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Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.
~Mark Twain

Vol2026:
August 21, 2026

The Night that Began a Revolution

By Tins Norris Fields

We all know the story of Paul Revere. Of course we do. “Listen my children and you shall hear Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere. ‘On the eighteenth of April in Seventy-Five, hardly a man is still alive who remembers that famous day and year.” We remember our parents or grandparents or teachers reading us that famous poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. So, we know the story. Right?

Well, no, we only know part of the story. If we really want to know what Paul Harvey used to call “the rest of the story,” we need to hear Gordon Lichty tell the story, show us the maps, and demonstrate the weapons that were all part of this pivotal moment in American history.

Ever since the “intolerable acts” of King George II of England toward the American colonies, such as the Stamp Act, unrest was brewing. And after the Boston Tea Party, British military retribution against the colonies had been growing. Quietly, strategically, and in well-guarded secrecy, resistance was being carefully planned. Sam Adams, John Hancock, Dr. Joseph Warren, and Paul Revere were key figures in the patient, disciplined, and determined leadership that built a network of volunteers ready to face the tasks that lay ahead. The Sons of Liberty met under Liberty Trees and in other secret locations.

No, I’m not going to try to tell you the whole story. I can’t do the job that Gordon Lichty does. He is a professional historical interpreter from Fort Michilimackinac, with a profound knowledge of this nation’s early days, its culture, its social and economic struggles, and its wars.

On Thursday, August 13, 2026, at the Elk Rapids Historical Museum, located in the building that formerly housed the Elk Rapids United Methodist Church, hosted by the Cruisin’ Pirates Car Club, Gordon Lichty presented the story of the Night that Began a Revolution. Dressed in period attire as a 1775 man, yet using audio-visual tools of 2026, he laid out for us the story behind the story, the planning, the life and death need for secrecy, the maps of the stand-offs and the running battle. He showed us the “witness houses” on Battle Road where colonists and British regulars struggled and fought, and many died. Many of those houses still stand and are owned by seventh generation descendants of the original owners. He showed us rifles of that time and demonstrated how they would be used.

If you ever have the opportunity to attend one of Gordon Lichty’s historical presentations, be sure to do it. It will be well worth your time.



Above - Gordon Lichty tells the story that led to the battles at Lexington and Concord
Below - Gordon explains the meaning of the markings on the rifle



Above - Rifles of the era, including a British Brown Bess that did not see combat
Below - Artifacts of the time



DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)
Let's be fair-o to faro

12 January 2004

Dear Mark,
I recently read that the most popular Nevada casino game in the 1800s was faro. The Virginia City casinos were kind enough to offer the game 24 hours a day "for the convenience of miners from all shifts." Have you ever heard of faro being played in modern times? Any idea as to why it disappeared? Andy K.

Like you, Andy, I sure would love to see the game reappear in towns like Virginia City, Deadwood, or on a Mississippi riverboat. So popular was the game once, that faro could be found in just about every saloon in every Western one-horse town.

Faro, sometimes spelled pharo, pharaoh or pharaon, was a card game invented by the French, who adapted it from the Venetian game of basetta. French gamblers called the game Pharaoh because one of the honored cards bore the likeness of an Egyptian Pharaoh. Thanks to an exiled Scotsman named John Law, the game immigrated into this country at New Orleans, moved up the river on the Mississippi steamboats, and then spread across the Wild West.

Faro's demise came from a combination of many factors; two stand out. The opportunity for dealer cheating at faro was greater than with any other card game, and, more importantly for the guys who ran the joints, faro had a low house edge.

Dear Mark,
Does someone from Canada have to pay taxes on lottery winnings in this country? Terrence L.

All Lottery prizes are subject to federal, state and local income taxes. For U.S. citizens, state lotteries are required by law to withhold estimated taxes at the rate of 25% (federal), and each state has a certain percentage to withhold for any prize over \$5,000 paid to a U.S. resident. Our friends from the North are subject to an up-front, flat, 30% estimated federal rate as well as that

particular state's withholding rate. By the way, Terrence, don't think you're off the hook if your win is just under the \$5,000 threshold. Winners of less than \$5,000 will receive a W-2G form in January to be filed with their yearly federal, state and local income taxes. The *guvmint's* edge puts casinos' to shame.

Dear Mark,
Are there any land-based casinos operating in Nevada where I can bet with them online? Tommy D.

Not a chance, Tommy. Nevada regulators forbid Nevada casinos from doing business with any Internet casino sites, or with an online site of their own where you can gamble. Nevada regulators also consider websites that take bets from Nevada and other U.S. residents to be breaking federal and state laws.

Dear Mark,
I live in Nevada, but I have a brother living in Ohio, and a sister who lives in Michigan, who, when the jackpot is high enough, will play my favorite numbers in the Mega-Millions lottery. According to my brother, I have 180 days to collect on a winning ticket. My sister swears in Michigan that it is a year. Who is right? Hector G.

No kinfolk bickering needed for this one, Hector, 'cause they're both right. In Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Michigan, you have a period of one year from the drawing date to turn in a winning ticket. They like to call that the "anniversary" date. In Virginia, Georgia, Texas, Washington and Ohio, the time limit really is 180 days. In Maryland, the limit is 182 days from the drawing date. (I'd ask Sis to bop right down to the pay window in no more than a week.)

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Gambling quote of the week: *The holiday season is always a bad time of year for amateur gambling addicts. They are weak people, as a rule, and they are not built for grueling long-distance work.* - Hunter S Thompson



Sudoku Puzzle
August 21, 2026

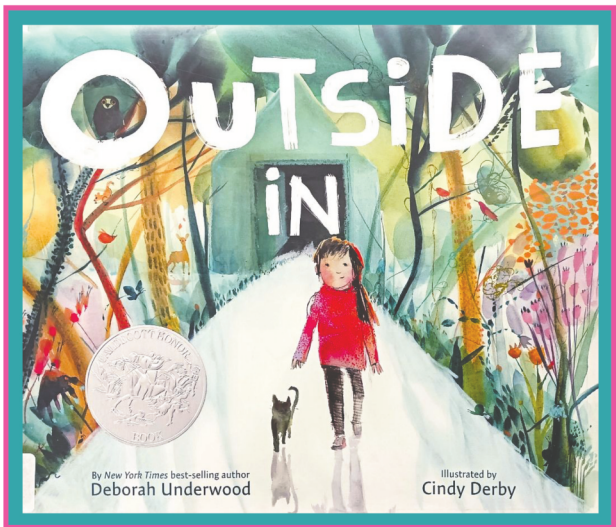
			1	8				4
	5	3			4		8	2
8				2				6
	7		3		2	4	1	
5	1	8	9	4				3
3						7	9	
9		7			6		4	1
		5			1	8	6	
		1						9

Solution on page 15

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StoryWalk®

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AUGUST 1st-30th



Time & Location

Daily, Dawn to Dusk
Coy Mountain, 9011 Valley St, Alden

= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

Acting Before Feeling

How many times have we been told—or told ourselves—that if we just felt better, we could act better? These days, we're told by sources such as the media and well-meaning counselors that the key to a better life is learning to manage our emotions. If we can just change how we feel, then we'll do better, make better decisions, and become healthier people.

The irony is that the fastest way to feel better isn't found by focusing on our emotions. More often than not, it's found through action.

Our culture encourages emotional relief. We chase dopamine, seek instant gratification, and want discomfort to disappear as quickly as possible. While there's nothing wrong with wanting to feel better, we often make the mistake of believing that our emotions must change before our behavior can.

In reality, the opposite is true.

Meaningful action often comes before meaningful emotional change.

Think about exercise. How many mornings have you woken up tired, sore, or unmotivated and

thought, "I just don't feel like working out today"? If we wait until motivation arrives, we may never leave the house. Yet once we take a walk, stretch, lift a few weights, or finish a workout, something remarkable happens. We feel better because we acted first. Motivation didn't create the action; the action created the motivation.

Belonging works the same way. We don't usually wake up feeling connected. We become connected by showing up, joining a group, calling a friend, volunteering, or simply starting a conversation. The feeling of belonging often follows the decision to participate.

Our feelings matter. They provide us with valuable information about our inner and outer worlds, but they aren't always the best place to begin. More often than we realize, our emotions follow our actions rather than precede them.

That's why we feel better when we go for a walk when we'd rather stay on the couch. It's why we call a friend when we'd rather isolate ourselves from others, and it's why we choose forgiveness before we feel ready.

Waiting to feel better can leave us feeling stuck, and this is the exact opposite of what we intended. Small, intentional actions can create the emotional momentum we've been waiting for.

The path to feeling better often begins by doing something worthwhile before you feel like doing it. This is another way we win at life.

-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECF

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Adam DeVaney is a clinical social worker and therapist with over a decade of experience working with clients with a diversity of challenges from addiction and anxiety to overcoming trauma and helping people to learn what it takes to live their best lives. Along with his wife, Mandi, he founded Life's Work Clinic in Kalkaska, Michigan, and Life's Work Coaching with a local and global footprint. Adam has dedicated his life to serving others and walking with them on their healing journeys.

LIFE'S WORK CLINIC

Hear My "No"

"No" is a small word with a big impact. It can stop so many things in life. How many times a day do we say "no" to someone? How many times do kids hear or say the word "no"? Do we actually hear what is being said, or do we just ignore it?

There are two types of listening. Listening to respond and listening to be heard. Then there is the idea of do we actually listen to what our kids have to say, or do we listen to just respond? I truly think it is a mixture.

When kids tell adults "no" it can of course be an instant reaction by the adults of rebellion by the child. But then there is the answer of "no" that kids say because they truly don't want to do something or don't understand what is happening.

There are times when we as adults need to sit down and listen to what children are saying. They may have a very valid reason why they are saying "no" to you. We need to listen to the why of a child saying "no". Not just automatically responding in frustration or anger simply because a child dared to tell you "no".

If you don't listen to the reason for the why of a child's "no", you might

very easily miss something important, or your child may not come to you as easily the next time. Many kids hear the word "no" all day long and they just want a yes for something.

When a child hears the word "no" they feel like they have no control in a situation. To help your child feel like they have some control in their lives you can do simple things like giving them a choice of what snacks they have, or what shirt they wear to school.

This gives a child the chance to learn to make choices in life. They may seem like simple choices, but it is still a choice. This gives your child the chance to choose for themselves what they want in some small way. As they get older, they can learn to make bigger choices. Learning to make good choices is a very important part of growing up.

Alison Neihardt, LPC, NCC

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Alison Neihardt is a local child therapist at her private practice Helping Kids Counseling Services, LLC located in Kalkaska, MI. Reached at 231-590-4812 or email hkupnorth@gmail.com

Alden Library Presents:



Blues Musician,
Nick Veine

Sunday, August 30th, 2pm

Outdoors at Alden Depot

FREE EVENT. Bring a chair.

In the event of rain, this event will be held at Helena Township Community Center, location of the library.

Sponsored by: Alden District Library
8751 Helena Rd., Alden
(231) 331-4318

The Garfield Township Historical Society names the 2026 Pioneer Family

The Daniel and Laura Hatley Family have been selected as the Garfield Historical Society's (GHS) 2026 Pioneer Family. Their descendants will be recognized and honored August 29th at the Garfield Museum.

Daniel Hatley first arrived in Kalkaska County in 1914 to clear the land and establish their 400 acres Homestead on Hatley Road where he planned to farm and raise cattle. He first needed a home for his young family; he ordered a building package from Sears and Roebuck; it was delivered by train to McGee. He transported the building materials to the farm by horse drawn wagon. In the Spring of 2015, upon completing the house building project, his wife Laura arrived by train and joined him with their sons Wilbur and Edwin. Their family grew to include seven (7) children; Wilbur, Edwin, Alice, Ruah, Thelma, Alva (Jerry) and Cleo. All attended the Perrin School on West Sharon Road in Garfield Township. Daniel and Laura are buried in the Old Garfield Cemetery. Since those early days, the Hatley Family has played an integral role in the life of this rural community, and were important members of the social, cultural and spiritual needs of their neighbors; descendants of the Hatley Family continue to live in the Sharon Area and carry on the family tradition of Community Service to the Greater Community. The extended Hatley Family still own a significant portion of the original family farm affectionately known as The Antler Club.

The GHS Chair will make a presentation to the 2026 Pioneer Family at 1100AM Saturday August 29th at the Garfield Museum. A picnic at Veterans Memorial Park will follow; this community-wide picnic celebrates the pioneer spirit, determination and rugged individualism of past and present families. The Garfield Historical Society (GHS) recognizes the grit, determination and accomplishments of those earliest settlers who built the foundation of our community

SAVE THE DATE...and our history. "We have a museum full of facts, figures and photos accumulated over the years, but we need more stories, memories and impressions of growing up and living in our community that add texture to our historical character" said Garfield Historical Society (GHS) Chair Mary Lou Stuck.

For Additional Information Contact Jerry Cannon at 231-369-3333



Alden UMW Rummage Sale

The United Methodist Women's rummage sale in Alden, this year, ran from Thursday through Sunday, August 13-16. Household items, clothing, shoes, baby carriers, toys, books, jewelry, glassware - virtually anything one can think of was displayed at the Alden Community United Methodist Church.

Two garages, a portion of the parking lot, the sidewalk in front of the church doors, the fellowship hall in the basement as well as a classroom, overflowed with treasures of all kinds.



O&A - cont. from page 11

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), St Anthony Catholic Church, 209 Jefferson Ave, Mancelona
When: Mon, Wed, Fri 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Forrest Home Township Hall, 351 Bridge St, Bellaire
When: Mon, Wed, 12:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Forrest Home Township Hall, 351 Bridge St, Bellaire
When: Mon, Thu, 12:00 pm

TOPS #1304 Meeting, Kalkaska United Ministries for Christ, 2525 Beebe Rd, Kalkaska, contact 231 384-2154
When: Tue, 9:00 am weigh ins, 10:00 am meeting

Al-Anon Family Group, Stepping Toward Serenity, on ZOOM: login info on meeting list at Alanon-d39.org
When: Tues, at noon.

Al-Anon, Al-Teen Meeting for Families & Friends of Alcoholics, (Kalkaska COA) Senior Center, 303 S Coral St, contact Linda 231 384-3227
When: Tue, 7:00 pm (except 5th Tue in a month)

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Kalkaska Senior Center, 303 S Coral St
When: Tue, 8:00 pm

Secular Sobriety Group, AA of Traverse City, meets on ZOOM, ID#447 584 8945 PW 628608, more info at secularAAinMichigan.org
When: Tue, Thu, 7 pm, Sun, 12 pm (also in person)

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings (AA), Kalkaska United Ministries for Christ, 2525 Beebe Rd
When: Tue, Thu, Sat 12:00 pm

NPH - Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus Support Group

For those diagnosed with NPH, their caregivers, family members, or anyone seeking more information about NPH. This is an open discussion in a welcoming environment. Kalkaska Commission on Aging, 303 S Coral St, Kalkaska.
When: 2nd Tue. 10:00 am

Weight Management Support Group, Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, 419 S. Coral St, Classroom A, contact Ashley Snyder, 231 258-3613
When: 2nd Tue, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Diabetes Support Group, Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, 419 S. Coral St, Classroom A, contact Ashley Snyder, 231 258-3613
When: 4th Tue, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Fife Lake Village Office, 616 Bates Rd
When: Wed, 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Central Lake VFW Hall, 1805 S. Main St,
When: Wed, 8:00 pm

Grief Support Group, (Kalkaska COA) Senior Center, 303 S Coral St, all ages welcome, contact 231 258-5030
When: 2nd and 4th Wed, 10:30 am

Antrim Co Parkinson Support Group, Bellaire Family Health Center, 4955 S M-88, Bellaire, 231 633-1237
When: 3rd Wed, 2 pm

Grief Support, Kalkaska Church of Christ, 1725 W. Kalkaska Rd, faith-based grief support, contact 231 258-9441
When: Thu, 6:00 pm

All Recovery Meeting, Ursela House, 8099 West Old State Rd, Central Lake, peer led support group for people in recovery and/or their family members, 231 266-4412
When: Thu, 8:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), St Paul’s Lutheran Church, 2470 Beebe Rd, Open Meeting
When: Thu, 8:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), The Rock Youth Center, 115 E Blair, Kingsley
When: Thu, 7:00 pm

Deliverance, Kalkaska Baptist Church, 1651 Co Rd 612, Kalkaska, faith-based support for all addictions, contact Heath 231 564-3715
When: Fri, 6:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Surrender Today Coldsprings Fellowship Church, 532 S. Cedar St, Kalkaska
When: Fri, 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Fife Lake Village Office, 616 Bates Rd,
When: Fri, 8:00 pm

Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Mill Pond Pavilion, Hyde St, Kalkaska
When: Sat, 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Bellaire United Methodist Church, 401 N. Bridge St, Bellaire
When: Sat, 8:00 pm



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303 S. Coral St

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Government Meetings

Kalkaska County Townships:

Bear Lake Township,
Bear Lake Twp Hall, 198 E Bear Lake Rd NE, Kalkaska, 231-258-4871
When: 2nd Tue, 7 pm

Blue Lake Township,
Blue Lake Twp Hall, 10599 Twin Lake Rd, Mancelona, 231-587-8354
When: 1st Wed, 7 pm

Boardman Township,
Boardman Twp Hall/Fire Dept, 4855 Pine St, South Boardman, 231-369-3336
When: 3rd Wed, 7 pm

Clearwater Township,
Clearwater Twp Community Center, 5407 River St, Rapid City, 231-331-6249
When: 3rd Thu, 7 pm

Coldsprings Township,
Coldsprings Twp Hall, 6515 County Road 571 NE, Mancelona, 231-587-8633
When: 2nd Mon, 5 pm

Excelsior Township,
Excelsior Twp Hall, 987 County Road 571 NE, Kalkaska, 231-258-6108
When: 1st Mon, 5 pm (on major holiday the Tue after)

Garfield Township,
Garfield Twp Hall, 0466 W Sharon Rd, Fife Lake, 231-369-2483
When: 2nd Thur, 7 pm

Kalkaska Township ,
Kalkaska Twp Hall / Fire Department, 209 Laurel St, 231-258-9305
When: 1st Wed, 5 pm

Oliver Township,
Oliver Twp Hall, 5472 Kniss Rd SE, 262-339-2239
When: 2nd Tue, 6 pm

Orange Township,
Orange Twp Hall, 28 Boardman Rd SE, South Boardman, 231-369-3457
When: 2nd Mon, 7 pm

Rapid River Township,
Rapid River Twp Hall, 101 Phelps Rd, Kalkaska, 231-258-2943
When: 2nd Tue, 7 pm

Springfield Township,
Springfield Twp Hall, 5253 Ingersoll Rd SW, Fife Lake, 231-879-4541
When: 2nd Tue, 7 pm

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Village of Central Lake, Central Lake Governmental Building, 1622 N. M-88, Central Lake, 231 544-6483
When: 2nd Wed, 7:00 pm

Central Lake Township, Central Lake Governmental Building, 1622 N. M-88, Central Lake, 231 544-6687
When: 3rd Wed, 7:00 pm

Village of Bellaire:
Village Offices, 202 N. Bridge St, Bellaire, 231 533-8213
Village Council-
When: 1st Wed, 7:00 pm
DDA- When: last Wed, 8:00 am

Village of Mancelona:
Village Offices, 120 W. State, Mancelona, 231 587-8331
When: 2nd Tue, 6:00 pm

Mancelona DDA, Antrim County Title, 504 S. Williams, Mancelona, 231 58-833
When: 2nd Mon, 5:30 pm

Mancelona Township:
Township Offices, 9610 S. M-88, Mancelona, 231 587-8651
When: 3rd Mon, 6:00 pm

Village of Fife Lake:
Village Hall, 616 Bates St, Fife Lake, 231 879-4291
Village Council-
When: 3rd Mon, 6:30 pm
DDA-When: 3rd Tues, quarterly Jan, April, July, October, 6:00 pm

Fife Lake Township:
Township Meeting Room, 134 Morgan St, 231 879-3963
When: 4th Thur, Jan-Oct, 6:00 pm

Village of Kingsley:
Village Offices, 207 S. Brownson, 231 263-7778
Village Council- When: 2nd Mon, 6:00 pm
DDA- When: 3rd Tue, 6:00 pm

Paradise Township:
Township Hall, 2300 E. M-113, Kingsley, 231 263-5251
When: 2nd Wed, 6:00 pm

Helena Township:
Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231 331-4643
When: 2nd Thu, 7:00 pm

Village of Kalkaska:
Village Offices, 200 Hyde St, Kalkaska, 231-258-9191
Village Council-
When: 2nd Mon, 6 pm
DDA-
When: 1st Tue, 5:00 pm

Kalkaska County:
Kalkaska County BOC Chambers, Administration Building, 605 N Birch St, 231-258-3349
Board of Commissioners-
When: 3nd Wed, 5 pm

Standing Committees-
When: 2nd Wed, times below
Judiciary & Public Health- 9 am
Health & Welfare- 10 am
Public Works- 11 am
Personnel/Interview- 1 pm
Budget & Finance- 2 pm (also meets the Tue before, 5 pm)
County Affairs/IT & Computer- 3 pm

The Northwest Michigan Voice is delivered to these locations every other week:

- Alden**
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Alden State Bank
Alden District Library
Legacy Watersports & Marina
Higgins Store
Paradise Properties
TCC Artisan Market
The Muffin Tin

Bellaire
Applesauce Inn
Bellaire Public Library

Central Lake
Central Lake District Library
Mary's Market

Fife Lake
Fife Lake Public Library
Forest Area Federal Credit Union
The Upper Bar & Grill
Village Market

Kalkaska
Advanced Office Supply
All Seasons Hotel & Resort
Birch Street Dental Care
Carter Lumber
Earth's Garden
Family Fare
Forest Area Federal Credit Union North
K.A.I.R.
Kaliseum
- Kalkaska Commission on Aging
Kalkaska County Building
Kalkaska County Library
Kalkaska Funeral Home
McLean's Hardware
Midas
Northland Foods
Rodeway Inn
The Shopping Basket
Trout Town Tavern & Eatery
Voice Motors

Kingsley
Kingsley Branch Library
Kingsley Village Offices

Mancelona
Habitat for Humanity ReStore
Iron Skillet
KMH - Mancelona Campus
Mancelona Public Library
NAPA Auto Parts
The Hen's Den

Rapid City
Absolute Shear Shack
Johnny's Torch Riviera
Township Hall
Village Market

South Boardman
Yankee Boy

It is also delivered to several of the local churches, to the schools (during the school year) , and the Emergency Department of KMH, as well as to select senior living facilities.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS This 21st day of August 2026, notice is given in the estate of Allen V. Miller, late of Kalkaska, Michigan, deceased (01/22/1949~ 05/25/2026). All claims against the above estate duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the Estate of Allen W. Miller, c/o Nancy Worthing, 328 Portage Lake Rd, Munith, MI 49259, before November 30, 2026.

School Board Meetings

Kalkaska Public Schools,
Board of Education room, 315 S Coral St Kalkaska , 231-258-9100
When: 3rd Mon, 6 pm

Forest Area Community Schools
Band Room, Forest Area High School, 7661 Shippy Rd SW, Fife Lake 231-369-4191
When: 2nd Mon, 7:00 pm

Crawford School, Excelsior District #1
Crawford School 5621 M-72 NE, Kalkaska 231-258-2934
When: 3rd Wed, 4:00 pm



Mancelona Public Schools
Media Center, Mancelona Middle School, 1122 St Johns Ave, Mancelona 231-587-9764
When: 2nd Tue, 4:30 pm

Central Lake Public Schools,
8190 W. State St, Central Lake, 231 544-3341
When: 2nd Mon, 6:30 pm

Bellaire Public Schools,
204 W. Forest Home Ave, Bellaire, 231-533-8015
When: 3rd Mon, 6:30 pm

Kingsley Area Schools,
High School Library, 7475 Kingsley Rd, Kingsley
When: 2nd Mon, 7:00 pm

Sudoku Puzzle Solution August 21, 2026

7	2	6	1	8	9	3	5	4
1	5	3	7	6	4	9	8	2
8	9	4	5	2	3	1	7	6
6	7	9	3	5	2	4	1	8
5	1	8	9	4	7	6	2	3
3	4	2	6	1	8	7	9	5
9	8	7	2	3	6	5	4	1
2	3	5	4	9	1	8	6	7
4	6	1	8	7	5	2	3	9

Puzzle on page 8

The Great Surfboard Auction

By Tina Norris Fields

The first ever community surfboard auction was held at Johnny's Torch Riviera on Friday, August 14, 2026. The brainchild of a small group of community volunteers to benefit the Alden Firefighters Association, this novel event took off like wildfire when folks learned about it. Blank surfboards were donated by Jerry Pascoe and given out to businesses and individuals in the area to be decorated and returned for the auction. Deborah Pascoe and Jill Saarela decorated the restaurant in a summer beach theme. As the decorated boards came back in, they stood proudly on display, just waiting for the big day.

Jody Fielo, manager of Johnny's Torch Riviera, said they began with only 8 boards and ended up with 22, having run out of boards twice. One enterprising customer came in and traced a surfboard so he could cut one out on his own.

Friday night, Jody reports, all the boards sold and the bids were astonishing. One board sold for \$1,800, another for \$1,500, and another for \$1,200, while several more brought in over \$1,000 each. The total raised was over \$13,000. The proceeds will go to support the work of the Alden Firefighters Association, such as holiday food baskets for local families, Christmas giving trees, community dinners, and many forms of assistance for people in need.

This reporter asked if the event was successful enough to encourage another one next year. Jody said yes, they are already thinking up ideas for next year. She said "We have true heroes on the Firefighters Association as well as businesses and members of the community!"

It's all about the community, and that is this week's bright spot.



302 W Mile Rd, Kalkaska ★★★★★ 231-258-9178

Sales:
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Sat 9 am - 3 pm
Sun CLOSED

Service & Parts:
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