

JOHNSON LAKE NEWS

SPRING 2026
BY JOHNSON LAKE
DEVELOPMENT, INC.



2026 JLDI MONTHLY MEETINGS

Leaseholders are encouraged to attend Monthly meetings, held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. April through October at 7:00 pm at the EMS Building

JLDI YARD WASTE DUMP HOURS OF OPERATION:

April 1-September 30: 7am to 8pm
October 1-March 31: 8am to 6pm
For more information: www.jldi.org
or Call Doug Thompson 402-462-6206

2026 EVENTS AT THE LAKE

MAY 23 & 24, 2026

MEMORIAL WEEKEND-GARAGE SALES!!
COME OUT TO THE GARAGE/YARD SALES
AT JOHNSON LAKE!

SATURDAY, MAY 23

FARMERS MARKET
AT NAUTICAL ROSE PARKING LOT

JOHNSON LAKE EMS 5K WALK/RUN

10:00am Walk with 9:00am Pre-Registration

11:00am - Free Will Donation Lunch for Public

- AirCare Flight Helicopter-(weather permitting)
- Bouncy House and Snow Cones

JUNE

FARMERS MARKET

AT NAUTICAL ROSE PARKING LOT
EVERY SATURDAY MORNING UNTIL NOON

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

GOLF CART PARADE - 11AM

SIGNUP: 10:30AM AT COTTONWOOD REALTY DR 14A

**JOHNSON LAKE CHAMBER MEMBER
CONCERT/DANCE - 7PM "The Kyle Saylor Band"**
AT COTTONWOOD REALTY DR 14A

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

JOHNSON LAKE CARP TOURNAMENT
7:00PM REGISTRATION AT NAUTICAL ROSE

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

JOHNSON LAKE CARP TOURNAMENT
8:00AM-5PM AT NAUTICAL ROSE

JULY

-FARMERS MARKET
AT NAUTICAL ROSE PARKING LOT-
Every Saturday Morning until noon

FRIDAY, JULY 3 -

"LIGHT UP THE LAKE" FIREWORKS SHOW
STARTS AT 10:00PM AT SOUTH END OF THE LAKE
(RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 5)

BOAT PARADE

REGISTRATION AT NAUTICAL ROSE BOAT DOCK
9:00AM- BEGINS AT 10:00AM

SATURDAY, JULY 18

ANNUAL GAZEBO BIKE SHOP

AT JOHNSON LAKE TRAILS
8:00AM REGISTRATION AT CRAZY MARV'S -
2 JOHNSON LAKE DR 18

AUGUST 31 THRU SEPTEMBER 5

BHA REALTY- "CHALK THE WALK"
EVENT BY JACEY EDSON & PATTI JOHNSON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

JOHNSON LAKE SRA HALLOWEEN EVENT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

LAKESIDE HOLIDAY ARTISAN MARKET
10AM-3PM AT THE RESTLESS WATERS EVENT CENTER -
2 JOHNSON LAKE DR 18
Contact Kathy Larson at 402-631-8496

2026 CHAPEL OF THE LAKE SCHEDULE

DATE	MINISTERS, Layperson and Special Music
May 24	REV. ROBERT KUEFNER LEXINGTON Dan Thayer <i>Levi Lawson</i>
MAY 31	REV. DAN ZITTERKOPF LEXINGTON Monty Vonasek <i>Masego Brown</i>
June 8	REV. SYLVIA KARLSSON BERTRAND Rick Bergman <i>Courtney Litzenberger</i>
June 14	REV. JAMES GARFIELD CENTRAL CITY Monty Vonasek <i>Luke, Ben, Robin & James Morton</i>
June 21	REV. EDDIE MARIEL LEXINGTON Nancy Harms <i>Paul Homan</i>
June 28	REV. REX ADAMS LEXINGTON Nancy Harms <i>"Cabriolet"</i>
July 5	REV. DAVID DICKINSON LEXINGTON Monty Vonasek <i>Betty Erickson</i>
July 12	REV. JEAN CLAYTON HOLDREGE Pam Sandy <i>Holly Rickertsen</i>
July 19	REV. DOUG CLINE SHELTON Dave Stoddard <i>Deb & Roger Wells</i>
July 26	REV. JUSTIN BANGERT GR. ISLAND Rick Bergman <i>1733 Kearney Area Barbershoppers</i>
August 2	BISHOP WILLIAM J. DENDINGER GR. ISLAND Nancy Harms <i>"Habitat 4 Harmony"</i>
August 9	REV. DR. KIRWIN STEWART HOLDREGE Pam Sandy <i>Jeannie Homan</i>
August 16	REV. CHAD ANDERSON KEARNEY Dave Stoddard <i>Judy LaBrune</i>
August 23	REV. DAVID LERAAEN LEXINGTON Rick Bergman <i>Anthony Smith</i>
August 30	REV. SARAH HERMAN ELWOOD Pam Sandy <i>"Chordhuskers"</i>
September 6	REV. DR. LUKE BIGGS GR. ISLAND Dan Thayer <i>Jacque Henderson</i>

CHAPEL OF LAKE 63RD SEASON BEGINS SOON

The bell tower will ring May 24th on Memorial weekend at 7:45 A.M. with the message to come and worship for another season! The 8:30 A.M. bell tells that the worship service is ready to begin! Last season our attendance was 1469 bringing the total to 147,070 who have worshipped at the Chapel.

Several new clergies will join us this season. Long-time individuals and groups as well as several new groups will be sharing their musical talents during special music, a favorite part of the services. The committee asks you to be understanding if the schedule in the bulletin has changed from what is printed or announced.

We will enjoy the chapel hymns accompanied by Jeannie Homan, Connie Jackson, and Rhonda Hammond as accompanists again this season. The music selections provided before services are greatly appreciated. Sunday, July 5 (after the July 4th holiday), Betty Erickson (former Chapel accompanist for years) will play and will provide special music.

Over the years, the Chapel has required updates because of its age or the weather. Last summer the hail wiped out the roof on our storage shed but it got replaced before weather turned cooler. The Chapel roof was totaled again which has been replaced and hail damaged some siding yet to be fixed. Bob Cummins spent several days working on new benches for the deck, which needed to be replaced. Bob could be found working on the deck with "Gypsy," his family pet watching to see if he was doing it correctly. Thanks, Bob, for your bench project! Check out the new benches or even sit outside for a service.

In late November, Wally and Kenny Fox put up the holiday lights with the large lighted Christmas wreath adorning the bell tower and the nativity scene just south of the building. Thanks, guys, for your volunteer work, even if it was getting cold. The Chapel committee hopes all enjoyed the colorful display. Memorials, various donations, and the Johnson Lake Chamber donations are used for this project.

Sunday worship services begin Memorial weekend and end Labor Day weekend. However, the Chapel is open mid-May through mid-September for weddings, funerals, and numerous lake related meetings. Contact Chapel Chairperson Judy Wixson at 308-785-2287 for further information or any volunteer committee member: Dick Bullis, Bob and Leona Cummins, Rhea and Tom Musil, or Wally and Kenny Fox. This special ministry would not be possible without all those who give of their gifts, time, talents, and offerings. A special THANKS goes to anyone who has helped usher, all lay persons, accompanists, and those providing special music each Sunday. Hope to see you May 24th for worship and renewing or meeting new friends!

Let us get you to the lake!



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~ EVENT HALL



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JOHNSON LAKE YARD WASTE SITE

The JLDI grass and leaf waste site is located south of Johnson Lake, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of the intersection of Highway 283 and Road 748 on the north side of the road, west of the E65 canal. JLDI manages this site as a service to the residents of leased lots from CNPPD. An electronic gate system with cameras, provides the ability to monitor the site and provide information necessary to identify individuals who commit violations. Please be respectful of this benefit and adhere to the allowed items: grass and leaves-not in bags, garden plants-not in pots, and tree limbs less than 10" in diameter. NO EXCEPTIONS! No other items may be dumped, and abuse of the site will result in loss of privileges.

The dump site does not allow under any circumstances, Commercial Lawn Services, Commercial Tree Services, or General Contractors the use of the dump site regardless of where the waste has come from. They must provide their own means for the disposal of their waste.

Persons who dump non-permitted items will be fined \$250.00 on the first offense, and their privilege to use the dump will be revoked upon second offense.

Annual permits may be purchased by residents of deeded lake properties, including Lakeview Acres, Merriweather, Plum Creek Canyon, and Pelican Bay, for \$50.00 per year. Deeded lot payments must be paid by May 1 of each year, or current cards will be deactivated at that time. Please contact Doug Thompson 402-461-6206 to arrange to make your payment.

A replacement card is available for a \$20.00 fee, regardless of reason. The previously issued card will be deactivated upon issuance of new card.

Nebraska law stipulates you must cover your load on your trip to dispose of the waste to prevent the contents from blowing out of your vehicle or trailer.

We encourage everyone to mulch grass whenever possible to reduce the amount of grass accumulation at the dump site. Also, if you can use firewood, you are welcome to cut and remove wood from the branch pile at the dump site.

Thank you to everyone for putting forward extra effort in sorting your loads, dumping in the designated piles, and making the site the success it has been.

For more information, go to www.jldi.org or call Doug Thompson 402-461-6206

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LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND FROM MEMORIAL DAY TO LABOR DAY

Stay updated on our events page: bigjohnsonbrewery.com/events

74896 Johnson Lake DR 25A

THANK YOU, JOHNSON LAKE

*...for trusting us with your homes.
...for your friendships.
...for raising families here.
...for letting us be part of your milestones.*



We're proud to live here, work here, and give back to the community that supports us.

Here's to more sunsets, boat rides, and memories together.

With love & gratitude,
Jacey & Patti



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JOHNSON LAKE EMS OPEN HOUSE

The Johnson Lake EMS will host their Annual Open House at their building on Saturday, May 23 of Memorial weekend. 5K Run/Walk is at 10am with pre-registration at 9:30 am. Lunch served at 11am with free-will donation. We will have a bouncy house and snow cone machine. We plan to have the AirCare Flight for Life fly in upon availability.

The Johnson Lake EMS reminds all Johnson Lake homes to have their lot number prominently displayed where it is visible day or night, to assure quick response, and to easily find the location.

AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) have been distributed to local Johnson Lake restaurants by the Johnson Lake EMS. These portable life-saving medical devices are used to deliver electric shocks to restore normal heart rhythm in people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest.



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LAKE FUNDS DONOR RECOGNITION

(donations received from May 1, 2025 through March 15, 2026)

To all of our donors - *thank you for your generosity* and support of the lake community.
You play a vital role in the continued success, growth and development of these programs.

JOHNSON LAKE FIREWORKS FUND

Dean & Gaylene Aden	Jerry & Tami Hellman	Richard & Kathleen Pilakowski	Golden Grain Consulting Co.
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Donations to any of these Johnson Lake funds may be directed to:

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JOHNSON LAKE PLAYGROUND

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Evelyn Bartruff	Joe & Ketti Heim	John Muir	Linden's Plumbing
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Pickleball Courts Coming to Johnson Lake Playground Fall 2026

Big news for Johnson Lake residents and visitors alike! New pickleball courts are coming to the Johnson Lake Playground, with construction planned for October 2026. This exciting addition will give lake neighbors, families, and guests a fun new way to stay active and connect, whether you're a seasoned pickleball pro or just picking up a paddle for the first time.

Pickleball continues to be one of the fastest-growing sports in the country, and these courts will add even more energy to the playground area - creating a space for friendly competition, casual play, and community gatherings. The courts will be located just west of the existing playground and picnic shelter, and are designed to be enjoyed by all ages and skill levels, making them a perfect fit for the laid-back, come-as-you-are Johnson Lake vibe.

Donations are currently being accepted to help bring this project to life. Contributions of any size are appreciated and will go directly toward the development of the pickleball courts.

Donations may be mailed to:

JL Playground Fund
c/o Lexington Community Foundation
PO Box 422
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JOHNSON LAKE SID#1 UPDATE

by Larry Ossenkop, Volunteer Clerk

Year 2025 marks the 20th year since the SID was officially authorized by the District Court for Johnson Lake. All initial project connection assessments have now been paid. For the 2nd year, the annual user fee is now included and paid as part of the real estate property tax levy which was again lowered to 00.095728 Cents per \$100 valuation. Tax Exempt and commercial users will still be billed on May 1st with a June 1st delinquent date. The election for the Board of Trustees will be held this September, with one vote per lot within the District. A trustee must be an owner of property or the designated representative of an owner. More details will be sent this summer further explaining this.

The following reminders are briefly repeated for everyone's benefit:

* Be very cautious of what you flush or throw into your sewer service to prevent plugging of

one of our 11 pump stations. The SID is currently upgrading the monitoring of the lift station wet well depth tracking system.

* Home/cabin owners are responsible for maintaining their service connection to the sewer main and access to all of the installed clean outs.

* It is strongly recommended that stools are flushed several times when closing down your place and that all "P" traps are filled with RV anti-freeze. Additional flushing is recommended if the property is serviced with a grinder pump.

* If you are building any type of construction with sewage generating facilities (i.e. bath, shower, sinks, floor drains) a SID permit application is required in advance. Please contact SID Operator, Travis Stithem at 308-746-3169 to obtain the application or discuss if needed. Permits are also needed from the County and Central if on leased land.



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What's New On the Trail This Year

The Trail Committee is happy to share a few highlights and additions from 2025. Thanks to the generosity and creativity of our lake community, the trail continues to be a welcoming place to walk, learn, and enjoy nature.

One special new addition can be found in the North Point garden area. Steve and Bonnie Atwood donated a beautiful bronze statue and bench called "Secret Garden." The piece shows a child reading a book while sitting on an adult's lap and has already become a favorite stopping spot. If you haven't seen it yet, it's definitely worth a visit.

Kids (and grown-ups, too!) enjoyed several Story Walks that were set up at different locations during holiday weekends. These displays feature enlarged, laminated pages from children's books, so you can read a story as you walk along the trail. This year, permanent Story Walk pedestals will be added along the trail section through the Game and Parks area on the east side of the lake. These will allow stories to be changed from time to time, giving families something new to enjoy throughout the year.

Thanks to memorial donations and gifts made for trail improvements, eleven trees were planted last year, with more trees planned for the Sandy Beach area this year. Two new memorial benches and six commemorative bricks were also added along the trail, helping make it an even more meaningful and inviting place.



Arlin Edeal & Ron Fowler

Another highlight is the pollinator garden on the west side of the lake, designed and planted by lake resident Mary Bergstrom. This unique garden is shaped like the state of Nebraska and features all native plants, letting visitors "walk through the state" while learning about pollinators. The garden has received some exciting attention, with features in the Lexington Clipper-Herald, the Kearney Hub, the Omaha World-Herald, and even The New York Times! An informational sign about pollinators has also been installed near the garden's panhandle.

If you're interested in getting involved with the trail or would like to make a donation, please reach out to a Trail Committee member: **Bruce:** 308-785-2312 **Arlin:** 308-325-1032 **Ron:** 308-746-2412

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*See you at
the lake!*

JOHNSON LAKE CARP REMOVAL

Johnson lake carp removal has not happened in two years due to the lack of funding. The last removal was very successful in removing 51,000 pounds of carp. That is a lot of carp in anyone's book, but only a drop in the bucket for what needs to be removed. Johnson Lake needs 400 to 500 thousand pounds of carp removed to become a stellar fishing hot spot for Walleye, Crappie, Smallmouth Bass and Catfish.

Carp removal of this magnitude needs to happen in the winter when carp are concentrated in huge schools in the deep areas of Johnson Lake. A project of this type would cost much more due to the special equipment needed. Cost will be approximately \$70,000. The best part about this type of project is it would not need to be redone on an annual basis. We would be looking at ten years until the removal would need to be revisited.

I am asking for your help with the Carp Removal project. Let's make great fishing at Johnson Lake a reality, not just something we wish for.

A great big Thank You to Ryan, Jenna & Emma Pickel, Friends of Johnson Lake

Sincerely, Ron Pickel



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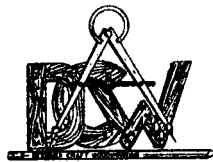


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Chalk-the-Walk at Johnson Lake is back for its fifth year, hosted by Patti Johnson and Jacey Edson of BHA Real Estate. This beloved, week-long tradition invites community members of all ages to help spread joy, creativity, and positivity along the walking trail at Johnson Lake. From August 31 through Sept 5, 2026, participants can pick up free chalk from Patti and Jacey or visit one of several chalk stations placed along the trail. Once your masterpiece is complete, simply snap a photo and text your entry to Patti and Jacey at 308-325-9790. As the week wraps up, enjoy a stroll through the colorful displays created by your neighbors and friends. Public voting for the "Fan Favorite" will take place on Facebook beginning September 6, with winners announced on Labor Day. Registration is required to be eligible for prizes, so be sure to sign up early at bharealestate.com/chalkthewalk. Gather your family, friends, and neighbors and join us for another inspiring and uplifting Chalk-the-Walk at Johnson Lake.

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Atwood Sculpture, "Secret Garden"



"Secret Garden"

I've always loved the Lundeen sculptures. About three years ago I started imagining one of these pieces of art along the Hike and Bike trail at Johnson Lake. I looked at images of all kinds of sculptures online and decided that I wanted one of the Lundeen pieces. This seemed like a perfect choice since they have local origins and are world known artists. Their family lived in Holdrege and have had a cabin at the lake for decades.

In July I called Patti Johnson to get a phone number for one of the Lundeen brothers, as Patti went to high school with Mark. Both George and Mark were going to be home over the Fourth of July. When I called Mark to tell him about my thoughts for a sculpture at Johnson Lake, he gladly agreed to come to our home before going back to Colorado.

Mark had two pieces that were possibilities for what I wanted. I chose the sculpture, "Secret Garden", featuring two girls reading a book. As a retired elementary school teacher, this had special meaning to me. The fact that it would find its home near our North Point community garden at Johnson Lake made it a perfect fit!

Steve poured the textured cement pad for the sculpture, and we were ready to go! We picked the sculpture up in Loveland, Colorado to have the opportunity to visit the Lundeen Studio, which was amazing and added so much to our experience.

Now we are anxious to share it with all who use the trail behind our house at 45 North Point. Our entire family looks forward to enjoying it for generations to come, and sharing it with the lake community.

Bonnie Atwood






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JOHNSON LAKE CARP TOURNAMENT

Bowfishers of Nebraska (BON) will once again host our annual carp tournament at Johnson Lake and the surrounding canals on June 13, 2026. This event is open to everyone, and spectators are encouraged to attend.

Friday, June 12

The weekend kicks off with a Calcutta at 7:00 PM, at Nautical Rose with bowfishing action beginning at 9:00 PM. Anyone is welcome to attend and bid on teams. Free food will be provided courtesy of CNPPID. Tournament registration will be available Friday night and remain open until 6:30 AM Saturday morning.

Saturday, June 13th

A shotgun start will launch from Nautical Rose promptly at 8:00 AM. We invite everyone to attend the weigh-in Nautical Rose starting at 6:00 PM to see the final results, and celebrate the event.

For additional details, please contact Ryan Reynolds at (308) 325-0605, or visit the Events page on the Bowfishers of Nebraska (BON) Facebook page.



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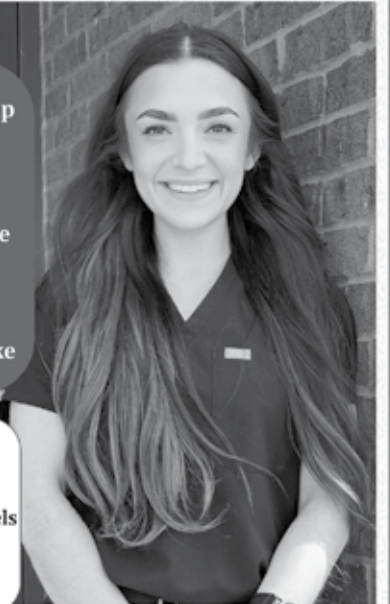


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JOHNSON LAKE
Light Up the Lake
 Fireworks Show
 Friday, July 3, 2026
 Rain Date: Sunday, July 5th



Dear Friends of Johnson Lake,

Summer at the lake just wouldn't be the same without Light Up the Lake. We are excited to prepare for the 26th Annual Light Up the Lake Fireworks Show, set for Friday, July 3rd, with a rain date of Sunday, July 5th.

For 26 years, this fireworks show has been a highlight of the Johnson Lake summer - bringing together lake residents, campers, families, and visitors to celebrate Independence Day the Johnson Lake way. It's a night filled with red, white, and blue, familiar faces, and memories that last long after the final firework fades.

This year's fireworks display will once again be set to patriotic music provided by KRVN Radio, creating a powerful and meaningful experience that honors our country and our community... filling the lake with the sounds of freedom while fireworks light up the sky over the water. A moment many of us plan our summers around.

The success of Light Up the Lake depends on the generosity of local businesses, organizations, and individuals. We hope you will consider being part of this special celebration and helping us continue a tradition that means so much to Johnson Lake and the surrounding area.

Mail your contributions in the enclosed envelope to:

JOHNSON LAKE FIREWORKS FUND
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With gratitude,
 Johnson Lake Fireworks Committee

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Preparing for the 2026 Permitting Season

With this year's permitting season already in full swing, the land administration team at Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District would like to remind everyone of the importance of knowing and having marked the lot boundaries, and shoreline setbacks or Shoreline and Water Access Facilities (SWAF) placement zone prior to commencing any permitted activity.

This step, along with on-site project meetings with members of the Land Team helps ensure that projects are constructed in accordance with Central's permitting procedures and helps avoid costly issues that can result from violations.

If you have any questions about allowable construction or Central's permitting process, please contact the land administration team. Contact information for the land team is listed below.

Luke Ritz
 Senior Land Administrator
 (308) 537-3582
 lritz@cnppid.com

DeAnna Ernstmeyer
 Land Administrator
 (308) 995-3563
 dernstmeyer@cnppid.com

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You're about to go for a swim when you notice the water:

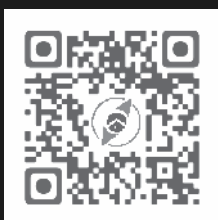
- ✗ has a neon green, pea green or blue-green color;
- ✗ emits a bad odor; and
- ✗ is covered with foam, scum or a thick paint-like substance on the surface.

Summer is prime time for blue-green algae blooms at Nebraska's waterbodies. When health alerts for toxins are issued, people (and pets) are advised to stay out of the water.

Nebraska's beaches are regularly sampled for harmful algal blooms and E. coli throughout the summer. Find weekly updates here: <https://brnw.ch/21wTIK9>

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We don't compromise. Neither should you.



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