

AAMU Announces Home Game Kickoff Times - p. 8

FREE

Memorial Day: A Call to Action - p. 3

Friday
May 23, 2025
Vol. 11, No. 38
ValleyWeeklly.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Dr. Arthur L. Walker

"The impulse to dream was slowly beaten out of me by experience." - Richard Wright



TARCOG Holds 38th Annual Senior Fun Fest at A&M

About 850 seniors from northeast Alabama turned out Tuesday, May 13, to celebrate Older Americans Month at TARCOG's Annual Senior Fun Fest in Huntsville. People arrived early to participate in line dancing and Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) classes before the day's festivities got started.

The fun continued with the western Rodeo Roundup theme from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Alabama A&M Agribition Center. The 38th Annual Senior Fun Fest featured a talent show

with entries from DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison and Marshall

counties. Service providers from the region set up in an Exhibition Area to

provide information and giveaways. A Masters Games area allowed horseshoes,

corn hole, Nerf ball, basketball and more. The finale included door prizes.

Huntsville Choral Festival May 31

The 4th Huntsville Choral Festival has been announced for Saturday, May 31, at Trinity United Methodist Church, located on Airport Road, at 5:30 p.m.

The uplifting choral festival performance will feature guest conductor Jason Max Ferdinand.

Ferdinand is internationally well-known for his work with the Aeolians and left Oakwood



University for the University of Maryland. He is returning for his

second time as the guest conductor for this exceptionally stirring concert.

The event is a learning experience for choral singers, who will be led by renowned conductors. Moreover, organizers are drawing vocalists from all over the Tennessee Valley to participate.

The artistic director, Dr. Patricia Hacker, will be available for an interview, as will the very well-known and local soloist, Christie Weber.

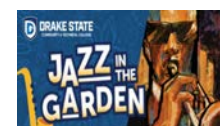
Drake Prepares for 'Jazz in the Garden'

Drake State Community & Technical College will host world-class music and culture at Jazz in the Garden, set for Friday, June 27, on the college's scenic, tree-lined campus.

Set against the backdrop of Drake State's walking track, this outdoor jazz festival promises an exceptional night of smooth melodies, vibrant rhythms, and artistic celebration.

The event will begin at 6 p.m.

This year's head-



liner, AJ Ghent and His Singing Guitar, will bring his electrifying fusion of jazz, blues, and soul to the stage, delivering a performance that is both powerful and deeply moving.

Also featured are the dynamic talents of vocalist Nina Marie Live and saxophonist Ryon Schultz, each bringing their unique sound and energy to

the lineup.

In addition to live music, guests can enjoy a variety of local food trucks, including the authentic New Orleans flavors of Forever Grateful, and VIP seating with exclusive perks, all set within a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere under the stars.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at drakestate.edu/jazz-in-the-garden. Early purchase is encouraged, as space is limited.

The Valley Weekly

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Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington:

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in session this week. Last night (Sunday) at 10:00 p.m., the House Budget Committee approved the GOP's top 2025 agenda item, the Budget Reconciliation Bill/GOP tax cut legislation, by a vote of 17-16 (with 4 Rs voting "present") after failing to pass it on Friday when 4 hardline Republicans voted no because they said the bill does not cut spending deeply enough. As it is currently

written, the House bill would provide \$3.8 trillion in tax cuts over the next decade while also adding between \$2.5-\$3.3 trillion to the national debt—one reason Moody's Ratings downgraded the U.S. credit rating on Friday from the highest rating (Aa1) to one notch below (Aaa) ... The Senate will attempt a second vote to break the filibuster on the GENIUS Act, which would streamline the use of stablecoins—one of two main legislative items on the crypto industry's 2025 agenda (the first cloture vote

failed on May 8 with a 48-49 vote). The May 8 vote failed amid demands from Democratic senators for a provision to be added that would prohibit the President and other senior officials from profiting from crypto ventures while in office ...

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. The President announced plans to speak Monday with Russian President Putin, Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, and NATO leaders in separate phone calls to try to arrange a ceasefire in the war in Ukraine. On Thursday, the President hosted a gala dinner at his Virginia golf club for the 220 top buyers of his \$TRUMP meme coin.

3. SUPREME COURT. In a 7-2 vote last Friday (with Alito and Thomas dissenting), the Supreme Court

stopped the Trump Administration from using the Alien Enemies Act (AEA) to deport Venezuelan nationals it claims are members of the Tren de Aragua gang, sending the case back to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals to determine what type of notice the Venezuelan detainees are entitled to. Although the court did not directly address the legality of using the AEA, it referenced the Albregio Garcia case, where the U.S. has been unable to return an individual who was erroneously deported to El Salvador, as giving extra weight to the concerns of the detainees ...

4. INFLATION REPORT.

Last Tuesday, the Labor Department reported that inflation, as recorded by the Consumer Price Index, rose 0.2% in April, leading to an annual rate of 2.3% over the last 12 months, down slightly from March's annual rate of 2.4%. The fastest rising costs in the economy are for shelter (rent and owners' equivalent rent of residence), medical care, and electricity and natural gas. Notably, egg prices decreased by 12.7% last month. In related news, the U.S. Census Bureau reported on Thursday that retail sales slowed sharply in April to 0.1%, following a surge of 1.7% in March as shoppers rushed to beat the new trade tariffs ...

5. WORKFORCE/APPRENTICESHIPS. At the May 15 House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee hearing, U.S. Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer promoted President Trump's goal of reaching 1 million new registered apprenticeships annually, highlighting a surge in new programs and apprenticeships following an April 23 executive order ...

Hamm Consulting Group
1717 K Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20006
T: 202-596-8384
rhamm@hammconsulting.com
www.hammconsulting.com

Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Meetings

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet on **Monday, May 19, 2025**, at 5:00 pm, on the 6th Floor of the City of Huntsville Municipal Building, at 305 Fountain Circle SW. The Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board will meet on **Wednesday, May 21, 2025**, at 4:00 pm on the 2nd Floor, (Council Chambers) of the City of Huntsville Municipal Building, at 305 Fountain Circle SW. To review items on the agenda for these meetings, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/about/meetings-and-agendas/>. For more information on the MPO, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/>

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The Voice of Diversity

As we gather in backyards and around dinner tables this Memorial Day, many of us are reflecting on what it truly means to be American. For some, it's a day off work or a chance to welcome the unofficial start of summer. But at its heart, Memorial Day is sacred. It is a day to remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to this country—a country that, while imperfect, has always held the promise of something better.

We have met Gold Star families who carry the weight of that sacrifice every day. We've walked through Arlington Cemetery's silent rows, where history speaks through headstones. And, we've held hands with veterans whose lives were shaped by battles most of us will never fully comprehend. What connects us all is a deep, unshakable belief in a nation worth fighting for—a nation still striving to live up to its ideals.

But today, we find ourselves at a crossroads. Our national conversation is often divisive, our politics polarized, and our shared sense of purpose tested. There are voices—some loud, some subtle—questioning whether diversity, equity, and inclusion are truly American values. Let me be clear: they are not just American values—they are the foundation upon which this country was built.

From the Black soldiers who fought in segregated units in World War II, to the Navajo Code Talkers whose brilliance helped win the war in the Pacific, to the countless immigrants who served this country even before they were granted full rights themselves—our military has always been a reflection of our nation's diversity. It is a reminder that America's strength has never come from uniformity. It comes from the courage of people from every background, every zip code, every faith and identity who believed in something greater than themselves.

We cannot honor our fallen without also honoring the full truth of our history. That means teaching our children the full story—not just the victories, but the struggles, the injustices, and the progress won through sweat and sacrifice. That means ensuring every American—regardless of race, gender, ability, or orientation—has a place at the table and a voice in shaping our future.

Memorial Day isn't just a moment of remembrance—it's a call to action. It asks us to be worthy of the sacrifices made on our behalf. To care for our veterans when they come home. To defend democracy, not just with weapons, but with empathy, service, and civic engagement. To build a country where everyone can see themselves in the story of America.

So this Memorial Day, I hope we all take a moment—not just to remember, but to recommit. To recognize that unity doesn't mean sameness, and that inclusion is not a threat, but a strength. Let's honor those who gave their lives by continuing the work of building a more just, more equitable, and more united America.

Because if they could believe in this nation enough to sacrifice everything, surely we can believe in one another enough to make it better. With hope,

Dorothy

MAY 23 - MAXWELL - Gerald Maxwell Rivera is an American singer-songwriter, record producer, and multi-instrumentalist. Along with fellow musicians D'Angelo and Erykah Badu, Maxwell has been credited as an originator of the "neo soul" movement that rose to prominence during the late 1990s. He released his debut studio album Maxwell's Urban Hang Suite in 1996 to widespread critical acclaim and commercial success. The album was certified 2x Platinum and it was the first of four consecutive Platinum-selling studio albums. Maxwell released Embrya in 1998, Now in 2001 and BLACKsummers'night in 2009. Maxwell was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for "his innovative contributions to the music industry as a singer, songwriter, and producer" by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and Congressional Black Caucus in 2019.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



The Valley Weekly

Publisher
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Editor-in-Chief
Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

**Editorial Consultant/
Senior Editor**
Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

Editorial Assistant
Linda Burruss

Advertising Associate
Phyllis Chunn

- Contributing Editors -
tim allston
Minister Preston Brown
Gloria B. Caldwell
Ron Hamm
Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Photographers
Anthony "Gip" Gibson
Jerome Saintjones

Website Administrator
Calvin Farier

Mailing Address:
The Valley Weekly
P. O. Box 893 - Huntsville, AL 35804
(256) 651-9028
www.valleyweeklyllc.com
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The Valley Weekly
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Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S

Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

"Getting Your Priorities in Order"

Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

So many of us need to reevaluate our priorities. We need to reevaluate what's important in our lives. Then we can choose with confidence the very best part of life that God has to offer. Things are constantly changing in our lives—in our relationships, in our families, in our jobs. Everything seems to change. And because of these changes, we tend to lose focus on what's really important. Like our relationship with God and the purpose that He has for our lives. You see, we need to be constantly straightening out our priorities so they will stay straight. Therefore, it's time for us to hit the reset button and get our priorities in order. Let us not "cave in" to worldly pressures, thinking

that we need a lot of material things to bring us joy. The things that we treasure the most in this world will be meaningless in heaven. That's why so many people have realized that nothing really matters except a relationship with God. Let us not wait until we are old and gray to figure this out.

Prayer: Loving Father,



help us to keep our priorities in order even though things are changing around us.

Question: Is there anything in your life that


you treasure more than your relationship with God? Be honest.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books *Spiritual Game Plans*

For A Successful Life and *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at amazon.com.

NEXT WEEK:

"Finding Favor with God"



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY VALLEY DEATHS



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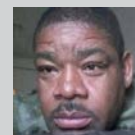
Funeral service for MS. EARNESTINE MCCAULEY will be Saturday, May 24, at Serenity Funeral Home.

Funeral service for MS. LAVONDA MOSLEY (b. 1977) was Sunday, May 18, at Douglas Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church, 1429 Cavalry Street NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for MS. PEGGY TERRELL (b. 1939) was Saturday, May 10, at Beaver Creek Cemetery, County Highway 16, Beaverton, Ala.

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Funeral service for MR. ALBERT PARKER (b. 1968) will be held on Saturday, May 24, at 11 a.m. at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Pastor Felix Parker, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for REV. JACQUELINE M. WILSON (b. 1947) will be held on Saturday, May 24, at 12 p.m. at Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church with Pastor Dr. Gregory Scott officiating.



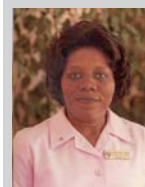
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Funeral service for MR. CHRISTOPHER HATCHER will be 12:30 p.m., Saturday, May 31, at the Royal Chapel of Memories.



Funeral service for MRS. EARNESTINE COWAN (b. 1948) will be held at 12 noon, Friday, May 23, at the Royal Chapel of Memories, 4315 Oakwood Avenue NW Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Ricky Sykes officiating.



Funeral service for MR. JAMES EVERS GURLEY (b. 1940) will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, May 23, at the Blackburn Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, 507 Plummer Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Tremaine Snodgrass officiating.

Ego-Holic, Interrupted: How I Discovered My Most Destructive Addiction — and What I'm Doing About It

In November 2024, America witnessed three ego-laced headlines: Biden lost the White House, Mike Tyson returned to the ring (and lost), and Donald Trump made a shocking comeback.

What do they share in common? Ego — sometimes inflated, sometimes deflated. I know both. Because 23 years ago, ego cost me a dream contract.

I faked expertise in an IT consulting job — and got fired. My client said, “Tim, your problem isn’t talent. You needed help, but never asked for it.”

Around the same time, I began training with a speaking coach who helped me discover something deeper: I wasn’t just struggling with pride. I was addicted to my sense of self.



I called it “ego-holism.” And the name stuck.

Soon after, I gave a speech on it. My best friend was in the audience, and her feedback stung: “This message is yours, not theirs.”

But God showed me the opposite. The healing is in the revealing. Her critiques became the foundation of my calling.

Ego-holism isn’t arrogance (that’s egotism). It’s chronic insecurity. Low self-worth. Or overconfidence masking pain.

And I’m not cured. I’m recovering. That’s why I’m creating EMC² — the Ego-holism Measurement Calculator for Correction. It’s a tool to help leaders identify the cost of unmanaged ego.

Because talent isn’t the problem. Ego is.

And managing it? That’s the real victory.



Tim Allston

Leadership Player-Coach & Four-time
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Millennial Moment

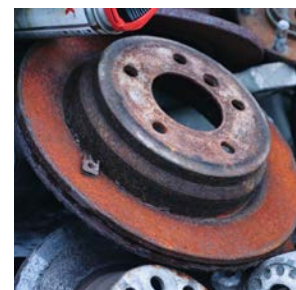
by Gloria B. Caldwell

Hit the Brakes, But Don't Break ...

I was on Spring (not so Spring) break with the babies, and I decided to pay attention to them, not work, and relax. Put aside what my agenda was, and be ... for them.

As a single Mom, it’s hard to find moments to relax and be 100% mommy only, so I decided to take that moment.

During this time, I noticed it is so easy to fall back into what you used to do when you lax your routine. I have had to “semi-do” some things to keep myself intact during the break. I didn’t want to break habits, good habits, that have taken me years to develop. I didn’t want to break



away from everything I’d done to prepare myself for greatness.

However, it is easy to do. You can stop something that took you “forever” to accomplish quickly. It’s easy to say, “Whatever, I’ll just drink this or do this!” I have decided to flip that, and the things which aren’t beneficial for me would be what I chose to stop doing!

I will take a break but keep my stride to where I’m headed. I’ll pump

my brakes when I see that I need to take a moment to breathe, but I will not put it in the park! I have a mission, goal, and purpose. That includes being a Mommy, which is not all inclusive of who I am!

You are so much! God has allowed you to be remarkable, provide, and share. Hit the brakes to break, but don’t break from what your purpose is. Don’t digress. The devil will tempt you with what feels easy and good. You know better.

Stay the course.

Take a break, but don’t do away with the path. This, too, is part of the progress. It’s a test.

Pass.

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Valley Weekly VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

May 22

The Greene Street Market at Nativity
208 Eustis Avenue (Corner of Eustis and Greene)
Huntsville, Ala.
3-6 p.m.

May 23

"Candlelight: Coldplay & Imagine Dragons"
The Belle at Stovehouse Event Center
3414 Governors Drive SW
Huntsville, Ala.

May 23-25

Brooks Wheelan
Comedian
Huntsville Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala.
(256) 261-3374

May 24

"28th Annual Old School and Blues Festival"
The Isley Brothers/Big Daddy Kane
www.jde.live - \$80
Huntsville Dragway
502 Quarter Mountain Road
Harvest, Ala.
11 a.m.

Jazz Jam Session
Valley Conservatory
5732 U.S. Hwy 431
Brownsboro, Ala.
5-7 p.m.

Live Music at Stovehouse
3414 Governors Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
7-10 p.m.

May 25

3rd Annual Ladies Love Lemon Drops Festival
701 Amphitheater Drive NW
Huntsville, Ala.
3-9 p.m.

May 27

"Chicago Stepping"
Ballroom

Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center
6156 Pulaski Pike NW
Huntsville, Ala.
(256) 519-2040
4 p.m.

May 28

Etowah Youth Orchestra Performance
Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment
2211 Seminole Drive SW
Huntsville, Ala.
2-3 p.m.
(Free)

Silent Book Club
The Orion Amphitheater
(Backstage/Enter via Artist Meadow off Amphitheater Drive)
5:30-7 p.m. (Free)

May 29

Thursday Summer Concert Series LIVE at Stovehouse
3414 Governors Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
6-9 p.m.

Comedian
"Darren Brand"
Huntsville Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW

Huntsville, Ala.
7 p.m.

May 30

21st Annual Cigar Box Guitar Festival Kick-Off Casino Night
AVIQ Showroom
1833 University Drive NW
Huntsville, Ala.
6 p.m.

Concerts on the Dock
Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment
2211 Seminole Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
6-9 p.m.

The 77 Experience: All Things 1977 Concert
The Electric Belle
3414 Governors Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
7 p.m.

2025 City Lights & Stars: Fireball Mail
Burritt on the Mountain
3101 Burritt Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
7:30 p.m.

May 30-31

Comedian
"Shuler King"
Huntsville Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW



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- Gwendolyn Brooks



Rosetta James Foundation “Spotlight on Our Elders” ... Featuring

Dr. Arthur L. Walker

Dr. Arthur L. Walker is a former president of the 6,000-student Motlow State Community College in Moore County, Tenn.

During his 18-year tenure with the college, he progressively advanced through the academic ranks from instructor to becoming the first African-American to hold the position of president. Walker moved Motlow College forward in areas of student access, capital projects, and fundraising. He spearheaded a \$2.3 million fundraising drive to construct the first free-standing building for the Motlow College Smyrna Teaching Center, a building that was named in his honor in October 2017.

As Director of the Fayetteville Center, Dr. Walker facilitated the construction of the Fayetteville Cen-

ter and the Sundquist Center for Advanced Technologies, all while directing enrollment growth, program development, marketing and community relations.

Prior to his tenure at Motlow College, Walker served 26 years in the U.S. Air Force (USAF), including two tours in Alabama. After retiring from Motlow College in 2006, Walker launched a third career: president of his own company—Empowerment Concepts, Inc.—a professional development firm. In this capacity, he consulted and provided training for a wide variety of organizations.



Walker earned his associate degree at Okaloosa-Walton Junior College (FL), bachelor’s at Athens State University, master’s at Troy University, and doctorate at the University of Memphis.

Dr. Walker is married to Rosa Rice Walker, a retired school teacher. They have one adult daughter, Angela, and are members of Saint John AME Church in Huntsville.



“Spotlight on Our Elders” is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valleyweeklyllc.com.



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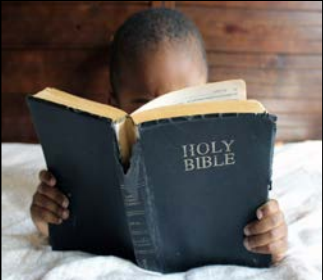
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This Sunday's Lctionary

Sunday, May 25, 2025
Sixth
Sunday
of Easter



(Track 2, Year C)
First Lesson:
Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Second Lesson:
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
GOSPEL:
John 5:1-9



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celebrating
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AAMU Athletics Announces Home Football Game Times

Kickoff times for Alabama A&M's five home football games this fall have been announced.

Before the home opener, AAMU opens the 2025 football season on **August 30** with a trip to Fayetteville, Ark. to face SEC foe Arkansas.

The Bulldogs' home opener is the following week with the 15th Annual Louis Crews Classic as AAMU plays host to Alcorn State, with a 6 p.m. kickoff from Louis Crews Stadium on September 6.

Two weeks later, AAMU returns home for a 6 p.m.

game, a tune up before beginning Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) play the following week as the Bulldogs play host to Lane College on September 20.

Fans will have to wait two weeks as A&M welcomes Mississippi Valley


State to Crews Stadium on October 11 for its homecoming game. Kickoff against the Delta Devils is scheduled for 2 p.m.

AAMU will close out its home campaign with back-to-back games inside Crews Stadium, starting on November 8 with a 2

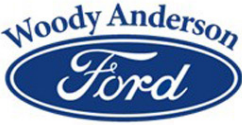
p.m. kickoff against Prairie View A&M. One week later, November 15, the Bulldogs hold Senior Day with a 2 p.m. kickoff vs. FAMU.

Season tickets can be purchased online at Home-town Tickets; aamusports.com or at the AAMU Ticket Office on campus.

Reserved season tickets (\$200) include parking. General admission season tickets are \$135 (no parking). Faculty and staff, The Bulldog Club, alumni and military can purchase season tickets for \$190. Children ages five and under are admitted for free.




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