

TIDINGS

FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT



Holiday Music Sets the Holiday Mood!

Thanks to the exceptional direction of our music department, our students of all ages showcased their vocal, orchestral, and band talents during a variety of splendid Holiday concerts.



Sayville Public Schools has a FACEBOOK FAN page.



Visit us on FACEBOOK!

WHAT DOES A 2% TAX CAP MEAN TO SAYVILLE SCHOOLS?

Sayville residents should be aware of what the impact of a 2% property tax cap would be on the staffing and programs in our schools.

While New York Governor-elect Andrew Cuomo faces huge economic challenges when he assumes the office, his campaign to impose a 2% property tax cap for school districts is certain to become a promise with devastating consequences. As you may be aware, this situation is not unique to Sayville. It is a widespread problem affecting all New York State school districts.

Sayville School District has consistently presented lean budgets for vote by the taxpayers. Each year, the taxpayers have supported our cost-cutting measures by passing the budget. For this we have been most grateful. A lean budget, however, also means there is very little extra to cut on the spending side this year. Even last year, our budget challenges did not arise from the spending side, but rather, from the revenue side, because the promise of federal and state aid was drastically

reduced. On top of those expected shortfalls, this year there is now the new threat of the 2% tax cap.

In anticipation of this 2% property tax cap, the Sayville Board of Education requested a financial report. Assistant Superintendent for Business John J. Belmonte prepared the report and publicly presented it to the Board at the November meeting. (see Board report online.) It is clear from this report that, during a time of diminished federal and state revenues, imposing the 2% cap compounds the issue at all levels. The loss of many staff positions will have a devastating effect on all of our instructional and support programs.

After reviewing the online report, ask yourself this question: Shouldn't our policymakers be growing jobs, not cutting them, to help us achieve economic recovery?

We encourage the entire Sayville community to write or email the Governor and local legislators. Let them know that a 2% property tax cap is NOT the answer to this economic problem!

(RIGHT) Excerpt from the online report. Please review the full article and report online at Sayville School District's website; click on the Business Office link.)

What if a 2% Property Tax Cap Were Implemented on the Above 2011-2012 Pro-Forma Budget?

Based on the attached pro-forma expenditure and revenue budgets, if a 2% cap were imposed, the District would need to reduce expenditures by \$4,425,908. This amount has been calculated as follows:

Current 2010-2011 Property Tax Levy:	\$50,689,726
Cap Limitation of 2%:	+2%
Maximum Property Tax Levy Amount:	\$51,703,520
2011-2012 Pro-Forma Tax Levy:	(-\$56,129,429)
Required Reductions to Meet Cap:	(-\$ 4,425,908)



Board of Education

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MAUREN DOLAN,
VICE PRESIDENT

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THOMAS COOLEY
NORMAN DEVENAU
KEITH KOLAR
RAYMOND J. NELSON
JOHN VERDONE

Board of Education
 Citations were awarded to
 retiring personnel (see below)
 for their years of service to
 Sayville School District:



Pupil Personnel Director
Stephanie Lamanno (above
 left) and (below left) *School*
Psychologist
Jeffrey
Kochnower.



KINDERGARTEN
REGISTRATION WEEK

begins March 28, 2010.
 This is a change from
 the dates originally listed
 on the district calendar.
 Parents should be
 aware that Kindergarten
 Registration Week is no
 longer April 11th to 15th.
 It NOW begins on March
 28th and ends on April 1st.
 Please make note of this
 change.

**The Board of Education awarded citations
 to the following students:**

AT THE OCT. 14TH BOARD MEETING

awards presented by Principal Hoffer and BOE trustees Norm deVenau and John Verdone

**ALL-STATE
 MUSICIANS**

AWARD: Patrick
 Andrews, Nicholas
 Calvano, James Harlin,
 Katelyn Odierna, Kyle
 Tieman-Strauss, and
 Timothy Traver



AP SCHOLARS WITH HONORS:

Eric Dulmovits, Neha Kinariwalla,
 Kathreen Mangaluz, Tracey Rosa, Bryan
 Thornlow, and Tyler Young

**AP SCHOLAR WITH
 DISTINCTION:** Dylan Gallagher

AT THE NOV. 17TH BOARD MEETING

awards presented by Principal Hoffer and BOE trustees Norm deVenau and Ray Nelson

**FOR THEIR
 OUTSTANDING
 SUMMER RESEARCH
 INITIATIVES:**

In Collaboration:
Gabrielle Pacia,
Jacqueline Kalomiris, and
Neha Kinariwalla
For Individual Research
Initiative: **Tiffany Bruno;**
For Individual Engineering
Initiative: **John Farese**



FOR THEIR RESEARCH IN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING (RISE):

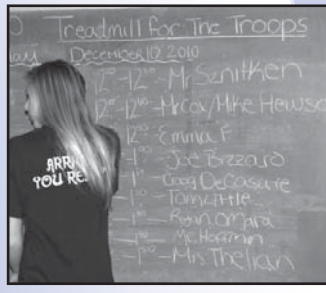
Alexis Brown, Jacqueline Kalomiris, Neha Kinariwalla, Kathreen-
 Elaine Mangaluz, Susan Mangaluz, Allyson Marchan, Sarah
 Monastero, Gabrielle Pacia, Zachary Stephan, and Lucas Volle



EAGLE SCOUTS

Timothy Cowan
 • *For building & installing benches
 & a garden at "The Common
 Ground"*
Scott Davidson
 • *For designing & installing
 a Meditation garden in a
 Courtyard at St. Lawrence*
Steven Wachter
 • *For fundraising and constructing
 a brick paver path at the Long
 Island Maritime Museum*

TREADMILL for Troops



Sayville High School Student Government organized a care-package drive for Sayville Graduates who joined the military and Club United organized *Treadmill for the Troops* to pay for the postage of these packages. "We also had a request from a Colonel from Sayville," Social Studies teacher Michael Huggins explained, "who works with marines in Southern Afghanistan (*not far from where I was!*) to get toys and supplies for Afghan children that are in the American hospital. I think it is very important that we take care of our military members from Sayville. When I was in Afghanistan, it was great to receive letters from the Middle School and the support of the Sayville Teachers Association." Special thanks to Dr. Schartner who was instrumental in getting the treadmill to the high school!

Lowering the Tax Rate Increase to 3.92%

Again this year, the Sayville School District and the Board of Education are happy to report that the tax-rate increase will be lower than the original voter-approved 5.9 percent that was passed during the May 2010 Budget Vote.

The 2010 Tax-Rate increase has NOW been REDUCED to 3.92 percent!

The Sayville School District was able to achieve this in the following manner:

1. Making fiscally prudent projections of its estimated 2010-2011 costs,
2. Finishing the past academic year with an operating surplus,
3. Using a portion of the fund balance to offset some of the decreased state aid, and
4. Agreeing upon half-year wage freezes for administrators, teachers, and managerial/unaffiliated staff.

These factors, combined with another decrease in our overall assessed valuations and a shift in our base allocations from Homestead (Residential) to Nonhomestead (Commercial) properties, have helped Sayville School District set a tax-rate increase of 3.92% that was lower than projected.

(Go to our Sayville School District website and click on the Business Office link for more info.)

SAYVILLE SIGNS TWO DIVISION I ATHLETES

Visit "TIDINGS Online" for more details

STEVEN LESHINGER

Class of 2011 wrestler and academic scholar, Steven Leshinger built such a legacy in the sport that it pinned his competition for a spot in the Ivy League wrestling program at Princeton University.

Although also recruited by Brown, Davidson, Williams, Bucknell, Wesleyan, Boston

University, and Johns Hopkins, Steven recently committed to wrestling for the Princeton Tigers next fall in their Division I program.



BRENDON BUTLER

Registering on the radar gun with an official throw of 89 mph, Senior and Varsity Ace pitcher Brendan Butler turned many recruiters' heads at a recent college showcase. Consequently, during early-signing week, Brendan chose to sign on the dotted line with Fairleigh Dickinson University to play Division I baseball; an offer that included a "grand slam" of a scholarship incentive.



DOUBLE THE FUN

WITH SAYVILLE PLAYERS

VISIT TIDINGS ONLINE FOR
MORE PHOTOS AND INFORMATION

The prolific Sayville Players presented two theatrical productions this fall.



• INHERIT THE WIND

“The right to think” was the message of this year’s Backstage Theatre production, powerfully portrayed by the Sayville Players from both casts. While the play was based upon a famous 1925 trial, authors Jerome Lawrence and Robert Edwin Lee created a dramatization as social comment. “We used the teaching of evolution as a parable,” Lawrence had once commented “a metaphor, for any kind of mind control.”

As SHS Director Steve Hailey introduced each performance, he commented on a concession that might surprise audiences: female actors filling some of the major male roles. “If Shakespeare could cast men in women’s roles,” Hailey said, “I don’t see any objection to casting women in men’s roles, as long as they have the necessary talent.”

Quick-witted dialogue, contrapuntal discourse, and lengthy debates about religion versus science (which the playwrights had lifted verbatim from the actual trial), could certainly have daunted high school students, no matter what their genders, but the Sayville Players delivered this tense courtroom drama with vigor in each performance.

• BAREFOOT IN THE PARK



Neil Simon’s longest-running Broadway comedy enjoyed the spotlight in Sayville Little Theatre with multiple casts. The humorous trials of newlyweds Corie and Paul, adjusting to unpredictable life in a New York City apartment, involved absurd situations and smart answers.

Four lead actresses comprised the role of the spontaneous Corie, three personified Corie’s unadventurous mother Ethel, two actors shared

the role of the quite conservative lawyer Paul, and two embodied the wacky neighbor Victor Velasco over five performances.

No matter what the combinations, each cast delivered energetic acting and comic timing as the bride and groom learned to find mutual ground between the window ledge and running “barefoot in the park.” Congratulations to all the Sayville Players for your fall production successes.

SAYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR NAMED SIEMENS COMPETITION SEMIFINALIST

Congratulations to Sayville High School Senior Neha Kinariwalla, who was named a Siemens Competition Semifinalist for her research at Stony Brook University (Garcia Program).

The title of her project is *Dental Pulp Stem Cell (DPSC) Growth and Differentiation on Different Polystyrene, Polybutadiene, Poly (4-vinylpyridine) Copolymer Substrates.*

Translated into laymen’s terms by her Sayville Science Research teacher, Maria Brown: “Neha has been investigating



polymers and copolymers as media that allow adult dental-pulp stem cells to differentiate into bone-like cells. These results could mean that, in the future, bone grafts would no longer be necessary because bone cells could instead be inserted into the patient, where the cells will grow in vivo (in the patient) once inserted! Amazing!”



NYSAPHERAD SUFFOLK ZONE WINNERS ARE SAYVILLE SENIORS Daniel Siegel & Holly Citeno

Excellence in the classroom and on the athletic field

Daniel Siegel earned and maintained a 100.75 cumulative average, is a member of the *National Honor Society*, and serves in the leadership capacity as the senior class Vice President and Interact Club Senior Director. A kindhearted young man who is often found lending a hand to whomever is in need, Dan is a “consummate ambassador” for physical education in our school, having sustained a perfect 100% average over the past three years.

In addition to his academic success, Dan is an accomplished athlete, who has been highly involved with Sayville’s lacrosse program, and soccer club, as well as our winter track team. Dan has earned the respect of his peers and coaches. This young man has distinguished himself for his work ethic, sincere concern for others, and his leadership qualities. He has truly left his mark on our athletic program. Next fall, Dan plans to attend either Cornell, Boston University, Muhlenberg or Geneseo. Congratulations, Dan Siegel!

With a 96 cumulative average, **Holly Citeno** is a member of the *National Honor Society*, *Art Honor Society*, *Anchor Club*, *Art Club*, and volunteers for ACDS, a preschool for children with Down Syndrome.

In addition, Holly is a three-sport track athlete and has captained all these teams for the past two years. She is positive, enthusiastic and supportive, making her a standout among her teammates and classmates. A compassionate young woman who always puts her team above herself, Holly was last year’s recipient of the **Evelyn Stoll Award** for outstanding character, motivation, and team spirit. *This award is even more special, as Evelyn Stoll is Holly’s track coach’s mother.* She was voted by her coaches and teammates as the most admired member. With her qualities of sportsmanship, healthy competition, and fair play, she has made Sayville a better place. Holly plans to attend SUNY New Paltz or SUNY Cortland next fall. Congratulations, Holly Citeno!

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

SAYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL

It was an enchanting blend of wacky medieval characters, comic antics, and splendid musical performances. Setting an amazing stage for a tale from the middle ages, the Middle School's production of *Once Upon A Mattress* showcased the terrific talents of an ensemble of students, in dazzling costumes.

Unconventional and "horribly shy" **Princess Winnifred The Woebegone** (*powerfully delivered with comic flair and singing gusto by Meghan G.*) arrives from a far-off marshland Kingdom to bid for the hand of **Prince Dauntless the Drab** (*endearingly played and sung by Brian W.*). To keep her son forever single, his mother, the elitist and oft-times hysterical **Queen Aggravain** (*portrayed with amusing histrionics by voice sensation Kayla S.*) selfishly schemes with her only ally, the **Wizard** (*the ever-entertaining Timothy C.*)—and so far, every suitor has failed her devious tests. **King Sextimus the Silent** (*embodied by Liam H. who played the mute part to the hilt*) has nothing to say because of a mysterious curse of silence, which can only be reversed when "the mouse devours the hawk."

Aggravated by the Queen's decree forbidding all marriages until the Prince is married first, the subjects unite their efforts to help Princess "Fred" pass the test. Retelling his firsthand version of the *Princess and the Pea*, the **Minstrel** (*a great storyteller in Alex S.*), along with his companions the **Jester** (*the candid voice of reason engagingly enacted by Jamie B.*), **Sir Harry** (*handsomely portrayed by Ray E.*), and **Lady Larkin** (*amusing and appealing in Jordyn G.'s portrayal*) collaborate with the klutzy ladies in waiting (*played by Joelle G., Elaina P., Alyssa L.*) to ensure that Winifred's "sensitivity" passes muster.

Once balance is restored in the kingdom, the story ends with everyone (including the audiences) "feeling happily, happily ever after, and thoroughly satisfied."

They may not have had a fairy godmother or seven adoring dwarves to help, but the magic that appeared on stage every night was not just the result of the talented student cast. Thanks go to Director Jeff Hoffman, Musical Director Fred Diekmann, Producer Kristi Woerner, Choreography: Kenny Murray, Sound: Andrew Giammalvo, Set Construction: Ken Van Essendelft, Lighting: Steve Hailey, Pit Orchestra: Ari, Kramer, Tom Wolf, Diane Hoffman, Dr. Jen Morgo, Fred Diekmann, Pete DeSalvo.

In addition, Production staff included Master Artist: Cora Sparwasser, Props: Therese Ebarb, Costumes: Trish Stockart, Make-up/Hair: Kristi Woerner, High School volunteers: Brianna Gomez, Miles Whittaker, Kat Palma, along with Program Design/Production/t-Shirts: Eileen Harris, Tickets: Elizabeth Costorf, Cast Party: Patty Schick, parent volunteers, and everyone of the stage crew behind the scenes. *Once Upon a Mattress* was indeed an authentically charming, "dripping-with-glamour" production.



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS STUFFED STOCKINGS FOR HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN

The stockings were stuffed by the students with care, In hopes that sick children could celebrate there.

Just like Santa's Elves busy at work, the Middle School students in Mrs. Jodi Maurici's Health Education classes engaged in a stocking-stuffing project called "Pay It Forward With Jackie." According to the website, Jackie is a girl who, at age 3 in 2006, was diagnosed with cancer on Christmas Eve. After battling cancer twice in her young life, she started this nonprofit organization to get stockings to children staying in local hospitals during the holidays.

The idea to find a charity originated when Mrs. Maurici posed the question to her classes. "If I gave you \$10,000, but you had to donate it to your favorite charity, what would that be?" The majority of her students agreed that gifts for children in hospitals during the holidays would be their top charity.

Their sentiments touched a personal chord with Mrs. Maurici, because her own daughter's 8-year-old friend was battling brain cancer. The holidays in a hospital can be a challenge to anyone's spirit.

Mrs. Maurici researched such charities and decided "Pay It Forward With Jackie" and its stocking-stuffing campaign was the best match. Items recommended for collection included: large-sized Christmas stockings, 24-packs of crayons, washable markers, coloring books, candy canes, microwave popcorn, chocolate bars, chewing gum, decks of cards, yo-yos, Play-doh, movie DVDs and music CDs.

"So far, the response has been incredible!" Mrs. Maurici exclaimed. "We are hoping to fill more than 50 stockings for local hospitals."



Cherry Avenue Tis THE Season FOR Giving **GENEROUSLY**



Holidays Abound WITH Food Drives AND THE Annual Giving Tree

For the Thanksgiving Food Drive, each grade level provided nonperishables in all the food groups, while the staff donated the turkeys and fresh produce for local families in need.

Soon after, Cherry Avenue's Annual Giving Tree was loaded up with paper ornaments inscribed with wish lists for children in need from our community. During the annual Giving Tree evening event, students and their families enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate as they gathered around the Giving Tree to pick an ornament. Anyone who couldn't attend the evening event had an opportunity during teacher conferences days to explore the Tree and fulfill the wish of some hopeful child.

"Everyone has always been so very generous!" stated social worker Amy Buckley, who along with teacher Mary Pat Holler, has facilitated the fundraisers at Cherry. The holiday expectations of those less fortunate are in good and helpful hands at Cherry.

Lincoln Avenue **TEAMWORK** is Their Goal!



While the saying goes “No man is an island,” the New York Islanders have been taking it one step further by declaring “We are all Islanders” through their Character Education Program. Thanks to Lincoln Avenue’s Site-Based Team, who arranged their visit, representatives from the New York Islanders came along with their mascot *Sparky the Dragon* to demonstrate before an assembly of Lincoln Avenue students how the concept of collaboration really works.

With an emphasis on teamwork, the “race” was on between a team of students and one “good sport” of a teacher, Fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Gennari. With the goal of dressing in hockey goalie equipment, the students proved a strong and coordinated team, while Mrs. Gennari had to go it alone without any help from *Sparky*, and of course, lost the race.

Watching the competition may have been exciting for the students, but many were surprised to learn how hard the NY Islander hockey players work to perform as a successful team. One thing all the students knew for sure was that teamwork, which takes skill and tremendous effort, is always a winning goal at Lincoln Avenue!



Sunrise Drive celebrating **50** Sunny Years as a Foundation for Success



and those were just the adults!

Launching a yearlong celebration of Sunrise Drive’s 50th Birthday, Sunrise Drive staff and students threw a party in the cafetorium and welcomed visiting administrators Superintendent Dr. Walter Schartner, Assistant Superintendent for Business John Belmonte, Assistant Superintendent Rosemary Camilleri, and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Geraldine Sullivan Keck. Sunrise Drive Art teacher Mrs. Jeannette Ainslie created hand-made party hats for each of the administrators to wear during the festivities.

Mrs. Faith Sukoff had the task of recapping historical moments from the sixties through today that would be meaningful to children fifty years later. The children

cheered as she listed toys, movies, TV shows, and candies from each decade; they especially laughed in amazement to hear that school lunches cost 35 cents in 1960.

With mascot Sunny the Duck (“born in 2003”) clapping and dancing to the beat, a lively rendition of songs (such as *Milk Me Up Buttercup*, *Rubber Ducky*, *Celebration*, and *We’re All In This Together*), representing five decades, were performed by each grade level. After the students showcased their musical talents and some line dancing with synchronized gusto, Sunrise Drive staff followed with their own medley of “sun”-based songs, such as the *Theme from Sesame Street*, *You Are My Sunshine*, ending with *Today Is Your Birthday*.

The last song, of course, was the most important one: *Happy Birthday*—which was sung in unison. After Dr. Schartner cut the birthday sheetcake, lit by a battery-powered candle, all the students enjoyed birthday cupcakes (provided by the PTA) upon returning to their classrooms in the “best place to learn and grow,” Sunrise Drive Elementary School.

Yearlong activities are planned, including an open house in the spring, an artifacts museum of the last 50 years, and school spirit days on the last Friday of every month. If you have any information you would like to share, please call 244-6750.

WHAT A **FALL SEASON** FOR OUR **SAYVILLE ATHLETIC PROGRAM:**

This fall, all our varsity teams participated in postseason play and all our varsity programs were recognized as scholar-athlete teams.



Varsity Boys Soccer

- League Champions
- Suffolk County Champions
- Long Island Champions
- New York State Class A Champions: Overall Record 20-1-1
- NYS Scholar-Athlete Team

TEAM MEMBERS

Jared Van Brunt•All-State & All-County
 Dakota Edwards•All-State & All-County
 Daniel Scheck•All-County
 Travis Redding•All-Conference
 Vincent Sakk•All-League
 Jon Paciorek•All-League
 Sean Fullam•MVP NYS Class A Final

Varsity Girls Soccer

- League Champions
- Suffolk County Champions
- NYS Scholar-Athlete Team

TEAM MEMBERS

Dariann Selletti•All-County
 Kelly Santangelo•All-County
 Kim Marra•All-County

Emily Meier•All-County
 Lindsey Lyons•All-Conference
 Molly McCauley•All-League
 Madison Hoon•All-League

Varsity Boys Cross-Country
 • NYS Scholar-Athlete Team

Varsity Football

- Suffolk County Champions Conference III
- Long Island Conference III Runner-up
- NYS Scholar-Athlete Team

TEAM MEMBERS

Thomas Hannan•All-County
 Steven Ferreira•All-County
 Joe DeLuca•All-County
 Justin Fronckwicz•All-County
 John Haggart•Suffolk County Championship MVP

Varsity Girls Cross-Country

- NYS Scholar-Athlete Team
- Finished 2nd in League
- Overall Record 5-1

TEAM MEMBERS

Sarah Pellegrini•All-League
 Kerri Culhane•All-League

Varsity Field Hockey

- Division II Champions Undefeated
- Suffolk County B Runner-up: Overall Record 16-1
- NYS Scholar-Athlete Team

TEAM MEMBERS

Madelyn Vetrano•All-Conference
 Olivia Cabral•All-State & All-County
 Shannon Litvin•All-County
 Taylor Mills•All-County
 Kirsten Knopf•All-County Honorable Mention

Alex Russell•All-Division
 Emily Crawford•All-Tournament
 Juliana Fiorillo•All-Tournament
 Kelly Salloum•All-Tournament
 Patti Fedelem **Division II COACH OF THE YEAR:**

Varsity Girls Swimming

- NYS Scholar-Athlete Team

TEAM MEMBERS

Hanna Sandor•All-League
 Megan Scheck•All-League
 Melissa Neville•All-League

Varsity Girls Volleyball

- Suffolk County Playoff Participant
- NYS Scholar-Athlete Team

TEAM MEMBERS

Kayla Mergl•All-League
 Alexis Brown•All-League
 Kelly Leach•All-League

Varsity Girls Tennis

- NYS Scholar-Athlete Team

TEAM MEMBERS

Lauren Bohman•All-League
 Lauren Russo•All-League
 Emily Gallagher•All-League
 Stephanie Ebo•All-League

Varsity Boys Volleyball

- Suffolk County Playoff Participant
- NYS Scholar-Athlete Team

INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEMBER AWARDS To Be Determined

UNDEFEATED JUNIOR VARSITY TEAMS FINISHED FIRST IN LEAGUE

JV Girls Soccer•Undefeated/14-0 record
 JV Football•Undefeated/8-0 record
 JV Field Hockey•Undefeated/11-0-3 record

Varsity Boys Golf

- NYS Scholar-Athlete Team
- Overall Record 7-3

INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEMBER AWARDS To Be Determined in the Spring

TIDINGS
 FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DR. WALTER F. SCHATNER,
 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
 99 Greeley Avenue
 Sayville, New York 11782

You can still refer to it as HIGHLIGHTS, but we're giving Sayville School District's periodic newsletter a new name and look that is befitting a seaside community affected by its tides. **TIDINGS**, which literally means "news," seemed appropriate.

LINDA A. MITTIGA, SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER & DISTRICT WEBSITE EDITOR

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