

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

### THIS ISSUE:

- Factors that impact your rates
- Unclaimed capital credits
- Storm safety

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 📢 📉



**Stray Ressler**, the daughter of Scott and Sheila Ressler of Mandan, attended the Youth Tour representing Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.



### YOUTH TOUR:

## Ressler explores Washington, D.C.

Each June, hundreds of high school students gather in Washington, D.C., for an opportunity to learn more about electric cooperatives and cultivate lifelong friendships and memories.

To earn a spot on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, sophomores and juniors in high school submit an essay to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. The student whose winning essay is selected earns the trip of a lifetime.

Stray Ressler from Mandan was chosen as Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's delegate and joined other youth sponsored by their electric cooperatives in Washington, D.C., for a week of learning and networking.

#### A trip of a lifetime

Fourteen North Dakota youth gathered before the trip at the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives headquarters in Mandan for some team building before traveling to Washington, D.C. The group reviewed the itinerary and gathered coordinating T-shirts for the week. The group left on Sunday, June 15, and returned on Saturday, June 21. Each day included new learning experiences and sites to see.

These experiences and sites included eating at a famous restaurant, attending events, and visiting various monuments and museums. One of Ressler's favorite places to tour was the U.S. Capitol.

"We were able to meet with the senators," she says. "When we were meeting with Hoeven, he said he had to meet with the vice president after that."

Ressler says it was a fun experience. Another memorable place for Ressler was the Arlington National Cemetery and witnessing the changing of the guard and placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Youth Tour is a balance of learning about history, cooperatives and making connections, all packed into seven days. One way students had the opportunity to visit with youth from other states was through pin trading. Each student is given 50 pins to trade with students from other states, which sparks conversation.

Ressler notes they took a cruise with other state's delegates and attended workshops, where they learned about cooperatives and networked with each other. A unique addition to the Youth Tour was "Camp Co-op." "Camp Co-op" was hosted at the hotel each night, when students could come together to

do crafts, play games and just visit after a long day of exploring.

"It was impactful to make relationships so quickly," Ressler says. "It's crazy how much fun can be packed into a week."

Other once-in-a-lifetime places the North Dakota group was able to visit included the FBI Experience and the White House and eating at Ben's Chili Bowl.

When reflecting on the Youth Tour, Ressler says if students are thinking about applying, simply look back on those who have attended.

"Through the pictures, you will see how much fun was had, memories made and that it is the trip of a lifetime," Ressler says.

More information regarding the 2026 Youth Tour will be shared in the coming months. Keep an eye out in future issues of *North Dakota Living* and on our social media.



**Stray Ressler** visited various historical sites in Washington, D.C., including the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

## Factors that impact your rates



Co-General Manager/CEO

One topic that frequents the boardroom is rates and the impact those rates have on our membership. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is dedicated to keeping rates affordable, while ensuring reliable service for all of our members. Through strategic investments in infrastructure and technology, we aim to enhance our efficiency and minimize costs, ultimately benefiting you, our valued members.

As a cooperative, we prioritize transparency in

how your rates are set, ultimately ensuring you understand the factors which contribute to the cost of your services.

Several factors impact our rates, from the number of members per mile of line to our market conditions. This year, our cooperative saw an increase in our rates, primarily from the cost of wholesale energy.

The increase in costs can be attributed to new generation and transmission investments, inflation and power market volatility.

### New generation and transmission

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one of our wholesale power providers, notes investments in new generation and transmission facilities are needed to support member load growth, and it's critical to invest in existing facilities to maintain reliability.

To accommodate these large loads, Basin Electric

is investing over \$12 billion over the next 10 years in transmission and generation assets to ensure reliable electricity for our members.

#### Inflation costs

Cost increases for internal labor, contracted labor, materials and maintenance, in addition to higher costs of borrowing money due to higher interest rates, contribute to rising costs.

### Volatility of power markets

Power markets have become more volatile, resulting in dramatic price movements. Increasing intermittent generation, swings in natural gas prices and increasing electricity demand are primary contributors to volatility. While Basin Electric manages volatility through generation and hedging, the cost of this is increasing.

We know we will have higher wholesale rates from both Basin Electric and Western Area Power Administration, but we continue to look for ways to maintain our reliability as a cooperative, while ensuring affordable rates for the services we provide to our members.

We are dedicated to keeping rates affordable, while ensuring reliable service for all of our members. Thank you for your ongoing support of our cooperative. Together, we can navigate the complexities of energy costs and continue to provide you with the reliable service you deserve.

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# **FACTORS THAT IMPACT RATES**



Wholesale Electric Provider Changes in rates charged by wholesale providers directly impact our costs.



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Contractual Agreements
Long-term contracts with
providers shape rate stability
or volatility.

## Market Conditions Fluctuations in the market

Fluctuations in the market influence wholesale rates and, consequently, member rates.



#### Inflation

Inflation rates have impacted the costs of materials, labor, and equipment needed for infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.

#### Weather

Extreme weather conditions can affect energy demand and supply, impacting rates.



## MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES:

## **Unclaimed capital credits**



Julie Armijo
Chief of Staff/Member
Services Manager

The following list contains the names of current or former Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members who had general retirement capital credit checks mailed in December 2024.

These checks have either been received, but not cashed, or returned to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric by the postal service, because it could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric personnel has not turned up their whereabouts. If you know of the whereabouts of members on this list, please have them contact Mor-Gran-Sou Electric at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301.

Please keep in mind not all of the capital credit amounts are large, but we would like to get these checks to the proper parties. Persons who wish to claim checks from the following list should be prepared to provide proper personal identification.

These are unclaimed capital credits as of July 17.

**3D CONTRACTING** LINNETTE ADAMSKI AG ENTERPRISES **KEN AGARD** ISMAHAN AHMED LEONICA ALKIRE LYLE ALKIRE **DUSTIN AMERICAN HORSE** MARTY AMSBAUGH DAYNE ANDERSON **DEAN ANDERSON** JAMES M. ANDERSON **RAMONA ANTELL BRADY ARNDT** AT&T MOBILITY NDL02900 FA 1156 AMANDA BACHMAN JUDY A BAILEY **KELLY BAKER** PAUL BARTZ FRANCIS BAUER DIANE BEATY JEREMY BECKER

JOE BECKER LARRY BECKER **KYLE BERG** NEVADA J. BERGER **ROGER BINSTOCK BISMARCK TELEVISION** TROY BITZ LISA J. BLACK HOOP MARCIA BLOTSKY PENNY BLOTSKY **BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY DELVIN BOEHM KEITH BOEHM** LEONARD BOEHM JR. SHAWN BOEHM DEBRA M. BOLTE MATT BOSCH ROGER W. BOSER JOEL BOSWORTH SAZHIDA BOWLES BRENT E. BRAATEN

SARA J. BRADLEY MELVIN BRANDENBURG **BRANDON BRAUNBERGER CURTIS BRAVE BULL RANDY BREWSTER CORY BROTTLUND** ANGELA BROUGHT PLENTY TAMERA BROWN WOLF **DORAN BRUINGTON** KELLY BRYAN DUANE BUECHLER LARRY BULLER CANDACE BURDEN JESSICA BYINGTON SU-YUF CAL DONALD CAMPBELL ALBERT CANNARD CANNONBALL WORSHIP CENTER JACKLYNE CARLSON PETER CARLSON CARSON WILDLIFE CLUB **KEITH CHASE** COLIN B. CLAMPET STUART CLARK TYREL CLARYS JEREMY CLAYMORE MIKE CONDON BRENDA S. CORDOVA DUANE L. CRABBE MICHAEL K. CROW FEATHER NANNETTE A. DAHLE RACHELLE DANIEL CASSANDRA DECKER VINCENT DECKER DARREN DEFENDER JUAN DELEON NATHAN DELZER **WESTON DENT** ALANNA DIDIER RICHARD DIETRICH MEGAN DOCKTER

**CAROL DWARF** STEPHAN DWARF E&R RANCH INC. PETER EADE GRETCHEN EAGLEMAN MARGARET EAGLESTAFF JOHN S. EHLIS **FRNEST FLK ERIC ENDERLE** JON ENGELSTAD KIRK ESLINGER **MELVIN FARIS** JULIE FEDORCHAK TROY FERCHO MICHAEL J. FERDERER STEVEN FISCHER **WES FISCHER BONNIE FISHER KYLE FLECK** CODY FLECKENSTEIN JAMES FODE AMANDA FOOL BEAR **EVELYN FOOTE FORCE PANELS TODD FORD** DAVID FORMAN FORT YATES SCHOOL JOHN FREDERICKS **ROD FREIJE** ERIC W. FRIESZ FRIESZ BROTHERS DON FRY **DAN FUCHS** JOSH GARTNER RYAN GARTNER **COURTNEY GARZA ELEANOR B. GATHRIGHT DENNY GAYTON COREY GEFFRE** DON GIESLER **BEN GIFFORD** PATRICK GINDER **LESLIE GIPP** DANE GITTEL

MICHAEL GOLDADE SALLY GOLDAMMER MADONNA **GONZALEZ RIVERA** HARVEY GOOD LEFT **DAKOTA GOODHOUSE DEBORAH GRANT** PETER J. GRESS MARK R. GROSZ **GREG GRUBE** LISA GUARDIPEE HARLAN HAAK MIKE HAIDER DAVID HALMI **EUGENE R. HALVERSON DERICK HANDLEY DON HANNU** MIKE HANSON HENRY L. HARRISON MARTHA HARRISON MICHELLE HARRISON SHELLIE HARRISON DAVID HAUCK KIMBERLY HAWK EAGLE KENNY HECK JAMES HEINLE **ROBERT HEINZEN AUSTIN HENDERSON** DALE HEPPER **NYLE HERBENER** TINA HERRING LEO HERSCH STANLEY HERTEL MATTHEW HILFERS PIERRE HIMEI **RICK HIMMELSPACH** JONATHAN HOCK YVONNE HODGKISS **BRIAN HOFF ELMER HOFMANN** DONNA HOLY BEAR RUSSELL HOOVESTOL

**BEN GOERGEN** 

**CAREY GOETZ** 

ARDIS K. DOGSKIN

RUSSELL J. DOLL



**BRIANNA HOWARD** ISAIAH INGRAM **INTERSTATE** WESTERN WORKS DERRICK IRONSHIELD **BLAKE ISBELL** WENDY JACKSON LOREN JEANOTTE PATRICK JENSEN **BRIAN JOCHIM** MIRANDA JOCHIM JEFF JORDAHL LAURA JORGENSON MICHAEL JOSWICK ROBIN KAELBERER GRACE KAGUCIA **GENE KAHL** HEATHER KAPELLA JOYCE B. KASTNER DOUGLAS H. KAUTZMAN VIRGIL KAUTZMAN KAUTZMAN FAMILY TRUST **GUY KEENER** ROY KEEPSEAGLE DAVID KELIM **BRENT KELLER** DAVID KELLER ELMER J. KETTERLING **COURTNEY KING** WILLIE KIST LEROY P. KOCH MARIE KOMENDA RANDY KOVAR ARNOLD J. KRAFT DANIELLE KRAFT KEVIN KRAFT MARIAN KRAFT TERRY J. KRAFT ROGER KRANCE **DENNIS KROH COREY KUNTZ** SHAD KUSLER **BRAD LARSON** MICHAEL LARSON MICHELLE K. LARSON DEAN L. LAWLER LAWRENCE BERNARD JR. **BRODRICK LEE** JOHN LEMIEUX ALICIA LEPP ADAM LEROY ANTOINETTE LESTER DAVID LEWELLYN BRIGETTE LITTLE OWL PATTY LOCKEN RICHARD LONG FEATHER TIM LORENTZEN MIKE LUEDER RAYMOND F. LUGER **BOGDON LUKINOV** MABEL E. NELSON ESTATE NICKI MAGILKE JOEL MAHLUM KEITH MAPPES LAUREN MARS STEVEN MARTIAN GEORGEANN MARTIN **ROSELYN MARTINEZ** LINDA MASTEL NATASHA MASTERS

JES MCDOWELL MARK MCGARVEY **DUSTIN MELBY GERALD MESKE DENNIS MEUCHEL BILL MEYER** MID STATE AVIATION INC. CHARLES E MILLER MILO MILLER MATTHEW MITTELSTEADT DALE MOLINE ALAN MORENO ADAM MORK SCOTT MOSBRUCKER ELLEN F. MURPHY **ERIC MYERS** VERNA NAGEL **RON NEIBAUER** WILLIAM NELSON TROY NESS NEW SALEM VET CLINIC MATT NIEDERMAN **DENISE NILSEN** MONTE NILSEN NORTHERN PLAIN NATURAL GAS CO. NORTHLAND STORAGE ALVIN NOT AFRAID NUTRITION FOR ELDERLY TITLE VI OLIVER WIND III MARVIN J. OLSON ROBERT OSTER JOSHUA PASTIR TRAVIS PAVLICEK KURT PETERSON MICHELLE PETERSON **CURTIS PETRICK** TOMI K PHILLIPS SHAMUS PITKIN **GEOFFREY PITMAN** GABE PLANTE LILLIAN P. PLENTY CHIEF **COLEEN POPELKA** JACKIE PRESLEY **RODNEY QUAM** MELISSA QUASCHNICK HAL RADER **LEONARD RATTLING THUNDER** DAVID RAUGUST ALISHA RED BEAR DONISE RED HORN TAMARA RED TOMAHAWK WILBUR RED TOMAHAWK RED TRAIL CONOCO PERCETTA RED WILLOW **DINNY REDMOND BUELL REICH** SUSAN REINHILLER **BRIAN REYNOLDS ROCKIN' TACOS DUSTIN ROMANS** JOHN ROSENCRANS **AUSTIN ROTH GARRETT ROTH** RUNNING ANTELOPE DISTRICT **HEIDI SALAGAN** 

**RALPH SAMPSILL** 

COLE SANDAU ANDREW R. SANDLAND JR. MIKE SANDLAND MATT SCHANANDORE **KYLE SCHANER** RAYMOND SCHARNOWSKE MARY A. SCHIRADO **ERIC SCHMIDT** KENT SCHMIDT **KEVIN SCHMIDT LEVI SCHMIDT RANDY SCHMIDT RON SCHMIDT** RAY E. SCHMIDTGALL SARAH M. SCHMIT PATRICIA SCHMITZ **CORY SCHNELL** MICHAEL SCHOLES JR. CHAD SCHUCHARD **BARRY SCHULZ** SUSAN C. SCHULZ KELLY SCHUMACHER MATTHEW SEGOVIA CASEY SILBERNAGEL DONALD SIMBURGER MARILYN SIMMONS DONALD SIMONIEG TIMOTHY H. SIMONS LELAND D. SKABO KRISTY SMID LOUIS SNIDER TONI SNIDER MIKE SOUGSTAD SOUTH VIEW RANCH **RANDY SPITZER** RICHARD STACK PHYLLIS STANDING BEAR CAROL STANDING CROW THE STANDING ROCK YOUTH KATHRYN STECKLER PAULA STEIERT DALE STEINMETZ SHARLENE STEVERDING **BEN STEWART** TANNER STUBSTAD MARLYS C STUMPF SUNRISE BUILDERS **KEITH SWALLEY** JEFF SWANK VICKI SWANSON JAMES SWEENEY SWEET RIVER COMPANY LLC LISA SYVERSON JUNE SZCZUR MIKE TAVIS CHAD TECCA **DAN TENTIS DWIGHT TESKE** KATHY THEURER TAMMY THOMAS **BOBBY THOMPSON KELVIN THOMPSON** MAXINE THUNDER HAWK **ROSS TOKACH** TRIPLE T TRUCKING KAREN TSCHIDA TURN KEY HOMES **ERIN TVEITO** 

**KELLY URBANEC DUANE USES ARROW DAVID UTHUS ELIZABETH VOGEL** MARK VOIGT DANIEL VOLK ORIN VOLK TAYLOR VOLK MEINHARDT C. WAGNER ANTONINA WALDEN LEAH WALKER VALARIE WALTERS DAVONNE L. WANGLER-BARRETT MARK WARD **BOBBY WATSON** KATHY WATSON JUSTIN WEISS **ROY WELCH** SHANE WELTIKOL JAMIE WENSTROM TANNER WERKHOVEN STACEY WESTPHAL **CLYDE WETZEL** DON WHITE CAROLE WHITE BULL KEVIN WHITE BULL DARRELL WHITE LIGHTNING TINA M. WHITE MOUNTAIN JOVAN WICKER **BRITTNI WILLIAMS** JONATHON WILLIAMS KIM WILLIAMS KAYLA WILLIAMSON SUSAN WIPPERLING **ELAINE WIRKUS** MORGAN WISE ANTHONY C. WOLD CATHY WOLF MITCHELL WOLF **DELNOE WOLF NECKLACE** LARISSA WOLF NECKLACE WOODWORTH HONEY BEES CAMERON WYATT **HEATHER WYNSTRA EARLWIN YELLOW** HAMMER SR. TERRIE YELLOW HAMMER JACOB YONEY **DOUG ZACHER** CAROLINE ZACHMEIER MARY ZANDER **RAMON ZEMPEL** JASON ZIEGLER **KEVIN ZIMAN** WILLIAM V. ZIMMERLE 🔷

VERNON TWO SHIELDS

UAP NORTHERN PLAINS



## MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS:

## A look back at the June storm



**Gary Fitterer**Manager of Operations

As potential storms approach, our committed team at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is prepared to respond quickly and safely, working to restore power as soon as conditions allow.

In June, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's service area endured multiple storms with damaging winds accompanied by hail and thunderstorms. During these conditions, vegetation and buildings do not fare well and it will occasionally impact our

system as well. While a cooperative can be prepared for storms and utilize technology to identify outages and damage, we would not be able to assess the full impact without our employees and members.

This weather instance was unique to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric due to multiple storms hitting the service area at one time. The high winds resulted in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric losing multiple transmission lines. Transmission lines deliver power to substations, which then safely decrease power voltages to be delivered to members through distribution lines.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric crews were dispatched around 8:30 p.m. CT June 20 and began to evaluate the restoration process. Due to multiple transmission lines being damaged, crews began to work on backfeeding members where possible. Backfeeding allows Mor-Gran-Sou Electric to power members from another substation, but this isn't always possible in the case of excessive damage.

Due to the impact of the storm, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric crews, along with Roughrider Electric Cooperative crews and contractors from 3C Construction and Synergy Powerline Construction, worked until 8:30 p.m. June 21, when they were called in to rest. The crews were back working on restoration early on June 22, with power restored to the entire membership by 7 p.m.

The impact to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's system included the loss of 19 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission poles, 13 single-phase utility poles and nine three-phase utility poles in various areas of the system. Eleven 115-kV transmission structures were damaged around the New Salem area. This impact was due to the high winds, which caused poles to break and debris to fly into Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's infrastructure, causing disruptions and further damage.

When a storm like this has such a vast impact on the system, it is helpful to have additional eyes on the ground. Members are urged not to approach damaged electrical infrastructure, such as poles and lines, but downed lines or poles is valuable information that can be relayed to the cooperative. This additional information helps the operations department make informed decisions about the restoration process and allows crews to know what materials to bring to conduct repairs.

We understand when a storm hits our service area, it impacts everyone, from homes, businesses and operations. It is our top priority to restore power to members in a safe and efficient manner. We are grateful to have understanding members who make these tasks a bit easier, from reporting power outages to lending a helping hand to crews in the field. Thank you all once again for your patience and assistance as we worked to navigate the impacts of this storm.





## SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:

## Storm safety

In North Dakota, we endure our fair share of storms over the summer. A mix of high winds and heavy rain can cause a fair share of damage. As we continue through summer, we want to ensure you are equipped and prepared if a storm occurs.

"We are ready to take the necessary steps during storms to ensure we can return power safely to homes and businesses," says Chance Magilke, journeyman lineworker. "We also want to encourage members to practice safety and keep these tips in mind when a summer storm rolls through."

Here is how you can ensure your safety:

- Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still be energized. Report any downed lines you see to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative by calling 701-597-3301, 800-750-8212 or 701-663-0297 immediately.
- Never use electrical equipment that is wet.

  Electrical equipment, especially outdoor electrical equipment, could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard. In addition, if lightning strikes a home, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get shocked if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in.
- Take special care with portable electric generators. While they can provide a good source of power, they can become deadly if improperly installed or operated. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can backfeed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact, including lineworkers making repairs. A qualified, licensed electrician should install your generator to ensure it



meets local electrical codes.

When a strong storm comes through, rest assured employees at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric are diligently and safely working to restore power in the event of an outage. This may take additional time for employees to navigate and analyze the situation due to the spread and severity of a storm.

If you experience a power outage, you can assist us by reporting the outage by calling our office at 701-597-3301, 800-750-8212 or 701-663-0297. This information helps our operations department gather information to assist in the restoration process.





### MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## **May 28**

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held on May 28 at the Mandan Service Center in Mandan. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. A quorum was present. Also present were Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's co-General Managers/CEOs Jason Bentz and Travis Kupper, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Manager of Operations Gary Fitterer, Chief of Staff/Member Services Manager Julie Armijo, Interim General Counsel Andrew Fergel and Executive Assistant Connie Hill.

**Consent agenda:** An amendment was proposed to the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

**Strategic items:** Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference, National Information Solutions Cooperative and more. Several additional Basin Electric

Power Cooperative board documents were available for review.

**Department reports:** Craigmile provided a financial report. Fitterer reviewed the operations report, which included projects on which crews are working and a crew update. Armijo provided a member services report on annual meeting information, cooperative communication and programs. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar reviewed his report with the board. Fergel provided a general counsel report on his projects.

**Action items:** Action items were discussed and resolved. **Discussion/general information:** There were no other items brought to the board.

The meeting concluded with adjournment. Secretary-Treasurer Pam Geiger certified the accuracy of the minutes.

**Next meeting date:** The next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. CT Aug. 27 in Fort Yates.

# TIPS FOR SAFE HARVEST

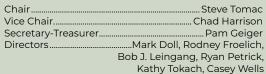
- KEEP ALL EQUIPMENT AT LEAST 10 FEET AWAY FROM POWER LINES.
- NEVER TRY TO RAISE OR MOVE A POWER LINE TO CLEAR A PATH
- POWER LINE SAGGING? DON'T MOVE IT. CALL US IMMEDIATELY.





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Toll-free: 800-750-8212 Fax: 701-597-3915
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UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

#### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**





Co-GM/CEO ......Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO .......Jason Bentz



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