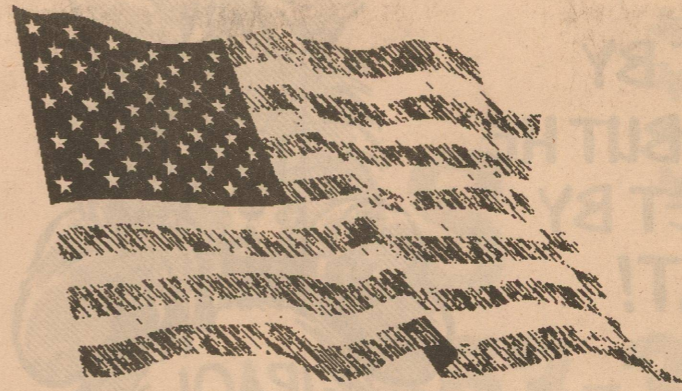


May God protect our
troops and bring
them quickly home,
Safe and
Victorious!



THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



SINGLE ISSUE
PRICE ONLY
75¢

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VOLUME 102, ISSUE 13

"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"

MARCH 27, 2003



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Blame it on Baghdad — Two juveniles told investigators that they vandalized two SCISD gymnasiums because they were convinced that the war in Iraq would lead to the end of the world and they wanted to "have a little fun." The fun caused more than \$5,000 in damages, including the mess pictured above.

Vandals trash school gymnasium

Two juveniles face charges in connection with a burglary and vandalism in and around two SCISD gymnasiums. The youths were taken into custody by Chief Deputy George Arispe on Friday, March 21, 2003, and were transported to the Tom Green County Juvenile Detention Center.

Authorities first learned of the vandalism at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 20, when school officials called to report the incident. Once at the scene, officers found that burglars had gained access to the middle school gym through a window in the girls locker room. From there, they left a trail of mischief and mayhem through both the middle school and high school gymnasiums.

An assortment of cleaning chemicals were dumped on the floor in the main-

tenance office in the new gym and fire extinguishers were discharged in hallways, locker rooms and coaches offices. Also, obscene graffiti was sprayed on at least one office door.

Most of the damage came in the middle school gym, however. That's where the vandals poured five gallons of clear floor wax on the floor in another office and dumped several athletic uniforms into the mess. Among the damaged uniforms were: 48 t-shirts, 10 football jerseys, 10 football pants, 8 sweatpants and 15 basketball jerseys.

The damage spread to a nearby weight room where the burglars, unable to gain access to the room, pushed several fluorescent light bulbs through a hole in a wall. The bulbs fell to the floor and broke inside the weight room.

Deputy Arispe noted that several clues pointed toward two juveniles, one from Eldorado, and a second from Del Rio. He said that one of the youngsters told him that events surrounding the war in Iraq had convinced them that the world was coming to the end and that they decided to "have a little fun," before the end came.

The two youths face felony charges of burglary and criminal mischief. Arispe noted the charges are both state jail felonies due to the amount of damage. He said that the school placed a price tag of \$5,097.00 on the damage, including the price of clean-up and repairs.

The youths were released into the custody of their families on Monday, March 24, 2003.

Hospital continues to upgrade equipment

For first time in recent years, facility doesn't use its tax subsidy

February was a profitable month for Schleicher County Medical Center, in fact, it was the first profitable month that any of the current members of the board of trustees can recall.

The hospital's financial picture has been steadily improving recently, with the facility requiring less and less of its tax subsidy to pay the bills. But, February's numbers came as a pleasant surprise at Monday night's meeting of the board. The hospital, nursing home and clinic were in the black, the trustees learned, operating without tax subsidy during February.

"There were times when I wondered if this day would ever come," commented board president Randy Mankin. "It is a pleasure to announce to the taxpayers of Schleicher County that, for this month at least, this hospital cost you nothing."

Much of the turn around is being attributed to recent upgrades in equipment. The board learned that the hospital's new x-ray and ultrasound equipment, as well as the recently acquired spiral CT-scanner, are contributing dramatically to the facility's bottom line. Dr. Patrick Taylor was present for the meeting and noted that, thanks in great part to the new equipment, patients that once were sent to San Angelo for diagnosis and treatment, can now be treated locally.

The encouraging financial news came just in time for Dr. Taylor and Ram Perez, R.N., as they asked the board to consider upgrading the hospital's telemetry equipment. They explained that the facility's current equipment represents 1970s technology and urged the board to replace it. The new system the men recommended would allow the heart-beat, respirations and blood oxygen levels of as many as four patients at a time to be monitored remotely at the nursing station.

After noting that the new equipment will allow even more patients to be treated locally, the board decided to purchase a system and they voted unanimously to call for bids for a new telemetry system. Sealed bids will be opened during a special meeting at 12:00 noon on Monday, April 14, 2003.



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

This is the one we want — Ram Perez, R.N., addressed the Schleicher County Hospital District board of trustees Monday night and urged them to upgrade the hospital's telemetry equipment. The trustees agreed to the request and called for bids on new equipment that will allow nursing staff to monitor patients remotely.

Trustees present for the meeting included Randy Mankin, Shirley Joiner, Delia Pina, Ricky Fuessel and Jim Martin. Trustee Frank Williams was absent. The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. and the group immediately entered into an executive session with attorney James Kosub to discuss pending litigation. While behind closed doors the group also took up the subject of contract negotiations. They returned to open session about 90 minutes later without taking action on either matter.

Also present for the meeting were Hospital Administrator Sharon Dietz, Assistant Administrator Beverly Minor, hospital consultants Andy Freeman and Jerry Hulin as well as Pam Madole, a certified public accountant.

Among other business, the board moved to improve employee benefits. They authorized a group insurance plan for district employees and voted to open a day care center in house adjacent to the hospital. It was explained that employees who choose not to sign up for

the group health insurance will be allowed free medical service at the facility, equal to the amount of premiums. Concerning the day care center, it was explained that child care will be offered only to hospital district employees and that they will be required to pay \$1.50 per hour for the service.

Next, the trustees took up the discussion of the district's finances. It was noted that the hospital had recorded \$305,701.00 in revenue during the month of February, more than the hospital has ever received in any single month. The revenue pushed the hospital's bottom line more than \$11,000 into the black, allowing more than \$67,000.00 in tax revenue to stay in the bank.

A look at the district's statistics revealed that business is up in the clinic as well as the hospital. An occupancy rate of 48 percent in the hospital was cause for much discussion among the trustees. As recently as four years ago,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

County okays \$50K for chapel, Civic Center costs more than expected

Normally, few if any members of the public attend the twice-monthly meetings of the Schleicher County Commissioners Court. Monday, wasn't normal, though as the room was crowded to overflowing with citizens interested in building a chapel at the local cemetery. Among those in attendance were Wenona Isaacs, Juanice Orr, Helen Aldridge, Norma Lynn Mund, Dorothy Clark, Dorothy Harris, Bill Hodges, William McCutcheon and Brian Edmiston. Also on hand for the discussion was San Angelo architect Gary Donaldson.

As the group discussed the need for a shelter where funeral services could be held in the county cemetery, Donald-

son pictures of similar structures that already exist in Big Spring and Coleman. It soon became evident that the audience members preferred the Big Spring chapel, built to resemble a small country church with arched windows and a bell tower.

It was noted that the chapel would not need to be enclosed, thereby allowing breezes to cool the structure during the hot summer months, while blocking the cold north winds during the winter.

As the discussion continued, Judge Johnny Griffin suggested that a chapel could be built directly behind the cemetery's main entrance, in line with the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



The devil's in the details — Schleicher County Judge Johnny Griffin (standing) and (L-R) Commissioners Matt Brown and Kirk Griffin and contractor Micky McCrea look over plans for converting the county's current agriculture building into a new civic center.

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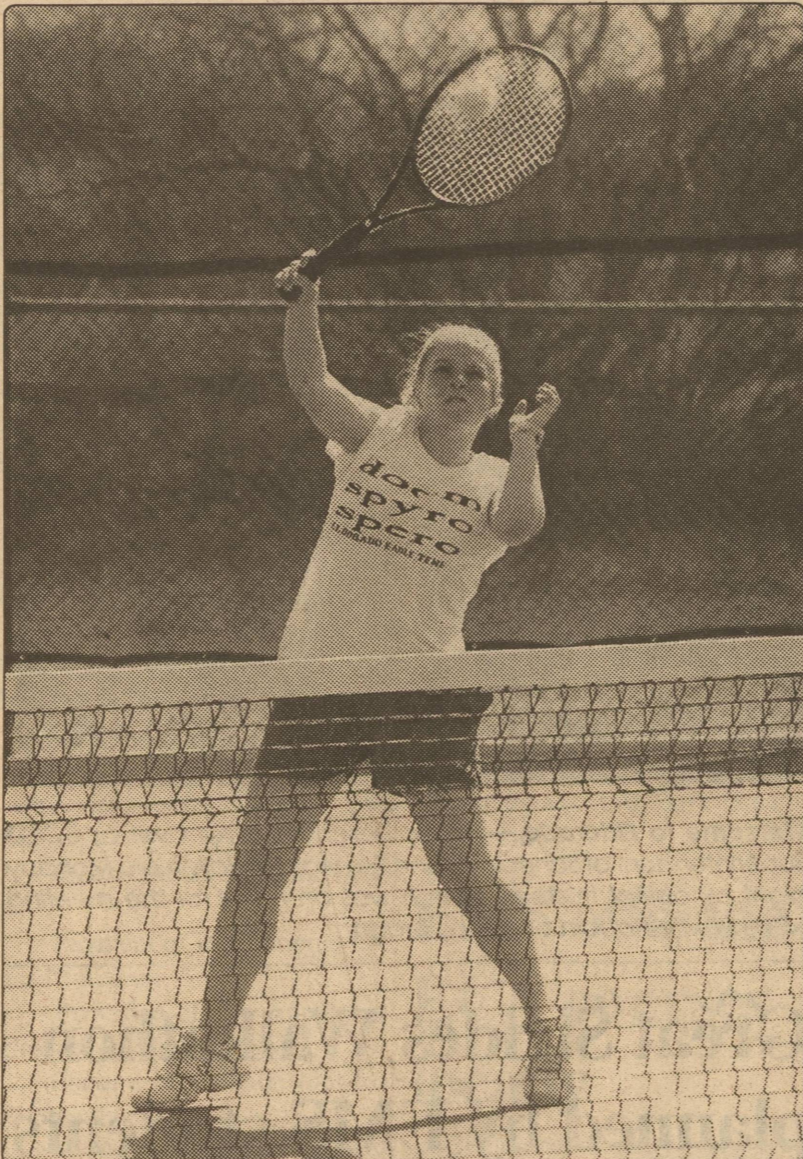
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Right back at ya' — Lady Eagles netter Chandra Wanoreck is shown here in recent tennis action. She and her partner Christina Redish helped the Eagles tennis team to a 2nd Place finish in the Big Lake tourney last weekend.

Warbirds netters place 2nd at Big Lake tourney

The Eldorado Tennis team finished second in the twenty one team Reagan County Invitational this weekend by dominating the doubles draws. Chandra Wanoreck, with a little help from partner Christina Redish, won the girls doubles division while Courtney Sauer and Courtney Brown placed third. In the boys bracket Quisto Gonzalez and Buddy Greer squeaked by teammates Heath Andrew and Bobby Phillips to claim the boys championship. Ryan Cathey and Frank Edmiston

barely missed out on the medal round falling in the quarterfinals to the eventual fourth place team in split sets. Michael Ballew also fell in the quarterfinals to the eventual runner up while Maxie Holley, Lauren Brown, and Taylor Baker all played well while exiting in their second round matches. Shay Parker also fell in the second round. The Eagles travel to Fort Stockton this weekend to face some fierce competition in preparation for the district tournament.

Christina Redish named to All-West Texas team

Christina Redish has made two All-Tournament teams this past basketball season. She has been named to her 4th All-District team. Christina is a senior now, and after being nominated her Sophomore and Junior year to the All-West Texas Basketball team. Last week, Christina was only the second young lady that has played

basketball for Eldorado High School, to be named to the All-West Texas Basketball Team. With a scoring average of 20 points and 12 rebounds. She was called, "One of the best scores in West Texas", by the sports writers. Christina is the daughter of Mack and Angie Redish and the sister of Michael Redish.

The EHS One-Act Play "Teahouse of the August Moon" will compete at the district contest in Ozona on Saturday, March 29, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to make the trip to Ozona and cheer on Eldorado's young actors and actresses!

Eagles nine soar to 3-0 start in loop play

A big 2nd inning which saw the Eagles score seven runs and the strong pitching of Frankie Arispe was all the Eagles needed to get past the Ozona Lions on Friday, March 21, 2003. The seven run 2nd propelled the Eagles to an 8-1 victory.

The Eagles went down quietly in the bottom of the 1st, but the 2nd was a different story. Philip Martinez reached first when he was hit by a pitch. Joey Hernandez followed with a walk and Martinez reached third on a passed ball. Homer Hernandez then drove Martinez in with a sacrifice fly to left field to give the Eagles a 1-0 lead. With two outs Michael Adame drove in Hernandez with a single up the middle. Jared Grubbs then followed with a single over the shortstop's head to drive in Adame. After a walk to Trey Chavez, Quisto Gonzalez was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Frankie Arispe then hit the next pitch up the middle to drive in Grubbs and Chavez. Philip Mar-

tiniz then followed with a double to left center that plated Gonzalez and courtesy runner Kolby Dombroski to account for the other two runs in the big seven run 2nd. Michael Adame accounted for the other run in the bottom of the 5th when he walked and was able to score after three passed balls.

The Lions could muster only one run on three hits. Their lone run coming in the 4th. The Lions were held down by the strong pitching of Frankie Arispe who ended the game with 13 strikeouts. Arispe set the Lions down in order in five of the seven innings and only faced four batters in the other two innings. The Lions only reached third base twice and second twice against Arispe. With the win the Eagles move to 14-4 on the year and more importantly 2-0 in district.

The Eagles then defeated Sonora 1-0 on Tuesday, March 25, 2003, to move their District 2-2A mark to 3-0. See next week's Success for details on that game.

JV Eagles tame Ozona Lions

The JV boys defeated the Ozona Lions 14-10 on Monday. The Eagles were led by a balanced attack at the plate, and some strong pitching from three different players.

The Eagles scored five in the bottom of the 1st, four in the 3rd, two in the 4th, and four in the 6th. The Eagles lead the entire game before the Lions tied it up at ten a piece in the top of the 6th. The Eagles responded with four runs in the bottom of the 6th to put the game away at 14-10. Every position in the batting order scored at least one run. Jorge Bustos scored twice with one hit, Tony Chavez scored twice with a double, Kolby Dombroski scored twice with one hit, Luis Hernandez scored

once with a double, Frank Wipff scored twice with a double and a single, Frank Edmiston scored once with one hit, Ryan Cathey scored once with a hit, and Michael Hill recorded a hit. The Eagles showed a very balanced attack throughout the game.

On the mound Ryan Cathey started and pitched two strong innings recording three strikeouts. He was relieved by Andy Mejia who pitched two innings recording two strikeouts. Caleb Nixon who also caught the first four innings finished by pitching two innings. Caleb Nixon recorded five strikeouts in his two innings of work. The Eagles are scheduled to face Sonora on next Monday.

EMS tennis results listed

Mason, March 21, 2003
8th Grade
 Girls Singles: 2. Kristin Mittel;
 Boys Doubles: 3. Cash Lane and David Hernandez;
 Boys Singles: Logan Neal;
 Participants: Krista Troy, Tiffany Hernandez, Brittney Jennings, Sandra Garza, Liz Lacy, Mark Bybee, Chelci Sellers, Neal Higgins, Blake Chatham, Maygen Eubanks and Macy Chatham.

Sonora Jr. High Tennis Tournament
March 22, 2003
8th Grade
 Boys Singles: 1..Russell Cathey; 2. Abel Montalvo (tie breaker);
 Boys Doubles: 3. Richmond Adame and Artie Montalvo, Consolation. Adam Dominguez and Sammy Estrada;

Girls Singles: 2. J.C. Rodriguez;
 Girls Doubles: 3. Lynley Glass and Chelcie Pridemore;
 Participants were Kimberly Samaniego, Mariana Guzman, J.P. Joiner, J. Lynn Barajas, Michael Redish, Liana Danford.
 Eldorado will host a Junior High Tournament this Saturday, March 29, 2003. Teams participating will be Ozona, Mason, Grape Creek and Sonora.

School Menu

Milk & Bread Offered
Menus Subject To Change
Cafeteria Line

Monday, March 31
 Chicken Fried Steak w/ Gravy,
 Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans,
 Dinner Roll, Chocolate Chip Cookie

Tuesday, April 1
 Super Nachos, Pinto Beans, Mixed
 Fruit, Jello w/ Topping

Wednesday, April 2
 Chicken Spaghetti, Whole Kernel
 Corn, Lettuce & Tomato Salad,
 Dinner Roll, Pudding w/ Topping

Thursday, April 3
 Corn Dog, Tater Tots, Baked Beans,
 Cowboy Cookies

Friday, April 4
 Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwiches,
 French Fries, Lettuce & Tomato,
 Orange Halves

Breakfast
 ½ pt. Milk & 4 oz.
 Juice offered w/each breakfast

Monday, March 31
 Honey Bun, Cheese, Orange Juice

Tuesday, April 1
 Dry Cereal, Assorted Crackers,
 Orange Juice

Wednesday, April 2
 Sausage Roll, Grape Juice

Thursday, April 3
 Pop Tart, Cheese, Pineapple Juice

Friday, April 4
 Dry Cereal, Assorted Crackers,
 Orange Juice

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Sheriff's Dept. receives two grants totaling \$29K

Local law enforcement officers will be able to take advantage of some new tools as they battle crime in Schleicher County, thanks to two grants received by the Schleicher County Sheriff's Department. The first grant, provides \$12,000 for four in-car cameras while the second grant of \$17,000 helps the department purchase some high-tech tools to use in drug interdiction.

The \$12,000 grant for the in-car cameras was made possible by Senate Bill 1074 through a program administered by the Texas Dept. of Public Safety. The grant will pay for the purchase and installation of four camera units in the department's patrol cars.

Sheriff David Doran noted that the cameras will give his officers the capability of video taping traffic stops, as well as other investigations. "It's a tool we are pleased to have and will put to good use," Doran stated.

The second grant, obtained through the Technology Transfer Program, Office of Counter-Drug Technology Assessment Center took awhile to receive. It was first applied for in March, 2002. But, according to Sheriff Doran, it was worth the wait. The grant, totaling

\$17,000 is paying for new, high-tech equipment to assist local officers with drug investigation.

Part of the equipment includes a device that officers can use to peer inside fuel tanks, or into hard to reach places under and inside vehicles. A second piece of equipment, a density meter, assists officers in determining if there is anything hidden behind fenders or other body panels.

Along with the equipment, local officers have received training in its proper use. Deputy Jason Chatham demonstrated the equipment Tuesday Sheriff Doran outlined the grants that paid for it all.

Just a year prior to the two grants discussed here, the Sheriff's Dept. received a \$10,000 grant through the Concho Valley Council of Governments which paid for replacing a 30-year old radio repeater.

"I know that law enforcement represents a major portion of the county's budget," Sheriff Doran said while showing off the new equipment. "That's why we pursue every grant we can. Any money that we can raise through other sources, is money we don't have to ask our taxpayers to provide."



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN
Open wide and say, Aaaah — Deputy Jason Chatham demonstrates a new scope that allows local officers to look for drugs inside fuel tanks or other hard-to-check places.

County funds chapel, moves on Civic Center

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

memorial flag poles. A small parking area, was also considered. There was also talk of a casket pedestal and a sound system.

In the end, Commissioner Bill Clark offered a motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$50,000.00 with which to build a chapel. The motion, seconded by Matt Brown, passed unanimously.

Already, private funds are coming in to help offset the cost of construction. William McCutcheon noted that he and his mother, Isabella McCutcheon would each donate \$500 to the project and Wenona Isaacs noted that others have expressed an interest in contributing. The idea of acknowledging donations with an engraved plaque on the structure was also mentioned.

As the idea of donations or memorial offerings was discussed, Judge Griffin explained that the county cannot solicit donations. He suggested that a committee be formed from among the group in attendance that could meet with Donaldson to decide on plans for the chapel. The committee could also solicit funds. As the discussion wrapped up, Wenona Isaacs, who first suggested the idea of building a chapel told the commissioners, "If your gonna build a chapel, please hurry!"

Since the meeting, the Success has learned that a committee has been formed and that a bank account for the Chapel is being established so that donations may be accepted. Persons seeking more information are asked to contact Mrs. Isaacs at 853-3709.

Commissioners present for the meeting included Johnny Mayo,

Bill Clark, Kirk Griffin. Along with County Judge Johnny Griffin, other county officials in attendance were Sheriff David Doran, Treasurer Karen Henderson, Clerk Peggy Williams and Road Superintendent Clay Bureson.

Almost as soon as the commissioners had decided to spend money building a chapel at the cemetery, they learned that the cost of converting the Ag Barn into a Civic Center has gone up by more than \$45,000.00. Architect Henry Schmidt and building contractor Micky McCrea met with the commissioners to explain that prices for heating and air conditioning equipment, electrical, siding, roofing and insulation have gone up since the men began considering the project last summer. At that time they estimated the cost of the project at \$282,968.00. That figure has now gone up to \$328,330.00.

Commissioner Bill Clark, who made his opposition to the project clear at recent meetings, was upset with the news. He told his fellow commissioners that he sees increases in employee health insurance and other expenses looming in the county's futures.

The other commissioners were not swayed, however and the group voted 3-1 to accept the new, higher bid, with Bill Clark casting the sole dissenting vote. It was also explained during the discussion that the county is likely to spend another \$10,000 to \$15,000 to complete installation of a sewer system and connect it with the City of Eldorado's wastewater treatment plant.

The project is being funded, in large part, with proceeds from certificates of obligation that the

county issued in November. The certificates raised some \$335,000 for the county, an amount that will be paid back over a 10-year period at interest rates ranging from 2.25 to 4.35 percent.

In other business, County Extension Agent Scott Edmonson met with the commissioners to discuss constructing animal feeding pens at an area near the Civic Center facility. The site for the pens has already been prepared, however, plans have yet to be agreed upon. Commissioner Matt Brown agreed to assist Edmonson in reworking the existing plans and obtaining quotes for construction. In the meantime, the men explained that the county is in no hurry to dismantle or relocate the existing pens, located adjacent to the Civic Center.

The court then voted unanimously to offer a lease to Gaines County farmer Jerry Harris for land that the commissioners oversee in the county on behalf of Schleicher County ISD. If Harris accepts the new lease, it will expire on Dec. 31, 2007. He must also agree to other requirements specified by the court.

Before adjourning, the commissioners authorized County Clerk Peggy Williams to hire summer workers through the school's summer work program. They also approved an inter-local agreement with the City of Eldorado that will allow both to qualify for any grant funds that might become available under the new Homeland Security Department. The agreement calls on the two jurisdictions to cooperate with their equipment and manpower in the even of a natural disaster of civil emergency.

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LORDY, LORDY, LOOK WHO'S

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Eldorado Elementary

Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Round-Up

April 15th, 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Elementary Kitchen

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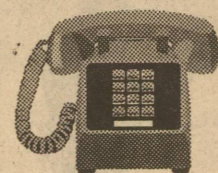
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Kindergarten es para los niños o niñas que Cumplen cinco (5) años para el primero (1) De Septiembre, 2003.

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