

Dave and Julie Bauman stand outside their designated apiary area in their backyard.



The final product: Home-made honey

**Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor**

Dave and Julie Bauman of Clarklake can thank their daughter, Mary, for getting them into beekeeping, as well as Dave's own building skills.

"She said, 'Dad, for Christmas, I want a beehive,'" Dave recollected. "I said, 'Oooooo-kay.' So I built her a beehive." That was Christmas 2019.

"And then she said, 'If you built one for me, you can build one for yourself. You can get into it, too.' I said, 'Ooooookay, I don't know about this.' But I ended up doing it. Since I can build my own beehives and everything, it's quite a bit of savings.

"In the spring, we went to Napoleon Bee Supply and bought some bees," Dave continued. And that was the start of D&J Apiary.

He explained there are around 30,000 bees in a colony one can purchase. One queen bee goes with a colony that is kept in a separate little box until she is introduced to the colony.

Dave added that Napoleon Bee Supply has classes people can take to learn about beekeeping. "All the beekeepers I've met are very friendly and willing to share knowledge."

Another way to get bees for the hive is if the natural method – if a swarm of bees happens to come. The swarms of bees generally find the fruit trees on the Bauman's property, as they have a small orchard consisting of four apple trees, two cherry trees, two pear trees, and two peach trees. A queen bee is in the middle of a swarm of bees.

"We've actually collected them by handfuls (with gloves on!) and put them in a new hive," Dave says. He also noted that they use their bee vac to vacuum up and collect a swarm of bees or use a swarm trap with lemongrass oil in it. The lemongrass oil is a natural attraction for bees, he noted. Once in the trap, they find a frame of used bee wax which they like and are attracted to.

"When a colony swarms, they gorge themselves on honey because they have to find themselves a new place to live and they have to have a food supply until they get established," he explained. "When you find a swarm, they

are the most docile of any bees you'll see." The Baumans have collected five swarms of bees so far this spring and summer. If anyone in the area encounters a swarm of bees, Dave said he would gladly come and get them. (See contact information at end of story.)

Dave says beekeeping is an interesting hobby and one in which he learns something new every year. After seven years at it, he admits, "We're still learning."

"We like to tell people, 'We have 100,000 employees.'" And Julie pipes in, "And they're all women." That's because worker honeybees are all female.

"The drones (male bees) are there for one purpose and that is if there is a new queen, they have to mate with the new queen," Dave explained. "They don't even have stingers. Come wintertime, they get kicked out of the hive (by the female worker bees) and are told to go die."

In their normal workday, bees pollinate flowers, get nectar, and bring it back to the hive so their bodies can process it to make honey, Dave said, noting that Rose of Sharon trees they have on their property produce the fourth-highest amount of nectar in the state of Michigan. Interestingly, if honeybees die in the

hive, other bees will push them out to keep the hive clean.

"We need to check on the bees every two weeks or so to make sure they're doing well and if they need additional room in case [the hive] is full of honey," Dave noted.

He says the queen bee will lay about a thousand eggs a day during the summer. "There are special workers [bees] that will bring her food as she's going around laying eggs."

Dave added that the average life of a honeybee during the summer is six weeks. "A bee in its lifetime will make one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey," he said. "If you look at a little jar of honey, it's probably the work of 5,000 bees. It's amazing."

The Baumanns have three beehives on their property in Clarklake and four hives they look after on Julie's uncle's farm near Hastings, Mich. They will be taking the honey out of the hives in early September.

"That will give the bees time to resupply – because each hive needs about 50 pounds of honey to survive the winter." To supplement their diet, the Baumans feed the bees sugar water to help them rebuild their supply of honey."

See *Busy as bees* page B2



Beekeeper Dave Bauman checks the bee activity in one of the hives.

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Busy as Bees ...continued from page B1



Beekeeper Dave Bauman carefully opens one of the beehives while his wife, Julie (out of the picture to the right), holds a smoker that emits smoke to keep the bees docile.

“We do this for a hobby – we do not do it to make money. We might break even. It’s something that keeps us going in retirement.”

Dave Bauman
co-owner, D&J Apiary

The Baumans “spin out” raw honey in a centrifuge once it is collected. “We put it through three different screens to take out any of the wax that’s left over from when we spin it,” he explains. “We try to strain everything out we can. It’s a sticky process.” They fill five-gallon buckets of honey which are then poured into two-quart jars. From there, it is poured one more time through a funnel and sieve into their final 16-ounce jars. Dave says making jars of honey is a couple-day process.

“We do this for a hobby – we do not do it to make money,” Dave shared. “We might break even. “It’s something that keeps us going in retirement. It’s our way of getting out and meeting the public. It’s very enjoyable when you go to an event and talk to all sorts of different people. It’s very interesting.”

Cost of starting a hive

If you buy a new hive, consisting of five frames, with an established queen bee and a colony of honeybees, Dave says it will cost a little more than \$200.

Another option he shared is to purchase a package consisting of three pounds of

bees with a queen that must be introduced to the worker honeybees. This option will run around \$160.

To get all the supplies, it will be around \$300 to \$350, he said, which includes a basic bee suit for around \$100. Higher grades of bee suits will cost up to \$200 more.

“It’s an expensive hobby to get into, but it’s very worthwhile,” he says. “We look at God’s creatures and think, ‘Wow, it’s so marvelous what they do! It’s so amazing what those little honeybees do. Without honeybees, there would be no food for us to eat because they pollinate all the plants.”

“When my cucumbers are all flowered out, there’s a honeybee in each flower,” shared Julie.

Where can you buy their honey?

You can purchase the honey the Baumans produce either at D&J Apiary on their farm on 4233 N. Lake Road, generally Monday through Friday. “Beep your horn,” Dave says, as they are likely outside working on their property or tending to the bees.

You can also find their honey in the basement of the antique mall at Forgotten



Bees congregate on the inner part, or frames, of a beehive.

Generations in the Sparks (formerly Commercial Exchange) Building in Jackson at 2301 E. Michigan Avenue at the corner of Horton Street. The building is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call D&J Apiary at 517-206-1335 or email davidgbauman@yahoo.com

About Dave and Julie Bauman

Dave grew up on a small farm in Hamilton, Mich., just south of Holland, Mich. and graduated from Hamilton High School in 1967.

He earned a bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University. He then accepted his first teaching position in Napoleon Community Schools in 1972 and ended up staying there and teaching for 38 years in the district, re-

tiring in 2010. He taught high school drafting, middle school civics, and tech ed (woodshop, etc.) for the last 20 years of his tenure there.

Julie also grew up on a small farm four miles outside of Woodland, Mich., a small town of 400 people near Hastings in Barry County. She graduated from Lake-wood High School. She became a licensed practical nurse at the age of 19 and worked at the former Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. She was introduced to David by a co-worker and soon thereafter they married. When they moved to the Napoleon area in the early 1970s, she continued on as a registered nurse at Foote Hospital in Jackson and retired in 2015. The couple then moved to their current property on N. Lake Road in Clarklake. Of note, Julie once raced harness racehorses.

The amazing dragonfly



PHOTO BY LYNN OKENKA

An orange meadowhawk dragonfly takes a rest from his travels. The presence of an orange meadowhawk dragonfly is a good sign, as it indicates a clean, healthy ecosystem because their aquatic nymphs are highly sensitive to pollution.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE MCLEMORE

Above: Silas Bialecki of the Irish Hills led a dragonfly identification and fact walk at the recent Divine Pine Gathering. Bialecki is “an avid naturalist, hunter, and fisher and often finds himself in a canoe exploring the local waterways.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

Blissfield On Tap returns for 8th year

By JACKIE KOCH
Meadowbrook Media

The eighth installment of the outdoor craft beer festival Blissfield on Tap will feature five area breweries at Blissfield's Clara Bachmayer Park along the River Raisin and U.S. 223 from 4-9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22. Along with the brews, there will be entertainment and food trucks to round out the event.

Blissfield on Tap is a 21 and older event; no children, pets or smoking will be allowed. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own seating. "If you want to hang out, sit and watch the band, we definitely recommend lawn chairs or blankets or whatever people want to bring to hang out and be comfortable," said Taylor Gooden, Blissfield's parks

and rec program coordinator.

"It's kind of evolved over the years. It's always been a parks and rec event, but we invite Michigan area craft breweries," said Gooden. "It started out in the street on South Lane Street, and then we moved it down to the park."

She said there are five different breweries that will bring their offerings, including Four Keys Brewing from Blissfield, Pavlov's Brewing Co. of Temperance, hear.say brewing of Ann Arbor, Yspi Alehouse out of Ypsilanti and Venture Brewing of Monroe.

The two food trucks for the event will be the Naughty Lobstah and Taqueria Nena's.

For musical entertainment, the festival will feature Hepcat Revival, a seven-piece band known for high-ener-

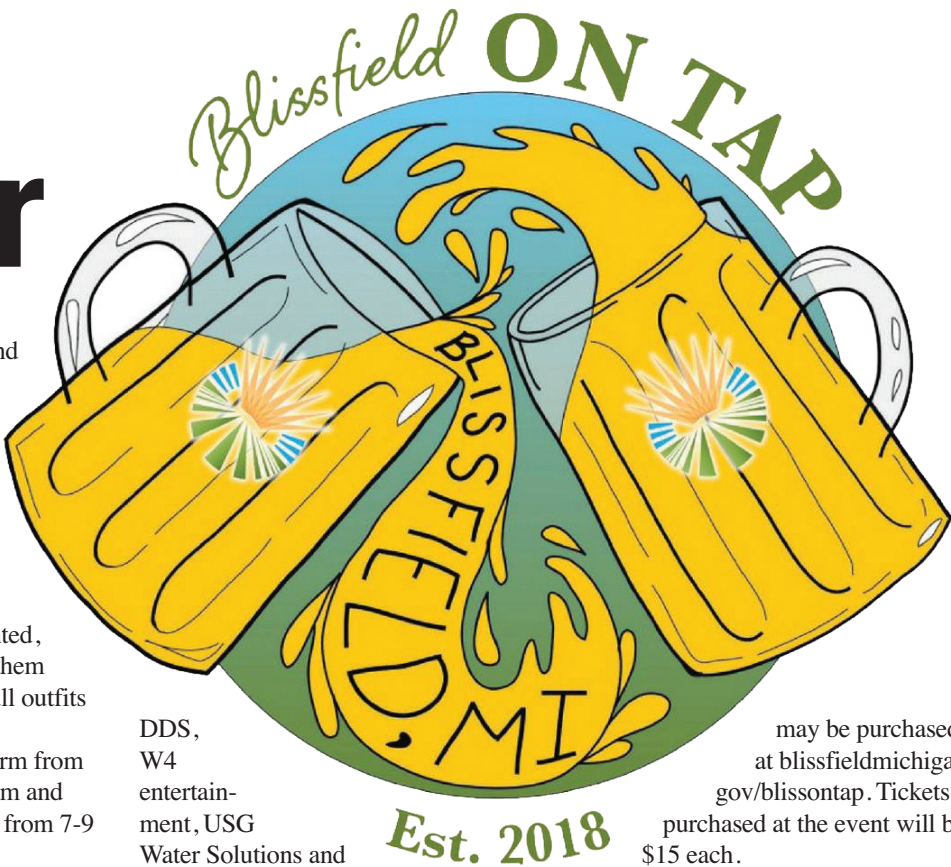
gy jump blues, jazz, swing, and funky soul, and Mainstream and the Family, another seven-piece band from Toledo. "Hepcat Revival is kind of like jazz, fusion," Gooden said. "Mainstream and the Family is a little bit more rock, funk, blues... I know they're both super talented, so I'm excited to see both of them down in the park with their full outfits playing."

Hepcat Revival will perform from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and Mainstream and the Family will take the stage from 7-9 p.m.

Presented by Blissfield Parks and Recreation and sponsored by Man-nik Smith Group, Christopher Mallow

DDS, W4 entertainment, USG Water Solutions and Blissfield BP, the festival has a pre-event ticket price of \$10 through Aug. 20, which

may be purchased at blissfieldmichigan.gov/blissontap. Tickets purchased at the event will be \$15 each. Beverages will be sold separately from entry ticket sales and will be \$6 each for 12-ounce pours.



ACA exhibit to feature watercolor paintings from across state

By JACKIE KOCH
Meadowbrook Media

An art exhibit that opened August 10 at the Adrian Center for the Arts (ACA), 1375 N. Adrian Hwy., Adrian, features 30 watercolor paintings created by members of the Michigan Water Color Society (MWCS), which supports painters from across the state. The ACA will host an art reception for the traveling exhibition from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16.

The art display, which is part of the society's annual juried exhibit, will run through Sunday, Aug. 30 and is sponsored by the Stubnitz Foundation, as is the ACA's entire 2026 Gallery Season.

The 79th Annual MWCS Exhibition of about 60 paintings was held earlier this summer at Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson, where 30 of the artworks were chosen for awards. The submissions were juried by internationally renowned artist Jean Pederson, who has exhibited her work in museums and galleries in Africa, Jiangsu China, Italy, England, Sweden, New York, United Nations, San Francisco, Mexico and Canada.

Tracy Lyons, the president of the Michigan Water Color Society, said the traveling exhibition will be shown at various locations for the rest of the year and consists of only the award-winning paintings.

Membership in the society is open to Michigan residents and past residents of Michigan.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Veteran, Sam Knecht, Hillsdale Mich.

"So if they move to another state and they're already a member, they can still submit to this show," Lyons said.

The society was founded in 1946 and has about 200 members. "We do a lot of networking, of course, we do some educational things, we usually have one workshop per year," she said. "We have a couple of meetings a year, and it's really just to get the camaraderie of artists working in the same medium to get to know each

other and get to know places to show and really network."

The statewide nonprofit organization is entirely run by volunteers, with board members serving three-year terms, and has no headquarters. Membership for an individual is \$30 per calendar year for adults and \$15 per year for students. Visit mwcsart1946.com for more details.

The ACA gallery (Building 46) is open Thursday through Sunday, 1-4 p.m.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Jim Dandy Band will perform at Cherry Creek Cellars Friday, Aug. 14 as part of the winery's Vineyard Jams summer music series.

Out and About: more things to do

Sidelot Sounds

Visit Tecumseh Tavern on the evening of Saturday, Aug. 15 for the latest installment of Sidelot Sounds featuring The Wasabi Pearls. The band for Saturday, Aug. 22 will be Jaded Soul. Sidelot Sounds events take place from 7-10 p.m. in the parking lot next to the tavern. Go to Tecumseh Tavern MI on Facebook for further details.

Rock the Block

Muk's Sports Pub will host its annual Rock the Block from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, in the South Evans Street block in Tecumseh in front of the pub at 107 S. Evans St. The event will feature food trucks including Taco Truck of Clinton, The Grateful Crow, S'Mac and Cheese, Hannah's Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Dora's Donuts. Live music will be provided by the band Leadfoot. Visit Muks Sports Pub on Facebook for updates.

Jackson Civil War Muster

Civil War history buffs won't want to miss

the longest-running Civil War event in the Midwest, taking place Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 22-23 at Cascades Park, 1401 S. Brown St., Jackson. Established in 1986, it will feature hundreds of living historians and is a full-scale Civil War reenactment event that draws audiences from all over. The family-friendly event will have food vendors, arts and crafts, historically-accurate interactive installations from the Civil War era, merchandise, games, music, historical impersonators, a military ball on Saturday night, and more. Battles will take place on both days at 2 p.m.

New this year is a 19th century baking contest. The recipe must be from the Civil War era or before, and pies or cakes may be baked off-site. This will be held in the civilian parlor tent with activities hosted by the ladies. To enter your name and dish, email Dan at billyyank1865@gmail.com. Find more information about the Civil War Muster at civilwarmuster.org or get updates at Jackson Civil War Muster on Facebook.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Civil War reenactment is taking place Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 22-23

Summer music at Cherry Creek Cellars

Cherry Creek Cellars, the winery housed in an old brick schoolhouse at 11500 Silver Lake Hwy., Brooklyn, continues its outdoor live music "Vineyard Jams" schedule for the 2026 season.

Established as Cherry Creek Winery in 2003, the business was transferred in 2018 to winemaker and vineyard manager Patrick Spensley, who got his start in the industry working in vineyards and wineries in New Zealand. The renamed Cherry Creek Cellars is continuing operations at the 5-acre estate vineyard, producing

quality wines from the hybrid varietals they grow and grapes they acquire from Lake Michigan shore growers, according to their website.

The "Vineyard Jams" schedule includes music by The Jim Dandy Band on Friday, Aug. 14, with the food truck Tiki Sam's Pizza, and the band Wishing Well on Saturday, Aug. 15, with the Ben's Island Grindz food truck.

On Friday, Aug. 21, The Ramblers Band will entertain attendees, with food from the Bens' Island Grindz food truck. Saturday, Aug. 22 will feature

Medicine Men & Westside Girls with food truck Ben's Island Grindz.

The music for Friday, Aug. 28 will be provided by Mark Maze & Big Deal, with the FFF Truck food truck, and on Saturday, Aug. 29, Bille Lewis & the Soulbacks will perform while the Rolling Hoagies truck will provide food.

All of the Vineyard Jams events will run from 7-10 p.m., with a \$5 cover charge. More information can be found on the Cherry Creek Cellars Facebook page.

EXPONENT Classifieds

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8277 South Jackson Road, Clarklake. Friday, August 14, 8 am to 4 pm, and Saturday, August 15, 8 am to 12 pm. All proceeds will go to the Jackson Interfaith Shelter

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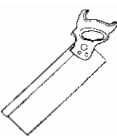
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NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP

Notice

2

The Napoleon Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing September 9th 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Township Hall 6755 Brooklyn Rd, Napoleon, MI 49261.

At this time all interested parties will be heard on the request of Ron Loeffler, 8033 S. Portage Rd, Jackson, MI 49201 to allow 1) 5ft West side setback 2) 12ft setback from Private Road edge 3) 40% lot coverage for new home. The ordinance requires 10/15 ft side set backs and 35ft from Road Right away. The ordinance also requires 30% total lot coverage, All other setbacks comply with the current ordinance setbacks.

Napoleon Township Office is open Monday thru Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during which time the Zoning Ordinance / Zoning Map may be examined. Written comments regarding the above matter may be directed to the Township or by calling (517) 536-8694 Extension 208. Napoleon Township will provide any necessary or reasonable auxiliary aids at the meeting for persons with disabilities, upon ten (10) days' written notice to the Township.

Jane Gallant,
Zoning Administrator.

NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP

Notice

2

The Napoleon Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing September 9th, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Township Hall 6755 Brooklyn Rd, Napoleon, MI 49261.

At this time all interested parties will be heard on the request of Mike and Annie Hestwood, 10 Ackerson Lake Rd. Jackson, MI to allow 1700sf new construction of a new addition and garage replacement. Requesting a setback of 15.6 on the left side of the garage and 13' on the right side of the garage to the actual road. No other setback reductions are requested. Allow 46% land coverage. (current allowance is 30% for Residential Zoning)

Napoleon Township Office is open Monday thru Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during which time the Zoning Ordinance / Zoning Map may be examined. Written comments regarding the above matter may be directed to the Township or by calling (517) 536-8694 Extension 208. Napoleon Township will provide any necessary or reasonable auxiliary aids at the meeting for persons with disabilities, upon ten (10) days' written notice to the Township.

Jane Gallant,
Zoning Administrator.



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FILE NO. 26-582-DE

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Notice to creditors: The decedent, Paul Wesley Stemen, died 1/30/2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate, will be forever barred unless presented to Ashley Littlefield, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 312 S. Jackson Street, 1st Floor, Jackson Michigan 49201, (517) 788-4290, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. 7/06/26

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Ashley Littlefield
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Some pretty ‘Fair’ results

A few local artists scored big at the Lenawee County Fair



Avah Jenkins, of Onsted Sweet Clovers 4-H, was awarded an Extra Special Rosette for a close-up of a duck in water in the photography division.



Claire Smith, of Tipton Jets, was awarded a Special Honors ribbon for a human subject photo in color.

Story and photos
By Michelle McLemore
Staff writer

The Lenawee County Fair wrapped up Saturday, Aug. 1 after a week of 4-H and Open Class educational competition and exhibition, midway rides, free bandshell entertainment, games, ice cream, and grandstand events.

Throughout the week, youth competed in both static and live project classes to demonstrate the knowledge and skills members gained in the prior year. Per the Michigan State University Extension, the program “allows youth to learn-by-doing while developing life skills.”

Exhibitors received a white, red, or a blue

ribbon reflecting their exhibit's quality and proof of knowledge learned. A set percentage of special honors ribbons were awarded. Of those, Extra Special Rosette honors were awarded. For static exhibits, 4-Hers had the option to choose to sit with a judge for an informal interview about their learning process or to leave the product to be judged solely on its appearance.

To learn about 4-H, or get involved as an adult volunteer, for Lenawee County, visit canr.msu.edu/lenawee/lenawee_county_4_h. For Jackson County, visit canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h. The Jackson County Fair will take place Aug. 9-15.



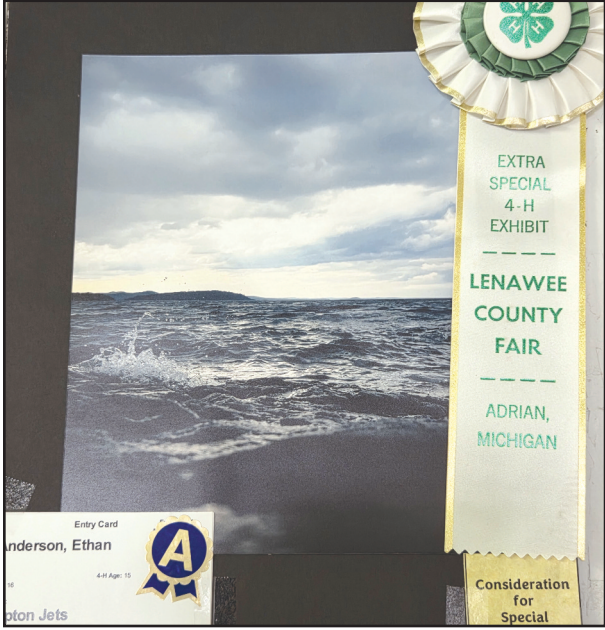
For woodworking, Garrett Smith, of the Tipton Jets, brought home the Special Honors ribbon for his seascape fish carving.



Ryden Luma, of Addison's Quaker Willing Workers, earned the Top Rosette in the crafts division for a 4-H-themed stenciled sign.



In the self-determined education category, Helen Wines, age 10 of the Onsted Sweet Clovers, earned the Extra Special Rosette for her research display “Marie Antoinette: The Rise and Fall of France's Last Queen.”



The Extra Special Rosette was awarded to Ethan Anderson of the Tipton Jets for a seascape photo. Right: In the crafts division, Rayne Holderman of Onsted Sweet Clovers earned a Special Honors ribbon for a hand-crafted windchime.



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