casey McCormick

The Bird City City Council agreed, at the Monday meeting, to meet with a development company to discuss the practicality of a retirement community here in town. A meeting will be scheduled sometime in January with Las Vegas, Nev., based Service Corps who has shown interest in a Bird City location.

Councilman Loren White requested the meeting. He is familiar with the company since he has a brother who is employed by Service

Corps. Mr. White stated that the organization owns 91 properties, including four in Kansas, and has been in business for 31 years.

The meeting will be a "fact-finding mission," said Mr. White and should help both Bird City and Service Corps in deciding if a retirement community is practical of this area.

In Other Business

In other business:

- The Bird City Recreation Commission was able to produce a copy of its by-laws as requested by the city

council. The council will make another request for a copy of the commission's 2003 fiscal year budget. The council emphasized that they do not expect to find any wrong doing but feel it is necessary to have the records for the commission's accountability.

- City employee Daryl Miller asked that the city council recognize Don Wright for providing his bucket truck and personal services for the placement of Christmas decorations on the city streets. The council agreed to give

Mr. Wright a note of thanks and monetary compensation of \$30.

- Motions were made to dissolve the Bird City Police Department and the position of chief of police. This is necessary for the transition to county-wide law enforcement. The city will maintain a municipal court and Bird City ordinances will continue to be in effect.

- Malt liquor licenses were approved for the American Legion, Hometown Market and the Blue Bird Junction Cafe (formerly the Blue Bird

Cafe).

- Mike Laurent, of Mike's Computers, will be installing a new compact disc and compact disc burner equipment in the city office.

- The city council decided to deny a written request for medical expenses from Randy Johnson. Mr. Johnson was injured during last year's Fourth of July fireworks display held at the Tri-State Thresher Show Grounds.

- The council discussed the matter of a family who has been living in a

house trailer for an extended period of time. The occupants have been notified that city ordinances are being broken. The council is considering further action.

- The city may have to purchase an FCC radio license since the touch-read transmitters used by city workers for water meters are capable of radio reads.

- Volunteers are still needed for the elementary school cross walk before and after school.

Safety patrol is needed

By Casey McCormick

Volunteers are still needed at the elementary school crosswalk. The city needs your help.

When Police Chief Stan Harp resigned a void was left. The chief made a special point of being at the elementary school each morning and afternoon when the young kids were crossing Sixth Street.

The city has purchased vests and signs but needs people to use them. The times for safety patrol duty is a few minutes before and after 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday and an occasional Friday attendance.

If you can help out please contact Wendy Richmeier (734-2212) or call the Bird City Hall (734-2616).



BOOKS ARE FUN is on at the Bird City Public Library. Joey McCormick and Jacob Brubaker enjoy checking out one of the books available for sale. The event is a good opportunity to do some Christmas shopping while helping the library.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Former resident falls victim to gas poisoning

By Karen Krien

A 61-year-old Goodland man died Sunday because of an accidental release of carbon monoxide fumes.

Marlin Zimbleman was pronounced dead after a 911 call brought emergency medical technicians and ambulance service along with the Trenton Rural Fire Department and the Hitchcock County Sheriff to the trailer where he and his wife were staying. The trailer was located at GoodLife Marina, 3 miles southwest of Trenton, Neb.

Mr. Zimbleman's wife Mary reported on Monday that Mr. Zimbleman had trouble with the furnace and she kept smelling gas fumes. They had gone to bed but about 4:30 a.m., she became alarmed with the smell and tried to get her husband to leave the house with her. He refused, saying that he couldn't smell anything. There wasn't an odor.

She went to the pickup where she

spent the rest of the night. The next morning about 7:30, she went back to the house where she found Mr. Zimbleman on the bathroom floor. The 911 call was made but Mr. Zimbleman was determined to be dead after authorities arrived.

The Hitchcock County Sheriff Department's news release reported that Mr. Zimbleman died from carbon monoxide poisoning because of improper venting of the LP gas furnace.

Mr. Zimbleman lived in Goodland with his wife. He was born and raised in Cheyenne County and graduated from St. Francis Community High School in 1960. His mother Martha Gilbraith lives in St. Francis.

Funeral services have been set for 11 a.m. on Thursday at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis. Burial will be in the St. Francis Cemetery with Masonic and military graveside services.

Weather

Troy Burr, official weather reporter for Bird City, recorded November as having 1.5 inches of snow. This brings the total snow fall for the year up to 23 inches.

The record low was 5 degrees on Nov. 23 and the high temperature was 76.1 on Nov. 20. The lowest temperature for 2003 was -7.6 in February

while the highest temperature was the 110.6 recorded July 25.

The high wind gust for November was 39.8 miles per hour on Nov. 13. The maximum gust for the year is 46.3, recorded in April. The maximum wind chill was -29.5 degrees on Nov. 22.

Ambulance write-offs still a concern to commissioners

By Karen Krien

Doctor says patient is number one concern

The Cheyenne County Commissioners heard the other side of the ambulance write-off issue and, after all the discussion, said they had

now heard both the doctor's concerns and the ambulance director's comments and would make a decision on who would submit ambulance claims at a future meeting.

Larry Gabel, Cheyenne County Ambulance director, reported at the Nov. 26 meeting that he thought Janelle Bowers, ambulance book-

keeper and billing person, was doing a good job and it was his recommendation that the commissioners "show heart" by letting her continue to do the job that they (the commissioners) had already invested money in.

Dr. Mary Beth Miller was also present at the meeting, following up

from the last meeting at which she was also present. Dr. Miller's concern began when three patients came to her with ambulance bills which had been denied by insurance or Medicare because they deemed them as "not a medical necessity."

She had met with the ambulance director and bookkeeper to see how

these bills had been submitted.

"I never send a patient by ambulance unless it is a medical necessity," she said.

One of the bills denied was submitted that the patient had a broken wrist but, in reality, the patient also suffered severe back problems and could not be transported in a ve-

hicle. Another bill was submitted as a patient with hip pain but he had a severe hip problem. Both needed ambulance transportation.

There were other bills mentioned and the doctor felt that there should never be a complete ambulance write-off, noting that there was a **See AMBULANCE on Page 5A**

Pantry provides for many

By Karen Krien

Over 55 food baskets were delivered so needy family could enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner. The baskets included a turkey or ham, potatoes, rolls, eggs, canned vegetables, fruit, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin, evaporated milk or pie filling, pie crust mix, jello, pudding, stuffing mix and some ingredients for several other meals.

"All boxes were filled depending on items we had on hand at the Pantry and the size and needs of the family," said Reva Pownell, Food Pantry coordinator.

"The food boxes were delivered to very appreciative families that we felt could use a boost for the Thanksgiving holiday.

"All of the cash and food donations from various businesses, organizations, clubs, schools, youth groups, churches and individuals in both St. Francis and Bird City really helped and were appreciated. We also received some very willing volunteers to help us fill and deliver the boxes."

Now, the Food Pantry shelves are



THE GIFT OF GIVING is the primary goal of the Food Pantry. Jim Miller, Carol Gamblin and Roger Pownell deliver food items to a Bird City resident. Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

almost bare and it is just weeks before the Christmas food boxes will be delivered. A number of organizations and school classes have organized drives for the Food Pantry which will help immensely. There are also some cash donations which have been made but, all of this help is just a beginning. More is needed.

Mrs. Pownell said that the Bird City Ministerial Alliance will be delivering boxes to Bird City but there are still many boxes to be

filled in the St. Francis and surrounding area.

Among the items needed are: canned vegetables and fruits, boxed meals such as Hamburger Helpers, condiments such as catsup, mustard, salad dressing, mayonnaise, jelly, peanut butter, rice, macaroni, spaghetti, juices, flour, sugar, soups — the list just goes on and on. And, if no one comes to your door on a food drive, drop some off at the Pantry at the sheriff's office or call Mrs.

Pownell at 785-332-3561 and she will pick up the items. There is also a Food Pantry fund at Saintry Super Food where cash donations can be left. This money is used for perishables such as meat (turkeys and hams during the holidays), milk, eggs, margarine and cheese.

There are many special needs during the holidays but nothing is as special as food on the table.

Woman claims first \$50 scrip prize on us

By Karen Krien

St. Francis woman, Gladys Owens collected the first instant \$50 in scrip by matching her Christmas On Us ticket number with the number printed in *The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times*.



Owens

"It pays to stay at home and shop in St. Francis," Mrs. Owens said.

Her ticket came from Saintry Super Foods and she wasn't sure just where she was going to spend it but knew it was going to come in handy during the Christmas season.

The Christmas On Us promotion will be giving out \$1,500 in scrip money during the holidays. Each week, at least two numbers taken from tickets collected from participating business, are drawn and printed in a Christmas On Us ad on Pages 1, 2 and 3B of *The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times*. Those having tickets need to be sure and check out their

numbers each week and claim the instant winning number by Monday at 5 p.m. On Tuesday, new numbers are drawn and inserted in the ads. The numbers from last week are no longer eligible to win. However, in the grand finale drawing on Dec. 21, all tickets will once again be eligible to win.

A total of \$400 in scrip will be given away to those holding the numbers which match those printed in the newspapers.

The grand prize Christmas On Us giveaway will be combined with the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce's giveaway on the afternoon of Dec. 21 in Sawhill Park. At that time, one lucky person will receive the grand prize of \$1,000 in scrip; another will receive \$100; and any of the \$50 weekly scrip prizes which have not been claimed will also be given away along with the Chamber's drawings of \$300 divided among three people.

A ticket will be given for each \$10 purchased in participating businesses. However, it is not necessary to make a purchase to claim a ticket. Each week, those coming to *The St. Francis Herald* office or **See CHRISTMAS on Page 5A**

Groundwater management to hold public hearing

Published in The St. Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, and The Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursday, December 4, 2003.

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1030, the board of directors of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 will conduct on January 8, 2004 a public hearing in order to hear testimony regarding revisions to the 2004 operating bud-

get. Said revisions consist of incorporating all 2003 unexpended funds into the previously approved 2004 operating budget. The hearing will begin at 11:30 a.m. central standard time at the groundwater management district offices, 1175 S. Range, Colby, Kansas. Copies of the proposed revised 2004 budget will be made available at the hearing site. Attest: Mitchell Baalman, GMD 4 Secretary

Notice of lapsed mineral interest in Cheyenne county

Published in The St. Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursday, December 4, 2003

NOTICE OF LAPSED MINERAL INTEREST

This is notice to Harriet Rushmore; Robert Rushmore, Jr.; Corinee H. Pendleton; Hubert L. Harrison; Manette Wideman; Ned W. Smull; and Neil H. Smull; their successors and assigns, that their rights in the

mineral interest in Northwest Quarter (NW) of Section Twenty-one (21), Township Five (5) south, Range Forty (40) West of the 6th P.M. located in Cheyenne County, Kansas have lapsed. This notice is given by: Eddy P. Schultz and Sherry L. Schultz HC 1, Box 136 St. Francis, Kansas 67756

Dusty Farmer Restaurant to be offered at sheriff's sale

Published in The St. Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays December 4, December 11 and December 18, 2003. (49-51).

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

First National Bank, St. Francis, Kansas, Plaintiff

vs

Case No. 03-C-25 Darrel L. Johnson and Kim L. Johnson d/b/a Empire Motel, Dusty Farmer Restaurant, and Tumbleweed Lounge; United States of America, acting through the Internal Revenue Service; State of Kansas, Department of Revenue; Board of County Commissioners of Cheyenne County, Kansas, Defendants

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me out of the District Court of Cheyenne County, Kansas, in the above-entitled action, I will on the 30th day of December, 2003, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. C.T., of said day, at the front door of the Courthouse in the City of St. Francis, County of Cheyenne and the State of Kansas, offer at Public Sale and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, all the following-described real estate, to-wit:

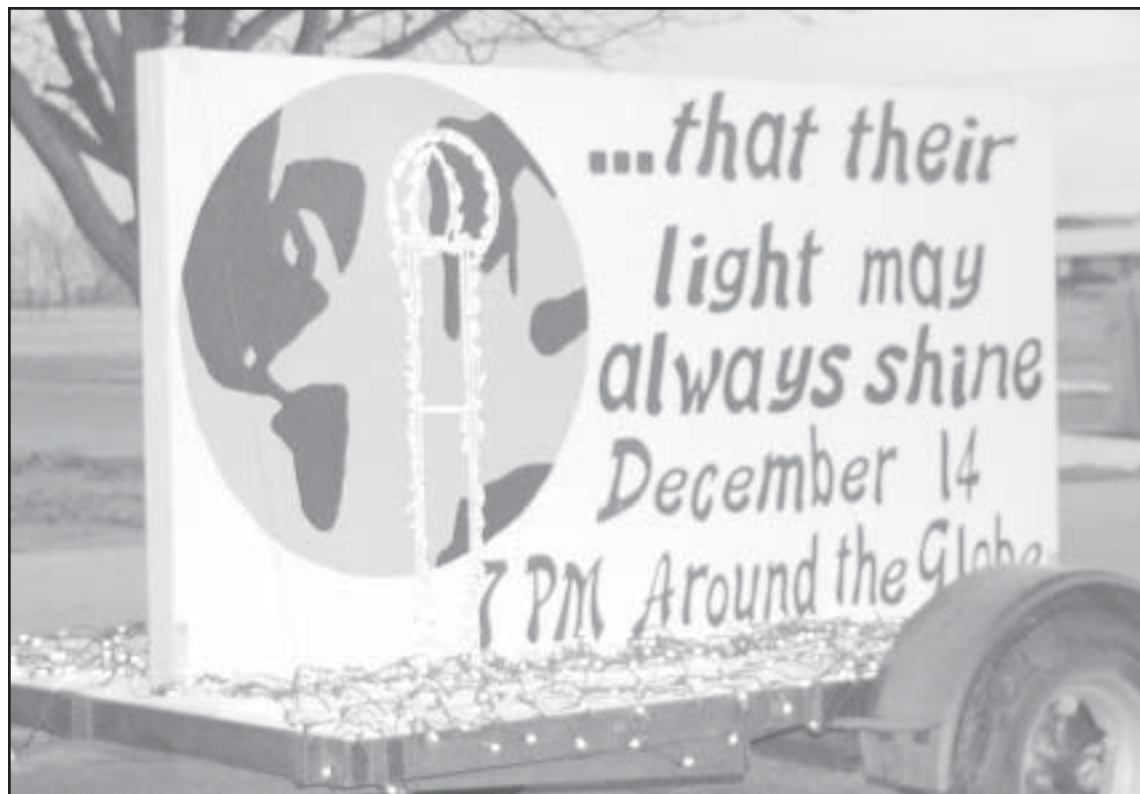
A tract of land in the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section Twenty-seven (27), Township Three (3) South, Range Forty (40), West of the 6th P.M., more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point on the South right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 36 as constructed in 1933 A.D., which said point is 1519.3 feet East of the West line of said Section; thence South 0 degrees 17' East 120 feet; thence in a Westerly direction, parallel to and 120 feet South of said South right-of-way line of said Highway No. 36 a distance of Two Hundred fifty feet (250'); thence North and parallel with the west line of said Section Twenty-seven (27) a distance of approximately One Hundred Twenty Feet (120') but in any event to intersect the South right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 36; thence in an Easterly direction along said right-of-way to the place of beginning, subject to legally laid out roads, highways and easements of record; and

A tract of land in the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section Twenty-seven (27), Township Three (3) South, Range Forty (40), West of the 6th P.M. and more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a point where the East line of Scott Street of the City of St. Francis, Kansas, projected South would intersect the South right-of-way line of U.S. Highway No. 36 as now laid out and established across said Quarter Section, which said point is approximately One Thousand One Hundred Ten Feet (1,110') east from the West line of said Section Twenty-seven (27); thence Two Hundred Twenty Feet (220') south along said projection of the east line of Scott Street of the City of St. Francis, Kansas; thence East at right angles approximately One Hundred fifty-nine and three-tenths feet (159.3'), but in any event to intersect the West line of a certain tract of land conveyed by John MacDonald and Chloe MacDonald, his wife, to Carroll D. Skalberg and wife by warranty deed dated the 10th day of October, 1959, and recorded in Book 47 at page 58 of the records of the Office of the Register of Deeds of Cheyenne County, Kansas, projected South; thence North along said West line of said tract conveyed by John MacDonald and Chloe MacDonald to Carroll D. Skalberg and wife projected South and along the West line of said tract to intersect the South right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway No. 36; thence Westward along the South right-of-way line of U.S. Highway No. 36 to the point of beginning.

The above-described real estate and property is taken as the property of Darrel L. Johnson and Kim L. Johnson, defendants, as described by said Order of Sale to be sold and will be sold without Appraisalment to satisfy said Order of Sale.

Eddie Dankenbring Sheriff of Cheyenne County, Kansas

Jerry D. Fairbanks General Counsel First National Bank 202 E. 11th - P.O. Box 570 Goodland, KS 67735 785-890-2000



COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS uses a float during the Light Parade in St. Francis to remind people to light a candle in remembrance of children who have died. The ceremony will be held on Dec. 14.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

World-wide candle lighting event to remember children

The Compassionate Friends 2003 Worldwide Candle Lighting will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14. The Compassionate Friends members ask that everyone join in this special day of remembrance by lighting a candle wherever they are.

The Worldwide Candle Lighting is held every year at 7 p.m. in every time zone on the second Sunday in December. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are lighted in the next, creating a 24-hour wave of light that encircles the globe.

The Compassionate Friends has once again been successful in its quest to have the second Sunday in Decem-

ber designated "National Children's Memorial Day." By unanimous vote, the United States Senate on July 25, approved a resolution recognizing Dec. 14, as a special day here in the United States, coinciding with The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting.

The resolution recognizes that approximately 80,000 infants, children, teenagers and young adults of families living throughout the United States die each year from a myriad of causes. The death of a child family member is considered to be one of the greatest tragedies that a parent or family will ever endure during a lifetime

and a supportive environment, empathy and understanding are considered critical factors in the healing process as the family is coping and recovering from the loss of the loved one.

Local service

The St. Francis Compassionate Friends will hold a "Celebration of Life" candlelight memorial service at 7 p.m. on Dec. 17 at the Peace Lutheran Church, 202 N. Colledge, St. Francis.

Those unable to attend are encouraged to light a candle in memory of all children who have died.

Ambulance

Continued from Page 1

difference between contractual write-offs where Medicare and/or Blue Cross, Blue Shield pay only a certain part of the bill, and those bills which are denied because of incorrect coding or information.

Commissioner Tim Raile asked the ambulance director if the billing process had gotten more complicated over the past year as, last year, the write-offs were \$31,472 and this year, write-offs were already up to \$55,000 and there is still time left in the year.

The commissioners, while concerned with the patients, noted that they are elected to spend the taxpayer's dollars in a responsible way. If they are approving write-offs that could otherwise be collected if billed correctly, they are not spending the money responsibly.

Commissioner Ron Krien asked if the bookkeeper needed additional schooling which would help with the coding and billing?

Hospital administrator Les Lacy was at the last meeting and had offered the hospital bookkeeping staff do the billing for \$6 a run plus a one-time training fee of \$1,000.

Commissioner Raile said that two years ago, the ambulance director was in favor of having the billing done in Plainville, for \$12 a run and Mrs. Bowers was still employed with posting and other bookkeeping responsibilities.

Administrator Lacy said that

the hospital staff works with insurance and Medicare coding and billing on a regular basis and, if there were questions, Dr. Miller was contacted before the billing was sent in. Dr. Miller said that if a medical claim was denied, she followed up with letters containing detailed information.

Director Gabel countered that he had just received a bill from the hospital for a service performed in the spring, indicating that the hospital's billing system might not be as good as presented.

Administrator Lacy said the staff tried to get the bills out in the most efficient way and that there wasn't a billing system that was flawless. He said that he did not want the ambulance bookkeeper to lose her job and the staff was willing to, and had already, helped her out with problem cases. He adamantly stated that he didn't think the billing should fall on Dr. Miller's shoulders as she was already busy.

He also said that the hospital was not interested in operating the ambulance service.

Others present to either show support for Mrs. Bowers or just to gain more information were: Beth Gabel, Connie Jenkins, Wendy Richmier, Tammi Sherlock and Rex Murray.

Mrs. Bowers began doing the ambulance billing about a year ago. Before that time, she worked at the ambulance barn doing post-

ing and other bookkeeping duties but the ambulance billing was sent to Diane Becker in Plainville. Unfortunately, after a time, not all the claims were turned in and Mrs. Bowers took over the billing. Director Gabel said Mrs. Bowers had gone to numerous trainings and he thought she was doing a good job.

Before Mrs. Bowers, there were two bookkeepers who had fallen behind in billing and, before that, the ambulance billing was done from the sheriff's office. This was 10 years ago and, since that time, there have been many changes in Medicare and insurance billing and coding.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, had an appointment with the commissioners but, since the ambulance write-off issue had lapsed over into his appointment time, he had listened to what had been said.

He asked Director Gabel why he even wanted the responsibility (billing) when there was someone wanting to take it over and it could save the county money. Mr. Gabel commented that he didn't believe the figures were right.

The commissioners will weigh the information taken from the meeting and past meetings, then make a decision on who will do the billing at a future meeting.

In other business

In other business: Sam Beeson, Bird City, wanted to know if Road Q be-

Christmas

Continued from Page 1

the Chamber office may receive one ticket.

Each week, participating merchants will be advertising sales and specials in the ads on the Christmas On Us pages so while people are looking for matching numbers, be sure to take a good look at the specials.

Participating businesses where tickets will be given away are:

- Bankwest
- Bier's Hometown Store
- Cheyenne Bowl and Dairy King
- Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus
- Goodell Greenhouse and Floral

- Tim Poling DDS
- Owens True Value
- Parkhill Restaurant
- P & L Ideal Meat Market
- Saintry Super Foods
- Schultz's
- St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce
- St. Francis Equity
- The Saint Francis Herald/Bird City Times
- Tri-State Lumber and Tubing/Paints Plus

The contest will end on Dec. 19 and the grand prize drawing will be held Sunday, Dec. 21.



tween Roads 25 and 26 was an open or closed road. This stretch of road had been discussed previously and it recently had a "no hunting" sign posted in the middle. Everyone agreed that if it was an open road, it would remain open.

Tim Carson, Corporate Planning Management representative, discussed the county insurance, going over previous year's usage and gave recommendations for the future. No decision was made.

Supervisor Flemming gave his monthly report and talked about one of the county's truck repairs.

The commissioners approved 36 hours overtime for the undersheriff; approved a hospital pay application (for the remodeling project) of \$209,320; agreed to pay EBH and Associates, Goodland, \$5,101 for the remainder of the work done at the airport; approved to pay Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development dues of \$250. However, the commissioners wanted more information on computer and printer prices.

The full-time county employees will receive \$200 scrip Christmas bonus; part-time employees will receive \$100.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Dec. 15 in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

Kansas Classified Ad Network

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Auction December 13, 10 a.m. Forbes Field Topeka. Trucks Trailers, forklifts, concrete equipment, trenchers, backhoe, 40' storage containers. Auctions by Simmitt Bros., Inc. (785)272-2092 www.SimmittAuction.com.

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dents. Duties include recruiting host families, supervising students, and working with schools. Call AYUSA, 1-888-552-9872.

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Special Notice

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