



Volume 36, Number 2 Thursday, January 16, 2020

The Air Up There

by Kim Nowatzke

Turning 86 is a momentous occasion.

Leah Steffey made it even more so.

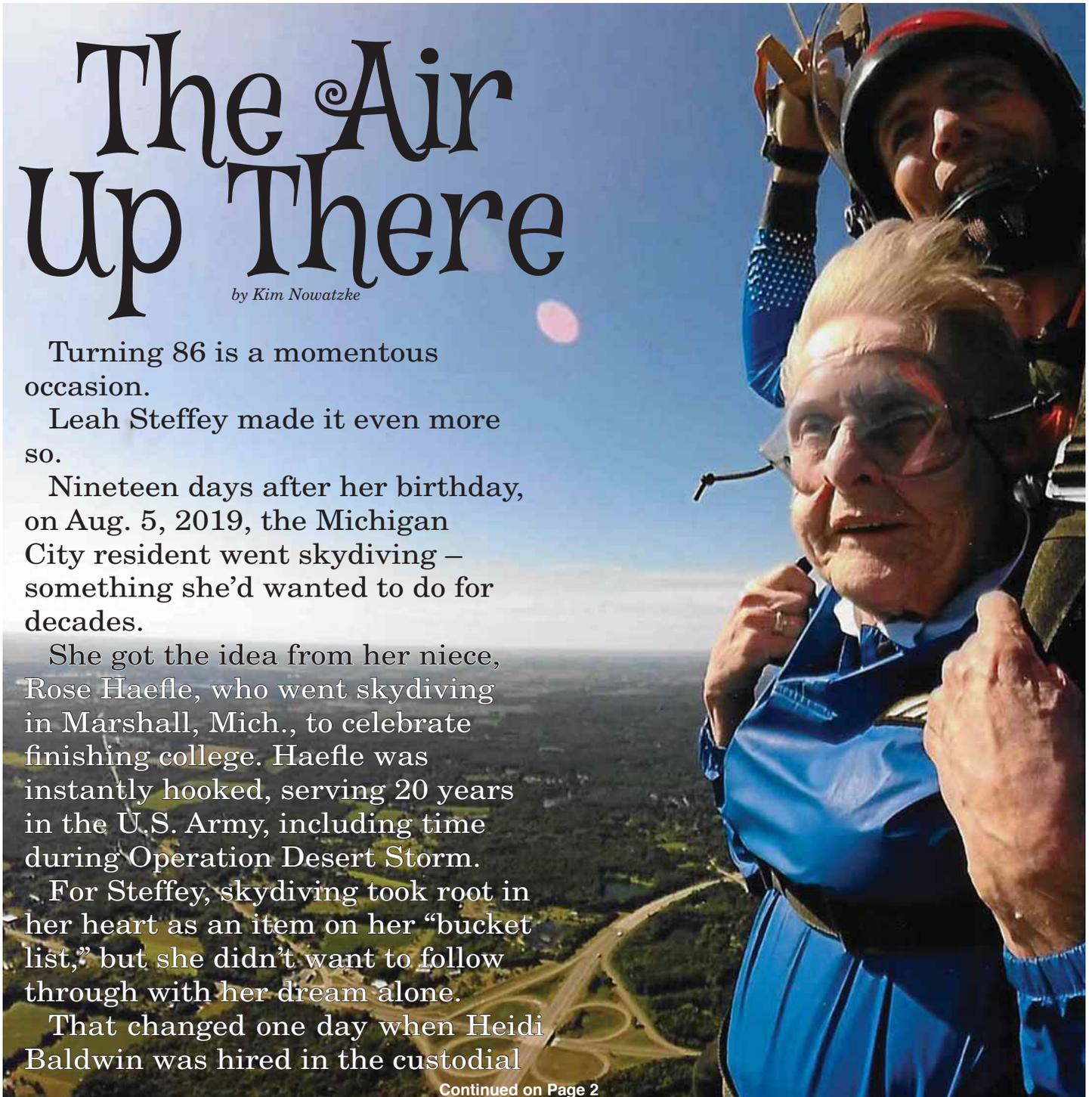
Nineteen days after her birthday, on Aug. 5, 2019, the Michigan City resident went skydiving – something she'd wanted to do for decades.

She got the idea from her niece, Rose Haefle, who went skydiving in Marshall, Mich., to celebrate finishing college. Haefle was instantly hooked, serving 20 years in the U.S. Army, including time during Operation Desert Storm.

For Steffey, skydiving took root in her heart as an item on her "bucket list," but she didn't want to follow through with her dream alone.

That changed one day when Heidi Baldwin was hired in the custodial

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Leah Steffey is photographed with her tandem instructor, Tom, while skydiving last August.

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http://www.thebeacher.com/



Published and Printed by
THE BEACHER BUSINESS PRINTERS

Delivered weekly, free of charge to Birch Tree Farms, Duneland Beach, Grand Beach, Hidden Shores, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Michiana MI and Shoreland Hills. The Beacher is also delivered to public places in Michigan City, New Buffalo, LaPorte and Sheridan Beach.

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department of Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa where Steffey works full time...and is the oldest out of about 950 employees, she said.

"I'd always told my supervisor, Alex Supp, that I wanted to do this," she explained.

So, when Supp learned Baldwin wanted to jump out of a plane, too, he told her about Steffey's dream.

Steffey said there were plenty of willing participants on that beautiful August day at Michigan City Municipal Airport. Before her designated flight, there were four other planeloads of jumpers who signed up through Skydive Windy City Chicago.

On Steffey's plane, there were four other jumpers who planned to skydive in a tandem flight and one man jumping solo. In a tandem flight, the novice skydiver is connected to a tandem instructor via a harness and guided through the entire jump from the plane exit to the landing.

Steffey said her tandem instructor, Tom, "asked me if I was scared and I said no," and "told me to bend my knees backward when I first jumped out.

"I was the first one out in our group," she continued. "It was awesome. It was beautiful up there. I could have flown around all day."

When Tom asked if she would like to repeat the experience, she replied that she thought she would.

Steffey remembers taking off her jewelry, including her watch, at 9:33 a.m. before she boarded the plane, and it was a little after 10 a.m. when she landed and was talking to her neighbors, who came out to see her adventure unfold.

"They said, 'You looked so calm and everything,'" she said. "I couldn't believe I landed on my feet."

Wanting to have tangible mementos to help remember her ex-

perience, Steffey opted for a skydiving package that included multiple photos and a video of her dive.

"I wasn't scared at all – I was laughing in all the photos," she said happily.

Out of these, Steffey had a calendar made to hang in her home and remind her of her adventure.

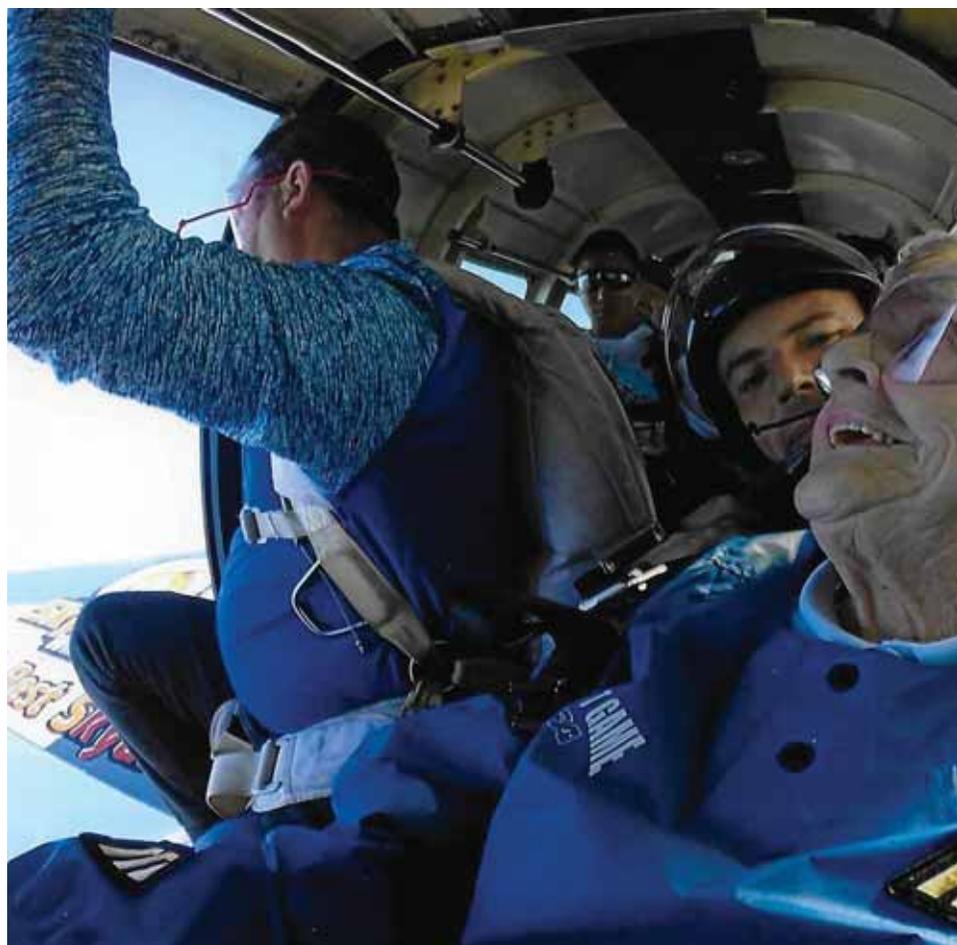
"Everybody loved it," she said.

(Editor's note — Steffey brought her photos to The Beacher before Christmas to have the calendar made, which is how we learned of her story.)

She also created photo magnets, gifting one to Baldwin for Christmas and giving another to Supp.

"He really thought it was great," Steffey said. "I had one hanging in my locker at work, and he said he wanted that one, so I gave it to him and it's on the frig at work."

Steffey didn't tell her two sons, Stanley Kidd, who lives in Las Vegas, and Stewart Kidd, a resident of



Leah Steffey, inside the airplane from Skydive Windy City Chicago before making "the jump."



Leah was all smiles during the experience.

Jackson, Mich., until her jump was complete. In fact, she never mentioned her desire to skydive to them.

“My oldest son, Stanley, said, ‘You did what?’” she said, laughing. “Then I called my grandson, Lukas Kidd (Stanley’s son), and he said the very same thing.

“When my 9-year-old great grandson (Luke Kidd) saw the video, he said, ‘I want to do that!’ His Dad said, ‘You have a long wait, buddy.’”

According to www.skydivewindycitychicago.com, Skydive Windy City Chicago requires skydivers to be at least 18, but there is no maximum age limit.

Steffey was born in Vaughnsville, Ohio, and grew up in Limo, Ohio. Out of her two older sisters and two younger brothers, only one 87-year-old sister, Winifred Lautzenheiser, remains in Marshall, Mich.

Continued on Page 4



On the ground, a high-five in order.



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The Air Up There

Continued from Page 3

Steffey has worked at Blue Chip Casino for 21 years, where she said her co-workers can't believe her age. When she lived in Jackson, she worked for 25 years at Aeroquip Corp. in the purchasing, scheduling, expediting and dispatching departments. After the company laid off a number of employees, including Steffey, who was 59, she relocated to Michigan City to help her son, Stanley, with child care.



Leah at her job at Blue Chip. For her birthday, she was able to pick what area she preferred to clean. That is why it's called her Birthday Dream Week.

At Aeroquip, Steffey stayed active, playing on company softball, golf and bowling leagues in her "younger years." She remembers the surprise of her co-workers when, at 59, she hit a home run. She served as president of the golf league and secretary of the golf and bowling leagues.

Prior to her employment at Aeroquip, Steffey also worked ultimately as a code assigner at State Farm Insurance in Marshall, Mich. She recalled her surprise when her supervisor took her aside to thank her for breaking the record for coding the most applications in one day at that office.



Leah (back, far right) when she was on the Ameriquip softball team.



Leah and her only surviving sister, Winifred Lautzenheiser, in 2018.

Steffey said she doesn't have any special secrets to her vibrancy at her age.

"Daily, I do floor exercises before I go to work," she said. "I bend my knees and stretch my legs."

She looks forward to attending her high school reunion at Shawnee High School in Lima, Ohio, nearly every year. The graduating class began with 72 students.

"There are nine or 10 that come regularly now," she said. "We lose one or two a year."

In the past, the group would spend Friday evening reminiscing at Kewpee Hamburgers, the same spot where they would meet after ball games to enjoy burgers and shakes.

"The band bus would stop there on the way home," Steffey recalled, adding she played the tenor saxophone and baritone saxophone in high school.

Steffey also mentioned an unusual hobby of collecting frog figurines.

"When I bought my house around 1970, the previous owners had left a marble frog," she said. "Now I have over 600 – I stopped counting at that number."

Made out of a variety of materials, including wood, ceramic, plastic and cloth, the frogs are often purchased by Steffey when she goes to conventions for the American Business Women's Association, of which she's been a member since 1976.

"I even have a scarecrow one," she said. "I thought they would always bring me good luck, and they have."

She said the good luck she was referring to is "doing well in my life."

And, her plans for her 87th birthday?

"I might dive again," she said, smiling, "but I'm not sure what I'm going to do."

Four generations of the family. The back row includes Leah with her son, Stanley Kidd, and her grandson Lukas Kidd. In the front is her great-grandson, Luke Kidd, and her great-granddaughter, Lily Kidd. Stanley's reaction to his mother's skydive after the fact: "You did what?"



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Oscar Season: “Parasite”

by Andrew Tallackson

“Parasite” is an apt title not just for Bong Joon-ho’s darkly comic tale, but also to describe its characters who prey on a clueless wealthy family. They’re like barnacles on a sunken ship, their grip airtight until the damage is done. The irony is, you kinda like these people. All of them.

“Parasite” was the most acclaimed movie of 2019, topping more than 50 critic year-end lists, winning the *Palme d’Or* at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival and snagging the Best Foreign Film prize at the Golden Globes. An Oscar win is assured.

For most of the journey, I was along for the ride...until Joon-ho pushes his twisted concept *too* far with a Tarantino bloodbath at the end that suggests all of this is a horror movie in disguise.

Until then, “Parasite” is a pretty darn near brilliant commentary on class and greed. We meet a South Korean family living in squalor, a semi-basement so cramped and revolting, their only view of the outside world is the local drunk who urinates at their window. Each in their own way is bright. We’re not sure when, how or why life failed then...or if they are to blame for their miseries.

But then, the son, Ki-woo (Choi Woo-shik), has a golden opportunity. A friend is leaving to study abroad and needs him to take over tutoring the daughter of a wealthy family. They’ll pay.

Ki-woo ingratiates himself into the family. They seem nice, too. The dad (Lee Sun-kyun) is a successful CEO. The mother (Cho Yeo-jeong) is naive, easily influenced, but fair. The daughter (Jeong Ji-so) quickly develops a crush on her tutor, and Ki-woo, despite falsely presenting himself as a university student, appears genuinely kind of heart.

And he is. But he also wants what’s best for his family, and the devious core of “Parasite” is how, one by one, Ki-woo gets every family employee — housekeeper, driver, art tutor — sacked and replaced by one of his kin, passing them off as acquaintances.

The wily pleasure of “Parasite” comes from watching Ki-woo’s family dive into their scheme with no remorse or doubt. Crafty, these folk. They’re no dum-

mies...which makes you think if they used half the energy applied to their charade to a legitimate job search, they might make something of themselves.

You should despise Ki-woo and his clan. Oddly, there is something endearing about them, especially their sense of family. They love each other, want what’s best for each other. They are good people behaving badly. Very badly. And the wealthy family? A



A family living in squalor hatches a plan to prey off a wealthy family in “Parasite.”

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“Parasite”

Running time: 132 minutes. Rated R for language, some violence and sexual content

tad entitled, and oblivious — their home is a hotbed of secrets — but hardly despicable.

Turns out, though, Joon-ho, as director and co-writer, wants everyone in his film punished for their antics. Let’s just say the climax of “Parasite” contains a high body count, the survivors scrambling to make sense of it all. A violent close, to me, was an easy out, as if Joon-ho watched too much Tarantino. A more complicated, and darkly satirical approach, would have forced each and every individual to live with their actions.

The message of “Parasite,” and it’s vital, is that we’ve become lazy. We want the spoils of wealth without having to work for it. The closing scene beautifully drives that message home.

I liked “Parasite.” A lot. Still not sure about that ending, though.

(“Parasite” arrives Jan. 28 on blu-ray and DVD.)
Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Oscar Season: “Little Women”

by Andrew Tallackson

The question going into “Little Women” is why. Why retell the tale, this the seventh film adaptation of Louisa May Alcott’s 1868 novel. Is there something we missed...or are we tapping a well run dry?

What Greta Gerwig (“Lady Bird”), as writer and director, proves is that some stories are timeless. Gerwig can’t tamper too much with the Alcott template — Beth *must* go gentle into that good night — but she finds subtle ways to keep the story fresh. In fact, this may be the least sentimental of the adaptations, with a cast that is near flawless.

What is different is how Gerwig structures the drama. Her predecessors took the straightforward, linear approach, starting from the beginning and carefully charting the evolution of the March sisters into what their father calls his “little women.” Gerwig, however, alternates between past and present, specifically between 1861, when life goes on amid the father’s role in the Civil War, and seven years later when the sisters are adults and Beth rapidly ailing. That back-and-forth nature lends poignancy to early scenes, where we’re more emotionally invested in the journey itself since we know the outcome. Gerwig also allows childhood friend Laurie to ingratiate himself into the lives of all the March sisters, not just Jo. Laurie is played by “Call Me By Your Name” Oscar-nominee Timothée Chalamet, who appears to enjoy embracing his rascally side, offering proof he does actually know how to smile in a movie.

The adults range from Laura Dern, quietly affecting as Marmee, to Meryl Streep, carefully nibbling away at the scenery as Aunt March.

But “Little Women,” as the title suggests, belongs to the March sisters, charting how their true identities emerge as they discover what it is they want from life. Emma Watson (“Harry Potter”) and Eliza Scanlen (HBO’s “Sharp Objects”) are in fine form as Meg and Beth, respectively, but the movie bears witness to the continued rise of Florence Pugh as Amy. She caught my eye as Chris Pine’s take-no-

crap wife in Netflix’s “Outlaw King,” then charmed her way through the wrestling dramedy “Fighting With My Family,” survived the ickiness of “Midsommar” and now dominates the March sisters. What she brings to Amy is antsy resentment, festering like a wound, to always playing second fiddle to Jo. Pugh has a way of making Amy overwhelm every scenario she invades, and it’s exhilarating.



The March sisters enjoy a day at the beach in “Little Women.”



“Little Women”

Running time: 135 minutes. Rated PG
for thematic elements and brief smoking

Jo is played by Saoirse Ronan, Gerwig’s “Lady Bird” star, and I actually prefer her take to Winona Ryder’s Oscar-nominated turn in the 1994 update. Ronan may appear a trifle contemporary, but it is the ideal approach. The actress treats Jo as someone born in the wrong era. Her vision for herself, of being independent of any man, is so far removed from her sisters, it makes her restless nature all the more vital.

The final scene has Jo standing by a window, looking down on the press carefully stitching together her first published book. She’s giddy, can’t stand still. The moment is so beautifully acted, it makes you believe that, yes, anything is possible.

I loved this movie.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Footlight Players to Present “A Night at the Opera”

Footlight Players will present “A Night at the Opera” featuring Monday Musicales at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The event benefits drama and musical-education Scholarships for Footlight and Monday Musicales.

The program includes arias, duets and ensembles from “Don Giovanni,” “The Magic Flute,” “L’elisir D’amore,” “Rigoletto,” “Lakme,” “L’enfant Prodigue,” “Rasalka,” “Thais,” “Pique-Dame,” “Zaza,” “Madame Butterfly,” “The Consul,” “Love Never Dies,” “Aida” and “Rent.”

Candace Archer performs and serves as emcee. She will be joined by Deborah Beien, Emma Blanchard, Howard Brenneman, Frank Casorio, Kathy Chase, Kathi R. Jones, Krystal Levi, Joe Stewart and Lena Levi on violin. Lee Meyer is the accompanist.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger. Reservations are strongly recommended at www.footlightplayers.org, then click on reservations, or call the Footlight box office at (219) 874-4035. Call Meyer at (219) 874-5278 for more details.



Pictured are (from left) Howard Brenneman, Krystal Levi, Lena Levi and Candace Archer.

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Miller Garden Club

Miller Garden Club will hold its second “Bingo for Boulders” fundraiser from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at St. Mary’s of the Lake’s Lessard Hall, 6060 Miller Ave., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood.

The purpose is to provide decorative and protective boulders for Marquette Park streetlights and utility boxes. No maintenance is necessary for the boulders, and the plan is to place at least three large ones across from Marquette Park Aquatorium.

Admission is \$20 at the door or in advance at Eventbrite. A cash bar and complimentary snacks are planned, along with prizes donated by Northwest Indiana businesses.

Contact Joanne Stratton at (312) 543-1561 or jmstratt@sbcglobal.net, or check Miller Garden Club on Facebook for more details.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

• **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

• **Drop-In Volunteer Program from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 18.**

Projects focus on preserving the park's resources. Dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk off trail. All equipment and protective gear, including gloves and eye protection, will be provided. Meet at The Park Connection volunteer office, which is adjacent to the main Chellberg Farm parking lot.

• **A snowshoe hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet for a quick lesson, then hike through fields and woods surrounding the center. A regular hike will be offered if there is fewer than two inches of snow. A limited amount of equipment is available.

• **Movie Screenings at the Douglas Center from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.**

Join a ranger for a screening of a national park or outdoor-related documentary. The film selection includes Dr. King's 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C.

• **In the Footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

A ranger leads the presentation on national park sites that commemorate the civil-rights struggle.

• **Stargazing from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at the Kemil Beach parking area.**

Members from Chicago Astronomical Society, Michiana Astronomical Society and Calumet Astronomical Society attend with telescopes. Dress for the weather. Take binoculars. The parking lot is located at 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton.

• **A ranger will lead a two-hour tour in one of the park's 16-passenger buses from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19.**

The tour meets at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. After a brief introduction, participants board for the tour. Tours are free, but reservations are required by calling (219) 395-1882.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

The ranger-led stroll explores a black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.



Indiana Dunes State Park

• **Geocache Adventure Day — "Duneland Architecture" from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18.**

The event lets any level of geocachers compete. This year's challenges and prizes are themed around Duneland architecture. Full details are at www.geocaching.com, search zip code 46304 for the event page. The day ends with a chili dump at the Nature Center at 4:30 p.m. Email mlaudeman@dnr.in.gov for more details.

• **Breakfast with the Birds at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19.**

Join naturalists at the Nature Center for coffee, hot chocolate and donuts, then help put out seeds for the birds.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.



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Unity Foundation Scholarships Available Online

Online applications are available for the 2020 Unity Foundation of LaPorte County cycle of scholarships and awards.

March 12 is the submission deadline. Scholarships and awards ranging from \$250 to \$2,500 each are awarded through more than 50 Unity funds. Opportunities are available for graduating seniors and students already in college, along with aid for all types of programs, from certificates to doctorate degrees. Visit www.uflc.net to complete and submit applications.

The General Scholarship application allows students to apply for several scholarships through one application. It evaluates responses provided and matches applicants with scholarships. Students should begin the process early because transcripts must be downloaded before the application is submitted. Some scholarships require verification of club involvement or activities.

Two specialty awards are available through the website. Each requires nominations of deserving students or adults:

Diane K. Bamberth Memorial Award

This targets graduating LaPorte High School seniors pursuing an undergraduate bachelor degree from an accredited, tax-exempt college or university. Applicants demonstrate leadership, humility, courage, tenacity, strength through diversity and strong moral fiber.

Recipients must enroll as full-time students. Nominators may be: colleagues, clergy, community member, family, professor/teacher, other.

Jan Nona Environmental Stewardship Award

This goes to residents of LaPorte or Porter counties who are activists in environmental protection. Nominators may be: a community member, family,



Unity Foundation
of LaPorte County

professor/teacher, self, other.



Additional printable applications are available on the website:

The Michigan City Chapter of the Drifters Scholarship Application

The Greater Michigan City Chapter of the Drifters Inc. is offering the scholarship to financially assist a distinguished African American and/or other minority undergraduate student from Michigan City High School pursuing higher education.

New Day Foundation's Connie Yagelski-Marhanka Music Scholarship

These scholarships go to graduating LaPorte County high school seniors who are including music in their studies towards a degree or career.

Susan Hay Hemminger Scholarship Foundation Application

The four award criteria are: financial need, academic achievement, community service/leadership, and ability and commitment. Applicants must be legal LaPorte County residents, graduates of a high school district that includes LaPorte County and accepted/enrolled in a two- or four-year undergraduate program at an accredited institution.

Visit www.uflc.net or call (219) 879-0327 for more details.



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Brown Bag Gardening Series

LaPorte County Master Gardeners will host four sessions, in a brown-bag lunch setting, that focus on gardening.

Topics over the course of the series include local food, attracting pollinators, landscape design and Potager gardens.

The first session, "Why is Local Food So Important to a Community," is from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at LaPorte County Extension Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, LaPorte. The panel discussion includes local food growers, including: Angela Rose, LaPorte County Farmer's Market co-director; Becca Tuholski, co-owner of Tuholski Produce in LaPorte County; Jason Clemons, director of The Pax Center in LaPorte; and Dominique Edwards, a board member and food-procurement specialist with the Northwest Indiana Food Council.

This year's panel is two hours based on requests for more time from last year's attendees. Each speaker will have time to talk, followed by Q&A.

Ensuing sessions include

- Wednesday, Feb. 12, noon to 1 p.m., "Attracting Pollinators," Star Center, 22 Franklin St., Michigan City.
- Wednesday, March 11, noon to 1 p.m., "Landscape Design for People Living with Dementia," Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.
- Wednesday, April 15, noon to 1 p.m., "The Potager Garden," LaPorte County Extension Office.

LaPorte County Master Gardener Association sponsors the series. In 2015, it won a statewide Search for Excellence award for educational service conducted by Purdue Master Gardeners.

Those attending can take a lunch. The cost is \$5 per session and includes informational handouts, or pay \$15 for all four sessions. No pre-registration is required. Call Purdue Extension-LaPorte County at (219) 324-9407. Those interested also can download a flyer at www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte; click on the "Garden" heading at the top of the page, or visit www.lpmastergardener.com

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“The Bullying Collection”



“The Bullying Collection,” 10 ten-minute plays that range from tragic to comedic, returns to La-Porte Little Theatre this weekend.

Each mini-play offers a new perspective on common problems, from cyberbullying that tests a friendship, to a group of former bullies that meets to discuss their recovery, to a grown man who must confront a former bully at their 20th reunion.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.

Visit www.laportelittletheatreclub.com for details. The theater is located at 218 A St.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will host a trek through Robinson Woods Preserve, 8016 East Road, Three Oaks, Mich., at 1 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 18.

HCH President Pat Fisher will share the area’s postglacial history during the 1.5-mile moderate hike. The woods feature deep ravines and ancient sand dunes. Cold weather gear and water are recommended.

HCH events are free and open to adults and children if accompanied by an adult. Dogs are allowed according to destination rules. Membership costs \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families.

Visit harborcountryhikers.com for more details.

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How does “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” keep topping itself?

Most TV shows, after a season or two, grow lax. They’ve established a rhythm, a tone, the characters locked into quickly identifiable traits.

Not “Maisel.” Each season is bigger, more ambitious in scope, but without sacrificing the heart and wit that made it special in the first place. The characters are allowed to mature, to adapt, to make mistakes and grow from them.

And, the energy level never flags for a second.

Season Three of “Maisel” began streaming last month on Amazon Prime, and it is a lesson on the consequence of “binging.” Devour an entire season quickly, in a day even, and you’re left despondent, having to wait an entire year for more. For my family, a new season of “Maisel” is cause for celebration, so this time, we moved at a deliberately slower pace, savoring each episode, holding off on the next entry for fear of inching closer to the inevitable close.

At its core, the show is about a woman finding her voice when society would rather she silence it. That she not have an opinion, go about her business. When you factor in that Miriam “Midge” Maisel, an upper-class Jewish housewife in the late 1950s-1960s, is a stand-up comedian, the show’s wily heroine has entered a largely taboo arena for women.

Season Three opens with Midge kicking off a USO tour as the headliner for Johnny Mathis-style crooner Shy Baldwin. The live performance establishes the season’s tone: massive. A large hangar overflowing with enlisted men, cheering on Midge for the occasional crudeness of her material, and rallying behind Shy’s hit music, which includes not only backup singers, but also a full orchestra. The show does not skimp on production values. The episode is epic in every sense of the word, culminating in the laugh-out-loud sight of Midge, having grown up in her insulated Upper West Side Manhattan world, not knowing the words to “White Christmas,” faking her way through a group performance of the song.



Shy Baldwin (Leroy McClain) kicks off his latest USO tour.

“Maisel”... as Marvelous as Ever

by Andrew Tallackson



Miriam “Midge” Maisel (Rachel Brosnahan) is photographed with the troops after her performance.

Midge is played by Rachel Brosnahan (of *Highland Park, Ill.*, by the way) in a performance that is like *Road Runner* and *Wile E. Coyote* trapped in the body of a Jewish Barbie doll. Brosnahan plays Midge as never at rest. Mentally or physically. You can see her mind racing, adapting. The performance is a celebration of a quick-witted restless heart.

The USO tour with Shy Baldwin (an electrifying Leroy McClain) is a perfect vehicle for the series to explore Midge’s evolving identity not just as a stand-up comic, but as a woman uncovering her place in the world. She’s struggling with how distant her children are to her — physically and emotionally — while a female bass player in Shy’s band offers telling insights on the reality of life on the road, especially for women.

The show expertly handles Midge’s growth as a comic. She learns, for instance, how material that strikes gold in New York won’t resonate with audiences in Florida. She must unearth the humor in universal truths. And by Season Three’s heartbreaking final episode, she must fail, learning where she can and can’t “go” while poking fun at others.

With Midge proceeding with her divorce from Joel (Michael Zegen), the show doesn’t leave him stranded, instead introducing his desire to open a Chinatown nightclub that includes a new love interest (Stephanie Hsu, adorable), whose family owns an illegal gambling ring downstairs, fueling some of the season’s biggest laughs.

Speaking of family, Midge’s parents (Tony Shalhoub and Marin Hinkle, geniuses), have fallen on hard times and now live with Joel’s parents (Kevin Pollak and Caroline Aaron). The latter two are grotesque Jewish caricatures, but Palladino, as the show’s creator, allows Pollak a flicker of humanity by apologizing for Joel’s infidelities. By comparison, Shalhoub and Hinkle have such flawless chemistry, they could carry the series on their own.



Tony Shalhoub is comic gold as Midge’s father.

The heart of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” though, involves Midge’s friendship with her pint-sized, foul-mouthed manager, Susie (Alex Borstein), who’s frequently mistaken for a man. Susie is fiercely loyal, protective, with a vocabulary so salty, it could make a sailor blush. This season, Palladino allows the bond between Susie and Midge to deepen. Susie, whether she wants to admit it or not, is ferociously maternal when it comes to Midge. Watch her in scenes where Midge is on stage. Typically seated, Susie doesn’t so much as sit but hover. Nervously. Eyes scanning the crowd to catch its reaction. It’s subtle, beautifully etched work.



The friendship between Midge (Rachel Brosnahan) and Susie (Alex Borstein) is the heart of the show.

Even Sophie Lennon can’t come between Midge and Susie. Sophie is a successful stand-up comic played by Jane Lynch (“*Glee*”), who to me is a national treasure. Her gift is what I call sucker-punch comedy. She delivers a line with deadpan stillness, then flings it elsewhere, the delirious payoff coming out of left field.

Now managed by Susie in Season Three, Sophie wants to be taken seriously, that she can pull off dramatic material. Susie somehow rounds up the talent, and finances, to stage Strindberg’s “*Miss Julie*” on Broadway. The twist, though, is in how Midge, of all people, boosts Susie’s confidence, inspiring her to stand up to Sophie.

Season Three of “Maisel” consists of only eight episodes. It’s not enough. Far from it. You could watch these characters for another eight more. Heck, 20 more. The affection the show has for its characters, the insane energy level, is like no other today.

Amazon Prime already has renewed “Maisel” for Season Four. Palladino says she is nowhere near done telling Midge’s story.

Good. We’re not ready to release our hold on her either.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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Michigan City Public Library

• **Makerspace: open lab hours at 3:30 p.m. Thursdays.**

Youth ages 6-18 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.

• **Pokemon Go Community Day from 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19.**

Call Jonathan at (219) 873-3045 for details.

• **Tinkercad at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, in the Makerspace.**

Registration is required for the program that involves Tinkercad, a free online collection of software tools. This session, for children 10-18, serves as an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No experience is necessary. All registered participants receive a 3-D print of his/her creations. Register at the Youth Services desk or call (219) 873-3045 for more info. Space is limited. MCPL 3-D printing rules apply, and the printing fee is waived for this program.

• **Learning Center Volunteers Needed.**

The Learning Center needs volunteer tutors for children and adults. Students need assistance in: reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. All that's required are two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the center for more information.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

Fernwood Botanical Garden

• **Terrarium Making from 2 to 3:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 18.**

Learn the art of creating a miniature garden under glass. Plants, potting mix and containers are provided, but participants can take creative elements. Register in advance. The cost is \$55, or \$44 for members.

• **Vin-Nidra plus Forest Bath from 2 to 4 p.m. EST Sunday, Jan. 19.**

The first hour involves Conscious Vinyasa Yoga in the gardens (weather permitting). The second hour includes heading to the platform by the river for Yoga Nidra (yogic sleep) and a guide through the “five layers of self” (Pancha Maya Kosha).

Registration is required. Dress warmly, and take a blanket, eye pillow and yoga mat if needed. Limited mats are available. The cost is \$25, or \$20 for members.

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve is located at 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for more information and to confirm the status of classes.

Women in Leadership

Rebecca McCuaig will present "Plan B and How to Navigate It" during the next Women in Leadership of LaPorte County meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at Portofino Grill, 3233 N. Indiana 39, LaPorte.

McCuaig serves as general counsel of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet under Gov. Eric Holcomb, and general counsel for the Office of Career Connections and Talent. She previously served as city attorney for LaPorte and as a deputy prosecutor in major felony at the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University-Bloomington and her Juris Doctorate from Valparaiso University School of Law. A member of the Indiana and Indianapolis bar associations, she is admitted to practice in Indiana and before the U.S. District Court for the state's northern and southern districts. Before relocating, she volunteered with Girls on the Run and Junior Achievement.



A former LaPortean and LaPorte High School graduate, she lives in Noblesville with her husband and young daughter. Her father is the Rev. Dennis Meyer of Bethany Lutheran Church. Meyer's Mile Walking Trail at Hailmann Elementary School was created to honor her late mother, Diane Sue Meyer, a longtime Hailmann teacher.

WILL meetings are open to the public, with guests welcome. Parkison & Hinton Inc. is the meeting sponsor. Make reservations at www.women-in-leadership.com or the WILL Facebook page.

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LaPorte County Public Library

• **Anime Club from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17.**

Teens can meet with other anime fans, and attend in cosplay if interested.

• **Talk to a Lawyer Day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20.**

Lawyers from the LaPorte County Bar Association will provide free legal assistance as an annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event is on a first-come, first-served basis. Consultations are roughly 10-15 minutes.

• **Teen Advisory Board from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21.**

The board allows teens in seventh grade and older to share ideas and get involved. Volunteer opportunities include: teaching younger students in the Maker Lab during STEAM classes; recommending library services and materials by creating displays; creating social media content; helping serve after school snacks; proposing special projects.

• **STEAM Sandbox from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.**

Students in grades 3 and older can move through levels, earning a certificate for each completed level. They work independently and chart their progress while completing hands-on, interactive projects.

• **MAKE a Difference from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays in January and February.**

The January focus is making winter hats for students at area elementary schools. The February focus is fidget sleeves for Golden Living residents.

□

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.



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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.



The American Red Cross LaPorte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:

- Golden Living Center, 1700 I St., LaPorte, 2-5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21.
- Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21.
- Golden Living Center, 1900 Andrew Ave., LaPorte, 9 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Jan. 21.
- St. John Kanty, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more details.

Gingerbread House Contest

Kevin Stantz of Mishawaka is the winner of LaPorte County Historical Society Museum's 2019 Gingerbread House Contest.

Stantz's gingerbread house has a breast cancer theme to honor his mother, Kim, who is undergoing breast cancer treatment.



Kevin Stantz is photographed with Museum Director Keri Teller Jakubowski.

The winning entry was announced Dec. 21. On Dec. 30, Stantz helped move the gingerbread house to the Franciscan Health Woodland Cancer Care Center lobby on County Road 400 North in Michigan City.

Also, the Historical Society has donated books on historic LaPorte County to 22 public and private schools in LaPorte County with grades 8-12. The books include: Michigan City Illustrated 1900; A Twentieth Century Historical and Biographical Record of LaPorte County Indiana 1904; the 1874, 1907 and 1921 combined atlases and 1892 Plat Book of LaPorte County Indiana.



Jakubowski with St. Paul Lutheran librarian Laurie Hughes.

Museum Director Keri Teller Jakubowski and Board Member Susan Bukowski presented the books to principals and librarians. They also invited students to use the museum's Fern Eddy Schultz Research Library for school projects.

The museum is located at 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call (219) 324-6767, email kteller@laportecountyhistory.org or visit www.laportecountyhistory.org for more details.



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LCA Adult Scholarship Fund

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., is expanding its scholarship program to include adults thanks to startup funding through a Unity Foundation of LaPorte County grant.

The new fund will provide financial assistance for students 18 and older interested in LCA classes and workshops, but facing financial barriers, Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman said in a press release.

LCA offers three sessions of classes per year, plus week-long summer camps. In a typical session, the schedule includes 10-12 youth and adult classes on topics ranging from abstract painting, to fused glass, to stop motion animation.

LCA has long offered youth scholarships to eliminate barriers for children who want to attend classes and camps. The program is largely supported by two efforts: the LCA-specific Dolly Fund endowment for children 7-18, and the Michigan City Public Art Committee Children's Scholarship Fund for city children ages 5-18.

In addition to expanding the age range for scholarships, grant funds can be used to meet any youth scholarship needs not covered by current funding sources.

Registration for LCA's spring session of classes opened Wednesday, Jan. 15. Call (219) 874-4900 or visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for more details.



La Porte County Parks



All registrations/questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit www.laportecountyparks.org for more details.

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and 10, March 2 and 16, and April 6 and 27 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Call at least one week in advance to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- Jan. 29: Who Made That Track?
- Feb. 5: Clouds Overhead.
- Feb. 12: Could You Be a Squirrel?
- March 4: 1 Bird, 2 Bird.
- March 18: Water Everywhere.
- April 1: Flower Power.

Breakfast with the Birds

Explore birds and sample breakfast treats while watching birds at the feeding station during the free program from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

No pre-registration is required. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Hat and Scarf Time With Your Stuffed Friend

The free program for children ages 2-11 is from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at Luhr County Park.

Wear a favorite hat and scarf, and take a favorite stuffed animal, for the program that includes story time and snacks.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited, so call at least one week in advance to reserve a spot. The minimum required enrollment is eight and the maximum 24.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

Call (219) 325-8315 to make reservations for one of many picnic shelters at any of the four county parks, or Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill County Park for a family function.

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MLK Celebration Breakfast

Urban League of Northwest Indiana's president and CEO will deliver the keynote address during the 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration Breakfast.

The free event is from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20, in the Purdue University Northwest James B. Dworkin Student Services & Activities Complex Great Hall, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville. Doors open 30 minutes prior to the start of the program.

Vanessa Allen-McCloud has served as Urban League president and CEO since 2010. She is a certified Civility in the Workplace and Cultural Competence Civility trainer. She also serves on local and national boards, including the Ivy Tech of Lake County Board of Trustees, Horizon Bank Diversity Council, United Negro College Fund NWI Council, Indiana University Northwest Board of Advisors and National Council of Negro Women. She is an NAACP lifetime member and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority member.



Karen Bishop Morris, a PNW associate professor of English, will serve as emcee. Musical entertainment is planned. In conjunction with the breakfast, students and faculty from the PNW School of Education and Counseling will lead children's activities about King from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.pnw.edu/mlk-celebration for more details.

Reins of Life Volunteer Training

Reins of Life, 9375 W. County Road 300 North, will host new volunteer training from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16.

The 41-year-old non-profit, which also has a South Bend location, helps improve the lives of children and adults with disabilities through equine-assisted activities and therapies.

The most common volunteer positions are side walking and leading horses during riding lessons. Each rider requires one to three volunteers, who also have the chance to help train horses.

Some programs take additional training. Interactive Vaulting, for example, require a strong sense of play and a willingness to be silly. Therapeutic Driving takes up to five volunteers. Retirees often volunteer for the school program, which operates during the school day and involves more than 20 local special-education classes.

The requirement is two hours a week. Participants must be at least 13 years old. Previous horse experience is not required. Dress for the weather.

RSVP to Beth by call or text to (219) 276-7849.

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	WON	LOST
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1. Wrecking Balls	4	0
1. Blind Side	4	0
1. Diagonal Divas	4	0

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Sue Labovitz	188
2. Carolyn Wiggins	183
3. Mary Lou McFadden	176
4. Pat Collado	159
5. Kathleen Straninger	157
5. Tammy Nelmar	157
6. Debbie Novak	154
6. Deb Konicek	154
7. Tina Sonderby	151
7. Ann Bogart	151
8. Ellie Parkerson	147
9. June Salmon (series)	416
10. Margie Midkiff (series)	412

SPLITS

June Salmon	5-7, 4-5
Sue Luegers	2-7
Deb Novak	2-7
Cindy Kalember	6-7, 1-2-5-10
Tina Sonderby	2-7-8
Kim Stokes	5-10

STRIKES

Deb Konicek, Carolyn Wiggins — 4.
Ginny Hogan — 3.



More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

CYA Bowl-A-Thon

Recognizing January as National Mentoring Month, Court Youth Advocate will hold its annual Bowl-A-Thon from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at Casey's Lanes, 610 Colfax Ave., LaPorte.

This year's event involves a "Harry Potter" theme with the tagline "The Magic is in Our Choices." All proceeds benefit the program that assists struggling youth in juvenile court, providing support for academic and personal growth, life skills and positive peer relationships. Funding also helps recruit and train adult volunteers.

Contact Brenda Stellema at (219) 324-3385 or visit www.lpfamilyadvocates.com for details.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

Chesterton Art Center

• **Leona Jurincie will teach a six-week Prismacolor Pencil Class starting from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 25.**

The class is designed for beginners. Participants learn blending, layering applications, various techniques with pencils and art sticks, and using the correct solvent for specific effects.

The cost is \$200, with members receiving a \$20 discount. A supply list will be provided.

• **Jurincie will teach a six-week Oil Painting Class from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25.**

The class is for beginners and advanced students. Beginners learn basic oil-painting techniques, like starting a project, mixing colors, using/cleaning brushes and using solvents. Intermediate and advanced students practice using still lifes or reference photos, how to enhance work with color and how to use more than one reference photo.

The cost is \$200, with members receiving a \$20 discount. A supply list will be provided upon registration.

• **Deb Armstrong will teach a Saturday Beginning Cell Phone Photography Workshop from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 1.**

The class includes basic camera settings for iPhone and Android, shooting tips and techniques, and simple composition rules for better shots.

Each student is asked to take his/her smart phone to class. The cost is \$50, with members receiving a \$20 discount.



Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more details.

Deadline Nears for Public Comments

The National Park Service is seeking public comment by Feb. 7 on proposed changes at Indiana Dunes National Park.

Expanding the reservation system from half the campsites at Dunewood to all the sites will allow all 67 spots to be reserved online up to six months in advance. The \$25 per-night fee will stay the same.

The park also is requesting a new \$60 fee for group camping sites. While there currently are no public group sites, the National Park Service is working to establish several of these sites in Dunewood Campground that hold between 17-30 people.

New fees for some festivals and programs are being sought. While the vast majority of the park's 400 public programs will remain free, the new fees will help recover additional costs associated with some larger or more expensive programs.

Send comments to INDU_Communications@nps.gov or write the Superintendent, 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304. An open house is from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

JROTC Participates in STEM Event

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps competed in the state round of Cyber Patriot.

The national cyber security game requires students to apply skills from science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). This was the third round, and MCHS was the only Marine JROTC in Indiana to compete.



Ralph Gee provides guidance for the team as it prepares to compete in Round 3 of CyberPatriot.

“Although we did not advance to the semifinal, our cadets competed well in our division,” said Maj. Tom McGrath, the senior Marine instructor, in a press release. “This was a great starting point for the members of our team to pursue cyber security as a career, either in or out of the military.”

Ralph Gee, the MCHS technology and engineering instructor, is the faculty advisor.

In other ROTC news, the drill team is preparing for the Feb. 22 sectional meet at Purdue University West Lafayette. If winning, they would qualify for the third consecutive year for the National Marine Drill Meet at Daytona Beach, Fla. The Marine Corps would cover all trip costs.

Cadets also will continue to support the school and community, including providing Color Guards for all home basketball games.

Master Gardener Association Grants

The LaPorte County Master Gardener Association will introduce a new Community Grant Program in 2020.

Each grant will not exceed \$300. They will go to individuals or groups for materials in gardening/horticultural volunteer projects that support LaPorte County. All requests must be in writing using the application at www.lpmastergardener.com

Only one application may be submitted per project. Two projects per organization may be submitted for consideration. Applications must be received no later than March 20.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Jan. 17 — Anime Club, 3:45-4:45 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Jan. 17 — The Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 17-19 — “The Bullying Collection,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$5/students, \$10/adults. Info: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

Jan. 18 — Geocache Adventure Day — “Duneland Architecture,” 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: mlaudeman@dnr.in.gov.

Jan. 18 — Harbor Country Hikers, 1 p.m. EST, Robinson Woods Preserve, 8016 East Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

Jan. 18 — Stargazing, 5-7 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 18 — CSNY Tribute Marrakesh Express, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30. Info: acornlive.org

Jan. 18-19 — “A Night at the Opera” featuring Monday Musicale, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18/2 p.m. Jan. 19, Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/children 12 & younger. Reservations: www.footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

Jan. 19 — Pokemon Go Community Day, 1-2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 20 — DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY.

Jan. 20 — Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration Breakfast, 8:30-10 a.m., PNW James B. Dworkin Student Services & Activities Complex Great Hall, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville. Free. Info: www.pnw.edu/mlk-celebration

Jan. 21 — Tinkercad, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 22 — Caring for Birds in the Winter, 6-7:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-7696.

In the Region

Jan. 18 — In the Footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 2-3 p.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 18 — Terrarium Making, 2-3:30 p.m. EST, Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$55, \$44/members. Info: www.fernwoodbotanical.org, (269) 695-6491.

Jan. 18 — Miller Garden Club “Bingo for Boulders” fundraiser, 6-10 p.m., St. Mary's of the Lake's Lessard Hall, 6060 Miller Ave., Gary's Miller Beach

neighborhood. Admission: \$20 @ door or Eventbrite.
Info: (312) 543-1561, jmstratt@sbcglobal.net

Jan. 18 — Indoor flea market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: (773) 803-9773.

Support Groups

Mondays — Codependents Anonymous (CoDA), 6 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (219) 879-3817.

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan Hospital Clair of Assisi Room, 3500 Franciscan Way; 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: <https://oa.org>, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meetings, 6-7 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (708) 927-5287.

Thursdays — Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families, 6:15 p.m., Franciscan Health Michigan City, Maria Theresia Conference Room C, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: (219) 801-1296.

Westchester Public Library

• **Maker Mondays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, in the Thomas Library upstairs IT classroom.**

Local software engineer Adam Johnson will lead a hands-on program, appropriate for patrons 12 and older, about Arduino circuit devices. Registration is required.

• **Caring for Birds in the Winter from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, in the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Local environmental scientist Joy Marburger of Westchester Migratory Bird Sanctuary will discuss birds in the area and how to help in colder months. Participants make birdseed wreaths to take home. Registration is required

• **Step To It Scavenger Hunt in January.**

Indoor scavenger hunts run through the month at Thomas and Hageman branches, as well as the history museum. Ask for a clue sheet at the front desk at each location. After finding all 10 clues, participants are entered to win a Fitbit Versa Lite.

□

Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

ENVELOPES



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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On January 16, 1883, Congress passed a bill creating the U.S. Civil Service system.

On January 16, 1920, America went “dry” (so to speak) as the 18th Amendment to the Constitution took effect (one year after ratification), and Prohibition became the law of the land.

On January 16, 1957, three B-52’s took off from California on the first non-stop, round-the-world flight by jets. The trip lasted 45 hours, 19 minutes.

On January 16, 1967, a fire destroyed Chicago’s McCormick Place.

On January 16, 1982, Chicago temperatures dropped to a record-tying 26 degrees below zero.

On January 17, 1773, Englishman James Cook became the first known person to cross the Antarctic Circle.

On January 17, 1871, Andrew Hallidie received a patent for a cable car system. The first cars began operating in San Francisco in 1873.

On January 17, 1945, during World War II, Soviet and Polish troops liberated Warsaw from the Nazis.

On January 17, 1955, the USS Nautilus made its first nuclear-powered run from its submarine berth in Groton, Conn.

On January 18, 1882, English author Alan Alexander Milne, who would write such famous children’s books as Winnie-the-Pooh, Christopher Robin and Piglet, was born in London.

On January 18, 1912, an expedition led by English explorer Robert Scott reached the South Pole, only to discover Roald Amundsen had arrived there first. Scott and his party died during the return trip.

On January 18, 1975, the situation comedy “The Jeffersons,” a spinoff from “All in the Family,” premiered on CBS.

On January 18, 1976, in Miami, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Dallas Cowboys 21-17 in Super Bowl X.

On January 19, 1809, Edgar Allan Poe, “Master Teller of Tales,” who is recognized throughout the world as one of America’s greatest authors, was born in Boston.

On January 19, 1903, the first regular transatlantic radio broadcast was sent between Cape Cod, Mass., and Cornwall, England.

On January 19, 1937, Howard Hughes set a transcontinental air record when he flew across the Unit-

ed States in slightly more than 7 hours, 28 minutes.

On January 19, 1983, the American Psychiatric Association urged a “tightening up” of rules for use of the insanity defense in criminal trials.

On January 20, 1929, the first sound movie to be filmed outdoors, “In Old Arizona,” was released.

On January 20, 1941, Franklin Roosevelt became the first American to be inaugurated for a third term as president.

On January 20, 1954, “The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial,” a play by Herman Wouk based on part of his novel The Caine Mutiny, opened on Broadway.

On January 20, 1961, John F. Kennedy took office as the 35th president of the United States.

On January 20, 1982, George Hallas named Mike Ditka to be the new head coach of the Chicago Bears.

On January 21, 1908, New York passed an ordinance prohibiting women from smoking in public. The penalty was a fine of \$5 to \$25, or imprisonment for up to 10 days.

On January 21, 1915, the Kiwanis Club was founded in Detroit.

On January 21, 1919, 35,000 New York garment workers went on strike for a 44-hour week. The success of this strike was pivotal in the improvement of industrial working conditions.

On January 21, 1942, Count Basie and his orchestra recorded “One O’Clock Jump” in New York for Okeh Records.

On January 21, 1954, the Nautilus, the world’s first atomic-powered submarine, was launched at New London, Conn.

On January 21, 1979, in the highest scoring game in the Super Bowl’s brief history, the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Dallas Cowboys 35-31.

On January 22, 1789, the first American novel, The Power of Sympathy, was published. It was a story of lust, seduction, incest and suicide, and set the pattern for American novels of the day.

On January 22, 1905, in what became known as “Bloody Sunday,” Russian Army troops fired on St. Petersburg workers who revolted against the working conditions.

On January 22, 1907, the premiere of the Richard Strauss opera, “Salome,” with its “Dance of the Seven Veils,” inspired vaudeville performers everywhere to do their version of the “naughty” dance. Directors of the Metropolitan Opera were so shocked by the opera, they prohibited further performances by the Met.

On January 22, 1938, Thornton Wilder’s play “Our Town” made its debut, in Princeton, N.J.

On January 22, 1968, “Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In” premiered on NBC.

NEWSLETTERS



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Furnished 2BR/1BA rental September-May in Sheridan Beach. Newly rehabbed. \$1,050. Call (574) 514-3224.

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Large studio with separate kitchen. Total renovation! Private, but close to everything. \$850/mo., includes all utilities, cable and Internet, snow removal/trash pickup. No smoking/pets. Call (219) 221-2228.

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1BR, upper-level LaPorte Apartment • Super clean!
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Room for rent: private entrance, kitchen, TV.
\$350/mo., plus deposit. Call (219) 214-0326.

Krasl Art Center Classes, Workshops

Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., has announced its winter class and workshop schedule, with classes starting Monday, Jan. 27.

Classes are open to KAC members and non-members of all age and skill levels. Students must register 10 days before class begins. All programs are available online at krasl.org.

After-school youth classes (ages 5-12) are available in ceramics, mixed media (including drawing and painting) and sculpture. They are taught by local professional artists.

Adult/teen (ages 13+) classes include art exploration, introduction to painting (including oil, acrylic and watercolor), beginning and advanced ceramics courses and color theory. Intermediate and advanced students may apply to work independently in the Clay Artist Guild.

All new and returning students can register for visiting artist workshops, including “Make Your Own Bamboo Paint Brushes” (Feb. 22), “How to Stretch Your Own Canvas” (April 9, 16 and 23) and “Color & Pose” (April 11).

Visit the website education tab for full listings, descriptions and registration, or call (269) 983-0271.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Guilty Not Guilty by Felix Francis (hardcover, \$27 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 374 pages.)

“Robbery, theft, fraud and online hacking of old ladies’ bank accounts are all despicable acts...By murder, you take away something that can never be given back.”

Felix Francis is the son of popular British crime writer Dick Francis, who passed away in 2008. Dick was a former steeplechase jockey-turned writer whose mystery stories revolve around horse racing in England. Felix has picked up his father’s reins, so to speak, and continues where he left off. Felix has proven himself worthy of the Francis name, and this latest offering is spot on. Here’s a preview of what you can expect...

The Honorable William Herbert Millgate Gordon-Russell (his daddy is an earl) is at the race track performing his duties as a volunteer steward — one of several at the track to ensure the Rules of Racing are observed. Bill was a steeplechase rider until an accident saw the doctor admonish him, that another fall would paralyze him for life. That was enough to get him out of the saddle and back in the office. Bill’s day job is as a self-employed actuary consultant for insurance companies.

On this fateful day, two policemen show up at the race track and announce, without sympathy or compassion, that Bill’s wife, Amelia, is dead...a dog collar tightly around her neck. So, how about we talk about where you were last night?

Yes, Bill becomes suspect No. 1, even though he can prove he was out of town attending a dinner and staying overnight at a hotel. Bill is taken to the police station for further questioning — funny, it seems more like a grilling. Do you have a happy marriage? Why did you buy a million-dollar life insurance policy on your wife? And so on...

Amelia’s brother, Joseph Bradbury, loses no time in blaming Bill for her death. He is the one who went to the house — supposedly for a visit — and found her body on the kitchen floor. Bradbury points the guilty finger at Bill with several very convincing (to the police) reasons he could have killed Amelia.

Bill knows that story has holes in it because Amelia hated her brother, a man who caused so much mental anguish, she sought psychiatric help. Also, Bill and Amelia were pretty sure he stole £100,000

from his mother when he handled the sale of her million pound estate.

As the days go by, the police find more and more information that points to Bill as the prime suspect in what was death by strangulation. He can’t see Amelia’s body because of the autopsy, and it will be weeks before he can even bury her properly.

Bill can’t even go back in his house — it is declared a crime zone — to pick up clothes or his computer. He stays with his brother until the police clear his house. Even his car is confiscated and taken apart.

The newspapers have a field day with Amelia’s death and don’t mind giving out the juicy details that Bill was questioned extensively. Wonder where they got their information? Bill knows it had to be either the police or Joseph.

Jobs Bill had with various insurance companies disappear as each one says they don’t need the publicity of an actuary being looked at for his wife’s death.

What goes through a person’s mind when faced with this kind of situation? Francis does an excellent job exploring Bill’s dilemma through his eyes and the daily unfolding events. Consider: you don’t have time to properly grieve, you’re treated like a murderer — even though you haven’t been arrested yet — the TV and newspapers all

but scream you’re guilty, and you have to find proof that will indict the real killer. To this end, Bill begins his own investigation, even though he can’t avoid a trickle of guilt that Amelia was alone the morning she died.

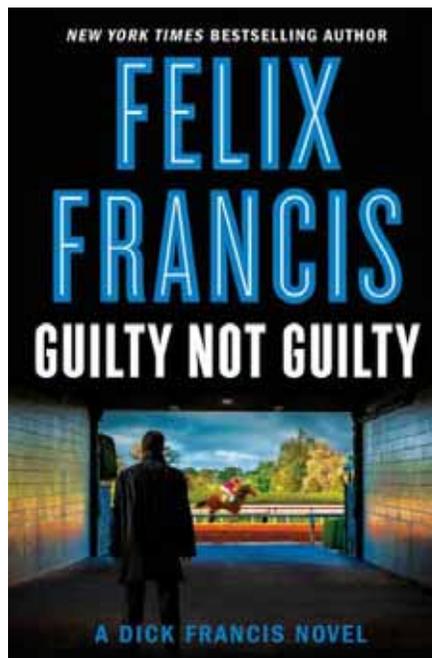
It’s a realistic look at how one man manages to keep it all together, even though the shock of his beloved wife’s dying is enough to send him into deep despair — Bill admits that growing up, he was taught to hide his emotions, you know, that British stiff upper lip thing — so he hid his feelings well to the public and police, making them think he had no remorse and was undeniably guilty.

He has to prove Amelia was murdered, yes, but by someone else, and his prime suspect is his brother-in-law. Oh Bill, you don’t know what a hornet’s nest you are kicking when you go looking for answers...

“I resolved to...expose my brother-in-law as the fraud and liar that he was, and to bring him to justice for the death of my wife.

“It was easier said than done — the staying alive bit, that was.”

Till next time, happy reading!





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