








DATES TO REMEMBER


 Sept. 3
NO SCHOOL
 Labor Day


 Sept. 10
NO School for
 Grades K-6

 Sept. 11
LifeTouch Studios
 School Pictures

 Sept. 12
School Board
 Mtg. 7:30 p.m.
 in ITV Room

 Sept. 18
Early Dismissal
 1:00 p.m.

 Sept. 21
Early Dismissal
 1:00 p.m.

 Sept. 28
Early Dismissal
 1:00 p.m.



Do Engineers Communicate?



Alex Grosserode, Andrew Heithoff, and Brett Kinney participate in communication practice.

Do engineers really need to have good communication skills? On our first day, we discussed some of the characteristics a person should have to become a good engineer. These include problem solving skills, a strong math and science background, and yes, communication skills.

To practice, the students were placed in groups. One person was given a small structure built of Legos and had to describe to the other person how to build it without him or her seeing it. We then added a level of difficulty by adding a messenger between the person with the structure and the builder. The messenger wasn't allowed to see any of the Legos, only transfer instructions or questions.

By the end of the period they learned some tricks to help communicate their thoughts as well as a better understanding of the phrase "don't shoot the messenger", especially since they are the ones that got blamed for all the mistakes!

Check out our website: www.elgineagles.org

EPS Students Find YOLO a No Go

by Mrs. Shoe

As EPS students rushed into their English classroom on Wednesday, August 15, they did not receive the usual words of welcome from their instructor. Instead they were greeted with a message: "You're not special." They proceeded to hear these words nine different times as they viewed a commencement speech delivered by Wellesley High School English instructor, David McCullough, Jr.



Though the words seemed harsh initially, students listened eagerly for the deeper meaning underlying the speaker's words. McCullough's real message? "You're not special . . . because *everyone* is special." In the process, however, he urged the

2012 graduates to make their mark in the world. He cautioned them against societal pitfalls such as "YOLO" (you only live once), participating in activities only for the accolades or to impress others, taking the easy road, and making the mistake of thinking they are the center of the universe, which, by the way, is scientifically impossible.

In addition, he posed many challenges to his students.

- "Selflessness is the best thing you can do for yourself."

- "Recognize how little you know."

- "Read as a matter of principle--as a matter of self respect."

- "Don't wait for inspiration to find you."

- "Seek the strenuous life."

Following the speech, students were asked to reflect their ideas in a journal format. Their topic was "What will you do to be special this year?" As always, their responses were nothing less than admirable. Mrs. Shoe and her language arts students are looking forward to another invigorating year, as they plan to "Carpe the heck out of the diem" daily.



Noteworthy News

By Mrs. Deb Jones

The Elgin Public Schools music department is ready for another school year! The Community Birthday Calendar project was a success. This summer, the band students delivered 470 calendars to their customers. Thank you so much for continuing to support this project. If you have NOT received your calendar, please call Mrs. Jones at school (843-2455). We hope you will get a lot of use out of your calendar this year! Please read the article about the calendar glitches in this newsletter or on the website. It also explains a problem we encountered this year.

Band uniform checkout is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5th at 6:30 pm in the old gym. That is a change from what is listed on the birthday calendars. Please remember to bring your dry cleaning money to the checkout. There will be a short music boosters meeting immediately following checkout.

Marching band season is upon us. The Marching Eagles will be at the Lions Club Parade in Norfolk on September 22nd. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. The annual Harvest of Harmony Parade in Grand Island will be held Saturday, October 6th at 8:30 a.m. Our band will participate in these events. We would love to see someone from Elgin at these annual events cheering us on. So.....check out Norfolk and Grand Island for a great day of music, floats shopping and fun!!!

Midwest Music Center in Norfolk will be at the lunchroom for the Cadet Band Instrument Display on Monday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m. This is for anyone in fifth grade who is interested in joining band. Students will have the opportunity to "pay monthly to own" their instrument or perhaps find a good used instrument to buy. Be sure to come and get a great start on something that you can do for the rest of your life - and enjoy it!

The Music Boosters meetings are for any parent who has a student in band or choir. The meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the lunchroom. Anyone who has a student in beginning 5th grade band, cadet band, band or choir is welcome to the music booster meetings. We want your input! We would love to see at least one parent of each student come to the meetings. We hold a meeting once every other month, so it doesn't take a lot of time in your busy lives. Hope to see you then!

Musically,
Deb Jones

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- 2** Bring the caps in to school!
- 3** Your school will receive a check!



www.savefiveforschools.com

From the Desk of the Activities Director



The fall sports seasons have begun, both the Wolfpack Football and Volleyball teams have been practicing. The Football team has been practicing for two weeks and the volleyball team began practice on August thirteenth. Both teams have excellent numbers of students participating and are excited for the upcoming seasons.

On August 17 Elgin Public -Pope John hosted open practices and sponsored a grill out for the community. The wolfpack coaches and other volunteers helped work at the event. We had a great turn out of people supporting our co-op sports programs. On a personal note it was great to see so many people come out to support our teams.

Thanks to everyone that supports our schools programs and a big thanks to our donors that helped make the WOLFPACK Grill out a success.



SCHOOLMASTER PASS SYSTEM

Upon enrollment at Elgin Public School, each student is assigned an ID number and PASS PIN. This information is used to access your student's school progress on our Schoolmaster PASS system.

Go to our EPS website:

www.elgineagles.org

and click on Schoolmaster. Type in your student's ID and PIN. Now click on the view you wish to see.

If you have any questions or difficulties, please call or e-mail Paula Jensen in the main office. 843-2455

PUBLIC NOTICE

Residents of District 18, Elgin, are notified that School District 18, Elgin, NE participates in all required Special Education Services for all resident students, ages 0-21. If you know of any student not currently being serviced by an appropriate educational program or have questions concerning the Special Education Program, contact the Superintendent's office at Elgin Public School.

Elgin Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap. Further, the school complies with all Title IX and Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines as determined by Federal directives.



MAGAZINE SALES

Aug. 23 thru Sept. 11

Buy or renew your
magazine subscriptions now!

Each high school class will be selling magazines as a fundraiser for their class.

Please contact a high-school student or the school about ordering magazines!

Thank you for your support.

Readers today.....

Leaders tomorrow!

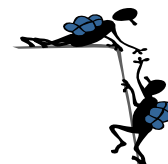


Don't Throw Away That Empty Printer Cartridge! Bring it to school!

Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured. Our school will receive \$2.00 for each cartridge turned in. Bring in your empty cartridges (use a Ziploc bag to avoid ink spills) to the office recycle bin.

Counselor's Corner

by Mrs. Barb Bode



Welcome to MyEducationQuest!

EducationQuest is excited to announce *MyEducationQuest* - a new portal on our website that will make it easier for you to access *ScholarshipQuest* and *Activities Resume*. *MyEducationQuest* will be available August 20.

Here are some changes you need to know:

You will need an email address to log in to *MyEducationQuest*. If you don't have one, check out free services such as [Gmail](#), [Yahoo](#) and [Hotmail](#).

If you had a *ScholarshipQuest* profile, you will need to create a new one.

Your current *Activities Resume* will be saved during this transition. After August 20, you can access your resume by logging into *MyEducationQuest*.

ScholarshipQuest being redesigned

EducationQuest is redesigning *ScholarshipQuest* to make it more user-friendly. The changes will allow you to:

- build your profile more quickly and get faster results
- receive emails about deadlines and new scholarships
- sort and manage your scholarship search results

To stay updated on *MyEducationQuest* and other free EducationQuest resources, [sign up](#) for our monthly Countdown2College emails, and...follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

Norfolk Area College Fair is September 23!

The Norfolk Area College Fair is Sunday, September 23 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Northeast Community College. The fair will feature representatives from colleges across the state and region – and will also include financial aid presentations.

Before you attend, visit [NebraskaCollegeFairs.org](#) to register for a barcode. Print the barcode and take it to the college fair. College reps will scan it to retrieve your information - and you won't have to complete their information cards.

For a list of participating colleges, see the College Fair article at [EducationQuest.org](#).

Other college fairs scheduled for this fall are:

Grand Island Area College Fair, Sunday, Sept. 16, 1:00-3:00 pm – Exhibition Building, Fonner Park

Scottsbluff/Gering Area College Fair, Sunday, October 7, 1:00-3:00 pm – Gering Civic Center

Tri-State Area College Fair, Sunday, October 14, 12:30-3:00 pm – Marina Center, South Sioux City

Lincoln Area College Fair, Sunday, October 21, 1:00-3:00 pm – Southeast Community College

Omaha Area College Fair, Sunday, October 28, 1:00-4:00 pm – University of Nebraska at Omaha

Meet with college reps at an Educational Planning Program

If you can't attend a College Fair, attend an [Educational Planning Program \(EPP\) at an area school](#). These "mini college fairs" feature state and regional colleges along with college planning information.

If you plan to attend an EPP, visit [NebraskaCollegeFairs.org](#) to register for a barcode. Print the barcode and take it to the event so that college reps can scan it.

Senior students and parents...start preparing for college admission!

Admission deadlines will start hitting later this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track:

- 1. Contact your top colleges NOW** and ask about application deadlines for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid.
- 2. Visit with college representatives** at College Fairs, Educational Planning Programs, during campus visits, and when they visit your high school.
- 3. Apply to your top 3-4 colleges before the deadline.** Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT/SAT score. They may also request a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay, and an interview.

September "To Do" List

Juniors and seniors ... complete these college planning tasks during September:

- __ Attend a College Fair or Educational Planning Program (EPP) in your area.
- __ Before you attend a College Fair or EPP, register for a barcode at [NebraskaCollegeFairs.org](#)
- __ Seniors, [register](#) by September 7 for the October 6 SAT.
- __ Seniors, [register](#) by September 21 for October 27 ACT.
- __ Juniors, ask your guidance counselor about PSAT registration deadlines and test dates.

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Kearney	Lincoln	Omaha
308-234-6310	402-475-5222	402-391-4033
800-666-3721	800-303-3745	888-357-6300

[EducationQuest.org](#)

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Elgin FFA Chapter Officers take a picture with the State FFA Officers during COLT 2012.

Elgin FFA Members Stay Busy Over the summer

By: Bailey Carpenter, Reporter

FFA members across the state usually stay busy over the summer; well, it is no different here in Elgin. FFA officers started their summer break immediately after school was dismissed for the summer by attending COLT conference in Aurora. The State FFA officers host a 3 daylong conference to better prepare chapter officers and their advisors for the new year. Officers for the Elgin FFA chapter that attended were: Devon Baum-President, Juliana Dunn (ill, but with us in spirit)-Vice President, Brett Kinney-Treasurer, Corin Pelster-Secretary, Bailey Carpenter – Reporter, Jon Meis – Sentinel, and Mallory Fangman – Parliamentarian.

During Vetch Days members helped decorate a float for the Parade. The theme was “Back to the Future” so they decided to make a float that focused on the year the Elgin FFA was chartered (1967) and that members have been judging weeds since that time! It was a good time for all the kids to get together and work on it and the float ended up 2nd place in its respected category. Also, during Vetch Days the FFA chapter ran the concession stand during the Bull-A-Rama and helped serve ice cream after the parade.

Some FFA members also were visited by Mrs. Schwartz in July to show her their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE’s). Members visited with her while she asked questions about their work or business. She was also able to see some of those members work with their projects during the Antelope County Fair in Neligh. Some of the members show cattle, chickens, rabbits, horses, sheep, and swine so she is able to take pictures of them preparing their animals for the show ring.

The 2012-2013 school year is going to be filled with many FFA contests, community service events, and other activities the chapter will do. This month the first action for the chapter is the annual hired hand auction which will be after the football game vs. CWC on September 7th. On September 9th they will be hosting the annual blue rock shoot in Neligh starting at 1pm. The week of September 17-21 is National Farm Safety week and we will also have range judging contests on September 14, 18, and 27th. So, be sure to check the school website and the local newspaper for contest results, further details on events to attend, and other updates about the Elgin FFA Chapter!



ERRORS IN BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

The music booster’s calendar project is almost at its completion for the school year. The calendars have arrived and were distributed to the band students for delivery to the customers in late July. If you have NOT

received your calendar, please let Mrs. Jones know by calling at school ([402-843-2455](tel:402-843-2455)) or my home ([402-843-2160](tel:402-843-2160)). I will get in touch with the student who sold the calendar to you and see that it gets delivered. Thank you to all of the patrons who supported our project once again this year.

However, a problem has arisen with the calendars. Some of our customer’s birthdates and anniversaries have been omitted this year. This error was NOT something Mrs. Jones did when entering information on the computer program the company provides, but a major glitch occurred when sending the dates via the calendar website program. I don’t know where all the dates went, but quite a few are missing including mine! I apologize for the missing dates and will be sure to get them corrected for next years’ calendars.

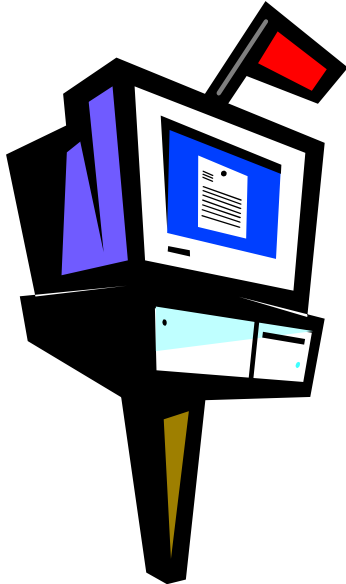
Also, please remember that some of the school activity dates will change during the year from what the calendar indicates. For instance, there is a conflict on August 28th with two activities overlapping. So we need to change the band uniform checkout to Wed. Sept. 5th at 6:30 pm with the music booster meeting to follow. Please make this change on your calendars.

In the meantime, if you or a family member is missing their birthdates or anniversary, please e-mail me jonesd@esu8.org or call me at the above phone numbers so that I can compile a list of dates. I will then post those dates on the Elgin school website and customers can add the dates to this year’s calendars. That seems to be the best solution at the time to correct the errors. Thank you very much for your understanding in this matter. Once again, thanks to all of you for purchasing a birthday/activities calendar.

Is there money in your lunch account?



New E-mail Addresses for Staff & Students



Last semester and throughout the summer Mrs. Selting has been working on establishing a domain so Elgin Public Schools could become a Google Apps for Education school. This has become an invaluable tool for staff and teachers have been utilizing it in their classrooms as well. With the use of Google docs, notes have been shared amongst teachers and students, journals have been completed, and students are able to work on homework without transferring files. Papers, presentations, and notes can be saved on "the cloud" and accessed wherever there is an Internet connection. This allows for a lot more collaboration between students, teachers and staff.

One of the other features of being a Google Apps for Education school is having our own domain for e-mail accounts. All teachers and students in 7-12 grade have uniform addresses that take the guess work out of what someone's e-mail address might be. We also have a shared contact list that makes it very easy to communicate with each other.



We are excited about all that being a Google Apps for Education school has to offer! Sharing calendars, creating web sites, and making forms are just a few things we are continuing to work on as we learn all of the ins and outs of Google Apps!

Staff E-mail Directory



NAME	Current e-mail	→	New e-mail
Anney Beckman	beckmana@esu8.org		anney.beckman@elgineagles.org
Deb Beckman	dbeckman@esu8.org		deb.beckman@elgineagles.org
Barb Bode	bbode@esu8.org		barb.bode@elgineagles.org
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Kim Zwingman	kshestak@esu8.org		kim.zwingman@elgineagles.org

Classroom Snippets

4th Grade

The fourth grade has eleven students this year with just two boys in the classroom! There is one new student, Lilly, and a new teacher, Mrs. Borer.



This year they have a Writing class to prepare for the state writing test. With that Writing class, the fourth graders have decided to do a class

newspaper! It's a chance to work on writing skills, be creative, and have fun! We also have a Grammar Jar in the room to help us speak correctly and, therefore, improve our writing abilities.

The fourth through sixth grade Math classes have started the year learning place value. The fourth grade is learning whole numbers through the thousands place, while sixth graders are learning whole numbers through the billions place and decimal numbers through the millionths place.

We are off to a great start and looking forward to a great school year!

Social Studies

8-12 Social Studies classes have begun. American History and World History classes are reviewing previous learning to set the stage for new learning. Once that is complete American History classes will discuss how America became a world power, while the World history class will find out the importance of the Renaissance and the Reformation. American Government class will be discussing various forms of government, as well as the



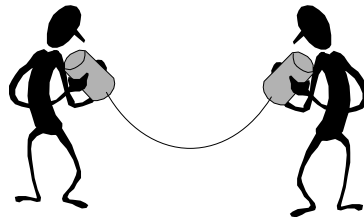
basic concepts of democracy. World Geography classes will begin by learning the five themes of geography and the tools used by geographers. We look forward to a great year!

5th Grade

The 5th grade students started the year off thinking of some goals that they wanted to achieve. As a class they have selected 3 goals. They are: No Saturday School, Pass all Tests, and have their homework done on time. They are looking forward to the year and hope that they can ACHIEVE all of their goals.

Junior High Language Arts

As class has now begun, the 7th & 8th graders are realizing they have a lot of work to do in Mrs. Thiele's Language Arts Class. Language Arts class includes Reading (fluency, vocabulary, & lots of comprehension), Writing (the process, genres, spelling & grammar), Speaking & Listening with Reciprocal Communication, and Multiple Literacies (Electronic Communication).



Many people don't realize that this class includes all of this learning; it isn't your basic reading and writing anymore. Therefore the students will be getting to work and working hard all year long as they improve their skills used to communicate the English Language. We have already taken our Spelling and Grammar pretest and today writing our first essay, better get back to corresponding with my students.

P.E.

What will be happening in Elementary Physical Education? The first two weeks of school the students will be participating in fitness challenges. The information will be used to assess our student's level of fitness compared to



the national average. I am excited to see if our students were physically active over the summer months.

2nd Grade

The Second Grade started the school year by talking about manners. They discussed manners in the lunch room, classroom, everywhere. They are making manners stars to put up in the room and remind them to use good manners all year. They're all looking forward to a great school year.

6th Grade

The year the 6th Grade Class is not only a class of 13, but also a TEAM consisting of 13 students with Mrs. Thorberg as our Coach. We have adopted as our motto the song, "**We Are All In This Together**" from a musical. Our goal is basically to be the best that we can be not only for ourselves but for our TEAM in each and every endeavor that comes our way. "**All for one, and one for all**"—That's us. Naming our team is next on the agenda so stay tuned.

PS If you hear music coming from our room, we are getting motivated to do great things by singing our song.



More Snippets



The 2012-2013 third grade class is off to a great start! We spent the first days of school learning class rules, making time capsules, and getting back into school day routines.

Art

The Art students will again be exploring still life drawing and shading. Along with practicing their drawing skills they will spend some time painting as well. They will be exploring printmaking, clay, pastels as well as pencil, ink and painting. Check out the Art section under Academics on the school webpage for updates and photos of their projects throughout the year. I enter student artwork in five different shows at the end of year and you can find the details under "Activities-Art" on the webpage. Mrs. Heithoff



Spanish

The Spanish 1 classes have begun the year by exploring the benefits of learning other languages. The Spanish 2 and 3 classes are beginning the semester with extensive reviews.

The Spanish Club will have its first meeting on Friday, August 24, 2012.



Kindergarten

The 2012-2013 kindergarten class has 15 awesome kids! They have learned to sit tall, and transition from their seats to other areas. Mrs. Thiele has tested them for Reading Mastery groups so we can start learning to read sometime next week.



7th Grade Reading

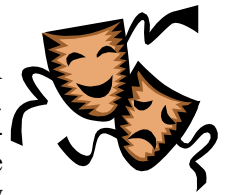
The 7th graders have a new class this year, Read to Achieve. This program helps them learn comprehension strategies that students can successfully apply to content-area classes. The program will help students read informational passages more effectively, take notes from textbooks and classroom lectures, study from notes and comprehend content-area text.

Webpage

Check out the school website www.elgineagles.org for all of the latest happenings at Elgin Public Schools.

One-Act

A crime scene. A suspect. A motive. The alluring suspense of these words can only mean one thing: it's One-Act season! This year's play "Law & Order: Fairy Tale Unit" will feature a large cast to accommodate the 30+ members on the team. This play is a parody of crime scene shows only with a variety of fairy tale creatures starring in the main roles. Coaches Sara Walsh and Amy Klein are excited for the season to begin!



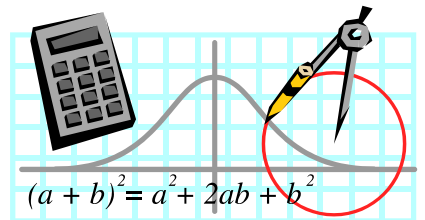
Yearbook

The 2012 yearbooks are in! Please pick yours up as soon as possible from the Art room. If you haven't ordered yours, I still have some available for \$30. Make checks payable to Elgin Public Schools. Mrs. Heithoff



Math

Algebra 2 is a review and a continuation of the solving and simplification of equations and algebraic expressions established in Algebra I. It allows the student to extend the knowledge of operations on real numbers, solving equations and inequalities, graphing techniques, solving systems of linear equations, applying functions, problem solving techniques, operations on rational expressions, utilizing radicals



and quadratic functions, and the application of exponential and logarithmic functions.

This is a very important class for Juniors since they will be taking the NeSA (state test) and possibly the ACT (college entrance test) this spring and a good portion of our class is preparing for these tests!!

F rom the desk of the Superintendent . . .

By Dan Polk
dpolk@esu8.org



Hello Elgin Public School Patrons!

One of the toughest things in a new high profile position in a community is that everyone knows who you are; but it takes you a while to figure out who everyone else is. People from the community have to learn a couple names to know my whole family, and we in turn need to learn hundreds. It may take us a while but we hope to get to know each and every one of you.

We have loved our first few months as Elgin has been very hospitable and welcoming. We thank you very much for that and have high hopes of becoming fixtures here for years to come. I left my last position, with contract years remaining, to find another that more closely fit my beliefs and commitment to ALL kids. I think I have achieved that and I have really enjoyed my brief time with the Elgin High School board, staff and students. I hope the feelings are mutual and continue through the years.

Please be advised that if you have any questions, issues or concerns regarding the operation of the Elgin Public Schools, or anything that may be going on, you can call and visit with Principal Patrick or myself at any time. You may not always agree with what you find out; but we are always open to visit and communicate with anyone who wishes to, and feel it is an important and positive thing to do. So once again thank you for such a warm welcome to your community and we look forward to what the future holds.



This year there are twelve first graders. We are reviewing school rules, counting to twelve and working on Reading Mastery.

Organizational Tip from the Resource Room

By Kim Zwingman

Since grades 7-12 have gone to having a school-wide study hall 7th period, here is a great organizational tip to help keep up with daily homework. As each student records his/her daily assignments in the planner, at the end of study hall check over your planner to see what has been completed and what needs to be done that evening for homework. Then simply take a highlighter and highlight only the assignments that need to be done at home that night.

This gives a great visual to the student and makes it easy for parents to see exactly what needs to be done on a nightly basis. Elementary students can also do this by going through their planner at the end of each day.



Welcome Back

The 2012-2013 school year has begun! As you can see from the picture I am excited to have students and teachers back in the building. I am looking forward to a great year.

There are a few highlights and changes for this year that I would like to make you aware of. First, one of our goals this year is to increase our Elgin Eagle school pride. The first step in the process was giving all students and staff black and orange Elgin Eagle bags with an inscription that reads, "Elgin Public Schools Where All Eagles Soar".



Guess who is excited to be back?

Another, new program we are initiating is the "Eagle Excellence Award". The intent of this program is to acknowledge students who go above and beyond the normal expectations. We want to make sure people know we see all the good things they are doing! Finally, one of the first assignments for the 7-12 students had when they returned was to create a class poster with the theme Eagle Pride. Those posters are now displayed in the high school building. Our hope is that the pride we create in our school will carry over to all areas of our students' lives.

.....
Don't forget - Parent-Teacher Conferences Sept. 18th

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 399
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