

BORDER

eco



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CONNECTING SOUTHERN ARIZONA



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2021



Early Childhood Education Award of Excellence Recipients

The month of February has been designated by the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office in partnership with First Things First, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Family Resource Centers, Child Care Resource and Referral, Nogales Rotary Club, Mariposa Health Community Center, Nogales/Santa Cruz County Library, City of Nogales, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and Child and Family Resources as Early Childhood Education Awareness Month. This initiative is in its fifth year of bringing attention to the importance of Early Childhood Education in Santa Cruz County. It also recognizes and celebrates the work of the medical profession, local agencies, educational leaders and institutions, preschool administrators, and teachers that provide the necessary services to nurture and enrich the lives of our young children and their families. During this time, we take the opportunity to honor and recognize those individuals whose contributions have had an extraordinary influence on our early childhood population and their families throughout the County. Therefore, the Santa Cruz County Early Childhood Education Award of Excellence was created to acknowledge and highlight the work of these individuals whose exemplary leadership, commitment, dedication, and passion have tremendously impacted and left an imprint in this early phase of a child's life. On behalf of the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez and partners, it is an honor to announce this year's recipients of the 2021 Santa Cruz County Early Childhood Education Award of Excellence.



Sr. Rosa Maria Ruiz
Former Superintendent
Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Tucson
President at Lourdes Catholic School



David Verdugo
Superintendent
Santa Cruz Unified School District #35



Dr. James "Phillip" Williams
Head of Pediatrics
Mariposa Community Health Center



Mariela Gallegos
Site Supervisor at
Challenger Head Start



Jennifer Argyros
Program Director
Family Resource Center UA Cooperative Extension Santa Cruz County



Raquel Vizcarra
Early Childhood Educator
Child Parent Center Nogales Head Start



William "Bill" Kirkpatrick Member and Past Chair
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Santa Cruz Regional Council



Laura C. Monarque
Vice Chair
First Things First
Santa Cruz Regional Council NUSD Nurse



Nohe Garcia
Industrial Developer
Nogales Rotary Club Member



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Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent
Alfredo I. Velásquez



Family Resource Centers
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Border Eco Updates

Border Eco Mission

Our goal is to continue reporting on the great people, organizations, and services in our community. We want to change the public's perception on our border town. Border Eco is focused on the positive people, organizations, and services within our community that makes our bordertown unique. Santa Cruz County is a beautiful community with lots of history and cultural background.

We are grateful for the continued support. We want to thank our customers for their support.

Our mission is to change public perception of our border town.

"It is never too late to bring in change, that you want to see around you. Let this year be the forefront for introducing new ideas to make the world a better and safer place for all of us. Let's make history by doing something to improve Santa Cruz County"

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Border Eco Magazine now offers TV advertisement. Contact us for rates and channels to help promote your business in Santa Cruz County.

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Email: contact@bordereco.com

Please send us information on any upcoming events, meetings, or programs to share with our readers.

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Santa Cruz County Attorney



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Making a difference in public service

This month Border Eco is pleased to introduce two women who have made a difference in our community. Their work at the community foodbank has made a difference for many families. The pandemic affected many families, which increased the number of people needing assistance. Monica Gonzalez and Griselda Navarro both work in the Nogales Resource Center with clients and volunteers.

Monica Gonzalez is the Client & Volunteer Services Co-Manager of Nogales Resource Center

She is originally from a small town in Orosi, California known primarily for agriculture. She moved to Nogales, Arizona in 1996. Monica has a 24 year-old daughter, 11 year-old son, and 4 year-old grandson.

Ms. Gonzalez began working as a client services assistant in 2015. In 2019, she was transferred as client services/volunteer coordinator.

Recently, she was promoted to client services/volunteer services manager, co-manager of Nogales Resource Center. Her accomplishments are developing connections with agencies to provide services to Santa Cruz County residents, assisting in developing online registration through “get connected” to volunteer, while helping in developing the community garden.

“We are able to provide healthy foods to families the same day they apply, all services are free. We also provide services in case of an emergency situation. We also offer SNAP assistance. I think it is important to help our neighbors in need and to give back to the community you live in is very fulfilling,” said Gonzalez.

Since COVID-19 the community food bank has become a low-touch distribution center relying on help from the National Guard Service and just a few volunteers. Clients are not allowed to come into the building and they can renew their applications by phone. SNAP applications are by appointment only or via phone. Staff and volunteers are required to have daily temperature check-ins.

“Our future plans are to bring in more programs and resources to our clients at a one-stop shop at our Nogales Resource Center. The goal is to help build and maintain a community garden going by empowering our garden leaders.

We also hope to grow our volunteer base as soon as it is safe. We are extremely grateful for the support we received from the National Guard Service, local produce warehouses who donate produce, donors who donate monetary donations, and our co-workers who help in the warehouse and office to keep our operation going during the pandemic,” said Gonzalez.

Griselda Navarro is the Nogales Resource Center Co-Manager. She started as a volunteer at the community food bank 4 years ago. Griselda started as a volunteer working for the Kids Farmer's Market where they took vegetables to the schools. She was later hired as a full-time employee working in the warehouse responsible for sending and receiving products.

She was later promoted to work as a logistics manager and is now a co-Manager of Nogales Community Food Bank. Griselda is originally from Nogales, Sonora Mexico. She is married and mother of 4 children, as well as the proud grandmother of a little girl.

Subscribe to watch the latest community echoes



Calabasas Preschool Earns National NAEYC Accreditation

“I am really happy working as a co-manager and having the opportunity to work in this position. I enjoy helping people and working with the food bank. Senior citizens have been impacted the most, since the pandemic began as the Nogales Rides stopped transporting them. Seniors have been left without a ride to pick up their food, as most of the seniors relied on Nogales Rides to pick up their food here at the Community Food Bank Nogales Resource Center. Some senior citizens are still scared of the virus since they are the most vulnerable population but as an organization we have worked very hard to follow all COVID-19 standards as CDC has recommended,” said Navarro.

The Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35 (SCV35) is pleased to announce Calabasas Preschool has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)—the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children.

NAEYC Accreditation is a rigorous and transformative quality-improvement system that uses a set of 10 research-based standards to collaborate with early education programs to recognize and drive quality-improvement in high-quality early learning environments.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, Calabasas Preschool went through an extensive self-study and quality-improvement process, followed by an on-site visit by NAEYC Assessors to verify and ensure that the program met each of the ten program standards, and hundreds of corresponding individual criteria. NAEYC-accredited programs are always prepared for unannounced quality-assurance visits during their accreditation term, which lasts for five years.

In the 30 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 7,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC—less than 10 percent of all child care centers, preschools, and kindergartens nationally achieve this recognition.

“NAEYC-Accredited programs bring our definitions of excellence for early childhood education to life each day,” said Kristen Johnson, senior director of Early Learning Program Accreditation at NAEYC. “Earning NAEYC Accreditation make Calabasas Preschool an exemplar of good practice for families and the entire community.”

“Our District has always been committed to providing quality early childhood education to the children and families of our community,” said Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Melisa Lunderville. “It is a great honor to receive accreditation from this organization.”—By Shannon Enciso, Communications Specialist Santa Cruz Valley USD No. 35



Monica Gonzalez Client Services & Volunteer Services Manager/Co-Manager-Nogales Resource Center

Griselda Navarro Co-Manager-Nogales Resource Center





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March

Multiple Sclerosis Education Month

MS is a chronic illness involving the central nervous system. The immune system attacks myelin, which is the protective layer around nerve fibers. This causes inflammation and scar tissue, or lesions.

Making Connections 4U



Making Connections 4U

Community Service From the Heart

Electronic Community Resource Guide

www.makingconnections4u.org

(520) 216-5058

Email us at:

admin@makingconnections4u.org



Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee 2021

This year's Spelling Bee was very different from previous years. The pandemic did not allow contestants, parents, teachers, judges and school staff to participate in the event as they have in previous years. The Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office hosted the 2021 Spelling Bee virtually. The event was held on Friday, February 12, 2021. The event coordinators were Marisol Chiquete-Bolaina, Adrian Chamberlain, and Julie Ulrich.

Contestants participated in the Spelling Bee from the comfort of their homes. The Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office staff proctored the Spelling Bee from their office. They did not have any judges participate this year, as they had in past years. There were a total of 20 participants who participated in the virtual Spelling Bee. They used the template Arizona State Spelling Bee Scripps, where contestants were provided with the word to spell, given alternate pronunciations, definitions, the word was used in parts of speech, and in a sentence.

After the virtual event, students and parents were invited to attend a drive-thru ceremony at the Old Court House on Morley Avenue. The parking lot and outside of the Old Court House were beautifully decorated with a banner displaying congratulating the contestants. A table was set up with the prizes for the contestants, and winners of the Spelling Bee. Paper flowers, paper bees along with yellow and black balloons were beautifully displayed across the parking lot. The Spelling Bee began with a warm welcome by the Santa Cruz County Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez. Adrian Chamberlain was the pronouncer letting parents and contestants who stayed in their vehicles to pick up their prizes, which were individually handed by the superintendent.

All contestants were given a 7" inch tablet, and a backpack filled with school supplies. The winner and runner-up of the Spelling Bee Contest received an 8" inch tablet.

The drive-thru event was attended by students, parents, and staff who enjoyed a fun-filled day of suspense, and surprises. Special thanks to our sponsors for their continued support: the Santa Cruz County Attorney George Silva, Treasurer Elizabeth Gutfahr, Jovanna Lopez a State Farm Insurance Agent, Rio Rico Rotary Club, and the Santa Cruz County Superintendent's staff for their help. This year's 2021 Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee Champion was 6th grader Michael Pentland from NUSD#1. The runner-up was 5th grader Memphis Parks from SCVUSD #35.



Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee 2021

ABC DEF
GHI JKL
MNO PQR
STU VWXYZ



**SPELLING
BEE**

Congratulations

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|
| A.J. Mitchell Elementary School | Dylan Zamorano | 5th |
| Calabasas School; Elementary | Jacobo Arenas | 4th |
| Calabasas School; Middle | Roberto Cota | 7th |
| Challenger Elementary School | Carlos Mateo Diaz | 4th |
| Coatimundi Middle School | Daniel Woodburn | 7th |
| Desert Shadows Middle School | Carlos Lizarraga | 6th |
| Elgin School | Lily Armenta | 8th |
| Fco. Vasquez de Coronado Elem. School | Daanya Rodriguez | 3rd |
| Lincoln Elementary School | Mia Rodriguez | 5th |
| Little Red School; Elementary | Alexis Simon | 5th |
| Little Red School; Middle | Thomas Kirkpatrick | 7th |
| Mary L. Welty Elementary School | Annais Sandoval | 5th |
| Mountain View Elementary School | Kamila Bernal | 5th |
| Patagonia Elementary School | Martin Benevich | 3rd |
| Patagonia Elementary School; Middle | Andres Guzman | 7th |
| Robert M. Bracker Elementary School | Joselyn Perez | 5th |
| San Cayetano Elementary School | William Mack | 5th |
| Wade Carpenter Middle School | Felix Ibarra | 6th |
| NUSD # 1 Winner | Micheal Pentland | 6th |
| SCVUSD # 35 Winner | Memphis Parks | 5th |



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Sheriff Hathaway was contacted by two individuals that were visiting the area from Durango, Colorado about a recent occasion when they got lost in the mountains southwest of Sonoita on horseback after dark and were compelled to call 911. They couldn't believe how deputies John Zuniga and Mario Angulo, who were unable to proceed any further to the 911 coordinates by vehicle, got out on foot and "bushwacked" through the hills and canyons in total darkness with flashlights for over an hour to find the lost riders and then assisted them back to their vehicles. The riders involved were very appreciative of what these two officers did to rescue them. I have extended a special thanks to Deputies Zuniga and Angulo via a letter of commendation for their heroic efforts and I would like to let the community know as well how they went "above and beyond" in their response to locate these two individuals.



Congratulations

To all Spelling Bee Contestants



SUZANNE "Suzie" SAINZ
County Recorder
&

Lupita Moreno- Voter/Recorder Clerk
Jennifer Sandoval-Voter/Recorder Clerk

Patty Garcia- Office Manager
Rosa Anna Fajardo- Recorder Clerk



2150 N. Congress Drive, Suite 101
Nogales, Arizona 85621
Phone: (520) 375-7990



The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth. - John Fitzgerald Kennedy



People in Arts who "echo"

This month Border Eco is pleased to include an individual who is making a difference in the arts. Evan Kory recently started as the Arts Coordinator for the Santa Cruz School Superintendent's Office. He is currently pursuing several federal grant applications for art programs to implement in our schools across Santa Cruz County.

Evan Kory is a Nogales native. He attended Nogales High School before he went to an arts school in Michigan called Interlochen Arts Academy his junior and senior year. He graduated with a Doctorate of Musical Arts in piano performance from Manhattan School of Music and a Masters of Music in Historical Performance from The Juilliard School. Kory was inspired by his piano teacher in New York, Phillip Kawin. He has been a great influence and mentor throughout his career. Evan began studying with him at the age of 17, and worked with him for 14 years. As a pianist and harpsichordist he had the opportunity to perform all over the world. He spent most of his adult life living in New York City where he studied at the Manhattan School of Music, and Juilliard School.

There he worked as a freelance performer and teacher. He also taught at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan. In 2017, after completing his doctorate Evan decided to come back to Nogales. In the interim, he did an artist residency for the inaugural concert season at the Benderly-Kendall Opera House in Patagonia.

"In the four years that I have been back in Nogales I have become increasingly active working with numerous non-profit organizations helping to develop arts programs for our Santa Cruz County schools. The Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office serves as a bridge for all of the school districts in the county. This is an incredible opportunity to enrich the lives of our youth in a very direct way."

"The last year has been very difficult for our community and the world at large. The arts have always been about bringing people together and throughout this pandemic we have been transported into a world of unnatural social distancing. As we move towards some normalcy, as the arts coordinator I am planning events, presentations, and workshops that will hopefully play a critical role in bringing our students and community back together," said Kory.

The Office of the Santa Cruz Superintendent recently submitted a grant proposal that centers on cultural identity and the revitalization of the downtown area. The grant proposal includes a variety of arts projects from art exhibitions with La Linea Art Studio on Morley, to student concerts and workshops with the Santa Cruz Foundation for the Performing Arts, along with the planning of public mural projects, and theater productions with the Borderlands Theater.

"We may not be able to meet in person at the moment, but as soon as it is safe, we will have an array of inspiring opportunities for our schools and community. I would like to thank our Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Mr. Alfredo Velásquez for always prioritizing the arts. He has vision and understands how the arts and academics go hand in hand. I would also like to thank Mrs. Maya Donnelly, C-CREO Grants Program Director, for guiding me these first weeks. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes at our schools and she has been very supportive and welcoming," replied Evan Kory.



Let's Talk Health



Nogales "Little" Mercado Celebrates National Nutrition Month

The Nogales "Little" Mercado is a collaboration of community partners connecting local food producers with Nogales shoppers. We are celebrating National Nutrition Month by improving the health and well-being of the Nogales community, economy, and environment. We are following CDC guidelines to serve you safely during COVID-19, including requiring masks to be worn properly at all times and enforcing social distancing. Our main goal is to provide a downtown location for residents to purchase locally-grown, healthy foods as well as create a socially-vibrant, healthy environment where all can learn, share and enjoy the community. National Nutrition Month reminds us to celebrate our culture and health through food. By increasing access to local produce in Downtown Nogales, the Nogales "Little" Mercado is helping to bring healthy choices to your table. We are here to share recipes and meal ideas, so you can feel confident trying something new, or preparing your favorite vegetable in a new and healthy way.

Our volunteer-led community garden provides fresh lettuce, cooking greens like bok choy and chard, sweet carrots, and more! Thanks to our longtime volunteer, Juanita Gonzales, we have lovingly-grown, delicious vegetables and fruit all year-round.

We accept SNAP/EBT

We strive to make our product affordable for families on a budget. When customers use their SNAP/EBT Card at our farmer's market, every dollar they spend is matched with an extra dollar to spend on more Arizona-grown fruits and vegetables, with no daily limit. Known as Double Up Food Bucks, this federally-funded effort doubles the value of your SNAP benefits at participating farmers markets.

More ways to eat local

The Nogales "Little" Mercado Farmer's Market is part of the Cosechando Bienestar (Harvesting Wellbeing) initiative. Our mission is to renew food traditions in Nogales so that locally-grown food is enjoyed by all for better health. We have partnered with Nogales Community Development, SEEDS Youth Group, and the Iskashitaa Refugee Network in Tucson to grow and glean more food locally and get it to residents who need it most.

Donate your extra fruit!

Cosechando Bienestar participants identify fruit trees and other food resources in public and private properties. We work with owners to harvest excess fruit that is otherwise going to waste. We redistribute the fruit through the Nogales "Little" Mercado Farmer's Market's cooperative table, La Mesa Cooperativa. Anyone with extra produce from their backyard can donate or resell with us and keep local food out of the landfill.

Grow your own!

Cosechando Bienestar also aims to be a resource for both new and experienced backyard gardeners. From chiltepins to tomatoes, cilantro, and zucchini, our climate is excellent for growing your own nutritious food. Kids love to get their hands dirty, and are more likely to eat veggies they've helped grow. Watch our social media for upcoming virtual gardening workshop information.

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NogalesMercado>, check out our website and sign up for our weekly e newsletter at www.nogalesmercado.com, call Erika M. Burgos 520.375.6050 x1302 or Santos Yescas 520.397.9219, or email emunozburgos@mariposachc.net





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The Amado Chili Cook-off Randy & Rose Estes Classic Car and Motorcycle Show, a project of the Community Prevention Coalition and Amado Community Alliance of PPEP, Inc., is supported by the Pima County Department of Tourism & Economic Development, sponsorships, and donations. Proceeds support the Virtual Car Show and the new Amado Youth Center Building Fund. **SPONSORSHIPS AND OTHER DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

INFORMATION:

Tony Bruno, Event Coordinator (520-310-7712) Ed Dunin-Wasowicz, Event Chair (520-403-0414)

Amy Bass, Fiscal Agent Representative (520-360-5282)



Mayor's Corner

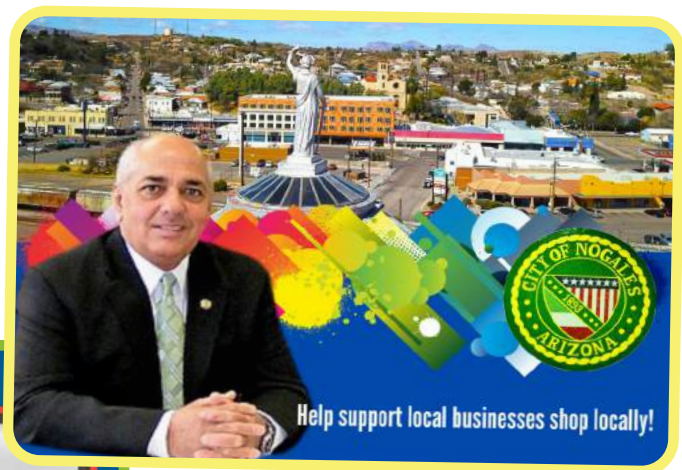


Hello my friends,

The City of Nogales was recently presented with a Gold Certificate of Appreciation by the United States Census Bureau for helping complete a successful census in Nogales and the county, with over 96% of households reported. This would not have been possible without the hard work of all Census employees and without the cooperation of everybody that participated.

Thank you to all the Census workers and the community. You all played an important role in the 2020 Census and because of you, our community will benefit from much needed funding.

On another note, infrastructure and paving projects are well underway in the city, thanks to the wonderful work of our Street Department personnel. The foundation for the paving of Mariposa Ranch Road has been completed and paving will be completed by February 27th. Vista Del Cielo is undergoing road maintenance. Sunland Asphalt was contracted for the scope of work. The entire street will be crack sealed, chip sealed, fog sealed and finished off with new striping. Another paving project that has already begun is in the Via Coronado neighborhood. The streets there will be crack sealed, coated, and re-striped. Many more projects are slated to begin soon, including brand new sidewalks on some major streets. I cannot thank city employees enough for their hard work and dedication. We're continuously working on making Nogales a better place to live.



Sheriff's Round-Up



Besides bringing snow, the last month has also seen new outreach programs coming from the Sheriff's Office to the community. Sergeant Chad Matthews has been designated as the first Ranch Liaison Officer for the Sheriff's Office. In this pioneer role, he will have the responsibility of reaching out to the ranching community to see how the Sheriff's Office can provide better service in the rural parts of the county. Sheriff Hathaway and his staff also held a "Meet the Sheriff" event at the Sonoita Fairgrounds to allow the public to hear the latest law enforcement happenings around the county and to allow the Sheriff's Office to get input on areas of concern to the community. This month, the Sheriff's Office is also unveiling a pilot program to combat drug overdoses in the county, by giving departing inmates training on the signs of overdose and how to counteract the effects of an overdose through the use of Narcan. Sheriff's Deputies and Detention Officers also receive Narcan training.

The Sheriff's Office has reached out this month to establish and bolster partnerships with Heritage Medical Solutions, Circles of Peace, Hope, Inc. (formerly Wellness Connections), and Santa Cruz County Public Schools to gain community assistance regarding inmate reintegration into the community through peer counseling, prescription assistance, education programs, and other community support mechanisms. The Sheriff's Office has welcomed on board Chief Deputy Mario Morales. He is starting his new job by learning more about community outreach programs in use by other agencies like Tucson Police Department so that the Sheriff's Office can liaison better with the community in specialized areas such as mental health. This will allow us to deal better with a nationwide negative trend of increasing suicides and overdoses.

The Sheriff's Office is also starting a "Cold Case Squad" spearheaded by Investigator Tom Sauser. This initiative will look at old cases to see if new leads can be developed. We are also actively recruiting individuals who are interested in volunteering for the Search and Rescue Program or to be a volunteer Deputy Sheriff (Law Enforcement Assist Program). If you are interested in either of these programs, call (520) 761-7869 and ask for Lieutenant Gerardo Castillo. On a very positive note, Sheriff Hathaway gave Corporal Paul Estrada special recognition this month for helping bring a family to safety that was lost in the area of Elephant Head in the Santa Rita Mountains. If you know Paul, please thank him for this "above and beyond" effort. Also, all members of the Command Staff at the Sheriff's Office have volunteered to participate in the upcoming "Read Across America" event in partnership with the county public schools which allows children to experience the importance and joy of reading through class interaction with community members. Lastly, the Sheriff's Office would like to thank Communications Director Javier De La Ossa and Civil Officer Gabriel Almeida for their years of dedicated service as Javier moves on to an I.T. position with the county and Gabriel enters retirement. They will both be missed! Happy trails to all residents and visitors in historic and beautiful Santa Cruz County!



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