



LONG BEACH BREEZE

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Long Beach Breeze
P.O. Box 144, Long Beach, MS 39560

June 20, 2018 • Volume 2, Number 6 • “Good News You Can Use”

LBSD names Dr. Jay Smith Superintendent

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Dr. Jay Smith has been named the incoming superintendent for Long Beach School District (LBSD). In a special meeting called on June 7, 2018, the LBSD Board of Trustees unanimously voted to have Dr. Smith take back leadership of the district from which he retired in March. “We are excited that Dr. Smith agreed to suspend his retirement to come back and serve as a full-time superintendent,” said Board President Tim Pierce.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The board felt strongly that the upcoming school bond election, the uncertainty of state funding and state accountability measures make it imperative that they all agree in choosing the district’s superintendent. “Each member of the board believes it is essential to be unanimous in our selection of a district leader,” Pierce said. “We are excited to once again be working with Dr. Smith and the entire Long Beach School District family to provide a quality educational experience for all of our students.”

“I greatly appreciate the confidence the board has placed in me to once again lead the district,” Smith said. “I work at the will and pleasure of five outstanding

cont. on page 4

Gateway beautification to draw visitors

By Fred Weller

Last summer after elections, Mayor George Bass invited the Long Beach Aldermen to a three-day retreat to discuss and plan the agenda for the next four years. One topic was to promote business development by making the area on Highway 90 between Jeff Davis Avenue and Cleveland attractive to visitors travelling on Highway 90.

The plan is to construct a landscape with features bold enough to draw attention to Jeff Davis Avenue and lead to the downtown area shops and businesses. In the planned upgrades, Jeff Davis terminates at the beach with a focal point wooden lighthouse. Existing wood and sand retainment is



Artist rendition of Jeff Davis and Highway 90 intersection

Photo by Fred Weller

replaced by brick wall with elevated platform behind. A platform is accessible with ramps from both sides and is heavily landscaped.

The lighthouse boasts a nightly LED light show.

The Gateway Project includes

cont. on page 6

School bond issue before voters August 2

By Fred Weller

The last time Long Beach voted on funds for a new high school was April 2005. The effort failed by thirty votes, and then came Hurricane Katrina. Recovery from storm damages and loss of student population made funding a new high school a moot point until this year.

School officials say increasing maintenance costs and safety concerns with the current Long Beach High School’s aged infrastructure, which has forty-seven entrances and an increased student population, necessitate the existing multi-building campus be consolidated and modernized.

In March of this year, the Long Beach School District (LBSD)



An interior view of doors and hallway

Photo by Fred Weller

Board President Tim Pierce asked LBSD Superintendent Jay Smith to update the Board on school safety and options available to the LBSD for funding to build and update their facilities.

Smith reported he invited Jim Young, Jr. with the Young Law Group to dis-

cuss the options. The enumerated possibilities include a three-mile note, capital lease and bond issue. Young distributed materials, and

cont. on page 5

See page 10 for comments from the LBSD School Board President



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LBHS STAR students and teachers receive an award



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) are: Bayleigh Babin, Mac Dulaney, Kathy Rorbaugh and Dennis Shows.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach is honored to have two STAR students and teachers. The Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition, or STAR program, is an honor commissioned by the Mississippi Economic Council to encourage scholastic achievement among the state's high school students, recognizing them for academics and ACT achievement. It is also set to recognize the teaching profession. Students receiving this honor then choose a STAR teacher,

the person who has made the greatest contribution to scholastic achievement.

The first STAR student is Mac Dulaney. Dulaney earned a composite ACT score of 36 and was named one of the top 20 STAR students in the state of Mississippi, qualifying as an All-Star Scholastic Scholar. Dulaney selected Bayleigh Babin as his STAR teacher. The second STAR student is Kathy Rorbaugh. Rorbaugh earned an ACT score of 35. Rorbaugh selected Dennis Shows as the STAR teacher.

Mayor gives proclamation to Walters of Long Beach



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The City of Long Beach Mayor and Board of Aldermen recently gave Noah Walters of Long Beach a proclamation for MPS IV Morquio Syndrome Type A. Morquio syndrome is a rare metabolic condition in which the body is unable to break down long chains of sugar molecules called glycosaminoglycans. As a result, toxic levels of these sugars accumulate in cell structures called lysosomes, leading to the various signs and symptoms associated with the condition. Walters is the only person in the state of Mississippi with Morquio. Pictured is Long Beach Mayor Bass and Noah Walters.

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SMRC celebrates 40 years of service

By Fred Weller

The grounds of the South Mississippi Regional Center (SMRC), located at the intersection of West Railroad Street and Beatline, were transformed on Friday, June 1, from staid brick residences and offices into a festive gathering of several hundred people. There were activities for cake-walks, face painting, tattoos, volleyball, ice drinks, snoballs, popcorn barbeque and clowns with balloons. The residents, staff and guests participated, each to their ability, in the entertainment.

“Kenneth” is Kenneth Cullum, one of the Shriners clowns. They are “Roadrunners” that drive the residents to the Shriners’ hospital in Shreveport, LA when required. Cullum, a local Shriner, has made 17 trips this year to Shreveport, which is the first Shriners’ hospital built in 1922.

SMRC is one of five Department of Mental Health Regional Centers in Mississippi. SMRC serves the six southern counties whose mission is to support Mississippians with intellectual and developmental disabilities, using a person-centered approach, by promoting active partnerships enhancing each person’s quality of life and independence through choices of living, working and learning.



Photo by Fred Weller

Pictured (l to r) are: Shriners Kenneth Cullum (Popcorn the Clown) and Mark Hopkins. (2017 Potentate)

Established by Mississippi legislation in the mid-1970s, construction for the Long Beach facility began in 1978. By 1982, SMRC served 96 people in a residential program. Services expanded in the 1990s into community settings within a six-county service area where SMRC continued to support people in a residential program closer to a hometown community. The ID/DD Home and Community Based Waiver program is administered through SMRC and serves to support over 500 people who choose to live at home or within their community.

SMRC currently supports 104 people within the residen-

tial program in Long Beach and 100 people in community residential settings across their six-county service area.

The programs SMRC administers are licensed as Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities or Certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health as meeting the Operational Standards for services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Anniversary Festival allowed SMRC an opportunity to commemorate 40 years of services by giving back to the community partners and the people who have supported through the years.

Long Beach Live performs Friday, July 6

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Live hosts the monthly concert Friday, July 6, at the Harper McCaughan Town Green in downtown Long Beach on Jeff Davis Avenue.

First Friday will present Magnolia Bayou performing live music starting at 7 p.m. and the return of the Cruis’n crowd. The streets will be lined with classic cars and a cruise for the slow roll on Jeff Davis like the good old

days. Residents are encouraged to come out to relax and spend some time enjoying the crowds and the music. Local businesses will be open late and offering specials and deals while friends and family enjoy a night out.

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Summer is library time

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn

The display case this month features miniature homes of the characters in the book *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. The houses were donated to the library by Mrs. Alexandra Bosarge and crafted by former students and are displayed throughout the library based on this Pulitzer Prize winning book.

Summer Reading will be ending in July. There are a few programs left, and then the awards party will be held on July 12 at 2 p.m. Please don't forget to turn in your children's reading records on Saturday, July 7, by 1 p.m. That Saturday is also the last day the kids can receive trinkets earned for the books read over the summer.

There are new flowers growing

in front of the library. The Long Beach Garden Club is responsible for planting the flower bed in front of the children's wing as well as weeding in the brick garden area and replacing the sprinkler system. Parks and Recreation Director, Bob Paul assisted the Garden Club. The roses in front of the main wing were planted by student volunteers from Our Lady Academy of Bay St. Louis and St. Patrick Catholic High School of Biloxi. We thank you all for the lovely improvements!

The Long Beach Library Board will meet again in July on Tuesday, July 10, at 2 p.m. in the main wing.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Renee Rayburn is the Director of Youth and Technology Services for the Long Beach Public Library.

Spring Hill student Paige signs multiple scholarships



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Elijah Paige recently signed with Springhill College with over \$124,000 in academic and athletic scholarships. Paige leaves for Australia June 26 to compete in the DOWNUNDER Sports 30th year Anniversary Competition to represent Long Beach and Mississippi in the cross country event. He is the son of Jamie Paige, Office Manager of the City of Long Beach Water Department.

cont. from front page

July Library Events

LIBRARY CLOSED

Wednesday, July 4 | Independence Day

Parents' Coffee Break

Tuesday, July 3 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Preschool Story Time

Every Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Summer Reading Registration Programs

Tuesday, July 3 - Grades K - 2 | 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 5 & 12 - Grades 3 - 4 | 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 10 | 2:00 p.m.

LBSD names Dr. Jay Smith as new superintendent

board members who love this school district and who expect excellence. This is without question the only school board and school district for which I would so easily say yes to after such a

short retirement. I look forward to once again working with the great teachers and staff in Long Beach."

The board and Smith agreed to a four-year contract beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2022.

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- Wednesday Evening Worship / Bible Study 7 p.m.

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Sundays

- 9:00 AM Interdenominational Special Needs Sunday School at 208 South Burke Ave
- 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion on the first Sunday of the Month)

LBPCUSA@outlook.com
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VBS June 25-27
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. (Kid friendly meal for kids and parents)
Ages: 4 years - Completed 5th grade
Pre-registration: lbcoc.com

SUNDAY A.M. Bible Classes: 9:00 Worship: 10:00	SUNDAY P.M. Life Group: 5:30	TUESDAY P.M. Men's Group: 6:30 – Various Locations	WEDNESDAY P.M. Dinner Meal: 5:15 Praise Time: 6:00 Bible Classes: 6:30
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(All Sunday & Wednesday events are for all ages!)

200 N. Cleveland 228-239-9296



Fallen officers honored



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Police Department honored Sergeant Steve Morgan and Detective James Northcutt recently in a ceremony at Oakmont Place and Seal Avenue. May 6, 2018 marked the twentieth anniversary of the fallen officers. A current Long Beach police officer built new monuments to mark the twentieth anniversary. The Long Beach Police Department, represented this year by Nicholas Dean (left) and (right) Jeremy Bammert, holds a memorial each year on May 6 to honor their fallen

cont. from front page

August 2, voters decide high school bond issue

Pierce requested Young send additional information, to be reviewed and discussed in a work session the following week.

On April 3, Pierce recognized Taylor Guild (Eley Guild Hardy Architects) and Warren Greenlee (Young Law Group), who were in attendance. Board members are collecting data regarding updating district campuses for safety, with urgent emphasis on the high school campus. Board members requested that Guild and Greenlee or Young provide additional information in future meetings.

On April 10, permission was granted to authorize Guild to begin meeting with Long Beach High School administration regarding facility needs.

Since the LBSD does not have sufficient cash on hand to finance the construction, the State Bond Commission authorizes an election be held to allow residents to determine if a tax can be levied to pay for the bonds. Proponents of the bond financing hope to justify the debt financing to voters by explaining how the future of education and student safety necessitate the improvements. Tax rate changes for individual households will be established and published.

In a special meeting on April 26, the Board discussed the various funding mechanisms for a general obligation bond and setting the bond limits. The Board's tentative schedule calls for the Bond Election Commission to set a date for the election. The amount available to the LBSD, based on the Long Beach total assessed property value, will not allow funding of a completely new school. Voters can cast their vote on the referendum on August 2.

With the funds made available, district officials say a deconstruction/construction program will begin in a step-wise manner. Providing the bond is approved, the first phase is projected to begin in the summer of 2019 with the demolition of an existing building on the Long Beach High School campus, followed by the construction of a replacement. The buildings will be demolished and rebuilt one at a time rather than leveling the site. Officials say this will allow for the financing to be incremental. Eventually, the new buildings will form a courtyard surrounded by one and two-story classrooms, creating a secure campus with controlled access. The projected completion date is 2021.

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Long Beach celebrates the National Police Week



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The City of Long Beach recently proclaimed the week of May 13-19 as National Police Week. Pictured (l to r) are: Damian McRight, Sandy Dyess, Kenny Lassabe, Eli Zacharias, Brittney Jackson, Brad Gross, Mayor George Bass, William Seal, Bruce Carver, Kipper Thomas, Keith Ladner and Patrick Craig.

Come join us!

Help us celebrate our 10th Anniversary on Cleveland Ave

Sunday, July 15th, 2018 - A Day of Remembrance!
Location: First Baptist Church Long Beach
Service begins at 9:00 am
Sunday School at 10:30 am

Celebration from 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Location: Long Beach Town Green
Events: Hot dogs and Hamburgers, Live Music, Kid's games, splash pad, family fellowship

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Long Beach First Baptist Church
300 N. Cleveland Ave
Long Beach, MS 39560

cont. from front page

Gateway beautification to draw visitors to downtown

improvements to the four corners of Highway 90 and Jeff Davis Avenue, a gazebo and platform area due south of Jeff Davis, and a boardwalk extending East from the gazebo. The conceptual work of Watters Architecture determines which areas of work will be developed and bid by contractors.

A source of funding for \$800,000

- \$1,200,000 was obtained from a designated grant, partly used for harbor improvement and finishing the continuation of the Bay to Bay Walkway. The last unfinished section of the Walkway is at the Long Beach Harbor. Watters Architecture, a local firm, was chosen to develop a plan. Ground breaking is expected in the fall of 2018.

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Long Beach Church of Christ

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Ages: 4 years - Completed 5th grade

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Dr. Michael C. Voigts
Associate Professor of Spiritual Formation

Dr. Voigts is the Associate Professor of Spiritual Formation at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. Before joining the faculty at Asbury he served 24 years in pastoral ministry. He received a B.A. from Baylor University; an M.Div. and D.Min. from Asbury Theological Seminary; and a Ph.D. from Brunel University through London School of Theology.

In addition to several articles, he is the author of Letters of Ascent: Spiritual Direction in the Letters of Bernard of Clairvaux (Wipf & Stock, 2013).

Dr. Voigts is married to Sheryl (Bonney) Voigts. They have two grown children.

Jeepin the Coast

By Fred Weller

The giraffe and the baboon were overlooking the crowd of people. The seven-slot grills, round headlights, open tops and sides with oversized tires came with tanned and wind-blown drivers. The purpose was to meet new people, compare vehicles, have a good time and raise money to fight cancer. The flags, air-filled creatures on rooftops and lack of enclosed air conditioning were signs the jeeps were ready to do the slow roll parade. They came from the West and headed East after parading through Long Beach with next year in mind.



All photos by Fred Weller

BEAU VIE FITNESS

Thank You

With the completion of our 5-year lease in July, we have decided not to renew, and retire from the fitness industry. Beau Vie Fitness (Long Beach) will officially close on Friday July 13th at 5pm.

We want to thank all those that have supported us over these last 5 years, and we are honored to have served you. We have made endless friends, helped countless people, and made a healthy impact in so many peoples lives. We were fortunate to never have taken a loss since the day we opened, and that is rare in business today. The credit goes to the people of Long Beach that supported us since day one.

We want to recognize those that made all this possible — Managers Cherie LeBlanc, Ashliegh Wells, Patrice Armstrong, Kris Dibble, Kelly Brodhagen & Justin Herring, the many great trainers, and all those that bartered keeping our center one of the cleanest on the Coast. Father Louis Lohan of St Thomas Church for his continued prayers and Mayor Billy Skellie for constantly checking in & offering us the City's full support. You are all the sole reason for our 5-year success. We thank you.

After we close, we ask that our members give Energy Club & Crunch in Long Beach the opportunity for your business. Energy Club is offering a free month for our members. Long Beach needs local tax revenue, so please keep your money in 39560. Both are excellent fitness centers and you can't go wrong.

Our vision was to open a clean, classy, healthy, adult-minded business that would be an asset to our beautiful city — something the City would be proud of. With your help, I believe we accomplished that goal & made a positive difference in many peoples lives. We can walk away with our head up high. We will never forget your endless support, and we are very grateful.

Sincerely, Glynn and Iana Illich

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Ride and Dine set for first Thursday of July

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Ride and Dine, a community bike ride followed by dinner, was established several years ago to promote cycling, introduce the fun of group rides and to help make the citizens of Long Beach more bike-aware and the city more bike-friendly. The monthly pedal pushing takes place on the first Thursday of each month until October. The bike-riding get-together is free and open to everyone of all ages.



Street, with a ride start time of 6 p.m. The ride will be a five-mile loop through Long Beach and will end with an optional stop at a local restaurant for the group to enjoy dinner together.

All ride participants must bring their own bicycles and wear a bike helmet to participate in the ride. Additional protective gear, head-lights and tail lights, and brightly-colored clothing are suggested for safety. Each rider is responsible

for his or her own safety and the safety of anyone in their charge. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Ride and Dine will begin at the Harper McCaughan Town Green, Jeff Davis and Third

Seniors awarded with a scholarship by Chamber



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) are: Angela Bowell, Chair of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce; Anna Dedeaux; Bryce Warden; Carter Lishen; Sara Gibson, Dr. Sara Cobb's granddaughter and Ms. Mary Leven.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Three Long Beach seniors were recently awarded scholarships from the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce. Anna Dedeaux

received the Long Beach Chamber's Joe Holloway Scholarship; Bryce Warden received the Mary and Gene Levens Scholarship and Carter Lishen received the Dr. Sara Penny Cobb Scholarship.

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Open gym now available



Special to Long Beach Breeze

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The Long Beach Recreation Center will host an "Open Gym" daily through July 20 for children ages kindergarten through eighth grade. The cost is \$15 per day or \$50 per week. Activities will include battle ball, basketball, volleyball, hockey, handball, baseball and softball, football, cabbage ball, soccer, capture the

flag, steal the bacon, dodgeball, survivor, Just Dance, and more. Lunch and movie time are provided daily.

The Long Beach Recreation Center is located on 20253 Daughtery Road. For more information, contact Amanada Yarbrough at amaryarbrough@gmail.com.

Advance registration is not required.

High school updates needed

By Guest Columnist Tim Pierce,
School Board President,
Long Beach School District

On August 2, 2018, the citizens of Long Beach School District will vote on a school district bond referendum. If passed, this referendum will allow for the construction, renovation and reconfiguration of Long Beach High School creating an overall more secure campus.

The original structure was built in the 1950s, and more than half of the buildings on the campus were built prior to 1980. Additions and renovations throughout the years have left us with a current configuration of buildings that are nearly impossible to secure.

The age of the current buildings makes adding new technology difficult, and the electrical infrastructure is at capacity. The current facilities are also structurally inefficient to heat and cool.

The new proposed campus will have many features, including a new competition gymnasium in addition to the existing one, providing for more practice and activity space. It will also include a new auditorium, renovated cafeteria and fine arts areas, additional classrooms and science labs and increased technology capacity.

Most importantly, the new facility, when completed, will provide for a safer gated campus, taking the number of entrances and exits from 49 to four. During the school day, this number is reduced to one secured entrance.

Community meetings will be held in the coming weeks to provide residents with places and times where they will be able to gather information, see proposed plans, ask questions and provide feedback. Look for these meeting dates and times to be advertised in the near future.

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If you've ever wanted to eliminate worry because you don't have a program in place to protect your estate and your family, without a slew of untimely legal and tax problems, then this will be the most important appointment that you ever make.

What His Clients Say!

"Patrick Kirby did an exceptional job translating my needs, wishes, and plans into a comprehensive estate plan. More importantly, he did so by listening to me with care and a very real interest in getting it all right for me. He was patient in his explanations and exacting in his drafting."
- Stephen B. Hand

"I would simply like to say a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Patrick Kirby. Like others, we were leery of having his assistance, however, he delivered on his promises. I recommend him for anyone who is thinking of making these kinds of preparations for their families."
- Thomas J. Hill

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First Friday in June

By Fred Weller

It was another of the First Fridays, and the scene was familiar. The cruisers were drawing attention with the rumble of engines and bright paint jobs. Neighbors greeted neighbors and the occasional newcomer. Small children were mimicking the dance steps of the adults. The live music attracted the active of all ages with a sense of rhythm.



All photos by Fred Weller

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State grant enhances training for educators

Special to Long Beach Breeze

A \$956,000 grant from the Mississippi Department of Human Services will help support training programs and related services provided by the Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center (MECIC) housed at The University of Southern Mississippi's Institute for Disability Studies.

MECIC is a statewide program that promotes early childhood inclusion through quality training and technical assistance to educators who teach infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, while serving young children with disabilities in their child-

care centers and preschool programs.

"This is the second year the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) has supported the specific goals and efforts of MECIC," said Center Director Dr. Alicia Westbrook. "IDS values their continued support and is thankful that the agency recognizes the need for supporting children with disabilities and their families."

The center provides a family navigation system to support early identification of children with developmental concerns,

including children who are at-risk for cognitive delays and autism spectrum disorder. The family navigation system conducts developmental screenings throughout the state and provide autism specific screenings for concerned families.

Family navigators provide the support for families from a failed screen to a diagnosis by making referrals for diagnostic evaluations, intervention services, and providing resources specific to child and family needs

Dr. Rebekah Young, IDS interim director, notes that as a Uni-

versity Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, IDS is committed to promoting community inclusion for all individuals with disabilities.

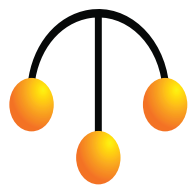
"All of our work focuses on creating and enhancing opportunities for community inclusion regardless of age or background. We are excited to have this opportunity to partner with MDHS to continue our work in early childhood inclusion by increasing quality inclusive learning environments for very young children with disabilities and providing support for their families," said Young.



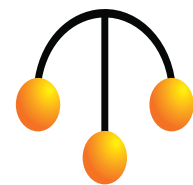

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