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# Voice

Celebrating the good news below the bridge

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As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy

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## TAAG Arts & Crafts Show

By Tina Norris Fields

ALDEN – Every year, on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, TAAG (Torch Area Artisans Guild) holds its huge Arts & Crafts Show in the Helena Township Community Center.

On Friday afternoon, the gym and two side rooms get transformed into an amazing bazaar of vendor booths filled to overflowing with items of every kind. From handmade mittens to Michigan stone wall art, from paintings to pottery, from decorative hanging pieces featuring repurposed CDs to crocheted finger puppets to reversible aprons to fanciful double towels for kitchen use to stained glass jewelry. The variety is stunning.

Oh, and don't forget the seemingly endless supply of baked goods as well as the fun luncheon menu! Yes, there's enough here to keep you occupied from the moment the show opens at 9 in the morning until it closes at 3 in the afternoon.

If you missed it this year, be sure to mark your calendar for next year - it's always on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Vol2025:24 -  
November 28, 2025



# OUT & ABOUT

**Editor's note:** This space is free to community organizations to promote events which are of benefit to the residents in and around Kalkaska County. Email your information to [tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com](mailto:tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com). Please include date and time of the event, a contact number or email address. We prefer that you not include prices.

## SENIOR & COMMUNITY MEALS

**Senior Lunch** Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, no reservation required for dine-in, carry out meal (w/o salad bar), all ages welcome, contact 231 258-5030  
**When: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Salad bar at 11:30 am, Meal served at 12:00 pm**

**Senior Lunch** Antrim County COA, 308 E. Cayuga St, Bellaire, dine-in or carry out, 231 533-8703  
**When: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm for dine-in, 11:30 to 12:00 pm for carry out (site is open 8:30 am to 4:00 pm)**

**Senior Lunch**, Mancelona Senior Ctr, 122 E State St, dine-in available, RSVP the day before to Marianne at 231 587-9131  
**When: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Salad Bar 11 to 11:45 am, Lunch served 12:00 to 12:30 pm (site is open 9:00 am to 1:30 pm)**

**Senior Lunch**, Central Lake Meal Site, 1622 N. M-88, Central Lake, dine-in available, RSVP the day before to Lois at 231 544-6687  
**When: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 11:30 to 12:00 pm (site is open 10:00 am to 12:30 pm)**

**KAIR's Ladies of Love**, 107 W. Third St, free community meal, everyone is welcome, contact 231 258-7836  
**When: Mon, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**Senior Lunch** (Kalkaska COA), Garfield Township Hall, 0466 W. Sharon Rd, Fife Lake, dine-in or pick-up, RSVP by 9 am to Marci at 231 360-7697  
**When: Mon, 12 noon to 12:30 pm**

**Senior Meal**, Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, reservations must be made at the previous meal or 24 hours in advance, contact 231-922-4911  
**When: Tue, 11:45 am**

**Community Meal**, Mancelona United Methodist Church, 117 W. Hinman, Mancelona, canceled if Mancelona schools are closed for inclement weather, 231 587-8461  
**When: Tue, except holidays, 5 to 6 pm**

**Senior Lunch** (Kalkaska COA), Bear Lake Township Hall, 198 E. Bear Lake Rd, dine-in or pick-up, RSVP between 8:30 and 9 am to Iola at 941 270-1549  
**When: Tue, Thu, 12 noon to 12:30 pm**

**Senior Lunch** (Kalkaska COA), South Boardman Senior Center, 5503 Boardman Rd SW, dine-in or pick-up, RSVP by 9 am to Marci at 231 360-7697  
**When: Tue, Thu, 12:30 to 1:00 pm**

**Kalkaska Baptist Community Meal**, Kalkaska Baptist Church, 1151 CR 612, open to everyone, 217 871-5700  
**When: 2nd and last Tue, 5 to 7 pm**

**Senior Meal**, The Rock, 115 E. Blair St, Kingsley, reservations must be made at the previous meal or 24 hours in advance contact 231 922-4911  
**When: Wed, 11:30 am**

**Senior Lunch** (Kalkaska COA) Clearwater Township Hall, 5440 River St NW, Rapid City, dine-in or pick-up, RSVP by 8:30 am to Pam at 231 564-2794  
**When: Wed, 12 to 12:30 pm**

**Community Meal**, Kalkaska United Ministries for Christ, 2525 Beebe Rd, curbside pick-up or dine in, donations accepted, contact 231 258-2820  
**When: Wed, except holidays, 5 to 6 pm**

**Community Meal**, Kingsley United Methodist Church, 113 Blair St, Kingsley, contact 231 263-5278  
**When: 3rd Wed, 5 to 6:30 pm**

**Easy Meals Fundraiser for American Legion**, Dale H Wheeler American Legion Post 219, 10283 M-113, Fife Lake, dine-in or drive-thru, contact 231 879-4475  
**When: Thu, 5-6 pm**

**Veterans Dinner**, South Torch Lake Fire Department, 8765 Helena Rd, Alden, free dinner for Veterans and their families, contact 231 331-4204  
**When: 3rd Thu, 5:00 to 7:00 pm**

**Red Apron Community Dinner**, Bellaire Community United Methodist Church, 401 N. Bridge St, Bellaire, everyone is welcome to this free meal, 231 533-8133  
**When: Last Thur, 5:00 to 6:00 pm**

**Senior Omelet Breakfast**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, build your own omelet, alternate available each week, no reservation required, all ages welcome (may not be served on certain holidays or if special luncheons are scheduled), contact 231 258-5030  
**When: Fri, 8:00 to 9:00 am**

**Senior Breakfast**, Antrim County COA/Meal Site, 308 E. Cayuga St, Bellaire, menu changes weekly, 231 533-8703  
**When: Fri, 8:00 to 9:00 am**

**Pasties & Pot Pies for Sale**, Coldsprings Excelsior Township Area (CETA) Hall, 6615 County Rd 612, (to confirm dates and availability, call 231 258-9912)  
**When: Fri, 1 to 3 pm**

**Fish Fry**, Dale H. Wheeler American Legion Post 219, 10283 M-113, Fife Lake, dine-in, \$15 all-you-can-eat, age 5 and under is free, contact 231 879-4475  
**When: 1st Fri, 4:30 to 7:00 pm (or until sold out)**

**Free Breakfast**, Bear Lake Christian Church, 221 E. Bear Lake Rd SE, Kalkaska, sausage, eggs, and pancakes breakfast, open to the community, contact 231-258-6107  
**When: 3rd Sat, 8:00 to 10:00 am**

**Pancake Breakfast**, Bellaire Masonic Lodge, 4905 Stover Rd, Bellaire, pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, coffee, and orange juice, \$10 plate, contact 713 665-4100  
**When: last Sat, 7:00 to 11:00 am**

**VFW & Central Lake AmVets Monthly Breakfast**, Central Lake AmVets, 1840 S. Main St, Central Lake, serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, sausage gravy & biscuits, hash browns, toast, beverages, 231 544-6455  
**When: 1st Sun, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**Family Meal Distribution**, The Orchard Church, 3903 Voice Rd, Kingsley, drive thru pick-up of a day's worth of meals for a day (breakfast, lunch, dinner) for a family of six, open to all, contact 231 263-8267  
**When: Last Sun, 4:30 to 6:00 pm**

**Swiss Steak Dinner**, Bellaire Masonic Lodge, 4905 Stover Rd, Bellaire, includes dessert and beverages, proceeds to help with the Masons scholarship activities and help within the community, contact 231 377-7156  
**When: Last Sun, 4:30 to 7:00 pm**

## FARMERS' MARKET

**Bellaire Winter Farmers' Market**, 102 Maple St, Bellaire, inside the ASI Community Center, 231 350-8835  
**When: Fri, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (through May '25)**

## FOOD PANTRIES

**Little Free Pantry**, Alden United Methodist Church, 9015 Helena Rd, Alden, located in front yard of the church  
**When: available anytime**

**Fife Lake Community Church**, 206 Boyd St, call 231 879-4270  
**When: hours by appointment only**

**Share Shack Free Food Pantry**, Bear Lake Christian Church, 221 E. Bear Lake Rd SE, Kalkaska, located in the parking lot, 231-258-6107  
**When: available anytime**

**KAIR Food Pantry/Thrift Store**, 324 S. Cedar St, Kalkaska, available to Kalkaska and Antrim County residents, curbside pickup only, call 231 258-0060 ext 4 by 2:45 pm to make an appointment  
**When: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Bellaire Food Pantry**, 205 E. Broad St, 231-533-8600  
**When: Mon & Thu 10 am - 4 pm, Sat 10 am - 12 pm**

**ACTS (Acme Christian Thrift Store & Pantry)**, 8925 M-72 East, Williamsburg, serving Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, & Antrim counties, by appt, 231 267-3002  
**When: Tues 5 - 7 pm, Wed 1 - 4 pm, Sat 10 am - 1 pm**

**Mancelona Food Pantry & Resale**, 201 N. Maple St, Mancelona, 231-676-1686  
**When: Tues, Wed, Thu, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Central Lake Community Food Pantry**, 1875 Main St, Central Lake, 231-544-6878  
**When: Tue 5:00 to 7:00 pm, Fri 3:00 to 5:00 pm**

**Kingsley United Methodist Church**, 113 Blair St, Kingsley, call 231 263-5278 for appt if you are unable to come during open hours  
**When: Wed & Fri, 9 am to 12 pm**

**Rapid City Area Food Pantry**, 9456 Valley Rd NW, Rapid City, donations accepted, contact Christine at 231 331-6246  
**When: Fri, except holidays, 11 am to 1:30 pm**

**Kingsley Baptist Church**, 7511 Blackman Rd, Kingsley, call Jessica at 231-263-5650 for apt if you are unable to come during open hours  
**When: 2nd & 4th Fri, 1:00 to 3:00 pm**

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

**Yoga**, Fife Lake Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, with Peggy Williams, restorative yoga, suggested donation of \$5-10 per class, contact [lakesidetherapeutics@gmail.com](mailto:lakesidetherapeutics@gmail.com), to register, email [kspratt@tadl.org](mailto:kspratt@tadl.org)  
**When: Mon, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Yoga**, ASI Community Center & Park, 102 Maple St, Bellaire, with Daryl Allison-Busch, licensed instructor, contact 231 564-0010  
**When: Mon, 12:30 pm (Gentle) and 2 pm (Hatha)**

**Bootcamp Class**, Kaliseum Recreation Complex, 1900 Fairgrounds Rd, included in Kaliseum membership or \$10 drop-in fee, Instructor Nickey Torrey, 231 258-5913  
**When: Mon, 7:00 to 7:45 pm**

**Yoga**, Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, contact 231 331-4643  
**When: Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30 to 9:30 am**

**Let's Get Moving**, Bellaire Community United Methodist Church, 401 N. Bridge St, Bellaire, 30-minute "Body Groove" video for all levels (can be done in a chair, too) lead by Cherese Villareal, contact 580 471-7778  
**When: Mon, Wed, 11:00 to 11:30 am**

**Chair Exercise**, Antrim County COA/Sr Meal Site, 308 E. Cayuga St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8703  
**When: Mon, Wed, Thu, 10 to 10:45 am**

**Aerobic Exercise with Weights**, (Kalkaska COA) Senior Center, 303 S. Coral St, bring small hand weights or two cans of soup, contact 231 258-5030  
**When: Mon, Fri, 10:30 to 11:30 am**

**Lyrical/Contemporary Dance for Adults**, ASI Community Center, 102 S. Maple St, Bellaire, \$10 cost, contact 231 572-2518  
**When: 1st Tues, 5:45 to 6:45 pm**

**Wii Bowling**, Antrim County COA/Sr Meal Site, 308 E. Cayuga St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8703  
**When: Tue, 12:30 to 1:30 pm**

**Line Dance**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, all skill levels welcome, contact 231 258-5030  
**When: Tue, 1:00 pm**

**Table Tennis**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, contact 231 258-5030  
**When: Tue, 2:00 pm**

**Line Dancing**, Fife Lake Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, equipment provided, focused on seniors, 231 922-4911  
**When: Tue, Thu, 10:00 am**

**Yoga for Seniors**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, contact 231 258-5030  
**When: Tue, Thu, 10:00 am**

**Cardio Drumming**, Fife Lake Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, equipment provided, focused on seniors, contact to register 231 922-4911  
**When: Tue, Thu, 10:00 am**

**Fitness Over Fifty**, Fife Lake Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, contact to register 231 922-4911  
**When: Tue, Thu, 10:30 to 11:30 am**

**Chair Yoga**, The Rock, 115 E. Blair St, Kingsley, class size is limited, advance registration is required, 231 922-4911  
**When: Wed, Fri, 9:15 am**

**Senior Exercise Class**, Bear Lake Township Hall, 198 E. Bear Lake Rd NE, open for all seniors, mixing yoga, light impact aerobics, strength training, contact 989 330-7538  
**When: Wed, 9:00 to 10:00 am**

**Taekwondo**, Kaliseum Recreation Complex, 1900 Fairgrounds Rd, included in Kaliseum membership or \$10 adults/\$5 child or senior drop-in fee, ages 6 years +, Instructor Mr. Allan, 231 258-5913  
**When: Wed, 4:30 to 5:30 pm**

**Strong Nation Class**, Kaliseum Recreation Complex, 1900 Fairgrounds Rd, included in Kaliseum membership or \$10 drop-in fee, Instructor Lanae Bump, contact 231 258-5913  
**When: Wed, 6:00 to 6:45 pm**

**Hand & Foot**, CETA Hall, 6615 CR612 NE, 231 587-9475  
**When: Thu, 10 am - noon**

**Wii Bowling**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, COVID guidelines observed. contact 231 258-5030  
**When: Thu, 1:00 pm**

**Pound Class**, Kaliseum Recreation Complex, 1900 Fairgrounds Rd, included in Kaliseum membership or \$10 drop-in fee, Instructor Nickey Torrey, contact 231 258-5913  
**When: Thu, 6:00 to 6:45 pm**

**Video-Lead Yoga**, Fife Lake Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, adult/senior video lead beginner friendly, low impact yoga, no registration needed, yoga mats available to borrow, contact 231 879-4101  
**When: Fri, 9:00 to 10:00 am**

**Bootcamp Class**, Kaliseum Recreation Complex, 1900 Fairgrounds Rd, included in Kaliseum membership or \$10 drop-in fee, Instructor Nickey Torrey, contact 231 258-5913  
**When: Fri, 9:00 to 10:00 am**

## BINGO, CARDS & BOARD GAMES

**Antrim County Duplicate Bridge Club**, ASI Community Center & Park, 102 Maple St, Bellaire, 231 590-7293  
**When: Mon, 12:45 pm**

**Penny Bingo**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, all are welcome, \$1 donation, play with pennies, win pennies, bring lots of pennies or purchase from COA, contact 231 258-5030  
**When: Mon, 1:30 to 3:30 pm**

# OUT & ABOUT

**Euchre**, CETA Hall, 6615 CR612 NE, 231 587-9475

**When: Mon, 6 pm**

**Beginning Bridge**: Sign-up is now occurring for this ten-week course that is being held at Helena Township Community Center in Alden. Cost: \$10 for book and \$5 suggested donation per lesson. Come, have fun, and meet some bridge players! Lessons, taught by Judy Kuiper, an ACBL Best Practices certified bridge teacher. To sign up, contact Judy at [jkuijper@learnsselfcompassion.com](mailto:jkuijper@learnsselfcompassion.com) or 616-581-4668. Sponsored by Alden District Library and the Antrim County Bridge Club.

**When: Tue 10 am - noon**

**Mah-Jongg**, People of all skill levels are invited to play. Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

**When: Tue, 1 to 4 pm**

**Euchre**, (Kalkaska COA) 303 S. Coral St, \$5.00 buy-in, 231 258-5030

**When: Tue, 1 pm**

**Euchre**, Antrim County COA/Sr Meal Site, 308 E. Cayuga St, Bellaire, \$5.00 buy-in, contact 231 533-8703

**When: Tues, 6:00 pm**

**Piggit Hoggit**, The Rock, 115 E. Blair St, Kingsley, euchre taken to the next level, \$1, contact 231 922-4911

**When: Wed, 9:15 am OR 12:00 pm????**

**199er Bridge Game & Free Lessons**: Free lessons at 11:30am. Lunch (bring your own) and bridge talk at Noon. ACBL-sanctioned bridge game for \$5.00 at 12:30pm. For more details, contact Lou Slyker at 248-770-6152 or [ljslslyker@gmail.com](mailto:ljslslyker@gmail.com)

**When: Wed 11:30 am except 3rd Wed each month (May 7 - Oct 29)**

**Jackpot Bingo**, (Kalkaska COA) Senior Center, 303 S Coral St, fundraiser for the Senior Center, community welcome, must be 18+, contact 231 258-5030

**When: Wed, seating begins 4 pm, warm ups at 5 pm, regular games at 6 pm**

**Bingo**, The Rock, 115 E. Blair St, Kingsley, \$1, contact 231 922-4911

**When: Wed, Fri 10:15 to 11:15 am**

**Billiards**, The Rock, 115 E. Blair St, Kingsley, enjoy a game on a first-come, first-served basis, all equipment provided, contact 231 922-4911

**When: Wed, Fri 9:15 am to 12:15 pm**

**Pinochle**, CETA Hall, 6615 CR612 NE, 231 587-9475

**When: Wed, 6 pm**

**Mah-jongg**, Antrim County COA/Sr Meal Site, 308 E. Cayuga St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8703

**When: Thu, 12:45 pm**

**Euchre**, Rapid City Community Center (Red School House), 5407 River St, Rapid City, 231 331-6249

**When: Thu, 1 pm**

**Bingo**, Antrim County COA/Sr Meal Site, 308 E. Cayuga St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8703

**When: 3rd Thu, during Birthday Dinner at 11:30 am**

**Bingo**, ASI, 102 S. Maple St, Bellaire, community welcome must be 18+, contact 231 350-8835

**When: 2nd & 4th Thu, Doors open 4 pm, play 5 pm**

**Euchre**, The Rock, 115 E. Blair St, Kingsley, single player with individual scoring, experience is necessary for team play, lessons available, contact 231 922-4911

**When: Fri 10:15 am to 12:15 pm**

**Pantry Bingo**, Kalkaska Sr Center 303 S. Coral St, all are welcome, play for pantry items, \$1 donation 231 258-5030

**When: Fri, 1:30 to 3:30 pm**

**Bingo**, American Legion Hall, 9850 S. Front St, Mancelona community welcome, must be 18+, 231 499-2364

**When: Sat, doors open at 4 pm, play begins at 6 pm**

**Pool**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, open to anyone who wants to play, must contact 231 258-5030 with your name and number

**When: Sat, 6 pm**

## Crafts & Hobbies

**Small Crafts Groups**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, bring a personal small craft to work on while socializing, many are willing to teach basics of crochet, knitting, embroidery, etc, 231 258-5030

**When: Mon, 9:00 to 11:00 am**

**Wood Carvers**, Kalkaska Senior Center 303 S. Coral St, all levels of skill, teaching available, 231 258-5030

**When: Mon, 6 pm**

**Torch Area Artisans Guild (TAAG)**: This artisans' group has been creating art and contributing to the community for over 40 years. Newcomers are always welcome! For more info, email [taartisansguild@gmail.com](mailto:taartisansguild@gmail.com). Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

**When: Tue, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (except Dec 16)**

**Quilters Corner**, Antrim County COA, 308 E. Cayuga St, Bellaire, bring your own project, 231 533-8703

**When: Tue, 12:30 to 2:20 pm;**

**Juniper Garden Club**, Clearwater Township Community Center, 5407 River St, Rapid City, contact 231 629-2498, new members welcome

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Tue, 1:00 pm**

**Alden Knitters & Crocheters**, All skill levels welcome! For info, contact Sue Archer at 231-944-0013. Sponsored by Alden District Library, held at Helena Township Community Center & Library, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

**When: Tue, 2:00 to 4:00 pm (except Dec 23)**

**Knitting** - Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St,

**When: Thu 10 to noon**

**Group Painting**, Antrim County COA/Sr Meal Site, 308 E. Cayuga St, Bellaire, 231 533-8703

**When: Thu, 10:30 am**

**Fiber Arts Group**, Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Ln, Fife Lake, bring your own lap project and craft with others by our warm fireplace, not lessons, contact 231 879-4101

**When: Thu, 3:00 to 4:30 pm**

**Kasky Kwilters**, (Kalkaska COA) Senior Center, 303 S Coral St, come see what we are doing! 231-384-0595

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Thu, 4:00 pm**

**Great Lakes Scale Modelers**, Traverse City Area District Library, 610 Woodmere Avenue, Thirlby Room. Plastic models, any scale, trains, planes, automobiles. Whatever floats your boat. Contact Bruce, 231-620-1767 or Frank, 231-228-3474

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat, 1To 4 pm**

**Antrim/Kalkaska Paper Crafters**, First Presbyterian Church in Elk Rapids. Soup and Salad Potluck lunch. Bring any handheld craft and work on your own project. Contact Beth Shuster at [beth\\_scrap1960@sbcglobal.net](mailto:beth_scrap1960@sbcglobal.net)

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat, 9am - 5pm**

## Children's Activities

**Tot Time**, Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Ln, Fife Lake, contact 231 879-4101

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Mon 10 am**

**STEAM Club** - Central Lake District Library, 7900 Maple St., Central Lake. For Elementary age kids 8 years old and up. Class size is limited, registration required. Contact 231-544-2517

**When: Mon, 3:15 to 4 pm**

**Story Time with Miss Diane**- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, open to children ages 0-5 and their caretakers, stories, crafts, snacks, 231 533-8814

**When: Tue, 10:00 am**

**Story Time**, Mancelona Township Library, 202 W. State St, Mancelona, stories and crafts, 231 587-9451

**When: Tue, 10:30 am**

**Wrigglers Preschool Story Time**, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson, Kingsley, children from birth to pre-kindergarten are welcome, stories, music, and movement, contact 231 263-5484

**When: Tue and Wed, 10:30 am**

**Story Time with Miss Diana**, Central Lake District Library, 7900 Maple St., Central Lake, with crafts, songs, stories, songs, and snacks, contact 231-544-2517

**When: Wed, 10:30 am**

**LEGO Club**, Central Lake District Library, 7900 Maple St, Central Lake, available to children ages 5+, drop-in club, registration required, call 231 544-2517

**When: Wed, 3:15 to 4:00 pm**

**5toOne Playgroup**, Kalkaska Early Head Start Classroom, 424 S. Cedar St, activities for children, resources for parents, music & movement, registration is encouraged, <https://bit.ly/EHSKAlRegistration>

**When: 2nd and 4th Wed, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm**

**Teen Dungeons & Dragons**, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson Ave, Kingsley, teen-led D&D campaign, everything needed is provided, refreshments, too, free activity and open to teens ages 13-19 years, parents are welcome, contact 231 263-5484

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu, 3:30 to 6:45 pm**

**5toOne Playgroup**, Rapid City Elementary, 5258 River St, Rapid City, child-led playtime, healthy snack, and story, registration is encouraged, <https://bit.ly/PlayinRapidCity>

**When: 2nd Thur, 8:45 to 10:00 am**

**Teen Challenge Board Games**, Central Lake District Library, 7900 Maple St, board games galore for teens age 12 and older, free with snacks provided, 231 54343-2517

**When: 4th Thur, 3:15 to 4:00 pm**

**Central Lake Community Playgroup**, First Congregation Church, 8066 W. State St, fun activities and lunch provided, meet in lower level. 231 347-0067

**When: Fri, 10:00 to 11:30 pm**

**Baby & Toddler Storytime**: Kalkaska County Library. Stories, music, movement, & crafts to promote literacy from birth to kindergarten. FREE. Includes 5toOne playgroup. Contact Kalkaska County Library at (231) 258-9411 or [info@kalkaskalibrary.org](mailto:info@kalkaskalibrary.org) for info.

**When: Fri 10:30 am**

**Story Time**, Mancelona Township Library, 202 W. State St, Mancelona, contact 231 587-9451

**When: Fri, 3:30 pm**

**5toOne Playgroup**, Mancelona School's Early Childhood Space, 203 Grove St, child-led playtime, healthy snack, and story, registration is encouraged, <https://bit.ly/PlayMancelona>

**When: 3rd Fri, 12:00 to 1:30 pm**

**O&A - continues on page 11**



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**231 - 258 - 5395**

508 N. Birch Street, Kalkaska

# OBITUARIES

## Terry Alan Neihardt

May 4, 1952 ~ November 10, 2025

Terry Alan Neihardt (73) of South Boardman, MI passed away on November 10, 2025. He was born on May 14, 1952, to Fredrick "Freddie" Neihardt and Mildred "Janette" Dewar (Campbell).



Neihardt of South Boardman, Nicole Frank, Tara Lunsford, & Michael Neihardt all of Arizona, former spouse Kimberly Neihardt of South Boardman, sister Janice Horton of South Boardman, nieces, nephews, lots of cousins and grandchildren: Michael, Isabelle (James), Curtis, Kayleigh, Taylor, and Liam, as well as one great grandchild: James "Tripp".

Terry was a proud United States Navy veteran. After the Navy, Terry enjoyed many years traveling the United States as a truck driver and an inspector on the pipeline. Terry was a pillar in the community. He was always helping others, often putting others' needs before his own. Terry would have given his last dollar to a stranger if it meant helping someone. Terry will be remembered for his quick wit, sarcastic humor, and his one-liners. These will bring smiles, laughter, and joy to his family's memories of him for years to come.

Terry is survived by his children Heather (Mike) Giganti of Kalkaska, Brian (April) Neihardt of Manton, Ethan (Cherie)

A celebration of life was held at the American Legion in South Boardman at 5479 E Boardman Rd, South Boardman, MI 49680 on November 15, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

## Lawrence "Larry" J. Stern

January 21, 1951 ~ November 19, 2025

Lawrence James "Larry" Stern, 74, of Kalkaska, passed away on Wednesday, November 19th, 2025. He was born on January 21st, 1951, in Detroit, Michigan, to Melvin and Mildred (Templin) Stern. Raised in Detroit, he graduated from Lutheran High School West in 1969. Larry spent 30 years with Chrysler Automotive at the Trenton Engine Plant. After retiring, he moved to Kalkaska, where he enjoyed the hobbies he loved most. He spent many happy days boating on Torch Lake, tinkering with his vehicles, riding his Harley in his younger years, and snowmobiling with his buddies. Larry was known for his sharp sense of humor, good-natured sarcasm, and he enjoyed going out to dinner with friends. Larry will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 39 years, Debra (May) Stern; daughter, Melanie Sanford; son,



Adam Stern; brother, Bob (Joyce) Stern; sister-in-law, Caroline Stern; six grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Rick Stern D.D.S. A funeral service was held on Monday, November 24th, 2025, at 1:00 PM at Kalkaska Church of Christ, with visitation beginning one hour prior. A burial service followed on Tuesday, November 25th, at 10:00 AM at Coldsprings Township Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Larry's honor may be made to the Live Well Kalkaska Substance Free Coalition. Please make checks payable to Catholic Human Services and include "Kalkaska Coalition" on the memo line. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

MANAGER:  
BRUCE A. ZENNER II

231-258-3346  
152 S. Cedar St.,  
Kalkaska



**KALKASKA**  
**FUNERAL HOME**  
AND CREMATION SERVICES  
KalkaskaFuneralHome.com

## Heath D. Ehl

February 25, 1979 ~ November 8, 2025

Heath D. Ehl, 46, of Kalkaska, passed away unexpectedly on November 8, 2025. Heath was born on February 25, 1979, in Traverse City to Rosalie (Dyson) and Terry Ehl. Heath is survived by his mother Rosalie Ehl; siblings Lynaia (James) Jackson, Gayle (Mike) Holland-Anderson, Kevin Holland, and Heather Ehl; children Maria (Brandon) George, Humberto "Nuno" (Emily) Casas, and Jeshua Ehl, and grandchildren Jayden Durga, Isaiah Durga, Serenity Casas, Killian George, Audrey Casas, Gracie Casas, and Allison Casas. He was preceded in death by his father Terry Ehl. Heath was loved by many for his humorous attitude and his strong desire to support others around him. Heath



was an active and memorable member of Kalkaska Baptist Church, supporting both those in his church and those outside his church in the Kalkaska County area. At KBC, he held his own weekly ministry called "Friday Night Deliverance," where he assisted and guided those who struggled with addiction, and explained how God can support them through their struggles. Heath's memorial service was held on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 11:00 am at the Kalkaska Funeral Home. Memorial contributions in memory of Heath may be directed to the Kalkaska Funeral Home. The family is being served by Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

## Joseph W. Mariage

February 1, 1932 ~ November 13, 2025

Joseph W. Mariage, age 93, of Rapid City, passed away on Thursday, November 13, 2025 with family by his side.



Joe was born and raised in Rapid City, Michigan, the oldest son of George and Gretchen Mariage, who owned and operated the GEM grocery. A lifelong learner, he was a proud member of the first graduating class of Northwestern Michigan University—an achievement he carried with pride throughout his life. He went on to earn both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State University.

Joe spent two years in the U.S. Army, where he formed close friendships and remembered his service through the stories of camaraderie, humor, and meaningful connections.

A dedicated and passionate educator, Joe believed deeply in the power of education to change lives. After beginning his teaching career in Williamston, Michigan, he spent the majority of his years with the Lansing School District. There, he created a highly successful Legislative Intern Program for high school students, opening doors for countless young people to explore government, leadership, and their own potential. He was adored throughout the district for his friendly smile, heartfelt encouragement, and unwavering care for students and colleagues alike.

Joe was equally devoted to his family. He faithfully supported his children in all their school activities and adventures. In 1971, he and his wife, Norma, pursued a dream of teaching overseas, taking the family to England for a year while he studied the British school system. During that sabbatical, they traveled to thirteen countries across Europe—an experience that became one of the most cherished chapters of their life together.

After retiring, Joe and Norma returned to Rapid City and settled

into their beloved "treehouse" cabin in their "Our Woods" forest. They enjoyed cross-country skiing and frequent trips to the U.P., where Joe loved watching Great Lakes freighters and admiring the trees he held so dear. As dedicated stewards of Seven Bridges, they gave generously to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, helping preserve the landscapes Joe cherished.

Above all, Joe was a storyteller, a teacher, and a gentle guide. Those who learned from him—whether in a classroom, at home, or in a simple conversation—were blessed by his wisdom, humor, and patience. He will be remembered for his loving and welcoming spirit, and for the joyful, playful nature he shared with all who knew him.

Joe, "Grandpa," "Papa" will be dearly missed by his wife of 67 years, Norma Jean Mariage; children, Dirk (Leslie) Mariage, David (Rebecca) Mariage, Lisa (Duke) Rosendahl; grandchildren, Lindsay, Alissa (John), Jaime (Kent), Brittan (Jason), Bryson, Adriana (Ryan), Keagan, Providence, Monroe; great grandchildren, Graham, Grayson; sister, Gloria Cox; brother, Tracy (Sandra) Mariage; brother-in-law, Neil Lee; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George & Gretchen (Robinson) Mariage; sisters, Virginia Lee, Sally (Glenn) Vedder; brother, George Mariage II; and brother-in-law, Ron Cox.

A Celebration of Life in honor of Joe, was held from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at the Clearwater Township Hall, 5440 River St. NW, Rapid City, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC). To leave a message for the family, please visit [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com).

## Genevieve Georgianna Sieting

February 17, 1933 ~ November 14, 2025

Genevieve G. Sieting, 92, of South Boardman, passed away November 14, 2025, at her home. Genevieve was born February 17, 1933 in Blind River, Ontario, Canada to George and Rosanna (Doucet) Gauthier. She was the second oldest of six children raised in what she described as "the bush country" outside the nickel mines. Theirs was a French speaking family, and Genevieve did not learn to speak English until she was nine years old, roughly the same year she experienced her first ride in an automobile.

Genevieve immigrated to the U.S. following her marriage to her first husband, Harold J. Osborn, a U.S. Marine who met her in Windsor, Ontario. Together, they had four children: Charles, Jacqueline, Antoinette, and Colette. Harold passed away in 1959. Genevieve later married Glenn M. Sieting, and together they added three more children to the family: Glen, Julie, and Jocelyn.

As a mother of seven children, Genevieve was always involved in any available resource to benefit children and their education. She was active in PTA, Band Boosters, Language Clubs, Drama Clubs, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, School Board, and the Catholic Church. Despite being a very busy mother, Genevieve was an artist, a



musician, and was said to be instantly adept at any craft she took up. She was a partner in the family LLC which refurbished and reopened the Yankee Boy Restaurant in South Boardman. She also worked there to make popular soups, terrific pies and an award-winning carrot cake featured on the menu. Genevieve actively worked at the restaurant until 2016, retiring at the age of 83.

Genevieve is survived by her seven children, who all live in the South Boardman area. They are: Charles (Debra) Sieting, Jacqueline (Sieting) Rutherford, Antoinette (Sieting) Bohnett, Colette (Sieting) Hannon, Glen (Sandy) Sieting, Julie (Sieting) Wagenschutz, and Jocelyn (Sieting) Greer. Genevieve was the proud grandmother of sixteen and great-grandmother of twenty-nine.

Visitation was held on Friday, November 21, 2025 from 4pm-7pm at Kalkaska Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00am, with final visitation beginning at 10am, on Saturday, November 22nd at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church in Kalkaska. Burial will take place in Boardman Township Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

## Wendy J. Seigneur

February 16, 1953 ~ November 9, 2025

Wendy Seigneur, 72, of Kalkaska, passed away on Sunday, November 9, 2025 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. She was born on February 16, 1953 in Hillsdale to the late James and Doris (Girdham) Ash.



Wendy enjoyed retirement and being together for all of their adventures.

Surviving Wendy is her son, Michael (Erica) Seigneur of Katy, TX; grandchildren, Lauren, Lilly and Lacey.

Cremation has taken place. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

**Additional Obituary on page 9**

**Northwest MI**

## VOICE

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## Caleb Kale Horton Sr.

November 22, 1942 ~ November 15, 2025



Caleb "Cappy" Kale Horton Sr., 82, of South Boardman, MI, passed away on Saturday, November 15th, 2025, at Munson Medical Center with his loving family by his side. Cap was born on November 22nd, 1942, in Marine City, the son of the late Caleb III, and Helen (Smith) Horton. Cap met the love of his life on the Nolff farm. He fell in love with the farmer's daughter. He built his home from the ground up, where he and his wife raised 4 children and one grandchild. He was happily married for 52 years. Before moving north, he was a merchant marine, sailing the Great Lakes for great periods of time, as well as a police officer. He moved north where he worked in the oilfields, as well as volunteering as a firefighter, he finally retired in 2000 as an oilfield truck driver. In his younger years he enjoyed riding his Harley, and fishing in the St. Clair River. He loved getting outdoors, whether that be for rifle season, or a simple side by side ride with his family. At home he liked to garden with his wife, listen to classic country, and

watch Westerns. He also had a knack for woodworking, but most importantly he loved spending time with his family, and his Sunday morning coffee with his boys. Cap also looked forward to his trips down to Ebels, browsing the wide variety of goods. Cappy will be missed by all and remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and friend. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Susan; son Caleb (Cappy) Horton (Tammy); daughters Shelle (Elmond) Allococo, Krystal (Randy) Tinker, and Danielle Horton; sister Donna (Wally) Evans; 11 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents; 10 siblings; several nieces and nephews; and 1 great-granddaughter. His family wishes to remember him privately. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

## Cody James Isrow

September 5, 2002 ~ October 21, 2025

Cody James Isrow, 23 of Manton, passed away suddenly on October 21, 2025 in Cadillac. He was born to Kelly Merrifield and Matthew Isrow on September 5, 2002 in Macomb.

The party did not start until Cody arrived with his comic relief, laughing and happiness was abundant. He was a beautiful soul and cherished by his beloved family.

Cody graduated from Kalkaska High School during covid in 2020. He went immediately to work for Superior Oil and was still employed there until his death. Cody was a hard worker, had integrity and was smart. His hobbies included fishing,

attending music festivals anywhere anytime with his sister to name a few. Cody was always willing to help those in need and saved a few lives in his short time here on earth.

Cody's devoted family is mother, Kelly Merrifield of Milwaukee, WI; father, Matthew Isrow of Kalkaska; sister, Savannah of Manton; grandparents, Barbara Isrow of Mancelona, Kenneth Merrifield and Doris Merrifield both of metro-Detroit; and many cousins; and many more friends.

A celebration of Cody's life was held in Kalkaska. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

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## MMC Recertified as Comprehensive Stroke Center and Now the Second Busiest in Michigan

*The Witham Family Comprehensive Stroke Center prepares for a period of increased risk as winter weather and the holidays approach.*

The Witham Family Comprehensive Stroke Center (WFCSC) at Munson Medical Center is proud to announce its recertification from The Joint Commission as Northern Michigan's first and only Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC).

Since 2020, the number of stroke cases accepted at WFCSC has more than doubled to over 1,200 each year making it the second busiest of 16 CSCs in the state. The American Stroke Association (ASA) has cited research indicating that strokes are more common November through February due winter weather and the holidays. Access to the highest level of stroke care including endovascular intervention is critical but also very unique for a region like Northern Michigan.

"There remain significant disparities in stroke care across the country and around the world, with rural areas typically underserved with advanced stroke therapies," said Gary Rajah, MD, Neurovascular/Cerebrovascular Neurosurgeon and WFCSC Medical and Surgical Director. "Time is brain and the over 500 emergent stroke procedures we've performed over the last five years are helping to improve outcomes, but our work is never done."

Dr. Rajah completed the region's very first thrombectomy in 2020 but prior to his arrival patients requiring that procedure had to be transferred downstate, delaying care a minimum of two hours due to travel time. Stroke is the world's leading cause of disability with each minute of delay potentially causing the loss of four disability-free days and each hour equivalent to ageing 3.6 years.

"It's been incredibly rewarding to bring this high level of stroke and neurovascular care to Northern Michigan, and the program continues to grow," added Rajah. "CSC status not only reassures our patients and their families that they are receiving the very best evidence based, innovative care, but also helps with recruitment and retention of staff system wide."

The success of the CSC has helped expand neuro care overall with the launch of Munson Neurosciences in Fall 2024. Over the last five years, Munson Healthcare has recruited six neurosurgeons and nine neurologists to the region with additional providers set to join the program this coming summer.

There are upwards of 300 Comprehensive Stroke Centers in the United States certified by The Joint Commission which represents the gold standard in stroke care. Each delivers care across the entire stroke continuum including:

- Pre-hospital coordination at smaller hospitals/critical access locations
- Emergency evaluation, and acute treatment (including IV thrombolysis and mechanical thrombectomy)
- Neuro intensive care
- Rehabilitation planning
- Long-term follow-up

Additionally, stroke related research is also a core element of CSC health, which can help provide Northern Michigan communities with treatment options beyond the standard of care for complex cases.

For more information on The Witham Family Comprehensive Stroke Center visit [munsonhealthcare.org/stroke](http://munsonhealthcare.org/stroke).

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# CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER 2025

November 3-29, Pottery Display. Come visit Alden District Library and see Debbie Northrup's unique up-north pottery. The display can be viewed during normal library hours. Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri 9:30a-5p, Tue 9:30a-6p, Sat 9:30a-2p. The library is located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318. Free Event. At a later date, a video of the display can be viewed on the library's website, aldenlib.info and look for "On Display" link at left. Sponsored by Alden District Library, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden.

November 17 - December 8, Friends of the Bellaire Public Library Silent Auction All bids on Silent Auction items support Library programming. We have been donated exciting getaway packages, a wine tasting event, a kayak tour and much more. For details stop by the Library or call 231-533-8814.

## DECEMBER 2025

December 3-30, Southwestern Christmas Display Come visit Alden District Library and see Virginia Anderman's collection of Southwestern Christmas Décor. The library is located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318. Free Event. At a later date, a video of the display can be viewed on the library's You Tube channel youtube.com/@Aldenlib.

December 6, 10am - noon, Santa at the Bellaire Public Library. Come see Santa, take your picture and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa as we have a time of holiday fun at the Library! Free. 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call the Library at 231-533-8814.

December 6, 10am - 1pm, Jolly Gingerbread House Making at the Bellaire Public Library. Come create your very own gingerbread house! We supply the graham crackers, frosting and decorations, you supply the fun. Free but registration required. Limited seats so register early. Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call 231-533-8814.

December 6, 4-6pm, Christmas Family Photo Booth at the Bellaire Public Library. Stop at the Library during Light Up the Night and get your free family photo. Then keep an eye on Facebook where the photos will be posted. Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call the Library at 231-533-8814.

December 9, 5:30 pm, Antrim Photography Holiday Workshop, at Helena Township Community Center. This event kicks off with holiday snacks and will feature a pre-recorded presentation by Vincent Ledvina about our amazing Solar System. Following the program, there is an equipment swap n' sell, and Super Moon craft. Cost is \$25 for Super Moon & includes class. Must RSVP with Lisa at 231-313-8820 or LL.pics44@gmail.com. Seasonal membership \$50.00 for 20 classes or non-members \$10 per workshop.

December 11, 3:40 pm, Books 'n Brie Book Club. Enjoy the company of fellow book lovers while discussing "Everything Tuberculosis: Our Deadliest Infection" by John Green. Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

## Christmas Lights

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025, 4 p.m.

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# HOUSES OF WORSHIP

### Alden

Alden United Methodist Church  
9015 Helena Rd, Alden  
**Sunday morning:**  
9:00 am - Worship Service  
10:30 am - ACE (Adult Christian Education)  
**Thursday morning:**  
10:00 am - Prayer Group

### Boardman Township

East Boardman Community Bible Church  
2080 Boardman Rd, S Boardman  
**Sunday morning:**  
9:15 am - Sunday School  
10:00 am - Worship Service  
10:30 am Junior Church

### Central Lake

Central Lake United Methodist Church  
8117 W Old State Rd, Central Lake  
**Sunday morning:**  
11:00 am - Worship Service

### East Jordan

Grace Bible Church  
999 W Old State Rd, East Jordan  
**Sunday morning:**  
11:00 am - Worship Service

### Fife Lake

Fife Lake Community Church  
206 Boyd St, Fife Lake  
**Sunday morning:**  
10:00 am - Worship Service  
St. Aloysius of Fife Lake  
403 East Merritt St  
**Sunday morning:**  
9:00 am - Mass

### Kalkaska

Calvary Baptist Church  
815 W Dresden St, Kalkaska  
**Sunday morning:**  
9:45 am - Sunday School & Adult Bible Class  
10:45 am - Worship Service

Cornerstone Community Bible Church  
6821 Co Rd 612 NE, Kalkaska  
**Sunday morning:**  
10:00 am - Worship Service

Church Alive Church of God  
2305 US 131 North, Kalkaska  
**Sunday morning**  
10:30 am - Worship Service  
**Wednesday night**  
5:30 pm - Prayer Meeting  
6:00 pm - Bible Study

Church of Christ at Spencer  
4761 Western Ave SE, Kalkaska  
**Sunday**  
9:30 am - Sunday School, all ages  
10:30 am - Assembly Hour  
6:00 pm - Evening Assembly  
**Wednesday**  
7:00 pm - Bible study - all ages

Kalkaska Church of Christ  
1725 W Kalkaska Rd, Kalkaska  
**Sunday morning:**  
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship Service  
9:00 & 10:30 am - Kids' programs, birth - 5th grade  
10:30 am - Faith Training - Middle & High School

Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene  
1367 W Kalkaska Rd, Kalkaska  
**Sunday morning:**  
9:45 am - Sunday School all ages  
10:45 am - Worship Service

### Kalkaska Peoples Church

Bible Based  
216 S Cherry St, Kalkaska  
**Sunday morning:**  
11:00 am - Worship Service

Kalkaska United Ministries for Christ  
2525 Beebe Rd, Kalkaska  
**Sunday morning:**  
10:00 am - Worship Service

### Many Rivers Church

2305 N 131, Kalkaska  
**Saturday evening:**  
6:00 pm - Worship Service

**Tuesday evening:**  
6:00 pm - Worship Service

### St Mary of the Woods of Kalkaska

438 Co Rd 612, Kalkaska  
**Saturday afternoon:**

4:00 pm - Mass

**Sunday morning:**

11:00 am - Mass

### St Paul Lutheran Church

2470 Beebe Rd, Kalkaska  
**Sunday morning:**

11:00 am - Worship Service

Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
2004 Birch N Birch St, Kalkaska  
**Saturday morning**

9:30 am - Bible Study Time: Children & Adults

11:00 am - Worship Service

**Tuesday evening**

6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
1128 N Cedar St, Kalkaska  
**Sunday morning:**

10:00 am - Sacrament meeting

### Mancelona

#### Antrim Church of Christ

10228 South US 131, Mancelona  
**Sunday morning worship**

11:00 am - Sept - May

10:00 am - Jun - Aug

#### Mancelona Baptist Church

609 N Jefferson ST, Mancelona  
**Sunday**

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - worship service

6:00 pm - Bible Preaching

**Wednesday**

7:00 pm - Bible Preaching & Teen Group

#### St. Matthew Lutheran Church

211 E. Hinman, Mancelona  
**Sunday morning:**

9:00 am - Worship Service

### Rapid City

Rapid City Church of Christ  
7964 Rapid City Rd, Rapid City  
**Sunday morning:**

10:30 am - Worship Service

#### Torch Lake Assembly of God

9456 Valley Rd, Rapid City  
**Sunday morning:**

11:00 am - Worship Service

### Williamsburg

#### True North Vineyard Church

6517 Bates Rd, Williamsburg  
**Sunday evening:**

5:00 pm - Worship Service

#### Williamsburg United Methodist Church

5750 Williamsburg Rd, Williamsburg

**Sunday morning:**

9:00 am - Worship Service

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# COMMUNITY

## DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)

**Yuck!**

1 September 2003

Dear Mark,

Having just returned from a recent gambling trip (Las Vegas), I was surprised to see many casinos offering single-deck blackjack. I thought single-deck was very rare because it affords a player the lowest house advantage and is a card counter's delight. Well, my surprise soon turned to disappointment when I approached a table and read the fine print. They only pay 6-to-5 on a blackjack! What's up with that? Isn't 3-to-2 the proper payout? How much does that tactic improve the house's edge? Is this game worth playing?

Michael H.

Many casinos are now offering single-deck blackjack games that pay a natural blackjack 6-to-5 instead of the traditional 3-to-2. One word, Michael, can best describe this subtle rule change many players have not even noticed. As the schoolmarm says, "YUCK!" (I know you've got a better word, so spit it out.)

Here's some 'rithmetic to analyze this pickpocket variation of single-deck blackjack being offered to the inattentive in Las Vegas and elsewhere.

Theoretically, single-deck games do offer the best odds for skilled players, with a house edge of only about 18 cents for every \$100 wagered. When a casino offers single-deck games that reduce the payoff on a player's blackjack from "7.5 to 5" down to "6 to 5," meaning instead of winning \$7.50 for your hard-earned snapper, you win \$6, that payoff slash increases the house edge from 0.18% to 1.45%, which, Michael, is a colossal 800% increase in the house edge.

YUCKS! (or better) loud and clear, please.

Dear Mark,

Concerning blackjack versus roulette, which does a player stand a better chance of winning? I am leaning more

towards roulette due to the black/red or odd/even scenario. I am aware of the 0 and 00 killing my bets, but does blackjack still provide better odds? Damon C.

Blackjack is a game played poorly by many, and well by few. The desirable rearrangement is quite simple: Employ perfect basic strategy. Playing it correctly will bring the house advantage down to well less than 1%. But, even Ho-hum Hannah's careless play at blackjack is far-and-away a better deal than double zero roulette, where the house edge is 5.26% of every bet you place on the table. Yep, Odd/Even, Black/Red, it doesn't matter. The casino advantage is 5.26% and you aren't going to change that with any particular wager.

Now if your blackjack play is ghastly, like splitting 10s against a dealer ace, well . . . stick with roulette, but only on a single-zero roulette wheel where the house edge is a less murderous 2.70%.

What's so special about single zero? Because, Damon, while in the end you will lose about \$5.26 for every \$100 wagered on a double-zero table, your loss at the single-zero table drops to a more digestible \$2.70.

Dear Mark,

**When is the best time to double down for less in blackjack? Dick H.**

I'll ask you, Dick, why do you double down in the first place? Answer: you double down because you are more likely to win the hand than lose it. For that reason, you always want to wager the maximum amount. Never shortchange yourself when it comes to doubling down. It is the double downs, splits and blackjack that shove blackjack play from the red into the black.

=====

**Gambling quote of the week:** "I am shocked, shocked, that there's gambling going on here." Captain Louis Renault, Casablanca



## Sudoku Puzzle November 28, 2025

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

Solution on page 15

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# = MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

## *The 3 Questions to Win at Life*

This is the second in a 3-part series on the questions and answers that inform our lives.

The second question is:

### **What is my Purpose here?**

Most people wonder what their purpose is at some point in their lives. When it comes to mental health, it's helpful to reframe how we look at purpose as something that we "create," not something that we "discover." This moves us from having to find something to being active participants in the unfolding of our lives.

When we are developing our purpose, we will find that it is informed by what we value, what our strengths are and, of course, our relationships. These can drive our view of how we act and what we create in our lives. This moves us way beyond seeing our job titles, socioeconomic status and achievements as the things that define our purpose in this life.

As people, we tend to thrive when we feel needed, connected and when we play an active role in directing our own contributions to our

world. We are meaning makers, and our purpose is no different.

There is a common misconception about purpose. We are often told that we have "a purpose," but what we are not told is that our purpose will evolve through the seasons of life. In order to balance our mental health with our purpose, we must let go of the anxiety that is found in trying to find "the one thing." As we go through life, we will find that what we find most important will change, and our purpose will change along with it.

Here are some practical approaches to creating your purpose:

1. Identify your top 3 values. These will inform what is important to you.
2. Recognize that sometimes purpose is seen in small, consistent actions such as parenting, volunteering or creating in whatever form you value.
3. Align to your Purpose. When you match your purposeful behavior to your values,

you will naturally reduce feelings of anxiety and/or depression.

The answer to the question: "What is my purpose here?" is an ongoing exploration. It is not destination as such. It's more like a daily intentionality. Once you connect this with what you truly value, you will have taken a huge step towards winning at life. s

**Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECP**

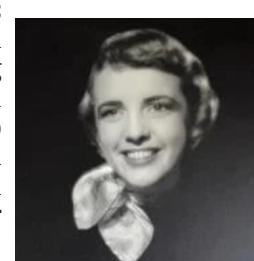
*Adam DeVaney is a clinical social worker and therapist with over a decade of experience working with clients with a diversity of challenges from addiction and anxiety to overcoming trauma and helping people to learn what it takes to live their best lives. Along with his wife, Mandi, he founded Life's 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**

*Additional Obituaries on pages 4, & 5*

### **Joanne Cecelia Hartnett**

**February 6, 1934 ~ September 18, 2025**



winning the Girls Athletic Association award for outstanding athlete at Dearborn High School. She had a group of friends from Dearborn whom she remained close to throughout her life.

Joanne earned a journalism degree from the University of Michigan, where she worked on the Michigan Daily newspaper. While in college, she met and married Daniel André Hartnett in 1955. After graduation, they moved to Detroit and started their family. Living in Detroit in the 1960s, she earned her Master's Degree in Education (Marygrove College) and began a career as a teacher/reading specialist working in Detroit public schools and later Dearborn Heights schools. The family moved to Plymouth, MI, in 1968. A few years later, her husband was diagnosed with kidney disease; a hemodialysis machine was installed in their home and for the next two years, Joanne ran his treatment sessions—six hours at a time, three times a week—while continuing to work full time and raise the kids.

Her husband died in 1975, leaving Joanne and her five children, ages 9-17. She then decided to go to law school, working as a teacher by day and hammering out law school at night. Somehow, she still managed to attend the kids' basketball games, school band concerts, and early-Saturday morning hockey practices. She graduated from Detroit College of Law in 1980, was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan in 1981 and opened her own practice. She loved the law. After her retirement, she would carry a pocket-sized edition of the US Constitution and Bill of Rights. And, if a conversation with friends

took a certain turn, she would pull that little book out of her purse and say, "Show me where it says that?" That's my mom—that's the Michigan woman she was.

In the 1980s, she moved up-north to Gaylord, MI, opened a small law office, and lived in a log cabin in the woods with her German Shepherd. After some years, she'd had enough of life in the woods, closed her law office and moved to Harbor Springs MI to be closer to her childhood friends and to enjoy the best of northern Michigan—camping in the Upper Peninsula, walking the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day, enjoying her favorite hamburgers and fudge in Mackinaw City, frequenting the Harbor Springs library and keeping in shape with a regular cadence of swimming at Harbor Springs High School.

Like many of us from Michigan, my mom was a Lions fan, a Tigers fan, a Pistons fan, and a Red Wings fan. She spent many football Saturdays in Ann Arbor cheering on her beloved Michigan Wolverines. She cheered for all University of Michigan teams, but also supported other Big Ten school teams (when they weren't playing Michigan). She and my sisters had an annual tradition of going to March Madness basketball games together. It was never just about watching a particular team; it was about watching college basketball.

My mom was intelligent, independent, a skeptic, and sometimes a curmudgeon, but she was never anything other than herself. She would not provide her personal information to anything online, "They don't need to know anything about me," she'd say. She read the Detroit Free Press daily—I suggested she read the online version, but she said absolutely

not, she wanted a paper copy to read while she enjoyed her coffee. Even with Alzheimer's these last few years, she retained her wit, her love of sports, and her joy of having a cup of coffee while reading the Detroit Free Press.

Michiganders are tough people. My mom was from Michigan, went to Michigan, and never wanted to leave Michigan—not for anything, not for anyone. I am the youngest of her children, now 59, and living in Colorado. I asked her to come join me in Colorado—the weather, the snow, the sun—but she would say, "Nah, I'm good." And when I pressed her—why won't you just move out here? She told me straight out: "Because this is where I'm from."

That was her—that's the Michigan woman she was. Michiganders lost one of our own in September. Her friends know, and her kids know that Joanne C. Hartnett was from Michigan -- Detroit, Dearborn, Plymouth, Gaylord, Harbor Springs, and Traverse City. All Michigan places, and she loved them all. Because that's where she was from.

Per her emphatic instructions, there will be no funeral or memorial services. Her cremated remains will be interred at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth next to her husband. The family would like to thank the staff at Cherry Hill Haven of Traverse City and Hospice of Michigan for their compassionate and dignified care. For those who may want to remember Joanne with a donation, please consider Cherry Hill Haven's "The Lifetime Promise" fund (<https://baruchsls-ch-traverse-city.kindful.com/>) or Hospice of Michigan (<https://www.hom.org/>).

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

She is survived by her five children, David Hartnett (Denise) of Harbor Springs, MI., Suzanne Hartnett (Peter Lazansky) of Arcadia, MI., Clarisse Hartnett Manny of Traverse City, MI, Steven Hartnett (Sue Lynn) of Aptos, CA., and Erich Hartnett (Kristy) of Littleton, CO.; and her sister Rhoda Perkins (Robert) of Eden Prairie, MN. She also leaves five grandchildren, Rylan Hartnett (Theresa Sherwood), Miles Hartnett (Shalyn), Jaclyn Gottlieb (Michael), Grace Hartnett, and Andre Hartnett; and 5 great-grandchildren, Zoe and Calvin Hartnett, Morgan and Lydia Hartnett, and Ruby Gottlieb. She was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel André Hartnett, and her parents, Esther (Bergman) Mainville and Roderick L. Mainville.

An intense Michigander she was — born in Detroit in 1934 and growing up in Dearborn, MI. She spoke fondly of her early years in Dearborn, which included shopping trips to Hudson's with her mother, listening to the Detroit Tigers on the radio with her friends, bowling, tennis, and

# COMMUNITY

## *The Downtown Alden Business Association annual collection for the Rapid City Area Food Pantry.*

By Jan Schilling

ALDEN – Families everywhere in our country gather at Thanksgiving to share a meal and recognize all that we are thankful for.

Many are in need and it is not easy to provide such a bountiful meal.

Downtown ALDEN Business Association works hard at this time of year to collect money and canned goods For the Rapid City Area Food Pantry to help provide a special box for a holiday meal.

As a part of the drive, Kevin Young, owner of The Village Market in Rapid City and Elk Rapids opens his heart with an extraordinary donation of 30 turkeys to the food pantry.

(Seen in photo below)

The Rapid City Area Food Pantry is located at 9456 Valley Rd. In Rapid City and is open 10-2 on Fridays.

Pastor Christine Johnson of the Torch Lake Assembly of God oversees the official food pantry as they try to feed about 30-40 families in need per week.

Any donated funds are greatly appreciated and used to purchase specific foods for these holiday giving boxes.

On Small Business Saturday, November 29th, The Downtown Alden Business Association is sponsoring a Christmas Celebration outside at The Village Center from 5-7.

Canned goods and monetary donations for the food pantry will also be collected there.

The celebration includes cookies and crafts from 3-5 at The Alden United Methodist Church followed by a tree lighting at the Village Center and visit from Santa with gifts for children from the elves. Hot Cocoa from the Muffin Tin and snacks will be provided.

Downtown Alden Business Association will continue to collect monetary donations and canned goods through November 30th. Checks can be written to THE RAPID CITY AREA FOOD PANTRY, and mailed to Downtown Alden Business Association, PO Box 312, Alden, MI 49612.

Our collective donations help way beyond the holiday season, helping to fill pantry shelves into the cold months of winter.

For more information about the food pantry, you can contact Pastor Christine Johnson of The Torch Lake Assembly of God at 231-331-6246



Employees of Village Market in Rapid City, donating 30 turkeys to the food pantry.  
From left to right: Richard Schmidt, Kevin Young (owner), Nathan Robinson.

Photo by Jill Scheitler

# OUT & ABOUT

## O&A - continued from page 3

**Kids' Coding Club**, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge, Bellaire, an opportunity for kids to explore the world of computer coding at their level, ages 8-13 welcome, registration required, call 231 533-8814

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat, 10:00 to 11:00 am**

**Meet and Eat, Youth Event**, Mancelona United Methodist Church, 117 W. Hinman, Mancelona, planned by youth for youth including a meal, music, pastor's message, games & fun, grades 7-12, 231 587-8461

**When: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup> if 4<sup>th</sup> is a holiday weekend) 7:00 to 8:30 pm**

## Miscellaneous

**Monday Tech Help 1-on-1** Kalkaska County Library, 247 S. Cedar St, If you need some help setting up your new phone or laptop, troubleshooting tech problems, or just want to learn more about using the internet safely, then contact us to get 30 minutes of personalized support from our tech services librarian! Contact (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org to sign up!

**When: by appointment Mon 10am-4pm & Thu 1-5pm**

**Love Locker Project**, 449 W. State St at Fife Lake, Baptist, 49633 Free seasonal clothing, hygiene products, and blankets available 24/7

**When: available anytime**

**Love Locker Project - Kalkaska** 1972 Saunders Rd SE at Evergreen Bible Baptist, Free seasonal clothing, hygiene products, and blankets available 24/7

**When: available anytime**

**Love Locker Project- Rapid City** 7964 Rapid City Rd at North Light Ministry Free seasonal clothing, hygiene products, and blankets available 24/7

**When: available anytime**

**Stroke Recovery Group**, Antrim County COA/Sr Meal Site, 308 E. Cayuga, Bellaire, must register prior to each session, please call 231 533-8703

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon, 3:00 to 4:00 pm**

**Tech Tuesdays with Gabe**, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St, contact 231 533-8814

**When: Tue, 11 am to 3 pm**

**Kalkaska County Breastfeeding Support Group**, Blue Fish Early Learning Center, 405 E. Dresden St, contact District Health Department 10 at 231 258-8669

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue, 10:00 to 11:00 am**

**Kalkaska Baby Pantry**, Kalkaska Church of Christ, 1725 W Kalkaska Rd, Clothing, diapers, wipes available (donations of such are accepted), serving children to size 4T, contact 231 258-9441

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tue, 9:30 am to 1 pm.**

**Girlfriends Social Hour**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, grab a friend and enjoy a coffee or juice, and time with other ladies, senior and nearly senior women are welcome, contact 231 258-5030

**When: Wed 10 am**

**Tech Tuesdays with Gabe!** Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St, 231 533-8814

**When: Wed, 11 am to 3 pm**

**Spanish Speaking Cohort**, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St, 231-533-8814

**When: Wed, 4 pm**

**Thursday Tech Help 1-on-1** Kalkaska County Library, 247 S. Cedar St, If you need some help setting up your new phone or laptop, troubleshooting tech problems, or just want to learn more about using the internet safely, then contact us to get 30 minutes of personalized support from our tech services librarian! Contact (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org to sign up!

**When: Thu, 1:00 to 5:00 pm**

**Everyone Has a Story**, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson Ave, join with the library and the Kingsley Folk School for a storytelling community circle, you are welcome to share your personal stories with others to create connections in our community, 231 263-5484

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thur, 5:30 to 7:00 pm**

**Antrim County Baby Pantry**, St. Anthony's Church, 209 Jefferson Ave, Mancelona, providing food, clothing, diapers, and other items for children from birth until their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday (donations accepted), masks optional, one shopper per family and children are welcome but must remain with their parent, new families, please arrive by 2 pm for paperwork and bring valid ID, 231 492-7426

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thu, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Dance**, Mancelona Senior Center, 122 E. State St, Mancelona, \$7 admission, bring a dish to pass, contact Cheryl at 231 587-9131

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri, 6:00 to 9:00 pm**

**Fruit of the Womb Baby Pantry**, Kalkaska Baptist Church, 1651 County Rd 612, contact 231 258-5409

**When: Sat, 9:00 to 11:00 am**

**Rock n' Jam**, The Rock of Kingsley, local musicians are welcome to come jam and the public is welcome to come listen, tap their toes, dance, contact 231 263-7000

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat, (through Oct) 5:00 to 8:00 pm**

**Simply Delicious with Chef Tom**, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson Ave, a quick and inspiring cooking class, learning tips and techniques while exploring global cuisine and spices, contact 231 263-5484

**When: Last Saturday of the month, 10 - 11 am**

## Veterans/Active Duty

**MWR (Morale, Welfare, & Recreation)**, Belay My Last Barracks, 5210 E. Boardman Rd, South Boardman, veterans are welcome to hang out and enjoy a meal, use the rec room, gym, or theater, peer support specialist is also available, contact 231 631-5372

**When: Mondays, 6:30 pm**

**Kalkaska VFW Land-O-Lakes Post 8684, VFW Post 408** Hyde St, Quartermaster: Joe Graff, Commander: Luke TenHopen

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Mon, 6:00 pm**

**Mancelona American Legion Post #0264**, 9850 S. Front St, Commander: Benjamin Zerod, Adjutant: Tamara Hunt

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Mon, 6:00 pm**

**Antrim County Veteran Coffee Talks**, 118 Bridge St, Elk Rapids, contact 231 533-8499

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon, 9 am**

**Vets Coffee Time**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, free coffee and donuts, hosted by American Legion Post #480, contact Darel at 231 258-9445

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed, 9:00 to 11:00 am**

**American Legion Post 219**, 10283 M-186, Fife Lake, Commander: Cameron Wojoie, Adjutant: Craig Heckert, contact 231 879-4475

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed, 6:30 pm**

**Coffee Talk for Veterans**, M88 Morning Grind, presented by Antrim Co Veterans Affairs, contact 231 533-8499

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed, 8:30 am**

**South Boardman American Legion #463 and Auxiliary Meeting, South Boardman Legion Hall**, 5479 Boardman Rd (at the tank), South Boardman, Commander: Lindarae Radtke, Adjutant: Elwin Hall, contact 231 369-2944

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Thu, 6:00 pm**

**Kalkaska American Legion Post 0480**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St. Commander: Jim Brown, Adjutant: Stephen Bloomfield, contact 231 384-0762

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu, 1:00 pm**

**M88 Monthly Muster**, M-88 Morning Grind, 614 Cayuga St, Bellaire, coffee talk for Antrim County Veterans and their families to connect and share in much needed military camaraderie, contact 231 632-9155

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 12:00 pm**

## BOOK CLUBS

**The Bookies Book Club**, at host's home, contact 231 879-4101 or flpl@tadl.org for location and details

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue, 7:00 pm**

**The Last Tuesday Book Group**- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8814

**When: last Tue, 1:00 pm**

**Monthly Book Club**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, new book each month to be announced at previous meeting or contact 231 258-5030 for info

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed, 1:00 pm**

**The Page Turners Book Club**- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, registration appreciated, contact 231 533-8814

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed, 7:00 pm**

**Nature Book Club**, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, led by members of the Antrim Conservation District, contact 231 533-8814

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Thu, 9:30 am**

**Kingsley Afternoon Book Club**- Kingsley Branch Library, 213 Brownson Ave, Kingsley, does not meet in Dec, June, July, or Aug, contact 231 263-5484

**When: 4<sup>th</sup> Wed, 2:00 to 3:00 pm**

**Fife Lake Library Book Club-Take 2**, Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, 231 879-4101

**When: 4<sup>th</sup> Wed, 2:30 pm**

**Mindfulness Book Club**- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8814

**When: last Wed, 4:00 pm**

**Books 'n Brie Book Club**, Presented by Alden District Library, Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, enjoy snacks and beverages while discussing the month's book, free of charge, sponsored by the Alden District Library, contact 231 331-4318

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thu, 3:30 pm**

**T.T. Nooners Book Club**, Kalkaska County Library, 247 S. Cedar St, 231 258-9411

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu, 12 to 1 pm, except December**

**Teen Book Club** - at the Kalkaska County Library. Teens ages 14-18 are welcome to join us to read and discuss books with friends. Snacks will be provided! Contact (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more info.

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu, 3:30pm**

**The Rory Gilmore Book Club**, Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, contact 231 879-4101

**When: Last Sat, 4:00 pm**

## Organization Meetings

**Kalkaska Democrats**, contact Gary at 231 590-3397 for current meeting location

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Mon, 6:00 pm**

**Kingsley Friends of the Library**, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson, Kingsley, open for ages 0-5 years, contact 231 263-5484

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon, 5:00 to 6:00 pm**

**Kalkaska Conservation District Board of Directors**, District Office, 406 S. Cedar St, Suite A, Kalkaska, contact Mark, 231 258-3307

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon, 5:00 pm**

**National Trout Festival**, Trout Town Tavern & Eatery, 306 Elm St, 231 384-1509

**When: 4<sup>th</sup> Mon, 5:30 pm**

**Kalkaska Republicans**, Kalkaska COA/Senior Center, 303 S. Coral St

**When: Last Mon., 7:00 pm**

**Kalkaska Kiwanis Meeting**, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tue, 12:00 pm**

**Friends of the Central Lake District Library**, Central Lake District Library, Conference Room, 7900 Maple St, contact 231 544-1144

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue, 10:00 to 11:00 am**

**Friends of the Kalkaska County Library**, Kalkaska County Library 247 S. Cedar St, downstairs

**When: 4<sup>th</sup> Tues., 4:00 pm**

**Friends of the Fife Lake Public Library**, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, contact Denise, 734 444-2484

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed., 11:00 am**

**Chain of Lakes Genealogy Club**, Central Lake Library, 7900 Maple St, 231 544-2517

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed, 6:00 pm**

**BIGG (Genealogy Group)**, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8814

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Thu, 10:30 am**

**South Boardman American Legion #463 and Auxiliary Meeting**, South Boardman Legion Hall, 5487 Boardman Rd (at the tank), South Boardman, contact 231 369-2944

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# REFLECTION

Editor's note: Op-Ed pieces and Letters to the Editor are welcome. Discussion of ideas and issues is one of our fundamental rights and duties, as well as being essential to the advancement of all people. The main requirement for acceptance is that they maintain civil discourse. Articles or letters that engage in ranting or ad hominem attacks will not be published. An extra long article or letter may be edited for the sake of space. Email your article or letter to [tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com](mailto:tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com), or send it via the USPS to Editor, Northwest Michigan Voice, PO Box 28, Rapid City, MI 49676

## "The Least of These My Brethren"

November 28, 2025

It was late August or early September, as I was beginning my junior year in high school. My father's job had taken our family to Europe and I was attending the American Church in Paris for the first time. Listening to the choir, my soul was completely riveted by the anthem they gave. The tenor, singing the dramatic words of Jesus held me in utter thrall. When he sang "in prison, and ye came unto me," the thrilling high notes of his voice touched me in a way I had never before experienced. The anthem is titled "Come, Ye Blessed." It is based on the scripture from the Gospel according to Matthew, 25:34-40. Just in case you haven't read this one recently, here it is as I first learned it:

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw

we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

As moved as I was by the musical setting of this scripture, so was I, and am I still, by the meaning of the words. It was Jesus himself who gave us instructions on how to treat one another, and He declared that what we do to one another we are also doing to Him.

We are moving now from autumn into winter. It will soon be upon us. And it will challenge us to remember the wisdom contained in Matthew's retelling of Jesus' lesson. Not only do we have to be extra careful and attentive for our own wellbeing, but we also have to be ready to help our neighbors and even strangers on the road. Last year, my husband and I were driving through snow and low visibility when we plowed straight into a snowbank clear up to the front wheel wells. And the snow was solidly packed under the vehicle frame as well. There was no way to rock our way out of that and we were several miles from any town. A man in a heavy-duty pickup truck, who had a tow rope happened along and saw our plight. He pulled us out of the snowbank. He refused any

payment. His attitude was simple: someone was in need of help and he could provide that help – one human being helping another. The day might come when he is in need and we would be there to help him. That's just the way people are supposed to be.

As I consider what my obligation is to my fellow human beings, and recognize that I have been blessed with the ability to be of help in times of need, as well as with the help of kind strangers many times already in my life, I come to the realization that it is not so much an obligation as it is an honor. Think of that! It is an honor to lend a helping hand to another person, and Jesus has already told us that whatever we do to others, we do to Him.

In these days of political upheaval, social incivility, and hatred inspired violence, it helps me to hear the lyrical line "Come, ye blessed of my father" singing in my head to remind me that the way of Jesus is kindness and compassion, and I am free to follow that path.

Well, that's what I've been thinking about.

Shalom

Tina Norris Fields  
Editor

### Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue's questions

- 1) Which House of Congress has the sole right of impeachment?  
*A. The House of Representatives, Article I, Section 2, final sentence.*
- 2) Which House of Congress has the sole power to try all impeachments?  
*A. The Senate, Article I, Section 3, paragraph 6.*
- 3) What penalty does impeachment conviction impose?  
*A. Removal from office and disqualification from service in any office of public trust, Article I, Section 5, final paragraph.*
- 4) Can a person who has been impeached and convicted also be tried under the law?  
*A. Yes, Article I, Section 3, final paragraph: "but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law."*

### Citizenship Corner

These questions may require some research on your part. Thank you for making that effort. The answers will appear in the next edition of the Voice.

- 1) What is the oath of office the President must swear or affirm during inauguration?
- 2) What oath do all federal workers have to take?
- 3) What is the oath of enlistment American enlisted military personnel take?
- 4) Are all legislators and jurists constitutionally bound to an oath of office?



**Everything  
in this paper  
is important to somebody**

# VETERANS COMMUNITY OUT & ABOUT



**COFFEE TIME for VETERANS**  
 Free coffee & donuts  
 Second Wednesday Each Month  
 9 to 11 am  
 Kalkaska Senior Center  
 303 S. Coral St  
 Hosted by American Legion Post 480  
 Contact-Darel at 258-9445

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### O&A - cont. from page 11

**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 information on meeting list at Alanon-d39.org

**When: Tues, at noon**

**Al-Anon, Al-Teen Meeting**, (Kalkaska COA) Senior Center, 303 S Coral St, contact Linda 231 384-3227

**When: Tue, 7:00 pm**

**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: Tues, 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**

**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: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed, 10:30 am**

**Antrim Co Parkinson Support Group**, Bellaire Family Health Center, 4955 S M-88, Bellaire, 231 633-1237

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

**S-Anon Support Group** - Calvary Lutheran Church, 10180 Elk Lake Rd, Elk Rapids.

For family and friends affected by someone else's sex addiction. Contact: miplaceofpeace@gmail.com, 231-714-4099

**When: Thu, 7:00 pm**

**All Recovery Meeting**, Ursula 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**

**Weight Management Support Group**, Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, 419 S. Coral St, Classroom A, contact Ashley Snyder, 231 258-3613

**When: 2nd Thu, 3:00 to 4:00 pm**

**Diabetes Support Group**, Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, 419 S. Coral St, Classroom A, contact Katie Daman, 231 258-3091

**When: 4th Thu, 3:00 to 4:00 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**

## Applesauce Inn Orange Chocolate Chip Shortbread



Original recipe by Jamie Creason, Owner of the Applesauce Inn Bed & Breakfast on M-88 in Bellaire ([www.applesauceinn.com/](http://www.applesauceinn.com/)). Jamie also does special order baking.

### Ingredients

- 1 cup (2 sticks) room temp unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp orange zest
- 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips

### Preparation

Preheat oven to 375°F. Line baking sheets with parchment paper

Using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter, powdered sugar, salt and orange zest, until very light and fluffy, 3-5 minutes (beating air into butter makes for tender shortbread). Reduce speed to low, add flour and mix until just combined. Add chocolate chips and quick blend until fully incorporated.

Roll out dough and cut into desired shapes. Bake until cookies are lightly brown on edges, about 10-12 minutes. Transfer pan to a wire rack; let cool on pan.

Makes 1 1/2 to 2 dozen.

# WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

## Thanksgiving

By Dominic Fortuna

Thanksgiving... it's a time of year that brings back so many fond memories for me. Growing up in a big, loud, lovable Italian-American family, Thanksgiving was always a feast for the senses. Our gatherings were a symphony of aromas, flavors, and laughter that would make your heart swell.

As a kid, I would walk into my grandparents' house and be immediately hit with the intoxicating smell of my grandma's cooking. She'd be in the kitchen, elbow-deep in dough, making pasta by hand, and the whole house would be filled with the scent of fresh bread, roasting meats, and simmering sauces. My mouth would water just thinking about it.

Our Thanksgivings were a true Italian-American affair. We'd have all the traditional dishes: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce, of course, but also pasta fagioli, lasagna, and plenty of other Italian favorites. My grandpa would always make his famous homemade red wine, and my aunt Eva would give out those signature red lipstick kisses that left a mark on every cheek.

Uncle Joe would be holding court, telling stories and cracking jokes, making everyone laugh. My parents would be busy making sure everyone had enough to eat and drink, and that the kids were behaving (sort of). It was a time of year that made me feel so grateful for this amazing family and the love we shared.

But Thanksgiving is more than just a big meal, it's about coming together with the people you love

and giving thanks for all the blessings in your life. For me, it's also about remembering the history behind the holiday. The Pilgrims, who braved the unknown to create a new life in America, celebrated the first Thanksgiving in 1621, sharing a harvest feast with the Waskasya Native American tribe.

In 1621, the Plymouth Colony held a harvest feast to celebrate their first successful crop in the New World. The Waskasya people, who had helped the English colonists adapt to their new environment, were invited to join in the celebration.

The feast likely took place in October and lasted for three days. Tables were filled with foods such as wild fowl, corn, squash, beans, fish, and nuts. The English and Waskasya came together, sharing stories and enjoying each other's company.

This gathering was a significant event, marking a time of peace and cooperation between the two groups. The Waskasya leader, Chief Massasoit, had formed an alliance with the English, teaching them how to farm in the new land. The feast was a celebration of their friendship and the harvest.

The air was filled with laughter and conversation as they shared a meal together. It was a moment of joy and gratitude, a time to come together and appreciate the blessings of the harvest.

Fast forward to my childhood in northern Michigan, where Thanksgiving meant a big dinner at my grandparents' house, followed by a trip to the hunting line to try to bag a white-tailed deer (or at least, that's what my dad and uncles were hoping for). Or, we'd park ourselves in front

of the TV to watch the Detroit Lions play football, because, why not? It was a day to relax, have some fun, and enjoy each other's company.

And, of course, there was the food. Oh, the food! Italian traditional dishes like cannoli, sfogliatelle, and zeppole were always on the menu. And let's not forget the drinks: my grandpa's homemade wine, coffee, and limoncello to round out the meal.

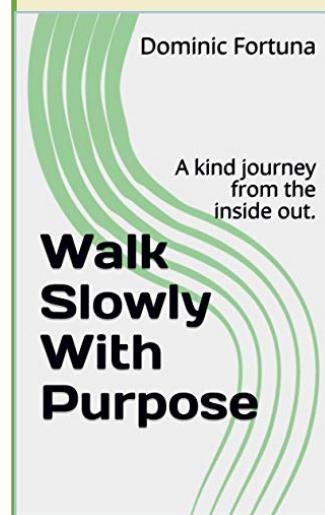
As I got older, I started to appreciate the true meaning of Thanksgiving: gratitude, kindness, and generosity. It's a time to give back to our communities, to help those in need. I'm so grateful that our family has always made it a point to give to local churches and shelters, and that some of our local businesses are now stepping up to provide food for those who can't experience a full, healthy Thanksgiving.

To all the givers out there, "God bless you. Your kindness and generosity are what make the world a better place, especially during the holiday season."

As I sit here now, reflecting on Thanksgivings past, I'm filled with so much love and gratitude for my family, my culture, and the traditions that have shaped me into the person I am today. I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving, filled with the people, food, and love that make life so rich and meaningful. Buon appetito, and may your bellies be full and your hearts be happy!



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# COMMUNITY



## **Michigan Farm Bureau Supports Kalkaska-Area Hunger Relief Efforts Through Grants and Matching Donations**

KALKASKA, Mich. – Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies (MFBFoC) and the Michigan Farm Bureau Insurance Agent Charitable Fund (ACF) are taking action to fight childhood food insecurity in Kalkaska County through two impactful initiatives: an Agents for Change grant awarded to Kalkaska Public Schools and a Double-Up Donation supporting Crossroads Farm at the Lanes.

### **Birch Street Elementary Grant**

Kalkaska Public Schools recently received an Agents for Change grant of \$2000 to provide healthy snacks for kindergarten students at Birch Street Elementary. The grant was made possible through a nomination by local Farm Bureau Insurance agent Chrissie M Feike, who recognized the need for nutritious options in classrooms.

"Upon speaking with the teachers, I learned that the snacks being provided by the parents are mostly sugary, non-filling snacks which are unhealthy more than 50% of the time," said Feike. "Often, kids ask for more than one snack, and these teachers are spending a ton of their own money. Kalkaska has so much need that it's hard to pinpoint just one, but this need starts with our youngest."

### **Crossroads Farm Double-Up Donation**

In addition, Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau has pledged a \$2,500 donation to support food programming for children served by Crossroads Farm at the Lanes. The ACF will match this contribution, bringing the total donation to \$5,000.

"Northwest County was looking for a way to be active and show support in Kalkaska County," said Stephanie Morehouse, Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau Administrative Manager. "When this organization was presented by our North Managing Partner Jim Camp, our board agreed that this organization is doing good work for kids and wanted to support those programs." The Double-Up Donation Program allows county Farm Bureaus to amplify their local hunger-relief efforts by matching contributions to organizations that align with ACF's mission to end hunger in Michigan.

### **About the Agent Charitable Fund**

The ACF is a donor-designated fund administered through the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture, a 501(c)(3) governed by Michigan Farm Bureau's board of directors. Through programs like Agents for Change, Double-Up Donations, and Feeding the Future, Farm Bureau agents, clients, and partners provide food and educational resources to Michigan residents struggling with hunger, supporting more than 3,000 hunger-relief agencies statewide.

Operating at the intersection of market and moral missions, the MFBFoC envisions a Michigan where no child goes to bed hungry. By reinvesting proceeds into local communities and supporting effective programs, Michigan Farm Bureau is committed to making that vision a reality.



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