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Reinventing the Dairy Farm

by Edmund Lawler



Bill Shuler admires the herd from the observation deck. Photo by Ed Lawler

Bill Shuler figured if people come to Berrien County to see the grapes and drink the wine, then they will come to see the cows and taste the dairy-fresh ice cream.

And he was right.

Agritourism in and around his family's fifth-generation dairy farm in Baroda, Mich., is more than just the wineries, vineyards, microbreweries and hop farms. Visitors also are curious about how milk gets made in America's sixth-largest dairy state that in 2020 churned out nearly 12 million pounds of milk.

"A lot of kids don't know where their food comes from," the affable, 67-year-old Shuler says. "That's a big reason we opened ourselves to the public. And they get to see how well we treat our animals. It's like a five-star hotel for cows."

Comfortable cows are more pleasant, and happy cows produce more milk, he points out.

When COVID-19 is not wreaking havoc, some 10,000 people a year pay \$5 for a guided tour of the farm led by Shuler himself, topped off with a cup or cone of its tasty homemade \$3 ice cream. Sprinkles are 50 cents extra.

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But visitors won't find a Norman Rockwell tableau of farmhands sitting on stools and milking cows into wooden buckets in a weather-beaten barn. Shuler Dairy Farms is decidedly high-tech. Shuler has spent millions to reinvent the farm founded in 1882 by his great-grandparents, Henry and Margaret Shuler.

The herd of 65 Holsteins, Jerseys and Brown Swiss cows is milked by robots. It sounds like he's stealing a page from the Jetsons. He didn't make the investment in technology and new facilities just to be leading edge, but to sustain the dairy operation for at least another generation.

"We had to change, or we'd have to quit the dairy business altogether," Shuler, a fourth-generation dairyman, said wistfully as he sat in his bibs on the doorstep of the farm's football field-sized milking barn he calls the "robot barn."

Shuler and his wife Carolyn's two sons, Billy, 33, and Wyatt, 31, are carrying on the family business. The Michigan State University graduates are keenly aware of the world's digital transformation. And they are intimately familiar with the hard, labor-intensive work of dairy farming. If they were to continue the family business through a fifth generation and beyond, they would need to take a new tack.

"We'd be up every day at 3:45 a.m. cleaning the barn and feeding and milking the cows," Shuler says. "If it was a good day, we'd be done by 7 a.m. But if something went wrong or if a cow was having a calf, it would be longer. And at 3:45 in the afternoon, we'd do it all over again until 7 o'clock at night."



Bill Shuler conducts all the tours at his family's dairy farm. Photo by Ed Lawler

And in between the twice-daily, seven-days a week, 365-days-a-year milking regimens, there were the regular chores: equipment repair, building maintenance and paying the bills.

Automating the milking operation liberated the Shulers, who had no weekends off or vacations prior to automation.

"It lets us have a life now. If we went to a wedding, for example, we'd either have to arrive late or leave early," says Shuler, who knew exactly what he was signing up for.

And yet, he would not have it any other way.

"It's been a fantastic place to raise a family. The boys grew up in the barn, rollerblading along the concrete," he says. "And it instilled a strong work ethic in them. You don't quit a job until it's finished."

Their decision to be dairy farmers was theirs alone.

"I didn't want them to do something they didn't want to do," he said. "It wouldn't be the right fit."

Shuler, himself, seriously contemplated leaving the 325-acre farm. He planned to enroll in Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine to become a veterinarian. But inspired by the books of English veterinary surgeon James Herriot in the 1970s, thousands of students suddenly wanted to follow in his footsteps.

Herriot's best-selling books later became the basis of the popular TV series "All Creatures Great and Small."

Rather than pursue a career in a field he correctly guessed would become overpopulated, Shuler still went to MSU, but in the dairy science program. And he returned to Baroda after graduation to work with his father, Ward.

Toward the end of his father's life,

Shuler laid out his vision for the dairy farm he and his sons would run. His father, who died in 2015 at 88 in the same room in the family’s farmhouse in which he was born, had no objections to his son’s go-for-broke gambit.

“Dad got to see the plans, but he didn’t get to see the results,” says Shuler, certain his father would be proud.

Shuler and his sons’ finished product is playing well with the region’s agritourists

“This was a great tour. Our group, seven adults and two children, loved the entire experience,” wrote “rjander” of Wheaton, Ill., in a July 8 post on TripAdvisor, the popular travel website. *“Bill, the owner, was a great tour guide. The barn, the automated experience and petting the cows were all terrific. Another highlight was the opportunity to milk a cow! We all learned so much and enjoyed the entire experience. The ice cream at the end was also excellent.”*



Bill Shuler visits Pete the bull, all 1,750 pounds of him. Photo by Ed Lawler

In another TripAdvisor post, “MiCasaEsSuCasa12” of Buffalo Grove, Ill., wrote in May: *“Awesome experience. Bill and his wife were genuinely the nicest people you will ever meet. It shows how much dedication and hard work they put into running the dairy farm. He gave us a great introduction, and we had a great time learning about how a dairy farm operates and especially the robotic automation was great to learn about...plus the upfront and close-up experience with cows/calves was a delightful experience for the kids. Finished the tour with ice cream. Definitely check out if you are around the area.”*

Overall, TripAdvisor, based on traveler comments, awards Shuler Dairy Farms an “Excellent” rating of 5 of 5. TripAdvisor ranks it the second highest-rated attraction behind the famous Round Barn Winery, Distillery and Brewery in the well-touristed Baroda area.

Continued on Page 4

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Reinventing... Continued from Page 3

As for the robots, which bear little resemblance to C-3PO or R2-D2, they feature laser-guided robotic arms that do the actual milking of the cows. Milking cups attach to the cow's teats and drain the milk. When the milking is finished, the robot detaches from the cow, which then can leave a special gated booth outfitted with a touch-screen computer. Each robot cost Shuler \$350,000.

To motivate cows to enter one of the two computerized milking booths, the automated system serves up a sweet molasses pellet as a reward. The incentive works like a charm. Cows enter the booth two to four times a day, typically for five to seven minutes per session, according to Shuler, who notes the cows decide when it's milking time.

When drained from the cow, the milk's temperature is the same as the cow's — 101.2 degrees. It then is stored in a 2,700-gallon stainless steel tank at about 37 degrees until it is picked up every other day by a tanker truck. The milk eventually is shipped to a unit of Foremost Farms USA, a Wisconsin-based milk-producing co-op.



Armed with a buggy whip, Bill Shuler describes the stainless-steel holding tank. Photo by Ed Lawler

The cows wear a radio-frequency identification (RFID) tag on their ear that identifies them to the booth computer, which collects data on the animal. A cow that visits the booth three times a day typically produces about 10 gallons of milk — some cows as much as 20 gallons. The automated production is higher than the traditional milking method, Shuler says.

Another factor in the higher automated milk production at Shuler is the cows' sense of contentment. When they're not visiting one of the milking booths, they lounge on a soft bed of sawdust beneath the



Bill Shuler feeds the calves. Photo by Ed Lawler

white vinyl roof of the milking barn. The roof admits sunlight, but repels intense heat. Misting machines throughout the barn reduce the summertime temperatures by 10 to 15 degrees. The outdoorsy cows can saunter out to the neighboring pasture.

Inside, a steady 10- to 12 mile-per-hour breeze is generated by the milking barn's sophisticated ventilation system to shoo the pesky flies. And two giant rotating cow brushes apply a comforting massage to the pampered bovines.

As he stood on the second-story observation deck of the milking barn, Shuler allows that he "finds it soothing to stand up here and look out." He knows all the cows by name. "You get attached to them, just like a pet. That's Poco, there's Molly and this one is Peach."

Equally rewarding for Shuler are the tours themselves, which he's been conducting since the farm threw open the doors to its robot barn to the public in 2016. Youngsters, especially those from the Chicago area, are wildly curious and enthusiastic about what may be their first encounter with a cow.

And the adults, particularly those connected to the dairy industry, are intrigued by robotic production techniques.

"Everyone I meet has a fascinating story," he said. "I have so much fun giving these tours. And it's such a blast getting to meet people from all over the world."

Like from where?

"China. Portugal. Spain. Australia. New Zealand. South Africa. Taiwan. India. Japan," Shuler replies. "Two fellas from Japan flew into O'Hare and drove over here to see our robots and then drove back to O'Hare and flew home."

Shuler hopes his tours counter the notion among some animal-rights activists that the dairy industry is inhumane to the cows in its charge. And he pitches his guests on the benefits of milk consumption, a product he says unjustifiably gets a bad rap. Some say milk is a source of saturated fat in the

American diet, contributing to heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and other diseases.

The criticism has taken its toll. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, per capita fluid milk consumption has dropped 40 percent since 1975. Shuler says alternatives like soy, almond or rice milk — “fake milk,” as he calls it — lack the essential nutrients of the real thing.

“A glass of milk contains nine essential nutrients like calcium, potassium and vitamin D. No other beverage even comes close,” he says, noting that milk is an extraordinarily safe product. “Milk is the most scrutinized, inspected product you’ll find in the grocery store.”

What you won’t find in a grocery store is a carton of Shuler Dairy Farms milk. That’s because Shuler’s milk is distributed through a co-op. It doesn’t have its own brand name.

But that may change. He and his sons envision increasing the number of cows milked from 65 to 100, creating enough of a supply to possibly develop their own brand.

And if that day comes, and if the Shuler brand



Cows feed in the milking barn. Photo by Ed Lawler

dairy product tastes anything like the cup of sweet, velvety ice cream served up at the end of this reporter’s visit, you should definitely ask for it by name.

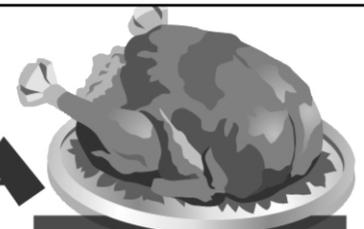
If You Go

Shuler Dairy Farms, 10823 Date Road, Baroda, Mich., is open from noon-6 p.m. EDT Tuesday-Sunday. Tours start every hour on the hour, with the last one starting at 5 p.m. Tour admission is \$5 for 4 and older. Visit www.shulerdairyfarms.com or call (269) 326-0366 for more details.



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Former Renaissance Academy Student Creates New “Guardian” for School

Tori McHugh was a baby when her mother and aunt opened Renaissance Academy 22 years ago.

Now, as an adult, she’s found a way to give back to the school in a way she least expected.

McHugh attended toddler class through eighth grade at what now is the Montessori charter school on East U.S. 20 with 270 students.

The school mascot always has been a lion. Over the years, the Renaissance Lions won several area tournaments despite

not having a gym. Many students have gone on to play at area high schools. Tori, herself, played on the Lady Lions under coach Eileen Steinhiser.

Tori graduated from Regis University in Colorado right as the pandemic began. She worked as an intern to an architect in Pueblo, Colo., until COVID shutdowns forced an early end to her plans. At that point, she came back to the area, temporarily, working part time as an art teacher at the school.

With back-to-school preparations in full swing, a problem arose when the building needed a new sid-



Tori McHugh



The “guardian lion” as it was being developed.

ing panel. None were available in the school’s color. So, Tori took on the challenge of covering the dark siding with something more befitting the Renaissance Lions champion status.

The result is a “guardian lion” watching over the front of the school.

Art Blitz 2021

Art Blitz returns as a two-day in-person festival, complete with free admission and parking, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18-19, at Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso.

Safety protocols will be in place, including mask requirements, social distancing and reduced capacity within the barn. The event includes live demonstrations and music, food and kids activities.

Included with the festival is “Jan Sullivan’s Nature: Works by the Founder of Art Barn School of Art,” which is part of a year-long tribute to Sullivan’s 100th birthday. A reception is from 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, with the exhibit continuing through Sept. 25.

The display features paintings primarily by Sullivan, but also works by other artists involved along the way. Having passed away in 2016, Sullivan was a prolific artist who began hosting workshops, classes and plein air painting at the Jackson Township farm she and her husband purchased in 1969.

Call (219) 462-9009 or visit www.artbarnschool.org for more details.

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Sinai Forum Lineup Updated

Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum staff have announced a change to the second program in the upcoming 68th season.

The first program remains the same: Deborah Birx, medical expert and former White House coronavirus response coordinator, will speak at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17.

The second event, set for Nov. 7, was to feature Max Eisen, an educator, author and Holocaust survivor. However, he will be unable to attend. Instead, an interactive biography of Eisen is scheduled by Stephen Smith, USC Shoah Foundation executive director, and Heather Maio-Smith, CEO of Story-File, which originated the concept of interviewing Holocaust survivors interactively.

The remainder of the schedule is:

- Bryan Stevenson, "On Justice and Mercy," Sunday, Dec. 5.
- Paul Nicklen, "Into the Icy Realm," Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022.
- Steve "The Woz" Wozniak, "An Afternoon with Steve Wozniak," on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022.

All programs, with the exception of "An Afternoon with Steve Wozniak," are at the Purdue Northwest James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville. Wozniak's talk is at Blue Chip Casino's Stardust Event Center. All programs will begin at 4 p.m., with doors opening at 3 p.m.

Regular season series tickets with general seating for all five programs are \$175. Patron season series tickets, including reserved seating and a reception with speakers before each program, are \$300. Patron and regular season tickets include a virtual viewing link if preferred. Virtual tickets are \$100 and allow for such viewing only.

Limited tickets for in-person events are on sale at www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum. PNW will follow all state, local and university health and safety protocols. The season also will offer an option of attending the programs virtually.



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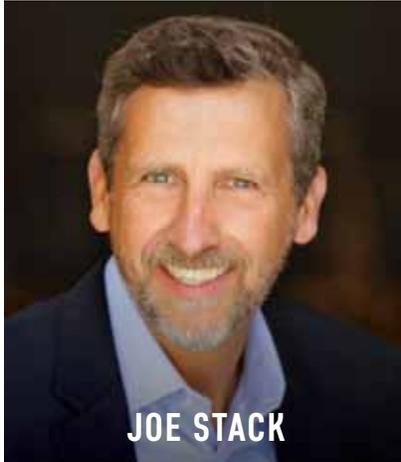
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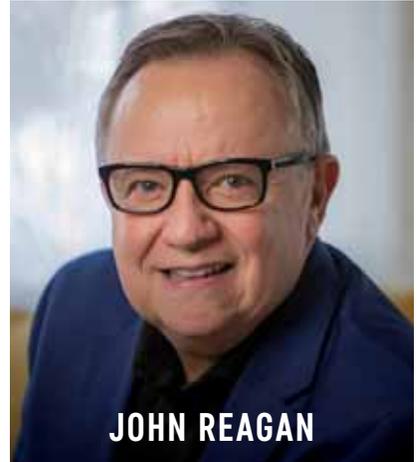
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Group Aids Bandstand Restoration



Pictured at the donation are (from left) Kirk Rogers, Jim Retseck, Johnny Stimley and Shannon Eason.

Jim Retseck, Michigan City Historical Society president, was joined by board members Sept. 1 to present a \$5,000 check to Shannon Eason, Michigan City Parks & Recreation assistant director, to help restore Washington Park's bandstand.

A fire destroyed the original structure — donated by John H. Barker in the 1890s — in 1911. The current bandstand was designed by City Engineer H. M. Miles and dedicated July 6, 1911. It was home to summer Michigan City Municipal Band concerts for 70 years until the new amphitheater was constructed in 1978. The bandstand was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 26, 1991.

In 1972, the Marquette Questers donated \$150,000 for the bandstand's maintenance and preservation.

In the report "Washington Park 1911 Bandstand Preservation Project," the goals include:

- Replacing the electrical system and lighting with LED technology.
- Tuck-pointing brick foundation walls.
- Replacing steel column roof bracing.
- Painting and restoring stairway railing.

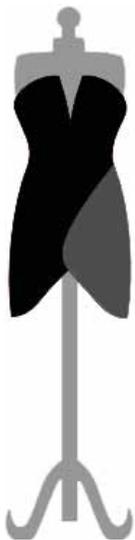
Contact Bill Halliar at (219) 629-5853 for more details.

Dunes Dash

In honor of National Public Lands Day, Save the Dunes will host the 2021 Save the Dunes' Dunes Dash, a virtual 5K run/walk to support the Indiana dunes.

The virtual race is Sept. 18-25, with registered participants completing 3.10 miles at the place and pace of their choice. All funds raised support Save the Dunes' work to enhance and protect Indiana Dunes National Park. Those interested should register at www.savedunes.org/dash2021

Founded in 1994, NPLD has been recognized as a day to volunteer to protect public lands and celebrate them through various recreational activities.



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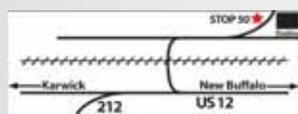
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Run to the Center of the World

Registration is under way for the 10th annual Run to the Center of the World, which is Saturday, Oct. 23, on paved rural roads surrounding New Troy, Mich.

Hosted by Friends of New Troy, the race starts and ends at the New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Road. To keep racers, volunteers and the community safe, participation is capped at 100. Registration is open for the half marathon, 10K and 5K. All finishers receive a carved wooden medal, and overall winners' names will be engraved on bricks mounted in the community center garden.

A free grab-and-go breakfast will be provided to all participants and volunteers. Those who register before Oct. 9 receive a free T-shirt.

Maps, information and a link to register online are available at facebook.com/RunToTheCenter. Registration forms also may be picked up at the center. Email runtothecenteroftheworld@gmail.com or call (269) 426-3909 for more details.

Proceeds benefit the community center, which receives no government funding and is supported by memberships, donations, grants and fundraisers.

Harbor Country Singers

Harbor Country Singers will present a free folk songs outdoor sing-along at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 21, at The School of American Music's Spring Creek Stage.

The venue is located behind the Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich. The program features songs such as "Blowin' in the Wind," "Down by the Riverside," "If I Had a Hammer" and "This Land is Your Land." Donna Mitchell, SAM executive director and voice teacher, SAM music instructor Ron Spears and HCS producer Pat Putnam are the song leaders, while Spears will accompany them on guitar.

Current COVID-19 restrictions will be observed. Songbooks will be provided, but attendees should take lawn chairs. Musicians also can take instruments to play along.

Contact SAM at schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com, (269) 409-1191 or visit www.schoolof-americanmusic.com for more details.

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Powerful “Worth” Explores Legal Battle for 9/11 Families

by Andrew Tallackson



Attorney Kenneth Feinberg (Michael Keaton) witnesses the attacks on the World Trade Center from his seat in a commuter train in “Worth.”

“Worth” is one of the first movies to lend a voice to the surviving families of 9/11. We’ve seen the heroics of that day (“World Trade Center,” “United 93”), but not a mother – alone, seated in a New York law firm – questioning if she can survive the loss of her son.

The movie, which just debuted on Netflix, may not be what people want to see, this being the 20th anniversary of the terror attacks. The scars are still fresh. But the approach, reminiscent of “Erin Brockovich” (2000) and “Spotlight” (2015), tackles a volatile subject with extreme sensitivity without exploiting it in the process.

The focus is attorney Kenneth Feinberg (Michael Keaton), who soon after 9/11 agreed to serve as Special Master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. The position gave him freedom to concoct a formula that would attach a “worth,” hence the movie’s title, on each individual who died on 9/11 in terms of compensating grieving relatives. He agreed to the position pro bono, but Max Borenstein’s screenplay argues Feinberg began the process as a detached number cruncher.

Like “Erin Brockovich,” the story is framed as a David vs. Goliath legal probe. Feinberg has to collect enough supporters, within a two-year deadline, for the government to agree to the payments. His staff interviews devastated family members to include their stories in the final report. And similar to the Oscar-winning “Spotlight,” “Worth” also is about exhaustive leg work. Sheer determination in



“Worth”

Running time: 118 minutes. Netflix. Rated PG-13 for some strong language and thematic elements

the face of potential failure.

Director Sara Colangelo knows that news coverage of the morning the towers fell is seared into our collective consciousness. So, she does something interesting. We see Feinberg, seated on a commuter train, headphones on listening to opera music. No other sounds. In the background, we see fellow commuters: startled, leaping to attention, peering out the windows. Colangelo lets the viewer do the math, to take what we know of 9/11 and flesh out the emotional devastation.

The film does an exceptional job detailing the specifics of the law, and what Feinberg’s office needed to collect, without descending into indecipherable jargon. And with Colangelo keeping a level head, by not exploiting grief for cheap emotion, “Worth” is a more consuming experience. No need to jack up the soundtrack, nor perch the actors on speech-making soapboxes, when scene after scene of the grieving families speaking their peace is harrowing enough.

When we first see Keaton as Feinberg, the performance comes across as just that: a performance. The accent, the mannered way of conveying age in his movements. But things change in a scene depicting a key meeting led by him with grieving fam-

ily members. He's strictly business — all numbers and formula. The crowd is angry. Disillusioned. Colangelo lets the raw tension in the room speak for itself. It is the first means with which the case chips through Feinberg's clinical approach, and Keaton is dynamite at allowing us to see in his face the change.

He is matched scene for scene by Stanley Tucci ("Supernova") as Charles Wolf, a man whose wife died on 9/11, and who leads the "Fix the Fund" campaign, denouncing Feinberg's "formula." Tucci, no matter what film it is, has a strength, a power to his voice where you want to hear what he has to say. He invests so much truth into the simplest of sentences. Ditto Amy Ryan ("Gone Baby Gone") as Camille Biros, Feinberg's partner *and* the one conducting most of the interviews with 9/11 families. Watch Ryan, not just in the scene where she breaks down after hours of interviews, but also in one of her final moments. The movie does not shy away from the issue of gay men and women the government refused to accept as "spouses." The scene where Camille has to break bad news to one man is a shattering example of an actress conveying heartbreak without pushing the performance. We are moved.

The big moments when they do arrive – try holding it together when Wolf's "Fix the Fund" website declares, "*the fund has been fixed*" — have the de-



Stanley Tucci (right) is in top form as a man whose wife died on 9/11.

sired effect.

It would be a shame if "Worth" does not find an audience. It is one of the year's best.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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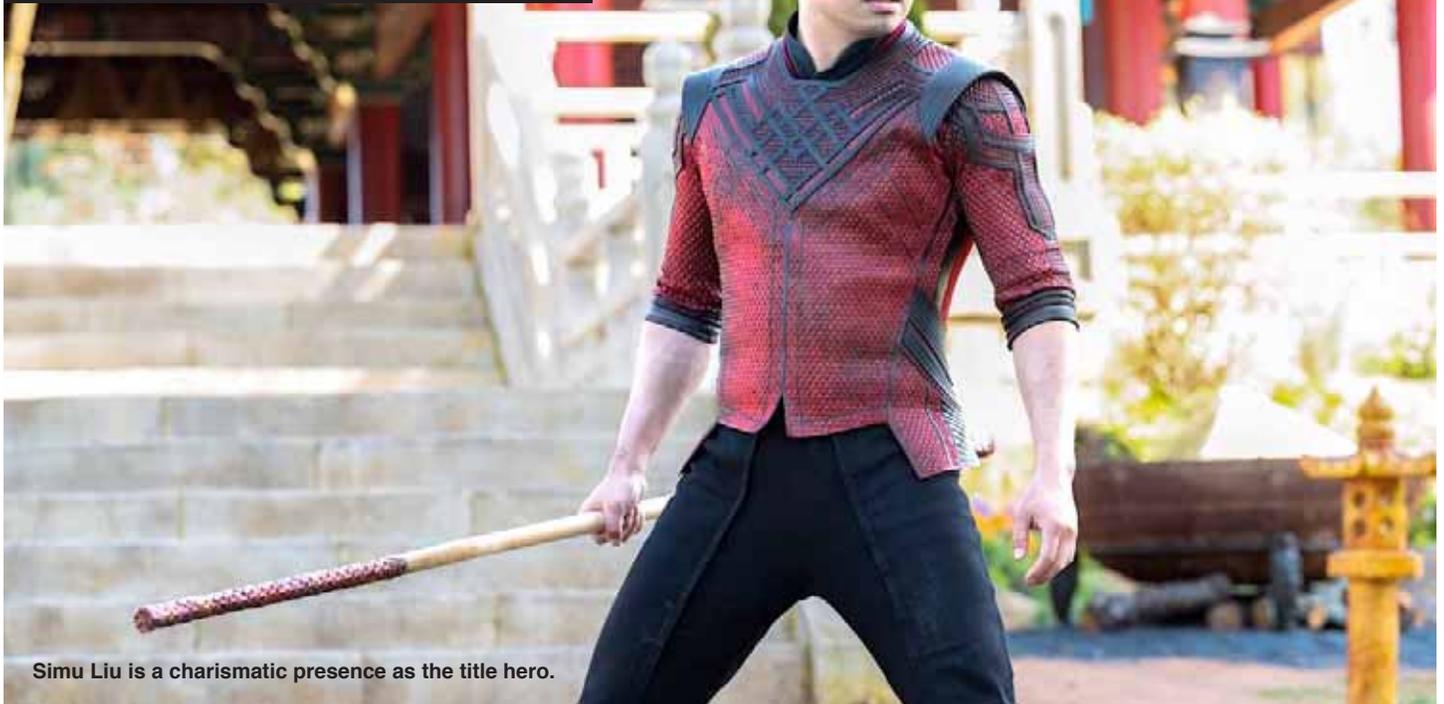
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“Shang-Chi” Delivers a Fresh Start for Marvel

by Andrew Tallackson



Simu Liu is a charismatic presence as the title hero.

At the end of “Avengers: Endgame” (2019), you could hear a chorus of sniffles throughout the theater. People were moved, and heartbroken, by the loss of beloved heroes, but there was also this sense of finality. Eleven years of storytelling since “Iron Man” (2008) drawing to a close. How could anything top this? Even this year’s “Black Widow” was more about filling in the gaps, about tying up loose ends, than anything else.

“Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” is the fresh start we need: light, fun, with a welcome sense of humor. It’s like Marvel completely rebooted itself back to more easygoing days.

The movie is an origin tale, but not the cumbersome DC type that spends an hour or so bogged down with backstory. Director Destin Daniel Cretton (“Just Mercy,” “The Glass Castle”), who crafted the screenplay with Dave Callahan and Andrew Lanham, sprinkles the past like bread crumbs along a trail in the present. We learn that thousands of years ago, Xu Wenwu (Tony Leung) found 10 rings that made him powerful and immortal, subsequently creating an army called the Ten Rings. Greed, and a thirst for power, see him toppling governments... until he arrives at a village called Ta Lo in 1996, unexpectedly falling in love with and marrying its guardian, Ying Li (Fala Chen). The first sign we’re in store for something special is their fight scene exquisitely choreographed by Peng Zhang, a veteran of many Jackie Chan pictures. It begins vigorously, then shifts to an athletic ballet: a symbolic dance of

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings”

Running time: 132 minutes. Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and action, and language.

two emerging lovers.

Eventually, Tony and Ying marry and have two children – a son and a daughter – but that family is fractured by loss.

In present day, Tony’s son, Shang-Chi (Simu Liu), who has Americanized his name to Shaun, is working as a valet with gal-pal Katy (Awkwafina). Why is the son of a magically powerful man slumming it in San Francisco? That, and where Shang-Chi’s sister is, are part of the mystery, details of which emerge after members of the Ten Rings show up.

It is no coincidence the great Jackie Chan earns a mention here. The first big action sequences in “Shang-Chi” have his imprint all over them. Chan, like a quick-thinking Buster Keaton and Gene Kelly, turned to anything in his path he could use to defend himself. You laughed at the same time you marveled at the ingenuity behind it. That’s true in “Shang-Chi.” The first killer moment involves hand-to-hand combat inside a speeding bus, the second a dizzying escape amid high-rise scaffolding. These scenes are a wow: mind-boggling stunts weaving

through cutting-edge special effects...and a wicked sense of humor.

(One bus passenger offers blow-by-blow commentary through a live facebook feed.)

It helps, too, that “Shang-Chi” has been cast just right. Liu, as the title character, is instantly likable with a kind face, good humor and impressive fighting skills. And Awkwafina is, well, Awkwafina: the motormouth slacker with a heart of snark. This may be the first time, though, where we don’t feel she is doing shtick, but creating a genuine character. When Katy becomes vital to the movie’s explosive climax, we know the character is more than comic window dressing.

Super hero movies, even the top-tier Marvel ones, lean on villains bent on world domination. “Shang-Chi” evolves into something more personal: family. About crippling grief turned madness. That is why you have a greater investment in the story. It is not the same-old stuff.

The great Michelle Yeoh (“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”) turns up as Shang-Chi’s aunt, doing what she always does: class up a tale with grace and elegance. Ben Kingsley, whose turn as “The Mandarin” in “Iron Man 3” was denounced as racially insensitive, is back, but stripped of the iffy social politics. What remains is an insanely funny conversation about “Planet of the Apes,” a reminder that, yes, the man who won an Oscar for playing Gandhi possesses a loopy sense of humor.

I wish that, for a movie shattering barriers for Asian actors, “Shang-Chi” would have taken its cue from “Black Panther,” breathing more life into the visuals. In that movie, the colors popped. You couldn’t take your eyes off of it. Here, veteran cinematographer William Pope, who shot “The Matrix,” no less, films many scenes way too dark. There is a



The fight between Xu Wenwu (Tony Leung) and Ying Li (Fala Chen) evolves into a symbolic, athletic ballet.

muted effect to the images. The climax involves two monstrous dragons – both marvels of special effects – and we should be swept away by the exotic imagery. But everything kinda looks the same.

A minor quibble, though. “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” proves there *is* life after Thanos. That a new generation of heroes exists, waiting to be born.

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Art in the Park



The Beach Garden Club on Sept. 4 introduced a new way to bring the community together...and for a worthy cause. Art in the Park featured local artists, free children's activities and the South Shore Ovenworks Fresh Wood-Fire Pizza truck. Proceeds from the day will aid improvements to Long Beach Community Center. All photos by James Conlin.

Continued on Next Page



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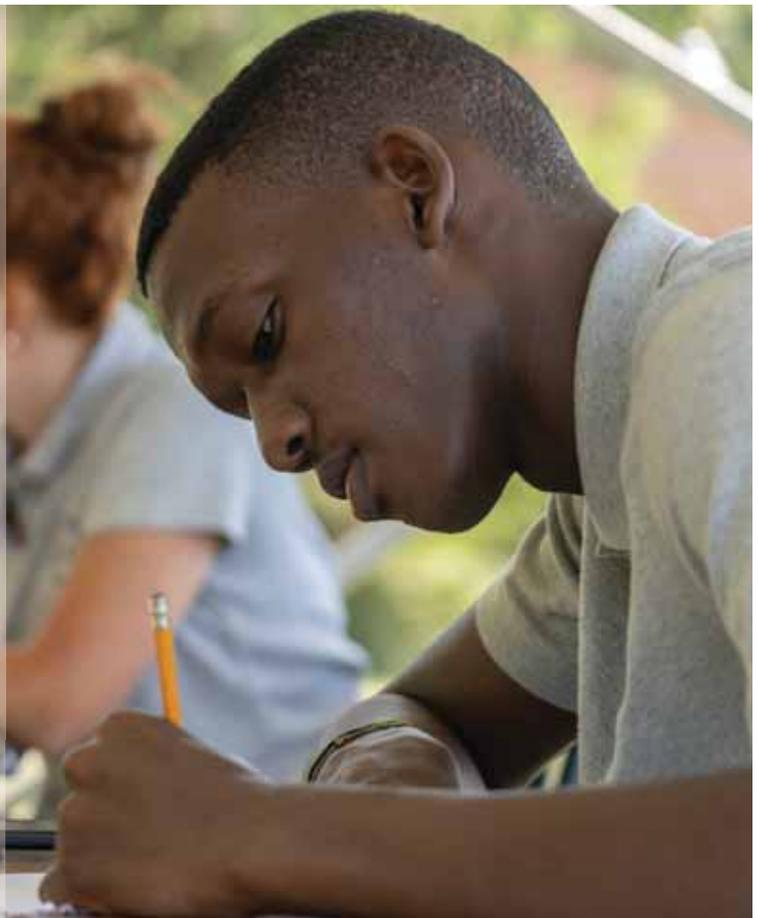
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In Memoriam

Editor's note — The following obituary was submitted by Sarah Liddell Thompson.

The Liddell family of Long Beach will finally get the chance to gather in person and celebrate their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Dorothea "Teddy" Liddell.

When Liddell died in May 2020 at 96, a small funeral of six people was all that could be held due to the pandemic. Family and friends look forward to celebrating the life of this longtime Long Beach resident and former math teacher and principal of Notre Dame School.

A Memorial Mass and Celebration of Life is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, at Notre Dame Catholic Church, 1010 Moore Road. Visitation is from 9-10 a.m. Saturday at the church. Friends of the family are welcome to join them. Face masks are required.

Evangeline Dorothea Miller Manning was born on Christmas Eve in 1923 in Philadelphia. She grew up in the suburb of Norwood, a 10-minute trolley ride to downtown Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania, from which she graduated in 1946, majoring in education. She then worked at the University of Pennsylvania library as a reference librarian and eventually as an administrator for the university's Catholic Newman Center, before agreeing to a blind date in 1949 with a career Army medical officer, Charles Liddell. They were married at West Point in 1950.

Liddell's path to Long Beach was circuitous. Soon after marrying, Dr. Liddell was posted to Korea as a surgeon in a mobile operating hospital, commonly known as a MASH unit. She remained at the Presidio, an Army base in San Francisco, until he returned, then followed him to Fort Knox, Ky.

Her husband had shared an apartment at West Point with a young surgeon from Michigan City, Dr. Jack Kerrigan. Kerrigan knew the Liddells were thinking of leaving the Army and encouraged them to move to Michigan City. With some trepidation, the girl from Philadelphia agreed, arriving in 1956.

She came to love the town and its people, quickly adjusting to the Indiana way of life and falling in love with the Midwest.

Their first house was on Mayfield Way in Long Beach, which Liddell remembered fondly, especially the long-lasting friendships with neighbors. Their growing family included three children at this point. One of the first years they were here, when Liddell heard there was going to be a 4th of July parade in the town center, she and her children spent hours

decorating bikes and creating outfits. They joyfully marched in the parade and at the end, the organizers had to scramble for a third prize because the Liddell children were the only entries, and the organizers didn't want one of them to feel left out. Many parades later, the moment came full circle when Dorothea and Charles were honored as grand marshals by the Long Beach Civic Association in 2005.

When two more children were born, the family of seven outgrew their original home and moved to a house at 1300 Lake Shore Drive in 1962 at Stop 13. Teddy and Charles had looked for years to live on



Dorothea "Teddy" Liddell and her husband, Charles, were married for 57 years.

the lake, but could never find anything within their budget. They fell in love with the fixer-upper, built in 1916 and one of the first homes built in Long Beach. Although her beloved husband Charles, a well-loved local surgeon, died in 2007 after 57 years of marriage, Liddell was able to continue to live in her home with the help of loving caregivers and family until her death. Over the 58 years she lived at 1300, the Liddells enjoyed entertaining friends, extended family, neighbors and their children's friends. As the children became adults and established their own families across the country, Liddell's favorite moments were when her children and grandchildren returned to visit.

In 1968, Liddell was asked to teach math at Notre Dame Catholic School. She prepared herself to teach the "New Math" by taking classes simultaneously at Purdue North Central, telling her eighth-grade students, "I'm just one day ahead of you." One of those students was John Roberts, now chief justice of the Supreme Court. Liddell said what she remembers most about Roberts was his hard work and dedication in the classroom. "He was a real student. There was no fooling around. He wanted to get the job done," Liddell said in an interview in *The*

NWI Times in 2013 when Roberts was speaking at his high school alma mater, La Lumiere.

(Charles and Teddy Liddell were one of the original backers of La Lumiere School.)

After three years as the math teacher, Liddell became principal of Notre Dame in 1971, and the school thrived during her five years in that role. She was the first lay woman principal in the Diocese of Gary.

“She was a disciplinarian, but was fair, compassionate and always willing to share a smile,” former student Patti Repenn remembered. “She made it clear that she believed in us, and she challenged us to believe in ourselves.”

The Marquette Foundation executive director from 1977-1988, Liddell raised more than \$1 million to support the Catholic high school in Michigan City. She organized volunteers who raised funds by collecting receipts from shoppers at Al's Supermarket stores. Al Pontius, founder and owner, made a cash donation to the foundation each month based on the total purchases of any Marquette supporters who left their receipts in a box at checkout. In 1988, the Marquette Foundation named the high school library at the time in her honor in recognition for her many years of dedicated service.

Angeline Benz, a former teacher at Marquette, said, “She worked tirelessly to secure funds for the stabilization of excellence at the school.”

Liddell would say, “Every job I've had is because they couldn't find anyone else.”

Liddell was a past president of the Service League of Michigan City, an organization that loans medical equipment free. She served as the secretary of the Friends of the (Michigan City) Library. She and Marge Kerrigan, wife of Dr. Jack Kerrigan, founded the St. Anthony Guild (now Franciscan Health Volunteer Advocates), which has provided volunteers to the local hospital for more than 50 years.

She was an active member of the local chapter of P.E.O., an organization that promotes the advancement of women through education, as well as Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional society for women educators. She maintained a relationship with her sorority at the University of Pennsylvania, Alpha Chi Omega, and was a member of Questers, dedicated to historical preservation.

Liddell was an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs and rarely missed a televised game. At 92, she traveled with her grandsons to Cleveland to attend Game 6 of the World Series on a cold November night.

She maintained a busy household on Lake Shore Drive at Stop 13 to the end, filled with caregivers, family and friends, but avoided significant illness. A wonderful mother along with her active work life, her five children: Susan Liddell Colson, Valparaiso; Florence (Thomas) Dewitt, Cincinnati; Ned (Bonnie) Liddell, Sutton, Mass.; Robert (Marti) Liddell, Seattle; and Sarah (Robert) Thompson, Long Beach; 16 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



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Leadership LaPorte County recently completed its Summer Leadership Camp for middle-schoolers at LaPorte's Kesling Park.

LaPorte County students entering sixth, seventh and eighth grades participated in activities emphasizing leadership skills and positive character development. Supported by a Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte grant, the camp was facilitated by Monica Komaskinski, Leadership LaPorte County executive director.

During the school year, the students will continue

training with meetings and activities that focus on community, volunteerism, philanthropy, servant leadership and civic responsibility. Through a partnership with Youth Service Bureau and Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, a select group of students will learn about grant-making for youth projects in LaPorte County.



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Friendship Botanic Gardens' annual charity golf outing is Thursday, Sept. 23, at Briar Leaf Golf Club, 3233 Indiana 39, LaPorte.

All proceeds benefit restoration and continued growth at the Gardens. Advanced registration is required at tinyurl.com/44ybmrpx. The cost is \$125 per golfer (\$500 per foursome). Tickets also include two complimentary drink tickets for the bar cart. New tee sponsorships are available for \$125, or \$100 for a renewal tee sponsor.

Check-in and lunch by Portofino Grill begin at 11:30 a.m. The shotgun start is at 1 p.m. Prizes will be awarded. Tasting tables include Zorn Brew Works, Basic Hard Seltzer, Mamitas and Hotel Tango. Other offerings include a 50/50 raffle and other raffle items.

The Gardens is located at 2055 E. U.S. 12. Call (219) 878-9885, email info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org or visit www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org for more details.

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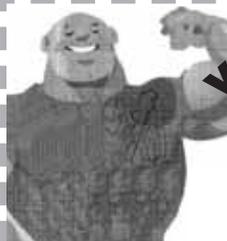

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LaPorte County Public Library has updated its curbside pickup service using meeScan.

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking Pickup from the bottom of the screen (or calling the library location). An appointment no longer is needed. Add the parking space on the app if picking up from the main location. Enter information in the instructions box if picking up holds placed on more than one account, or if needing additional assistance.

A staff member brings held items to the vehicle. Customers using the app receive updates as their requests are processed. Returns can be placed in book drops and be checked in within 24 to 72 hours. At this time, there is no limit to the number of items customers can reserve and pick up during curbside.

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

The following programs are planned:

- **Water/Ways-Environmental Advocacy 101 from 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, at Save the Dunes, 444 Barker Road, Michigan City.** Learn how to make a difference in the community, striving for change.
- **Teen D&D from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20, at the main library Meeting Room A.** The program involves a cooperative tabletop role-playing game for teens 13-18. Registration is required.
- **Teen Advisory Board from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 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.
- **Age Well — Memory, Forgetfulness and Aging from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, in the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** Learn what is and is not normal memory loss.

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

Museum to Re-open After Repairs

LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., is scheduled to re-open Sept. 14 now that the first phase of roof repairs are complete. Call (219) 324-6767 for details.

Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public.

The front doors are open. Remodeling of the front lobby is almost complete. Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open.

The Friends of the Michigan City Public Library book sale is Oct. 21-23 at the library. Donations can be dropped off from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, 4073 Franklin St. Donations can include magazines, children's books and puzzles.

Two new databases are available:

- Newspapers.com World Collection contains historical newspapers from the 1700s-2000s, including thousands of well-known regional, state and small local newspapers in the United States and other countries. Visit tinyurl.com/4f8kfo3v and log in with a library card number.
- Fold3, a military-records database powered by Ancestry.com. It provides access to military records, including stories, photos and personal documents. Visitors can combine records found there with personal effects to create an online memorial for someone who served. Visit tinyurl.com/58cnu2vn and log in with a library card number.

The following program is scheduled:

- **Bookmarks: Firekeeper's Daughter from noon-1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17.** Jessica Hoffmaster is the reviewer.
- **Writing Out Loud returns for its 37th season, kicking off with *New York Times* best-selling author Angeline Boulley, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18.** New Buffalo's Boulley is an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewas. Her debut novel, Firekeeper's Daughter, not only is a *New York Times* best-seller, but also will be adapted for Netflix by Higher Ground, the Obamas' production company. She writes about her Ojibwe community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She also is a



former director of the Office of Indian Education at the U.S. Department of Education.

- **Take-Home Craft for Kids & Teens.** Free take-home craft kits are available at the Youth Services desk while supplies last.
- **Virtual Story Time with Take-Home Craft.** A new storytime video is posted at 10 a.m. Wednesdays on the library website and YouTube channel at www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/ Visit Youth Services to get the craft! The program is aimed at children through age 5. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.

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Barker STEM Teacher Honored



Amy Hamann is photographed at the luncheon with Barker Middle School Principal Lucas Snyder.

Amy Hamann, Barker Middle School's STEM teacher/coordinator, was recognized at an honorary luncheon in Indianapolis as an Indiana finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The award is the nation's highest honor awarded to K-12 educators in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computer science, annually recognizing educators from all 50 states.

Hamann is one of only three Indiana science and math educators chosen and will be considered at the national level. State finalist applications have been forwarded to the national committee, which will select one math and one science teacher for the award from each state. The White House will announce the 2021 PAEMST awardees at a later date.

Hamann attended the luncheon with her husband, Derek, and Barker Middle School Principal Lucas Snyder. This is her second time being considered for the award, the first being in 2013.

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LaPorte 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.

Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30). The schedule is:

- Oct. 6 — Pulmonary health, Patti Solona, Northwest Health LaPorte.
- Nov. 3 — Understanding Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, and the upcoming annual enrollment period, Megan Rogers, State Health Insurance Assistance Program specialist.

Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10-11 a.m. Sept. 20, Oct. 18 and 25, Nov. 8 and 22 and Dec. 6 and 20 at Luhr County Park. Masks are required for 3 and older. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Pioneer Days

Historically clad re-enactors and vendors lead the family event from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 25-26, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North.

The cost is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children or seniors (4 and younger are free). Experience outdoor cooking, crafts, candle dipping, wagon rides and food.

Pumpkin Painting & Bingo

Decorate a pumpkin from 5-6:15 p.m. Monday, Oct. 4, at Luhr County Park.

The maximum allowed is 30 people. Pumpkins and decorations will be provided. Play bingo and win prizes. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call to register at (219) 325-8315.

Plant Base Life

Marcy Daily leads the free program from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, at Luhr County Park.

Learn tricks and substitute ingredients for everyday recipes, from what it is to where to find green items locally.

Call by one week before to register.

DAF Names New Artistic Director

Steve Scott, a veteran of four Dunes Summer Theatre productions, is the new Dunes Arts Foundation artistic director.

Scott is an artistic associate at Chicago's Goodman Theatre, where he was an award-winning producer for 30 years before retiring in 2017. He takes on the Dunes position left by Tito Sanchez-Williams, who is pursuing a full-time teaching career.



Scott

Scott's Dunes resume includes "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Cabaret at the Gardens." He is a member of the DAF board and chairs the Theatre Management, Programming and Technology committee.

He has begun 2022 programming discussions, with plans to produce two musicals, a comedy and a cabaret night.

Also, new DAF board members include:

- Dale Cooper, a Michigan City native and the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau community relations manager. She is an artist who serves on the Lubeznik Center for the Arts board and Michigan City Public Art Commission.
- Jodie Taub Pineless, who grew up in Michigan City and participated in Dunes youth classes with founder Nora MacAlvay. She was a founding cast member of the Northbrook Performing Arts Theatre, a director at South Park Family Theatre and founder of Starland Theatre, a Chicago children's theater company. She will lead a new alumni relations program for DAF.
- Lisa Torgerson, who has extensive experience in fundraising for arts organizations in Chicago. She has been a member of the DAF Development Committee and will lead a fundraising program.

Dunes Summer Theatre is located at 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Visit www.dunesarts.org for more details.

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Flight A

Low Gross — Sue Luegers.
 Low Net — Peg King.
 Low Putts — Donna Hennard.

Flight B

Low Gross (tie) — Gloria McMahon, Linda Wilson.
 Low Net — Paulette Harnach.
 Low Putts — Mary Weithers.
 Sunken Approach — Mary Weithers (18).

Flight C

Low Gross — Catherine Kelly.
 Low Net — Barb Hall.
 Low Putts — Sally Allen.
 Sunken Approach — Sally Allen (1),
 Carol Sullivan (7).

Flight D

Low Gross — Diane Rubey.
 Low Net — Jude Stahmer.
 Low Putts — Peg Carey.

Beach Treasures Program

Self-professed “sand pirate” Janet Schrader will present a guide to beach glass, fossils and other beach treasures at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 16, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Attendees can take his/her finds for help with identification. The program, sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library, is in the Pokagon Room. Face masks are requested.

Email new.buffalo.fol@gmail.com for details.

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Chesterton Art Center

• Chesterton Art Center will host the Area Artists Association exhibit, “A New Beginning,” through Sept. 30.

Members of the Michigan City group showing works are: ANKO (Anneke Dekker), Carol Estes, Connie Kassal, Diane Grams, Dorothy Graden, George Kassal, Ginny Scott, Jane Cowley, Joan Spohrer, Kei J. Constantinov, Kevin Firme, Kuhn Hong, Larry Brechner, Laurel Iazard, Laurie Schirmer Carpenter, Sara Scherberg, Stephanie Carnell, Suzy Vance and Timothy Lace.

Masks are required inside the CAC.

• Chesterton Art Center, in partnership with Duneland Boys & Girls Club, will offer weekly visual arts classes through five-week “Art Camps” for ages 8 and older, the largest population of students at the club, 521 W. County Road 1100 North.

Camp themes include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), famous artists, comics, global art traditions and a cardboard Build-A-Thon. Students will create drawings with electrical circuits, build robots that draw, make relief sculptures, design stickers and comic books. The format allows flexibility with family schedules.

Registration is open at the club.

Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.org for more details.

Polish Bikers Fall Gathering

The Polish Bikers’ ninth annual Fall Gathering of Motorcycles is Sunday, Oct. 3, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine (Salvatorian Fathers Monastery), 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville.

Holy Mass (in Polish) will be celebrated at noon, followed by the Blessing of Motorcycles and a picnic on the shrine grounds (menu items and prices vary).

The event, held rain or shine, is open to everyone. Call (219) 884-0714 for more details.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, through Zoom. Visit tinyurl.com/26bydsz6 for the link.

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New Barker Mansion Director

Long Beach resident Kim Olesker is Barker Mansion's new director of museum operations.

Built in 1857 and expanded in 1905 by railroad industrialist/philanthropist John H. Barker, the 38-room English Manor house contains original furnishings and artwork, and is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. A \$2 million restoration project is under way, with a soft opening planned for late fall, before the annual holiday displays.



Olesker

Olesker, educated at the University of Nebraska, will directly oversee the mansion's physical facilities and provide staff oversight and training. Other duties include generating new methods of fundraising and coordinating mansion events.

With a career in non-profit business leadership, Olesker served on the state's Early Childhood-Development Committees. She began her career in non-profits as national housing director for Alpha Xi Delta sorority's more than 60 houses. After a stint with American Cancer Society, she took the position of regional director for early childhood development with United Way of Porter County, where she later served as president and CEO for five years. She was one of 12 presidents chosen from more than 1,800 United Way offices worldwide to participate in United Way's Executive Leadership Development Program taught at Harvard University and Deloitte University.

Olesker also has a Master of Business Administration in non-profit business administration.

The mansion is located at 631 Washington St.



American Red Cross

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

- Marquette Catholic High School, 306 W. 10th St., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17.
- LaPorte County Family YMCA, 901 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18.
- Kingsford Heights Elementary School, 460 Evanston Road, Kingsford Heights, 2:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 22.

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 www.redcrossblood.org for more details.

Museum Celebrates Special Day

South Bend's The History Museum and Studebaker National Museum are teaming up with other institutions Saturday, Sept. 18, to participate in the annual Museum Day presented by *Smithsonian* magazine.

Visitors who present a Museum Day Admission Card receive free admission to the two South Bend museums from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT that day. Visit tinyurl.com/m2sebbps to download the card, which provides free admission for up to two individuals. One admission card is permitted per household.

The History Museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Call the museum at (574) 235-9664 or the Studebaker National Museum at (574) 235-9714 for more details, or visit www.historymuseumSB.org or www.studebakermuseum.org



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.



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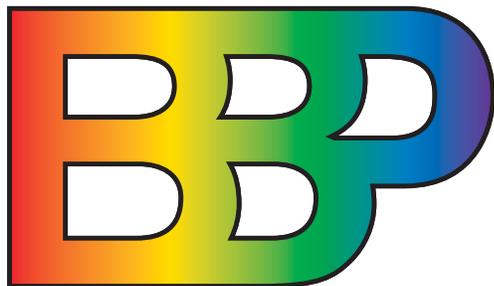
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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Sept. 16 — Water/Ways-Environmental Advocacy 101, 6-7 p.m., Save the Dunes, 444 Barker Road, Michigan City. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

Sept. 16 — Beach treasures program, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: new.buffalo.fol@gmail.com

Sept. 17 — Bookmarks: Firekeeper's Daughter, noon-1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 17 — Sensesational Night Hike, 7-8 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 18 — The Sunflower Fair, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Michigan Avenue, downtown LaPorte. Michiana Antique Auto Club's annual car show: 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Entry fee: \$15. After fair: "A Night on the Ave!" Info: <http://sunflowerfair.com>

Sept. 18 — Full Moon Hike, 7-8 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 18 — Writing Out Loud, Angeline Bouley, 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 20 — Teen D&D, 5:30-7:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Meeting Room A, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

Through Sept. 30 — New exhibit, "Diversity" (Madeleine Schooley), The Legacy Center Gallery in Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Info: jessicar@qas.org

Through Oct. 15 — Exhibit, "Bramson/Indiana/Lake," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Saturdays — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth and Washington streets (Uptown Arts District).

Saturdays — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe (near Mucho Mas). Info: laportefarmermarket@gmail.com

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Zoom. Info: <https://7269291.toastmastersclubs.org>.

Second Saturdays — Free sunset yoga w/ Lauralee Sikorski, Long Beach Realty Stop 31 location. Limited parking. Updates: Long Beach Realty Facebook page.

In the Region

Sept. 16 — Noon Time Talk Series, 12:20 p.m. EDT, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Cost: \$5, members/free. Info: (574) 293-6660.

Sept. 18-19 — Art Blitz, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Free admission/parking. Info: (219) 462-9009, www.artbarnschool.org

Sept. 21 — Harbor Country Singers free folk

songs outdoor sing-along, 6:30 p.m. EDT, The School of American Music's Spring Creek Stage (behind Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich.). Info: schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com, (269) 409-1191, www.schoolofamericanmusic.com

Sept. 21 — Singer-songwriter-instrumentalist Joanne Shaw Taylor, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35, reserved seats (\$25 tax-deductible contribution)/\$60. Reservations: www.acornlive.org/events.

Through Sept. 26 — Oils by Liz Williams, The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: www.pinesvillage.org, (219) 465-1591.

Through Sept. 30 — Area Artists Association exhibit, "A New Beginning," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Masks required inside. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Saturdays — Wetland Wonders, 10 a.m.-noon, The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education/Miller Woods ponds, Lake Street north of U.S. 12, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays — Bailly Chellberg History Hike, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20/12, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

The Region of Three Oaks Museum — 5 Featherbone Ave., Three Oaks Mich. Free admission; donations accepted. Hours (Eastern): noon-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday through October.

Vickers Theatre — *Now showing:* "Mogul Mowgli." Not Rated. Times: 3:15 p.m. Sept. 17-19, 6 p.m. Sept. 20. *Opens Sept. 17:* "The Lost Leonardo." Not Rated. All times Eastern. Check website or call for times. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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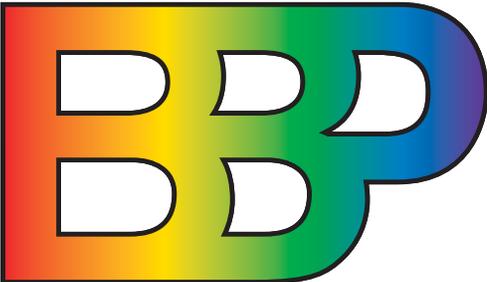
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On September 16, 1630, the Massachusetts village of Shawmut changed its name to Boston.

On September 16, 1908, General Motors first filed papers of incorporation.

On September 16, 1919, the American Legion was incorporated by an act of Congress.

On September 16, 1953, “The Robe,” the first movie presented in the widescreen process Cinema-scope, had its world premiere in New York.

On September 16, 1966, the Metropolitan Opera opened its season in the new opera house at New York’s Lincoln Center. The audience saw the premiere of Samuel Barber’s “Anthony and Cleopatra.”

On September 17, 1787, the U.S. Constitution was signed by the majority of the 55 delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Delegates were sent from 12 of the original 13 colonies. Only Rhode Island failed to send a representative.

On September 17, 1862, in the Civil War battle of “Antietam,” Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee’s troops were defeated by Gen. George McClelland’s Union Army.

On September 17, 1939, the Harry James Orchestra and Frank Sinatra recorded “All or Nothing at All” for Columbia Records.

On September 17, 1961, the situation comedy “Car 54, Where Are You?” premiered on NBC.

On September 17, 1963, “The Fugitive,” starring David Janssen, premiered on ABC.

On September 18, 1769, *The Boston Gazette* reported the first piano made in this country was a spinet, with a three-to-four-octave range, manufactured by one John Harris.

On September 18, 1793, President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the Capitol Building in Washington.

On September 18, 1851, *The New York Times*, founded by George Jones and Henry Raymond, went on sale for 2 cents a copy.

On September 18, 1927, the Columbia Phonograph Broadcasting System (later called CBS), debuted with a network of 16 radio stations.

On September 18, 1940, “You Can’t Go Home Again” by Thomas Wolfe was first published.

On September 19, 1796, President Washington’s farewell address to the nation was published.

On September 19, 1881, President James A. Garfield died from wounds inflicted by an assassin's bullet.

On September 19, 1906, Mark Twain said there were "only two forces that can carry light to all the corners of the globe...the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here."

On September 19, 1928, Americans were introduced to Mickey Mouse when Walt Disney's "Steamboat Willie" opened at New York's Colony Theater.

On September 19, 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was arrested for the kidnap murder of the Lindberg baby.

On September 20, 1797, the U.S. frigate Constitution "Old Ironsides" was launched at the Boston Navy Yard.

On September 20, 1873, the worldwide "Panic of 1873" reached a peak when the New York Stock Exchange closed. It reopened 10-days later.

On September 20, 1881, following the assassination of President James Garfield, Vice President Chester Arthur was sworn in as the 21st president of the United States.

On September 20, 1948, the American Association for the Advancement of Science met for the first time.

On September 21, 1784, *The Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser*, the first daily newspaper published in the United States, made its appearance in Philadelphia.

On September 21, 1897, the editor of *The New York Sun*, in response to a letter written by 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon, wrote one of the all-time favorite editorials, titled "Is There a Santa Claus?" "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist..."

On September 21, 1937, *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien was published.

On September 21, 1947, author Stephen King was born in Portland, Maine.

On September 22, 1776, American patriot Nathan Hale, convicted by the British as a spy, was put to death by hanging. His last words: "*My only regret is that I have just one life to give for my country,*" have become a lasting part of American legend.

On September 22, 1789, Congress authorized creation of the office of Postmaster General.

On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

On September 22, 1915, almost all of the buildings south of New Orleans were destroyed as a hurricane hit the coast of Louisiana. There were 275 killed, and damage in excess of \$13 million.

On September 22, 1927, in the famous "long count" fight at Soldier Field in Chicago, Gene Tunney successfully defended his heavyweight boxing title against former champion Jack Dempsey.

ENVELOPES



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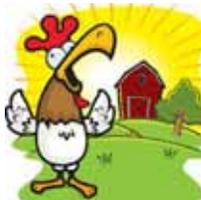
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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Razorblade Tears by S.A. Cosby (hardcover, 26.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audiobook. 319 pages.)

“There was no turning back. There was no path that led anywhere except down a long road as dark as your first night in hell and paved all along the way with bad intentions. They could call what they were seeking justice, but that didn’t make it true. It was unquenchable, implacable vengeance.”

This is a book whose pages bleed with revenge, but also love, family and the pain of knowing you can’t go back and change history. The story is so real, every word on every page crackles like the pain of stepping on broken glass.

I thought S.A. Cosby gave us the emotional ride of the year with his first book, Blacktop Wasteland, but he comes back this year hitting even harder with a story that gives new meaning to “walk a mile in my shoes.” Warning: this is a violent, unforgiving story not for the faint of heart. But here’s a preview of why it is worthy of your time...

Ike Randolph, a black man, and Buddy Lee Jenkins, a white man, never met, but had something in common. Ike’s son, Isiah, and Buddy Lee’s son, Derek, were gay and married to each other. They even had a female friend be a surrogate mother — the result, a daughter named Arianna, now 3.

Both fathers cannot grasp how this happened to their sons. What did they do wrong? After all, this is Virginia in the lower-class parts of a small town. Both men gave up on their sons. Final words to each were not friendly nor understanding.

Ike and his wife, Mya, are raising Arianna because Isiah and Derek were gunned down and viciously killed so badly, they were almost unrecognizable. The men’s funeral was the first time Ike and Buddy Lee officially met.

So was this a hate killing? Or is there more to the story? After all, Isiah was a reporter for a newspaper. Could be he was working on something that someone didn’t want published? Time to find out what was behind these murders.

Turns out, Ike and Buddy Lee have more in common than they think. Both are ex-cons with an act-now, think-later attitude. Both want revenge on these senseless killings, but the police get no cooperation from the community and mark the case “inactive.” That’s all it takes for Buddy Lee to show

up at Ike’s landscaping business one day. He thinks together, they could get people to talk, catch the killers and take them to the police. Sure. Everyone who believes the two would turn the killers over to the police, raise your hand. Un-huh, that’s what I thought, too.

The road to Ike and Buddy Lee’s hell contains the kind of justice they learned in prison. And that justice doesn’t come from the system...it comes from themselves.

The scene shifts to a biker gang named Rare Breed and its president, Grayson. He’s just received a phone call to kill a girl within the next two weeks. A connection to Isiah and Derek? After all, Isiah was a journalist.

A trip to Isiah and Derek’s condo is hard for the men. Nothing had been touched since the funeral, but, *“Death had laid his cold hand on this place and stilled its heart.”*

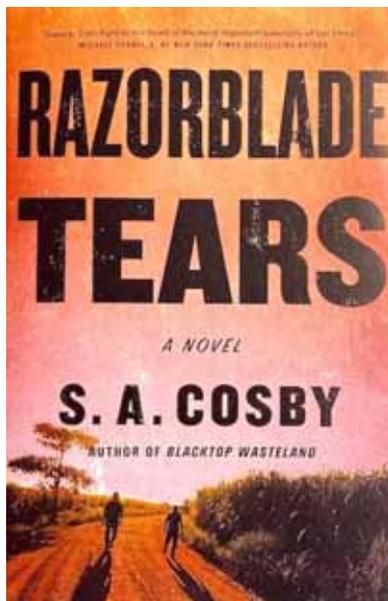
They do, however, find a paper with the name Tangerine on it. A clue? Maybe. While they’re in the condo, two of the Rare Breed show up. What are they looking for? Conversation isn’t their strong suit, one thing leads to another and soon a dead body is wrapped up in a rug and taken out to Ike’s truck. Now what? Two ex-cons and a dead body. In for a penny, in for a pound, the saying goes — make that about 140 pounds — and now the men are more than determined to see their investigation through to its end, whatever that might be.

Love, hate, revenge, racism, even political ambition all play a part in this story. Ike and Buddy Lee come to realize they knew nothing about their sons, never listened to what they wanted to say and now, it’s too late, but far from over...

Cosby has done it again, written an authentic book about the anguish of being parents who know they can’t change history, but want desperately to get the truth and be sure their sons’ deaths don’t go unpunished, because it’s all they can do for them now. Yes, this story is strongly worded, the action is in-your-face brutal, but there’s an honesty here that burns through the pages until the heartbreaking finale.

Ike and Buddy Lee don’t like each other at the beginning of the story. Time together finds them at odds with what to do next. Barbs are exchanged, but something deeper happens by the end...two men find they have more in common than they thought possible — a sweet little 3-year-old girl they will kill for to protect.

Till next time, happy reading!



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