

Opinions

Everybody has one

Looking after the kids

I'm not a "politically correct" type of guy. However, this week, I had the tough decision to use my reservation of whether or not to run several letters to the editor.

I sent e-mails to those who were denied. I explained that I needed those letters to be written in a fashion that would allow young people to read the paper and not have their parents offended and these young people banned from reading the North Georgia News until they reached the age of 18.



Charles Duncan

Straight Shooting

I understand Ms. Sue Brinson's letter in last week's edition struck a raw nerve with several people. But, she wrote her letter in a respectable fashion. That's how we determine whether a letter to the editor will be published on our Opinions Page.

My whole deal is to avoid personal attacks on individuals, especially the Office of the President of the United States of America.

I hear about Republicans, Democrats, Independents and Tea Party members, but, the one thing I don't hear about is that we're all Americans.

I credit the Mainstream Media like CNN, FOX News and MSNBC for all the commotion, sensationalism and political rhetoric.

Most of those who were offended by Ms. Brinson's letter were war veterans.

Well, you see, we've got our share of war veterans in the Duncan Family Cemetery located right here in Union County. My great-grand daddy Sgt. William Rufus Duncan fought in the Civil War, Company C, 52nd Infantry, Army of Tennessee. My cousin Woodrow Wilson (yes, named for the president) died Dec. 16, 1944 at the Battle of the Bulge. My daddy, Robert Duncan was a canoneer during World War II, and he fought in Belgium. My Uncle Harlan Duncan was stationed in Alaska's Aleutian Islands.

My great, great, great, great, great, great Grand Daddy Peter Ford fought in the Revolutionary War. He took a musket ball to the right eye. He survived and was alive long enough to receive a military pension. He was fighting to make America what it is today, One Nation, Under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All.

His granddaughter, Mary Ford Duncan is buried in Duncan Cemetery right here in Union County.

There are several more veterans in my family's history, but those are the most memorable to me.

I'm not a veteran. The reason being that my daddy broke down and cried when I tried to join the service. He didn't want me to have to endure what he remembered happening in World War II.

See Duncan, page 5A

Miscellaneous Questions

Q. With all the county projects going on with SPLOST funds, how has this impacted the county budget?

A. I am very proud of the way our employees and elected officials have worked together to keep our expenses down. Even with the many additions, including the Farmers Market, Horse Arena, Library and many others, I am proud to report that the county operation budget for 2012 is \$70,000 less than it was for 2007 !!!! When you consider all that we have accomplished in the County and the tremendous cost increase of gasoline, asphalt, tar, gravel, and most all equipment and supplies we purchase, this is really something to be proud of.

Q. What is the unemployment rate for Union County? Has it improved any?

A. Georgia Mountains Regional Commission just sent us the unemployment statistics for February 2012 for the 13 counties in their region. I am pleased to report that the rate for Union County has decreased since the last time we reported the rate to you. This was in February of 2011 at which time our rate was 8.8%. It has now dropped to 7.6 percent. This is definitely good news.

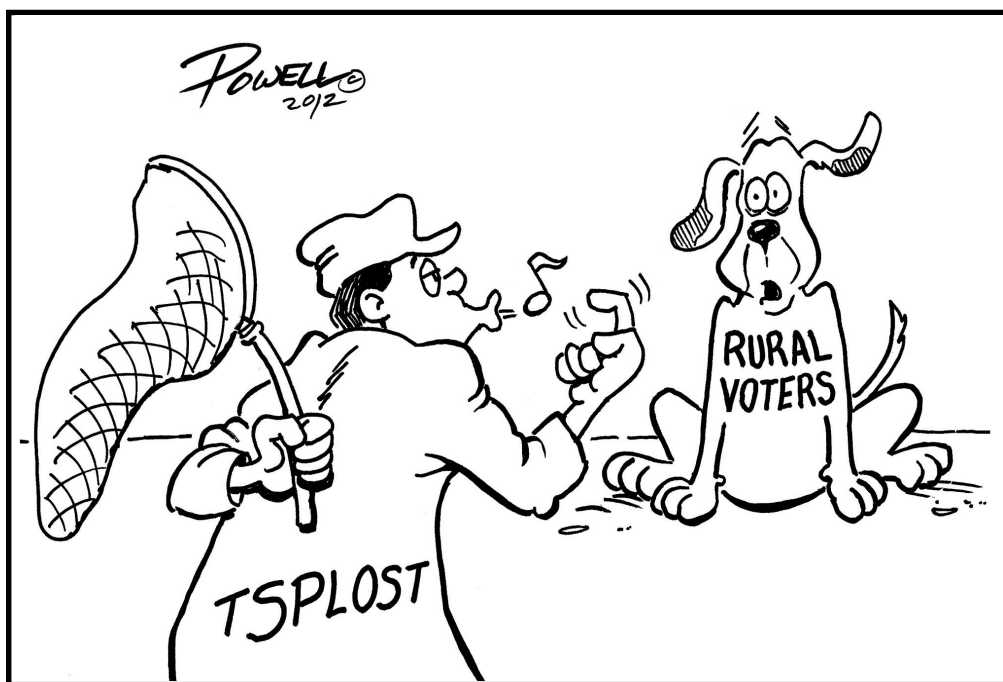
Q. How does this rate compare to the rate in surrounding counties?

A. Most of the other counties in our region also report a drop in the unemployment rate. In fact, whereas we were the third lowest in 2011, we are now 5th lowest as Banks, Forsyth, Dawson and Hall all report lower unemployment rates than Union. Only one county (Rabun) out of the 13 counties reported an increase in their unemployment rate. This is very encouraging news for our region as it shows that the economy is slowly improving and more people are finding jobs.

Q. Have you seen any increase in construction in Union County?

A. Yes, we certainly have and we are very excited about the March statistics from our Building Permit Department. They report that a total of 15 new building permits were pulled in the month of March. This is the most in one month since September of 2009 when we had 23 (that was when we offered the free and half price permits). It is also the most money they have taken in through permits since March of 2009. This is another sign that the economy situation is looking brighter.

See Paris, page 5A



Poggy dries up

Poggy was my grandfather's younger brother. He was the youngest child in a family of 6 children.

Poggy was given the home place by his parents after he came home from the military. The home place was very important to every child in Papa's family.

This piece of land was first settled by Poggy's grandfather after the Civil War.

Poggy's father, Lon Cummings, purchased the land from his father, John, and had farmed the land for more than 40 years.

So, there was a lot of family history tied to this land and every one of Poggy's siblings were upset when word came to the family that Poggy was losing the home place because he couldn't pay the taxes.

Each child of the family offered to go pay the back taxes so the farm would remain in the family.

However, Papa Lon refused and paid the back taxes himself to keep the home place in the family.

Poggy was a good man. However, he had a drinking problem. It seems that Poggy learned to drink while he served in the military and after coming home the problem followed him into civilian life. First, he lost his home and land. Next, Poggy's family began to suffer.

Poggy did not drink all the time. But, when he drank he would stay intoxicated for months at a time. When Poggy wasn't drinking he was a top notch car salesman. Poggy had a way of making people feel at ease. People trusted him because he always told the truth.

The problem was that Poggy could not stay sober. When Poggy was drinking he wouldn't work and when he wasn't working he couldn't feed his family.

During these drinking binges Poggy would spend his rent and food money on liquor. Therefore, his young family was suffering.



Mickey Cummings

Around The Farm

See Cummings, page 5A

A Business Plan

Sooner or later most business owners realize the value of a written business plan. Those that decide sooner, rather than later, are generally better off in the long run. Having a written plan allows your creative mind and your inventive mind to work together. Much like traveling with your GPS "Tom Tom" or "Garmin," your business plan provides a road map for your future business journey, but you must execute the plan and follow the instructions to get where you want to go. Today, I want to discuss the highlights of a good plan and offer resources for assistance.

Your business plan can project goals up to five years in the future. A well thought out written plan allows you to stay focused on the end results, while encouraging you to think outside the box as to your approach. Most business plans are broken down into the Business Section and the Financial Data Section. The Business Section includes the following: a description of the business, products or services you plan to market, a market analysis, the location of the business, competition profile, management details, personnel and the loan or investment application. The Financial Data includes sources of funding, a capital list, a break-even analysis, projected income and cash flow, projected balance sheets, financial projections and historical financials if applicable.

Your Chamber of Commerce has helped dozens of individuals start a business plan. We have the contacts and resources to assist with your plan. You may want to begin by looking at sample business plans available online. According to the UGA Small Business Development Center your business plan is at the end of your decision tree when starting a business. A five part basic business start-up package includes business feasibility, operating legally, building your team, financing your business and the business plan. A complete 28 page overview can be found at http://www.georgiasbd.org/pdfs/StartupBasics_v1.pdf. Additionally, you may want to browse www.sba.gov. This website has podcasts and other learning tools that will be a valuable resource for you. The Union County Development Authority is another local resource with business start-up information located at http://www.ucda.net/images/startup_kit.pdf.

See Garner, page 5A



Joe Garner

BUCCESS



Danny Parris

It's On My Mind

Look at Me

There is an old fable about the turtle who wanted to fly. He devised a plan that he knew would work. This turtle convinced an eagle to clutch a stick in his claws and let the turtle grip the stick with his mouth.

Sure enough the eagle went airborne with the turtle holding fast to the stick. Up, up and away. The turtle was soaring above the trees and everything was going well until a rabbit saw this amazing feat.

"Who thought up that idea," shouted the rabbit? The turtle so filled with the pride of his accomplishments, opened his mouth and said, "I did," as he fell to his death.

It is difficult to keep your mouth closed, especially if you have an advanced case of pride. The mouth spews forth inflated egos and exaggerated or overstated opinions of one's self.

You cannot spell pride or sln without the "I" in the very center. Someone has said EGO stands for Edging God Out.

Pride or ego places "I" as the focus. According to the prophet Isaiah (chpt. 14) and the prophet Ezekiel (chpt.28) the sin of pride began in heaven. Lucifer wanted to be God and got kicked out of heaven.

We live in a world that has a "look-at-me" syndrome. People do and say all kinds of crazy and weird things just to be noticed.

Willie Nelson sings "you're always on my mind" but pride says "I am always on my mind." Pride takes many forms. There is Face pride, Race pride, Place pride and even Grace Pride (we're the chosen ones, the only ones going to heaven).

Some people have a fatal dose of the pride of composition. They think they look better than anyone else. You can't convince them they came from dust.

But after a few years they will die and be placed in a grave and their proud composition will turn to decomposition.

Other folks are eaten up with the pride

See Parris, page 5A

Labor Unions

U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., continues his fight to stop the Administration from tipping the scales in favor of labor unions, voting to have the Senate debate on a resolution to block the National Labor Relations Board from implementing its "ambush election" rule, which is designed to speed up union representation elections in hopes of helping labor unions win.

Isakson, who is the ranking Republican on the Senate Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, is a co-sponsor of a resolution of disapproval, S.J. Res 36, which would allow Congress to stop the National Labor Relations Board from implementing its "ambush election" rule. Isakson voted in favor of a motion to proceed to the resolution. The motion to proceed needed 60 votes but failed in the Senate by a vote of 45-54.

Under this new "ambush election" rule by the National Labor Relations Board, union elections could take place as quickly as 10 days after they're requested - before employees have a chance to understand their rights or have opportunity to hear from both sides. Until now, 92 percent of all union elections typically take place within 56 days, with the average being 38 days, according to the National Labor Relations Board annual report.

"For 75 years, U.S. labor laws have served us well. We do not have a problem in terms of workers being able to organize and negotiate collectively. The problem is that the administration is attempting to circumvent the legislative branch of government and tip the

See Isakson, page 5A

Viewpoint

Viewpoint has been discontinued by the North Georgia News. All comments and suggestions must now be signed and attributed to the person that has submitted them to the newspaper for publication. The newspaper no longer accepts anonymous comments for publication. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this decision.

Letters

To the Editor

Lost Respect

The author of the letter entitled Respect immediately lost her credibility when she lost her "respect" for the truth.

She conveniently forgot that the "lie" she attributed to President Bush for starting the war in Iraq was a jointly held Intel that was almost unanimous when it passed Congress and even the senator who ran against President Bush in 2004 joined in that resolution.

She found fault in the funding of the war without making it clear that Congress and not the President are responsible for funding. He NEVER stated that he had given up finding Usama Bin Laden.

Finally, her rant regarding the war in Afghanistan did not even make sense.

She pointed out the only positive thing that has been done during this administration, the killing of Bin Laden and says that proves how serious he is about keeping us safe. As I recall, President Bush, in the 8 years that Bush was President, 9/11 was the only attack against us because President Bush made a concerted effort to prevent that from ever happening again.

In the first year of President Obama's tenure, we had three attacks on our land; hardly a record for keeping us safe.

In addition, of course, he has made the world unsafe by his attitude towards Iran and our neighbor Hugo Chavez just to name a few items.

Perhaps that writer could see more clearly if she took the prejudice from her mind and tried to be more bipartisan but then I guess this one is not exactly bipartisan either.

However, it does not prevent me from trying to pursue truth!

Ernest W. Kamber Sr.

TSPLOST - Vote No!

I agree everyone should have the information needed so as to make an informed decision about the Transportation 1-cent sales tax.

In 2010, a study was commissioned by the Georgia Department of Economic Development and completed by U.S. Travel Association in Washington, D.C. This study reflects the downturn in the Economy and explains some of why the State of Georgia is cutting back on their spending.

The Economy has picked up some but not near where we were in 2007. The Study shows domestic travel (tourism) effects upon Georgia, Counties, and the financial rewards from the impact of tourism. It's not as great as some would think.

The following information was gathered from this study on the impact of tourism on Union County.

Union county: Expenditures from tourist \$19.5 million.

Payroll \$4 million, employment 220, State tax collected \$730,000, Local sales tax collected \$580,000 from SPLOST, ELOST, LOST.

Union county ranked 80th in the State in sales taxes collected from tourism.

Union county's percentage of sales taxes collected from Tourism is 10 percent, the rest from local residents.

This web link will bring up the report. Copy and Paste into Browser. The charts start at page 37 http://www.georgia.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/Industries/Tourism/IndustryResearch/2010_Economic_Impact_Report.pdf

Mike Sims

See Letters, page 5A

Bell ringing Union County Historic Courthouse



April 19

In memory of Virginia B. Meeks by Ginger and Terry Meeks

April 28

In memory of Dolly C. Meeks by Ginger and Terry Meeks

For information on bell ringing in honor or memory, call 706-745-5493.

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Duncan...continued from Page 4A

It wasn't because he didn't want his son to serve his country; it was because he served his country so his children wouldn't have to serve.

I understand that veterans have a beef with the cur-

rent president. I expect they'll have their say in November. My point is that regardless of who our president is, we still have to respect the Office of the President of the United States of America. We do this because, we are

Americans.

My message is not meant to offend anyone. I don't think I can offend any one individual in Union County by calling them an American.

Also, my editorial phi-

losophy is to make sure that our newspaper remains a family paper, one enjoyed by young and old alike.

God bless us one and all as we are "One Nation, Under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All."

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

ing greatly.

Things got so bad the local minister began preaching about the results of staying drunk all the time. The preacher reminded his audience that drunkards would burn. The preacher told Pogy he could wake up one night and find himself surrounded by flames.

Papa, Uncle Clay, Uncle Pick and Uncle Dennis (Papa's brother-in-law) decided upon a plan to deal with Pogy.

The young men went to Pogy's house one night while

Pogy was on one of his drinking binges. While Pogy drank the men jacked up his car and placed big blocks of wood under the axles so the back tires were not touching the ground. Next, the young men erected a wooden sign (soaked in kerosene) in Pogy's front yard. The kerosene letters on the sign read, "Drink then burn."

After the sign was erected a wooden match was used to set the contraption on fire.

After the sign began

burning Pogy was awakened by his family to the scary scene. Pogy perceived the sign to be a threat to his personal safety. So, he ran to his car and started the engine.

Pogy was trying to get away, but, when he put the car into gear and tried to drive away the car just sat there on the blocks. Papa told us that Pogy drove the car for 10 minutes before he realized he wasn't moving. Pogy soon realized this was a warning and he decided to sober up. After this event Pogy became the

best car salesman in Russellville and his family had food and rent money.

Cooperative Extension will conduct a "Serve Safe" Program on May 15 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Civic Center.

This program is designed to teach food workers how to reduce the incidence of food borne illnesses. The cost is \$15 and each participant will receive certification for Serve Safe training.

To RSVP please call the Extension Office at (706) 439-6030.

Parris...continued from Page 4A

of position. The title on the door, the carpet on the floor and the degrees on the wall make them feel overly proud. However, in just a few years someone else will have their position and will be sitting behind their desk and probably making more money. Then there are those who have been deceived with the pride of acquisitions.

Their land, house, car,

boat, clothes and jewelry give them an overrated feeling of importance. People who place a priority on acquisitions need to be reminded that everything is going to rust, rot and decay.

Inflated pride is hard to swallow. Paul said, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to

think: but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Rom. 12:3).

The Preacher in Proverbs said, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (16:18).

And again he said, "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom" (11:2).

The writer of Hebrews says that we are to be "Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith.." (12:2).

Finally, Paul said, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phil. 2:4).

Garner...continued from Page 4A

Focus on the key elements of your business plan that allows you to find your niche. Work on ways that make your business plan stand out from the crowd. You must determine your target market and why they want to buy from you. You must determine if your product or service fits the available market. Are your business benefits

clear and do they align with the needs of your target market? A lot of work goes into a small business and the business plan, but great rewards are gained.

To close, one of the most challenging parts of a small business is writing a business plan. However, once the plan is written, the journey is much more pleasurable. Having a written plan will al-

low change and encourage the change process. Change is hard but is often a requirement in many small businesses. To ask a question or to find out more information about our membership please call the Chamber at (706) 745-5789 or visit www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com. I may be reached anytime at Chair@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

Isakson...continued from Page 4A

scales in favor of unions through rule and regulation because they could not pass this measure on the floor of the Senate," said Isakson on the Senate floor.

"Rules and regulations such as the ambush election rule are creating uncertainty and making it difficult for America to do business. I am proud to stand by my colleagues in fighting ambush elections, which then-Democratic Senator John F. Kennedy warned about on April 21, 1959, when he said that there should be 'at least a 30 day interval between the request for an election and the holding of an election... in which both parties can present

their viewpoints.' If it was right for John Kennedy in April 1959, it should be right for the United States Senate in April 2012."

The *Congressional Review Act* allows either the Senate or the House to introduce a joint resolution of disapproval that, if passed, has the full force of law to stop a federal agency from implementing a recent rule or regulation. A resolution of disapproval introduced under the *Congressional Review Act* cannot be filibustered and needs only a simple majority in the Senate to pass if acted upon during a 60-day window. Today's vote in the Senate was a motion to proceed to the

resolution, and that motion needed 60 votes to pass.

Prior to the December 2011 expiration of National Labor Relations Board member Craig Becker's recess appointment, the labor board quickly issued the final rule to allow "ambush elections," and it is set to be implemented on April 30, 2012.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace have filed a lawsuit to contest the rule on the grounds that it violates the *National Labor Relations Act*, the *Administrative Procedure Act* and the *Regulatory Flexibility Act*, as well as free speech and due process constitutional rights.

Paris...continued from Page 4A

Q. Do you have any building permit data for April?

A. We do not have the final, but there have been 10 new home permits with several already lined up to possibly come on line next month. There has been lots of remodeling and repairing happening and the office reports being very busy.

Q. In one of your Q & A's you told us how much was spent on the lottery in Union County. Do you have updated figures on that?

A. We just recently looked up the figures for 2010 (latest data available) and Union County spent even more money on the lottery in 2010 than in 2009. The citi-

zens of Union County spent \$5,842,202 on the lottery in 2010 as compared to \$5,767,448 in 2009. Only \$5,218,193 was spent by your county government from property taxes. I am not sure what this means or says, but apparently there is still some spare change left after property taxes are paid.

Letters...continued from Page 4A

Welcome!

Dear NEW Editor,

WELCOME!! SO GLAD to have you here as part of our "family"!!

Things in the paper have needed change and lived up a bit over the past few years. I am glad to see the **Viewpoints** discontinued as they were building up of more bull than anything else. And

the same thing from week to week. I hope to see more "colorful" photos as well as a section on who is in the hospital, as it once was way years ago. I have had friends in there recently I had no idea, as well as a separate list of new babies born. I know many people may not like this idea either and may consider it as somewhat of "animal abuse" and

etc. but it would be nice to once again see those photo's of fresh fish caught and stuff like that. For some reason, everyone wants to be seen or heard in the paper. So, WHY NOT???

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to read this. And again WELCOME!!

Mrs. D. Barnes

Georgia Mountain Writers Club launches Anthology: Reflections From The Mountains

Local communities, as well as our GMWC members and friends, will enjoy reading "Reflections From The Mountains" - "An Anthology by Georgia Mountain Writers Club" from its beautiful cover and contents, to the last biography and tribute.

GMWC members submitted their works in celebration of our club's Tenth-Year Anniversary (2001-2011). We happily were able to include 30 of the GMWC members. Therefore, we give them recognition for their wonderful part in our anthology by listing their names alphabetically herein as follows:

Judy B. Abercrombie; Naomi P. Bastow; William V. "Bill" Bastow; James L. "Sonny" Boyer; Sandra Laurie Boyer; Rhonda Kay Brigman; Faye A. Brown; W. Franklin Boulineau; Larry Casey; Benetta B. Cook; Eleanor "Ellie" Dobson; Catherine Fiser; Philip W. Gatlin; Paul Goings; Christy Goings; James Goode; George Houdenshel; Nadine Justice; Ralph Kwiatkowski; Zadie Cunningham McCall; Eleanor C. McDade; Jean A. Nethery; Lorraine M. Orth; Juanita Johnson Schneider; Idell M. Shook; Bruce R. Sims; Charles H. Souther; Dor-

othea Spiegel; Sylvia Dyer Turnage; and Carroll G. Williamson.

Our thank you and recognition goes out to each Sponsor for their encouragement and expression of support in our project. Their continuing belief in us as an integral part of our community is greatly appreciated. Their names are listed as follows: Businesses: Walmart, Blairsville, GA; Danny Burch Insurance, Hayesville, NC; Office HELP! and Time To Call Plan B, LLC, Hiawasse, GA; Non-Business: W. Franklin Boulineau Family and Friends; Faye A. Brown Family; Shirley Maurer Family; Elizabeth Lashley; Jayne L. Robertello; Nancy Nethery and Kenneth A. Rogers; Charles H. Souther Family; Jean and Arthur Nethery; Bart Kwiatkowski; Frank and Jennifer Kwiatkowski; Dianne Craft Kwiatkowski; Hubert Dobson; and Phillip and Yasko Rudisil.

If you would allow us to place our anthology at your business location, contact us by either email (gmwc@windstream.net) or phone (706) 745-0678 with your kind offer and location. Ellie Dobson, GMWC Co-Founder and Facilitator, Ralph Kwiatkowski, Phil Gatlin or Rhonda Kay Brigman

will immediately respond to you.

"Reflections From The Mountains" can also be purchased directly at the email or phone number above, or mail your \$14.95 check per book plus \$3 S/H to Georgia Mountain Writers Club, P.O. Box 374, Blairsville, GA 30514.

Please mark these important dates on your calendar to meet and greet us at either event: Next GMWC monthly meeting: May 9th - we have an interesting author and speaker coming from Oakridge, TN. Eva Nell Mull Wilke, Ph.D., published "The Matheson Cove: In the Shadow of the Devil's Post Office." We hope to also have readings and critiquing available; Upcoming GMWC book signing: May 15th - we will have our first book signing sponsored locally at the Union County Library, Blairsville, GA, from 3-6:30 PM. Refreshments and books for purchase will be available. Many of our 30 authors will also be in attendance to sign books and there will be scheduled readings of both prose and poetry.

We look forward to meeting you at our upcoming GMWC meeting and our exciting book signing event, so come on down!

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