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

~ Albert Camus

Vol2026:

FEBRUARY 6, 2026

## Community Foundation Welcomes Eight New Board Directors

TRAVERSE CITY – The Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation welcomes eight new community members to its board of directors, the organization’s voluntary governing body comprised of individuals from across the region. New Community Foundation board directors include Deb Allen of Grand Traverse County, Oran Hesterman of Leelanau County, Brad Kik of Antrim County, Sara McGuire of Antrim County, Susan Odgers of Grand Traverse County, and Don Sheets of Leelanau County as well as two new youth representatives to the board, Lilyana Gunther-Thompson of Benzie County and Coltrane Paryani of Kalkaska County.



**Deb Allen** currently serves as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Traverse City. Previously, she served as a County Administrator for Leelanau County as well as the Director of Development and Community Engagement for the Grand Traverse Pavilions. Allen also served in the US Naval Reserve and has maintained memberships in Rotary, the Zonta Club, and the Military Officers Association of Traverse City. Allen holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Millersville University of Pennsylvania.

**Lilyana Gunther-Thompson** is a current student at Frankfort High School. She plans to attend college to study forensic science and criminology with a minor in dance. She currently holds a job at Vita Bella and volunteers around her community whenever she can. Gunther-Thompson is a Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council (YAC) member and is part of the YAC leadership team, among other extracurricular activities, including Drama Club and volleyball.



**Oran Hesterman** is the Founder of Fair Food Network, a national leader in sustainable agriculture and food systems. Before launching Fair Food Network, Hesterman led the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Integrated Farming Systems and Food & Society programs. Prior to his work in the nonprofit sector, Hesterman researched and taught forage and cropping systems management and sustainable agriculture at Michigan State University. He serves on the board or in an advisory role for several organizations, including Fair Food Fund, Five Acre Farms, Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, NextCycle Michigan, and Pardes Hannah Jewish Renewal Community.



**Brad Kik** is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of Crosshatch Center for Art and Ecology. Kik's varied background—film study, environmental activism, printmaking, community organizing, traditional music, writing, ecology, animism, and regenerative agriculture—plays a key role in shaping the cross-disciplinary work of Crosshatch. Kik and his partner, Amanda, have their roots dug into rural northern Michigan—Anishinaabe land—where they've raised pastured pigs and chickens, tapped the sugar maples, and continue to practice weaving people and place together. Kik regularly writes about and presents on the intersections of art and ecology, particularly in regard to artist residencies and the role of the arts in rural development.



**Sara McGuire** and her husband, Patrick, own Royal Farms, Inc., located in Ellsworth. McGuire manages the farm market and winery, which includes a gift shop, bakery, and greenhouse. She earned her B.S. in Merchandising Management from Michigan State University, and her upbringing in the cherry industry has allowed her to blend her passions for agriculture, agritourism, and retail into a fulfilling career. McGuire serves on the Miss Elk Rapids Scholarship Committee and the Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. A former National Cherry Queen, she served 25 years on the Cherry Queen Committee and now acts as Co-Director of the Cherry Festival Fashion Show. McGuire is also active in Michigan Farm Bureau.



**Susan Odgers** was the Traverse City Sara Hardy 2011 Humanitarian of the Year, a longtime member of the TC Human Rights Commission, and served on the board of Disability Rights Michigan for 17 years. She is the current President of Michigan Writers, has been a Traverse City Record Eagle columnist since 2008, received the 2024 National Writers Series

# OUT & ABOUT

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

## SENIOR & COMMUNITY MEALS

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

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

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

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

**KAIR's 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 Chereese 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:taartisansguild@gmail.com). Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

**When: Tue, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

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

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

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

**When: 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@kalkaskalibrary.org) for info.

**When: Fri 10:30 am**

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

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

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

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

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



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231 - 258 - 5395

508 N. Birch Street, Kalkaska

# OBITUARIES

## Margaret Elizabeth McCully

February 18, 1938 ~ January 23, 2026

Margaret Elizabeth McCully (Vandenbosshe), 87, passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 23, 2026, on the farm she helped build. She would have been 88 on February 18.

She followed my dad, William Douglas McCully, and that feels about right. She always wanted to be around him. After he passed, every time she saw a photo of Dad, she would look at it and say, "I miss my buddy." Less than a month later, she is with him again.

Wherever we went, people knew my mom. They didn't call her Margaret. They didn't call her Marge. They didn't even call her "Bruce's mom." They called her Mrs. McCully, their third-grade teacher. She taught hundreds, maybe thousands, of kids to read beyond the words. She taught art. She taught calligraphy. She taught cursive back when it mattered, and she kept teaching it anyway. She wasn't here to follow trends. She was here to make kids feel safe, loved, and capable. I was one of them.

If we went to the grocery store, the ice cream stand, or the donut shop, someone would stop us and say hello. It happened every time.

Mom would smile like it was normal, because to her it was. She just did her job. Quietly. For decades. And it changed lives.

Something many people did not know is that Mom was a nun for the first few chapters of her life. Her name in the convent was Sister Jacinta. She joined after losing her parents when she was only 7 years old. She was raised by her sister Joanne and her brother-in-law Joe, and she carried that early loss with her. It never made her cold. It made her steady. It made her faithful. It made her the kind of person who could walk into a room and make it softer.

Mom was loving, caring, and welcoming. She was also the person who took the edge off Dad's nonsense more times than anyone can count. She had a gift for it. She could calm him down without even trying. If you saw Dad, you knew she'd be just a few steps away. In life and in death, I guess.

Mom was an artist in every sense of the word. She baked. She gardened. She drew. She painted.



She farmed. She canned fruit and vegetables and donated them to the local food pantry. She could make something beautiful out of almost nothing. She could also find morel mushrooms like she had a secret deal with the forest. If you ever went hunting with her and she got quiet, you knew she had found a whole patch.

She met Dad the way farm stories are supposed to start. The backs of their farms touched, and one day he showed up on a little horse named Chappy, holding a rose and, because Dad was Dad, a bundle of radishes from his garden. From that moment on, he took care of her. And she took care of everyone else.

Over the last few weeks, I got to spend a lot of time with her. Not just a quick morning coffee, but real time. Taking her to see old friends. Sitting with her. Being present. Near the end, I read to her, the way she used to read to me when I was a kid. It is hard to put into words what a gift that was. I am grateful I didn't miss it.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, William. She is survived by her son, Bruce, and his husband, Adam Kuester. She is also survived by her stepsons, Larry (Lynn) and Brian; foster children, Alice, Dawn Taylor Furlong and Sally Jo Myers; grandchildren, Sharon (Carlos), Bradley, and Oscar (Maria); and great-grandchildren, Anastasia, Aireanna, and Gabe. She welcomed countless others into her life who all became part of our family story.

If you are thinking about sending flowers or a card, thank you. Truly. But if you want to honor Mom in a way she would actually love, do something kind for someone today. Go out of your way to make them smile. Hold a door. Send the text. Pay for their coffee. Be the reason their day got a little better.

A memorial service for both William and Margaret McCully will be held on the farm at 8404 Ruttan Rd. in Alden, Michigan, at 1:00 PM on May 2, 2026. Arrangements made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

## Philip R. Brandou

January 11, 1954 ~ January 17, 2026

Philip R. Brandou, 72, of Grawn passed away on January 17th, 2026 at his home. Phil was born in Colorado to Mona (Sweeney) Brandou and the late Julian "Bob" Brandou. He is survived by his sisters Malo (Randall) and Mary (Kurt), brothers Andrew and John (Shannon), children Steven (Bobbie Jo) and Sarah (Joseph), and granddaughters Olivia, Sophie and Madison. Phil was preceded in death by both his father, Bob, and by his wife of 17 years, Denise.

Phil graduated from East Lansing High School in 1972 and immediately entered the workforce. He worked in various aerospace mechanical companies, like Howmet and Interturbine across the U.S. before starting his own company, Component Repair Management in Muskegon. He sold his business and returned to school at age 46, gaining

certificates from Muskegon Community College to pivot his career toward helping troubled youth as an Instructional Aide for Muskegon Area Schools.

Phil was a member of the White Lake Fine Arts Council, the White Lake Historical Society and the Friends of the Grand Traverse Library. He also served as a board member for the White Lake Community Library and was a donor for the Interlochen Fine Arts Scholarship Fund.

Phil loved the arts, wildlife and his adopted cats. Memorial contributions in Phil's memory may be directed to Kelly's Kritters (231-590-0924 in Grawn, MI) or your local school's music program.

Phil was a deeply private man, per his wishes there will not be a memorial service.

## Michael Robert Umscheid

September 10, 1951 ~ January 13, 2026

Michael "Mike" Robert Umscheid; age 74 of Kalkaska, Michigan, peacefully passed away January 13, 2026 surrounded by the ones he loved; filling the room with laughter, music and holding him.



Michael was born September 10, 1951; in Pontiac, Michigan. He lived in Waterford, Michigan with his parents and seven siblings; he attended and graduated from Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School. Growing up he enjoyed being outdoors; fishing, hunting, working on cars, his Honda motorcycle and off roading. Michael began working for Kroger at the age of 18; he remained a hard-working, dedicated employee for 47 years until his retirement in 2016. He was honored to become a father to two daughters; Beri and Brea with his first wife Janet. He loved taking part in their school field trips and watching their ballet recitals.

He took pride in his work ethics and providing for his family. Upon retirement; Michael moved with his loving second wife Debbie, to their dream place in Kalkaska surrounded by wildlife that he adored. He reveled in all it offered; from feeding deer and spotting humming birds to chopping wood and having bonfires.

In his new found time; Michael cherished taking adventures,

finding earth's treasures such as Petoskey stones, sharks teeth, and shells. He valued time spent visiting his family, children, grandchildren, friends and grilling for them. He took great delight in trips to the casino, playing games, cards and slots on his phone.

He will be deeply missed by many! Husband to Debra "Debbie" Umscheid (October 5, 2006). Father to Beri (Kyle) King and Brea (Stephen) Beaubien. Step Father to Ann Bryngelson (Brian Cuddington), Jennifer Bryngelson (Jason Smith), Samantha Hollins, and Melissa (David) Parks. Grandfather "Papa Mike" to Ethan (Jade), Evan, Emmalyn and Ean King, Haylee Beaubien, Vincent and Kisa Hollins, Brenden and John Reppuhn and Olivia Pagenkopf and many Grand-pets. Brother to Carol Ostrander, Edward Umscheid, Steve Umscheid, Raymond Umscheid, Theresa Schroeder, the late Kathy Root and John Umscheid. Uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by parents Robert John and Betty Lou Umscheid.

A Celebration of Life for Michael Umscheid is being planned for June of 2026.

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BRUCE A. ZENNER II  
**231-258-3346**  
152 S. Cedar St.,  
Kalkaska

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.

## Mary Frances Booker

April 26, 1932 ~ January 22, 2026

Mary Frances Booker, 93 of Kingsley, passed away peacefully on January 22, 2026 at home. She was born on April 26, 1932 to the late Joseph Francis and Mary Olive (Labonte) Lennon in Detroit on Wabash Street, "Corktown" named for the Irish immigrants who lived there. Mary's only sister, Jeanette Patricia Lennon was born six years later.



grandmother to Bob Conlin, Ryan Rios, Jenni Irvine, Bryan Irvine, Mike Rios and Shelly Shallcross; great-grandmother to 7; great great-grandmother to 3; and aunt to many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mary was preceded in death by her daughter, Susan Rios and her husband John; grandchildren, Jim Conlin II and Joe Irvine; her sister, Jeanette Wickman.

Your full long life gave us a lifetime of memories. Your spirit and memory will remain in our hearts forever. A brand new angel just got her wings!

Visitation was from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm on Saturday, January 31st at Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home. Burial was on Monday February 2nd at Mt. Elliott Cemetery in Detroit at 12:00 pm. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Mary married the late Joseph A. Booker on April 13, 1957 in Dearborn and they were married 41 years. Mary was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandma, aunt, cousin and friend. We will miss the family stories she told, laughing together, her stubbornness, comforting words, lessons learned. Your love of family brought joy into our lives.

Mary was the mother to daughters, Kathleen (Jim) Conlin of Kingsley and Janice Irvine of Rochester Hills; son-in-law, Dave Wickman of Iron Mountain;

## Timothy William Goldsmith

December 10, 1947 ~ January 11, 2026

Timothy William Goldsmith, born December 10, 1947, in Kansas City, Missouri, passed away peacefully at home on January 11, 2026, surrounded by the family he cherished above all else.



announced the winning card that belonged to Nan—who celebrated her win by buying the handsome Coastie a beer. That simple moment sparked a partnership that grew into 51 years of marriage, a lifetime of devotion, and a family he adored.

After retiring from the Coast Guard, Tim continued his career as a computer programmer with Lakes State Insurance Company, where he later retired. His greatest joy, however, came afterward: being a full time Grandpa. He poured his heart into his family, cheering from the stands at his daughter's and granddaughter's sporting events, celebrating every milestone, and instilling a deep pride in service that lives on in his daughter and granddaughter.

Tim was an active member of the Traverse City Coast Guard retiree community and a loyal friend to many. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, a loving father and grandfather, a proud great grandfather, a supportive uncle, and a steadfast friend.

A memorial service was held at Kingsley United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Spring and Blair Street, on Saturday, January 31st. Visitation took place from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., with the service beginning at 1:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Coast Guard Foundation at [coastguardfoundation.org](http://coastguardfoundation.org) or to Kingsley United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

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

Tim was preceded in death by his parents, William G. Goldsmith and Carolyn W. Goldsmith, his sister Patricia Cherry, brother in law Robert Cherry, father in law Joseph L. Hooper, and mother in law Patricia K. Hooper.

He is survived by his wife of more than fifty years, Nan Hooper Goldsmith, daughters Alison Goldsmith and Dijana (Pete) Laurentz, granddaughter Zoe Goldsmith, great grandson Cayson Hanley, grandson Julian Lyon, his "bonus daughters" Jessamyn (John) Boyd and Karissa (Joe) Faunce, brother-in-law Reed (Karen) Hooper and sister-in-law Jill Hooper-Rocco. He also leaves behind many beloved nieces and nephews who held a special place in his heart.

Tim graduated from Lakewood High School in Lakewood, Ohio, in 1966 and enlisted in the United States Coast Guard the following year. Over the course of 21 years of service, he commissioned the Dallas and was stationed in Olympia, Washington; Kodiak, Alaska; Traverse City, Michigan; Washington, D.C.; Detroit, Michigan; and Cleveland, Ohio—where he earned his degree from Baldwin Wallace University with a major in computer science and a minor in abstract algebra. His final duty station was Governors Island in New York, where he retired in June 1989.

It was during his time in Traverse City that Tim met the love of his life. As the base bingo caller, he

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## 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.

## Additional Obituary on page 9

Northwest MI

VOICE

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**Heritage Festival Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**  
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## February 2026

February 3 - 28, Vintage Sewing Notions Display. Come visit Alden District Library and see the variety of sewing notions collected by members of the Torch Area Artisans Guild. 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.

February 8, 2pm, Mardi Jo Link, award winning author, presents **Writing & Investigating: How the Two Come Together**. Crime has always captured our imaginations, whether in non-fiction books or mass media. But how do these true stories come together? Where do crime writers get their ideas? Step into the research and writing process with NYT bestselling author and award-winning newspaper reporter Mardi Jo Link, as she shares some of her behind-the-scenes discoveries. Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and Friends. Held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

February 12, 1-4:30pm, Drop in Tech Help at Alden District Library. If you need help setting up your new phone or tablet, troubleshooting problems with your current devices, or navigating the internet, drop by the library for 30 minutes of free help from staff member Jeff Morton. Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

February 12, 3:30pm, Books 'n Brie Book Club. Enjoy the company of fellow book lovers while discussing "The Little Wartime Library" by Kate Thompson. Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

February 13, Homeschool Discoveries: Shipwrecks. Our Homeschool Discoveries Program will cover the topic of shipwrecks this month. Homeschool families are encouraged to join us at 10:00am at the Bellaire Public Library located at 111 S. Bridge St. For details call the Library at 231-533-8814.

February 14, 10am, Story Time with Miss Linda. Miss Linda will be reading stories with a Valentine theme and doing simple activities with the kids.

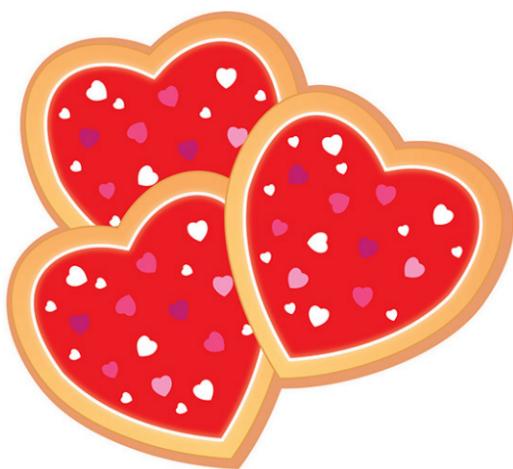
This program will be held in the library located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

February 18, 7-8:30pm, Antrim Writers Series Visiting Author Teresa Scollon Book Reading & Signing. Join us for this author event featuring Teresa Scollon, a poet, essayist, and educator. Her fourth collection, "No Trouble Staying Awake," was published by Cornerstone Press in 2025. This event will include an opening reading by Ellen Lord, author of "Vigil." A free copy of No Trouble Staying Awake will be given to the first 25 people who register for this event. Free event. Located at Bee Well Meadery 116 North Bridge Street, Bellaire. For more details and to register call the Library 231-533-8814 or visit [bellairelibrary.org](http://bellairelibrary.org).

February 19, Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting, 9:30am social time & 10am meeting held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. Topics of discussion will be plans for upcoming programs, book sales and activities. Anyone interested in supporting the library is always welcome. Held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. 231-331-4318.

February 19, 12-2pm, Bellaire Historical Society Writing Workshop at the Bellaire Public Library. Do you have a family story to tell but aren't sure how to write it? The Bellaire Area Historical Society invites you to their monthly writing workshop at the Library to begin sharing your piece of Bellaire's past. All experience levels are welcome. 3rd Thursday of each month from 12:00pm-2:00pm at the Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St. For more information call the Library at 231-533-8814 or email [bellairehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:bellairehistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

February 21, 11am, Fishing for Beginners: free event for all ages. Join us at the library for a special program all about fishing with Master Angler Don Reynolds. Whether you're just starting out or already a seasoned angler, you'll walk away with insider tips, tricks, and local know-how to help you reel in the big one. Bellaire Public Library located at 111 S. Bridge St. For more details and to register call the Library 231-533-8814 or visit [bellairelibrary.org](http://bellairelibrary.org).



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### Alden

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

### Boardman Township

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

### Central Lake

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

### East Jordan

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

### Fife Lake

Fife Lake Community Church  
206 Boyd St, Fife Lake  
**Sunday morning:**  
10:00 am - Worship Service

St. Aloysius of Fife Lake  
403 East Merritt St  
**Sunday morning:**  
9:00 am - Mass

### Kalkaska

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Many Rivers Church  
2305 N 131, Kalkaska  
**Saturday evening:**  
6:00 pm - Worship Service  
**Tuesday evening:**  
6:00 pm - Worship Service

St Mary of the Woods of Kalkaska  
438 Co Rd 612, Kalkaska  
**Saturday afternoon:**  
4:00 pm - Mass  
**Sunday morning:**  
11:00 am - Mass

St Paul Lutheran Church  
2470 Beebe Rd, Kalkaska  
**Sunday morning:**  
11:00 am - Worship Service

Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
2004 Birch N Birch St, Kalkaska  
**Saturday morning**  
9:30 am - Bible Study Time: Children & Adults  
11:00 am - Worship Service  
**Tuesday evening**  
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
1128 N Cedar St, Kalkaska  
**Sunday morning:**  
10:00 am - Sacrament meeting

### Mancelona

Antrim Church of Christ  
10228 South US 131, Mancelona  
**Sunday morning worship**  
11:00 am - Sept - May  
10:00 am - Jun - Aug

Mancelona Baptist Church  
609 N Jefferson ST, Mancelona  
**Sunday**  
10:00 am - Sunday School  
11:00 am - worship service  
6:00 pm - Bible Preaching  
**Wednesday**  
7:00 pm - Bible Preaching & Teen Group

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
211 E. Hinman, Mancelona  
**Sunday morning:**  
9:00 am - Worship Service

### Rapid City

Rapid City Church of Christ  
7964 Rapid City Rd, Rapid City  
**Sunday morning:**  
10:30 am - Worship Service

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

### Williamsburg

True North Vineyard Church  
6517 Bates Rd, Williamsburg  
**Sunday evening:**  
5:00 pm - Worship Service

Williamsburg United Methodist Church  
5750 Williamsburg Rd, Williamsburg  
**Sunday morning:**  
9:00 am - Worship Service

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

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## DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)

### Tiger hunts and winning pockets

6 October 2003

Dear Mark,

**When my husband and I shoot a night with the casino slots, we use different strategies. His is to follow his "feelings" or "educated hunches" and bet heavily when he feels he's due to hit a big one.**

**My system depends less on clairvoyance: I arrive with the money I can afford to risk in my jeans' right pocket and with nothing in the left. Winnings go in the left pocket and are never seen again until we're home. When my right pocket is empty, I quit.**

**Is there any way to compare mathematically the worth of our two systems? It is not very convincing to point out that I am ahead of the game and he's behind, because of the relatively small sample represented by the few events in our gambling life. Patty T.**

Right off, Patty, let's trash your use of the word "systems." That word has a special meaning in gambling circles, and probably without knowing it, you've touched a sensitive semantics nerve. Casino operators don't spend big bucks building mega-resorts so that some "system player" can come in and tar-n-feather them. Any casino owner alive would happily send the limousine for a system player with a certified bankroll. Henceforward, let's beware of using the word "systems."

Secondly, as for whether you or hubby has the better mathematical chance of hitting it big playing slots, the answer is neither. As explained in past columns, each spin on a slot machine is an independent event based on the random number generator (RGN). With each machine possessing an RGN, the probability of hitting a jackpot is the same for each spin. Your husband stands the same chance of losing (winning) as you do.

The only true skill to playing slots is machine identification. For example: progressive machines practically invite players to compare and shop around for the best value. One 25 cent "slot machine carousel" can have a progressive jackpot of \$2,600 and another bank of machines-exactly the same and standing side by side-a \$1,900 jackpot. You should always track down the best slot opportunities possible.

A close cousin to that skill is the "tiger hunt," very handy when casinos advertise machines with a 98.5% payback. But it's your responsibility to find them: such advertisements usually say, in fine or pale print, "on select machines." Since all big cats look alike in tall grass, they can be a tough find. They are likely limited to a single bank of machines somewhere in the casino. The easiest way to hunt down and tag these beauties is to ask a slot employee. If he or she does not know, have one of them ask a direct supervisor.

So, Patty, what smart strategies (not systems) are you applying that your chosen in marriage and other gambles is not? For starters, you never gamble with money you cannot afford to lose. There is no more powerful generalship in all of gambling than those words, so I will repeat them. **YOU NEVER GAMBLE WITH MONEY YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE.**

You also seem to have more discipline than your spouse does, and discipline, Patty, is not only a significant part of being a successful gambler, but probably the most important element of money management. I applaud your money management acumen in setting loss limits and win goals.

As a frisky addendum to your pocket-shifting modus operandi, you might try setting a goal of winning between 50 to 100% of a single-session bankroll. At that point, set aside your original bankroll plus half your winnings. Now play with the remainder, and



## Sudoku Puzzle February 6, 2026

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

Solution on page 15

continue to set aside additional winnings. When losing half your session bankroll (loss limits) you walk, and when doubling your money (win goals), you strongly consider doing the same.

Finally, Patty, I would be remiss if I did not mention that money management will not affect the house advantage, nor guarantee that you will win. The house has an advantage that is immune to even smart money management techniques like yours. If you play at

any casino game long enough, you will lose. But what good money management principles can do for you, Patty, is to minimize your losses and in most cases protect your winnings.

=====

**Gambling quote of the week:** "My advice to the unborn is, don't be born with a gambling instinct unless you have a good sense of probabilities." Jack Dreyfus, *The Lion of Wall Street*



## JAM THE VAN FOOD DRIVE!

**Consumers Energy** generously donated an **Electric Van** to **KAIR!** **LET'S FILL IT UP WITH FOOD!**

**Please bring your donation of food** to this special event co-hosted by **Consumers Energy** and **KAIR!**

**Date:** Wednesday--February 11th

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Location:** 324 S. Cedar St., Downtown Kalkaska

**Help us fill the van and support the KAIR Food Pantry!**

**Drop off your donations and make a difference in our community!**



## = MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

### *Mental Health Sometimes Means Becoming Unreasonable*

Sometimes, we need to be unreasonable. I mean it. Sometimes, being mentally and emotionally healthy means we seem unreasonable to others, and, you know what? That's perfectly okay. Stay with me here...

When I decided to become a full-time therapist and opened my own practice, I didn't have the "right" setup. I didn't have "enough" money backing me, and I didn't have "any" experience doing this sort of thing. I had no practice location. I had no ability to bill insurance, and, as a family, we had no other financial support. We were on our own, and all our options for retreat were gone. We were all in, and, at least on paper, we were behaving in completely unreasonable ways.

We had a vision, and we were holding onto it no matter what. From a purely reasonable point of view and on paper, it seemed like our critics were right and we were out of our minds!

All our critics were excellent at logic. They could calculate our risk, weigh our options carefully and see that we were jumping into the deep end without even knowing how to swim.

But mental health isn't just about safety. It's also about alignment.

As unreasonable people, we saw things differently. Our critics saw fear and doubts, but we moved forward anyway. We acted way before any type of certainty arrived. We chose discomfort over the stagnation we would have experienced if we had gone the safe route and simply "gotten a job." We did this not because we were reckless.

We did this because we were aligned with our purpose: Showing up in Love and Service and Helping People.

Now that I have around a decade of experience as a therapist and am going on 7 years as a business owner, I have noticed that people tend to stay stuck in situations all the time. People stay stuck in relationships, jobs, roles and identities that no longer align with their dreams and goals, because leaving would look "unreasonable" to others.

Growth often requires making decisions that others see as way too hard. It often risks disappointing people, but true growth and

healing often demands that we follow our dreams even before it makes sense to anyone else.

Mental health isn't about being reasonable at all costs. It is not about seeking comfort or safety. Sometimes, it's about aligning with your values, being true to your vision and trusting yourself enough to be unreasonable. This is another way that we win at life.

**-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECP**

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

## LIFE'S WORK CLINIC

## *Additional Obituaries on pages 4 & 5*

### Hong Fort "Joe" Chew

February 5, 1923 ~ January 16, 2026

Hong Fort "Joe" Chew born on February 5, 1923, in Canton, China, peacefully passed away at home on January 16, 2026.

Joe immigrated to the United States through Ellis Island. He briefly attended technical vocational training in his early days, that served him well later in life. Joe was naturally talented; with a paper and pencil in hand; he could figure the math, measurement and angle for anything mechanical needing to be made or fixed. Joe was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1943. In 1947, the New York Congressional Senate passed H.R. Bill 3071 [known as the "Hong Fort Chew Bill"], which set a precedent providing for relief from deportation after serving in the U.S. military. Thereafter, Joe's dream of providing the "American Dream" for his family entailed him working tirelessly as a waiter and cook in many Detroit restaurants, including his own "Hong Fort Gardens".

In the early 1970s, pursuing a more wonderful life for his family, Joe moved his family from Dearborn Heights to Rapid City,

Michigan and enjoyed being able to hunt and fish. Labeled as a "Magician in the kitchen," Joe began working as a cook at Torch Riviera, sharing his mastery of fine Chinese and American cuisine. In 1975, the Kin Fong Restaurant was opened by the Chew family in Kalkaska, the first Chinese Restaurant in Northern Michigan. After retiring, Joe enjoyed sunshine and ocean water in Islamorada, Florida, for 10 years before returning to Rapid City.

Well into his 80 years, Joe enjoyed maintaining and growing Chinese and American vegetable gardens, raising chickens, annually picking Traverse City cherries [generously shared with family & friends], and cut & split wood in preparation for the winter. Joe believed in the benefits of natural foods, traditional Chinese remedies, and venison, a staple credited by many for his longevity.

Joe relaxed by watching his beloved Detroit Tigers baseball, Jeopardy-Alex Trebek, and Wheel of Fortune. Joe's neighbors could



find him relaxing on the front porch in nice weather, sharing a wave and a smile with each traveler that passed by. A good cigar and Cuban coffee were among Joe's preferred pleasures. Joe was a quiet, strong and independent man who never forgot and returned any kindness extended to him, with a quiet thank you and warm smile.

In the mid-2000's, Joe brought Xia Li home to Rapid City, welcoming her into the Chew family. In addition to his wife, Xia Li, Joe is survived by his children, Karl (Mai) Chew; Andy (Keena) Chew, Helen (Bill) Artress, and Gina Perry (Todd Chwasek); Grandchildren, Eric (Mary) Artress, Jonathan (Kait) Chew, Liana (Logan) Porchie, Asia Artress (Caleb Merrifield), Sydney (David) Wilkins, Christian Artress (Sarah Holcomb), Ryan Perry, and Christopher, Cooper, Olivia and Sofia Chew; and Great-Grandchildren, Eli & Grace Artress, Atticus, Emmerson, and Carson Chew, and Paislee, Oaklynn, and Lily Porchie, and Weston Artress. Also surviving are a niece, Sue Tseung, and nephew,

Shao Shan, with extended families. Not to be forgotten as survivors are his two faithful dogs, Chumlee & Rafa. Joe was predeceased by his parents, 2 older sisters, and the mother of his beloved children, Kin Fong Chew.

Joe's family extends a heartfelt thank you to the Department of Veteran Affairs of Gaylord; Dr. Donald Cousineau, and "earth angel" Maureen N. of BrightStar Care, for their assistance, kindness and care for Joe.

Should a memorial contribution want to be made in Joe's honor, the family suggests the Hospice of Michigan (10850 E. Traverse Hwy. #3325, Traverse City, MI 49684) or your favorite charity.

"To the world you were one person, but to your family, you were the world"

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 12:00 pm with visiting with the family from 11:00 am at Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

GTRCF continued from page 1

Bill Montgomery Literary Service Award, and is the 2025 National Society of Newspaper Columnists Will Rogers Humanitarian Award recipient. Odgers serves as the Treasurer of the board for both the Traverse Area District Library and SeedKeepers and serves on the Patient & Family Advisory Councils for several healthcare institutions. Odgers has been an instructor of psychology for Northwestern Michigan College, Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, University



of Michigan and University Of Nice, France, and is a practicing therapist.

**Coltrane Paryani** is a senior at Kalkaska High School. He currently serves on the Michigan Community Foundations Youth Project (MCFYP) Committee and as a leadership team member for the Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council. Paryani is passionate about being involved in the communities he is a part of. He is on course to be the valedictorian for Kalkaska High School's (KHS) Class of 2026, holding positions as Senior Class President and Vice President of the National Honor Society chapter at KHS, while participating in cross country, wrestling, and track and field. Paryani hopes to continue his journey as a philanthropist and youth advocate in college, where he plans to major



in physics.

**J. Donald (Don) Sheets** currently serves as Principal of his consulting firm, focusing on strategic advising and board service in the fields of materials science, finance and accounting, health care and higher education. Sheets completed a 34-year career with Dow Corning Corporation in 2017, retiring as Vice Chairman. Sheets serves on the board of directors of Covia Holdings LLC, Tri-Star Trust Bank, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, TempleArts Foundation, Central Michigan University Medical Education Partners and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Sheets earned a Bachelor of Arts from Albion College, majoring in Economics, Management and Accounting. He has an MBA from the University of Michigan-Flint, with a concentration in Operations and Quantitative Systems.

To learn more about the Community Foundation's Board of Directors, visit: <https://www.gtrcf.org/about/board-of-directors.html>.

The Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation stewards community assets for lasting impact by investing in the people and places of Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau Counties as well as the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, a federally recognized tribe. Established in 1992, the Community Foundation is striving for healthy, resilient, thriving communities for across the region and supports this vision by serving donor partners, awarding meaningful grants and scholarships, and participating in collaborative leadership efforts on important community issues. For more information, please visit [GTRCF.org](https://www.gtrcf.org).



## Crooked Tree Arts Center opens applications for 2026 Youth Arts College Scholarships

PETOSKEY and TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Crooked Tree Arts Center (CTAC) is now accepting applications for its 2026 Youth Arts College Scholarships, awarding two \$2,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors pursuing postsecondary studies in the arts.

The scholarships are part of CTAC's annual Youth Arts Festival, a spring-long celebration that supports and recognizes young creatives across Northern Michigan. One scholarship will be awarded to a student from CTAC's Petoskey service area and one from its Traverse City service area (outlined below), helping students take the next step in their artistic education.

Amelie Hanson, a graduate of the CTAC School of Ballet and the 2025 Petoskey Youth Arts College Scholarship recipient, shared how the award helped launch her next chapter: "I am currently completing my freshman year at Grand Valley State University, majoring in dance. The scholarship awarded to me by Crooked Tree Arts Center played a meaningful role in launching my college journey and easing my financial concerns. I am deeply grateful for their generous support."

### Youth Arts College Scholarship Details

The Youth Arts College Scholarships support students pursuing degrees in visual arts, performing arts, theatre, dance, or music. To apply, visit [crookedtree.org](https://crookedtree.org).

Eligibility includes:

- Michigan residents
- Students attending school in CTAC's Petoskey service area (Charlevoix or Emmet Counties) or Traverse City service area (Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, or Leelanau counties)
- One scholarship awarded per service area

Application Deadline: Saturday, March 14, 2026

Scholarship recipients will be announced during the Youth Arts Awards Night on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at Crooked Tree Arts Center in Petoskey, as well as at participating school award ceremonies.

### Supporting the Next Generation of Artists

The Youth Arts College Scholarships and Youth Arts Awards are made possible through generous community support. Thanks to a dedicated donor, 2026 marks the first year Crooked Tree Arts Center will have an endowment specifically supporting Youth Arts Awards, helping ensure these recognitions continue to inspire and uplift young artists for generations to come.

Crooked Tree Arts Center invites individuals, families, businesses, and organizations to invest directly in Northern Michigan's next generation of creatives by sponsoring Youth Art Show awards or contributing to the Youth Arts College Scholarships in Petoskey or Traverse City.

Youth Art Show award sponsorships provide meaningful, tangible recognition to student artists and celebrate creativity, effort, and artistic excellence across a wide range of media and age groups. Award amounts will reflect the support received through donations.

Community contributions expand access to arts education and help students take critical next steps in their creative paths. Every gift—whether sponsoring an award, supporting a scholarship, or making a general donation—has a direct and lasting impact on young artists in our region.

To donate and support Youth Arts Awards and Scholarships, visit <https://crookedtree.app.neoncrm.com/forms/50>, mail a check, or contact Crooked Tree Arts Center at 231-347-4337.

Looking Ahead: Youth Arts Festival 2026

In addition to scholarships, CTAC's Youth Arts Festival includes the Annual Youth Arts Show, featuring thousands of student artworks on view at both Crooked Tree Arts Center locations this spring, along with public receptions and awards celebrations.

For schedule details, contact Crooked Tree Arts Center 231-347-4337, or [crookedtree.org](https://crookedtree.org).



## O&A - continued from page 3

**Kids' Coding Club**, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge, Bellaire, an opportunity for kids to explore the world of computer coding at their level, ages 8-13 welcome, registration required, call 231 533-8814  
**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat, 10:00 to 11:00 am**

**Meet and Eat, Youth Event**, Mancelona United Methodist Church, 117 W. Hinman, Mancelona, planned by youth for youth including a meal, music, pastor's message, games & fun, grades 7-12, 231 587-8461  
**When: 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 6<sup>th</sup> birthday (donations accepted), masks optional, one shopper per family and children are welcome but must remain with their parent, new families, please arrive by 2 pm for paperwork and bring valid ID, 231 492-7426  
**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thu, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Dance**, Mancelona Senior Center, 122 E. State St, Mancelona, \$7 admission, bring a dish to pass, contact Cheryl at 231 587-9131  
**When: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri, 6:00 to 9:00 pm**

**Fruit of the Womb Baby Pantry**, Kalkaska Baptist Church, 1651 County Rd 612, contact 231 258-5409  
**When: Sat, 9:00 to 11:00 am**

**Rock n' Jam**, The Rock of Kingsley, local musicians are welcome to come jam and the public is welcome to come listen, tap their toes, dance, contact 231 263-7000  
**When: 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Thu, 9:30 am**

**Books 'n Brie Book Club**, Presented by Alden District Library, Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, enjoy snacks and beverages while discussing the month's book, free of charge, sponsored by the Alden District Library, contact 231 331-4318  
**When: 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu, 3:30pm**

**The Rory Gilmore Book Club**, Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, contact 231 879-4101  
**When: Last Sat, 4:00 pm**

## Organization Meetings

**Kalkaska Democrats**, contact Gary at 231 590-3397 for current meeting location  
**When: 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](mailto:tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com), or send it via the USPS to Editor, Northwest Michigan Voice, PO Box 28, Rapid City, MI 49676

## On this solid ground

February 6, 2026

Among the bits of wisdom that George Washington shared with the nation in his Farewell Address, is this short declaration that I find to be supremely important:

"It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government."

And as Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter, April 17, 1787, "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."

As I continued to reflect on the subject of my January 23, 2026 essay, the real strength of our form of government became ever clearer to me. It is our very acceptance of a set of rules that we all agree to that provides the frame and fabric of our nation. I stated in my previous essay that only those who abide by the rules are constrained by the rules. And that is correct.

One can see that as a weakness or as a strength. As a weakness, it acknowledges that pirates, marauders, thieves, and other evil-doers can trample our rules and do us harm. As a strength, it speaks to our mutual pact of respect and accommodation. In order for us to remain strong, it is up to each of us to cling to the moral commitment of dutiful citizenship, to honor the principles upon which this nation was founded and to strive in our own lives to move it toward the goal, as laid out in the Preamble to the Constitution, of a "more perfect union."

Choosing to live together – in community rather than in solitude – requires us to take others into consideration. Wasn't it Rousseau who commented that man in his natural state is guided by instinct rather than by reason? In the natural state, living alone, there is no need to curb one's own wishes. In the natural state, the strong survive, the bigger one can take away from the smaller one whatever the bigger one desires. The powerful male can overcome the

less powerful female whether she wishes it or not. Rivals are to be combatted and killed and whatever they have gets scooped up by the victor.

When we decide to live together and to respect one another's equal right to exist and take up space, we adopt rules of conduct. The learning starts in childhood. My mother made it very clear that I was not to take something that did not belong to me. It did not matter that the thing was lovely and I wanted it dearly. If it was not mine, I was not to take it. Period. I still abide by that rule. I get permission to even touch something that belongs to someone else.

Insurance companies take a stance I cannot agree with, that leaving something unprotected makes its theft your fault, rather than the fault of the thief – and they are loath to pay you for your loss. Well, they are looking at insurable loss and I am looking at morality. The two are very different.

In a recent sermon, my pastor dispelled a long-held fiction about the valley of Gehenna, outside of Jerusalem. I learned that it was actually a place where evil people went to do evil things. This put a whole new spin on the scripture about it being better to be lame and righteous than to be physically whole and be a frequenter of Gehenna. This fits right in with the words of wisdom regarding morality and virtue as essential to living in freedom as a self-governing people. Our strengths and our weaknesses are all found in the same space – inside us.

We are strong when we practice the virtues of civilization, which bear a striking resemblance to the virtues taught by Jesus and recorded in Matthew 25 – to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the prisoner, and welcome the stranger. We are weak when we withdraw into our own little cocoon, hoarding what we have, turning our backs on the poor, and fearing the stranger.

Our instincts serve us well in many ways, but they often get in the way when we are striving

to build human community. In order to move toward that "more perfect union" envisioned by the writers of our Constitution, we have to be more willing to work together, more open to ideas that differ from our own, and more generous of spirit toward other human beings.

Remember the ending words of the poem "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus, that we find emblazoned on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty as she faces the ocean in welcome:

"Give me your tired, your poor,  
your huddled masses yearning  
to breathe free.  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost  
to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

For, it is such as these, who made the pilgrimage to America to seek a better life, who built this nation to its modern-day grandeur. How can we forget that we are all either immigrants or descendants of immigrants? How can we forget the fundamental humanitarian teachings of our great religions? If we aren't here to take care of each other, what are we here for?

On this solid ground, I take my stand.

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

Shalom

Tina Norris Fields  
Editor

### References

Constitution of the United States of America

Farewell Address (Washington, 1796) From the U.S. Senate website. Retrieved from: [https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/resources/pdf/Washingtons\\_Farewell\\_Address.pdf](https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/resources/pdf/Washingtons_Farewell_Address.pdf)

Only a Virtuous People (From the National Center for Constitutional Studies. Retrieved from: <https://nccs.net/blogs/articles/only-a-virtuous-people-are-capable-of-freedom>)

### 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) Who regulates the time, place, and manner of electing Representatives and Senators?
- 2) Can Congress have a part in those regulations?
- 3) What is an emolument?
- 4) What does the Constitution say about the President and emoluments? And is the matter mentioned anywhere else in the Constitution?



### Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue's questions

- 1) How many rights are protected in the First Amendment?  
A. Five.
- 2) What are those rights?  
A. 1) freedom of religion; 2) freedom of speech; 3) freedom of the press; 4) freedom to peaceably assemble; and 5) freedom to petition the government for redress of grievances.
- 3) Are all rights laid out in the Constitution?  
A. No. Per Amendment IX: "The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."
- 4) Are federal powers unlimited?  
A. No. Amendment X states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

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

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

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

**S-Anon Support Group -** Calvary Lutheran  
 Church, 10180 Elk Lake Rd, Elk Rapids.  
 For family and friends affected by  
 someone else's sex addiction. Contact:  
 miplaceofpeace@gmail.com, 231-714-4099  
**When: Thu, 7:00 pm**

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

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

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

**Weight Management Support Group,**  
 Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, 419 S.  
 Coral St, Classroom A, contact Ashley  
 Snyder, 231 258-3613  
**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

## Mancelona Ironmen Wrestling

Thanks to Coach Rich Southwell for this report on recent Ironmen wrestling meets.

**January 17, 2026**

Mancelona Ironmen wrestling had their home team invite today. There were 9 teams in attendance.

First place-Tri county B  
 Second place- Mancelona  
 Third place -Tri county A

Mancelona 66  
 Manton 15

Mancelona 60  
 Cheybogen 20

Mancelona 84  
 Lake city 0

Mancelona 32  
 Tri county B 42

Mancelona 42  
 Tri county A 38

**January 24, 2026**

Ironmen wrestling was in Shepard today for an individual tournament. There were 16 schools in attendance. Ironmen ended up placing-8th

Notable performances  
 Don harcourt 157lb- 3rd  
 Gabe Keyes jr 165lb- 4th  
 Theo Parzych 138lb- 4th  
 Gavin Woodcox 285lb- 4th  
 Jaden grutsch 190lb- 5th  
 Michael Clingan 106lb- 6th  
 Austin Barnhart 106lb- 6th

**January 29, 2026**

Ironmen wrestling hosted a conference quad tonight and faced Evart and Roscommon.

Mancelona -59  
 Evart-24

Mancelona -26  
 Roscommon -52



# WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

## Winter's Birdsong Symphony

By Dominic Fortuna

The frozen tundra of northern Michigan's lower peninsula northwest – where the snowflakes pioche and the trees don their sparkly frost coats – is a winter wonderland for songbirds. As the temperatures plummet, these feathered virtuosos trade in their summer's aria extravaganzas for a more intimate, sultry jam session. Welcome to the Bird Feeder Bistro, where the likes of American Tree Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Northern Cardinals gather to refuel and riff.

At the feeder, a strict avian hierarchy reigns, with the bossy Blue Jays barking orders and swooping in to commandeer the best seeds. These clever corvids have mastered the art of pilfering sunflower seeds, often leaving the other birds scrambling for scraps. "Hey, back off, Sparrow! This is Jay's territory now!" a particularly plump Blue Jay squawks, puffing out its chest.

Meanwhile, the Dark-eyed Juncos – those dashing little snowbirds – flit about, their gray and white coats blending seamlessly with the snowy backdrop. They're the feeder's resident snowplowers, clearing a path for the other birds to access the goods. "Thanks, Junco! You're the best!" a nearby American Tree Sparrow chirps, its rusty cap bobbing up and down.

The Northern Cardinals, with their vibrant scarlet plumage, are the feeder's resident rockstars. They strut around, belting out their signature "what-cheer-cheer-cheer" tune, while the other birds nod along. "Yeah, Cardy, you're the king – we know, we know!" a cheeky Chickadee teases, its tiny voice piping up from a nearby branch.

Speaking of Chickadees, these tiny titans are the feeder's resident acrobats, hanging upside down from the suet cage like furry little trapeze artists. "Watch this, guys!" a Black-capped Chickadee chirps, executing a flawless somersault. The other birds chuckle and shake their heads, accustomed to the Chickadees' antics.

As the sun begins to set, casting a golden glow over the snowy landscape, the birds take turns at the feeder, their chirps and tweets weaving together in a mesmerizing winter symphony. The Common Redpolls, with their rosy pink breasts, chime in with their sweet, whistled melodies, while the White-throated Sparrows provide a mellow, soulful bass line.

At the end of the day, as the stars begin to twinkle in the night sky, the birds settle in, their bellies full and their spirits high. The feeder's social hierarchy may be strict, but when the music starts, all bets are off – and the songbirds of northern Michigan's lower peninsula northwest take center stage, their winter concert a testament to the power of music to bring even the toughest birds together.

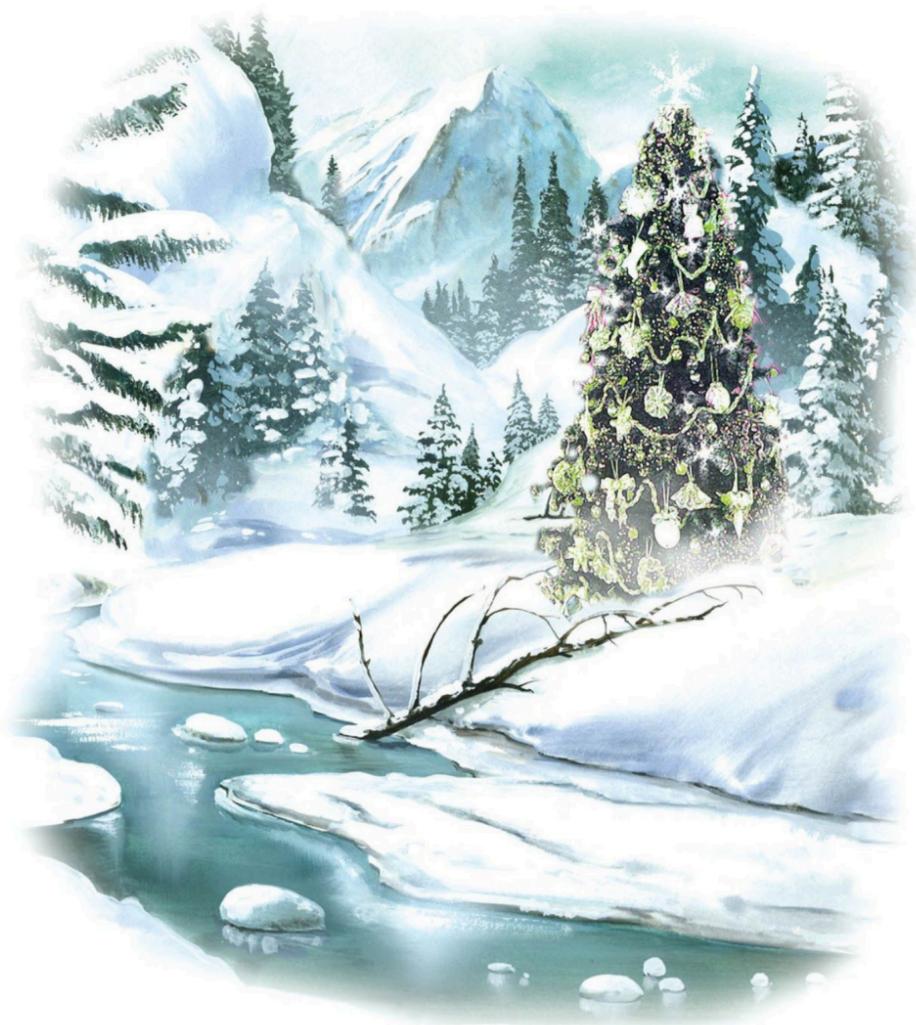
### Feeder Tips

- Offer a variety of seeds, including sunflower seeds, nyjer seeds, and suet.
- Keep the feeder clean and well-stocked to attract a diverse range of birds.
- Consider adding a heated birdbath to provide a warm spot for birds to drink and bathe.
- Plant native shrubs and trees to provide shelter and food for the birds.

### Winter Birding Checklist

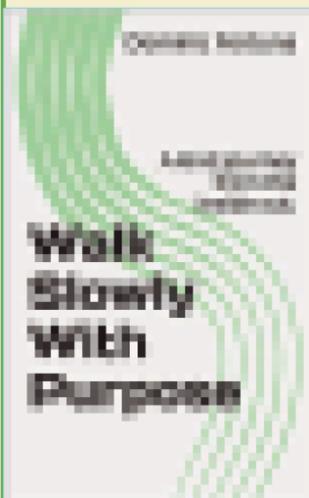
- American Tree Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Northern Cardinal
- Blue Jay
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Common Redpoll
- White-throated Sparrow
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- American Goldfinch

Grab your binoculars and hit the woods – the winter birding scene in northern Michigan's lower peninsula northwest is about to get wild!



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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**  
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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**  
Advanced Office Supply  
All Seasons Hotel & Resort  
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Earth's Garden  
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Forest Area Federal Credit Union North  
K.A.I.R.  
Kaliseum  
Kalkaska Commission on Aging

Kalkaska County Building  
Kalkaska County Library  
Kalkaska Funeral Home  
McLean's Hardware  
Midas  
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Rodeway Inn  
The Shopping Basket  
Trout Town Tavern & Eatery  
Voice Motors

**Kingsley**  
Kingsley Branch Library  
Kingsley Village Offices

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

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

**South Boardman**  
Yankee Boy

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

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS This 6th day of February, 2026, notice is given in the Estate of Peggy Gerring, late of South Boardman, Michigan, deceased (3/10/1922-1/24/2020). All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before June 5th, 2026, Peggy Gerring Estate, P.O. Box 108, South Boardman, MI, 49680.

# 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 February 6, 2026**

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

**Puzzle on page 8**

## 25 Medals!

By Lindsay Arsnoe

LA Gymnastics competition team recently returned home with big smiles, big accomplishments, and plenty to celebrate after competing at the Epic Blizzard Blast on January 30. The team delivered an impressive performance, bringing home a total of 25 medals, earning third place overall as a team, and capturing a first place all-around finish in one athlete's division.

The meet showcased not only strong routines and hard-earned skills, but also the dedication and teamwork that define LA Gymnastics. Athletes competed across multiple events, demonstrating growth, confidence, and resilience—qualities that come from countless hours of training and a deep love for the sport.

Beyond the medals and podium finishes, this competition marked another meaningful milestone for a program that continues to grow and positively impact the Kalkaska community. LA Gymnastics has become a place where young athletes learn more than just flips and routines. The program emphasizes discipline, perseverance, sportsmanship, and confidence—skills that extend far beyond the gym.

The success at Epic Blizzard Blast reflects the commitment of the athletes, the support of families, and the passion of the coaching staff who work every day to create a positive and encouraging environment. From beginner classes to competitive teams, LA Gymnastics continues to provide opportunities for youth in Kalkaska to stay active, set goals, and believe in themselves.

As the competition season continues, the LA Gymnastics team is excited to build on this momentum and represent their hometown with pride. Their recent achievements are a true bright spot for the community and a reminder of the incredible talent and dedication coming out of Kalkaska.



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