

# Midweek July Fourth causes muddle for travelers

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Who knew the calendar could cause so much vacation heartburn?

For the first time in five years Independence Day falls on a Wednesday, leaving travelers unsure when to celebrate and worrying those who make a living off tourists.

"The midweek holiday seems to have travelers confused," said Anthony Del Gaudio, vice president of hotel sales for Loews Hotels, which isn't seeing the normal July Fourth spike in bookings.

Those who sell vacations say this year's calendar gives Americans more options: Tack on Saturday through Tuesday or Thursday through Sunday to the holiday, or just take the entire week off.

But consumers' confidence has been waning. Now, some aren't happy about having to burn an extra vacation day or two to get that long weekend. From 2008 through 2011, the work holiday fell on either Friday or Monday, so employees and their families got an automatic three-day weekend, similar to Memorial Day and Labor Day.

"It's irritating because everybody wants those three, four-day holiday weekends," said Tom

Donohue, who runs an HIV awareness program based in Charlottesville, Va.

In recent years, he's traveled to see family in Pennsylvania, including his father whose birthday is on July 2. There's swimming and boating on the Susquehanna River and — of course — fireworks.

Not this year. Donohue plans to stay local, savings those days off "for an actual vacation," a Caribbean cruise in October.

Others are determined to have their summer holiday no matter what.

Alicia Hutton, her husband and their two daughters are flying from Boston to Baltimore to see family. The parents had to take two extra days off from their jobs to make the Wednesday-Saturday trip work.

"It's not ideal because normally we would tack on one day to a long weekend," Hutton said.

AAA, one of the nation's largest travel agencies, projects 42.3 million Americans will journey 50 miles or more from home between July 3 and July 8. That's roughly the same amount that traveled in 2007, the last time July Fourth fell on a Wednesday.

Last year, when the holiday fell on a Monday, 40.3 million people traveled. But before you think it's a big increase, note that AAA's

economists changed how they estimated the number of travelers: They used a six-day period this year compared to five last year.

"In general, we think that travel from last year is pretty flat," said Shane Norton, a director at IHS Global Insight, which provides economic forecasting and research for AAA.

The economy weighs heavily on families' travel plans. Consumer confidence has fallen for four straight months as Americans continue to worry about their jobs and retirement funds. The June reader of a widely followed confidence index was 62. A reading of 90 indicates a healthy economy.

That helps explain why families don't seem prepared yet to splurge on vacation. Many want to get away but are opting for lower-priced hotels and are looking specifically for properties with free breakfast and Internet. Or they're choosing instead to stay with friends or relatives.

The typical traveler will spend \$749 over six days, down from \$807 over five days last year, according to an online survey of 344 people conducted for AAA. Another look at the holiday, by Visa Inc., shows that all Americans — whether traveling or not — will spend an average of \$191 on July 4th activities, down from

\$216 last year. Visa surveyed 1,012 people by telephone.

"With most Americans continuing to watch every dollar closely, many have realized that sparklers and flag emblazoned t-shirts are not essential items" Jason Alderman, Visa's senior director of global financial education said in a statement.

Some don't plan to celebrate at all. There will be no trips to the beach, no fireworks and no barbecues for 1 in 5 Americans, according to Visa.

The overwhelming majority of Independence Day travelers plan to drive: 35.5 million people or 84 percent of travelers according to AAA. As they do, they'll get a break at the pump.

The price of gasoline, always on travelers' minds before a summer road trip, is now an average \$3.33 per gallon — down from almost \$4 in early April, when there was talk of \$5 gas by summer. Whether that will translate into spending more at their destination remains unclear.

"Theoretically, it should boost consumer spending, but so far there's no evidence of that," said energy consultant Jim Ritterbusch. "The housing industry is still depressed and that's keeping people from being confident. They're going to remain thrifty."

Another 3.2 million travelers, or 8 percent of holiday vacationers, plan to fly. That will boost their credit card bills: the average domestic roundtrip ticket is \$391, up 6 percent from last year, according to Travelocity.

## Canton survivor starts support group

With help from Illinois Cancer Care, Teresa Scalf hopes to serve those for whom Pekin is too far

By TERRY BIBO  
GateHouse News Service

CANTON — Teresa Scalf has learned about cancer the hard way.

Now she wants to share some of that knowledge in a local support group which could make somebody else's way a little easier.

"It's just compassion you try and give them," she says. "Not sympathy. Every cancer patient is going through the same thing, in a different way."

Scalf was told she had stage IV colon cancer in 2009, and has watched several family members battle various forms of the disease. One aunt lived only a week and a half after diagnosis.

"It's a nonstop thing with us," Scalf says.

Now 42, she says she had her "moment of crying, of course" but prefers to fight back. She gets encouragement from her 44-year-old brother James, known as "Shi," and her 64-year-old mother Lena, known as "Butch." They live together.

"I have my own room," her mother says. "He has his own room. She has her own room. So if it gets really bad..."

"We all go to our rooms," Teresa Scalf chuckles.

All three sport blue T-shirts with their names on them from a 2010 fundraiser. That's about the same time Teresa had her ovaries, gall bladder and six inches of colon removed as part of the effort to combat her cancer. While she continues to receive treatments, she hasn't quit work at the nearby prison. She did quit the crisis team, saying it's too hard to bridge the gap between suicidal people and her own struggle to stay alive.

That need to preserve energy sparked her desire to start a support group locally. With the closest support group in Pekin, Canton residents may not feel strong enough to go.

"There's no rhyme or reason why there hasn't been. We need to change

that," she says. "Some people don't have caregivers like I've got."

So the tentatively-titled Big C Support Group for caregivers and patients will hold its first meeting at 4 p.m. Aug. 15 at Graham Home Health Hospice, 225 W. Walnut. Among other things, Shi Scalf says, they'd like to explain how hospice services can help before a patient's final days. To set it up properly, the Scalfs sought background information from their own extended support group at Illinois Cancer Care in Peoria.

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CITY OF CANTON )**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PETITION FOR VARIANCE HAS BEEN FILED BY DARREN AND JEANNIE BREESE BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE CITY OF CANTON, ILLINOIS. The affected property is located at 249 WEST TAMARACK STREET CANTON, in Canton, Illinois and is legally described as follows:

Lot 6 Chataugua 1st Addition  
Lot 6 09-08-34-362-040

The Petitioner requests a variance of 5 feet on the WEST yard, to build a DETACHED GARAGE.

A hearing on said petition will be conducted by the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS at the Historic Depot, 50 North 4th Avenue, Canton, Illinois at 5:30P.M. on July 19th, 2012.

CHAIRMAN  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
City of Canton

July 3, 2012

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# New crisis looms in Egypt over legislature's fate

CAIRO (AP) — A new showdown loomed in Egypt on Monday as the country's highest court stood by its ruling that dissolved parliament last month, challenging the new Islamist president's plans to reconvene the lower chamber in defiance of the military.

If he goes ahead, Mohammed Morsi would be taking a dramatic step away from the outreach that characterized his first days in office. It's a tough fight, though, and the president could lose it along with more of his already diminished powers.

The military, which handed power to Morsi on June 30 after ruling the country for 16 months, delivered a thinly-veiled warning to the president, saying it would continue to support the country's "legitimacy, constitution and law" — language that means it will not stand by and watch the rulings of the country's top court ignored or breached.

At the same time, the Supreme Constitutional Court sent out a clear signal that it will not bow to Morsi's wish, saying in a statement after an emergency meeting on Monday that its June 14 ruling to invalidate the Islamist-dominated parliament was final and binding.

"Morsi's move sets the stage for a potentially very serious political and constitutional crisis," said Michael W. Hanna, an expert on Egypt from the New York-based Century Foundation.

Morsi, through his spokesman Yasser Ali, insisted his decision to reconvene the 508-seat chamber on Tuesday was an "assertion of the popular will."

His presidential decree also calls for new parliamentary elections after a new constitution is adopted, something that is not expected before the end of the year — in effect according legitimacy to a legislature the country's highest court ruled to be invalid.

In its ruling last month, the supreme court determined that a third of parliament's members were illegally elected under a law that allowed candidates from political parties to compete for seats that had been set aside for independents. Based on that verdict, the then-ruling military disbanded the house, in which Islamists controlled more than 70 percent of the seats.

In the days that followed, the generals pushed through a series of decrees that gave themselves legislative powers, as well as control over the drafting of a new constitution and the national budget. It also stripped Morsi of significant presidential powers.

The high court was to rule Tuesday — the same day parliament was set to reconvene — on three cases questioning the legality of the president's order.

The dispute over the fate of parliament has divided the nation just as Egyptians were looking forward to a semblance of stability after the tumult of the 17 months since the ouster of longtime authoritarian ruler Hosni Mubarak. Egypt has seen a dramatic surge in crime, deadly street protests, a faltering economy and seemingly non-stop strikes, sit-ins and demonstrations.

Some of the youth groups who engineered the uprising that toppled Mubarak sided with Morsi, viewing his move as an attempt to curtail the military's powers. Others saw it as another bid by Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood to pursue its own interests rather than the nation's.

"Morsi's decision is going to give us a huge problem," predicted Hesham el-Kashef, a 23-year-old lawyer and rights activist. "He is drowning us in legal problems and it is all for the sake of the Brotherhood."

Many liberal lawmakers said they would either boycott Tuesday's session or wait for the constitutional court ruling on Morsi's decree before they decide.

"How can we go and attend in violation of a court ruling?" said Imad Gad, a liberal lawmaker. "There must be respect for the law and for state institutions."

Morsi also received harsh criticism from the country's judiciary.

Ahmed el-Zind, the head of the powerful association of judges, gave Morsi a 36-hour ultimatum to rescind his decision and offer an apology to judges or face what he called "harsher" options.

Parliament remained under police guard, though it was unlikely the security forces would try to prevent lawmakers from entering the central Cairo building on Tuesday, unless the supreme court declares Morsi's decree unconstitutional before the session starts.

It is because of this possibility, according to the official Middle East News, that speaker Saad el-Katatni brought forward the start of the session by two hours.

Morsi's decision poses a series of legal and political challenges.

If the chamber is allowed to sit until new parliamentary elections are held, every piece of legislation it adopts would be challenged in court. Also, by reinstating the legislature, the country would have two sources

of legislative powers: the military, under its June 17 declaration, and the legislature.

Morsi's own standing as a unifying figure in the wake of months of turmoil would also suffer if he were to be locked in a battle with the military and much of the judiciary.

Earlier Monday, Morsi appeared to be trying to ease the appearance of a growing showdown, appearing with the country's top generals at a military graduation ceremony. Morsi was seated between the head of the military council, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, and Chief-of-Staff Sami Anan. All three sat grim-faced for most of the ceremony, though Tantawi and Morsi exchanged a few words on the reviewing stand.

Some experts noted the delicate path Morsi must tread.

"The particular difficulty of the moment is that Morsi is now in a position where he needs to steer the country towards stability and legitimacy without negating the constitutionality of the rule of law," said Karen Greenberg, Director of the Center on National Security at Fordham Law School, New York.

## Obama, Republicans recycling pet plans

TOM RAUM  
Associated Press

It's summer rerun time. Not just on television, but on the campaign trail and in Congress.

President Barack Obama is revising and replaying a familiar tune, calling for a one-year extension of Bush-era tax cuts for households making less than \$250,000 a year.

He's been trying — and failing — to raise taxes on wealthier Americans since his 2008 campaign.

Congressional Republicans, coordinating with GOP presidential challenger Mitt Romney, are planning a vote soon on a rival one-year extension, but for all wage-earners, including the wealthiest.

Republicans say it would buy time for "comprehensive tax reform." In other words, they're hoping November election gains will bring them more clout next year to reshape the tax code to their liking.

All Bush tax cuts, last extended in 2010, die Dec. 31 unless renewed.

"That would be a big blow to working families," Obama said Monday in the East Room, standing before a group of everyday Americans.

Obama's tactic carries some risk. Unlike Republicans, congressional Democrats are divided, with some wanting a \$1 million threshold for higher taxes and some favoring extending all cuts until the economy improves.

House Republicans are offering their own replay vote on Wednesday to repeal Obama's health-law overhaul. The GOP-run House has already voted more than 30 times to repeal or weaken the law since its March 2010 enactment. But this is the first time since the Supreme Court upheld its constitutionality.

None of the previous House whacks at the health care law has passed the Democratic-led Senate. Repealing the overhaul is also a top priority for Romney, even though it's modeled on a plan he initiated as Massachusetts governor.

Obama will keep pushing his middle-class tax message on Tuesday in a visit to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Romney was raising funds in Aspen, Colo.

## Emiquon honored

Continued from A-1

A total of 2,031 sites around the world, including only 34 in the United States, have earned Ramsar designation. The Cache River-Cypress Creek Wetlands and the Upper Mississippi Floodplain which stretches from Wabasha, Minn. to north of Rock Island, Ill. are the only other two Illinois sites that have been recognized.

In addition to the designation, this week's Ramsar Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP 11) in Bucharest marks the signing of a three-year Memorandum of Cooperation between The Nature Conservancy and Ramsar Convention Secretariat. The signing signifies an extension of an already 12-year relationship to improve, restore and sustain the world's natural resources through creating awareness surrounding wetland conservation, climate change, river basin management and ecosystem valuation.

"We are excited to continue our relationship with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat," said Carmen Revenga, a Conservancy senior freshwater scientist and head of the delegation for the upcoming Ramsar Convention Conference of the Parties. "Working with Ramsar to find global solutions to protect the world's most precious natural resources is an honor as is the recognition of the restoration efforts at Dixon Waterfowl Refuge and Emiquon in Illinois."

The Emiquon Complex met eight of the nine Ramsar criteria for designation. These include supporting endangered species, supporting plants and animals that are important for maintaining a diverse ecosystem, supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds, supporting one percent of a species population, and serving as an important food source for fish.

In most cases, Emiquon not only met but exceeded the criteria. As examples, the Emiquon Preserve noted the presence in one day of 4.5 percent of the continental population of American coots (the Ramsar criterion is 1 percent), and the Emiquon Complex supports hundreds of thousands of migratory waterbirds, far surpassing the Ramsar criterion of 20,000.

The Dixon Waterfowl Refuge met six Ramsar criteria, including containing globally rare wetland ecosystem types and being an important example of the region's native landscape, which is rare in Illinois today due to extensive habitat loss and wetland drainage. The refuge supports outstanding biodiversity, including 146 animal and plant species that are vulnerable to extinction in Illinois.

The Dixon and Emiquon locations are outstanding sites for hiking, bird-watching, boating, wildlife photography, canoeing and kayaking, and fishing. Both sites attract thousands of visitors each year.

The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wetlands Initiative plan an Aug. 8 dedication ceremony of their respective Ramsar-designated sites at 2:30 p.m. during a meeting of the IRCC at the Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown.

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect the land and water on which all life depends. To date, the Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have been responsible for the protection of more than 18 million acres in the United States and have helped preserve more than 117 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. Visit

The Nature Conservancy on the Web at [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org).

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

The Wetlands Initiative is dedicated to restoring the wetland resources of the Midwest to improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and reduce flood damages. The Wetlands Initiative is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Visit The Wetlands Initiative at [www.wetlands-initiative.org](http://www.wetlands-initiative.org).



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I, Jody Woltman, publisher of the  
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do hereby certify  
that I am the publisher of Cass County Star-Gazette

a weekly secular newspaper of general circulation regularly  
published in the City of Beardstown in the County of  
Cass and State of Illinois; and I hereby further  
certify that the notice, a copy of which is attached hereto, in the matter of  
Ameren  
Open House Meeting

Attach Copy of Notice herein referred to

was published once each week for 4x successive weeks in said  
newspaper, the first insertion being on the 21st day of June, 2012, and the last  
insertion being on the 12th day of July, 2012, and I further certify that the said  
Cass County Star-Gazette was regularly published continuously for more  
than one year in the City of Beardstown in said County, next preceding the first publication of  
said notice, and that I am duly authorized to make proof of matters published in the said  
Cass County Star-Gazette

Given under my hand and seal at Beardstown, Illinois,  
this 11th day of July, 2012.

*Jody Woltman*

cc:mj

FORM 803 CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

Beardstown Centennial Committee promised, be the "greatest parade" ever assembled in Central Illinois. On a more somber note, the newspaper reported,



Our Place in History by Leigh Morris

state honors... Meanwhile, folks in this area eagerly awaited Beardstown's centennial parade that promised "to be the most gorgeous ever seen in Central Illinois."

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I, Jody Woltman, publisher of the Beardstown Newspapers, Inc

do hereby certify that I am the publisher of Cass County Star-Gazette

a weekly secular newspaper of general circulation regularly published in the City of Beardstown in the County of

Cass and State of Illinois; and I hereby further

certify that the notice, a copy of which is attached hereto, in the matter of Ameren

Open House Meeting

Attach Copy of Notice herein referred to

was published once each week for 3x successive weeks in said newspaper, the first insertion being on the 26th day of April, 2012, and the last

insertion being on the 10th day of May, 2012, and I further certify that the said Cass County Star-Gazette was regularly published continuously for more

than one year in the City of Beardstown in said County, next preceding the first publication of said notice, and that I am duly authorized to make proof of matters published in the said

Cass County Star-Gazette

Given under my hand and seal at Beardstown, Illinois, this 11th day of July, 2012

*Jody Woltman*

cc:mj

**Dahlem retires after 33 years**



Mike Kloppenburg/Star-Gazette

Former Cass County State's Attorney John Dahlem retired a week ago today after 33 years. Matt Mayes will replace Dahlem as State's Attorney.

**Clarification comes from police commission**

By June Conner  
Star-Gazette editor

Interest in the administrative position that could be created for the Beardstown Police Department remained Monday night with the Beardstown City Council and police officers attending the meeting of the council-appointed Police Commission. Chairman Pam Desollar read a clarification of the City's options from City Attorney Luke Thomas. Thomas said that the city through the council can create the position through ordinance. The commission can

then fill the position through testing, giving preference in accordance with the merit, seniority, and veteran's standards.

Another law allowed for the hiring is for the city council to create the position of deputy chief by ordinance and give the appointment authority to the chief. The deputy position would be an exempt rank and may be appointed from any full time officers that has five years of full time service as an officer in the department. If the chief deputy was removed from the position, the officer would revert to the previous rank

whether there was an opening or not.

The matter now goes back to the City Council's committee with clarification needed as to whether this position is exempt from the current contract the city has with the union and if the assistant will be able to be on the streets doing police work or if it will be strictly office work.

Mayor Bob Walters said, "Do you want an officer on the street or do you want a paper shuffler? I would like to see them on the streets."

The decision now lies with the City Council.

**Virginia Council considers energy integration for residents**

By Jody Woltman  
Star-Gazette publisher

In the June regular meeting of the Virginia City Council with all members present, Mayor Steve Sudbrink said the representative for Integrys Energy Group, which supplies the electricity billing to the city, has approached him to see if integration can be made available to city residents.

The move would give residents the opportunity to lock in to electrical rates with the company. If residents are interested, the move to make Integrys the main supplier of electricity billing would be placed on the November ballot. If passed, residents would automatically be switched over from their current provider but may opt out, with a written letter requesting to stay with current providers.

Aldermen Rob Kilby and Raymond Danenberger expressed concerns with an automatic switch over to a new provider. Sudbrink added that it would only go on the ballot if residents are interested in looking at it.

The Integrys Energy Group representative will speak at the July city council meeting, and residents

are encouraged to attend to hear what the company may be able to offer them.

In other news, Kilby brought up concerns again on the dangers of the intersection of Main and Beardstown Street. The west side of Main Street still presents safety concerns when pulling into traffic from Beardstown Street. The option of eliminating more parking spaces on the west side of Main Street was presented, but Virginia resident and business owner Susan Young voiced concerns over eliminating more parking around the square. Public Works Director Randy McClure brought up the possibility of changing the current parallel parking into diagonal parking, increasing the number of spaces to seven. The remainder of the city square is already diagonal parking, and there is enough space to pull out of diagonal parking and not effect traffic heading south. With all board members in favor of looking into the diagonal parking possibilities, city attorney Luke Thomas will confirm there would be no legal issues with the state concerning the highway. The motion was made to put the parking topic on next month's agenda.

In other news, the city is looking at a new ordinance for video gaming. The current ordinance does not allow any gambling of any kind. The Gaming Commission makes allowance to add an ordinance to "opt in" or "opt out" of video gaming. The new ordinance law goes into effect September 1, and if the city opts in, it would take 50 percent of proceeds the video gaming machines takes in. The state controls the licensing and monitoring, and neighboring Jacksonvill

Beardstown, and Havana are opting in while South Jacksonville is opting out. Alderman Steve Clark said he would like to read more about it, and attorney Thomas said there is information available on the Illinois Gaming website. Thomas is also checking on the option to opt out once you have signed up to be included. The video gaming ordinance was tabled until next month.

Alderman Clark also shared the Virginia Month students of the month, with the theme of "perseverance": High School-Herbert Christman, Junior High-Cole Anderson and Elementary-Caden Michael.

The next regular board meeting will be July 9, 7:30 p.m.

**DUI arrests in Cass County**

By June Conner  
Star-Gazette editor

A 44-year-old Virginia man was taken to the Morgan County Jail by Cass County Sheriff's Deputies after he was arrested on a series of charges June 15 at 10:23 p.m. at Route 125 and Warrior Hill Road. Michael L. Bell, 410 S

East Street Virginia was arrested on charges of driving under the influence, aggravated DUI, fleeing or attempting to elude a peace officer, wrong lane usage, resisting or obstructing a peace officer, and possession of a controlled substance.

In other Cass County Sheriff's news, Michelle M. Howlett, 20, of Pleas-

ant Plains, was arrested by Cass County Deputies after a traffic stop at Illinois Route 125 and Morgan Street near Virginia. She was charged with two counts of Driving under the influence, improper lane usage, and using an electronic communication device. She was taken to the Morgan County Jail.

**Multiple arrests for Beardstown Man**

A Beardstown man is in Schuyler County Jail after his traffic stop just before midnight Friday night resulted in eleven tickets.

Joseph W. Hunter Jr., 27, 810 East 3rd, was arrested for speeding 41 mph in a 25 mph zone and improper lane usage at

Main and Lafayette. Hunter was stopped at Main and Jefferson and charged with operating an uninsured motor vehicle, aggravated DUI, no insurance, intimidation, and driving under the influence.

Hunter was later ar-

rested at 4th and Jefferson on charges of unlawful use of a weapon, two counts of aggravated battery to a police officer, resisting arrest, and criminal damage to government supported property.

He was taken to Schuyler County Jail with-

**Two arrested on drug-related charges**

Cass County Sheriff Bob Fair stated that two drug-related arrests were made in the same incident June 14 when a call came to his department about a stopped vehicle east of Virginia.

Edward L. Vaniter, 58,

of Beardstown and Zachary A. Hager, 27, of Virginia, were arrested at 9:23 p.m. at Route 125 and the County Shed Road. Vaniter was arrested on charges of possession of cannabis less than 2.5 grams. He posted bond for

later court appearance. Hager was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of a hypodermic needle and syringes. Hager was taken to the Morgan County Jail.



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