In response to the COVID-19 crisis, city, town, and village leaders took extraordinary measures to protect our residents’ health and safety while also ensuring the continued delivery of essential services. Unfortunately, the fiscal consequence of COVID-19 are immeasurable and unplanned. Without a relief fund life, the economic activity and municipalities across the state’s shared concern.

Tennessee cities are the economic engines of our state and are essential to our economic recovery

• Approximately 92% of the state’s sales tax collection is generated from local government.
• Prior to the pandemic, the state enjoyed more than 8 years of substantial economic growth.
• The pandemic has caused growth occurred in cities where local officials provided essential services, quality of life, and economic conditions that attracted new residents and fostered the creation of new businesses.
• 93% of the state’s business tax collections are generated within city limits.
• Municipalities across Tennessee have lost millions in revenues and will see serious loss of tax collections due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.
• The loss of local sales tax, which provides 92% of town’s general revenue, is the most critical threat to local stability of their communities.
• Approximately 92% of the state sales tax collection is generated from local government.

In order to ensure safety, local officials closed all non-essential businesses and services, limited large gatherings, and implemented stay-at-home orders. These decisions were not made lightly, as these decisions impact local economies and the lives of those who work in these services and businesses and is the primary concern of our state’s residents.

Tennessee is incredibly hard to do their part and we can build upon it by reforming tax policies and focusing on local businesses that are available or else potentially lose health concerns if employment is left unaddressed.

Tennessee Pledge guidelines, which requires restaurants to follow individual, county-specific health and safety protocols to protect employees and customers.

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NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE

BRENTWOOD

The city of Brentwood has announced plans for a new downtown pilot project to add bicycle lanes to Granny White Pike this summer. Scheduled improvements along the road set to be completed on June 30. In 2016, the city bike plan was approved, and a survey of Brentwood residents showed a need for bike lanes on Granny White Pike. In 2017, studies were completed, and the city was preparing to fund the project. However, due to funding issues, the project was put on hold. The new project is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Brentwood is working with engineers to design the project and plans to add bike lanes to the downtown area. The project will be a pilot project, and once it is completed, the city will evaluate the success of the project and consider expanding it to other parts of the city.

Bristol

The city of Bristol has created a "Counting Rainbows" contest as part of efforts to encourage city residents to complete the 2020 Census. Rainbows have become a symbol of hope during the coronavirus pandemic, and the city created the contest as a way to encourage residents to complete the census that will help determine their safety with the U.S. Census. To enter, residents can complete the census at home, and the city will provide the census to the city's website.

CHATTANOOGA

The Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga has announced plans to rehire employees when it reopens. The company has laid off workers due to the pandemic, and the city has been working to support the plant during this time. The Volkswagen plant has been closed for some time, and the city has been working to ensure that it will reopen as quickly as possible. The company has stated that it will be ready to reopen in the near future.

KNOXVILLE

The Knoxville Zoo has announced that it has hired a new executive director. The new executive director will assume duties on June 1. The position has been vacant since the previous executive director retired last year. The new executive director will be responsible for overseeing the operations of the zoo, including the care and welfare of the animals, the development of the zoo's programs, and the financial management of the organization.

NEW SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

Cleveland

The Cleveland Board of Education has approved a new multi-million dollar facility for the school district. The facility will be funded through a bond issue approved by voters last year. The new facility will provide state-of-the-art learning environments for students and will include the latest technology and amenities.

Knoxville

The Knoxville Symphony Orchestra has announced that it will be putting on a series of concerts this summer. The concerts will be held at the Knoxville Symphony Center, and tickets will be available online. The concerts will feature a variety of music, including classical, pops, and popular music.

SPRING HILL

The city of Spring Hill has announced that it will be hosting a "Planting for the Future" program. The program will provide residents with free trees to plant in their yards. The trees will be distributed on May 23. Each year, the two programs partner to distribute free trees to plant for citizens, and this year, the annual program was held as a drive-through event where volunteers could pick up trees from their cars without leaving their vehicles. The giveaway was hosted by the Wilson County Chamber of Commerce's Garden Center for Urban Renewal. Participants also received an either an oak or chestnut seedling and a free tree care guide. Volunteers and local residents are helping restore Kno"
Museums ask citizens to preserve pandemic history as it happens

BY KATIE COLE
TML Communications Specialist

Museums, historical societies, and archives across the state of Tennessee are looking to preserve history as it unfolds by asking residents to preserve stories and artifacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Tennessee State Museum is currently working on increasing both its digital offerings and serving the needs of the state. Joe Pagoto, director of communications with the museum, said the museum is currently working with the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) to chronicle the outbreak statewide.

“The TSLA is currently soliciting for such things as diaries and photographs, and we’ll be corroborating our efforts with them,” he said. “It may be, to a general rule, that we shall be seeking three-dimensional items (though we are still creating our plan). We certainly recognize the importance of collecting at this time, though we are still creating our plan.”

In addition to its permanent exhibitions, the museum opened and closed four temporary exhibitions in that time, including “Let’s Eat! Origins and Evolutions of Tennessee Food,” which is readying its Tennessee Food.” It is readying its TSLA is also encouraging users to create or add to the collection and implement of that plan has been made somewhat challenging by the pandemic itself and stay-at-home orders. In light of the pandemic, the TMLA is also encouraging users to learn about similar periods of adversity faced by Tennesseans in the past, such as the quarantine created during the statewide Spanish Flu pandemic in 1918 or the yellow fever outbreak in the Greater Memphis area in 1879, today monumentalized by the city’s Martyrs Park. Artifacts from these martyrs are on virtual display at the state archives website. The Clarksville Parks and Recreation Department has asked residents to engage in a historical documentation project by chronicling their personal experiences during the pandemic. “What has it been like for you? What has it been like for your community, state, and nation?” she said. “I am creating a file of so many stories, and I am putting together a timeline of local closures and re-openings. With our online form, sharing is very easy. With our journaling project, we hope to document the impact that those on the front lines are not who are not tech savvy, or lacking access to technology. We are also accepting photos and videos.”

“TSLA has said this will offer future historians and museum-goers a glimpse into this unique period in the town’s history as well as a more personal perspective on the situation from local residents themselves.”

“Archiving first-person stories from Collierville residents of all ages, and from all walks of life, preserves snapshots of different local responses, reactions, and experiences,” she said. “Collecting and preserving this data shows the impact of national and global trends and policies on our community, and how our community is responding to these changes. In the theme in the submissions we’ve received, hope and help are two constant themes. People have been so happy to make masks and support each other. The Archives of Appalachia at ETSU is also asking residents from East Tennessee to document their personal experiences and chronicle how the outbreak has affected life in the region. ETCS’s Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, which includes the Archives of Appalachia, is collecting oral histories, personal stories, and materials during the duration of the COVID-19 crisis and permanently preserving them.

Dr. Jeremy Smith, director of the Archives of Appalachia, said interested persons are invited to share materials such as diaries, writings, photographs, videos, social media posts, and business correspondences that represent their lives, goals, and dreams during this time. “Our project, ‘Telling Your Story: COVID-19 in East Tennessee,’ will chronicle how the people of our region are responding to quarantines and social distancing, and what it means to us personally,” Smith said. “We want to hear about the highs and lows they spend their days, how their lives, families, and communities have been affected, and how they experienced the pandemic.”

Martyrs Park along the Mississippi River in Memphis memorializes a mass grave dug for the victims of the city’s 1879 yellow fever outbreak as well as the brave individuals who stayed behind to nurse the sick and dying despite considerable risk to themselves. Just as we today learn about how outbreaks like this impeded Tennessee history, local historians said items collected from citizens will educate future generations about the COVID-19 pandemic.

No loan is too large or too small

East Ridge recently closed a $1 million fixed-rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance a new city hall. The TMBF loan program 21 times since 1997. Seated L to R: Mayor Barrow Garrett and City Manager Tia Tuggle. Standing L to R: Finance Director Alison Bull, and Steve Quenero, TMBF Marketing Representative. See us for your special projects needs. (615) 255-1561

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND

TN VITALITY NEWSLETTER

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND
Bobby Wilson has been selected as the new executive director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA)." "Wilson is the only person to helm the agency since its founding in 1978. He will take over the position from Ed Carter, who retired as the agency's executive Feb. 1. "Wilson himself is a 41-year veteran of the agency, starting work with TWRA only a year after its foundation as a part-time fisheries technician. In 1980, he was selected as the lake manager of Lake Guntersville and then served as a fisheries biologist for Region I from 1984 until 1987. He served as assistant chief of fisheries beginning in 1997 and was promoted to chief of fisheries in 2010. He was then selected as the assistant executive assistant director for TWRA in 2015. Wilson holds both a bachelor's degree and master's degree from Tennessee Technological University."

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**Rett restrictions**

"Restrictions on social gatherings are still in effect, so organizations must have plans for managing guest flow, and employees and customers are required to wear a face covering when they cannot maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others. Masks are particularly recommended for those with disabilities. "Restrictions on social gatherings are still in effect, so organizations must have plans for managing guest flow, and employees and customers are required to wear a face covering when they cannot maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others. Masks are particularly recommended for those with disabilities."

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**Casinos**

"A casino and horse track in western most likely to be approved for a special event. But it was there he met his wife, Elizabeth, earning his degree in accounting. It was there he met his wife, Elizabeth, earning his degree in accounting."

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**Hospitals**

"Hospital administrations and large venues guidelines. Hospitals will adapt the White House criteria for phased openings. The updated guidelines come as Tennessee continues to meet the White House criteria for phased reopening. The updated guidelines come as Tennessee continues to meet the White House criteria for phased reopening."

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**Restaurants**

"Restrictions on social gatherings are still in effect, so organizations must have plans for managing guest flow, and employees and customers are required to wear a face covering when they cannot maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others. Masks are particularly recommended for those with disabilities. "Restrictions on social gatherings are still in effect, so organizations must have plans for managing guest flow, and employees and customers are required to wear a face covering when they cannot maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others. Masks are particularly recommended for those with disabilities."

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**Tennessee Pledge Guidelines**

"The updated guidelines come as Tennessee continues to meet the White House criteria for phased reopening. The updated guidelines come as Tennessee continues to meet the White House criteria for phased reopening."

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**Public Entity Partners**

"In the community with disabilities. She will also ensure that all city facilities, events, programs, and policies are in compliance with ADA."

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**Tennessee---**

"Tennessee---"
Ranking a state as one of the top states for working from home in a recent study by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and WalletHub.

The FTC reported a 46.4% increase in the number of complaints about lease fraud. On the national level, every 100,000 Tennesseans filing a jobless claim received a 36.4% increase in the number of complaints about lease fraud. The state also ranked second in the nation for the most common types of identity theft-related complaints, such as credit card fraud, loan or lease fraud, or phone or wireless fraud.

“Get Alarmed, Tennessee” campaign saves 300 Lives

BY GARY FARLEY

Largest and most effective smoke alarm installation campaign in Tennessee history.

“Get Alarmed, Tennessee” is an educational campaign that promotes the importance of smoke alarms in the home. It is funded by TN Department of Finance and Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), smoke alarms save lives. In 2019, smoke alarms provided an early warning of 72% of all fire deaths and 50% of fire injuries.

Three of every five home fire deaths and injuries could be prevented with early warning smoke alarms. Every year in the U.S., 11,600 people die in home fires and 46,000 are injured. More than 191,000 smoke alarms have been installed over the past year.

More than 191,000 smoke alarms have been physically installed in Tennessee homes. Through our campaign, we install 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms in low-income homes. Smoke alarms never need a new battery, will never be disconnected, and last for 10 years. Some tips to keep smoke alarms working is to take the smoke alarm out of the box and test it immediately. Smoke alarms should be placed on the ceiling or high on a wall, 3 to 6 inches from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. Remember, it is important that smoke alarms are tested monthly to ensure they are working properly. Smoke alarms can be checked for their efficiency.

It is clear that smoke alarms save lives, but only if they are properly installed and maintained. To date, through our campaign, over 9,200 total fire departments in Tennessee have participated in our “Get Alarmed, Tennessee” campaign.

Additionally, 231,000 smoke alarms have been distributed to low-income homeowners throughout the state through funding from FEMA’s Fire Prevention Act.

The four-step process of matching saved lives with smoke alarm installation.

1. Fire department, through our system of matching saved lives with smoke alarm installation, is able to quickly and accurately track 300 saved lives. This information has been confirmed by the local fire department, indicating a positive impact on the community.

2. Fire department is able to contribute to the community’s ability to escape fire danger and save lives.

For more information on “Get Alarmed, Tennessee,” please go to www.GetAlarmedTN.org or visit Department of Finance and Administration’s website.

Applications for Tourism Enhancement Grants open June 1, deadline July 15

The Tourism Enhancement Grant application process is open from June 1st to July 15th. Applicants must submit a complete application and contract dates. The deadline to submit the completed application is July 15th.

The grant is for communities looking to boost tourism assets or develop new initiatives to increase economic growth.

The Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) provides funds to public entities through a competitive competitive process for the purposes of planning, material historical education, and historic preservation projects.

The Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) is a body of the state government that is responsible for managing funds provided by the state for the purpose of preserving and protecting historic properties.

For more information on the grant, please visit TDEC’s website at https://www.tn.gov/environmental-affairs.html.

11 Municipalities among entities awarded Federal Historic Preservation Grants (HPF)

State awards 11 cities with more than $10M in transportation alternative grants

BY GARY FARLEY

Tennessee Department of Transportation and Developmental Commissioner Clay Brattain announced the $30.0 million in transportation alternative grants.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation and Developmental Commissioner Clay Brattain announced the $30.0 million in transportation alternative grants.

Overall state revenues for April were $50.4 million less than the budgeted estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is negative 16.50%. For nine months, revenues are $14.00 million lower than the budgeted estimate, and the growth rate for nine months is negative 70.61%.

For April 2019, sales tax revenues were $16.21 million less than the budgeted estimate and the growth rate for nine months is negative 0.89%.

Historic Covered Bridge Structural Improvements Phase 7

Historic Covered Bridge Structural Improvements Phase 4

Historic Covered Bridge Structural Improvements Phase 3

For April 2019, sales tax revenues were $16.21 million less than the budgeted estimate and the growth rate for nine months is negative 0.89%.

Historic Covered Bridge Structural Improvements Phase 2

Historic Covered Bridge Structural Improvements Phase 1

For April 2019, sales tax revenues were $16.21 million less than the budgeted estimate and the growth rate for nine months is negative 0.89%.

Historic Covered Bridge Structural Improvements Phase 8

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**EMERGENCY CALL CENTER SPECIALIST**

The city of Springfield is accepting applications for an emergency call center specialist with Springfield Water/Waste Department from May 11-20. Applications are being sought for a full-time position in the emergency call center. Applicants must be able to perform the essential functions of the position with or without reasonable accommodation. The position involves operating computer equipment, keyboards, and telephones to answer emergency calls. Salary is $22,660 annually, plus health, vision, and dental insurance.

**FULL-TIME PLANT OPERATOR/DISTRIBUTION LICENSED WATER PLANT OPERATOR**

The city of Mt. Juliet is accepting applications for a full-time police dispatcher. Applications and job descriptions can be picked up at the Mt. Juliet Police Department, 105 Highland Rd., or downloaded from the city website. Visit www.mt Juliet-tn.gov. Applications must be submitted no later than June 17. For more information, contact Karen Patterson at (615) 755-2552 or kpatterson@mt juliet-tn.gov.

**PARKS & RECREATION PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

The city of Tullahoma is accepting applications for a parks and recreation planning and development manager. This position is responsible for the planning, organizing, directing, and supervision of programs and services provided by the parks and recreation department. The position requires a bachelor's degree in urban or regional planning. Salary range is $58,585 – $80,608/YR. Applications must be filed online. For more information, contact Jeff Clason at (931) 382-0600 or jclason@cityoftullahoma.com. Visit www.tullahoma.org for a full job description.

**CATHERINE GALLATIN, CITY MANAGER**

The city of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for a city manager. The city of Gallatin is a progressive, responsible management city located in Sumner County, Tennessee. The city is a unique and rewarding opportunity to be part of the greater Nashville area. The successful candidate will possess a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management, with a master's degree in a related field preferred. A minimum of 10 years of progressive, responsible management experience that includes experience in management, planning, zoning, and finance. Position profile is available at the city’s website or can be picked up at city hall. Contact Jeff Clason at (615) 292-7000 or jclason@cityofgallatin.com. Visit www.gallatintn.gov for a full job description.

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ECONOMY
from Page 1
When online purchase would have otherwise been made in brick-and-mortar store by a non-city resident was not for COVID-19, but with physical storefronts will take less tax revenue.

Local governments should proceed very cautiously with FY21 Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) estimates due to purchases made in other states.

Local governments in Tennessee recently learned that state collections attributed to local LOST taxes during FY21.

The potential for higher-than-normal revenue losses will be dependent on what happens during the rest of the fiscal year.

Local governments should continue to abide by the hotel-motel lodging tax on air travel with airports and air travel with air travel.
Virtual events become new norm under social distancing

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

To keep the recovery and re-engagement engine connected and connected, many municipalities across the state of Tennessee are turning to virtual events.

Each year, the city of Cookeville’s Department of Leisure Services hosts Dogapalooza Kids’ Dog Show, allowing children and their furry best friends to show off.

This year, Dogapalooza went virtual with parents encouraged to take short videos of children and pets with a chance of winning from four categories: best dog trick, owner-dog look-a-like contest, prettiest dog, and best dressed dog. Entries had to be submitted by 5 p.m. on April 24.

“I look forward to Dogapalooza each year, especially the Kid’s Dog Show,” Sara Sheets, Leisure Services recreation superintendent, said. “This year, when we realized it wasn’t going to happen, changing Dogapalooza to a virtual event was a logical choice.”

Sheets and participants are also encouraged to talk about how their dogs have made a difference in their lives.

“It gave our community the opportunity to show off their dogs even in this time of social distancing because, after all, our dogs are social creatures,” Sheets said. “We want to show our furry best friends have been there for us during this time of quarantine and social distancing and to encourage everyone to come out and cheer them on.”

The city of Charlotte’s Parks and Recreation Department held a virtual 5K as part of efforts to ensure residents are still exercising as well as to encourage those who are aspiring runners to test their abilities. The event lasted from April 24 to May 2 with three categories targeting first-time runners, moderately-experienced runners, and expert runners.

Participants pay a $10 entry fee and can download a participation bib. Runners can opt to complete their race in their neighborhood, city park, on a treadmill, or just running around their house.

As part of National Police Week (May 10-16), the Oak Ridge Police Department hosted a virtual Peace Officers Memorial Day Ceremony on May 15 as well as a virtual 5K race in honor of law enforcement.

Civilians were given the chance to complete the virtual Law Enforcement Memorial Run over the course of the week rather than on a single day with everyone running together. Participants could use apps like RunKeeper, Map My Run, Nike Run Club, Strava, Fitbit and others to show they completed the race as well as send pictures of their race to the department.

In turn, the Oak Ridge Police Department posted pictures and race completion times on its Facebook page.

The state of Tennessee also hosted a virtual 5K run to honor law enforcement. Participants were encouraged to run, walk or run close to home or even inside their houses. The event lasted from May 17-23 in honor of World Peace Day on May 20.

Participants could either run in the city they lived in or somewhere else, depending on where they were looking forward, Mayor Ken Moore said. “Participants will come away with a better knowledge about what suicide is and what it is not. We want to answer questions, to be a resource for those struggling, and to turn those individuals to support resources and meet the needs of co-workers, family members and even themselves.”

During the COVID-19 outbreak, Franklin Police Department partnered with Amazon Alexa, creating the Moonpie MoonMate to create conversations with a sense of empathy and understanding, all while staying true to the brand.

“Partnersing with Amazon Alexa, Chattanooga-based Moonpie created the Moonpie Mate, a virtual companion that acts like a roommate and gives Moonpie facts and recipes to users. As part of National Police Week, the Knoxville Police Department hosted their own Home in Blue 5K Run/Walk and virtual peace officer memorial run. The event included a memorial run, a virtual peace officer memorial run, and other events to honor law enforcement.

Virtual events have also created a variety of backgrounds for virtual communication apps like Zoom. The state website is also encouraging virtual tourism, giving visitors access to online exhibits and experiences available made by virtual destinations.

Virtual tourism is also found at a number of Tennessee's historic destinations.

The International Storytelling Center and the Tennessee Historical Commission virtually tours while Knoxville’s beloved Dogapalooza has been online this year, with each week’s event having a different theme.

The city leaders are also partnering with Amazon Alexa, creating the Moonpie MoonMate to create conversations with a sense of empathy and understanding, all while staying true to the brand.

Columbia’s James K. Polk Home and Museum, Gatlinburg’s Storyteller Park and Skybridge, Tennessee’s Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, the Lewis & Clark Museum, Memphis’ Metal Museum, Elvis Presley’s Graceland, and Ripken’s Yogi’s Fantasy Museum have all created online tours.

Knoxville’s History Ramsey House, James White Fort, and the Knoxville Zoo are offering virtual tours while Knoxville’s beloved Dogapalooza event on April 10-11 was canceled.

Concerts can also virtually attend events like Hendersonville’s Stay At Home Jam, Memphis Virtual Voices, and the Memphis Opera's 30 Days of Opera. The International Storytelling Center and McKinney Center in Jenaubourg have kept the art of storytelling alive by posting videos and podcasts.

Memphis is also releasing local stories online through the Send Stories line that delves into the history of local businesses while the Cookeville Museum and Department of Leisure Services have partnered to launch a series of online stories of famous Cookevillians as read by local volunteers. Hohenwatt's Remote Lab launched a series of videos about local history, including the town's experiences in the 1881 typhoid epidemic.

The Oak Ridge Police Department livestreamed its annual Police Week Memorial Ceremony on the department’s Facebook page rather than holding an in-person ceremony as in years past. Likewise, the annual 5K race the department holds during the week were both part of the livestream.

Local organizations are switching to virtual race events that can be done in a participant’s neighborhood or even home, and some believe these virtual races are actually encouraging first-time runners to participate.

Bristol Birthplace of Country Music Museum Head Curator Dr. Renee Rodgers discusses the history of the hop guitar and its usage in country music in one of a series of online videos posted by the museum during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic continued, the museum closed, the museum's closed, the museum's employees turned to virtual communication apps like Zoom to virtually highlight museum offerings, especially rare and unique artifacts in museum collections that may be too fragile or delicate to actually be put out on display.

Franklin Tennemore and the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network are also hosting virtual cover music sessions to raise awareness of suicide prevention and to offer anyone in need of mental health services a way to talk to a professional if they need to. The event lasted from May 8-14, the week of the Virginia Beach shooting.

Partnersing with Amazon Alexa, Chattanooga-based Moonpie created the Moonpie Mate, a virtual companion that acts like a roommate and gives Moonpie facts and recipes to users.

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