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In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.

~ Albert Camus

Vol2026:

January 23, 2026

TRAVERSE CITY FOOD & WINE PRESENTS



Cheesy Valentine's Spotlights Local Food & Beverages

By Mike Kent

Traverse City, Mich. — “The Cheesiest Valentine's Ever” combines local food and beverages to celebrate the northern Michigan culinary scene. Traverse City Food & Wine announced a series of events today to make this Valentine's Day a memorable experience. It includes a variety of cheesy dinners, cooking classes, cheese-making opportunities, and cheese pairings with local wines and spirits.

The inaugural Traverse City Food & Wine was held last August. Organizers say the Valentine's weekend pop-up is designed to remind people of the year-round culinary and draft beverage scene and wintertime fun the region has to offer. “The Traverse City area is a four-season epicurean destination,” said Traverse City Tourism President Trevor Tkach (tah-KACH). “This event puts a fun twist on a winter holiday, giving foodies one more excuse to get out and enjoy the unmatched talents and tastes of our region.”

The Cheesiest Valentine's Ever will be held at multiple locations around the Traverse City area between Thursday, February 12, and Sunday, February 15th. While most events are ticketed, some are pay-as-you-go activities. Tickets and information are available at TraverseCityFoodandWine.com.

Some of the events include:

- French Valley and Leelanau Cheese - A Special Tasting and Talk - French Valley Vineyard - February 12
- Whiskey & Cheese Pairings - Traverse City Whiskey Co. - February 12
- Flights & Cheesy Flatbreads - French Valley Vineyards - February 13
- Currated Wine & Cheese Pairings - Bel Lago Winery - February 13
- Galentine's Charcuterie Board Workshop - Black Star Farms - February 14
- Savor: Melt. A Love Story of Wine & Cheese - Bonobo Winery - February 14
- Love At First Bite: A Valentine's Wine & Cheese Dinner - Dune Bird Winery - February 14
- Fresh Mozzarella & Pizza Napoletana Cooking Class - Black Star Farms - February 14
- Mozzarella Workshop Cheesemaking - Leelanau Cheese - February 14

- Vintage Reds & the Grateful Dead - Left Foot Charley - February 15
- Wine and Cheese Love - Mawby Vineyards - February 15
- Dip & Sip Fondue Brunch for Two - Black Star Farms - February 15
- Savoring Sunday: Vines and Rinds - Chateau Chantal - February 15

Traverse City Food & Wine is presented by 4Front Credit Union and organized by Traverse City Tourism. The 2026 Traverse City Food & Wine event will be held August 19 - 23. More information is available at 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

Mike Kent | Public Relations Manager

231.995.3927 | mikek@traversecity.com



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. 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 Ladles 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, to register, email 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 Cheresse 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

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 jkuiper@learnselfcompassion.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 ljslyker@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. 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: 1st 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: 1st 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: 2nd 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_scraps1960@sbcglobal.net

When: 3rd Sat, 9am - 5pm

Children's Activities

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

When: 1st 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

Wigglers 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/EHSKRegistration>

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

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

When: 1st and 3rd Thu, 3:30 to 6:45 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When: Fri 10:30 am

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

When: Fri, 3:30 pm

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

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

O&A - continues on page 11



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OBITUARIES

Kathleen Lenora Weitschat

June 13, 1941 ~ December 30, 2025

Kathleen Lenora Weitschat passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family in her cozy, lovely home on Tuesday, December 30, 2025 – she was 84 years young. Kathleen was born on June 13, 1941, to John and Kathleen Donley in Pontiac, Michigan. She graduated from St. Michaels Catholic High School in Pontiac, and after graduation, she worked as a punch card operator at General Motors. Later, she was a partner and co-owner of a small business (party store) in Wilmot, Michigan. Kathleen truly enjoyed being a mother to her four children, Mike, Lisa, Chuck and Sarah.



family and friends. She also gave really honest advice and was a wonderful listener. She had a lot of love and “sass” to spread around and never had a fear of offering it to people. She would frequently say, “I am so glad I moved here.”

Kathleen is preceded in death by literally almost everyone! She was the last living member of Donley family. She leaves behind her children, Mike (Chris) Weitschat, Lisa (Scott) Otto, Chuck Weitschat and Sarah (Matt) Davis. She also leaves behind her wonderful grandchildren, Riley (Caroline) Weitschat, Taryn (Luke) Phillips, Jack Otto, Ellie (Gunnar) Ward, Charlie Ward, Ava Otto and Max Ward. Additionally, she is survived by her special nieces and nephews for whom she made an incredible impact; special friends; and “her girls,” the dedicated and loyal and steadfast staff of the ER News for over 20 years. Her absence will be noticeable, but her legacy will endure.

Stop by her bench at the Elk Rapids Harbor and sit for a bit. As sun is shining, just like she was, note the message she had placed on her plaque that reads: “Everything Will Be Fine.”

There will be a celebration of life/party during the summer (her favorite time of year), and in lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Kathleen Weitschat Memorial Scholarship Fund: Checks made out to Alden State Bank (with Memorial Fund Kathleen Weitschat) in the subject line and can be mailed to: Alden State Bank, PO Box 39, Elk Rapids, MI 49629, or please honor Kathleen’s legacy by supporting Elk Rapids News with your advertising needs.

Kathleen’s seven grandchildren were asked to select one word defining the special qualities of their beloved “Kazzy/Cassie,” and these are their heartfelt words, which are also found throughout her obituary:

Ellie – *Shining*; Max – *Determined*; Charlie – *Lovely*; Taryn – *Independent*; Riley – *Steadfast*; Jack – *Community*; Ava – *Witty*.

Kathleen moved to our beautiful town of Elk Rapids in 1991 and worked a few interesting jobs locally until becoming employed by the Town Meeting newspaper. During her tenure, she became the leading advertising executive until she took a true leap of faith and started a community newspaper in 2005, determined to succeed. She loved being an integral part of our community. Her passion to provide the surrounding area with a positive publication weekly, allowed her to live her happiest life.

The Elk Rapids News would become one of her proudest achievements. She was fiercely independent and a wonderful role model and inspiration to all who knew and loved her. She was always active in quietly contributing to the community’s needs. In addition to providing positive news, she saw the importance in supporting small businesses. The amount of “in kind” support for organizations like the Elk Rapids Public Schools, various nonprofits, individuals and helping businesses develop advertising campaigns was an immense joy for her.

Kathleen had an amazingly witty sense of humor, loved car rides, Neil Diamond, Willie Nelson, Cali’s Cottons in Traverse City, all things Irish and potatoes in every form. She capped these things off with some Grand Traverse Late Harvest Riesling and assorted Sees Candies. Mostly, she relished in spending time with her loving

Susan Joyce Smelker

March 11, 1952 ~ December 26, 2025

Susan Joyce Smelker, died on Friday, Dec 26, 2025, after a long and well-lived struggle with cancer. She is survived by her beloved husband of fifty-three years, Michael Smelker; her children, Jeremy (Kimberley) Smelker, Christopher (Tonya) Smelker, and Emily (Kevin) Adams; her grandchildren, Taylor, Austin, Braeden, Andrew, Greyson, Sara, Isaac, and Isabel; two brothers, three sisters, many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and nephews, as well as aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Esther Bennett; and her parents-in-law, Don Smelker and Kaye Smelker-Barnes.



her spouses and her grandchildren, whether up at the lake or in their own homes. Nothing excited her more than the seemingly small things like attending her grandchildren’s artistic and sporting events; or simply having the opportunity to pick

them up from school and sharing in an impromptu chat session. Sue was fond of recalling the warmth and love of her own grandmother referring to her often as “the grandma of grandmas” and saying that she wanted to be “just like her!” It was a hope that she certainly fulfilled. Her children and grandchildren were the joy of her life and she of theirs.

And yet, Sue’s kindness, infinite patience and compassion were not limited to immediate family.

Up at the lake, she and Mike loved nothing more than to open their home to relatives and friends from near and far. Sue delighted in the chaos of adults and children running up and down the steps to and from the lake, jumping into and out of boats, dragging fishing poles in a and out of the house, sunning on the dock, and sitting around campfires at night. She loved it all! And then she also loved the quiet moments spent on the pontoon boat with whoever chose to escape with her for a brief interlude. She was always the first to notice a child (or even an adult) in need of a little individual attention and her heart would open just to them.

Sue will be deeply missed by all who loved her. She was a woman who lived life fully even up to the end. A person of deep faith, she never received an answer to the trial to which her illness subjected her; and yet, she never stopped trusting that her family, and her Lord, were walking with her always in, and through, the midst of it.

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

Susan spent her life caring for others. A graduate of Henry Ford Hospital’s School of Nursing, she spent many years serving as a Registered Nurse, first in the hospital setting and then for over twenty years in the specialty field of Allergy and Immunology. She worked in the offices of both Dr. Ghannam and Dr. Mohan in the Lansing-Okemos area; serving for many of those years as Head Nurse and Office Manager. She was well-loved by both staff and patients. Upon retirement, Sue and Mike fulfilled their dream of relocating year round to their home at beautiful Bear Lake in Kalkaska, Michigan; a place that Sue loved dearly. In Kalkaska, she loved being involved in the community to which she contributed in various ways, including the sometimes thankless task of election worker; and on a number of committees at St. Matthew Lutheran Church where she was an active member. Sue was also an avid crafter and quilter. She had a gift for creating beautiful and original designs which continue to be treasured by those fortunate enough to have been recipients of her grace and generosity over the years.

Sue was a person of many talents but what she loved most was spending time with her children,

Judy K. Thornburg

January 15, 1949 ~ January 13, 2026

Judy Kay Thornburg, 76, of Kalkaska, made her journey to Heaven on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. She was born on January 15, 1949, in Grayling, Michigan, to the late Fred and Violet (Helsel) Blaisdell. Judy was a devoted wife and a loving caring mother and grandmother. Her family meant everything to her, and she would do anything for her sons and grandchildren. She especially enjoyed watching her grandchildren play sports and treasured the time she spent with them. Judy loved the outdoors and cherished camping trips to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, particularly in Grand Marais. She found peace by the water, enjoying time on the lake,



watching the waves and sunsets over Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. She also enjoyed walking the Seven Bridges with her grandchildren. Judy had a special fondness for elephants, which she truly adored. Judy will

be lovingly remembered by her husband Ronald; her sons: Richard, Jeffrey, David, Gary, and Douglas; her grandchildren: Aria, Ryan, Tucker, Justin, Jacob, Cassie, Ashley, Anthony, Wyatt, and Kyle; and many great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings. Private services will take place. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

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Kalkaska

Carol Evangelista Zubris

July 18, 1954 ~ December 28, 2025

Carol Evangelista Zubris, 71, of Kalkaska, MI passed away after a long illness of MS on December 28, 2025 at Kalkaska Memorial Health Center-Asst. Living Center. She was born on July 18, 1954 in Detroit to the late James and Elizabeth (Arnold) Evangelista.



Memorial Assisted Living where she lived for the past 11 years who became family.

Carol is survived by her sisters, Marie (Dan) Tinkle and Diane (Don) Skinner; many nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Preceding Carol in death was her husband Leonard; both sets of grandparents; her parents; a brother; and a nephew.

In accordance with Carol's wishes, she has been cremated. A celebration honoring her life will be held in Kalkaska in the spring of 2026.

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

Carol brought love and laughter wherever she went. She graduated from St. Gemma Elementary School and Rosary Catholic High School. Carol was a long time employee of Shifrin/Willens Jewelers in Michigan.

Carol and her husband Leonard lived in Brighton and moved to North Fort Meyers, Florida after his retirement. She had countless health care workers who became dear friends at Kalkaska

John R. Dolinich

July 8, 1943 ~ January 14, 2026

John Randolph Dolinich, 82, of Kalkaska, passed away on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. He was born on July 8, 1943, in Romulus, Michigan to the late John and Helen (Harrison) Dolinich.



John proudly served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a hardworking, dedicated, and honest man who valued a simple life. Above all, he was a loving husband and father. In his free time, John enjoyed golfing, fishing, and spending time with animals; you could always find a few dog

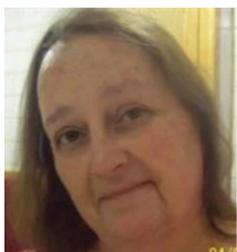
treats in his pockets, just in case. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Monica; his son Darren (Amanda) Dolinich; and his siblings-in-law, Jennifer (Scott) Kent and Sheldon Krall. Per John's wishes, no services will be held. The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff of the Eden Center for their compassionate and excellent care. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

John served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a hardworking, dedicated, and honest man who valued a simple life. Above all, he was a loving husband and father. In his free time, John enjoyed golfing, fishing, and spending time with animals; you could always find a few dog

Melinda Ann McNamara

October 3, 1952 ~ December 28, 2025

It is with heavy hearts we share the passing of Melinda "Missy" McNamara on December 28, 2025 at home in Kalkaska with her beloved family with her. She was born on October 3, 1962 in Camden, Arkansas and adopted by the late Pete and Maxine (Garrison) Turner, who were wonderful parents.



Huff and Kyle McNamara; 10 grandchildren; her siblings, Richard Turner, Gordan Turner, Barbara Johnson, Cindy (Mike) Heep, Belinda Sue (Ricky) Rivera, Susan (Curtis) Lamie, Mellissa Holland, Vicky (Paul) Ruse; and many great-grandchildren.

Preceding Missy in death is her loving grandson, Korbin McNamara.

She will be missed by so many, "Till we meet again!"

Missy's celebration of life was Saturday, January 10th at 1:00 pm at the Heritage Vineyard Church in Kalkaska. Burial of cremains will take place in the spring at Lodi Cemetery.

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

Missy married her husband, Paul G. McNamara on July 25, 1980. Together they had 3 children. Missy devoted her life to being a housewife and raising her children, spending time with her grandchildren and being there for anyone that knew her. Her kids describe her as someone who never did a selfish act.

Every Wednesday for over the last 10 years donating her time at ACTS, the local food bank and store for the needy.

Missy is survived by her beloved husband, Paul; her children, Paul (Jenny) McNamara, Lilly (Russ)

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Alberta Ellen Reedy

July 21, 1952 ~ January 8, 2026

Alberta Ellen Reedy, of South Boardman, MI, passed away on January 8, 2026. She was 73. Alberta was born on July 21, 1952, to Ralph and Lucille (Hall) Funke in Farwell, MI. Alberta attended Farwell Public Schools and graduated in 1970.



eat and spent many hours talking on the phone. Alberta will be missed by all and remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. Alberta is preceded in death by her husband Wendell

Ray Reedy; parents Ralph and Lucille Funke; sister Ruth Helms; and twin brother Albert Funke. Left to cherish her memory are her daughters Wendy (Henry) Patton and their children Cameron, and Brooklyn Patton of Fife Lake; and daughter Brenda (Jerry) Runstrom and their daughter Sophia Runstrom of Kingsley; sisters Phyllis (Thayne) Sides of Weidman and Hilda (Roy) Burmeister of Clare; along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Arrangements provided a visitation at Kalkaska Funeral Home, 152 S. Cedar St. Kalkaska, MI on Monday, January 12th, from 5-7pm and then at 10am on Tuesday, January 13th with the funeral service following at 11am. Burial will take place in the spring at the Sylvan Township Cemetery in Evart, MI with a date and time to be determined. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

Alberta married the love of her life, Wendell Ray Reedy of Evart, MI. After marriage, they settled in South Boardman, MI where they raised their two daughters, Wendy and Brenda. As a family, they enjoyed camping when the girls were small and with the girls with their extended families later in life. She and her husband were avid golfers and enjoyed traveling to various golfing destinations. She also enjoyed watching cooking shows and found enjoyment experimenting with fun recipes. Together they also gardened, and she canned many of the vegetables they grew to enjoy throughout the year. She and Wendell loved to travel and take many getaways. They were also long-time members of the Fife Lake American Legion, where she met her best friend, Lee Ann Olmstead. She and Lee Ann enjoyed shopping and going out to

John 14:2 - In my Father's house, there are many mansions.
If it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.

Northwest MI

VOICE

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Additional Obituaries on pages 9 & 10

Munson Healthcare Calls for Voices for Food Access Art Contest Submissions

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Munson Healthcare is inviting community members of all ages to participate in the Voices for Food Access contest, a regional art initiative celebrating stories of nourishment, resilience, and creativity.

Under the theme “Your Voice. Your Table. Our Community.” the contest encourages individuals to submit original artwork that reflects what food access means to them. Submissions should be completed by February 11 and may include visual art, photography, fiber art, written word, music (limited to 60 seconds), or any other artistic medium, and are open to residents across Northern Michigan.

“This program is a beautiful reminder that food is more than a meal—it’s connection, care, and community,” said Christina Nowak, System Director of Community Health and Engagement at Munson Healthcare. “We’re proud to offer a platform where people can share their stories and help strengthen food access efforts across Northern Michigan.”

Submissions will be voted on by community members in three age categories:

- Children (up to age 8)
- Youth (ages 9–17)
- Adults (18 and up)

The first 75 submissions will receive a \$50 digital gift card redeemable for fresh, canned, or frozen fruits and vegetables at Michigan grocery stores along with a ticket to the Northwest Michigan Food Coalition Empty Bowls event. These prize dollars are intended to help individuals try a new healthy recipe,

stretch their grocery budget, or even pass the card along to a local food pantry if it’s not something they need right now.

“We’re extending tickets to the Empty Bowls event to invite more community members into the conversation around food access. The event offers a meaningful way to contribute to the local food landscape, connect with neighbors, and support efforts to reduce hunger across Northwest Michigan. Whether you’re someone we serve or someone who wants to make a difference, we hope to see you there,” said Kathy Maly, Chair of the Empty Bowls Event.

In addition, winners in each category will also have the opportunity to direct a \$1,000 Munson Healthcare donation to a local food access organization of their choice.

“This contest builds upon our ongoing work with community partners to support food access,” Nowak added. “In recent months, we’ve been proud to contribute to organizations like the Manna Food Project, Otsego County Food Pantry, Crawford County Community Christian Food Pantry, Charlevoix Community Food Pantry, Blessings in a Backpack programs in Benzie and Manistee, Goodwill Northern Michigan, and more—each doing vital work to nourish our neighbors. This initiative is another way to elevate those efforts and invite the community to be part of the solution.”

Submissions will be accepted online through foodaccess.voicesforcommunityhealth.org. Community members are also encouraged to take the Voices for Healthy Food Access pledge and explore the resource bank, which offers options for those facing food access challenges as well as opportunities for

others to get involved or donate if they’re able.

To learn more, submit your artwork, or get involved, visit foodaccess.voicesforcommunityhealth.org.

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About Munson Healthcare:

Rated by Fortune Magazine/PINC as one of the Top 15 Health Systems in the nation, Munson Healthcare is a non-profit health system serving over 500,000 residents across Northern Michigan. As the largest healthcare organization in the region, MHC serves its communities through primary care and specialty clinics, urgent cares, outpatient imaging, lab, and surgical facilities, five community hospitals, and three regional hospitals including Munson Medical Center that is home to Cowell Family Cancer Center, Munson Orthopedic Institute, Traverse Heart and Vascular, and The Witham Family Comprehensive Stroke Center. Learn more at munsonhealthcare.org.

About Voices for Community Health:

Voices for Community Health is an annual art contest led by Munson Healthcare. The program invites individuals of all ages to share personal expressions of art for the given topic to amplify community voice, foster awareness, connection, and action. This year’s topic—healthy food access—aims to share resources, traditions, and stories to help build a more nourished and resilient region—one story at a time.

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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 26, 4pm, Data Safety Crash Course. Join the Kalkaskalibrary 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 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 for more information.

January 27, 4pm, Friends of the Kalkaska County Library Meeting. Located at the Kalkaska County Library. Public is welcome. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.

January 29, 5pm, Knitting Club at the Kalkaska County Library. Join us for an open hour of social knitting. Bring your own project and work while spending time with other knitters. Located at the Kalkaska County Library. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.

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

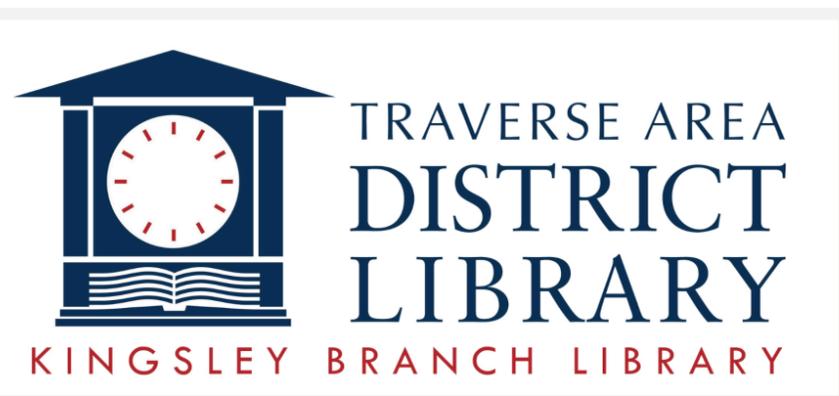
Torch Lake Assembly of God
9456 Valley Rd, Rapid City
Sunday morning:
11:00 am - Worship Service

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



Everyone Has a Story: Storytelling Community Circle

Join The Kingsley Folk School at Kingsley Branch Library for a relaxed, no-prep storytelling community circle. Inspired by NPR's The Moth, the Everyone Has a Story series invites you to simply show up and share—no scripts, no pressure. Just real moments from your life, told in the moment.

Together, we'll listen, laugh, reflect, and connect with neighbors through the power of spontaneous storytelling. Participants are welcome to speak

for up to 5 minutes, or simply come to enjoy the stories and sense of community.

This gathering happens on the second Thursday of every month from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Kingsley Branch Library.

Event is free and open to all, with no registration required. For more information or to request reasonable accommodations, please call the Library at 231-263-5484 or follow us on Facebook.

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DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)

Money maker makes good on his name

29 September 2003

Dear Mark,

I have seen and heard about people getting into online poker tournaments by entering with a buy-in of \$40.00, and winning some big-time money. My question is how, or where, do they go to get in? M.J.

A few months back, I penned a column stating that an amateur could not possibly compete against the best poker players in the world. Poker sovereignty requires massive deception, lying, stealing and a whole host of other necessary plunger virtues, which in combination can drive other (amateur) players off the pot. I now shudder to recall that I wrote something like: Against the teeth of the pros, your hide is still a red meat moment.

Well, MJ, I have to soften my position. No, check that. I humbly chow and choke on my words above. Not only can it be done; it HAS been done, by a rookie of just three years playing experience, a man named, aptly if incredibly, CHRIS MONEYMAKER.

The poker world was forever changed on May 24th, 2003, when Chris Moneymaker, who had never played in a "live" tournament, won the main event in the 34th annual World Series of Poker Championship at Binion's casino in Las Vegas. And yet, this Cinderella story is not exclusive to Binion's on Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas. Online players playing on the World Poker Tour (Travel Channel) are not only making the final table, but also winning some WPT events. Moneymaker's win launches a new era in poker, where not only can you become a skilled poker chiefly by playing online; you can become the World Poker Champion. I'm still eatin' here, a little nibble of delicious roast crow.

Today, humans weaned on a computer, playing in \$40 online buy-in tournaments, are eclipsing the seasoned expertise borne by playing countless hands in a smoke-filled casino.

The final World Championship Event Texas Hold'em (No Limit) has a buy-in of \$10,000, but of 839

players, only 63 paid the full \$10,000. The others qualified by winning satellite tournaments at Binion's or online poker tournaments. Chris Moneymaker qualified at a tournament held at pokerstars.com, for which he paid an entrance fee of only \$40. Besides pokerstars.com, other online poker sites are paradisepoker.com, partypoker.com and ultimatebet.com.

But a caveat, MJ, when it comes to playing poker online: Nevada gaming regulators, getting their cue from the federal government, have issued the bureaucratic mumble that Internet poker sites are illegally allowing American citizens to play. Nevada law now expressly prohibits players betting on the Internet. As you might expect, regulators and the law enforcement jockies have not prosecuted individual players, yet.

Being modestly alert to real world happenings, I do not and can not condone even a mild fracture of pertinent statutes, but do understand that the adventurous among us may calculate a risk/reward ratio that reflects the Moneymaker formula of \$40 to make 2.7 million through an online route, despite the possible decline in cordiality between them and the feds.

Dear Mark,

Concerning Texas Hold'em, what does the term "nut" mean? Mayo L.

Mayo, old pal, you've hit a 3-bagger. The "nuts" is an unbeatable hand, given the cards that have been dealt and played. Then there is the "nut player," one who plays only premium hands. And finally, there's the "nut," the minimum stake (money or overhead) needed to continue playing this nutty lifestyle.

=====

Gambling quote of the week: "I got lucky along the way. I also bluffed a lot during this tournament, but somehow I got away with it." Chris Moneymaker, 2003 WSOP Winner



Sudoku Puzzle January 23, 2026

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

Solution on page 15



Over 100 Scholarships Available through the Community Foundation

TRAVERSE CITY – More than 100 scholarships are now open through the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation that aim to support the secondary education pursuits of graduating high school seniors, current college students, and vocational/trade school students from across the region.

Students from Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau County and the sovereign nation of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians are invited to apply by completing the Community Foundation's General Scholarship Application. The General Application will provide students with a list of scholarships for which they may be eligible after the application is complete.

The Community Foundation also offers several scholarships that require a separate application from the General Application, including the Home Builders' Association of Grand Traverse Area Scholarship, Michigan County Medical Care Facilities Council Scholarship, National Writers Series Scholarships, Northwest Michigan Osteopathic Scholarship, Traverse City Track Club Scholarship, Northwestern Michigan College University Center Scholarships, and the USS Indianapolis/Gwinn "Angel" Scholarship.

Last year, the Community Foundation awarded 277 scholarships to 223 students across the region, totaling more than \$509,728. Scholarship applications for 2026 are available online and due by 11:59 pm on March 1, unless otherwise noted. Some scholarships may require a separate application or supplemental materials.

For more information, visit www.gtrcf.org/scholarships/apply. Community Foundation staff are available to provide guidance to students and families on scholarship eligibility; questions are welcome at scholarships@gtrcf.org or by calling (231) 935-4066.

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The Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation sparks positive change by inspiring generosity, caring for resources, and supporting our communities across Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau Counties as well as the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, now and forever. Established in 1992, the Community Foundation envisions a region where every person feels connected, supported, and empowered and where communities have resources and opportunities for everyone. To support this vision, the Community Foundation partners with donors, awards meaningful grants and scholarships, and participates in collaboration efforts for important community issues.

For more information, please visit gtrcf.org.

= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

Just Eat That Frog!

Before we move forward, let's get something straight... When I say "eat that frog," I'm not talking about anything **literal**. I'm talking about the moment we decide we want a better life than the one we inherited, adapted to, or settled for.

The metaphor is that if you have to eat a frog on any day, it's best to just go ahead and eat it right away, without delay.

We eat the frog when we:

- Choose growth when comfort would've been easier.
- Make decisions that stretch us beyond what felt reasonable or safe.
- Decide to begin one thing that will move us in an intentional direction with purpose.

These are the seasons that shape us—not because they are enjoyable, but because they are formative.

I share this because everything meaningful in my life came **after** I decided to act purposefully. They happened **after** I decided to wake up and just eat the frog first thing without hesitation.

Personal development is often humbling, irritating, uncomfortable work that's baked into becoming someone different than you were.

And every important chapter of your life will demand that you get up and eat another frog, and that's the part most people try to skip.

But here are some hard truths:

- Personal growth is dirty work.
- Healing is dirty work.
- Maturity is dirty work.
- Learning how to regulate yourself, set boundaries, tell the truth, and carry responsibility without collapsing—it's all dirty work.

Now, if you want a deeper, freer, more grounded life, you're going to have to get up and eat the frog. Not because you're failing—but because this is how change actually happens.

When we decide to eat that frog, the benefits are immediate: reduced anxiety, reduced worry, less chance of catastrophizing possible outcomes.

When we stay stuck in patterns we've outgrown?

There's a frog to eat there.

When we avoid the hard conversations, the grief, the accountability?

There's a frog to eat there too.

So if discomfort is unavoidable...

- Choose the kind that builds character instead of resentment.
- Choose the kind that deepens your capacity instead of shrinking it.
- Choose the kind that leads to resilience, not quiet despair.

Because the goal isn't to avoid the mess.

The goal is to let the mess make you stronger, wiser, and more whole—instead of letting it harden to you, so **EAT THAT FROG!** This is another way we win at life.

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-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CCEP

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.



Additional Obituaries on pages 4, 5 & 10

Wendy Jo Stevens

July 14, 1953 ~ January 7, 2026

Wendy Jo Stevens, 72, of South Boardman, passed away peacefully at her home on January 7, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on July 14, 1953, in Detroit, Michigan, to the late Earl and Patricia (Henry) Nelson. Wendy was raised in Grosse Pointe and, in 1980, moved to South Boardman with her husband Robert Stevens, where they made their home and raised their family.

Wendy's faith was the most important part of her life. She loved her family deeply and loved Jesus with her whole heart. She often shared that she was ready to go home to see Jesus and be reunited with her beloved husband.

She married the love of her life Robert Stevens at just 18 years

old, and together they shared 51 years of marriage before his passing. Wendy was the most giving and caring person—always willing to help anyone in need and never hesitating to give of herself. Her heart for service extended to feeding local first responders and caring for others in quiet, meaningful ways.

Wendy especially enjoyed cooking, with family dinners being one of her greatest joys. She treasured time spent with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who affectionately called her "Mimi."

For more than 20 years, Wendy was a member of her PartyLite family. Through her career, she



formed lasting friendships and fulfilled her love of travel, allowing her to see much of the world.

Wendy will be lovingly missed by her children: Christie and Matt McLeod, Stacy and Brian Muth, Bill and Michelle Stevens, and Eric and Samantha Stevens; her grandchildren: Nate, Zac, Luke, Alex, Taylor, Desitee, Dustin, Ongell, Jayden, Noah, and Elijah; and her eight great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters: Janice Lane, Leslie Taylor, and Karen Hea. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Carl Stevens and parents, Earl and Patricia Nelson.

The funeral service took place on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at

Kalkaska Funeral Home at 11:00 a.m., with visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial will take place in the spring at Boardman Township Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Wendy's honor to Wendy's Hands, Forest Area Federal Credit Union, Account #216470. This foundation will continue her giving spirit through anonymous donations. The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Hospice of Michigan for their exceptional care and compassion, which were second to none.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

Richard Woodrow Rowell

February 10, 1950 ~ January 3, 2026

Richard Rowell, 75 of South Boardman went home to be with the Lord on January 3, 2026 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. He was born in Cadillac to the late Woodrow and Beatrice (Ball) Rowell on February 10, 1950 and was a lifelong resident of the Kalkaska area.

After graduating Kalkaska High School in 1968, Richard received a Bachelor's Degree from Ferris

State University. He honorably served our country as a Sargent in the US Army. Richard remained active as a member of the VFW Post in Kalkaska. Richard enjoyed being outdoors and spending time with his family.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Jenny Rowell; and sisters, Marian and



Anne. Richard is survived by his devoted wife Phyllis (Dawson) Rowell; son's Joseph (Theresa) Rowell, Chad Rowell of Kalkaska; daughter Linsey Rowell (Randy Elkins) of South Boardman; grandchildren, Trentin Sizemore of Kalkaska, Gavin (Naomi) Sizemore of East Jordan, Sophie McCleese, Jack Rowell, Alex Rowell, and Sydney

Lutzke all of Kalkaska; and great-grandchildren Winston, Braxtyn, Greyson, and Crew. Richard was known to be a very wise and kind soul and will be greatly missed by all.

The family is planning a memorial in June to celebrate the life of such a beloved man.

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

Additional Obituaries on pages 4, 5 & 9

William "Mac" "Bill" McCully

June 29, 1938 ~ December 25, 2025

William "Mac" "Bill" McCully, 87, passed away on Christmas Day, December 25, 2025.

He was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, but if you really wanted to find him, you looked for the farm in Alden. That was home. That was where he was happiest. If heaven has a gravel driveway, a green John Deere, and a cup of coffee waiting, he is already settled in and probably telling someone they are doing it wrong.

Bill was a dad, grandpa, great grandpa, husband, farmer, hunter, friend, and a full-time character. Some people knew him as Mac. Some knew him as Bill. Some knew him as Wild Bill, and that fit just fine. He always had a funny story to tell or some advice to give that somehow made you laugh, even when he was serious. One of his core values was simple: make

it fun. He believed in doing your best because that is what he tried to do every day. Always.

If you knew him from the road, you recognized the truck and the cattle trailer rolling by. If you lived nearby, you might remember him showing up unannounced in that big green John Deere, plowing your driveway like it was his job. Then he would stop in for coffee like it was part of the payment. That was just who he was. He took care of people, even if he acted like he was just "in the area."

He had a playful, mischievous sense of humor and the kind of stubbornness that could qualify as a superpower. He followed the rules when they made sense and ignored them when they did not.



He could be quiet, loud, always right, and somehow still lovable. It was a rare mix, and it made him unforgettable.

Wild Bill loved to travel, loved northern Michigan, and loved his wife, Margaret. He took care of her until the end.

Margaret is living with Alzheimer's, and the way he protected her, cared for her, and stayed loyal through the hardest stretch of life deserves to be highlighted. He did not just love her. He showed it every day. That was his best work.

Bill is survived by his wife, Margaret; his sons, Larry (Lynn), Brian, and Bruce (Adam); his grandchildren, Sharon (Carlos), Bradley, and Oscar (Maria); and his great-grandchildren,

Anastasia, Aireanna, and Gabe.

A memorial gathering will be held on the farm at 8404 Ruttan Road in Alden, Michigan, at 1:00 pm on May 2, 2026. We will be doing something he loved and gathering together for a pig roast. Come hungry. Come casual. Come with stories and photos to share.

If you would like to make a donation in his honor, please consider the Alzheimer's Association. <https://www.alz.org>

Most of all, join us in celebrating a wonderful human. If you knew Mac, you know the world is a little quieter without him. If you loved him, you know he would not want anyone to be too serious for too long. He would want you to smile, laugh, and tell a story that gets better every time you tell it.

Nita Kay Wilson

August 2, 1956 ~ January 8, 2026

Nita Kay Wilson, 69 years old, born August 21, 1956 of Kalkaska, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, January 8th, 2026 in her home.

Kay was born in Pontiac, Michigan to the late Millard & Wanda (Stewart) Pender. She often told stories of her childhood and how deeply loved she was by her parents. Kay loved her parents and her brothers, Michael & John deeply and always held them close to her heart.

Kay loved the Lord with all of her heart. Her deepest desire was for those she loved to know Jesus Christ her Lord and Savior and to live for Him. Her goal was to always be a good testimony. No matter what she was going through, the first thing on her mind was to be a good example of trusting in the Lord and showing gratitude to Him.

Kay was the most grateful woman. Those who knew her well would

often, if not daily, hear her thank the Lord for whatever the day brought, whether good or bad. Even in her dear husband's final days, she could be heard saying "Thank you, Lord" as she kissed his forehead and held his hand. She was the most beautiful example of heartfelt gratitude.

Next to Jesus, her greatest joy was found in the love of her life, her husband of almost 50 years and her children and grandchildren. She loved her family so deeply. If you had the honor of knowing her, you knew how she felt about her family. Each of her children and grandchildren knew they were her favorite. She had a way of making us believe it was our little secret.

Kay was such a funny, witty and joyful woman. No matter how she felt or what she was going through, she wanted to make you laugh. There are so many wild and wonderful things about her



personality and what she brought into each of our lives. She loved to cook and bake and found so much joy in sharing her amazing food with her family and friends. Those who knew her, and those who just saw her

in the grocery store, were impacted in some way by her beautiful smile, her witty and hilarious made up words and her contagious laughter.

She is so deeply loved and will be so deeply missed.

Surviving Kay are her children, Michael John Charles Wilson, Melissa Anne Elizabeth (Jason) Faulk and Matthew Joseph Douglas (Eva) Wilson; grandchildren, Angel Aranda, Jade Aranda, Austin Wilson, Ethan Wilson, Liliana Fowlkes, Zoey Fowlkes, Jacob Faulk, Hannah Faulk, Maria (Brandon) George, Nuno (Emily) Casas, Jeshua Ehl,

Mariah Wilson, Keighann Wilson, Logan Wilson; great-grandchildren, Vanessa Faulk, Maverick Faulk, Jayden Durga, Isaiah Durga, Serenity Casas, Killian George, Audrey Casas, Gracie Casas, and Allison Casas; and her brother, Michael (Pat) Pender.

Preceding Kay in death is her husband, Charles Frank Wilson and her parents; siblings, John Pender and Jo Anne Pender.

A memorial service was held at Kalkaska Baptist Church in Kalkaska on Sunday, January 18th. The service began at 12:30 PM. In lieu of flowers, there is a GoFundMe set up to ease the financial burden on the family. Please consider donating your gifts there <https://gofund.me/cc3a5c5ba>

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

Jeanette Haskin

February 10, 1933 ~ January 11, 2026

Jeanette Haskin, 92, of Fife Lake, a beloved mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, went home to be with the Lord on January 11, 2026. She will be remembered for the love she so freely gave and for a life lived in devoted service to others.

Jeanette was born on February 10, 1933, at the family home in Walton Junction to the late Emery and Gladys (Wheeler) Smith. She spent the majority of her life residing in and around Walton Junction. Jeanette's life was defined by unwavering faith, a vibrant spirit, quiet strength, and deep devotion to her family and friends. Her love was constant and unconditional—felt through her prayers, her presence, and her compassion for others. To know Jeanette was to be loved, encouraged, and cared for.

Her greatest joy was her family. In 1952, she married the love of her life, William (Bill) Haskin, and together they built a beautiful life filled with lasting memories. From

their three children grew a large and loving family of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Jeanette was the heart of her home and a guiding light to generations who will carry forward her lessons of kindness, compassion, and faith—and her delicious recipes. Friends were family to her, and she welcomed everyone with warmth, grace, and an open heart.

Jeanette was deeply committed to her community and lived a life of service beyond her home. She was a founding member of American Legion Post 219 in Fife Lake, a member of the Fife Lake Rebekahs, and a dedicated volunteer with the election voting committee. She also devoted several years of her professional life to working at Manton Industries.



Her faith in God was the foundation of her life. She trusted Him fully and lived each day in service to others, leaving behind a legacy of love, devotion, and faith that will continue to bless all who knew her.

Jeanette is survived by her daughters, Linda Gregg; Laura (Craig) Haller; and Debra (Gordon) Gullekson; her "adopted son," Terry (Judy) Birgy; as well as 13 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, with another expected in August 2026, and one great-great-grandchild. Along with her sibling, Neil (Judy) Smith; and in-laws, Susan Smith, Erna Haskin, Sandy Maszy, Charles Haskin, Theodore (Cathy) Haskin, and Dennis (Mary) Haskin.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bill; son-in-law, David Gregg; parents; and brothers, Curt, David, and Mark Smith.

Visitation will be held on January 23 at Kalkaska Funeral Home from 6-8 p.m., with a Rosary at 7 p.m. A Funeral Mass will take place at St Aloysius Catholic Church at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 24, with final visitation beginning at 10 a.m.

Jeanette's family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Debbie Marsh, Heartland Hospice, and the staff (family) at Kalkaska Memorial Assisted Living for their compassionate care and loving support. Memorial contributions in Jeanette's honor may be made to Kalkaska Memorial Assisted Living or Heartland Hospice. She leaves behind cherished memories of a life that was deeply loved—a life that reminds us all that a life filled with love is a life truly lived.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

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: 3rd 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: 4th Sunday (3rd if 4th 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: 3rd 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: 1st & 3rd 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: 2nd & 4th 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: 2nd 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 6th 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: 2nd & 4th 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: 1st and 3rd 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: 2nd 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: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm

Mancelona American Legion Post #0264, 9850 S. Front St, Commander: Benjamin Zerod, Adjutant: Tamara Hunt
When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm

Antrim County Veteran Coffee Talks, 118 Bridge St, Elk Rapids, contact 231 533-8499
When: 3rd 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: 2nd 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: 2nd Wed, 6:30 pm

Coffee Talk for Veterans, M88 Morning Grind, presented by Antrim Co Veterans Affairs, contact 231 533-8499
When: 3rd 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: 1st 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: 3rd 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: 1st 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: 3rd 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: 2nd Wed, 1:00 pm

The Page Turners Book Club- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, registration appreciated, contact 231 533-8814
When: 2nd 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: 4th 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: 4th 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: 1st 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: 2nd Thu, 3:30 pm

T.T. Nooners Book Club, Kalkaska County Library, 247 S. Cedar St, 231 258-9411
When: 3rd 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: 3rd 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: 1st 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: 3rd 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: 3rd Mon, 5:00 pm

National Trout Festival, Trout Town Tavern & Eatery, 306 Elm St, 231 384-1509
When: 4th 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: 2nd and 4th 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: 3rd Tue, 10:00 to 11:00 am

Friends of the Kalkaska County Library, Kalkaska County Library 247 S. Cedar St, downstairs
When: 4th Tues., 4:00 pm

Friends of the Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, contact Denise, 734 444-2484
When: 2nd Wed., 11:00 am

Chain of Lakes Genealogy Club, Central Lake Library, 7900 Maple St, 231 544-2517
When: 3rd Wed, 6:00 pm

BIGG (Genealogy Group), Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8814
When: 1st Thu., 10:30 am

South Boardman American Legion #463 and Auxiliary Meeting, South Boardman Legion Hall, 5487 Boardman Rd (at the tank), South Boardman, contact 231 369-2944
When: 1st 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: 1st Thu, 7 pm

Friends of the Alden District Library, Helena Township Community Center, 8752 Helena Rd, Alden, 231 331-4318
When: 3rd Thu, 9:30 am social time, 10:00 am meeting

Alden Men's Club, Alden United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 9015 Helena Rd, Alden. Come see what we are all about, "Helping others in need," contact 603 540-3581 or visit www.aldenmensclub.org
When: last Saturday of the month , 8:00 am (except July and November), no meeting in December.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Alden United Methodist Church, 9015 Helena Rd, Alden
When: Sun, 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Central Lake VFW Hall, 1805 S. Main St, Central Lake
When: Sun, 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Sportsmens Club, 6095 Garfield Rd, Kingsley
When: Sun, Tue, 8:00 pm (Sun only May-Sept Mayfield Pond Park)

Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Living in Harmony, United Methodist Church, 2525 Beebe Rd, Kalkaska
When: Mon, 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Fife Lake Methodist Church, 206 Boyd St,
When: Mon, 8:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Hope Lutheran Church, 2680 S. M-88, Bellaire
When: Mon, 8:00 pm

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

O&A - continues on page 13

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, or send it via the USPS to Editor, Northwest Michigan Voice, PO Box 28, Rapid City, MI 49676

Constitutionally Protected Rights

January 23, 2026

As a citizen of the United States of America, I have been delighted and comforted all my life to know that my human rights are protected by a Constitution that is the supreme law of the land (Article VI). Some specific rights are enumerated in the Constitution, particularly in the Amendments (examples Amendments I through X the Bill of Rights).

It was always my understanding that my Constitutionally protected rights would not be, indeed could not be, violated by any officer of the law, whether local, state, or national. It never occurred to me to ponder what recourse I would have if an official violated my rights. I was certain that would not happen because everybody revered and adhered to the Constitution.

That was before I learned that many people, including some elected politicians and even some officers charged with upholding the law, do not know what is in the Constitution. This is hard for me to grasp. When I was in high school, we held mock national elections, mock United Nations debates, as well as our own student body elections. I thought everybody learned what was in our country's foundational documents.

We also had a debating club and learned how to argue rationally for a particular viewpoint, and to counter opposing viewpoints with critical analysis. Critical thinking was a skill we were strongly encouraged to develop. We learned

that it was important to be able ask ourselves whether something made sense or not, so that we would not fall for some fast-talking snake oil sales pitch. I thought everybody got that same kind of education.

I was wrong about both matters. Not every high school graduate knows what is in our nation's founding documents, and not everybody has learned critical thinking and logical argument. That is a real shame and it seems to be currently putting our entire nation in jeopardy.

Many people of my own acquaintance don't recognize that not all rights are laid out in the Constitution. Someone recently said to me "there's no right to an abortion in the Constitution." That's a true statement, and I'm not arguing that particular matter in this essay. However, I feel compelled to point out that there is also no right to supper in the Constitution. The point being that whether we do or do not have some particular right does not rely on that right being enumerated in the Constitution (Amendment IX).

But, back to the inviolability of Constitutional rights. I always believed that they were, indeed, inviolable. Now, I am forced to recognize that it is only the goodness and honor of the people, their representatives, and the officers of the law that give strength to the Constitution. It is only those who abide by the rules who are constrained by the rules. I used to believe that my nation's leaders, those whom we elected to temporarily hold the reins of authority, were

people of honor and virtue. I have had to let go of that belief.

When I see that even United States citizens are being arrested without warrants or due process of law, physically abused, wounded, and even killed, with impunity, I have to ask what recourse does a citizen have when Constitutional rights are violated.

What I have found, so far, is 42 USC 1983: Civil Action for Deprivation of Rights. This section of the United States Code says that anyone who deprives another of rights is subject to penalty, except that law officers acting in their official capacity may not be held to account. It is clear that sometimes a law officer could be held to account but that is often not the case.

This leads me to an awful thought. My precious Constitutional rights actually depend wholly on the goodwill and virtue of officers. That is a very frightening idea. Does it mean that we really don't have any Constitutional protection?

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

Shalom

Tina Norris Fields
Editor

References

Civil Action for Deprivation of Rights (42 USC 1983);
Retrieved from: <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title42-section1983&num=0&edition=prelim>

Constitution of the United States of America

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 rights are protected in the First Amendment?
- 2) What are those rights?
- 3) Are all rights laid out in the Constitution?
- 4) Are federal powers unlimited?



Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue's questions

- 1) How many times does the Constitution refer to "due process of law"?
A. *Twice.*
- 2) Where are those references found?
A. *In Amendment V and Amendment XIV.*
- 3) What is the principle reflected in these two references?
A. *An accused cannot be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.*
- 4) Is this protected right reserved for citizens?
A. *No. Amendment V states "No person shall...be deprived..." Amendment XIV states "nor shall any state deprive any person..." This principle is to be applied to every person, not only to citizens.*

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



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O&A - cont. from page 11

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA),
 Forrest Home Township Hall, 351 Bridge
 St, Bellaire

When: Mon, Wed, 12:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA),
 Forrest Home Township Hall, 351 Bridge
 St, Bellaire

When: Mon, Thu, 12:00 pm

TOPS #1304 Meeting, Kalkaska United
 Ministries for Christ, 2525 Beebe Rd,
 Kalkaska, contact 231 384-2154

**When: Tue, 9:00 am weigh ins, 10:00 am
 meeting**

**Al-Anon Family Group, Stepping Toward
 Serenity,** on ZOOM: login information on
 meeting list at Alanon-d39.org

When: Tues, at noon.

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

When: Tue, 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA),
 Kalkaska Senior Center, 303 S Coral St

When: Tue, 8:00 pm

Secular Sobriety Group, AA of Traverse
 City, meets on ZOOM, ID#447 584 8945
 PW 628608, more info at
 secularAAinMichigan.org

**When: Tues, Thu, 7 pm, Sun, 12 pm (also
 in person)**

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings (AA),
 Kalkaska United Ministries for Christ, 2525
 Beebe Rd

When: Tue, Thu, Sat 12:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA),
 Fife Lake Village Office, 616 Bates Rd

When: Wed, 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA),
 Central Lake VFW Hall, 1805 S. Main St,

When: Wed, 8:00 pm

Grief Support Group, (Kalkaska COA)
 Senior Center, 303 S Coral St, all ages
 welcome, contact 231 258-5030

When: 2nd and 4th Wed, 10:30 am

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

When: 3rd Wed, 2 pm

Grief Support, Kalkaska Church of Christ,
 1725 W. Kalkaska Rd, faith-based grief
 support, contact 231 258-9441

When: Thu, 6:00 pm

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



Pearl's Oat Crusted Lemon Bread

Ingredients

Lemon Bread

8 cups flour
 3 cups sugar
 4 tablespoons baking powder
 2 teaspoons baking soda
 2 teaspoons salt
 4 cups milk
 1 lb butter
 4 eggs
 ½ cup lemon juice
 ½ cup lemon zest

Oat Topping

½ lb Melted butter
 1½ lb brown sugar
 1 cup flour
 1½ c quick oats

Instructions

Preheat oven to 325

Spray 4 small loaf pans

In large bowl whisk together the
 flour, sugar, baking powder,
 baking soda, and salt. Whisk
 together the milk, butter, eggs,
 lemon juice, and zest. Pour into
 dry ingredients and stir with a
 rubber spatula until just
 combined. Don't over mix.

Mix all oat topping together with
 a spatula in separate bowl.

Divide into pans. Sprinkle with
 oat topping to desired amounts
 (oat topping freezes well).

Bake 30-45 min

Check with toothpick. Should
 come out clean. Batter will
 double in size when baked.



The biggest kitchen mixer I've ever seen

WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

Buckle up, Buttercup!

By Dominic Fortuna

We're talkin' winter driving in Michigan, where the snowflakes fall like crazy, and the roads turn into icy wonderlands. You gotta be prepared, 'cause the last thing you want is to be the star of a winter roadside drama.

So, you're cruisin' through the mitten, and the flakes are comin' down like nobody's business. Michigan's got rules – no chains on your tires, but make sure you've got good tires, or you'll be wastin' your money (and maybe your dignity).

You're headed to see Grandma in Marquette, and the GPS says you've got a couple hours to go. The roads are slick, but you're feelin' good with your snow tires. Suddenly, you hit a patch of black ice – whoa, mama! Your ride's got a mind of its own, and you're slidin' like a penguin on ice.

Here's what you do: **DON'T** slam the brakes! Ease off the gas, steer into the slide, and pray your tires grip soon. If you're rear-wheel drive, gently steer in the direction you want the back of the car to go. Front-wheel drive? Steer where you wanna go, and try not to freak out.

Slow down, friend! This ain't a race. If you're skidding, don't brake hard – you'll spin out like a top. If you gotta brake, do it gently, like you're hugging a kitten.

Now, let's say the worst happens, and you're stuck in Nowheresville, MI, with gas fumes and panic settin' in.

- **Stay calm.** You're gonna be okay.
- **Stay in your car.** It's a metal box, and it's safer than wandering in the snow.
- **Crank up the heater.** If you've got gas, keep warm. But here's the deal – make sure your

tailpipe's not blocked by snow; you don't wanna risk CO poisoning.

- **Small shovel.** Yep, bring one. If you're stuck, you might need to dig out.
- **Call for help.** If you have service, call a tow truck or roadside rescue.

Also remember the menace of winter driving: **BLACK ICE!**

Black ice – the sneaky ninja of winter roads. It's a thin, transparent layer of ice that forms on roads, making them look wet but feeling like you're driving on a freakin' skating rink. Here's the lowdown:

- **What is black ice?** It's ice that forms when temps are around freezing (32°F/0°C), and moisture on the road freezes fast. You can't always see it, but your car sure feels it.
- **Recognizing black ice.** Look for roads that look wet but don't have water puddles, or areas with shadows/little sunlight. Bridges, overpasses, and shaded spots are prime black ice zones.

Avoiding black ice

- Check weather/road reports before you drive.
- Drive slow, especially at night or in low-light.
- Keep an eye on temps – freezing temps + moisture = potential black ice.

Driving on black ice

- Don't slam brakes or accelerate: Ease off gas/brakes gently.
- Steer smoothly, If rear wheels slip, steer into the skid (like before).
- Don't panic: Keep your cool, and let the car find traction.

If you hit black ice

- Take your foot off gas/brake.
- Steer in direction you want to go.
- Wait for tires to grip.

Tips to stay safe

- Good tires with decent tread help.
- Keep distance – lots of space between you and the next car.
- If roads are bad, maybe just chill at home.

The moral of the story? Slow down, take your time, and don't rush to Grandma's for dinner. She's gonna wanna see you alive, not as a snow-covered hood ornament.

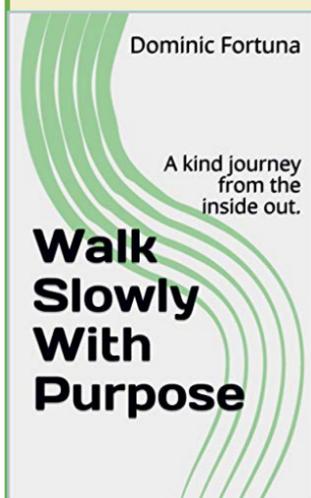
You got this! Drive safe, and if you get stuck, just chill – help's on the way.!



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Government Meetings

Kalkaska County Townships:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kalkaska Township,
Kalkaska Twp Hall / Fire Department, 209 Laurel St, 231-258-9305
When: 1st Tue, 7 pm

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

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

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

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

====+

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

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

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

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

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

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

Village of Fife Lake:
Village Hall, 616 Bates St, Fife Lake, 231 879-4291

Village Council- When: 3rd Mon, 6:30 pm
DDA-When: 3rd Tues, quarterly Jan, April, July, October, 6:00 pm

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

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

DDA- When: 3rd Tue, 6:00 pm

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

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

Village of Kalkaska:
Village Offices, 200 Hyde St, Kalkaska, 231-258-9191
Village Council- When: 2nd Mon, 6 pm

DDA- When: 1st Tue, 5:00 pm

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

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

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

Alden
Alden Bar & Grille
Alden State Bank
Alden District Library
Higgins Store
Paradise Properties
The Muffin Tin

Bellaire
Applesauce Inn
Bellaire Public Library

Central Lake
Central Lake District Library
Mary's Market

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

Kalkaska
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Forest Area Federal Credit Union North
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Midas
Northland Foods
Rodeway Inn
The Shopping Basket
Trout Town Tavern & Eatery
Voice Motors

Kingsley
Kingsley Branch Library
Kingsley Village Offices

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

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

South Boardman
Yankee Boy

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School Board Meetings

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

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

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



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

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

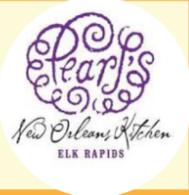
Bellaire Public Schools,
204 W. Forest Home Ave, Bellaire, 231-533-8015
When: 3rd Mon, 6:30 pm

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

Sudoku Puzzle Solution January 23, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8



Warm Bread Artistry

By Tina Norris Fields

Almost every Sunday, after church, Larry and I head over to Pearl's New Orleans Kitchen in Elk Rapids for brunch. By now, the regular serving staff know us by sight and first name. We are always delighted to see Becky, Sarah, and Bailey, and to meet whoever else is there. It's well known that we will want coffee with creamers and sweeteners for Larry.

Along with coffee usually comes a small basket with the day's special breads, still warm from the oven. The variety is astonishing! Double chocolate muffins and pineapple bread, or blueberry muffins and apple-pumpkin bread, or goodness knows what other inspired combination of comforting warm breads might appear. Grateful for the joy of these breads, we inquired about who created them. We learned it was Jerome.

Wanting to meet and thank the baking artist for the many delicious combinations, your reporter asked for permission to come and interview him. So, on Wednesday morning, January 14, 2026, the opportunity came, and oh, we got so much more than we had anticipated.

The breads are the inspired creations of Jerome Weisler, a man whose smile is as warm and welcoming as the luscious breads he produces. Cooking since he was about sixteen, he has been with Pearl's for just over twenty years. He works with whatever the kitchen has available and varies selections by the seasons. So, when on a recent Sunday, he planned to make lemon-poppy-seed muffins, but there were no poppy seeds, he switched it out and made oat crusted lemon bread, which was so delicious that this reporter asked for the recipe (find it on page 13).

Fun fact: around Cherry Festival time he is likely to make "Cherry Bomb" muffins - chocolate muffins with a cherry inside. This reporter can hardly wait for this year's Cherry Festival!

Our guide through the whole kitchen was the General Manager, Christine Tate, whose graciousness reflected the Magnum Hospitality philosophy of being truly welcoming. Some years ago, one of the servers revealed to us that the mindset of the entire operation was "The answer is yes, what's the question?"

Although it may sound strange to some, this reporter usually has fried green tomatoes for her Sunday brunch. So, Christine thought we should meet the Executive Chef Ben Cross. Ben is another person with the perfect personality to fit into the crew at Pearl's. Now that he knows me, he said he really has to be sure to make the fried green tomatoes really good on Sunday. And so far, he has done just that. Ben has also been with Pearl's for about twenty years. Thank you, Ben, we hope you will stay many more.

Christine is the newbie of the trio, being with Pearl's for just a couple year thus far. However, she is also a perfect fit for this team. We have noted more than once how the staff members back each other up and step in to assist whenever the need arises, including the managers. My grandma told me that people never seem shy about complaining, but seldom say 'thank you' when good things happen. She advised me to be a person who recognizes the good and positive things that people do. So, staff team at Pearl's, know that we see how you care for your customers and for one another, we appreciate the good food, and the welcoming ambiance. You are a bright spot in our world.



Jerome Weisler
The Bread Artist

Ben Cross
Executive Chef

Christine Tate
General Manager



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