



Pen City Current

Tuesday, July 17, 2018 | 6 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 167

Mohrfeld up for 3rd Ward seat

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison businessman and former Lee County Supervisor Matt Mohrfeld has thrown his hat in the ring for the vacant 3rd Ward City Council position.



MOHRFELD

The city was faced with either appointment someone to replace former councilman Travis Seidel, who resigned his seat on June 15, or schedule a special election for the spot. At the previous City Council meeting, the council voted 5-1 to appoint someone to fill the position. Councilman

Bob Morawitz said the seat should be put in front of the voters.

Mohrfeld held a seat with the Lee County Supervisors from 1995 to 2003 and said that experience, coupled with his passion and commitment to Fort Madison spurred him to send a letter of candidacy and resume to City Hall for consideration.

Mohrfeld owns and operates Matt's Greenhouse on 303rd Avenue on Fort Madison's north side.

Candidates who wish to submit their names for the 3rd Ward spot must do so prior to July 31.

"I've always enjoyed being involved, and you know,

See **COUNCIL**, page 4

Local job banks fill up as labor data improves

IowaWORKS job bank has more than 1,000 southeast Iowa jobs; 250 in Lee County

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - With Lee County experiencing one of the lowest unemployment rates in recent history, area job posting sites are bursting at the seams with good paying jobs.

According to Carolyn Farley, Operations Director of the Burlington IowaWORKS office, the unemployment rate reflects full employment. She said Lee County's rate at the end of May was 3.2%.



MILLARD

"Really, anything below 4 percent is considered full employment," she said. "While Lee County has one of the higher unemployment rates in the state, and traditionally has, it's actually low. It's the lowest I've seen since I started tracking things back in 2012."

The data is reflected in the news that Siemens Wind Blade facility in Fort Madison has replenished most of the roughly 200 positions that were laid off in January by restructuring production lines to allow additional products to be assembled. And even with that replenishment, the firm is looking to add an additional 175 full-time positions and has planned two career fairs on July 25th and 26th.

The first will take place at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Fort Madison on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the second will be at the IowaWORKS Burlington office on Roosevelt.

Another large employer, Scotts Miracle-Gro in Fort Madison, is currently adding 40 full-time year-round positions as part of their recently announced, and underway, expansion project on the city's west side.

The IowaWORKS job search site, under a search for just Lee County, showed 118 listings on Monday afternoon. Dana Millard, Lee County Economic Development Group's Director of Communication and Marketing, said when you figure in Siemens' new openings, that amounts to about 250 good, well-paying jobs that need filled.

See **JOBS**, page 6



Photo courtesy of FMAAA

Students with the Fort Madison Area Arts Association tour the Old Fort and hear from Fort Director Dr. Eugene Watkins. The students participated in a four-day summer camp at the FMAAA learning about different types of art mediums.

Campers go deep in art at FMAAA

BY BRIAN RIGGS
FMAAA DIRECTOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Area Arts Association always organizes a challenging annual art camp in July that concentrates on guest instructors teaching how to utilize raw materials to create

stunning visual outcomes.

The afternoons at the gallery provide a nest for imagination, merging lead instructors with a group of solid volunteers and junior leaders. King's Daughters of Potowonok Circle have contributed to this annual event for

many years.

Veteran Linda Ross of Chestnut Hill Pottery normally begins the action right off the bat on Tuesday July 10th. The pottery pieces must dry out under the sun for the days leading up to firing in the kiln before camp is done on Friday.

This year there was no

"theme" for the camp, which had followed the July feature exhibition theme shows. This allowed for much more diversification on the ceramics creations. Next two-hour session featured Kathy Neff with Batik printmaking

See **CAMPERS**, page 6

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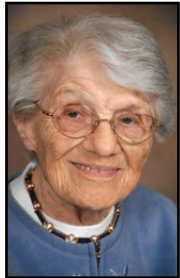


Obituaries/Weather

OBITUARIES

MARGUERITE EILEEN ELLIS

Marguerite Eileen Ellis, 99, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 4:45 a.m. on Monday, July 16, 2018 at her home. She was born on June 17, 1919 in Cedar Township, IA to Rowland & Bessie Mogel Davidson. She married George R. Ellis on October 26, 1940 in Donnellson, IA. He preceded her in death on June 23, 2005. She owned and operated Ellis T.V. & Stereo with her husband for many years and was a member of Union Presbyterian Church. She was formerly a deacon, Sunday School Teacher and member of the Mariners Circle of the Church and a member of the King's Daughters.



ELLIS

Marguerite is survived by: 1-son: Terry (Joyce) Ellis of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Brenda (Dan) Menke of New Port Richey, FL & Barbara (Scott) Mitchel of Golden, CO; 7-grandchildren; 12-great grandchildren and 1-great great granddaughter on the way. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband & 2-sisters.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Friday, July 20, 2018 with the family to receive friends from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. with the funeral service to immediately follow at 6:30 p.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Nancy Love officiating. A graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 21, 2018 at Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Union Presbyterian Church. Online condolences and a video tribute of Marguerite's life may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

ALAN DALE DEWITT

Alan Dale DeWitt, 60 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 6:41 pm Saturday, July 14, 2018 at the Great River Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa. Arrangements are pending at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison.

Pen City Current obituary policy

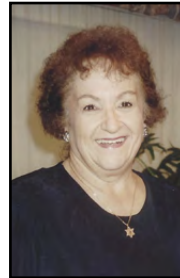
The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

OBITUARIES

JULIA (JULIE) LIGHT

Julia (Julie) Light, 87 of Montrose passed away Saturday, July 14, 2018 at the Montrose Health Center in Montrose, Iowa.

She was born December 10, 1930, the daughter of Isaac and Pauline Carmona Benoun, in Los Angeles, CA.



LIGHT

Julie grew up working in her parent's grocery store in California, Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco, owned a grocery store in Warsaw, IL, and worked in produce and meat departments in grocery stores in Hamilton, IL, and in Keokuk, IA. She was an exceptional salesperson, selling appliances, mobile homes, worked with data entry, and in 1981 she opened the Lighthouse Christian Bookstore, in West Burlington, and then sold her bookstore in 1994.

At the age of 64, she had a life mission, that the Lord wanted her in Israel, and in January, 1994, moved there, taking only two suitcases of possessions. For 19 years Julie's social and spiritual life was lived at Carmel Assembly. She was a deaconess of the church and treasurer, and ran a bed and breakfast at her home in Haifa, Israel, meeting and ministering to people from all over the world.

A devout believer in Jesus Christ, she always wore the glittering Star of David. She was known to many as Savta, which translated, means Grandma in Hebrew.

She was an incredible seamstress, making almost everything that she wore, and in their younger days, everything that her girls wore. Music was also a passion, and she had an operatic quality to her singing voice.

She is survived by her daughters, Pauline Phillips-Gill of Montrose, Maureen Dalton of Ashland, Missouri, grandchildren, Jeffrey (Jessica) Ward of Ashland, MO, HMCM (FMF/SW) David (Sandy) Lally, II of Okatie, SC, Douglas Lally, of Opfenbach, Germany, Julie (Todd) Haden, of Orlando, FL Jon (fiancé Erin) Dalton of Ashland, MO Amanda (Dan) Ferreiro of Ashland, MO, fourteen great-grandchildren, a sister, Rebecca Funk of Rancho Mirage, CA, one brother, David Benoun of Las Vegas, NV, along with many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Sally Ruggirello, three brothers, Raymond, Victor and Samuel Benoun.

Funeral services will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, July 21, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Kendall Hetrick officiating. Burial will be in the Montrose Cemetery.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m. Friday with the family meeting with friends from 6 - 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Ima's Goodies, a Nonprofit Organization in Haifa, Israel or to Lee County Hospice. On-line condolences may be made to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com

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WED 18 Jul	Scattered Clouds High – 79.2° F Low – 74.1° F
THU 19 Jul	Heavy Intensity Rain High – 75.9° F Low – 72.8° F
FRI 20 Jul	Light Rain High – 86.1° F Low – 67.6° F
SAT 21 Jul	Clear Skies High – 80.9° F Low – 65.4° F

OpenWeatherMap

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For the Record/Lottery Numbers

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

7/13/2018 - 1:59 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1300 block of 14th St.
 7/13/2018 - 8:18 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of burglary in the 300 block of 20th St.
 7/13/2018 - 1:55 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 1500 block of Ave. G.
 7/14/2018 - 12:11 a.m - Fort Madison Police arrested Adam James Huss, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of 48th Street, on a warrant service of pretrial violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 7/14/2018 - 7:50 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 800 block of Ave. G.
 7/14/2018 - 10:41 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 2400 block of Ave. A.
 7/14/2018 - 10:54 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of burglary in the 1800 block of Ave. A.
 7/14/2018 - 2:36 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1000 block of Ave. F.
 7/15/2018 - 4:38 p.m - Fort Madison Police arrested Nicole Kim Greenhagen, 31, of Fort Madison, on charges of public intoxication and disorderly conduct in the 1500 block of Ave. L. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 7/14/2018 - 10:46 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of 13th St.
 7/15/2018 - 12:59 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of Ave. D.

7/15/2018 - 9:01 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 1500 block of Ave. G.
 7/15/2018 - 9:34 p.m - Fort Madison Police arrested Steven Joe Lamb, 53, of Fort Madison on a charge of driving while barred and a warrant service in the 2600 block of Ave. L. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 7/16/2018 - 1:00 a.m - Fort Madison Police cited Brooke L. Beckman, 19, of Fort Madison on a charge of possession of alcohol (under 21) in the 300 block of Ave. F. She was released upon citation.
 7/16/2018 - 1:00 a.m - Fort Madison Police cited Rylee Nicole Glasscock, 19, of Fort Madison on a charge of possession of alcohol (under 21) in the 300 block of Ave. F. She was released upon citation.
 7/16/2018 - 1:00 a.m - Fort Madison Police cited Kylie Jo Gray, 19, of Fort Madison on a charge of possession of alcohol (under 21) in the 300 block of Ave. F. She was released upon citation.
 7/16/2018 - 1:00 a.m - Fort Madison Police cited Danielle Michelle Seager, 19, of Fort Madison on a charge of possession of alcohol (under 21) in the 300 block of Ave. F. She was released upon citation.
 7/16/2018 - 7:31 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 4000 block of Ave. O.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

7/13/2018 - 4:11 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Hayden Watts, 32, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgement hold. He was taken to

Lee County Jail and held.
 7/14/2018 - 10:31 a.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Samuel Dean Moyers, 33, of Burlington, at the Lee County Jail on a warrant for failure to appear. He was held in custody.
 7/14/2018 - 7:01 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Kathie Nichole Krogmeier, 31, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of 303rd Avenue on a charge of OWI. She was released on promise to appear.
 7/15/2018 - 2:28 a.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tyler Lee Enke, 18, of Denmark, in Franklin Square in Franklin, on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.
 7/15/2018 - 1:54 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Matthew Wayne Sly, 25, of Fort Madison, in the 2500 block of 280th Street, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and a charge of possession of controlled substance. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 7/15/2018 - 8:48 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Alan Edward Snyder, 44, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 7/15/2018 - 8:49 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Isaac Cole Kuster, 18, of Mount Pleasant, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
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7/15 EVENING
2 2 7



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7/15 EVENING
3 5 4 8

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Hounds wrap up season with district loss

Cordray leads Hounds with .369 batting average

BY PCC STAFF

FAIRFIELD - The Fairfield Trojans completed a five-game sweep of the Bloodhounds on the year with a 12-0 win in Class 3A District baseball action on Saturday.

The Trojans' Jackson Wheaton went the distance in the five-inning affair, allowing just one hit to Hound sophomore Jace Burgher, while striking out eight on just one walk. Wheaton allowed only two Hounds to get on base giving up a walk to junior Jordyn Gerdes.

Fort Madison's junior Dayne Cordray started on the mound for the Hounds, Cordray went two innings

giving up seven runs on five hits and striking out three. Gerdes came on in relief and went an inning and a third giving up five more runs, four earned, on five hits against three walks and two strikeouts. Brandon Reichelt threw two pitches in the bottom of the fourth for two outs.

The Trojans' Tristan Waugh went 2-for-2 with two home runs, including a grand slam, to finish with seven RBIs on the night. Jimmy Kurka and Hunter Hoskins also went 2-for-2. Hoskins homered in one of his at-bats and finished with three RBI.

The game was originally scheduled for Friday, but inclement weather postponed the game until Saturday.

Fort Madison finished the year 5-20. Fairfield improves to 29-8 and takes on Iowa City Liberty tonight in substate action. Liberty, who was just 10-21 on the year going into the game, knocked off the 21-11 De-

mons, 3-1.

On the year, Cordray led all Hounds with more than 30 plate appearances, hitting 369. Gerdes was the only other Hound to hit better than .300 on the year at a .324 clip with a team leading 14 RBI. Reichelt was third on the team in hitting at .279 and led the Hounds in homers with three and doubles with six. Burgher went a perfect 12-12 in stolen bases. Cordray was second going 6-of-8 on the season.

All five of the Hounds wins were split between five different pitchers with Cordray, Reichelt, Gerdes, Burgher and Lennon Barker all getting a win over the season.

Reichelt led the team in ERA with 4.59. Cordray led the team in innings pitched with 35 and strikeouts with 31 on the year. Gerdes led the Hounds with two saves.

Mohrfeld offers long list of elected, volunteer service

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

helping mold a governmental body," he said Monday afternoon. "I think it's a good thing to do and I hope to be involved again if they'll have me on the team. If not, I'll support whoever they do pick to be on the team."

Mohrfeld has been in business in Fort Madison

for 41 years and in those years has served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, president of the city's Tourism Board, served on a Governor's Board for Early Childhood Development in Des Moines, the Fort Madison YMCA board, and many other posts in

addition to his time on the board of supervisors.

He's also head Cross Country coach for Holy Trinity Catholic High School and an assistant on the Burlington High School swim team where his son Jacob participates.

Mohrfeld said his time with the supervisors was

partisan but this position won't be.

"So we won't have that wedge to drive, but the thing I learned most in my time with the supervisors was how to work with a \$25 million budget and how that's spread over many departments," he said. "I learned about associated boards like health, conservation, and the other groups we worked closely with like the Lee County Economic Development Group.

"When I was a supervisor there was just three of us and the time it took was pretty intense. I know the city council has a city manager and the county didn't have that. It was a helluva job and I mean that in a good way. I really enjoyed doing it, and I really enjoyed being finished."

Mohrfeld said the council and the city are in good shape and said there is great work being done.

"The city's on a good path right now. Parks have looked great lately. Avenue E looks good, There's lots of road construction as frustrating as that is, but the city's doing well," he said.

"The Council seems to work together pretty well from my observation. I love the new trash cans. I think those are cool. I think it's very indicative that we can make those kinds of changes. They are doing great things and I don't use that term lightly. That's from someone who's been in business here 40 some years and has seen less than great things"

Mohrfeld said one thing he'd like to see the city, as a whole focus on, is the curb appeal.

"This is the very simple Matt Mohrfeld answer -

Our city could have a little better curb appeal. I'm a runner and I go by every piece of property in Fort Madison and that's not in any way an exaggeration. I go by them all. So many people take pride in their properties and there are some that could use a helping hand."

Mohrfeld said there are good things in the works including the Fort Madison Partners beautification efforts and the Paint-A-thon that happened this year. He also mentioned the work of the PORT Trail committee. But he said the city needs to incorporate more groups such as churches and schools to help identify and program ways to help with the city's appearance.

"Do I think that's gotten better, I do. Could it be better - yep."

He also said he thinks an appointment, over an election, is the right choice for the city.

"There's something to be said to filling an appointment. I would be an example as this gives me a chance to find out what the council's truly like and gives people a chance to see if I'm an appropriate fit," Mohrfeld said. "Our little town does not need to shell out four or five grand for 100 votes. It's not like the people's vote isn't heard on an appointment. The council is doing the responsible thing in asking for resume. And quite honestly we don't have very good turnout in the 3rd ward.

With recent economic incentive packages being used by the city to encourage growth, Mohrfeld said it's not the city's role to create private sector jobs, But he said it is fully the city's responsibility

to create an environment where that growth happens.

"I think there are cases close to Fort Madison that were over-incentivized. But I don't think it's ever a bad thing.

It's fair, it creates jobs, it creates paychecks, it creates opportunity. But it's Matt Mohrfeld's job to create jobs and I've created a whole bunch of 'em. Campaign sound bites will take credit for it, but governments don't do that. What they do is create infrastructure to make it attractive and easy to come in or expand. If I have an available workforce, site development, good roads, good running paths, good schools and nice parks with Sunday night band concerts, we're creating a good environment. That's the purview of the government."

He said beyond that you do have to work with the people who are doing the expanding, developing and investing.

"Yeah, you gotta do it, but you don't necessarily have to burden all of the cost," he said. "Matt's Greenhouse creates the jobs... Tony Johnson does, Bob Huffman does, Michael Mohrfeld does, Leslie Malinski does. But everyone did with the infrastructure the city developed, those are where the city's role comes in, and then working with groups like Lee County Economic Development, Southeastern Community College and it's CBIZ department."

The city has until Aug. 15 to make an appointment and has two more regular meetings prior to that deadline. The first of which is Tuesday night and the second on Aug. 7

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From the Front

FMAAA campers dabble in pottery, puppets, and history

CAMPERS - Continued from Page 1

on paper. Oil pastel was a wax resist to the black acrylic that was painted on the piece prior to the finale. Wednesday was all things puppetry with first the session as a creation of shadow puppets and how to create a story line to make progression towards a performance.

Glassblower Jim Topic flexed his thespian skills while leading the students through creation of said puppets. He encouraged them to pay close attention as Joe Fierce of Keokuk performed "Four Fearsome Felines" for the crew. What a purrfect way to teach life lessons through the mouths of cat intelligencia! Afterwards the students split into groups for their own shadow puppet performances on a created stage for the kids to ply their new trade.

Painter Carlene Atwater began Thursday with fabric painting on silk and on bags that worked as perfect carryall to take home the week's projects. A hike down Avenue G to Old Fort Madison for a tour finished the day.

Friday finished the camp with powerhouse Kaity Price who lead the students in creation of CD disc jewelry that incorporated paint, glitter, and heat, prior to making into necklaces, pins, or brooches.

The late afternoon hot weather parleyed perfectly for the traditional water fight at the park to end the festivities. Time than to pack a week's worth of visual treasures in their painted bags and walk into the rest of the summer.

LCEDG, IowaWORKS connecting people, jobs

JOBS - Continued from Page 1

"There are a lot of companies in southeast Iowa and in Lee County, that have good, well-paying jobs, yet we still have one of the highest unemployment rates in the state," she said. "The reason for that disconnect is because of the skills that are required for a lot of the open positions."

But she said the good news is that groups like IowaWORKS and LCEDG are working diligently to help not only fill the positions on an immediate basis, but also on building a workforce for the future.

"We are industry leaders in workforce development programs," Millard said. "We've been recognized by the International Economic Development Council for our efforts and, when talking to our industry leaders, many of them have been investing locally and increasing those job opportunities."

She said many of the positions are trainable, but workers have to be able to pass a drug test, be willing to show up for work, and

put a little initiative into the process.

"If they are willing to do those things, they would have a good, quality job," she said. "We have careers on a wide spectrum. It could be on-the-job training, leadership skills, or going to a short class to upskill their safety training or a variety of skills."

The listings currently at the IowaWORKS job search website can be found at www.iowajobs.org and include listings in the industrial, retail, health, and service industries. For a southeast Iowa search, the database is holding more than 1,000 jobs.

Millard said low unemployment rates and lack of skilled workers isn't a dynamic specific to Lee County.

"It's not just here in Lee County, but we've been working hard to try and connect these positions to employees. We're exploring different options with IowaWORKS including career fairs and other avenues to increase employee pools, because there is

such a great need of quality employees. We're in it for the long haul," she said.

Farley said IowaWORKS is also working with other training avenues to help connect employers and potential employees.

"Some things IowaWORKS has been doing is working with community colleges in the state and apprenticeship programs to help with positions that require some training and making that a good option for people," she said. "We'll do everything in our power to help them fill those positions at Siemens, or any other employer for that matter."

She said IowaWORKS also fully supports the Gov. Kim Reynolds Future Ready Iowa program, which has a goal for 70 percent of Iowa's workforce to have education or training beyond high school by 2025. As part of that effort, Reynolds also launched an incentive-based apprenticeship "playbook". The program is a private-public partnership between employers, high schools, and

community colleges across the state.

Farley said IowaWORKS has been diligently working in those areas to get the program running, but doesn't have anyone on the books yet.

"We've been so close to getting some things up and running in Lee County and we've had a lot of interest, but when it comes to getting through the whole way, we just haven't gotten that up and running yet," she said.

The state will also be holding a series of Future Ready Iowa summits as fall approaches. One of those summits is set for Sept. 25 at Comfort Inn and Suites in Burlington from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We fully support the Future Ready program," Farley said. "Anybody coming in our door, we help with career counseling. If they have an interest we look at the demand in that field and if there isn't the demand we try to do some career counseling and find a labor market for them."

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