

NEWS from BENTON COUNTY

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Benton County, Oregon

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County grows Outdoor Education and Recreation Program

The Benton County Natural Areas and Parks created the Outdoor Education and Recreation Program two years ago and continues to grow. One of the most successful ways the program has been able to grow is through partnerships with other organizations within our communities.

A partnership between Oregon State University Extension Service Benton County and Benton County Natural Areas and Parks department creates the FOCUS (Forests, Organisms, Creeks, U Study!).

FOCUS is a 4-H school enrichment

program at Beazell Memorial Forest & Education Center as both a base for the students and as indoor lab space. In its third year, the FOCUS (Forests, Organisms, Creeks, U Study!) program brings 3rd-4th grade students to Beazell Memorial Forest for hands-on scientific learning experiences.

Extension staff and trained volunteers lead the educational programs. Program topics include forest and riparian ecosystems, diverse wildlife habitats, native biodiversity, biological indicators of environment

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Outdoor Summer Adventure

2040 Thriving Communities Council shares initial phase results

The Benton County 2040 Thriving Communities Council is hosting six events to share nearly 9,000 responses from more than 3,400 people over the past few months. The next 2040 Council "Report Out" events are scheduled for:

- **Alsea Library (solo ingles):**
19192 Alsea Hwy, Alsea
Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30pm
- **Casa Latinos Unidos Office (Sesion en español):**
128 SW 9th St, Corvallis
Monday, June 12 at 12:15pm

Since late last summer, members of the 2040 Thriving Communities Council attended community events, hosted an online survey, conducted 42 listening sessions, and reviewed community plans to explore what people in Benton County like about living here, what they want the county

to be like between now and 2040, and how we get there.

The data-gathering and visioning process allowed council members to synthesize 2040 Core Values to address long-term complex issues. These values will be used to align the work of government, citizen groups, businesses, and people to help achieve our visions for the future.

"We have been immersed in this data gathering process for the past year, and as a council, we're really excited to bring this information to our communities and talk about what we found," said Peggy Lynch, 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative Council member.

The purpose of the these events is to provide the public with the background and desired outcomes

of the 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative, describe and share data and feedback from the past year, and explain how the 2040 Council will re-engage communities to gain feedback on the 2040 Core Values.

"I have been impressed with the deliberate and thoughtful approach used by the Thriving Communities Initiative. The council has taken a full year to meet with residents from all over Benton County and really hear what they value about living here," said Vince Adams, 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative Council member.

"Now we're going to take some time to check in to make sure we got the message right and invite more people to engage. The goal for this phase of the work is to make sure the core values arising from our community

conversations really reflect what is important to the people of Benton County. That will guide our goal setting and strategy work going forward."

The 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative is a community-driven exploration of what we like about where we live, and how we want our communities to be like in the future. The 2040 Council is a group of individuals representing a variety of interests, including the farming and logging industries, Oregon State University, regional development, municipalities, private sector and community organizations.

For more information about the 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative or Council, please visit www.Benton2040.org or contact Sean McGuire at 2040initative@co.Benton.or.us

County grows Outdoor Continued...

quality and critical thinking skills. The FOCUS programming addresses Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core Standards.

Students attending this year are from Philomath, Blodgett, Alsea, Wilson and Mt. View schools, and there is a waiting list for future years.

The Family Mushroom Hunt, also held at Beazell Memorial Forest, is a very popular event in the community. A collaboration with the Corvallis Environmental Center, educators and volunteers share the marvelous world of mushrooms and other fungus as the community hikes through the forest to visit interactive displays and activities. In its second year, this outdoor education and recreation program draws crowds of over 300 people.

The Outdoor Summer Adventure program is a new collaboration between Benton County Natural Areas and Parks and Corvallis Parks and Recreation. Designed for 8-12 year olds, the program provides youth with 4 days of fun, summer adventures that explore Benton County. Countywide scholarships for eligible participants enrolling in these specific programs are available. Registration for outdoor summer adventures is currently available through Corvallis Parks & Recreation at www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=253.

The first day kicks off in the coast range with rock climbing. The county and city collaborates with Cascadia Expeditions, Inc., to provide expert rock climbing instruction to youth. Participants will learn the “ropes” of basic beginner belaying, bouldering and many other climbing skills. Participants will start with an overview of the techniques and gear, followed by activities to learn how to climb. They will then “take it to the wall” to have fun with your new skills!

Day two takes youths “Back in Time” at Fort Hoskins. Participants will learn how to “geocache” using a compass to find hidden Kalapuya Native American “treasures” in the park, followed by playing old time games. In the

afternoon, youths take part in historic re-enactments at the civil war era parade grounds.

The third day of the Outdoor Summer Adventure program provides youths with wildlife explorations at Beazell Memorial Forest. Participants take a hike to look for signs of wildlife (tracks, homes, and more) and the habitat along Bird Loop prairie. Water samples will be collected from Plunkett Creek for participants to view under the microscopes in the Beazell Education Center. Youths also learn about and see skulls, fur and nests of animals that live in the Beazell Memorial Forest. The day will end by learning about native game fish and practicing some fishing skills, such as knots, casting, baits and fishing safety.

The program concludes with a Willamette River boating and conservation adventure with Cascadia Expeditions, Inc. Participants will learn about riverside conservation at the Greenbelt Land Trust’s “Horseshoe Lake,” followed by learning basic boating skills and floating down the Willamette River to Irish Bend County Park.

Registration for the Outdoor Summer Adventures program is available at <http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=253>.

A collaboration with the Early Childhood Development Center at Oregon State University provides access to natural areas and outdoor recreation at an early age. Children from 2-6 years old that are enrolled at the Early Childhood Development Center go to Beazell Memorial Forest to experience prairie and creek activities.

“Research is showing that if you can get kids into natural areas and parks, there is a higher likelihood they will have a lifelong interest and passion for the outdoors,” says Adam Stebbins, Natural Resource Coordinator with Benton County Natural Areas and Parks.

“We collaborate with the OSU Early Childhood Development Center and have their kids out at the Beazell



Fall Mushroom Hunt

Memorial Forest and Education Center. We teach them how to cast and fish, and about native wildlife’s habitats and life histories through hands-on activities.

“Our partnership with the OSU Early Childhood Development Center provides a connection to the families and communities that we want to experience the county’s beautiful natural areas.”

“The changing demographics in our communities make this experiential outdoor learning all the more important. We want to do a better job at reaching all families in our communities and providing access to rich natural areas, outdoor education and recreational opportunities, and embed an appreciation and love for the outdoors at an early age.”

The county’s Outdoor Education and Recreation Program continues to grow. This August, as part of the Outdoor Education and Recreation Program, the department also will host a Total Solar Eclipse camping and viewing event at the Adair County Park. 150 tent camping sites and 12 RV sites are available for Sat., Aug. 19 and Sun., Aug. 20 for \$100. Call 541-766-6871 for reservations. Proceeds from this event and all other Outdoor Education and Recreation fees are invested back into the program.

Learn more about Benton County Natural Areas and Parks’ Outdoor Education and Recreation programs at www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/outdoor-education-recreation-program.

SAVE THE DATE: August 2-5, 2017 Benton County Fair & Rodeo

Mark your calendars for August 2-5, 2017 and join us at the Benton County Fair and Rodeo. This year's theme is All American Fun! Beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 2 and lasting until midnight on Saturday, this year's Fair has carnival rides, craft beer, retro gaming, amazing performances, music and the NPRA Sanctioned Rodeo!

For more information, visit www.bentoncountyfair.net.

Kids FREE all day Wednesday

As usual, Wednesday is "Family Fun Day." This year kids are free all day long so families can enjoy the Fair during the day and after work. The classics are back so get ready for magic, carnival rides, balloon animals, cotton candy and 4-H! In addition, this year kids can test their rodeo flair and hop on a sheep for mutton busting.

Cool off and visit two new, indoor attractions this year!

In the commercial building, the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI) will host an all ages science festival with equipment and interactive brain teasers guaranteed to thrill youngsters and perplex adults. You don't want to miss this unforgettable science experience!

Gamers will be ecstatic to relax in the Retro Gaming Room where they will find a gaming set up, complete with Dance Dance Revolution, Wii games, Super Mario cart and more! Be sure to brush up on your old joystick moves as this Retro Gaming Room will certainly be full of "old" pros taking a break from the heat.

Three stages of entertainment will keep the party going all four days

Country music kicks off the first night, Wed, Aug. 2, on the main stage with Asleep at the Wheel. Voted the "Best Country and Western Band" by *Rolling Stone*, Asleep at the Wheel is a 10-time Grammy award winning band that will get you dancing and swinging.

Thu., Aug. 3 is Blues and Brews night at the Fair. Lightnin' Willie will light up



the main stage with a hard, swinging brand of blues.

Friday night features two country shows on the main stage, Briana Renea—a native Oregonian—followed by The Cadillac Three. The Cadillac Three have opened U.S. tours for Eric Church and Dierks Bentley, and are currently on the road with Florida Georgia Line.

The final night of the Benton County Fair promises to be a big bang with two amazing tribute bands. The ARRIVAL Tribute to ABBA will open the main stage on Sat., Aug. 5 with classic '70s pop hits, and MANTRA Celebrating the Music of Santana will close down the night with music by one of the greatest guitarists and musicians of our era.

The Oak Grove stage will return with jugglers, karaoke, hypnotists and more, and a new stage will bring a wider variety of entertainment to this year's Fair and Rodeo. This year, the brand-new World Stage will feature an



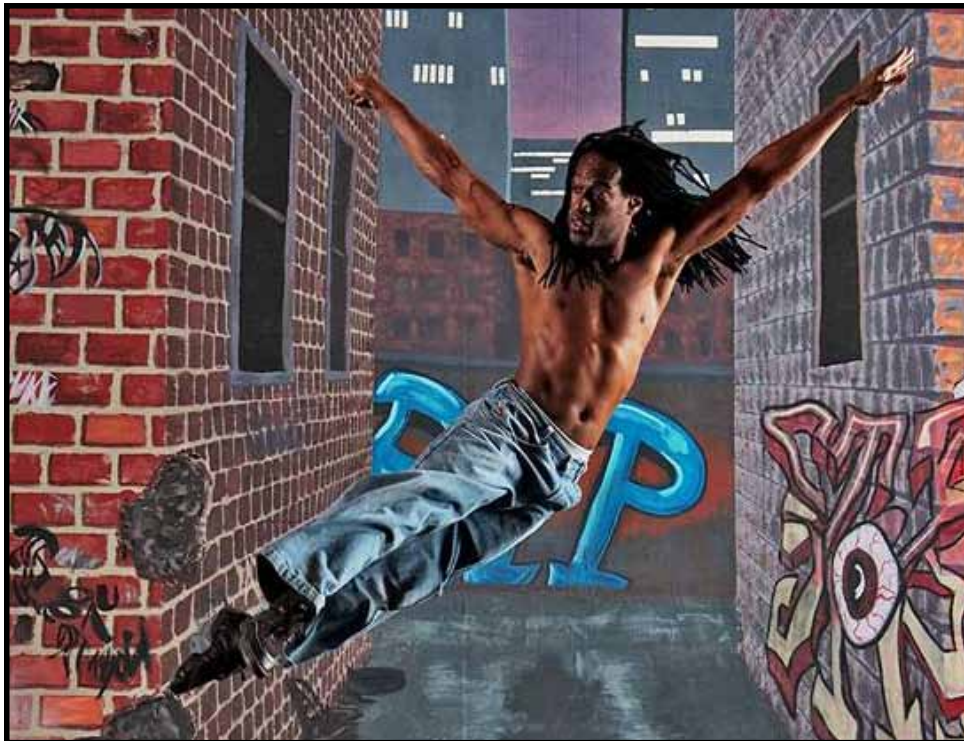
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eclectic group of dance performances including Zuzu African Acrobats, Bollywood, Roots of Hip Hop by the Rainbow Dance Theatre, belly dancing and the 4-H Fiesta Mexicana group of Corvallis.

This is Oregon. Of course we have craft beer!

The Benton Oaks TapHouse will be the hottest place to cool off at this year's Fair and Rodeo. Featuring 18

taps of local and craft brews and ciders and located adjacent to the main stage, beer enthusiasts will love the Benton Oaks TapHouse almost as much as they love hops.



Visit Us Online! www.co.benton.or.us

Public Works Week

Beginning in 1960, the American Public Works Association has hosted a National Public Works Week across North America. The goal of the week is to energize and educate North American communities about the planning, building, managing and operating undertaken by Public Works departments to improve the everyday quality of life for the public.

The Benton County Public Works Department has participated in the national celebration for the past two years. The two primary focus areas of the celebration in Benton County are youth outreach and staff appreciation.

In the past two years, Public Works staff visited seven elementary schools across Benton County to engage with local kids and teach them about the services Public Works departments provide. County staff brings each student a Public Works Paws activity book and balloon, and then shows off large-scale machinery,

equipment and answers questions.

“Getting involved with schools in our county has been such a worthwhile experience. Last year we visited Alsea, Hoover, Lincoln and Franklin Elementary schools. This year we were asked to come back to two schools we attended before, which was great. We’re happy that we made a positive impression and the activities were worthwhile for the schools and kids,” said Josh Wheeler, Public Works Director.

“I think the more we connect and do outreach with these kids, the more understanding future generations of Oregonians will have about the necessity for public works projects to sustain and improve the environments where they live, work and play. Plus, we really have a lot of fun too.”

Benton County also marks the week with a proclamation from the Board of Commissioners, and by hosting an appreciation BBQ and picnic for Public



Erik Remington, Public Works staff, showing off a mower and backhoe to Hoover Elementary School students.

Works staff.

This year, Public Works will visit Monroe, Blodgett, and North Albany schools beginning on May 22, 2017.

In the future, the county hopes to add to the annual activities and add an

interactive event that is co-hosted by Benton County and the city of Corvallis, the county seat.

To learn more about Public Works in Benton County, visit www.co.benton.or.us/publicworks.



Captain Don Rogers

AWARDS AND HONORS

Captain Rogers Selected for FBI National Academy

Captain Don Rogers was recently selected to attend the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy. The FBI National Academy is highly competitive training specifically designed for leadership and executive development in law enforcement. A limited number of applicants are accepted per state and only 1% of law enforcement across the nation is selected to attend. Both Sheriff Jackson and Undersheriff Ridler have had the honor to attend this training previously.

Captain Rogers submitted his application to the FBI National Academy four years ago. He underwent the complete assessment process including a background investigation, supervisory references, and contacting FBI agents that he had worked with previously.

Captain Rogers will attend the 10-week leadership and executive development training course this summer. Upon his return, Rogers will be able to use his experience in day-to-day patrol operations and continue to improve his service to the community as a highly-trained, valued leader within the Sheriff’s Office.

Dierwechter receives Preceptor Impact Award from OSU College of Public Health & Human Services

Tatiana Dierwechter, Benton County Healthy Communities Program Manager, received the 2017 Preceptor Impact Award at Oregon State University’s College of Public Health and Human Sciences annual Ovation event.

This Preceptor Impact Award recognizes individuals who best

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AWARDS AND HONORS Continued...

personify the spirit of the College of Public Health and Human Sciences through significant, meaningful and sustained impact of their service and contributions that benefit the career development of College of Public Health and Human Sciences students.

The College of Public Health and Human Sciences stresses “real-world” student internships as a key component of their overall public health curriculum. These hands-on experiences are designed for the students to apply their academic skills and learn new ones through work inside of a public, private or non-profit organization doing public health work.

Dierwechter was recognized as an exemplar of consistent, high-quality intern preceptorship and mentoring of Oregon State students. She has worked with both undergraduate and graduate interns, adapting projects and expectations to provide every intern a valuable and meaningful experience to enhance their on-campus education. Many former interns have gone on to positions in many local and state public health departments as well as in the American Public Health Association, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and pursuit of higher degrees at universities throughout North America.

A former US Peace Corp Volunteer in the Solomon Islands and HIV prevention supervisor at the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Dierwechter has served as the health policy and prevention manager for the Healthy Communities Program at Benton County Health Services for over 10 years. In this role, she has led the program's transition from a traditional health promotion focus to a health policy and strategic planning unit that works to address the social determinants of health through community organizing and changing policies and systems that promote community health.

Quick receives Sheldon Wagner Public Health Service Award

Lisa Quick, Director of Health Services at Community Outreach, Inc. (COI), in Corvallis, is the 2017 recipient of the Sheldon Wagner Public Health Service Award. Quick was honored at the annual Public Health Awards & Recognition Event.

The Benton County Health Department awards the Sheldon Wagner Public Health Service Award to acknowledge someone whose work embodies the spirit of compassion, dedication, achievement and commitment to improving public health. Lisa Quick has served as the Director of Health Services at Community Outreach Inc. (COI) for over 20 years and devoted the major part of her public health career to the uninsured and underinsured in Benton and Linn Counties.

Quick expanded the free medical clinic at COI from a one-room operation to a multi-site health clinic spanning Benton and Linn Counties. Through all the changes in health care and health insurance over the years, she has maintained space and services for vulnerable populations in need of health.

She is a public health catalyst in our community by bringing together a variety of health care providers. Quick has led partnerships with specialists at the Corvallis Clinic, and with the pharmacy, laboratory and imaging at Samaritan Health Services. She developed specialty services in diabetic education, psychiatry and gynecology, as well as a weekly physical therapy offering.

Quick finds satisfaction in solid programs and good outcomes, and intimately understands the plight of the medically vulnerable in our region. The Benton County Health Department is honored to recognize Lisa Quick for her dedication, compassion and commitment to improve the public health of Benton County.

The Sheldon Wagner Public Health Service Award was established in 2008 by the Benton County Public Health Planning and Advisory Committee



Tatiana Dierwechter speaking at the Benton County Public Health Awards & Recognition Event, held on April 12, 2017 in commemoration of National Public Health Week.



(L to R) Dr. Bruce Thomson, Benton County Medical Officer; Lisa Quick, Director of Health Services at Community Outreach, Inc.; Barbara Hanley, vice-chair of the Public Health Planning and Advisory Committee



(L to R) Charlie Fautin, Health Department Deputy Director; Dr. Connie Hume-Rodman, Clinical Services Director; Dr. Jeffrey Mull, Medical Director; Jenny Haubenreiser, Executive Director; Linda Reid, Nursing Services Director; Dr. Bruce Thomson, Benton County Medical Officer

and is named for Dr. Sheldon “Shag” Wagner, who served this area for many decades as a physician and passionate public health advocate.

Oregon State University Student Health Services leadership awarded Public Health Service Recognition

Oregon State Student Health Services serves as the medical home for all 25,000 OSU students and positively impacts the health of our communities through its routine work of preventing, detecting and treating both acute and chronic illnesses on campus, its crisis-related work during communicable disease outbreaks and strong community collaboration in planning for and averting other potential threats. At the annual Public Health Awards & Recognition Event, a special Public Health Service Recognition was awarded to Oregon State University Student Health Services leadership for its unwavering dedication to public health over the years. The Benton County Health Department warmly awarded this recognition to Jenny Haubenreiser, Executive Director; Linda Reid, Nursing Services Director; Dr. Jeffrey Mull, Medical Director; and, Dr. Connie Hume-Rodman, Clinical Services Director.

Aloia receives Roger Irvin Health in all Policies Award

During his tenure as the county’s Chief Operating Officer, Dennis Aloia

has fostered county-wide, cross-sector collaboration, working strategically to convene partners from the diverse sectors that shape the environments in which Benton County residents live, work, learn and play. Aloia’s leadership in creating authentic engagement of stakeholders was notably seen in his support of the 2012-2017 Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP) engagement processes, inclusive of community members, policy experts, advocates, the private sector and funders.

Aloia will leave a legacy for creating change by institutionalizing the “Health in All Policies” approach throughout Benton County government and permanently changing how departments relate to each other, how county decisions are made, and how resources are allocated to advance a healthy, livable and equitable Benton County.

The Roger Irvin Health in all Policies Award is named after former Public Works Director Roger Irvin who served the county for 35 years and collaborated on projects for the good of community health. The award was created to recognize a county employee who demonstrated commitment to integrating social, economic, and environmental goals to promote health, equity, and sustainability for our county. 2017 marks the second year this honor has been awarded.



Commissioner Anne Schuster awarding Chief Operating Officer Dennis Aloia the Health in all Policies Award



(L to R) Tatiana Dierwechter, Healthy Communities Program Manager; Patty Parsons, Health Promotion Specialist; Mitch Anderson, Health Department Director

Parsons honored for Special Achievement

At the annual Public Health Awards & Recognition Event, commemorating National Public Health Week, Patty Parsons was recognized for special achievement. Parsons is a Health Promotion Specialist at Benton County Health Department credited with spearheading a holistic, systems

approach to the work of the Health Department. Health Department Director Mitch Anderson and Healthy Communities Program Manager Tatiana Dierwechter gave emotional remarks about Parson’s innovation, commitment and leadership within the Health Department. Parsons retired this spring after 15 years of service in the Health Department.

COLLABORATIONS THAT COUNT

Community Development partners with Oregon Department of Forestry

As part of the effort to support neighborhoods in the county that achieved the Firewise Communities Recognition, Benton County and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) partner to offer a chipping program. Spring 2017 marks the 4th year of the partnership.

Led by the National Fire Protection Association, the Firewise Community USA Recognition Program was created in 2002 to engage neighborhoods in preparing and protecting their homes against the threat of wildfire.

Benton County has seven recognized Firewise Communities: Pioneer Village, 2011; Vineyard Mountain, 2011; Ridgewood Estates, 2012; Chinook, 2014; Oakwood Heights, 2015; Skyline West, 2016; Wren (in progress, 2016).

Residents of Firewise Communities clear out flammable vegetation from their properties and bring it to a location in that community. On a pre-determined day, a chipper and crew to go to that community and chip the vegetation. Depending on a community's preference, the chip is either hauled off or left to be available for use in gardens or other areas of the properties.

It has been a very popular event for the last several years, and the communities have begun to anticipate the annual event and actively prepare for fire season.

Accomplishing proactive fuels reduction in wildland-urban interface communities and building relationships with residents is a high priority for ODF and Benton County. The program has the added benefit of addressing several action items and goals in the Benton County Community Wildlife Protection Program, updated in 2016.

Hayden Bridge repairs initiates collaboration with Weyerhaeuser

In anticipation of making repairs to the historic Hayden Bridge, the Benton County Public Works department met with Weyerhaeuser to request



Historic Hayden Bridge

collaborative assistance. Weyerhaeuser is an international forest products company that owns a logging road that could provide a reasonable detour around the Hayden Bridge on Hayden Road, 1.8 miles East of Alsea, to access neighborhoods in that area.

The Roads Division in Public Works received permission from Weyerhaeuser to use their logging road. The logging road needed improvements for usage by cars and non-industrial motor vehicles. The Roads Division performed grading and rocking to improve the quality of the logging road, and brought it up to industry standards.

Following this work, Republic Services, United States Postal Service

and residents and property owners were able to use Weyerhaeuser's road as a detour from Sept. 2016 to March 2017 while the Hayden Bridge was restricted to a 3-ton weight limit.

Repairs to preserve and strengthen the historic bridge were completed in Feb. 2017. The Benton County Board of Commissioners raised the weight limit on the Hayden Covered Bridge to 12-tons at the Mar. 7, 2017 board meeting and re-opened the bridge to residents and property owners, school buses, emergency vehicles, Republic Services and the United States Postal Service.

Do you want this newsletter in Spanish?



Benton County wants to make sure county news reaches all our communities. If you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter in Spanish, email pioinfo@co.benton.or.us with "Spanish newsletter" in the subject line. If you're interested in receiving an electronic version of this newsletter in other languages, please email pioinfo@co.benton.or.us with "Translate newsletter" in the subject line.

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