A community is at its best when everyone has each other’s back. This issue of Companion illustrates that we live in an awesome community. The cover story by Vanessa Pellechio highlights how the men and women who protect our municipalities are evolving their methods to improve safety and efficiency. Some of the more seasoned police officers admit embracing technology has not been easy but essential to improve services to residents. Volunteerism is at the core of youth events. As the leaves change and the temperatures cool, sporting events bring people together. And who can watch a game without at least one trip to the concession stand? Mary Grace Keller has more on these dedicated boosters. In the 1980s, bigger was better. Big houses, big cars and big lifestyles. Now, many families are realizing simple is satisfying. Holly Fletcher has a story in this edition about a Tiny House that is getting large amounts of attention. We continue our look at great athletes with a profile of Gettysburg great Carrie McMaster. Josh Martin explains how the woman who once lit up the basketball court has not lost her competitive edge. I hope you enjoy this issue of Companion. As always, feel free to email story ideas or comments.
An Adams County couple built an award-winning tiny house in their backyard. Tyra Kunkle of East Berlin, had watched a lot of tiny house TV shows and since her husband, Marvin, is a local contractor/remodeler with nearly 30 years’ experience, she thought it would be a fun project to do together.

“At first, he said ‘No’ but I really, really wanted to try it and eventually he agreed,” she said.

With the help of employee Jake O’Brien and Tyra’s father, Gene, they started in February and finished by June.

“We worked mostly at night after work, or if we had a free day,” said Marvin.

The 26-foot-long, 288-square-foot home was built on a flatbed trailer, making it mobile.

“When we picked up the trailer in Chambersburg, I remember thinking, ‘I’m going to build a house on THAT?’ It looked so small,” recalled Marvin.

They named their self-designed home Tiny Nittany, as their son had just graduated from Penn State. The couple had so much fun they turned it into a business and launched Cedar Hollow Tiny Homes. In June, Cedar Hollow took its model home to a tiny house festival in New Jersey where it received favorable reviews and won Best Builder Award.

“That was so neat!” said Tyra, who was amazed at the line of people waiting to see their home. “Many were surprised at how roomy it is inside. The high ceilings add volume.”

Tyra and Marvin put a lot of time and thought into this first home, building it the way they would want and not taking any shortcuts. It has 11 windows, air conditioning and heat, a functional kitchen, propane appliances, queen-sized bed in the lofted master bedroom, a full-size shower, a compost toilet, and a backroom office with Murphy bed. It’s priced between $65,000 and $75,000. Marvin handmade all the cabinets and each of the steps leading up to the loft has hidden storage. They re-purposed an old barn door from a neighboring farm and used cedar siding. Tyra was chief painter and decorator of the “farmhouse chic” interior. The white ceiling (“that will

Local couple builds tiny, WINS BIG

STORY BY HOLLY FLETCHER
PHOTOS BY DARRYL WHEELER
probably be our signature in all future homes," said Marvin) keeps it bright and cheery.

The trailer itself cost about $7,000. "It is the foundation of your home and you want a good quality trailer, especially when you’re hauling it down the road," he said.

They’re taking it on the road again in late October to the Mid-Atlantic Tiny House Expo at the Howard County Fairgrounds in Maryland.

Between shows they keep it on their property in Reading Township and sleep in it from time to time. In the evenings, Tyra takes their two small dogs down to the house to watch TV and relax. "It’s so peaceful and comfortable." She thinks it would be fun to take it tailgating at State College.

The couple said building a tiny home is very different. "You want high-end features but you have to make it all fit and look nice," said Tyra.

Their home is certified through the National Organization of Alternative Housing (NOAH) and meets all standard regulations.

One of the most common questions with tiny homes is where can they legally be parked. "Tiny homes are more accepted by municipalities out west, but are gaining popularity here," said Tyra. "The industry really needs to address the zoning codes."

Several people have already made inquiries about their model home.

Many were surprised at how roomy it is inside. The high ceilings add volume.

"Tyra said she will have a hard time parting with it. "It’s the first project we’ve done together and I just love it," she said.

But Marvin is eager for a sale to recoup some of his building expenses. In fact, he’s already planning the next one. "I’ve ordered the trailer," he said, adding that this one will be slightly longer at 30-feet.

He’s thinking of putting the master bedroom on the first floor for those who can’t do steps, but keeping the loft idea. It should be finished by springtime and Tyra is dreaming up a Colorado lodge theme with taupe colors and earthy tones.

The couple said it’s been a fun venture and they are eager to see what’s next.

To keep in touch, follow the Cedar Hollow Tiny Homes page on Facebook.
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Just 20-some years ago, Biglerville Police relied on a low-band radio system and a computer at their station. “That was it,” said Biglerville Police Sgt. Craig Hartley. “When I started, there were no laptops in vehicles, no video cameras or body cameras, and no car cameras.”

Jump ahead to 2017 – and Hartley could not imagine going anywhere without his body camera.

The shooting in Ferguson, Missouri on Aug. 9, 2014 prompted the police department to acquire body cameras, according to Hartley. Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed 18-year-old Michael Brown after he reportedly stole from a convenience store.

“The shooting in Ferguson, Missouri on Aug. 9, 2014 prompted the police department to acquire body cameras, according to Hartley. Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed 18-year-old Michael Brown after he reportedly stole from a convenience store.”

“Nothing beats a video,” Hartley added. “I like it because the camera itself creates accountability not only for the public but for law enforcement too.”

In 2014, the department was the first in the county to purchase body cameras thanks to funding from the Biglerville American Legion. They bought two cameras, made by a company called Taser that is now known as Axon.

Adams County District Attorney Brian Sinnett said the use of body cameras is up to local police agencies. “There is no prohibition in Adams County to using body cameras. I would encourage them to use them,” Sinnett said.

Technology has continued to evolve since Sinnett started in the Adams County District Attorney’s office in 2004. The same holds true for the ways crimes are committed, Sinnett said.

In the past, the drug task force set up meetings for controlled buys through phone calls, but now they are done through text messages and social media outlets like Instagram and Facebook, according to Sinnett.

Even though most communication is digital for offenders, that doesn’t mean the information being shared is untraceable.

The district attorney’s office has witnessed all types of offenses whether drug dealing or domestic violence use a mobile device “in the commission of the crime,” said Detective Eric Beyer. Beyer works in the district attorney’s office. At different times, Beyer and McSherrystown Borough Police Chief Michael Woods traveled to...
"The camera itself creates accountability not only for the public but for law enforcement too.”

Glynco, Georgia for federal law enforcement training on cell phone forensics after seeing how long it took the attorney general’s office to complete the work. Both provide the investigative services countywide.

Woods said the training would have typically cost $18,000, but he only had to pay for transportation since he qualified through a subsidized program. He was the first to receive the training in June 2016. Seventy-five percent of the cases analyzed through equipment called Cellebrite dealt with child pornography, while the remaining 25 percent were drug-related, according to Woods.

“These are people who have to use a specific program combined with a specific search engine to find the right 32-bit hash value to download into their computer. This is not a one-click accidental crime,” Beyer said about child pornography.

Beyer obtained the training April 2017, and serves on the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force. Since 2014, Beyer has apprehended about 30 child predators.

“Each image and video that a child predator downloads involves a child somewhere being sexually exploited,” added Beyer. “Each time these images are downloaded or viewed that child is being re-victimized.”

The analysis work is not limited to cell phones and extends to all mobile devices. Woods said all information sent over the phone or device goes into cyber space with the ability to be tracked by the software when it is inspected.

“You get these Snapchats and think they delete in seven or 10 seconds, but it’s embedded in your phone,” Woods said. “It basically goes into a hard drive on your phone. I can pull all that off there.”

Deleted messages, erased phone calls, and locations can be discovered as well.

Woods said it is similar to computer forensics with reports as long as 1,100 pages.

If a phone or device is submitted as evidence, the first handwritten, entered into the police system, Hileman said. The citations are re-entered once it reaches the magistrate level.

There were some delays in getting the e-citation software installed, the first five laptops were distributed in September, Hileman said, noting that the rest will be available in the next couple of weeks.

Hileman said the new system is not only more efficient, but it is also safer for officers.

“Guys are sitting in a cruiser with pads on the steering wheel. They are hunched over, they are so much more powerful to see than any pictures in the jury box.”

Sinnett said it is rare for prosecutors to enter data into a separate police software, and then organized accordingly.

The department is in the process of converting older evidence into the system because it gives alerts when items are sitting in the room for over a year, Hileman said.

Hileman said the system will give all police departments the same access and can be directly sent to the courts.

It will also save the courts and county law enforcement agencies about $80,000 a year due to less time being used to enter the data, Hileman said.

For example, an average clerk’s wage is $13.50 plus $3.19 in benefits. With 1,166 hours of work completing 7,000 handwritten citations, it would be equivalent to nearly $20,000 a year in costs, which is what Adams County had the potential to reach in 2016, according to Hileman’s grant application.

Hileman said the lack of the data exchange cost at least $40,000 in wages and benefits each year and another $40,000 can be included since officer’s salaries are double what a court clerk makes.

As part of the project, the police department also implemented new software called PDEvidence, which operates as a crime lab and processes the evidence.

The software was created by a retired Cumberland County detective, according to Hileman.

“We have looked at it because we now have the facility to do it,” Hileman said, adding that the police department has a new office in Carroll Valley Borough’s municipal building project.

Labels and barcodes are printed from the system, and then organized accordingly.

The department hopes to get a drone in the future to fly over crime scenes and crashes. What better view can you give a jury?" Biggins said. “It will show exactly what it looked like that day. Juries want to see the evidence behind it.”

Sinnett said it is rare for prosecutors to not use digital media in some capacity at a trial, whether it’s playing recordings from a phone or displaying pictures to a jury.

In the future, he hopes the courtroom can adapt to the revolutionized technology.

“I know that is a long way away,” Sinnett added. “I’d like to move past the simple projector screens. But I think it is far better than what we started with passing pictures in the jury box.”

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NEW BOOK VIEWS WAR THROUGH THE EYES OF CIVIL WAR CHILDREN

Many are familiar with the playful and sometimes defiant antics of children, and those that have had children know this all too well. Although the children of Gettysburg in 1863 may have dressed differently, played with different toys and led different lifestyles, a new book to be published the Spring of 2018 demonstrates that kids haven’t changed much else in the seemingly long span of time since the Civil War.

After seven years, the book “Gettysburg: Kids Who Did the Impossible,” is unique on many counts. Not only is it a photographic essay, but it features stories from kids during the battle of Gettysburg, and is written for the kids of today.

The book will be available at online stories once published in the Spring of 2018 by Savas Beatie, and will be available at www.gettysburgkidsbook.com, as well as several stores in Gettysburg and other Civil War battlefields throughout the country.

Liam Christianson, left, and Jaden Christianson, right, pose for a photo included in Greg Christianson’s upcoming book, Gettysburg: Kids Who Did the Impossible.

Jerry Christianson, left, stands with his grandson, Liam, and his son, Gregory Christianson, right, in front of a statue of the last remaining survivor of the Civil War, Albert Woolson.

G. Christianson was ready to begin his work.

“I want readers to be able to connect to the work, but ultimately I would love for them to see similarities between themselves and the children of 1863,” he said. “Freedom for them probably meant something different than it does to our current teenagers, and I want to forge this connection so the significance of the Civil War isn’t lost. Also, it’s a fine line that I hope we tread carefully, because Gettysburg really was hell on earth; it was the worst thing you could imagine. It was real and it wasn’t that long ago, but at the same time the stories of these kids are light-hearted in many ways despite this. So, we have a lot of fun things to do here in Gettysburg today, but I want people to connect with these kids and remember what really happened here as well.”

Throughout the book, G. Christianson recalled stories of 10-year-old Charlie McCurdy, who was so excited by the invasion he walked off and we had to chase him down and help him find his way back to the platform. Anyway, the amazing thing about this story is that our son and grandson realized there wasn’t much distance between them and the civil war. It’s hard for people younger than my generation to realize that.”

With the inspiration, daily access to the battlefield, collaboration with historians and his own children to model for photographer, G. Christianson was ready to begin his work.

“Tom Rutherford, a licensed town historian of Gettysburg had an even greater contribution to his son’s work. Besides helping to put together these accounts, J. Christianson had an even greater contribution to his son’s work. "Greg spent almost his entire life in Gettysburg, and I would venture to say that it’s in anyone’s blood who lives around here, and the Battle of Gettysburg is known beyond all the monuments and the tourism to those that grew up here,” he said. “You can’t help it; you breathe in the atmosphere.”

Tom Rutherford, a licensed town historian of Gettysburg had heard of Christianson’s intent to start work on a book to fill this niche and began working with Christianson’s father, Jerry Christianson, to research these memoirs at the Adams County Historical Society and convert them into stories accessible to contemporary readers.
On autumn nights, parent volunteers across Adams County are serving up hot dogs, burgers, and fries, with a heaping helping of school pride.

Booster clubs fundraise for school sports, bringing in extra dollars when the district budget doesn’t cut it. For the parents who volunteer, booster club is as much as about supporting the student athletes as it is about building a community.

On a Friday night at New Oxford Senior High School, the concession stand is a flurry of activity. Hungry customers form lines at each of the three windows. In the kitchen, one volunteer crushes Doritos for walking tacos while another cooks quesadillas. Pizza is snatched out from under heat lamps and bottles of Gatorade are tossed over the counter to waiting hands.

In the stadium, fans young and old are decked out in maroon and navy jerseys, devoted to the team, no matter the game’s outcome. Food trucks for shaved ice and kettle corn are bustling beside the concession stand.

“I love the action,” concession manager Eileen Gass says.

The New Oxford Football Fund Booster brought the retired chef on board this year to manage the busy concession stand.

“I love the action,” concession manager Eileen Gass says.

The New Oxford Football Fund Booster brought the retired chef on board this year to manage the busy concession stand.

“T eamwork is crucial with how many foods they have to make to meet demand. At the first home game earlier this season, Gass estimates they sold 250 burgers, 200 hot dogs, 160 soft pretzels, 100 walking tacos, 24 large pizzas, and 10 pounds-worth of chicken salad sandwiches.

Although she enjoys cooking, Gass said the best part of the experience is helping the cause. “All of the money is going back to them (the football team),” Gass said.

The football team isn’t the only sport getting a slice of the pie.

Students from other New Oxford sports can volunteer at the concession stand to fundraise for their own team, according to football boosters President Derek Romanoff. Someone from the girls basketball team can volunteer for a night and then get “paid” through a donation to her team.

Football boosters kept the concession stand alive after the athletic boosters fell apart two years ago, according to football booster Treasurer Mike Sanford. Sanford’s son Andrew is a junior on the team.

They revealed the addition at the opening season home game.

That sense of school spirit is just as prevalent at the smaller schools of Adams County, like Fairfield.

During home games at Fairfield Area High School, parent volunteers Amanda...
secretary, Whitcomb estimates she will donate 21 hours to the organization in September alone. Her daughter Emily, now graduated, competed in basketball, track, and cross country. Her son John is a sophomore on the cross country team.

Whitcomb says FAST strives to fundraise for any team that expresses a need. Most of FAST’s money comes from concession stand sales at home games. Like New Oxford, different groups can hold fundraisers at the concession stand. The association donates about $15,000 a year. Funds were higher than usual last year after a unique fundraiser. The Harlem Wizards, a trick basketball team, came to Biglerville for a show. Cellucci said the event was popular with locals and brought in about $8,000. She hopes they can host the Wizards again. “It really adds up. It’s expensive to play these sports,” Cellucci said. She fears the day Biglerville students might have to pay to play high school sports. The boosters help ensure every student who wants to compete has the opportunity, Cellucci said.

Over in Canner country, Biglerville athletics is one big family. Biglerville Athletic Booster Association President Megan Cellucci said the local community has a lot of pride in its school. “When you live in a small town, your school is the center of your community,” Cellucci said.

Cellucci’s three sons all played soccer, and now her youngest, Christopher, is a senior on the team. Having volunteered over the past few years, Cellucci said she will stick with boosters even after he graduates. She said she’d miss it too much.

The association donates about $40 per athlete every summer for sports camps, contributes to championship jackets, purchases equipment, and does whatever it can to help the students. Cellucci estimates they fundraise about $15,000 a year. Funds were higher than usual last year after a unique fundraiser. The Harlem Wizards, a trick basketball team, came to Biglerville for a show. Cellucci said the event was popular with locals and brought in about $8,000. She hopes they can host the Wizards again. “It really adds up. It’s expensive to play these sports,” Cellucci said. She fears the day Biglerville students might have to pay to play high school sports. The boosters help ensure every student who wants to compete has the opportunity, Cellucci said. Between Biglerville, Fairfield, and New Oxford, all the booster club members share a sense of pride in their communities, but they have another trait in common. They need more volunteers. To get involved, look for their Facebook groups online or contact the athletic departments to get pointed in the right direction.

When you live in a small town, your school is the CENTER of your community.

Biglerville Athletic Booster Association President Megan Cellucci

the head. A foam finger fight ensues. Every few minutes, Whitcomb has another customer.

“We love to give back to this community because we know it’s a small community,” Whitcomb says. Fairfield’s booster club is called FAST, Fairfield Athletics Stand Together. As secretary, Whitcomb estimates she will basketball, a Friday night activity for high school boys and girls. When teams qualify for states or districts, FAST provides commemorative T-shirts and hoodies. Athletes can also receive scholarships from the organization. FAST provides up to six $500 scholarships every year.

White started out as the parent liaison to FAST when her eldest son ran for the cross country team. From there, “things snowballed” and White eventually became vice president of the organization. Treasurer Sherry Kelley joined to support her children, too. “I love being a part of an organization that is helping to promote athletics and school spirit.” Kelley said.

When the district can’t stretch its dollar any more, FAST is there to fill in the gaps.

“I feel like we make a difference in the athletic programs and are able to help as the students start college with the scholarships we provide each year,” Kelley said.

Whitcomb said it’s like the old saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” FAST is part of that village.

Over in Canner country, Biglerville athletics is one big family. Biglerville Athletic Booster Association Treasurer Lisa Stanko says everyone seems to know each other in their small community. “Everybody knows your business, but everybody’s got your back,” Stanko said.

Stanko is a mother of eight, but her children aren’t the only ones who call her mom. “The entire boys soccer team calls her "momma.” Stanko’s son Scott is a junior on the team. Her daughter, Iavana, is a goalie on the field hockey team.

“We exist for the kids,” Stanko said.

On a Thursday night in Biglerville, athletes and families showed up to support the teams playing. The boys soccer team cheered on the girls during their game, which ended in time for the soccer players to catch the end of the varsity field hockey game.

“Everybody’s like family because you go from one sport to the next,” Vice President Sonya Showers said.

Showers has five children, two of whom are current high school athletes. Her son Blake is a sophomore wrestler, while Haily is a freshman on the field hockey team. Her husband Matt is an assistant wrestling coach at the high school.

“To be able to support them however we can is great,” Showers said.

While the Biglerville boosters make money off concessions, they fundraise a substantial amount from selling stadium advertisements. Dozens of signs promoting local businesses hang on the fence surrounding the stadium.

President Megan Cellucci said the local community has a lot of pride in its school. “When you live in a small town, your school is the center of your community,” Cellucci said.

Cellucci’s three sons all played soccer, and now her youngest, Christopher, is a senior on the team. Having volunteered over the past few years, Cellucci said she will stick with boosters even after he graduates. She said she’d miss it too much.

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One could assume that Carrie (Maitland) McMaster holds court when it comes playing a little pick-up basketball in the family driveway. After all, how could her husband or young children keep pace with a woman who set the scoring record at Gettysburg High School with 1,751 points during a brilliant career?

For starters, her husband is Steve McMaster, who played a little hoops back in the day at Delone Catholic when he wasn’t busy leading the Squires to District 3 championships on the football field. Plus, he knows his wife’s weakness and is quick to get inside her head.

“I’m very competitive and he’s not, so he’ll just make me laugh and be very distracting,” said Carrie of their 1-on-1 battles. “Plus, he talks trash which makes me so mad; we don’t play often, and not in front of the children.”

McMaster’s competitive drive belies her introduction to the sport in which she would excel on both the scholastic and collegiate levels. There was no love-at-first-sight moment with basketball, as she decided to play only at the behest of her father, Eric Maitland, a three-sport standout at Gettysburg. “I really had no desire,” she said. “My dad kept bugging me to play, and it took some convincing. I was in fifth grade and I finally said ‘fine, I’ll go.’”

The rest, as they say, is history. Before her scholastic career concluded, McMaster became one of the most prolific scorers in Adams County history. She developed an insatiable drive that fueled her during practices and games alike, lifting her play and that of her teammates.

“I had a different personality when I was playing than when I was off the court,” she said. “I wasn’t intimidated by anyone, I always felt I could compete if I gave my best. I think I had a lot of heart.”

McMaster is quick to credit her basketball mentors, which included her father, the late Jim Dooley and former Warrior head coach Kevin Thomas. She values their teachings and the experiences shared with teammates far more than individual accolades that were bestowed upon her as she knocked down area scoring records.

“I don’t really remember any games,” she admitted. “It sounds cliché, but the thing I remember is the relationships. I remember the sacrifices by my parents, the team bonding and the bus trips. I was very lucky to have teammates and coaches that were great all-around people.”

After Gettysburg, McMaster enrolled at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where her eyes were opened very quickly.

“The day of my first game as a freshman, my coach came to me and said, ‘you’re starting,’” McMaster said of the surprise nod. “I got the opening tip, was going down the court for a layup and my shot was blocked. I thought, don’t let this be foreshadowing.”

The ominous beginning belied a solid collegiate career, although there was a plot twist.

“My role completely changed. In high school I was known for scoring but in college I became more of a role player,” said McMaster. “I took pride in my defense and when I was assigned to guard the other team’s best player, I was proud to do that. It wasn’t hard to adjust to not being the star.”

Before graduating from IUP in 2001, McMaster posted career totals of 113 games played, 364 assists, 336 free throws attempted and 246 free throws made, all marks that still rank among the top 10 respectively in program history. But with her playing career over, McMaster suddenly found herself in the midst of a mini-crisis.

“I panicked because (basketball) was my identity,” she said. “College athletics was hard, like a full-time job, but I found myself missing the relationships and sense of team.”

That would change in 2004 when Maitland returned to the court. Thomas was in need of an assistant coach and who better than the former Gettysburg star to help guide a talented group of young Warriors?

McMaster was a sponge on the bench, absorbing all she could under Thomas, which was a good thing, considering she went from understudy to head coach in the blink of an eye, following his departure the following season.

“If I could have coached a few more years under him, that would have been ideal,” said Maitland. “I would have learned so much. But I felt my coaches had given me so much and I needed to give back.”

McMaster’s competitive juices kicked in and she set about continuing what Thomas had helped developed at Gettysburg, which was a surging girls’ program. The Warriors went 20-9 in her first season, finishing fourth in the District 3 Class 3A tournament.

The following season saw Gettysburg (21-8) place fifth at districts and advance to the PIAA Championships, where it recorded a 58-45 victory over Engineering & Science in the opening round.
With the bulk of that team set to return for the 2007-08 season, everything was in place for McMaster to take her alma mater to new heights.

And that is when she made the choice to leave coaching. “That was one of the hardest decisions for me,” McMaster admitted. “That class of 2008, which included Caitlyn Lowe, Katie Williams and Ashley Jacobs, they were a great core of girls. I knew what it took and what they deserved, and I didn’t know with my teaching position and with us wanting to start a family that I could do it. I easily could have stayed another year and had that success, but that would have been selfish.”

Carrie shifted from the Gettysburg middle school to James Gettys Elementary, where she teaches learning support and special education. She and Steve, who recently celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary, have three young children, Colton (age 7), Cadi (6) and Chloe (4) who are involved in sports. With Steve on the Delone sidelines as an assistant for the varsity football team and a trio of kids to care for, Carrie said there will be no return to the coaching ranks. At least not in an official capacity.

“I’ll be the supportive mom, coach them in the driveway,” she said. “I’m hard enough having one coach in the family.” Carrie was inducted into the Adams County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 2009, joining her father who was a 2006 inductee. "It was a big honor," she said. "It seems like a lifetime ago (that I played) but it’s neat to share that with my children.”

And true to her competitive nature, it hasn’t gone unnoticed that Carrie entered the Adams County Hall well ahead of her husband, who was enshrined in 2013. “I don’t let him forget that,” she said.

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