Midweek Brief

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 | communitybrief@gmail.com | 309-421-0761 | Briefly Covering Your Local News

2024 Officer of the Year Awarded to Korri Cameron



By Jeff Hamer, Chief of Police

This award began at Macomb Police Department in 2012. The award is bestowed upon one police officer annually in recognition of those qualities which distinguished them as a professional in the field of policing. The award shall serve as proper recognition among fellow officers and the public for this individual's dedication to duty, outstanding job performance, unsullied moral character, exceptional community/civic leadership or service, and professional police image.

This year's Officer of the Year has exhibited dedication, outstanding performance, resolve, and service since the beginning of her commission at Macomb PD, just about two years ago. This officer has been recognized for outstanding performance in connection with a violent domestic investigation.

See OOTY on page 2









605 W. JACKSON ST. MACOMB 309-833-2100

Colchester Rock the Block

Help Raise Funds for the Colchester Fire Protection District and Join in for a fun afternoon and evening on March 1.

Bucher Boys BBQ will be here cooking up some delicious food from 3-7pm. There will be raffle items to win from 3-9pm and the main event, the band, Late Start, will be playing inside the firehouse from 6-9pm.

This band put on a great show at the Labor Day event and the Colchester Fire Dept. is excited to host them for this fundraiser!



WIU All Major Career and Internship Fair Coming March 4

By University Communications

MACOMB, IL - - Western Illinois University will host its Spring 2025 All Major Career and Internship Fair from noon-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, in the University Union Grand Ballroom.

All students and alumni are welcome to attend the fair for valuable networking opportunities and learn about internships and part- and full-time job opportunities.

"Career Fairs play such an important role on campus. Studies show students are more likely to secure a job or internship before or by graduation if they attend career fairs," WIU Associate Director for The Center for Career Preparation & Employer Engagement Mandi McRaven said.

Attendees are also encouraged to register for additional virtual and in-person fair opportunities through Handshake at https://wiu.joinhandshake.com/edu/career_fairs. Through Handshake, students can explore and connect with registered companies before the event.

For more information or to register as an employer or attendee, visit wiu.edu/careers/ or email careers@wiu.edu.





POLICE REPORTS

MCDONOUGH COUNTY SHERIFF

Joshua Purcell Smith, 20, Macomb, was charged with battery

2/17

Sean David Coleman, 23, Macomb, was arrested on a foreign warrant, possession with intent to deliver Cannabis, theft over \$500

David Alexander Smith, 28, Macomb, was arrested on a foreign warrant

James Patrick Brakefield, 42, Macomb, was charged with battery

Melissa Ann Burnett, 58, Jacksonville, was arrested on a McDonough County body attachment warrant

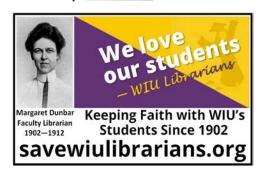
All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

TODAY'S IO

Q: Why can't you tell your secrets to pigs? A: They always squeal!

Q: Why did the roofer go to the doctor? A: He had shingles!





Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc.

44th Annual

2025 ROCK-GEM









Call for

subscription

Saturday, March 8, 10am-6pm & Sunday, March 9, 10am-5pm

♦ DEALERS IN MINERALS, FOSSILS, GEMS & JEWELRY ♦ FLUORESCENT MINERAL DISPLAYS ♦ ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS — SPIN-&-WIN \Diamond DEMONSTRATORS \Diamond GEODE CRACKING \Diamond DOOR PRIZES \Diamond SILENT AUCTION

♦ EARTH SCIENCE DISPLAYS WIU Student Union Ballroom, Murray Street, Macomb

FREE Admission & FREE Parking

Show Chairman Donna Moore 309-231-2116 Dealer Chairman Jim Travis 309-645-3609

WWW.GEODELAND.COM • GESCI on Facebook

The Community News Brief is a product of Community News & Market.

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> 13 E. Side Square, Macomb 309-421-0761

Open 10-5 Monday-Friday & 10-3 Saturdays



continued from page 1

She displayed exceptional empathy and fortitude during two critical use of force calls in 2024. This officer is eager to assist in both investigations and patrol operations. In her spare time, she assists with Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #189's community outreach such as the Scott Jennings Fishing Tournament, Blue Line Ball, and the Shop with a Cop event.

I am proud to announce, the Officer of the Year for 2024, is Officer Korri Cameron!





Visit Our Website www.mandbfurnitureinc.com Mon-Fri 8am-5pm & Sat 8am-1pm

481 W Main St. Bushnell • 309-772-2111 Fax: 309-772-2112 Like Us On Facebook and Instagram

Find local real estate transactions, obituaries, police news and more in Friday's Weekly Edition Community News Brief

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



Clugston-Tibbitts Macomb | Blandinsville Obituaries Sponsored **Funeral Home** and Monuments

ctfh@macomb.com 309-833-2188

Death Notices Opal Lucille Zettle

103, of Industry

Opal Lucille Zettle, age103, passed away on February 21, 2025 at the Heritage Woods Assisted Living Center in Huntley, IL.

Graveside services will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at the Oakwood Cemetery in Macomb, IL. Rev. Dr. Rene Whitaker will officiate. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Clugston-Tibbitts funeral home in Macomb is in charge of arrangements. You may sign the guestbook and leave online condolences at clugston-tib-

Marjorie Jean John

87, of Macomb

Marjorie Jean John passed away February 20, 2025 at Wesley Village Healthcare, Macomb, Il.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday March 1, 2025 at St. Paul Catholic Church. Father Mark Nkulu will officiate. Visitation will be Saturday from 9:30 AM-11:00 AM, also at the church. Memorial Contributions may be made to St. Paul School, Welsey Healthcare Center or MDH Hospice. Cremation will be accorded after the Mass. Burial of ashes will be in Oakwood Cemetery at a later date. Dodsworth-Piper-Wallen Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please sign guestbook or leave condolences at www.dodsworthfh.com.

Raegan L. Pellerin

16, of Okinawa, Japan

Raegan L. Pellerin, 16, of Okinawa, Japan passed away February 10, 2025. She was born June 24, 2008 in Brandon, FL to Jason P. and Erica L. (Rutledge) Pellerin.

The celebration of Raegan's life will be held on Thursday February 27, 2025 at the Table Grove Fire Department from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions are suggested to Sporting USA-San Diego or to Kadena High School Student Activity Fund. Dodsworth-Piper-Wallen Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please sign the guestbook and leave condolences at www. dodsworthfh.com.



Patricia Ann Arnold

91, of Macomb

Patricia Ann Arnold died at the age of 91 on Saturday, February 22. She was born on April 7, 1933 to Joseph and Ruth Arnold, in Macomb, Il.

Memorial Mass will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday March 15, 2025 at St. Paul's Church, where visitation will be held one hour prior from 10:00 – 11:00 AM. Father Adam Stimpson will officiate. Cremation has been accorded. Burial of ashes will be in St. Paul Cemetery. Memorials may be made to: St Paul School, 322 W Washington St, Macomb, IL 61455 or Poor Clare Nuns, 2111 S Main, Rockford IL 61102. Dodsworth-Piper-Wallen Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please sign the guestbook and leave condolences at www.dodsworthfh.com.

Charolette M. Beadles

86, of Mt. Sterling

Charolette M. Beadles, 86, of Mt. Sterling, IL formerly of Huntsville, IL went to be with her Lord at 7:45 pm Wednesday February 19, 2025 at the Mt. Sterling Health and Rehab Center in Mt. Sterling, IL.

Funeral services were held Monday February 24, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home in Augusta, IL by Pastor Jeremy Hinton. Burial was in Huntsville cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Versailles or Blessing Hospice.

The Hamilton Funeral Home in Augusta, IL is handling arrangements.

Ansel "Keith" Vaughn

95, of rural Rushville

Ansel "Keith" Vaughn, 95, of rural Rushville, went to his heavenly home, at 8:00 a.m., Thursday, February 20, 2025, at The Grove Health and Rehab Center in Jacksonville.

Funeral services honoring Keith's life will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at Hope Church - A Free Methodist Community, 217 S. Liberty St., Rushville. with Pastor Craig Coulter of Tucson, AZ officiating. Interment will follow at the Rushville City Cemetery. Memorial suggestions: New Life Christian Camp, 11257 Old Macomb Rd., Rushville, Hope Church, or any charity of choice. You are invited to share your memories of Keith, leave condolences and view his memorial video at www.triplettwood.com.



Bobby R. Hunkeapillar, Sr.

83, of Ipava

Bobby R. Hunkeapillar, Sr., age 83 of Ipava, passed away at 4:58 pm on Monday, February 17th

Cremation rites accorded. Shawgo Memorial Home has been entrusted with arrangements.

Earl Thomas "Tom" Pratt

88, of Macomb

Earl Thomas "Tom" Pratt, 88, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on February 17, 2025 at Wesley Village in Macomb where he resided with his wife, Jo Ann.

Funeral services were held Saturday, February 22, 2025 at Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home in Macomb. Burial in the Bushnell Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to MDH Hospice. You may leave condolences and sign the guest book online at clugston-tibbitts.com.

Joy Leann (McClure) Markey

67, of Colchester

Peacefully and surrounded by her family, it is with profound sadness to announce the passing of Joy Leann (McClure) Markey on February 14, 2025, at her home in Colchester, after a lengthy illness at the age of 67 years.

As per her wishes, there will be no funeral of visitation. Cremation Rites have been accorded. Her ashes will be scattered at a later date.

Memorial contributions can be made to McDonough District Hospital Hospice or McDonough County Humane Society.

Condolences and memories can be expressed to the family at jonesmortuaryfh.com.

Juanita J.(Nita) Huff

91, of Macomb

Juanita J.(Nita) Huff, left her earthly home on Saturday, February 15, 2025 at the Elms Nursing home in Macomb, Illinois.

Per her request, there will be no funeral service or visitation but she requested a "Roast" for others to share memories. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date and will be posted on Facebook when a time and day is determined.

Fly high Mother, enjoy your eternal life as much as you enjoyed your earthly one. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to McDonough District Hospital Hospice or the Elms Nursing Home in Macomb, Illinois.

Brian Emil Beaird

52, of Cuba

Brian Emil Beaird, 52, of Cuba, passed away at 2:44 AM on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 in Smithfield.

A funeral service was held on Monday, February 24, 2025 at Sedgwick Funeral Homes & Crematory in Canton. Burial at Fiatt Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To leave online condolences please visit www.sedgwickfuneralhomes.com.

See more Death Notices on page 5

Community Calendar

Blandinsville

SATURDAYS

Story Hour & Crafts

Saturdays at The Blandinsville-Hire Library at 10 AM. Snacks will be available. Check out the many new kids and young adult books. Spend some time at the library and take a book home to read!

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Youth Program

Blandinsville First Christian Church Youth Program every Wed. for 5th-High School students from 4-5:30pm.

EVERY THURSDAY

After-School Program

Blandinsville First Christian Church After-School Program every Thurs. for K-High School students from 4-5pm.

Bushnell

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Story time for young learners

Every Wed. from 10:30-11:30 The Bushnell Public Library hosts Story time for young learners. We read, practice nursery rhymes/ finger plays, craft, have a snack and practice social skills.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27TH

Friends Feeding Friends Meal

Please note the different date - Thursday, Feb. 27th - serving ham and scalloped potatoes, green beans and cake from 4:30-6:30 at the Community Christian Center, 355 W Main St. Donations accepted, but not expected. We will be donating a portion of the free-will offering to the BPC Foundation to purchase new playground equipment.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

VFW Breakfast

The Bushnell VFW will be serving biscuits and gravy, sausage, eggs, hash browns, pancakes and French Toast from 7-10 a.m at the Post 1422 Hall, 181 E. Hail. On-site, takeout, and curb service available - for takeout & curb service call 309-333-9919.

B-PC Education Foundation Fundraiser

at 5pm at the Bushnell VFW. The proceeds from this event will be used to improve the elementary playground to make it more accessible to our students with mobility and sensory needs. There will be a pork loin dinner, cash bar, silent and live auctions. Tickets will be available in advance from trustees and directors (\$20) and at the door (\$25).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Beginner Crochet

The Bushnell Public Library will host Robyn Olson giving instructions and tips on how to crochet a scarf. Join in the fun every Wednesday at 12:45-1:45pm. What to bring: Size H crochet hook and a large skein of yarn. The Library is located at 455 N Dean St, Bushnell.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

All-You-Can-Eat Pancake & Sausage

Bushnell Odd Fellows will be holding All you can eat Pancake & Sausage breakfast March 8th 6am-11 at 265 W Osborn St Bushnell Adults \$8 under 12 \$5.

Submit your calendar item to communitybrief@gmail.com

Music Trivia First Responders Fundraiser

Come and support your local First Responders at the M.A.B.A.S. Division 55 Music Trivia Night at the Bushnell VFW from 6-9pm. There will be a 50/50 raffle, silent auction and a steam burger meal for a free will donation. Cost is \$20/person or \$150/ Table of 8. To register a team contact Mike Hobson, Bushnell Fire, 309-259-9132 or Adam Rhoades, Macomb Fire, 309-337-4658.

Colchester

EVERY MONDAY

Move & Groove and Story Hour

held from 9:45-10:45am. Music & physical literacy skills help prepare early learners. Story Hour held 10:45-11:45 with stories, songs, crafts & fingerplays.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Rock the Block

Raise Funds for the Colchester Fire Protection District -Bucher Boys BBQ will be here cooking up some delicious food from 3-7pm. There will be raffle items to win from 3-9pm and the main event, the band, Late Start, will be playing inside the firehouse from 6-9pm.

Industry

NOTE: RESCHEDULED TO SAT., MARCH 1

Trinity Academy Chili Supper

Trinity Academy, 306 E. South Street, Industry, will hold a Chili Supper with live music, good food, children's carnival games, and a silent auction (tables close at 6, 7 & 7:30pm). Food will be served from 4:30-7:30 or until gone. For more information call 309-731-4016.

Macomb

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

Family Math and Literacy Luau Night

Aloha!! Join us at Edison Elementary for Family Math and Literacy Luau Night from 6-7pm. This will be a fun-filled hour of Hawaiian themed math and reading activities. Don't forget to wear your favorite Hawiian shirt!!

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Music Trivia Fundraiser

West Prairie Class of 2027 "Music through the Decades" at American Legion from 6-10pm. Doors open at 4:30pm. Bring your own snacks, drinks served throughout the night. \$10 pulled pork meal. \$50 prize for best dressed decade table. Table of 8: \$120 when pre-registered. \$20 a person/\$160 per table (if available) at the door. Registration: Glynnis Coplan 309-333-1785 g_carlson_85@yahoo.com or Amy Hofmeister 309-331-3797 K9-ilio@hotmail.com.

HSMC Casino Night Fundraiser

at Macomb's Park Place, 127 E. Carroll St. from 7-10pm. All funds raised go towards the construction of a new animal shelter for McDonough County. We're rolling out important details about this year's event on our Facebook page.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY MARCH 8 & 9

Geodeland Earth Science Clubs Show

at WIU University Student Union Ballroom on Saturday, March 8 from 8am-4pm and Sunday, March 9 from 7am-3pm. A large kid's area, Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Geode Cracking Fluorescent Display, Earth Science Displays, Lapidary Demonstrations, Live & Recorded Programs. Free Parking.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Legends & Lattes Book Club

Monthly Book Club focused on Fantasy, Sci Fi, Dystopia and fun at Sullivan Taylor Coffee House from 2-3pm. You might have seen the 1993 hit blockbuster Jurassic Park but have you read the original book it's based off of? Join Legends & Lattes in our sci-fi pick for March in reading Michael Crichton's dinosaur thriller Jurassic Park! Learn how putting profit over ethics leads to a theme park over-run with killer dinos and the heros who must struggle to survive them!

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Macomb Area Chamber Awards

Join the Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce at Park Place from 5-7pm as we highlight the accomplishments of the business community in 2024 and present awards to the Business of the Year, Service Organization/Non-Profit of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and the Ambassador of the Year. Tickets are \$40/Macomb Area Chamber Members. \$45/Non-Members. Includes program, appetizers, and one drink ticket (beer, wine, non-alcoholic). Register at bit.ly/2024AnnualAward

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Little League Baseball Trivia Night

at Park Place of Macomb. Doors open at 7pm, trivia starts at 7:30pm. Cost is \$160/table (max 8 person team). 50/50 raffle, cash bar and bring your own snacks! Register your team today at macomblittleleague.com. All proceeds support Macomb Little League.

Plymouth

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Plymouth Old Settler's Matodor Night

at PCCC (former Old Methodist Church) from 5-7:30pm. \$9 meal comes with dessert & drink. Carry outs available.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

90's Music Trivia

at Pop A Top Again! We did the 80's now it's time for the 90's! Dress up your teams in your best 90's costumes for a chance to win cash! Teams of 8 \$100 (You can up to 2 additional players for \$15 each) Team of 9- \$115, Team of 10- \$130. No cell phones or smart watch's at the table. 100% payback.

Table Grove

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast

from 6am-10am at the Table Grove Community Center serving Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Biscuits and Gravy.

INVITATION TO BID

WALNUT GROVE TOWNSHIP

Now accepting bids for 2025 mowing season of 5 cemeteries. Bids must be in writing and returned to Walnut Grove Township,

19345 US Hwy 67, Good Hope, IL 61438 by 8:00 p.m. March 11, 2025

Walnut Grove Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
For bid sheets and bid specifications call:

Mike Grafton, 309-225-5285 Steve Nelson, 309-456-3952 or 309-333-8367

visit our website at communitynewsmarket.com





The American Legion

The Post 6 Big Band led by John Cooper plays from 7-9pm on Wed., February 26 in the American Legion Post 6, 221 E. Washington St., Macomb. No admission but there is a free-will offering during the show.

The Café

We have a wonderful night of music on Wednesday, February 26 with Bob Logan playing from 5:30-7:30pm.

The Ice House

Central lowa's fastest growing cover band, Not Quite Brothers, playing on Friday, Feb. 28. Doors open at 6pm. Show starts at 7pm with local opener Bear! Not Quite Brothers headlines at 8pm. Tickets also available at the door.

Macomb Elks Lodge

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FEBRUARY 28!!! Demons of Country will be playing LIVE from 7-10p. Bucher Boys BBQ will be serving from 4-8p. Great music and great food. A great combo you don't want to miss. Spread the word!!! All are welcome to attend!!!

The Legacy Theater-Carthage

As the daughter of Country Music Royalty, Pam Tillis was determined from a young age to find her own way in music as a singer and songwriter. Don't miss Pam with her trio for one night only on Friday, February 28 from 7-10pm.

American Legion

The Lamoine River Ramblers will perform Traditional New Orleans Jazz from the early part of the history of Jazz on Tuesday, March 18 from 7-9pm.

The Forum

Get ready for an unforgettable night as Rated Entertainment presents LUL JAIDA, CALBOY, TOUCHE, and PAID CRATE live at The Forum on Friday, March 21 from 10-12pm.

Submit live event info to: communitybrief@gmail.com

Death Notices

continued from page 3

Bryan Lynn Cale

59, of Macomb

Bryan Lynn Cale, beloved son, brother, uncle and friend, passed away on February 13, 2025 at the age of 59.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Burial will be at a later date with grave side service.

Memorials can be made to St. Jude or Wesley United Methodist Church in Macomb.

Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home in Macomb is in charge of arrangements. You may leave condolences and sign the guest book online at clugston-tibbitts.com.

Geneva Louise "Ginger" Abernathy

83, of Macomb

Geneva Louise "Ginger" Abernathy, 83, of Macomb passed away 7:36 a.m. Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at Macomb Post Acute Care in Macomb.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Macomb. Visitation held Tuesday at Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home in Macomb.

Memorials may be made to the MDH Hospice Program. You may leave condolences and sign the guest book online at clugston-tibbitts.com.

Bobby R. Rhoades Sr.

89. of Rushville

Bobby R. Rhoades Sr., 89 of Rushville, passed away Saturday, February 22, 2025.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, February 27, 2025, at Airsman-Hires Funeral Home of Beardstown. The family will meet friends one hour prior to services.

Memorials are suggested to Mcdonough District Hospital Hospice (MDH Hospice). Condolences may be left online at www.airsman-hires.com.

Jesse L. Jones

43. formerly of LaHarpe

Jesse L. Jones, 43, of Guthrie, Kentucky, formerly of LaHarpe, Illinois, passed away at 11:36 p.m. Saturday, February 22, 2025 at The Medical Center in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 1, 2025 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in LaHarpe with Pastor Clayton Miller officiating. Burial will follow in the LaHarpe Cemetery. The family will meet with friends, Saturday, at the funeral home, from 9:00 a.m. until time of services. Immediately following the burial a celebration of life will be held at the Annex "Sanctuary" in LaHarpe.

A memorial fund has been established for the Youth Group at the Providence Church in Elkton, Kentucky. To leave a condolence, please visit Jesse's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

McDonough County

LINCOLN DAY DINNER Celebration

"BACK TO COMMON SENSE"

Saturday, April 5, 2025

THE PARK PLACE

127 E. Carroll St., Macomb

Death notices (name, death date and services) run free of charge. Families who wish to have a complete obituary published in the Tuesday or Friday Community News Brief newspaper (including picture, family, work history, hobbies and other information) should request the Community News Brief to the funeral home that is handling the services OR submit it directly to commuitybrief@gmail.com. Cost is \$45 and includes a laminated copy of the obituary.



Reservations are \$50 each

MAGA - \$1000/Table of 8

PATRIOT - \$500/4 seats

during the event

LOTALIST - \$250/2 seats

Sponsors will be acknowledged

These Sponsorships are available

Macomb Native & Iowa State Rep. 5:00-6:00pm - Social Hour

6:00-9:00pm - Dinner, Program, **Live and Silent Auctions**

> For meal preparations numbers, please reply by March 15, 2025 MRCC PO Box 402 Macomb, IL 61455

For questions call: Christy Foster 309-255-8877

Come join fellow conservatives for an enjoyable evening

PAID FOR BY MCRCC. A COPY OF OUR REPORT WITH THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IS (OR WILL BE) AVAILABLE ON THE BOARDS OFFICIAL WEBSITE (WWW.ELECTIONS.IL.GOV) OR FOR PURCHASE FROM THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

COLCHESTER LIONS CLUB

Pancakes & Sausage **Biscuits & Gravy Meal**



Saturday, March 1, 2025 7am-Noon Lions Building, 207 S. Fulton

Free will donation. Proceeds will help fund Scholarships for West Prairie High School Seniors

The Colchester Lions Club, with lots of community support, has for over 17 years given out scholarship to WEST PRAIRIE High School Seniors. The Lions Club plans to give out to the Seniors at least \$3,500 in scholarships this year to invest in their future education.

Each year the club has a breakfast the first Saturday of March, a Car Show Labor Day weekend & The Duane Beck, Walk/Run, to raise dollars for the future of Seniors of WEST PRAIRIE High School.

Come attend the breakfast. With your generous community support, we can provide a better future for these seniors.

\$7,000 REWAR

WE ARE COLLECTIVELY OFFERING A \$5,000 CASH REWARD IN ADDITION TO THE \$1,000 CRIMESTOPPERS REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF THIS MONSTER

MY 23 YEAR OLD BEAUTIFUL BABY SISTER,

CHEYENNA DECKER. WAS MURDERED IN COLD **BLOOD IN HER APARTMENT IN** THE EARLY HOURS OF **TUESDAY, JANUARY 21ST** 2025, FOUR DAYS BEFORE **HER 24TH BIRTHDAY.**

We still do not yet know why but there is nothing a person with such inner beauty could have done to deserve such a tragic and unjustified fate.



WE ARE TRYING TO REACH THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION. The more awareness she receives, the higher the chance of finding the person who took her life and future.

IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING PLEASE CONTACT THE MCDONOUGH COUNTY SHERIFFS

good GROWING Keeping you growing with good ideas • University of Illinois Extension



Winter Gardening: Propagating Houseplants to Beat the Winter Blues

Bv Chris Enroth

Horticulture Educator, University of Illinois Extension

To my fellow Illinois gardeners – I know these cold winter days can feel long and dreary. One way to combat the winter blues is by propagating your houseplants. After all, your houseplants are stuck inside with you, so why not have some fun with them?

Plant propagation is essentially creating new plants from existing ones. Luckily for us winter gardeners, many houseplants are easy to propagate. And let's be honest, can you ever have too many plants?

There are several propagation methods to choose from, but the method you select depends on the plant you're trying to grow. When it comes to houseplants, three common methods are cuttings, division, and air layering. Since each method has its own complexities, let's focus on cuttings. See Good Growing on page 7

EMPLOYERS WAI eponough Coun

TUESDAY, MARCH 25- 1-4PM

Spoon River College Outreach Center | 2500 E. Jackson, Macomb

LOOKING TO HIRE? RECRUIT AT YOUR LOCAL JOB FAIR EVENT!



BUSINESS/EMPLOYER **REGISTRATION FORM**



For more information scan the OR Code or visit bit.ly/McDonoughJobs25

ANY BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION IN MCDONOUGH COUNTY IS WELCOME TO ATTEND FOR A \$30 FEE

- Answer questions, accept applications/resumes interview & hire on the spot if desired
- . Full-time & part-time job opportunities in any field
- Businesses will be separated by industry on color-coded vendor map for easy navigation
- . You will be provided with one table & two chairs (you are responsible for bringing a tablecloth, signage, extens cords, applications, & any other materials you need)

If you are unable to attend, you can also leave us with a stack of applications for your job openings and we will put them out on a table.













Good Growing

continued from page 6

As the name suggests, propagating by cuttings involves cutting off a piece of plant tissue to create a genetic clone of the original plant by initiating roots at the cut end. In other words, we're going to grow roots from a stem. The idea that you can switch vegetative cells into root cells is what first fascinated me about plants. Plant science is truly amazing!

There are different types of cuttings, but let's specifically look at leaf cuttings and stem cuttings.

Stem cuttings usually consist of the tip of a branch or twig with a few attached leaves and leaf buds. The length can vary from 3 to 6 inches, but I prefer to make my cuttings slightly longer so I can trim them as needed before sticking them into a soil-free mix. Houseplants commonly propagated by stem cuttings include Dracaena, Croton, Holiday Cactus, Pothos, and many more!

Leaf cuttings consist of the leaf blade alone or the entire leaf, which includes the leaf blade and petiole (the stalk attaching the leaf to the stem). Many houseplants that we propagate using stem cuttings can also be propagated using leaf cuttings. However, leaf cuttings tend to take longer to develop into a new plant. Houseplants commonly propagated by leaf cuttings include Jade, African Violet, Kalanchoe, and Dracaena.

When propagating any plant, make sure to choose healthy material. Since it takes time for cuttings to root, damaged or diseased plant material will reduce the chance of success.

Cleanliness is crucial as we need to keep the humidity high around these cuttings. Sterilize everything that will come in contact with plant material, including scissors and pots. A wider six to eight-inch azalea pot can be used to root multiple cuttings in one container, or you can use individual smaller containers.

You'll be sticking the cut ends of your cuttings into an inert propagation medium. Popular mediums include perlite, vermiculite, or soil-free potting mix.

Before sticking your cuttings into the potting medium, you can dip the cut end into rooting hormone. This helps trigger the initiation of root cells in the stem tissue. When sticking your cuttings into the medium, it can be helpful to use a pencil to create a hole so the rooting hormone doesn't rub off.

Ensure the potting medium is watered (avoid oversaturation as it can cause rot if the potting mix stays too moist). Cover the container with a plastic bag to increase humidity. This is important since the cuttings don't have roots to take up moisture, and the leaves will continue to lose water. Place the container in a sunny location but avoid direct sunlight, as direct sunlight and a plastic covering can burn the cuttings. Some plants, like Jade, don't do well with plastic covering as excessive humid-

ity can cause rot issues. Jade roots better in a sand-based rooting medium.

The time it takes for roots to form varies greatly from plant to plant. Some may form roots quickly, while others may take weeks. Keep a close watch on the cuttings and monitor for any root issues and adequate moisture. Don't let the planting medium dry out! If cuttings begin to rot, the moisture level is too high – either the humidity is too much, or the soil medium is too wet, or both. Remove any cuttings that have begun to rot and reduce humidity/moisture as needed. Once the cuttings have rooted, transplant them to individual containers if planted in flats or multiple cuttings in a single container. Monitor closely as the transition to less humidity can cause some shock to the plants.

You must know I'm bored because I pulled out my old plant propagation textbook to help with writing this article. I haven't looked at this book in almost 20 years! Whether you spend time flipping through textbooks or propagating houseplants, it's obvious we're all eagerly awaiting the signs of spring. And it will be here before we know it!

Good Growing Tip of the Week -

You can stick a small clay pot in the middle of your larger pot of cuttings. Fill the clay pot with water, which will slowly diffuse into the medium and keep the humidity up near the

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13 E Side Square Macomb Sicor call 309-421-0761 or call to sign up today!

LOCAL

WEDNESDAYS

- 12:10 pm AA Midday Group* Closed Group **UBC Meeting Room**
- 6:00 pm NA** Just for Today Open Group First Christian Church 120 N McArthur St, Macomb, IL 61455

6:00 pm - NA Just for Today Open Group **UBC** Meeting Room

FRIDAYS

- 12:10 pm AA Midday Group Open Group **UBC Meeting Room**
- 6:00 pm NA Just for Today Open Group **UBC** Meeting Room

SATURDAYS

- 10:00 am AA Women's Only Group Closed Group **UBC** Meeting Room
- 12:00 pm NA Just for Today Open Group UBC Meeting Room
- 7:00 pm AA** Bushnell Hometown Group Open Group Bushnell Christian Church 285 S Jackson St, Bushnell, IL 61422

SUNDAYS

- 10:00 am - AA** Sunday Morning Group Closed Group Macomb City Hall in the Community Room 232 E Jackson, Macomb, IL 61455

MONDAYS

- 12:10 pm AA Midday Group Closed Group **UBC Meeting Room**
- 6:00 pm NA** Just for Today Open Group

First Christian Church 120 N McArthur St, Macomb, IL 61455

TUESDAYS

- 3:00 pm Al-Anon Open Group **UBC Meeting Room**
- 6:00 pm NA Just for Today Open Group
- UBC Meeting Room
- 6:00 pm NA** Recovery Is Possible Open Group Lewistown and Fulton County Visitor Center 222 S Main St, Lewistown, IL 61542
- 7:00 pm AA** Bushnell Hometown Group Open Group **Bushnell Christian Church** 285 S Jackson St, Bushnell, IL 61422

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THE HEAT'S ON US

Drop off or mail in filled out form to 13 E Side Square, Macomb, IL 61455 for a chance to win up to \$200 credit on your February utility bill!

COMPLETED FORMS DUE BY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

TWO RANDOMLY DRAWN WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE FEBRUARY 28th EDITION OF THE COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEF NEWSPAPER

> Must be 18+ to enter. One entry per household. No purchase necessary. Must present February utility bill to receive credit.

You can find an entry form and more contest details in any of the Community News Brief issues published between Jan. 24th - Feb. 19th

GOOD LUCK & THANKS FOR PLAYING!

Walnut Grove United Methodist Church

Pancake & Sausage **Breakfast**



Saturday, March 15, 2025

Serving 6am-11am • Free Will Offering Menu includes: Pancakes, Sausage, Biscuits & Sausage Gravy, Assorted Fruits, Coffee, Milk and Juice



Come on out to Walnut Grove & enjoy good food and fellowship

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McDonough County Soil and Water Conservation District

Native Pollinator Plant Sale

Order by May 1st, pick up on June 4th from 9:00-11:00

A colorful selection of native perennials — great for gardens, pollinators, and the planet!

Stop by the office at 1607 W Jackson St in Macomb to grab an order form!

Visit our website at www.mcdonoughcoswcd.com

Or contact us at:

mcdonoughcountyswcd@gmail.com, 309-833-1711 ext. 3



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Saturday, March 15 9:00AM 21090 US Hwy 136 Adair, IL

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THURSDAY MARCH 13* AT 10 AM

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VACANCY NOTICE

MACOMB COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #185 IS SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR



PARAPROFESSIONAL SPECIALISTS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

7 Hours per day, 35 hours per week Health, Dental, Vision, and Life insurance benefits available Building location to be determined

Job Goal: Paraprofessional Specialists responsibilities include providing administrative support to teachers and monitoring a child's development in a Special Education environment. Paraprofessional Specialists will work with children individually or in small groups providing academic accommodations and modifications, and facilitating social interactions

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Illinois State Board of Education Paraprofessional License
 Registration in McDonough County Region #26
- Training or previous experience working with children preferred

SALARY: Beginning Wage: \$16.00 per hour

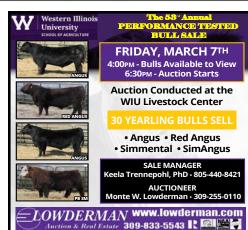
APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open Until Filled. Screening to Begin

Educational Support Personnel Application Form can be downloaded through www.macomb185.org

Send Educational Support Staff application to: Macomb C.U. School District 185 Velvet Taflinger, Human Resources 323 W. Washington Street Macomb, Illinois 61455 (309) 833-4163

Offering assistance with licensure and registration fees – call our office for details

Macomb Community Unit District #185 is an equal opportunity-affirmative action employer. Minority applicants are encouraged to apply.



VACANCY NOTICE

MACOMB COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #185



LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADES K-2 FULL TIME SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

GRADE 1 TEACHER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- · Professional Educator License
- Registration in McDonough County #26

SALARY: Range of \$41,406.76 to \$79,056.48 with TRS based on education and years of service as per the 2025-2026 MEA salary schedule.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open Until Filled; Position Begins in August 2025. Screening to begin immediately

Send letter of interest, District application, transcript, credentials, and resume (optional) to:

Macomb C.U. School District 185 Attn: Velvet Taffinger, Human Resources 323 W. Washington Street Macomb, Illinois 61455 (309) 833-4163

Instructional Staff Employment Application Form can be downloaded through www.macomb185.org

• Co-curricular duties/coaching responsibilities available

Macomb Community Unit District #185 is an equal opportunity-affirmative action employer. Minority applicants are encouraged to apply.

CITY OF MACOMB - PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **WATER PRODUCTION &** DISTRIBUTION DIVISION

The City of Macomb, Illinois, is hiring a **Maintenance Worker** (**Operator I in Training**) for the Water Production & Distribution Division.

Key Responsibilities:

- Operate small tools, equipment, and heavy machinery as qualified · Perform manual labor, record-keeping, and follow safety
- protocols • Work in varying weather conditions; lift up to 50 lbs as
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street maintenance Requirements:

- High school diploma or GED
- Class B CDL within 180 days of hire
- · Residency in McDonough County
- · Pre-employment physical, drug screen, and background

- Compensation & Benefits:
 Salary: \$35,501.27 \$52,903.84 (based on advancement) · Health & life insurance, paid leave, IMRF retirement, and

How to Apply: Complete the application form and submit it to the Mayor's Office at City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2025.

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CITY OF MACOMB PART-TIME JANITOR

The City of Macomb, Illinois is currently seeking applica-tions to fill a position of Regular Part-Time Janitor (Grade 12, Hourly Rate \$16.07-\$21.42) for the City of Macomb.

The City of Macomb is seeking a Part-Time Janitor to perform custodial tasks across several city buildings, including the Police Department/E-911 Center, City Hall, Public Works, and the Transit Center. Responsibilities include cleaning and maintaining floors, restrooms, windows, and furniture, as well as ordering and restocking cleaning supplies. The role involves daily tasks such as emptying trash, sanitizing surfaces, vacuuming, and mopping, as well as occasional tasks like waxing floors or shampooing carpets. Applicants must have a high school diploma, valid Illinois driver's license, and one to two years of building maintenance experience. The position requires physical stamina for tasks like bending, climbing, and using cleaning equipment, as well as attention to detail and good communication skills.

General employment applications are available at Macomb City Hall; 232 E. Jackson Street, Macomb, IL or on-line at: https://cityofmacomb.com/employmentapplication/ Completed applications for this position must be returned

to the Mayor's Office in City Hall no later than 5:00 p.m. December 9, 2024.

The City of Macomb is an Equal Opportunity Employer

VACANCY NOTICE

MACOMB COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #185



LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADES K-2 FULL TIME SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Professional Educator License w/LBS1 endorsement
- Registration in McDonough County #26

SALARY: Range of \$41,406.76 to \$79,056.48 with TRS based on education and years of service as per the 2025-2026 MEA salary schedule.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open Until Filled; Position Begins in August 2025. Screening to begin immediately

Send letter of interest, District application, transcript, credentials, and resume (optional) to:

Macomb C.U. School District 185 Attn: Velvet Taflinger, Human Resources 323 W. Washington Street Macomb, Illinois 61455 (309) 833-4163

Instructional Staff Employment Application Form can be downloaded through www.macomb185.org

· Co-curricular duties/coaching responsibilities available

Macomb Community Unit District #185 is an equal opportunity-affirmative action employer. Minority applicants are encouraged to apply.

Community Classifieds

Submit your Classified Listing to communitybrief@gmail.com or call 309-421-0761

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ANTIQUES & MORE: Vintage Treasures & Toys. Located in Ipava on Route 136. Furniture, housewares, glassware, tools, pottery, toys & more. Winter hours: Friday & Saturday 11-5

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AUTOS FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 2018 red Chrysler Pacifica, 115,000 miles, \$20,000 OBO. Call 309-221-2904.

FOR SALE: 2009 F250, 4x4, short bed super crew, white. AT, diesel. Always shedded and well maintained. Best Offer. 309-833-5697.

FOR SALE: 2005 Saturn, 4 door sedan, 4 cyl. automatic 157,000 mi. Very Good Condition. \$2900/we take trade-ins. A-1 Automotive, 1002 E Jackson St., Macomb, 309-833-2405.





AUTOS FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 1997 GMC 3500 HD one ton dump truck. 113,405 miles, 454 automatic, wooden side boards wth two wooden tail gates, also has a gravel tail gate. Needs a muffler, nice looking truck! \$6900 OBO. Call 309-333-9246.

FOR SALE: 1998 Chevrolet 1/2 ton pickup truck 500 auto batic 4 wheet drive News and batic 4 wheet drives 100 auto 100 art of 100 auto 100

FOR SALE: 2001 Dodge Dakota Quad Cab V8 Auto 4x4. 189,000 miles. Runs and drives good. New catalytic converters. \$2,700. A-1 Automotive 1002 E. Jackson St., Macomb. 309-833-2405.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: One crypt in the Bushnell Mausoleum. \$550. Call 309-221-1959.

FOR SALE: 7 1/2 foot Virginia Pine Christmas Tree. \$200 retail. Was put up once. Asking \$75. Email jlohrmacomb@aol.com

FOR SALE: 1970's blue 4 piece Ludwig Black Badge drum set with high hat & 3 symbols, \$500; 4 piece Ludwig Accent drum set with 2 high hats & 3 symbols, \$500. Call 309-255-6076.

FOR SALE: Sturdy folding table 30 in. by 6 ft. Like new. Light ivory color. \$99. Phone: 309-836-2066.

FOR SALE: 1972 Stereo Console, it works, call 309-337-9885.

FOR SALE: Triumphs for sale. 2015 Tiger Explorer w/15,000 miles. Loads of accessories, \$8500. 2008 Street Triple 675 w/19,500 miles, fun sport bike, \$3500. Call 309-752-3169.

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FOR SALE: Ford 5' Chopper, good shape \$500. Call 309-337-1335.

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FOR SALE: Dark blue fully electric reclining LIFT CHAIR. Excellent condition. \$250 firm, paid \$500. Call 309-255-2244.

FOR SALE: Big bales of grass hay. Call 309-458-6617.

FOR SALE: CASH ONLY Jigsaw puzzles, 1000 piece - \$3 each or 90/\$250 cash only. Cobble Hill, Ravensburger, SpringBok, White Mountain, Wysocki. Call 309-252-8722, pickup in Macomb.

FOR SALE: Craftsman 24" snow blower, like new condition. \$400 OBO. Call 309-775-1041 & leave a msg.

FOR SALE: B&W Companion 5th wheel hitch for camper. \$900, call 309-255-1215.

FOR SALE: Square bales of hay, no rain. \$6 Cash sales only, must be picked up. Call 309-337-2294 or 309-774-4235.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE: Pickup sprayers. 500 gallon sprayer with new motor, 60ft boom \$2,000; 400 gallon sprayer with new Honda motor, 40ft boom \$1,000. In shed, both runs great call 309-333-9751.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE: 500 bushel grain pup. Air brakes. Good rubber. 8.25 tires. Needs new floor. Has new brakes and wheel seals. \$1750 call **309-333-9751**.

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FOR RENT

FOR RENT: 2-3 Bedroom trailers or rent, \$300-400 a month, with deposit of equal or lesser value required. For questions call 309-837-3020.

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FREE: Beautiful small Kimball piano w/bench. 36"x56", maple and tuned. Downsizing and needing the room. You pick up. Call 309-772-3703.

FREE: Agri Fab Leaf Sweeper. Call 309-331-4060.

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HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING: Learn how to build your own house. Get paid to learn. Slater Construction and Siding Company Inc. is now hiring and training ambitious individuals in the Construction trade. Call (309) 772-3547.

HELP WANTED:

Part-time CDL driver for Hopperbottom. All local grain hauling, available on an as-needed basis, possibly for a retiree. Call 309-333-8151.

FARM HELP WANTED: For McDonough County grain farm. Must have CDL and be able to operate all farm equipment. Please send resume to:

Community Brief, Farm Help Box 100, 13 E. Side Square, Maocmb, IL 61455.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: Masonic Ring in Macomb. If found please call 309-997-0872. Reward.

FOUND: Cell phone on corner of Lafayette and Piper on November 22. It is at the Macomb Police Station, 309-833-4505. Call to describe and reclaim.

FOUND: Cell Phone found in the flower box at the Macomb Train Depot. It is an older style of phone. Please call 309-776-3087 to claim.

FOUND: Silver initial bracelet outside of the Community News & Market at 13 E. Side Square in Macomb. Call 309-421-0761 to describe.

FOUND: Precious ring found at Macomb Assembly of God Church. Call the office to descirbe your lost ring-if it fits the description, you can claim it. Office phone 309-575-4505.

WANTED

WANTED: I buy cars & pickups, 1974 or older for cash. 309-255-7858.

WANTED: Cash paid for Vintage costume and estate jewelry, gold and silver coins. Call **309-335-6073.**

WANTED TO BUY: John Deere square balers. Working or non-working. We need parts and rebuilders. Write me a note and I will return your call. Paul Raber 5351 N 300th Rd, Plymouth, IL 62367

WANTED: Indian artifacts of all kinds. Free appraisal. Call or text 309-338-3281.

WANTED: Coin Collections, sports cards, old toys, etc. ALSO buying a large variety of antiques, estate items & unwanted collections/ accumulations. Please call 309-221-6304.

THANKS FOR READING!



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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- * The Climbing Gourami is a fish that can climb out of water, breathe oxygen and even walk for short distances.
- * India has 454 living languages and 16 official ones.
- * During her 1982 restoration, the Statue of Liberty's head was accidentally installed 2 feet off-center.
- * General George S. Patton believed he was reincarnated from either a military leader from Napoleon's army or a Roman legionary, claiming to have seen combat multiple times in previous lives, and also believed that after he died he would return to again lead armies onto the battlefield.
- * Only deceased people can appear on American currency.
- * When put under a microscope, tears produced by grief, hope or onions were unique in form from each other.
- * Viking names included such gems as "desirous of beer," "able to fill a bay with fish by magic," "lust-hostage" and "the man who mixes his drinks."
- * North Korea accidentally hit one of its own cities during a 2017 failed missile test
- * In 1916, a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution would have put all acts of war to a national vote. Anyone voting "yes" would have to register as a volunteer for army service.
- * Dynamite was originally going to be called "Nobel's Safety Powder."
- * Singer James Brown was such a strict bandleader that he had signals arranged with his manager to let him know if a musician made a mistake during concerts. After a performance, band members' errors were deducted from their paychecks.
- * Ostriches are the only birds with a bladder.
- * In 1872, sitting president Ulysses S. Grant was pulled over and fined \$20 for exceeding the Washington speed limit ... on a horse.
- * Aristotle believed that plants had souls. Thought for the Day: "Life is painting a picture, not doing a sum." -- Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

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