

Boulder County

Communities lead in recycling

Leaders still pressing ahead with zero-waste efforts

By **Katie Langford**
Staff Writer

Boulder County communities continue to lead the state in recycling, with the city of Boulder ranked No. 1 in citywide recycling, according to a new report by Eco-Cycle and the Colorado Public Interest Research Group.

But Coloradans recycled less and produced 5% more trash in 2019, and the state's recycling is not seeing significant gains — only enough to keep up with population growth.

While small fluctuations in annual recycling rates are normal, large changes usually only come after communities change policies, said Kate Bailey, research and policy director for Eco-Cycle and one of the report's authors.

Statewide, Coloradans recycled 15.9% of their waste in 2019, down from 17.2% in 2018. The national recycling rate is 35%.

"This means we are not making any real gains in our efforts to reduce our waste and recover more resources," the report states. "This signals that systemic policy changes are needed to drive Colorado toward a circular economy."

Boulder's recycling rate increased from 39% in 2015 to 50% in 2019, according to city data, with most of those gains made in commercial recycling. Eco-Cycle reported the city's recycling rate as 51%, though small discrepancies are normal, Bailey said.

Mayor Sam Weaver cited the city's universal zero waste requirement, established in 2015, as the reason for a significant uptick in recycling rates. Education and outreach with businesses have been key to the program's success, Weaver said at a news conference Monday.

The report also noted 10 Front Range communities with the highest rates of recycling, with five of them located in Boulder County.

Louisville recycled 44% of its waste in 2019, Lafayette and Longmont recycled 36% and Superior recycled 24%. Boulder County has the highest county-level recycling rate in the state at 37%.

But there is more progress to be made, Bailey said, and municipal and county leaders are pressing ahead with even more zero-



Ron Richter, of Erie, pushes a broken washer out of a trailer at Eco-Cycle on Nov. 16 in Boulder. A new report finds Boulder County continues to have the highest recycling rates in the state.



Center for Hard to Recycle Materials Supervisor Scotty Mordja loads an old grill into a container at Eco-Cycle on Nov. 16 in Boulder.

Photos by Matthew Jonas / Staff Photographer

waste efforts.

Boulder County's annual Zero Waste Action Plan Scoring Report shows wide disparities in recycling throughout the county. Ranking communities on how much progress they made toward reaching zero-waste goals such as recycling and composting, Boulder made the most progress at 70%; Nederland and Superior were in the middle at 31%; and Erie was at the bottom with 13% progress.

Unincorporated Boulder County had made 50% progress on its zero-waste goals, Longmont was at 42%, Louisville at 29%, Jamestown at 27%, Lafayette at 25%, Ward at 16% and Lyons at 14%.

The county report identified a handful of steps that would have the largest impact on zero-waste efforts, including requiring single-stream recycling at all businesses, requiring construction and demolition operations to recycle and requiring compost collection at businesses.

Boulder County officials already are looking at building a composting facility, which would mean food and yard waste could be composted locally instead of hauled to Keenseburg.

"Compost is a great climate solution because it can actually draw down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and it's one of the few ways we can draw down and store it in the soil," Bailey said.

Eco-Cycle will also continue working to advance zero waste solutions at the state level, Bailey said, and just this year advocated for bills to incentivize recycling companies to come to Colorado and to create the Front Range Waste Diversion Fund, which awards grants to local governments to increase recycling and composting.



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First Bite Boulder



Christina Kiffney / Courtesy photo

The ingredients used to make Cafe Aion's famous paella. This recipe and over 40 others by 30 Boulder County eateries are featured in "A Bite of Boulder," a cookbook produced by the restaurant week First Bite. Fifty percent of book sales go back to the eateries featured.

'Love letter' to local dining

'A Bite of Boulder' cookbook offers restaurant recipes with half of proceeds benefitting eateries

By Kalene McCort
Staff Writer

With access to fresh produce grown on neighboring farms and a number of culinary rock stars calling the Rocky Mountain region home, Boulder has earned its reputation as a foodie city. Pre-COVID, inventive pairings, layered cocktails and multi-course dining experiences were served up on packed rooftop bars, within historic halls and even at understated cafes across the Front Range.

While the ability to fully break bread together has been restricted due to the pandemic, Jessica Benjamin — producer of First Bite, Boulder County's nine-day restaurant week — has come up with a literary solution to fill the gastronomic void. "A Bite of Boulder," a cookbook that features more than 40 recipes from 30 local restaurants, was released this week.

"It absolutely is a love letter to the local dining scene, but it's not



Jennifer Bridge / Courtesy photo

Producer of Boulder County's restaurant week, First Bite, Jessica Benjamin holds "A Bite of Boulder" cookbook. She has produced a book that hit shelves this week and features recipes from 30 local restaurants.

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just mine to Boulder,” said Benjamin. “It is a love letter from the community to itself, as a reminder of how vibrant we are and how resilient and resourceful we have been.”

“A Bite of Boulder,” features stunning photography by Christina Kiffney of gorgeously plated dishes, like the cactus and corn fritters from Zolo Grill and Café Aion’s fragrant paella.

Cuisine from Corrida, Basta, Blackbelly, Black Cat, Leaf Vegetarian Restaurant, Jax Fish House & Oyster Bar and many others is artfully showcased in the publication.

“The soul in this book comes from all the corners of the city — from the legendary food writer John Lehdorff, executive director of Boulder County Farmers Markets Brian Coppom, Cured owners Coral and Will Frishkorn and a dozen more pillars of our food community,” Benjamin said.

Benjamin has also graced the pages with her own visually vivid cooking anecdotes, while main contributing writer Sarah Carpenter elegantly lets readers in on the backstories of some of their favorite establishments and dishes.

The book swings back the kitchen door to reveal the ingredients and methods behind some of the area’s most popular dishes, prepared by industry greats like “Top Chef” winner Hosea Rosenberg of Blackbelly and Santo and Bradford Heap of Salt and Niwot’s now-shuttered Colterra.

The inspiration for this passion project was hatched when Benjamin found herself recreating a pasta from a Mile High eatery.

“In late April, I saw a video on Instagram from Jennifer Jasinski, of Rioja, in Denver, of her making a ricotta gnocchi that made me swoon,” Benjamin said. “As I turned the extra pound of ricotta in my fridge into these gorgeous gnocchi, my husband and I talked about all the memorable visits we had to Rioja. Around the same time, my dad sent me a link about a restaurant publishing a cookbook and the light bulb went off.”

While many dishes featured come from Boulder-based restaurants, readers will also see mouthwatering meals from Acreage in Lafayette and The Empire Lounge and Restaurant in Louisville.

Fifty percent of proceeds from sales will go to the establishments featured in “A Bite of Boulder.”

“Our restaurants are the backbone to our cities’ vitality and they desperately need all of our collective efforts to survive this pandemic,” Benjamin said. “I am honored to



Christina Kiffney / Courtesy photo

The ingredients for Blackbelly’s skirt steak with chimichurri sauce, a recipe that will be featured in “A Bite of Boulder” cookbook.

have worked with so many extraordinary people for this purpose and I know if I had the time we could have included several others whose voices speak often in favor of good food and supporting local purveyors. I am humbled by the breadth this project took on and by the contributors to it from idea to completion.”

The book — that retails for \$29.99 — can be purchased online at FirstBiteBoulder.com or scooped up in person at Boulder Bookstore, Cured, Peppercorn, Food Lab, Sweet Ruckus Gifts and Savory Spice Shop.

“Jessica (Benjamin) really got creative this year with First Bite and has been very generous in her support of the restaurant community,” said Josh Dinar, owner of River and Woods. “I’m actually a co-founder of the event and it’s been such a treat to see it in such good hands and such an honor to be featured among the other restaurants that are working so hard to keep Boulder’s culinary scene strong.”

The root vegetable latkes, by River and Woods’ chef Daniel Asher, are featured in the book. Through December, culinary enthusiasts can pick up kits packed with all the ingredients needed to make this unique favorite. The kit and the book retail together for \$60. Buyers can also choose to add on Hanukkah candles, chocolate gelt and optional wine pairings, if desired.

“Chef Daniel (Asher) chose the root veggie latke because it’s a winter comfort food that’s a nod to both his heritage and his love of local and seasonal ingredients,” Dinar said. “Plus, we’re opening Ash’Kara Unorthodox Cuisine on West Pearl Street in the coming weeks and the dish is a great tie-in to the restaurant’s Israeli fusion menu.”

In addition to allowing people to bring a bit of the River and Woods experience right to their home kitchens, the eatery is taking steps to accommodate diners in chillier months.

“We’re excited to be putting

in a covered and heated pavilion in the backyard at River and Woods and we’ll be serving out there ... as long as health mandates allow,” Dinar said. “In warmer pockets, we’ll also have the fire-pit seating. Plus, we have a really fun private table for four to six in the River and Woods airstream trailer that can be reserved for special tasting menus.”

Benjamin said restaurant week plans to return in 2021. But in the meantime, foodies can learn about local fare with the cookbook.

“Now, you can try 30 different restaurants, different cuisines and really spend time getting to know them by reading their stories,” Benjamin said. “These recipes are the

first bite to these restaurants and I hope that readers think back to them when they are ordering out looking for something new.”

Starting on Black Friday (Nov. 27), fans will have a chance to win prizes on First Bite’s Instagram account as part of the brand’s “12 Days of Giveaways.”

“Each day, we will be giving away items from local businesses like Food Lab, Savory Spice, Art Source International, Savvy Boulder and Union Stitch & Design,” Benjamin said. “To enter, participants just need to have purchased a cookbook from the First Bite website. It will be an exciting week and will be another way we can help elevate lots of local businesses in this time of

collective need.”

Even after home chefs make their way through “A Bite of Boulder,” it’s Benjamin’s hope that they continue to revisit these thoughtful selections in all seasons.

“The biggest thing missing from pandemic life is connection,” Benjamin said. “There’s nothing that feels like entering your favorite restaurant on Friday night, waving to friends, being served your favorite drink without ordering. Restaurants provide a sense of belonging somewhere. Socially distant dining at 25% capacity or ordering takeout doesn’t feel the same way. I hope this cookbook serves as a reminder to not lose sight of belonging to so many places outside our homes.”

The Boulder Arts Commission and the Office of Arts and Culture congratulate

Adam Kuby on the installation of his new sculpture *55 Degrees*



We thank the hundreds of community members who participated in the vision and the local businesses who worked with Adam on this intriguing new addition to our community’s public art collection.



Visit *55 Degrees* in Civic Center Park outside the Main Boulder Public Library. And, learn more online: boulderarts.org

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Rant

Peace Train

A bright spot in a dark time

By Judith Mohling
Rocky Mountain Peace
and Justice Center

Just around the corner, on Jan. 22, 2021, is the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons. It is the day that the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) or Ban Treaty, enters into force.

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and all anti-nuclear weapons activists have seen these bombs as the most inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created. It is way past time to end them, before they end us. They have catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences that span decades and cross generations. They breed fear and mistrust among nations, as some governments can threaten to wipe out entire cities in a heartbeat.

Activists for years have cringed at the high cost of the production, maintenance and modernization of these weapons, realizing the huge diversion of public funds from health care, education, disaster relief and other vital human services. Banning these immoral, inhumane weapons under international law is a critical step along the path to ultimately ending their existence on earth.

With the tentative adoption of the U.N. TPNW on July 7, 2017, the world took a critical step towards making that nuclear weapon-free future a reality. Now 50 countries have said, "No!" both by signing their intent and ratifying their participation in the treaty.

On Jan. 22, 2021, this treaty will enter into force. It is the first legally binding international agreement to

comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons, with the ultimate goal being the weapons' complete elimination. After it was adopted by the U.N., it opened for signatures on Sept. 20, 2017, followed slowly, but surely, by ratifications by 50 countries.

For those nations that are party to it, the treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance and/or encouragement regarding the prohibited activities. The treaty will provide tremendous leverage to encourage nuclear-armed states to join the treaty. It becomes a potent stigma as more and more of the world's citizens waken to the idea that it provides a time-bound framework for negotiations leading to the verified and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons programs. From Austria and Bolivia, to El Salvador, Ireland, Jamaica, Mexico and New Zealand, from Nicaragua, Palestine and, finally, Vietnam, along with 39 more countries are all now family to this vow.

According to the Federation of American Scientists, there are currently 13,400 nukes in world arsenals: with 6,375 in Russian arsenals, 5,800 in U.S. arsenals, between 30 and 40 in North Korea, 320 in China, 290 in France, 215 in the U.K., 160 in Pakistan, 150 in India, 90 in Israel — and several countries are hosting U.S. weapons.

Keep in mind that just one detonated over New York City would cause an estimated 583,160 immediate deaths.

On Jan. 22, nuclear weapons become ILLEGAL.

Black women's hair

What a buzz cut during a pandemic taught me about racism and sexism

By Cara Anthony
Los Angeles Times

The night before I chopped off my hair, I got nervous. This decision felt bigger than me, given all the weight that Black women's hair carries. But after three months of wearing hats and scarves in a pandemic when trips to the hairdresser felt unsafe, I walked into a salon emotionally exhausted but ready to finally see my natural hair.

I thought a few tears would fall, but, as the last of my chemically straightened hair floated to the floor like rain, I felt cleansed. Free. I laughed hysterically as I drove away from the salon.

Friends and family cheered me on virtually, but my father quietly worried about my decision. My dad grew up in the Jim Crow South, where many women straightened their hair to land jobs, husbands and respect. Before my big chop, he never said much about my hair beyond the occasional compliment, which is why I was surprised when he issued a warning.

"Watch it out there, your hair is cut now," he blurted when he saw me walking out of the house. My mother heard him but remained silent. She had her own set of concerns. She was worried about me looking less professional.

I also had to help my now-4-year-old daughter understand why I decided to go natural. We've watched the animated "Hair Love" a million times. We read books like "Happy Hair" by Mechal Renee Roe, "I Love My Hair!" by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley and my personal favorite, "Don't Touch My Hair!" by Sharee Miller.

Still, my daughter had a hard time adjusting to my new haircut, often asking when I planned to get my hair done again. She preferred my extensions, saying she thought I looked more like a princess that way.

On the night of my haircut, I drove to the store more aware of how others would perceive my new look. My father, however, was more worried about my safety because my silhouette could possibly be mistaken for a Black man's frame.

I gently explained that my hair is a style, even if it's not long and straight.

My family's emotions about my hair left me tangled.

Of course, the styling of Black hair has been fraught for centuries. The CROWN Act, which passed the U.S. House in September and is now pending in the Senate, is intended to protect Black people from discrimination in schools, housing and employment based on their hairstyle. But such a law, even if passed, cannot stop bigotry, bullets and the emotional battles that come with being a Black woman in America, seen through something as simple as our hair.

I hadn't considered talking to my daughter about how hair could affect her personal safety until my father broke his silence.

On the night of my haircut, I drove to the store more aware of how others would perceive my new look. My father, however, was more worried about my safety because my silhouette could possibly be mistaken for a Black man's frame.

We live in the Midwest, just outside of St. Louis, where natural hair still makes a statement for Black women. If my buzz cut made me look more like a Black man, would the cops in our town treat me differently? In my dad's eyes, my femininity increased my chances of making it home safely.

His comments also led to a conversation about the intersection between racism and

sexism. Without reading the crucial work of scholar Kimberle Crenshaw and other activists, my father intuitively understood that society has placed Black women in a blind spot, where our gender and our race make us invisible.

But that space isn't safe, is it? A Eurocentric feminine hairstyle can't protect Black women from the many deadly forms of racism. Since 2015, at least 48 Black women have been killed by the police. The style of their hair didn't matter to the officers pulling the triggers. In the past few years, the #SayHerName campaign has put a spotlight on their killings, but society still pays less attention to the police killings of Black women. While most people have heard of George Floyd and Michael Brown and Breonna Taylor, fewer know about Kathryn Johnston, Korryn Gaines and India Kager.

In death and life, our rights and our achievements don't seem to hold as much weight compared with those of our male counterparts or our white ones. Yet, many Black women go to great lengths to be accepted in this country.

In the past few weeks, I've listened to other Black women in my life vent about their hair and navigating racism. We've shared our hair horror stories and moments of victory. I've come to realize that my haircut wasn't just about changing my style. It was also about reclaiming my crown after years of letting society control it.

Submitting Letters

Contact: Christy Fantz, editor

Frequency, space allowed: One per week, keep under 400 words. Entries will be edited for length and content.

Include: Name, address and verifiable phone number

Format: Email only: letters@coloradodaily.com Include "Letter to the editor" in subject line.

Submissions become property of Colorado Daily.

The New Local

Make it an artisan holiday

The New Local returns with virtual holiday pop-up market with handcrafted gifts by local women

By Kalene McCort
Staff Writer

In November 2019, The New Local — an all-female art and maker collective — transformed the former Top Hat Supply on Pearl Street into an aesthetically pleasing storefront of unique wares. From marigold-dyed pillows by Edie Ure to handcrafted artisanal chocolates from Daydream Dessert, the diverse pop-up provided holiday shoppers one-of-a-kind items.

“The New Local was such a magical experience last year,” said Marie-Juliette Bird, the collective’s founder and artist behind Boulder-based jewelry line Blackbird and the Snow. “We created a hub of beauty where people discovered local talent and shopped locally. We made friends. We fostered a community. We became part of the neighborhood for a sweet moment.”

While this year The New Local will be purely virtual, it is still very much rooted in inclusion. An open call to makers across the state is currently in effect and will close on Nov. 24 with the collective’s pop-up site going live on Nov. 27. More information can be found at the-new-local.org.

Those jury-selected makers will not have to pay any fee to participate. All that is asked by organizers in return is cross-marketing on social media platforms. Much like its structure in 2019, The New Local is designed to showcase each individual creator and connect them with potential buyers.

“My vision, from the beginning, was to avoid profiting off of somebody else’s work as the business model,” Bird said. “Instead, we leveraged the beauty and craftsmanship of each other’s work to create a truly local market place. We shared expenses, brought in new customers through cross-marketing and, in the end, ensured each artisan kept 100% of her earned revenue.”

This year’s virtual holiday market will close on Dec. 31.

Each woman will have a gallery on The New Local’s website, showing her portrait, a brief statement and images of four pieces and products, available for



Matthew Jonas / Staff Photographer

Sierra Brashear works on a display at The New Local in Boulder in 2019. This year, the holiday pop-up is going virtual.



Kristen Hatgi Sink / Courtesy photo
The “Luna Moth” necklace by Marie-Juliette Bird, The New Local founder and owner of jewelry line Blackbird and the Snow.



Matthew Jonas / Staff Photographer

Sara Bercholz talks with Marie-Juliette Bird at The New Local in Boulder in 2019.

sale online. Each artist will be responsible to ship out their own pieces to customers once a purchase is made and will collect all revenue.

While several of the artists featured in the original brick-and-mortar pop-up will return, Bird is also hoping to welcome many new creatives into the cyber space.

“Ultimately, people, especially Coloradans, don’t really want to give all their money to Jeff Bezos, or any corporation,” Bird said. “But Amazon is so easy. Local businesses, including ours, have to be just as easy as Amazon if we want to compete. That said, we have a considerable comparable advantage. When our customers buy from The New Local, they’re supporting friends, artists, neighbors, mothers, aunts and daughters in their own communities.”

The 2019 pop-up included



Laura Shape / Courtesy photo
The “Queen of Darkness” clutch by Laura Shape of Viv and Edie.

botanically rich spa products from Moon Bath, leather pieces by Alexa Allen, ceramics by Laura Morningstar, fresh bouquets from Fawns Leap Botanical Arts and many others.

“We’re searching for the most compelling, original, beautifully made work in the

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Kristen Hatgi Sink / Courtesy photo

Hannah Rose models “Fancy Star” earrings and “Flying Swallows” necklace by Marie-Juliette Bird, jeweler at Blackbird and the Snow and founder of The New Local.

\$ Business

Short Stuff

Restaurant biz

Zolo Grill to close after quarter century

Zolo Grill, a Southwestern-style restaurant in the Village Shopping Center, will serve its last margarita this month.

Open for 26 years, Zolo was the first restaurant opened by Big Red F Restaurant Group, the outfit behind local concepts such as The Post Brewing Co., Jax Fish House, The West End Tavern and Lola Coastal Mexican.

In a statement provided to BizWest, Big Red F founder Dave Query called the upcoming closure, scheduled for Nov. 25, "an unavoidable decision" that was a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Query credited landlord Tom Gart with attempting to work with the restaurant, but the headwinds were too strong.

Partnership

CU Boulder, Techstars partner for grad credits, jobs pipeline

The University of Colorado Boulder's Leeds School of Business and Boulder-based startup accelerator Techstars are partnering to launch the Leeds + Techstars Elevate program, which provides founders with continuing education opportunities and connects CU Boulder students with Techstars firms.

Northeastern University in Boston is also a participant, which awards graduate degree credits to Techstars alumni and helps college students and graduates get hired by Techstars companies.

The Leeds + Techstars Elevate program is "a game-changing opportunity for our students and alumni," Leeds School dean Sharon Matusik said in a statement. "Techstars is the best entrepreneurial network on the planet, and this puts our students and graduates in the middle of that ecosystem while also allowing Techstars alumni a head start in the continuation of their own educational journeys."

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Cannabis



Cliff Grassmick / Staff Photographer

Lauren Stallat measures out marijuana for a client at Trill in 2018. In September, more than \$200 million worth of Colorado-made marijuana products were purchased.

Getting (record) high

State marijuana sales set to crush sales; \$200M sold in September

By Tiney Ricciardi
Denver Post

Weed enthusiasts purchased more than \$206.4 million worth of Colorado-made marijuana products in September, as sales from a record-breaking year moderately cooled off.

Recreational dispensaries sold \$166,547,119 during the month, while medical dispensaries sold \$39,941,149 for a combined \$206,488,268 in revenue, according to data from the Colorado Department of Revenue.

Sales decreased 5.5% compared to August, but are up 33% compared to September 2019 as marijuana experiences a banner year for sales despite the coronavirus pan-



Jeremy Papasso / Staff Photographer

An employee puts marijuana into a jar at Terrapin Care Station in Boulder. Marijuana is having a banner year for sales despite the coronavirus pandemic.

demic.

Colorado raked in \$38.6 million in taxes and fees from cannabis sales in September.

Sales hit an all-time monthly high in July at \$226 million. So far in 2020, consumers have spent more than \$1.63 billion on smokable cannabis flower, concen-

trates, edibles and other products — approaching the previous annual record of \$1.75 billion set in 2019.

Part of what's driving sales is a change in buyer behavior. Since the pandemic began, marijuana consumers have become accustomed to shopping less frequently, but purchasing more when they

do decide to hit a dispensary. According to Headset, which tracks cannabis sales trends around the country, the average basket size in Colorado was about \$60 per person in September, up 25% from about \$48 in January.

"What's really interesting is the trends in average basket size and total transaction volume that have contributed to this growth," said Cooper Ashley, data analyst at Headset. "With the assumption that customers are making larger, but fewer cannabis shopping trips, we would then expect to see a drop in the total transaction volume, which we did see, but only in April."

"While there has been a slight decrease in average basket size as we move into autumn, baskets are still much larger than they were this time last year, indicating that this trend may be a 'new normal,'" Ashley said.

Artisan from page 17

state of Colorado,” Bird said. “If you are a fine artist or sculptor, you might want to consider scale and ‘giftability,’ which is to say work targeted towards holiday gift-giving. But, we don’t have any hard-and-fast rules. We’ll choose the strongest work that we think will sell.”

Since launching the open call, submissions from women artisans throughout the state have been rolling in.

“I met Marie (Bird) years ago when my husband bought me one of her gorgeous necklaces as a gift,” said Laura Shape, founder of Denver-based clutch line Viv & Edie, who applied to The New Local’s open call. “She’s invited me to do a few shows with her in the past, but I never felt my work was ready. Or, at least, not in a state that I felt comfortable putting in a show. But this year, I’m finally ready and am excited at the prospect of showing my clutches alongside the beautiful work of all the other talented women.”

Prior to starting a clutch company, Shape worked as a graphic designer in Los Angeles. She dabbled in jewelry-making and statement brass belt buckles, before embarking on to handbags.

“After trying my hand at a few styles, I stumbled on these hard-sided minaudière clutches and I was hooked,” Shape said. “I can make them entirely myself by hand, which allows me to make each one completely unique. I don’t have to think about

how to streamline them for production, so the sky’s the limit. Plus, the hard sides make them totally buildable. I can create unique sculptural embellishments to attach to them and they’re very sturdy. I treat them like sculptures and it’s a super fun challenge to use all of my accumulated skills in designing them.”

Shape is also working with clients to craft custom clutches and will offer gift cards.

The restrictions of the pandemic have also inspired Bird to extend the platform to females that don’t fall into the arts category.

“Given how hard 2020 has been on the restaurant and hospitality industry, we’re also carving out space for women-owned restaurants and bakeries this holiday season,” Bird said. “Our definition of ‘creative industry’ is pretty broad. Ultimately, we’re looking for women who want to showcase their amazing work.”

Bird, and artist Beth Van De Water, made The New Local into a nonprofit. In 2021, the creatives hope to see the pop-up’s presence in other areas with potential showrooms in Denver’s Cherry Creek and Aspen.

“By the end of last year, we knew there was something inherently special about our approach, something we could cultivate, scale and use to empower women in the creative industries, not just in Boulder, but throughout the state,” Bird said.

In the meantime, interested patrons can log onto the-new-local.org to learn more about this growing initiative.



Kristen Hatgi Sink/ Courtesy photo

“Among my Swan” ring by Marie-Juliette Bird, owner of Blackbird and the Snow and founder of The New Local.

“There are a ton of great ways to support The New Local — end-of-year donations, volunteering, corporate spon-

sorships, shopping our online platform,” Bird said. “We truly value each expression of support and are thrilled to

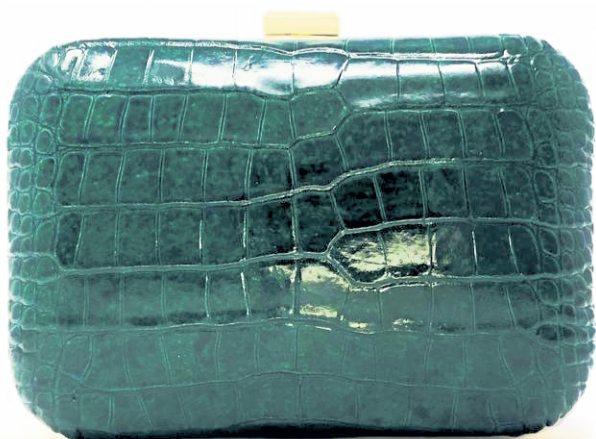
bring a radically beautiful vision into the world, starting right here at home in Boulder.”

TODD REED



Laura Shape / Courtesy photo

The “Ode to Faberge” clutch by Laura Shape of Viv & Edie.



Laura Shape/ Courtesy photo

The “Emerald City” clutch by Laura Shape of Viv & Edie.



Open by appointment, 7 days a week

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10 years in the Pac-12

Did CU do right thing?

One decade later, conference is a cultural fit, but football falters

By Sean Keeler
The Denver Post

In early August, with the college football season dangling by a pinkie, nearly a dozen Pac-12 players emailed a letter to conference commissioner Larry Scott. In it, they offered up a list of demands, pleaded for systemic change in how the conference operated and accused it of putting student-athletes “at needless risk.”

It was a watershed moment in the history of the conference, a landmark in the push for NCAA reform. The letter had 11 signatures, endorsed by a player from every program in the Pac-12.

Every program, that is, except one: the University of Colorado.

A decade after the Buffs decided to call the Pac-12 home, you still get ... *moments*. Moments when CU, situated nearly 1,250 miles from Pac-12 headquarters in San Francisco, comes off as an afterthought to its league brethren, a distant mountain cousin.

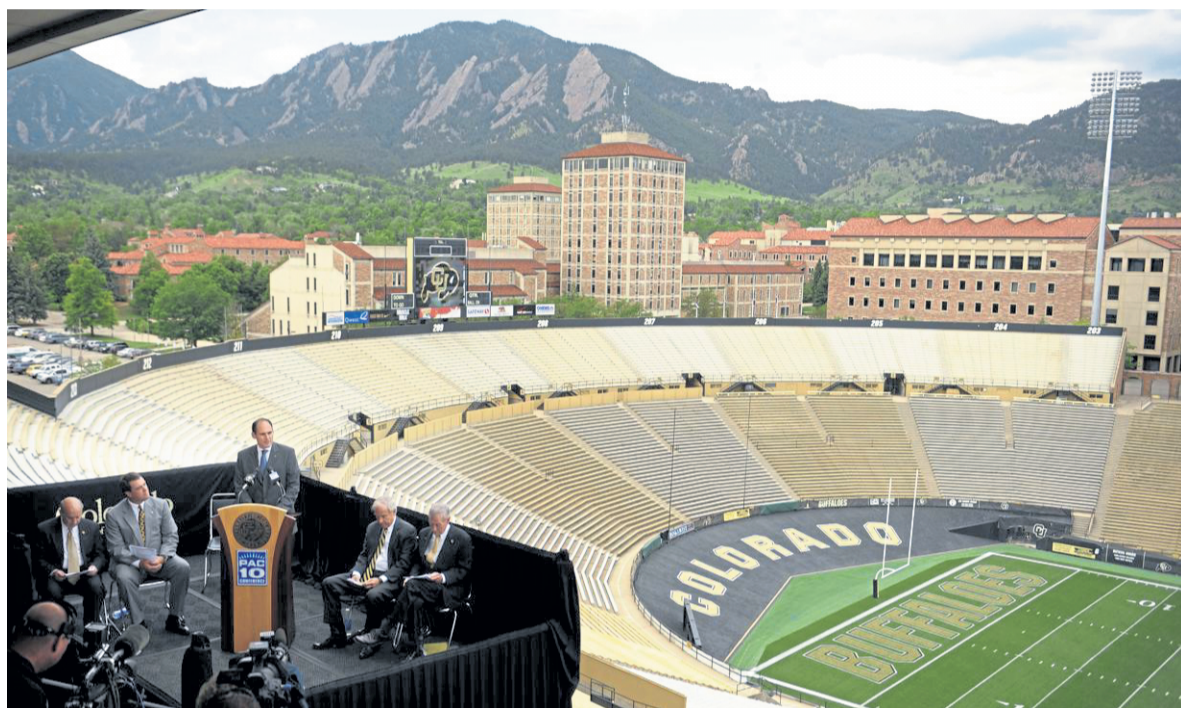
The #WeAreUnited letter from August felt like one. So did the conference’s announcement of a return to fall football on Sept. 24 — a declaration made, awkwardly, on the same day Boulder County announced a ban that kept CU from practicing for two weeks.

Back in 2010, the Buffs’ move to the Pac-12 promised stability. Prestige. A partnership with like-minded universities. And more money than the Big 12 — where the University of Texas pulled the strings — could ever dream of. But the reality has played out differently, with the Buffs an outlier in their new home, unseen by a large swath of the country and trailing their former Big 12 peers in terms of revenue and resources.

“We feel really entrenched in the Pac-12,” CU athletic director Rick George said. “We’ve been there. We feel good about the strides that we’re making. Have we won as many games and contests as we’d like? No. But we’re getting there. Our best days are ahead of us.”

From an academic and cultural standpoint, the Buffs are — and always were — a natural fit within the Pac-12. The past decade also has shown the new league to be less of a boon than it was made out to be 10 years ago. Especially for CU football, which has gone through two head coaches this calendar year and five since 2010.

Earlier this month, the Buffs em-



Cyrus McCrimmon / Denver Post

The University of Colorado made it official on June 11, 2010 that it joined the Pac-10. The school welcomed conference Commissioner Larry Scott, who spoke at Folsom Field in Boulder after CU accepted the invitation. A decade later, not all of the university’s high hopes have come true.

barked on their 10th football season as a member of the Pac-12. And what was universally praised as a good idea in June 2010 — fleeing the Big 12 Conference, the spiritual successor to the old Big Eight — has more than a few critics now.

“I wouldn’t say I like it. I think it remains to be seen,” said Fox Sports college football analyst Joel Klatt, a former CU quarterback. “And part of the Pac-12 (concern) is that your exposure is just so poor. They have executed their conference network so poorly that it makes it hard ... so it remains to be seen, for me. And I trust (the Buffs), and I want it to work for them. But the conference as a whole, I think, has some real struggles.”

And some grounds, even the higher ones, aren’t always secure. Especially as universities try to navigate the financial blows levied by the COVID-19 pandemic.

‘Challenges were not obvious’

Mike Bohn was a child of the Big Eight. He also could smell a brush fire from 40 yards out. And the Big 12 in spring 2010 kept giving off all the wrong smoke signals.

Missouri wasn’t hiding its disdain for the league. Nebraska was, but everyone behind closed doors knew Big Red had grown tired of the Longhorns calling the shots.

Bohn, CU’s athletic director in

2010, is a graduate of Boulder High School. And the University of Kansas. The old Big Eight felt like family. And that family was coming apart at the seams. This wasn’t about relations anymore.

It was about survival.

“I began to think about, ‘Well, we’re an outlier ourselves, and this is an opportunity for us to possibly look at something different,’” Bohn, now the athletic director at the University of Southern California, said. “Chancellor (Phil) DiStefano gave (senior associate athletic director) Tom McGrath the autonomy to begin exploring a potential move to the Pac-10. It really was spurred by Missouri. And, ironically enough, Mizou is now in the SEC.”

Hindsight is 20/20, except when it comes to 2010. You ask Bohn to ponder this: What if you knew then what we know now? That CU football, thanks to the Pac-12 Network, would be invisible to two-thirds of the country? Would you still feel, in 2020, that jumping from the Big 12 to the Pac-12 was the right call?

“I do,” Bohn replied. “I really believe, with all my heart, that with the number of (CU) alumni that live in the Pac-12 footprint and the number of potential students in the Pac-12 footprint vs. the Big 12 footprint, it’s dramatically different.”

The shot to CU’s coffers, pre-COVID, was dramatic. (Conversely,

not having fans at football games will cost the Buffs an estimated \$12.8 million this fall). From 2006 to 2018, the Buffs’ athletic department revenues, adjusted for inflation, went up 60%. Donations to athletics increased 90%. And the Buffs’ annual distribution from television rights deals and postseason events shot up a whopping 164%, according to the Knight Commission database.

But those figures also come with one big caveat: context. While the Buffs’ cash flow had climbed for 13 years, the jumps aren’t nearly as high as those seen by the Big 12 schools they used to compete against. Former rivals such as Iowa State and Kansas State received \$38.2 million to \$42 million in revenue from the Big 12 for the 2019 fiscal year, compared with the \$32.2 million the Pac-12 distributed to the Buffs, based on tax filings acquired by USA Today.

In the arms race for coaches and recruits, those financial gaps add up. So, too, do the gaps in TV eyeballs. The Buffs’ football program since August 2017 has been seen by a TV audience of more than 3 million people only three times — and two of those games were against Nebraska, according to SportsMedia-Watch.com.

The Pac-12’s football reputation,

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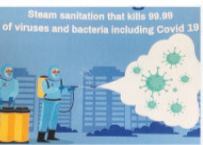


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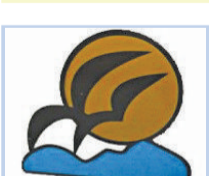


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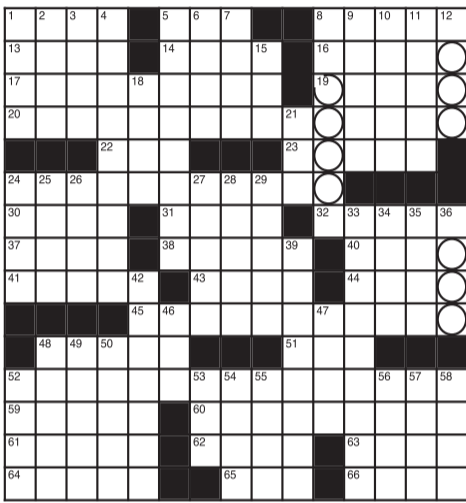
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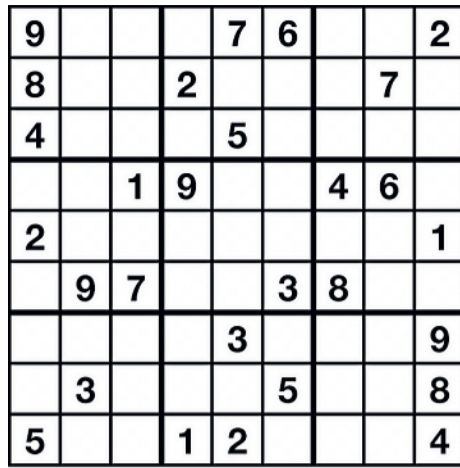
- ACROSS**
 1 Key ___: remote-start devices
 5 Not straight, in a way
 8 Haggard of country
 13 "Yeah, yeah, I get it"
 14 People
 16 Lock up the victory
 17 They have taxing jobs
 19 "Interstellar" co-writer/director Christopher
 20 Deficient in a certain enzyme
 22 Recede
 23 Court orders
 24 Brit's "Don't get upset, now"
 30 Org. fighting for refugees
 31 Columbus' home
 32 Some traffic monitors
 37 Word after greater or lesser
 38 Very many, informally
 40 Situation, metaphorically
 41 Passes (out)
 43 Take another tour
 44 "Enchanted" girl in a 2004 film
 45 Hand-to-hand battle
 48 Streaks
 51 Dwell on, maybe
 52 Lone survivor ... and a hint to the puzzle's circles?
 59 State with a panhandle
 60 Nearby
 61 Compare
 62 Georgetown cager
 63 ___ Malek, Best Actor winner for "Bohemian Rhapsody"
 64 Neptune's are about 165 times longer than ours
 65 Sandwich with a bit of crunch
 66 2010 Ringo Starr album
- DOWN**
 1 The creature, to Dr. Frankenstein
 2 Cajun food staple
 3 Pear variety
 4 Rock subgenre whose music is featured in "Tony Hawk's" games
 5 Blows up
 6 Actress Hathaway
 7 Himalayan with a thick coat
 8 Study on the side
 9 Food recall reason
 10 Subleased
 11 Yarn weavers
 12 It's south of Vesuvius
 15 Fig. on a return
 18 Pass
 21 Defunct airline
 24 Apt surname for a vet
 25 ___ chamber
 26 Panache
 27 "Star Trek" linguistics expert
 28 Kitchen gadget
 29 Just meh
 33 School primer
 34 Candy with a gooey center
- 35 Still, as a day
 36 Whack
 39 Collapsible headwear
 42 It's usually bad to be served with one
 46 Hush-hush org.
 47 Sci-fi classic set on an arid world
 48 "White Teeth" novelist Smith
 49 Japan's second-largest city
 50 Catch-all survey option
 52 ___ of the valley
 53 Medical research agcy.
 54 Stuck-up sort
 55 Texter's sign-off
 56 Caspian Sea land
 57 Film fish to find
 58 Way of walking



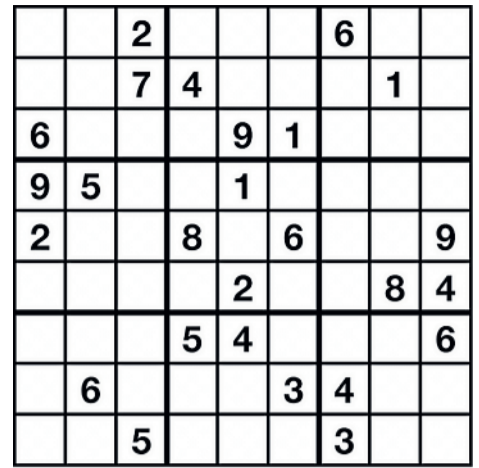
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Sudoku | Easy



Sudoku | Hard



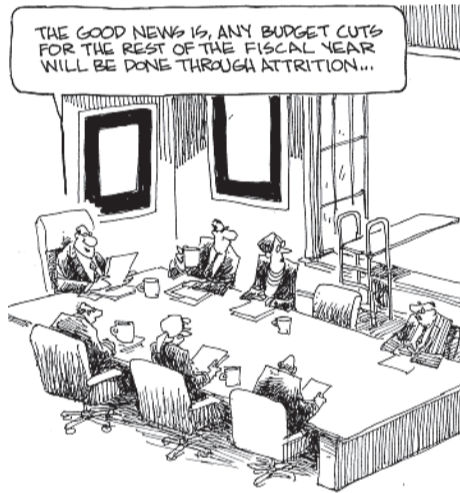
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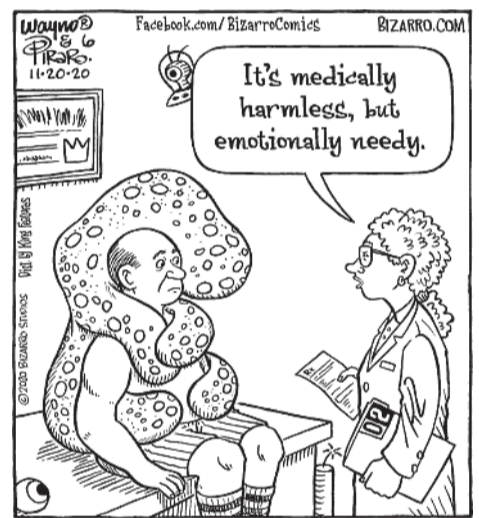
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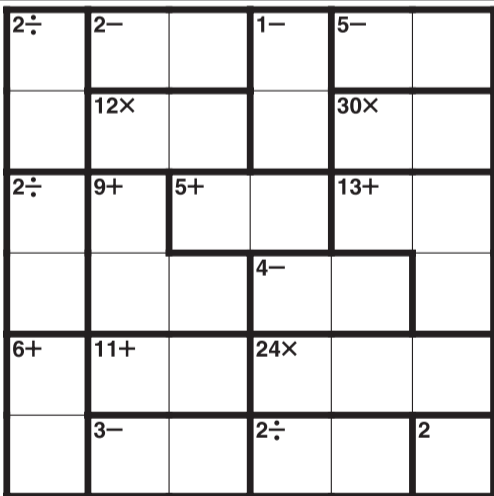
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8	6	5	2	9	4	1	7	3
4	7	2	3	5	1	9	8	6
3	5	1	9	8	2	4	6	7
2	4	8	5	6	7	3	9	1
6	9	7	4	1	3	8	2	5
1	2	4	7	3	8	6	5	9
7	3	9	6	4	5	2	1	8
5	8	6	1	2	9	7	3	4

Sudoku hard

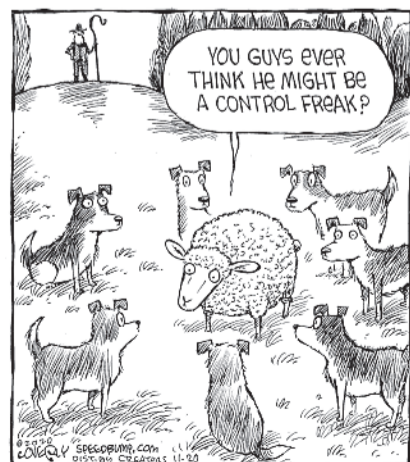
1	9	2	3	5	7	6	4	8
5	3	7	4	6	8	9	1	2
6	8	4	2	9	1	5	3	7
9	5	8	7	1	4	2	6	3
2	4	1	8	3	6	7	5	9
3	7	6	9	2	5	1	8	4
7	1	3	5	4	2	8	9	6
8	6	9	1	7	3	4	2	5
4	2	5	6	8	9	3	7	1

KenKen

2-	4	5	3	2	5	6	1
12x	2	3	4	1	5	6	
2-	6	1	2	3	4	5	
6+	3	2	6	5	1	4	
3-	1	6	5	4	2	3	
2-	5	4	1	6	3	2	

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



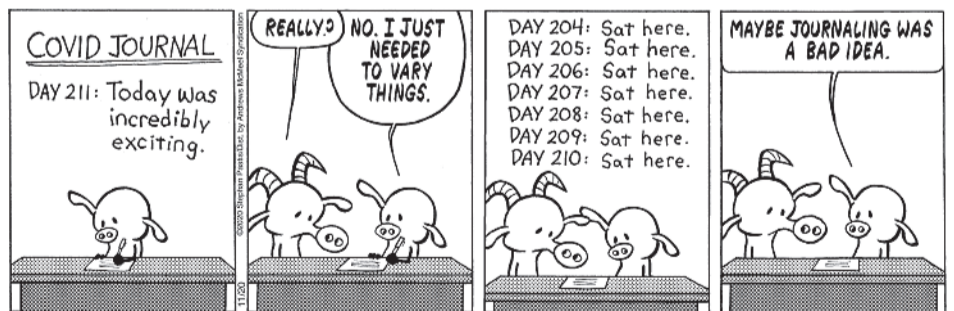
Wumo

By Wulff and Morganthaler



Pearls before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



Monty

By Jim Meddick



PAC-12 from page 20

meanwhile, has continued to slide. In the six years since the College Football Playoff was instituted, the “Conference of Champions” has placed its champion in the four-team bracket just twice.

‘Geographically, it makes a lot of sense’

Bohn now swears that CU’s best Pac-12 days are waiting on the other side of the pandemic, whenever that day comes.

That the change in leagues wasn’t just about safety. It was about identity. Getting the Buffs closer to where their fans — and those fans’ dollars — called home.

“Your out-of-state students that were attending Color-

do, 15% were from California,” Bohn said. “It was never about any disrespect to any member of the Big 12. It was more about that fundamental positioning and the profile of CU in the West.”

And the Buffs’ arrow has pointed west for decades. According to university data, about 42% of undergraduates who enrolled during the fall semester of 2019 hailed from another state. In 2020, one of every nine CU undergrads was a California native.

“Geographically, (the Pac-12) makes a lot of sense,” said George, who was hired as Bohn’s successor in 2013.

CU had nearly taken the plunge before, when the Pac-10 invited the school to be its 11th member back in 1994, but the switch was rejected by the CU Board of

Regents a few days before Christmas.

The Pac-12 held all the cards. CU and fellow newbie Utah bridged the Front Range to the coast. The league’s 12-year, \$3 billion television rights deal signed in 2012 was the largest in college sports at the time. And those television revenues were being distributed equally, which hadn’t been the case in the Big 12. On the academic and research side, the Buffs were going from a conference in which few institutions were also members of the prestigious Association of American Universities to a league in which nine of 12 schools, including CU, boasted membership to the AAU.

“We did get what we were promised,” Buffs’ chancellor Phil DiStefano told The Post.

The perception was that the Buffs had hit the trifecta: They’d found stability. They’d found financial security. They’d even found their tribe.

“My feeling is that public institutions should be linked to conferences that are in the region where they A) get their students; and B) their alumni live and work,” offered former Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe, who was running the league when some of its most critical members were running away from it. “And Colorado is maybe the only (Big 12 defector) that really did that. That Colorado left the Big 12 makes sense.”

It just hasn’t added up to as many dollars and cents as other major college football conferences have enjoyed. According to the USA Today

report on 2019 fiscal year tax data, the average league payout of \$32.2 million per Pac-12 school trailed the Big Ten (\$55.6 million), the home of ex-CU rival Nebraska; the SEC (\$45.3 million); and the Big 12 (\$38.2-\$42 million).

The Pac-12’s current broadcast deals — the ones that got lapped by the SEC, Big Ten, Big 12 and ACC — expire in 2024. Conference officials are stoked for another turn at the trough, another chance to set the bar. And, at CU, to set the Buffs up for generations to come.

“This next round of television negotiation is critical for everyone, including CU,” Bohn said. “And I think that a 10-year look at the decision is probably not as revealing as being able to (look) back at it over the next 25. And the next 50.”



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