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**Voice**

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You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

~ Martin Luther King

Vol2026:  
January 9, 2026

## Over 20,000 toys were distributed through Northwest Michigan Toys for Tots

By Mike Kent

Traverse City, Mich.— December 24, 2025 - An estimated 5,700 children in the Traverse City region will share the joy of new toys tomorrow thanks to the success of the northwest Michigan Toys for Tots campaign.

While the final numbers will not be fully known for several days, campaign organizers estimate they collected and distributed over 20,000 toys this year. Organizers say they believe they met the needs of more than a dozen human service agencies that distribute the toys to families in need. The northwest Michigan campaign covers Grand Traverse, Antrim, Benzie, Leelanau, and Kalkaska Counties. Other Toys for Tots campaigns operate throughout northern Michigan.

"This was a challenging year," said campaign coordinator Maggie Kent. "Toy requests were up from previous years. But thanks to the tremendous generosity of this community, thousands of toys will be in the grateful hands of kids this Christmas. It would never have happened if not for those who took toys to our drop-off locations and a variety of events."

Kent also praised the long list of sponsors who supported the campaign with cash donations or in-kind gifts.

The toy donations were augmented by 245 bikes donated through Piper's Project This Girl Can, and Bikes for Tikes. Corporate cash donations were given by Meijer, Fox Grand Traverse, Great Wolf Lodge, Leelanau Sands and Turtle Creek Casinos, the Les and Anne Biederman Foundation, Trout Town, and Moose and Stella's restaurants in Kalkaska. An additional \$10,000 gift was received from an anonymous donor.

"This is a campaign built around faith," said Kent. "None of us sees the final results. As it should be, it's the parents who experience the joy when their child opens a present on Christmas morning. All we can do is have a warm feeling because we know that moment will be special."

Local corporate sponsors include Meijer, Fox Grand Traverse, Serra of Traverse City, Great Wolf Lodge, Two Men and A Truck, Up North Live News, Midwestern Broadcasting, Black Diamond Broadcasting, Blarney Stone Broadcasting, Traverse City Record-Eagle, Leelanau Sands Casino, Turtle Creek Casino, The Les & Anne Biederman Foundation, Jen Tees, A. Papano's Pizza, Bay Area Transportation Authority, Fast Signs, US Coast Guard, Menards, Republic Services, Service Masters, Poolside, Home Depot, Grand Traverse Industries, Lowe's, Trout Town Tavern & Eatery, Moose & Stella's Café, Jimmy Johns, and Traverse City Tourism.

Now in its 78th year, the toy drive is part of a national campaign initiated by the Marine Corps Reserves. It is the largest toy collection program in the country, with 800 campaigns in all 50 states. More information is available at <http://www.toysfortots.org>



Above: Toys for Tots display at Odawa casino  
Below: Two Men and a Truck help transport bicycles for Piper's Project This Girl Can.



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# 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**

**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**

**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: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 4<sup>th</sup> 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**Northwest Michigan Voice**

**Vol2026: January 9, 2026**

# OBITUARIES

## Webster "Pat" Lee Patterson Jr.

August 16, 1943 ~ December 23, 2025

Webster "Pat" Lee Patterson Jr., 82, of Kalkaska, passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025. He was born on August 16, 1943, in Port Huron, Michigan, to the late Webster and Ruth (Muhlitner) Patterson. Webster was a devoted family man who was married to the love of his life, Margaret, for 58 years, until her passing in 2023. He was always there for his family and took great joy in watching his children and grandchildren participate in sports. He enjoyed fishing, camping with Jim and Linda Flory, golfing—where he was well known for hitting the long ball—riding his Harley, and Saturday game nights, especially playing dominoes. He also enjoyed refereeing kids' hockey games alongside his grandson. Webster was well loved by his coworkers and considered a great friend to many. Webster worked



for MichCon for 30 plus years and later for Dan McCormick Ford in Kalkaska, where he drove dealership trades. He will be lovingly remembered by his sons, Jeff (Teresa) Patterson and Brian Patterson; his grandchildren, Ryan and Heather; his great-grandchildren, Isabella, Zayden, and Hunter; and his siblings, JoAnn (Tim) Linehan and Dorsey (Jeanette) Patterson. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Margaret, and his daughter, Debra Patterson. A funeral service took place on Friday, January 2, 2026, at Kalkaska Funeral Home at 1:00 pm with a visitation beginning at 11am until the time of service. Burial will take place in the spring at Evergreen Cemetery in Kalkaska. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

## Brendon Allen-Prophet Toomsen

December 14, 1999 ~ December 13, 2025

Brendon Allen-Prophet Toomsen, age 25, passed away on December 13, 2025, one day before his 26th birthday. Born on December 14, 1999, Brendon was the beloved son of Dennis and Tiffany (Browning) Toomsen.



Brendon's life. He is also survived by his grandparents Keith and Bev Linzemann and Teresa (Randy) Severance. Brothers, Bryce, Bristen, Derek, Khloen and Josh; and his sisters, Khloey and Adrianna; along with many extended family members and friends who will forever cherish his memory.

Brendon was preceded in death by his father, Dennis Toomsen; his great-grandmother, Ruth; and his grandfathers Mark and Larry.

Though his life was far too short, Brendon leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and unforgettable memories. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him.

Memorial plans are being made and will be announced by the family.

Above all else, Brendon loved his family. He was a devoted father to his son, Elliot, with his estranged wife Tamyra. Elliot was the light of

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## Michael Dominic Tornow

August 28, 1949 ~ December 27, 2025

Michael Dominic Tornow, 76, of Fife Lake, Michigan passed away peacefully at home after a life marked by service and dedication to his family and community. He was born on August 28, 1949, in Adrian, Michigan.



of the Downtown Development Association, contributing to community planning and local improvement efforts. He was a longtime member of the American Legion in Fife Lake.

Michael is survived by his three daughters, Amelia (Josh) Schuring, Bridget Tornow, and Camille (Andrew) VanSolkema; by his grandchildren, Anja, Roman, and Amari, who brought him great pride; and by his siblings, Donn Tornow, Susan (Ed) Clegg, Mariana (Chris) Sanford, and John (NanHe) Tornow. He's preceded in death by his parents, Don and Elizabeth ("Betty") Tornow.

Mike served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. His military service included time on the ground in Vietnam, as well as duty aboard the USS America, where he supported blue-water operations throughout the conflict.

In his adult life, Mike devoted many years to coaching youth swimming. He led the Cruisers Swim Team, based at the Kaliseum in Kalkaska, MI, where he taught young athletes the skills and discipline required to become competitive swimmers.

Mike was also active in local civic affairs. He served on the Fife Lake Village Council and was a member

A memorial was held for Michael at the Fife Lake American Legion on Saturday, January 3, 2026 at 11:00 A.M.

## Daniel Mark Rasch Sr.

April 2, 1953 ~ December 16, 2025

Daniel Mark Rasch Sr, age 72, passed away on December 16, 2025. Leaving behind a lifetime of cherished memories. Daniel was born on April 2, 1953 in Ferndale, Michigan to the late Carl and Hazel (Watkins) Rasch.



grandchildren making wonderful memories that will always be cherished. He found happiness watching westerns, fishing, hunting, as well as going on camping trips. Daniel is reunited with loved ones that have passed on before him. Daniel will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

Cremation has taking place as per his wishes. A celebration of life will be announced at a later time. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

**Northwest MI**

**V O I C E**

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## Richard Kevin Spires

April 19, 1957 ~ December 1, 2025

Richard (Rick) Spires 68, of Mancelona journeyed home on Monday, December 1, 2025 at Meadow Brook MCF following a long, hard 13 year battle with Frontotemporal Dementia.

Rick was born on April 19, 1957 in Kalkaska, MI to Leslie and Vivian (Stratton) Spires.

He was a 1975 graduate of Mancelona High School. He had worked many years in the automotive industry, followed by his "favorite job" -at Mancelona Public Schools (where he was known to many as "Uncle Rick")-, and eventually retiring from Northwestern Michigan College.

Rick was passionate about life and made sure to live it to the fullest. He made everyone feel that they mattered. His smile, laugh and energy were contagious. He loved people and they were naturally drawn to his light which made him the center of attention in every situation. Family was important to him and it brought him great joy when he was able to provide a place for the family to circle the campers for weekends/holidays.

Rick was a memory making machine. If he wasn't in the woods hunting, hiking, mushroom hunting, berry picking, fishing, camping, rock hunting, on a ballfield, or on a golf course, you could bet he'd turn up somewhere with somebody, getting into something. He would make memories alone, or with



whoever wanted to tag along. He wasted no time and made sure to have no regrets.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents. Brothers: Samuel (Helen) Spires, Leslie (Elaine) Spires Jr. Sister: Martina (Harry) Sutter. Brother In-laws: Thomas Healey, and Harry Sutter.

Rick is survived by his wife of 37 years Jane. Sons: Richard (Audra)Spires Jr., Shawn Spires. Sisters: Zila (Tom) Healey, Gertrude (Ken) Westcott, Edna (Norm) Lanning, Sheryl (Dave) Miller, Bonnie (Orlo) Wildfong, and Jeanne (Eric) Hoogerhyde. Grandchildren: Mallorie Spires, Collin (Kadence) Spires. Bonus Grandchildren: Dustin Micheal, Darren Michael, Alyiah Grody. One Great Granddaughter: Josie Spires. Many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend their gratitude and appreciation to the staff at Meadow Brook for the excellent care he received during his stay. Even as his light was dimmed by the FTD he made his presence known by warming hearts with his infectious personality. -Your efforts truly went above and beyond.

Rick's life will be celebrated on: April 19, 2026, 12-4pm at the Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd. Alden, MI 49612.

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

## Jeffrey Logee

March 31, 1971 ~ December 19, 2025



He also loved a good deal at the grocery store and liked to spend time cooking in the kitchen and sharing meals with those he loved. Jeff was quite a movie buff. He enjoyed 80's movies in particular and would source and endlessly

share movies with family. Jeff always had a soft spot in his heart for kids and loved being an uncle and watching his niece and nephew grow up.

Jeff is survived by his parents, Owen (Jo) Logee of Shreve, OH, and Barbara Francis of Tega Cay, SC; two brothers, Matt Logee of Hilton Head, SC, and Grant Logee of Wooster, OH; three sisters, Elizabeth (Brett) Haen of Tega Cay, SC, Andrea Logee of Columbus, OH, and Sydney Logee of Lexington, KY; several aunts and uncles; as well as nieces, Lilah and Oriana and a nephew, Henry.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Emerson and Barbara Logee, and his maternal grandparents, Homer and Mary Green.

Jeff's family will celebrate his life privately in the summer of 2026.

Arrangements are in the care of the Bellaire Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.

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## Lewis Martin

December 19, 1948 ~ December 20, 2025

Lewis "Lew" Martin, age 77, passed away on December 20, leaving behind a lifetime of cherished memories, contagious laughter, and the kind of friendships that feel like family.



Born on December 19, 1948, in Wyandotte, Michigan, Lew had a rare and genuine gift because he made everyone feel at home. His door was always open, his heart even more so. Known for his warmth, quick wit, and easy smile, Lew was the person who brought people together and made moments memorable. His gatherings were legendary, filled with laughter, storytelling, and friendly competition especially when sports were involved.

A proud graduate of Lincoln Park High School, Class of 1967, Lew was a natural leader. He played both football and baseball and served as class president, roles that reflected his lifelong love of teamwork, camaraderie, and bringing people together.

Lew deeply cherished his family and friends, valuing time spent together above all else. A devoted sports fan, he passionately supported Detroit teams but found joy in watching almost any game, especially when shared with good company. He found happiness on the golf course, peace while fishing, and true contentment at his northern Michigan home, where he embraced the beauty of nature and the animals he so dearly loved.

Never one to miss a good party, Lew was well known for his love of karaoke, particularly his unforgettable rendition of "Pretty Woman." With his own carefully

prepared set list in hand, he delighted in entertaining others, spreading joy, and making sure everyone felt included in the fun.

True to his wishes, Lew would want his life remembered as a celebration full of stories, music, laughter, and love. His legacy lives on through his wife and children, in the countless lives he touched, the friendships he nurtured, and the joyful moments he created. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Lew is survived by his wife of 47 years, Kitty (Catherine Hope) Martin; his children Laura (John) Freeman, Lewis Martin, Amanda (Mike) Anderson, and Brett (Maria) Martin; and many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He is also survived by his brothers Ken Martin and Ron Martin; his sister Janie Calpin; and many sisters- and brothers-in-law.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ira and Clara Martin; his brother, Don Martin; and his daughter-in-law, Michelle Martin.

A celebration of life was planned for Saturday, January 31 in the Detroit area. In lieu of flowers, please share your favorite Lew Martin story by sending them to rememberbiglew@gmail.com or donations may be made in his memory to Michigan Trout Unlimited, an organization that serves the Northern Michigan environment that he loved so dearly.

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

**Additional Obituary on page 9**

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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 to 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 aging 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).



## Stroke Club Meets for Open Discussion

### Grand Traverse Bay Area Stroke Club meets at Presbyterian Church on January 14

The Grand Traverse Bay Area Stroke Club will host an open discussion during the meeting on Wednesday, January 14 from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, located at 701 Westminster Rd. in Traverse City.

Melinda Hollands, L.M.S.W., with Munson Medical Center's Patient Care Management Department, will facilitate the club meeting.

The Grand Traverse Bay Area Stroke Club is open to the public and meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The group offers stroke survivors and support persons the opportunity to learn, share, and connect through speakers, demonstrations, and discussions.

For more information, please contact Hollands at 231-935-6380.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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# CALENDAR

## January 2026

January 3-30, Vintage Pyrex Dishware Display. Come visit Alden District Library and see Karen Movsesian's collection of vintage Pyrex dishware. 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.

January 10, 10am, Story Time with Miss Bri. Miss Bri will be reading stories with a winter theme and doing simple activities with the kids. This program will be held in the library located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

January 15, 9:30am social time & 10am meeting, Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting, held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. Topics of discussion will be plans for upcoming programs, book sales and activities. Anyone interested in supporting the library is always welcome. 231-331-4318.

January 21, 12:30pm - 4:30pm, Drop in Tech Help at Alden District Library. If you need help setting up your new phone or tablet, troubleshooting problems with your current devices, or navigating the internet, drop by the library for 30 minutes of free help from staff member Jeff Morton. Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.



January 26, 4pm, Data Safety Crash Course. Join the Kalkaska Library for this FREE presentation from our tech services librarian on how to protect your private information on the internet. Even if you're a total tech novice, you can make sure your personal data is safe! Located at the Kalkaska County Library. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at [info@kalkaskalibrary.org](mailto:info@kalkaskalibrary.org) for more information.

January 26, 5pm - 7pm, Bat Chat with the Conservation District. Join the Kalkaska Conservation District and the Kalkaska County Library for an after-hours workshop all about Michigan's bats. Enjoy a free bat talk, then craft your own bat house to take home and help local wildlife. Bat kits are \$20. Located at the Garfield Branch Library, 466 W Sharon Rd SE, Fife Lake, MI. Visit [kalkaskaconservation.org](http://kalkaskaconservation.org) for more information.

# 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

If you would like your church to be listed, please send an email to [tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com](mailto:tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com)

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# COMMUNITY

## DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)

*Meet Jerry, the award-worthy guest writer*

22 September 2003

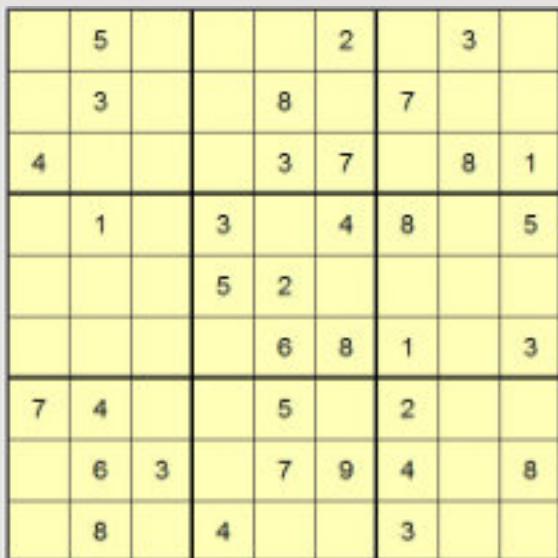
Dear Mark,

A long overdue note to tell you how much I enjoy your column. While I agree 100% with your gambling views, I would offer another take on keno. Having been gambling in Reno since 1948 and as a longtime Nevada resident, I consider gambling to be entertainment. Here is my take on keno. I meet three friends two or three times a week and we each play two games of keno progressive at \$1.25 a game. If we win, we split the winnings. Here's the math: Two games at \$1.25 and a buck for the keno writer. Another \$1.00 for our "free" drink for a total of \$4.50. We take turns playing, so we stay longer. In three years, our biggest win was \$65.00 for 5 out of 6. \$5.00 for the keno writer and a whopping \$20.00 for each of us (only three of us that day). So we are not making any money, right? Now, let's look at it another way. If we met at Starbucks, do you think we could get out for \$4.50? Do you think we would be welcome to hang around as long as we like? Do you think we would ever make any money? Also we have friends who spend several hundred dollars a week playing golf, or what about fishing, hunting, bowling... well, you get

the idea. We enjoy ourselves and COULD win something. Reno has to be the best place in the world to live. We drink, eat and see shows for next to nothing and are welcomed every time we visit. Flash: I delayed writing you for so long, but we finally hit a solid six for \$4700.00! Two hundred dollars for the keno employees and \$1500.00 each of us (three again). Keep up the good work, and I especially enjoy your "war" stories about gambling. Jerry L.

Who am I, Jerry, to fault you on your philosophy? Your gambling coterie is betting money they can afford to lose, and you have set loss limits (\$4.50) and win goals (free drinks). Your impeccable reasoning calls to mind the violet-haired Reno beauty who borrowed \$5,000 from her bank for a two-week trip to Bermuda, leaving her \$250,000 Rolls Royce in the bank's underground parking level as collateral. When she returned, repaid the 5 grand along with \$15.41 in interest, and started toward the parking area, a bank VP approached her discretely and said, "Please forgive my curiosity, but why would anyone leave a car worth a quarter million as collateral for a loan of \$5,000?" She smiled at him and asked, "Where else could I park my car, under guard, for two weeks, for \$15.41?" Understand, Jerry, that keno is a

## Sudoku Puzzle January 9, 2026



**Solution on page 15**

tough beat because of the muffle my claptrap and quietly enormous casino advantage the endorse the proceedings of your house holds on the game. cadre of green felt gamblers. Consequently, table games and selected casino wagers, played intelligently, offer the greatest hope for the player, unlike yourselves, whose dominant purpose is walking out of the casino with the casino's loot. But I do tip my fedora to the "entertainment factor" of gambling, especially with games, keno included, that are enjoyable to play on a modest bankroll (under \$5). I can't be critical of any player whose strategy limits his or her gambling to under five bucks, maintains total bankroll control, and who enjoys the R&R aspect of casino gambling. I think I will just



=====

**Gambling quote of the week:**  
"Mastering the inherent unpredictability of any game or art form can trigger overpowering 'pleasure,' and this dopamine rush gets deeply embedded in the memory of some of the most talented practitioners." James McManus, *Positively Fifth Street*



Dear Friend,

In 2025, we got a lot of stuff done. That's what we're all about in Michigan. We take care of our family, our friends, and our community. We work together to build a brighter future.

This year, we:

- Eliminated state taxes on tips, overtime, and Social Security.

- Secured the largest roads deal in Michigan history, \$2 billion more every year to fix the damn state AND local roads.
- Provided free pre-K and community college for all.
- Fed all 1.4 million public school students free breakfast and lunch.
- Protected quality, affordable health care for

millions who get their insurance through Medicaid.

- Built more affordable housing, met our goal of 75,000 homes a full year ahead of schedule, and upped that goal for next year.

Sincerely,  
Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor

## = MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

**Growth, Meaning and Self-Mastery Part 2:  
The Bear and The Dragon**

The commitment to personal growth will come with many thresholds to break through. There are two forces that live within us: The Bear and The Dragon.

These are not enemies to be destroyed. They are our teachers.

**THE BEAR:**

The Bear represents the outer-world challenges life throws at you:

- Sudden loss or changes in direction
- The ending of a relationship(s)
- Financial pressure or setbacks
- A world that shifts faster than you can comfortably adapt

The Bear asks you: "Do you really want to grow?"

Every time we climb to a new level in our personal development and go outside our comfort zone, we encounter a new and stronger Bear than the last one. Each Bear is a reminder that we are growing. Each Bear invites us to practice patience, courage and faith in the process of our own growth.

It's not punishment. It's preparation.

**THE DRAGON:**

The Dragon lives inside us. It represents the inner struggles we carry. This might show up as:

Unresolved pain or hidden grief from losses

Habits that show up as self-sabotage

Limiting beliefs that can whisper, "You'll never be enough."

The Dragon feeds on our fears, shame and tendencies to avoid difficult things. It whispers in an attempt to keep us small and safe. It will show up in the stories that we tell ourselves to shrink from joy or when we doubt our own self-worth.

If the Dragon is not tamed, it will be content to burn down the whole village.

Taming the Dragon is not about using force. It's about bringing awareness and self-compassion to your journey. It's choosing to stay present when everything in you wants to quit or run away.

You overcome the Dragon when you:

- Learn to keep showing up.
- Learn to keep breathing through the fire.

In time, you will discover a quiet strength that will outlast your fear. You will begin to live from purpose instead of pain.

**EMBRACING THE JOURNEY:**

Our growth is not about perfection. It's about participation.

When we learn to meet the Bear with our courage and the Dragon with our self-compassion, it ceases to feel like a test or hardship and begins to transform into a training ground. You begin feeling more grounded, wise and deeply alive. This builds our resilience and our ability to face anything life brings. This is another way we win at life.

**-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

**James "Jim" McClurg**

March 30, 1932 ~ December 7, 2025

James Edson (Jim) McClurg passed away on December 7th 2025 at his beloved cabin on the north end of Torch Lake in Eastport, Michigan. Jim was born in Dearborn, Michigan in 1932 and was fortunate to live a full rich life for 93 years. His early years were divided by living and attending school during the fall and winter in Dearborn and spending spring and summer at the family cabin on Torch Lake.

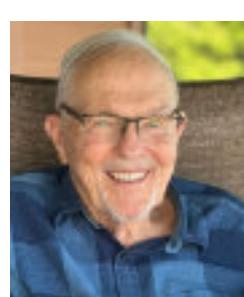
As a boy Jim, his twin brother Bill, and the other kids on the Torch Lake beach entertained themselves with water skis, home-made diving helmets, paddle boards, water ski jumps, and diving towers. They canoed, rowed, and sailed all over the lake, including rowing a rowboat from Eastport to Elk Rapids (31 miles). They then turned around and rowed the 31 miles back. Their antics earned them a reputation and they were invited to put on the first community water ski show.

Jim was very athletic and he enjoyed many sports throughout his life. In high school he used a bamboo pole that he had cut from a grove in Florida so that he could compete in pole vault. He loved many sports including tennis, handball, racquetball, squash, skiing, hockey and softball. His

passion for sports included coaching high school swimming, tennis and diving. He enjoyed backpacking all of his adult life and instilled a love of the outdoors in his children and grandchildren.

Jim earned Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. In the 1960's he spent a summer doing geology fieldwork in Mexico for Pemex, driving a 1945 army jeep across Mexico. He later taught the UM Geology Department's summer field course in Boulder Colorado and later in Jackson Hole Wyoming. Jim fell in love with the West and in the early 1970's made his home there. He spent the majority of his career at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, beginning in 1972 and retiring in 1997. Jim conducted research into the origins of coal, which included touring many of the swamps of the southeastern U.S. He published his findings and shared them with other interested researchers.

Jim enjoyed many aspects of being a college professor but his first love and true gift was teaching. Early in his career he produced and taught over 100 TV programs for both the U of M Television



Station and the National Education Television (NET) Science series "Through Children's Eyes." He made science interesting (doing things like drinking a glass of water while upside down to prove that gravity wasn't necessary to swallow).

He received teaching awards everywhere he taught. At the University of Wyoming he won every teaching award offered, some a number of times. He was well known for his popular Introduction to Geology course, and was responsible for inspiring many students to pursue geology or science careers. After retirement he was recruited by the Wyoming Geological Survey to mentor new hires and to edit publications. Jim continued his love of teaching and was a sought after presenter, giving talks on history and geology in both Wyoming and Michigan.

He had a lifelong interest in building and woodworking. He constructed several additions to the cabin in Eastport enlarging it in order to make room for his growing family. He was eager to help anyone in need with home improvement projects. Always the teacher, he taught his children

how to fix and build things.

Jim's biggest legacy may be his grandchildren and great grandchildren, and they loved him dearly. He was never too busy to spend time with them. No request went unanswered, no matter how trivial. He spent hours in his wood shop with them, helping them create projects. He and his wife, Pat, created a sense of home for his far flung family on the shores of Torch Lake, where they gather together every summer.

Jim is survived by his wife of 53 years Patricia (Pat) Hatch McClurg; children Jon (Caroline), Tom (Susan), and Karen Sheffres (Bob); grandchildren Sam (Liza), Ryan (Taylor), Jacob, Lauren, Audrey, Michael, Jackson (Eve), Benjamin; and great grandchild Ezra. His twin brother Bill and parents Howard and Louise McClurg preceded him in death.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Torch Lake Conservation Center, <https://conservetorch.org/donate/>, or Doctors Without Borders, <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/get-involved/ways-to-give>.

Arrangements are in the care of the Central Lake Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.

# COMMUNITY

## *Learn to ice fish from the pros, build your own snowshoes*

The DNR Outdoor Skills Academy offers opportunities to learn how to ice fish with professional anglers and build a pair of snowshoes this winter.

Hard Water School, with virtual instruction Jan. 13 and 20 and an in-person class Jan. 24 at the Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center in Cadillac's Mitchell State Park, provides an ice fishing experience for anglers of all skill levels. Focusing on techniques for panfish, walleye and pike, pro staffers from Clam Outdoors, HT Enterprises, Vexilar, K-Drill, Fish Bones and

more will provide expert instruction on setup, rigging, gear selection, fish location, ice safety, and rules and regulations. Participants will have the opportunity for hands-on learning on the ice, including one-on-one guidance from professionals. Cost is \$25, which includes a take-home gift and bait.

During the Snowshoe Building Workshop at Hartwick Pines State Park in Grayling, Jan. 24-25, instructors will teach participants, step by step, how to lace the modified bear paw-style, wooden-framed snowshoes (10 inches by 36

inches). Tubular nylon will be used for the lacing. The snowshoe kit comes with a set of "Super A" bindings. Cost for the class is \$195.

Additional snowshoe-building sessions are available in February and March, and another Hard Water School is scheduled in February. Find more details about these and other classes at [Michigan.gov/OutdoorSkills](http://Michigan.gov/OutdoorSkills).



## *Take in fresh air, scenic views during lantern events*

Get out and enjoy Michigan's winter with lantern-lit hikes at several state parks:

- Lantern-lit Snowshoe Trail, now through Feb. 28, and Lantern Hike Jan. 9, Jan. 16, Jan. 23 and Jan. 30 at Mitchell State Park in Cadillac.
- Lantern-Lit Snowshoe at Van Riper State Park in Negaunee, Jan. 9 and Jan. 23.
- Lantern Lit Trail Event at Sleeper State Park in Caseville, Jan. 24.
- Lantern Hike at Island Lake Recreation Area in Brighton, Jan. 31.



# 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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

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

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

**Knights of Columbus, St Joseph the Worker Council #7419**, St Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, 438 Co Rd 612 NE, Kalkaska, contact Dave at 231 587-4328

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Thu, 7 pm**

**Friends of the Alden District Library**, Helena Township Community Center, 8752 Helena Rd, Ald

# 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*

## Aiming High

January 9, 2026

It may have been my dad who first advised me to aim high. "Aim for the moon," he said, "because even if you don't get all the way there, you will still be way ahead of where you would be if you just aimed straight ahead."

I have aimed at more than one goal and fallen somewhat short, but the advice is still good, and correct. At one time, I aimed to become an opera star. I had a very wide lyric soprano vocal range, easily tinkling up there on a high C and even making a high E; and I could comfortably descend to an A or G below middle C. I never became an operatic diva, but I did have about ten years as a working performer in the dinner clubs around Chicago. And, I was also a folk singer and guitarist.

At one time, I expected to be an engineer. That also didn't happen, but I learned a lot about how things work. Knowing the laws of physics, I am a driver who would never cut in front of an eighteen-wheeler truck and stand on the brakes to make it onto an off-ramp. I know the truck simply cannot stop on a dime.

When motherhood came along, I expected to be an at-home Mommy until my children were full

grown. But, things do happen, and I suddenly found myself alone with four children to raise. Children want to eat every day, so I got a job, that within a couple years led me into export management. Feeling very guilty about having to cut into family time in order to earn a living, I was greatly lifted up when my youngest daughter said to me, "No, Mom, you are showing us what a responsible adult does."

Marriage was something that I had to try more than once to get it right. It seems I have finally succeeded at that, having recently celebrated 38 years in a very stable and loving marriage.

During a batch of pre-employment tests I discovered that binary logic is just obvious to me. I had never known that. But armed with that talent, I easily developed the skill of computer coding. So, among other things, I am also a computer programmer and database developer.

Becoming a journalist and newspaper publisher was never something I envisioned for myself. But, just over ten years ago this opportunity fairly dropped into my lap. Now, I get to be part of a paper that my community loves. People tell me that they truly look forward to each issue every two weeks. I've

been frequently asked how soon I can make it a weekly publication. Well, that's going to take some work.

Here's the idea I have – and I've been working on how to make it happen for more than a year, now. I think we can make it a weekly paper online, and continue the biweekly print version. I'm working on learning the intricacies of the back end of websites, because that's where the real magic is. I'm pretty comfortable already with the front end coding. So, a few more lessons on the controls, the servers, the databases, and all that stuff, are still ahead for me. Also, I need to find enough sustaining advertisers to support this venture. Shooting for the moon, I'll just go ahead and say what I need. I need subscribers for the print version and I need advertisers for both the print and web versions. If you are interested, or know anybody else who would be, please reach out to me.

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

Shalom

Tina Norris Fields  
Editor

## 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) How many times does the Constitution refer to "due process of law"?
- 2) Where are those references found?
- 3) What is the principle reflected in these two references?
- 4) Is this protected right reserved for citizens?



## Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue's questions

- 1) Where in the Constitution is the "writ of habeas corpus" referenced?  
*A. Article I, Section 9, paragraph 2, says: "The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it."*
- 2) What does the Latin phrase "habeas corpus" mean?  
*A. Literally, it means "you have the body."*
- 3) How is the writ of habeas corpus used?  
*A. Typically, a judge will issue the writ, thereby obliging whoever is detaining a person to provide that person physically to the court.*
- 4) Why is this important?  
*A. This offers protection against unlawful detainment. The entity detaining the person has to produce that person in court and has to present to the judge the reason for detainment. The judge then determines whether the detainment is legal or illegal.*

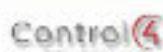
***Everything in this paper  
is important to somebody***



**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



Electrical • Audio/Visual • Networking  
 Security • Home Automation



**HOME OR BUSINESS**



#### Electrical

Custom homes - Commercial - Industrial  
 Generac Generator Stand By Power Systems

**Lighting Control and automated Blinds**  
 Lutron HomeWorks - Lutron RadioRA2

#### Audio / Visual

Prewire to final hook up  
 Installation of TVS and sound equipment  
 We provide quality brands of all equipment

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Security systems - Camera systems

#### Networking

Wifi systems - Hardwired systems

A HOME AUTOMATION SYSTEM CAN ALLOW  
 YOU TO CONTROL YOUR HOME FROM  
 ANYWHERE AROUND THE GLOBE

**231-331-7122**

6323 Rapid City Rd. NW, Rapid City, MI 49676

admin@morrisonelectricinc.com

**morrisonelectricinc.com**



#### 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**

## Becky's Children's Crocheted Mittens in Three Sizes

### First Piece: Fingers and top half of palm

Rnd 1: Begin with ch 1 into a magic ring, then hdc 6 (7, 8) into ring, join (slst into first st of rnd).

Rnd 2: ch 1, 2 hdc in each st around, join (12 sts, 14 sts, 16 sts). TIP: After completing rnd 2, snug up magic ring and secure yarn tail.

Rnd 3: ch 1, 2 hdc in each st around, join (24 sts, 28 sts, 32 sts).

Rnds 4-11 (4-12, 4-13): ch 1, work even, join. Leaving a short tail, cut yarn and set aside.

### Second Piece: Thumb, bottom half of palm, cuff

Rnd 1: Begin with ch 1 into a magic ring, then hdc 10 (10, 11) into ring, join.

Rnds 2-6 (2-7, 2-8): ch 1, work even, join.

Rnd 7 (8, 9): join at 1st st of first piece, ch 1, work even, join. TIP: To avoid a gap between the end of the first piece and the start of the thumb, after completing the last st of the first piece, yo, hook through same st just worked, pull yarn through, hook through next (first thumb) st, pull yarn through (4 loops on hook), pull yarn through all loops (34 sts, 38 sts, 43 sts).

Rnd 8 (9, 10): ch 1, work even, join.

Shaping below thumb: Rnds 9-11 (10-13, 10-14) ch 1, follow chart, join.

Size	Round	Dec hdc every #th & next sts tog	Additional sts to finish rnd	End rnd st count
Small	9	7	2	30
	10	9	0	27
	11	8	0	24
Medium	10	8	2	34
	11	10	1	31
	12	9	1	28
	13	13	0	26
Large	11	9	3	39
	12	12	0	36
	13	11	0	33
	14	10	0	30

Rnd 12 (14, 15-16): Ch 1, work even, join.

### Cuff:

Row 1: ch 7, turn, sc next 6 chs, sl st next 2 sts.

Row 2: turn, ch 1, sc next 6 sts in back loops.

Row 3: turn, ch 1, sc next 6 sts in back loops, sl st next 2 sts.

Repeat rows 2 & 3 around. Finish by sl st two sides of cuff together.



# WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

## *The Sweet Truth: Local Raw Honey Shines in the Mitten*

By Dominic Fortuna

SUTTONS BAY -- As a singer, I'm always on the lookout for natural ways to keep my vocal folds in top shape. That's why I'm obsessed with local raw honey – it's a game-changer. Not only does it add a touch of sweetness to my tea, but it also helps with allergies, inflammation, and overall wellness. Let's dive into the awesome benefits of raw honey -

**Here's a thorough list:**

1. Soothes Cough: Raw honey is a natural cough suppressor, coating the throat and calming irritations.
2. Antibacterial Properties: Raw honey has hydrogen peroxide, which gives it antibacterial powers, helping to fight infections.
3. Anti-Inflammatory: Raw honey's antioxidants and flavonoids reduce inflammation, easing conditions like sore throats and arthritis.
4. Allergy Relief: Consuming local raw honey exposes you to local pollen, helping desensitize you to allergies.
5. Wound Healing: Applied topically, raw honey promotes wound healing, reduces infection risk, and speeds up tissue repair.
6. Digestive Aid: Raw honey soothes digestive issues, like ulcers and gastro issues, thanks to its prebiotic properties.
7. Energy Booster: Raw honey's natural sugars provide a quick energy boost, making it a great pre-workout snack.
8. Antioxidant-Rich: Raw honey contains antioxidants that fight free radicals, protecting against chronic diseases like cancer and heart disease.
9. Skin Health Raw honey's antibacterial and moisturizing properties make it a great face mask or skin treatment, helping with acne and eczema.

10. Immune System Support: Raw honey's antimicrobial properties help boost your immune system, fighting off illnesses.

11. Sleep Aid: Consuming raw honey before bed can promote relaxation and improve sleep quality.

12. Respiratory Relief: Raw honey helps with asthma and bronchitis symptoms, easing congestion and coughs.

13. Oral Health: Raw honey's antibacterial properties can help with oral health, reducing plaque and gingivitis.

14. Neuroprotective Effects: Some studies suggest raw honey's antioxidants may help with neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

15. Weight Management: Raw honey's natural sweetness can help curb cravings, supporting weight management efforts.

**Some other perks:**

Raw honey's unique flavor profile comes from the flowers the bees visit.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting a beekeeper in Suttons Bay, who runs an amazing operation. She produces some of the most exquisite raw, unpasteurized honey I've ever tasted. And the best part? She filters it just once with fine cheesecloth – no pasteurization in sight. It's liquid gold, folks.

But what really gets me excited is the variety of flavors you get with local raw honey. Depending on what flowers the bees have been busy with, you can experience a range of tastes. Take the lady in Boyne City, for example – her honey has a rich, caramel-like flavor, and she's got a bear problem, which only adds to the story. Or the lady in Wolverine, whose honey has a hint of licorice, thanks to the abundance of golden rod near her farm.

I've been experimenting with crystallized honey, too. There's nothing quite like adding a spoonful

to your coffee or tea – it's the perfect natural sweetener. And the health benefits? Countless. Raw honey has antibacterial properties, anti-inflammatory compounds, and can even help alleviate allergy symptoms.

I've got a quart of my favorite honey stashed away, and I savor it by the tablespoonful. It's a treat, for sure, but it's also a healthy habit. I've noticed a significant improvement in my vocal health since I started using it regularly.

If you're looking to experience the magic of local raw honey, I highly recommend seeking out a beekeeper in your area. Not only will you be supporting local agriculture, but you'll also get to meet some incredible people. And who knows, you might just find your new favorite flavor.

As for me, I'll be back in the studio soon, belting out tunes with a spoonful of liquid gold in my tea. If you're a fellow music lover or just someone looking for a natural way to sweeten up your life, give local raw honey a try. Your taste buds (and vocal folds) will thank you.

### **Upcoming Honey Adventures**

This Thursday, I'll be picking up a jar from a lady in Wolverine – can't wait to try it in my morning tea. Looking for a crystallized honey to add to my coffee routine – if you know a beekeeper with a great selection, let me know!

### **Local Beekeepers**

Suttons Bay: Unpasteurized, raw honey filtered with fine cheesecloth

Boyne City: Rich, caramel-like flavor (bear problem notwithstanding)

Wolverine: Licorice-like flavor, thanks to golden rod

Support your local beekeepers and taste the difference for yourself! !

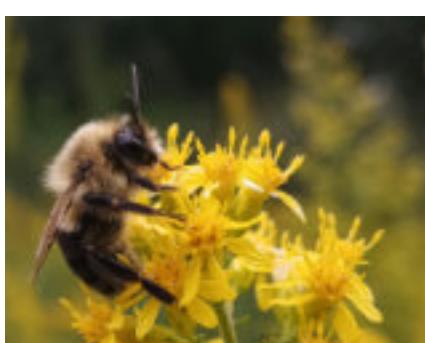


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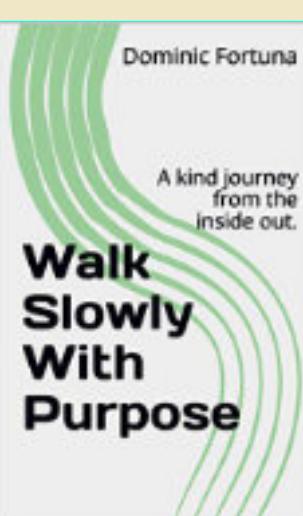
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## *Now Available from Amazon on Kindle and in Paperback*

**Dominic Fortuna's book,**

**“Walk Slowly With Purpose”**

**Be immersed in a magical journey from tragedy to triumph. Wise and fun characters jump off the page and keep you reading. A great and inspiring read you won't be able to put down. Let your mind take a journey along with Gary and all of his new friends to a better life with understanding, kindness, and a grateful heart. [www.amazon.com/Walk-Slowly-Purpose-journey-inside/dp/1796373141](http://www.amazon.com/Walk-Slowly-Purpose-journey-inside/dp/1796373141)**





# COMMUNITY

## Dates Set for the Second Annual Traverse City Food & Wine

Traverse City, Mich. — Traverse City Tourism announced December 11, 2025, that Traverse City Food & Wine, the celebration of the region's agriculture, culinary and craft beverage scene, will bring five days of events, starting on Wednesday, August 19th and wrapping up Sunday, August 23rd.

Details are still being planned, but organizers say the event will feature celebrity chefs, cooking demonstrations, food and beverage pairings, fine dining, farm tours, and specialty tours and tastings. The Grand Tasting - an afternoon featuring chef demos, dozens of local bites and over 100 locally-made beers, wines and spirits - will be held on Saturday, August 22.

"With the wide variety of freshly grown fruits, vegetables, fish, and meats, the Traverse City area has a unique story to tell," said Traverse City Tourism Chief Operating Officer, Whitney Waara. "The first year of the event was a resounding success. We've seen that chefs, participants, and winemakers are enthusiastic about returning next year."

The 2025 inaugural Traverse City Food & Wine featured over 80 events, and most of them were sold out. The headliner was celebrity chef Tyler Florence, a Food Network veteran and celebrated cookbook author. Visitors from 34 states attended the event.

"We were able to showcase the diversity and creativity of our culinary and craft beverage scene, and that helped introduce visitors to the region," said Traverse City Tourism President Trevor Tkach (tah-KACH).

Traverse City Food & Wine is presented by 4Front Credit Union and organized by Traverse City Tourism. More information about the event is available at [www.TraverseCityFoodAndWine.com](http://www.TraverseCityFoodAndWine.com).

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### About Traverse City Tourism

Traverse City Tourism is an independent, not-for-profit destination organization that promotes the greater Traverse City area as a leisure and business destination with an excellent quality-of-life. Through the impact of travel, Traverse City Tourism helps strengthen the local economy and supports a thriving entrepreneurial community. Details of the region's lodging, attractions and area events are available at [www.TraverseCity.com](http://www.TraverseCity.com).

Mike Kent | Public Relations Manager

231.995.3927 | [mikek@traversecity.com](mailto:mikek@traversecity.com)

Photos courtesy of Traverse City Tourism.



Tyler Florence takes center stage at The Grand Tasting



Actress Amy Smart introduces a celebrity chef to the main stage.



**Sales:**  
Monday 8 am - 8 pm  
Tues-Fri 8 am - 6 pm  
Sat 9 am - 3 pm  
Sun CLOSED

**Service & Parts:**  
Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 5:30 pm  
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