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A waffle is like a pancake with a syrup trap.
~ Mitch Hedberg

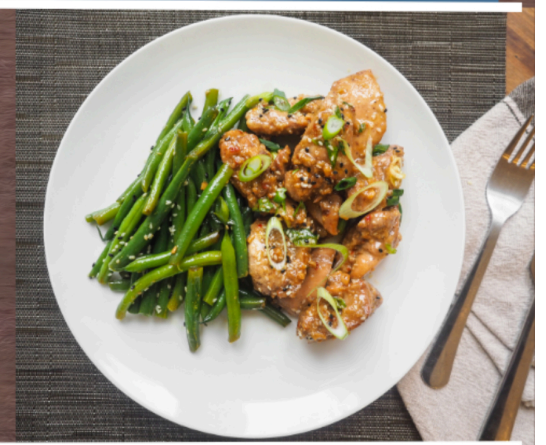
Vol2026:
FEBRUARY 20, 2026

First-ever Chain-O-Lakes Culinary Experience to debut this winter



A Week Of New Flavors & Special Meal Deals

Sunday, February 22nd *Thru* Saturday, February 28th, 2026



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BOS Wine, Fireside Lounge,
Johnny's Torch Riviera, Masala Magic, Pearl's,
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OUT & ABOUT

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

SENIOR & COMMUNITY MEALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FARMERS' MARKET

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

FOOD PANTRIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEALTH AND FITNESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BINGO, CARDS & BOARD GAMES

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

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

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

When: Mon, 6 pm

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

When: Tue 10 am - noon

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

When: Tue, 1 to 4 pm

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

When: Tue, 1 pm

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

When: Tues, 6:00 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When: Wed, 6 pm

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

When: Thu, 12:45 pm

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

When: Thu, 1 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When: Sat, 6 pm

Crafts & Hobbies

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

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

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

When: Mon, 6 pm

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

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

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

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

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

When: 1st Tue, 1:00 pm

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

When: Tue, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Knitting - Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St,

When: Thu 10 to noon

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

When: Thu, 10:30 am

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

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

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

When: 1st Thu, 4:00 pm

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

When: 2nd Sat, 1To 4 pm

Antrim/Kalkaska Paper Crafters, First Presbyterian Church in Elk Rapids. Soup and Salad Potluck lunch. Bring any handheld craft and work on your own project. Contact Beth Shuster at beth_scraps1960@sbcglobal.net

When: 3rd Sat, 9am - 5pm

Children's Activities

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

When: 1st Mon 10 am

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

When: Mon, 3:15 to 4 pm

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

When: Tue, 10:00 am

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

When: Tue, 10:30 am

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

When: Tue and Wed, 10:30 am

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

When: Wed, 10:30 am

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When: Fri 10:30 am

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

When: Fri, 3:30 pm

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

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

O&A - continues on page 11



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OBITUARIES

Jack David Segal

November 12, 1945 ~ February 3, 2026

Jack David Segal passed away February 3, 2026 at the age of 80 after a recent cancer diagnosis. He was husband to Karen Puschel, father to Jehan L Segal (Stone Applegate), brother to Robert Segal (Joan), brother-in-law to Sandy King and Susan Gahagan (Jack), uncle to Laura Stein (Sam Goldfeder) and Leigh McNamara (Joe), Elizabeth Stone (George), David Segal (Shannon Diamondstein), Megan Aney (Zach), James King (Dianna), and great-uncle to nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents Morris and Rose Segal and his sister Sandra Stein.

Jack grew up in north Philadelphia, the third child of a hard-working Jewish family. From an early age, Jack developed a strong interest in nuclear weaponry, spurred by the Cold War and resultant space race. Later as a U.S. diplomat, Jack was particularly proud to author the Nuclear Risk Reduction Agreement with the Soviet Union signed during the Reagan Administration and still operational today. He also helped negotiate the START treaty, the first to reduce strategic nuclear weapons.

With his wife, Karen, Jack opened the first western diplomatic

mission to the 40 million people of Central Russia following the collapse of the Soviet Union. In addition to postings in Israel, Russia, Botswana, Greece, the White House, and the Netherlands, he served as Political Advisor to the NATO Commander responsible for operations in Afghanistan for ten years. In that capacity, he made 40 trips to Afghanistan.

His diplomatic career was prompted and shaped by two tours of duty in Vietnam after he was drafted in the late 1960s. He was awarded the Bronze Star for service in Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division in Dau Tieng during the Tet Offensive, and at the 25th Infantry Division Headquarters at Cu Chi.

Never one to take easy assignments, Jack handled many crises during his 35 year diplomatic career. Whether incoming SCUD missiles in Israel, Russian tanks outside U.S. Embassy walls in Moscow, briefing the President in the Oval Office, or dealing with warlords in Afghanistan, Jack was unflappable under fire. Former colleagues described Jack as the "adult in room" and a "calming presence"



who always stood up for his co-workers. He is beloved by many around the world, particularly his former Russian staff in Yekaterinburg and his NATO staff in the Netherlands.

Upon his retirement to Traverse City Michigan, Jack co-chaired the International Affairs Forum at Northwestern Michigan College with his wife Karen. He discovered a love and true talent as a teacher, offering many highly sought-after classes on foreign policy both at NMC and at Norwich University where he developed a unique class on 'diplomacy in action' for students pursuing a master's degree. He advised and helped many young people interested in a diplomatic career. He and Karen were named NMC Fellows in 2024, Northwestern Michigan College's highest honor.

There was nothing Jack loved better than watching football, hockey, and more recently, F1 racing with his son Jehan. Like everything else he tackled in life, he approached his own athletic endeavors with discipline and tenacity, whether training for marathons when he was younger, learning how to speed skate in the

Netherlands, or enjoying downhill skiing. He loved life, he loved his career, and he deeply loved his family.

Jack was a longtime and beloved member of Traverse City's Temple Beth Shalom. Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg conducted a funeral service at 11:00am on Thursday, February 5th at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home with visitation one hour prior. The service was followed by internment in the Jewish section of Oakwood Cemetery. Family and friends were all welcome. Please visit RJJH.tv to watch the service live, and reynolds-jonkhoff.com for more information.

Thank you to the many people who took the time to bring treats, prepare meals, send cards or otherwise remind Jack in his last months that his life had meaning and was filled with loving and sustaining relationships. Special thanks to Dr. John Stanifer, Dr. Chris Gerling and Munson Hospice Care for exceptional care.

Donations in honor of Jack are suggested to NMC's International Affairs Forum and to Congregation Beth Shalom, both in Traverse City.

Arthur "Rex" Sieting

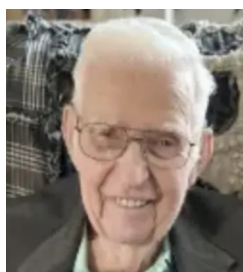
October 20, 1930 ~ February 3, 2026

Arthur Rex Sieting, known as Rex, went home to be with the Lord at age 95. He was a resident of Lapeer, Michigan at the time of his death on February 3rd, 2026.

He was born to Arthur Ray and Margaret Elizabeth Sieting on Oct. 20, 1930 at his maternal grandparents' farmhouse in Rapid City, Mich. He was the only child born of this union. He graduated from Kalkaska High School in 1949 and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Vocational Education at Michigan State University. At this time he also received his Air Force commission. He earned his Master's degree in Adult Education at MSU and completed coursework towards a PhD in Administration at the University of Wisconsin.

Rex worked for the Michigan State University Extension service from 1955-1985. During his working years, Rex lived in Ashley, Charlotte, Rogers City, Marlette, and Sandusky, Michigan. He also lived in Madison, Wisconsin while he attended graduate school.

In 1953, Rex married Nona Mae Maten of Detroit, Michigan, daughter of Marvin A. and Louise E. Maten. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, his daughter Karen Jean (Tim Bittles), and his great granddaughter, Margaret. He is survived by his current wife, Lola L. (Worthington), whom he married in 2008, his children, Arthur Rex Jr. (Nancy Pier), Kathryn Sue



(Garth Bulgrien), and Kristine Kay, his seven grandchildren, Shannon (Bulgrien) Acosta, Jeremy Bulgrien, Amy Bulgrien, Sarah (Sieting) Alim, Emily (Sieting) McConnell, Victoria (Bittles) Delaney, Nicole (Bittles) Barnes, and ten great grandchildren.

Rex loved to travel, entertain, and take pictures. He and Nona traveled to many countries, all 50 states, and stayed in many campgrounds. Rex and Nona, and then Lola, had a second home in Green Valley, Arizona where they wintered for many years. Rex and Nona were members of the Green Valley Baptist Church and the Sandusky Baptist Church.

Rex loved his Lord and believed in

Him. Rex was very involved in the different churches he attended, serving as a Deacon and Trustee, singing in the choir, and teaching Sunday School. He was also a Board member of Sandusky Christian School.

Visitation was held on Monday, February 9th, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Muir Brothers Funeral Home in Lapeer, Michigan. The funeral service followed immediately at 11:00 AM with Pastor Brian Cuddie of Sandusky Baptist Church officiating. Burial will take place at the convenience of the family at Evergreen Cemetery in Kalkaska, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to Gideons International in memory of Rex. Arrangements are being handled by Muir Brothers Funeral Home

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Northwest MI

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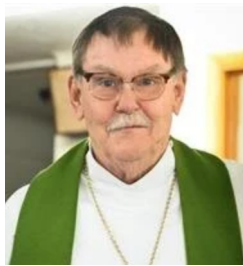
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Rev. Daniel John McVey

June 21, 1952 ~ February 4, 2026

Rev. Daniel John "Dan" McVey of Alden, Michigan, is at peace in the presence of his Lord and Savior, welcomed into eternal life on February 4, 2026. Born June 21, 1952, he was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church in Jackson, Michigan. Dan lived a life grounded in faith, service, and devotion to others. He was preceded in death by his parents, Maxine (Kabel) and William McVey, and his siblings, Teresa McVey and David McVey. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Marjorie (Higgins) McVey, whom he married June 24, 1978; his children, Dr. Mary (McVey) Buschmann (Joseph) and William McVey (Melissa); his siblings, Joan (McVey) McLaury (Jeff) and James McVey (Pamela); his grandchildren, Emi, J. Peter, Josephine, and Charlotte; many cousins, nieces, and nephews; countless lifelong friends; and beloved golden retriever, Jake.



throughout Michigan during times of vacancy, including churches in Charlevoix, Gaylord, Dearborn, Leslie, and Kalkaska. He had an incredible sense of humor and gift for telling jokes. His sermons were humorous and engaging, drawing people in with laughter while pointing them faithfully to Christ. During this time, he also generously gave his time as a volunteer for the St. Joseph County jail as chaplain, Mancelona Police Department, and Mancelona Town Council.

Dan cherished a quiet life in the woods of Northern Michigan, where he enjoyed camping, long walks, time with his wife and kids, his golden retrievers, and especially his grandchildren. He was an avid outdoorsman and hunter—particularly of ducks, upland birds, and deer. He was known for his high standards at the grill, his love of Christmas morning and Easter Sunday, and for campfire stories that terrified nieces and nephews with tales of the Dogman and the Johnson Pond Bigfoot. Above all, Dan lived for his grandchildren, enjoying quad rides through the woods and never hesitating to spoil them. He will be remembered with gratitude and love as a faithful servant of Christ, a devoted husband and family man, and a gifted storyteller whose humor and warmth will be dearly missed. Visitation will be held Friday, February 20, 2026, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Kalkaska Funeral Home, 152 S. Cedar Street, Kalkaska, Michigan. A second visitation will take place Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., followed by the funeral service at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2470 Beebe Road NW, Kalkaska, Michigan. A luncheon will follow the service. Memorials can be directed to the American Kidney Fund, www.kidneyfund.org and St. Paul Lutheran in Kalkaska, Michigan.

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

Dan was a prodigious learner and servant of the Church. He graduated from Jackson High School in 1970 and Concordia University River Forest in 1974. He began his vocation in Lutheran education, teaching at Atonement Lutheran School in Dearborn, St. Paul Lutheran School in Millington, and St. John Lutheran School in New Haven, meanwhile earning a master's degree in education from the University of Michigan. Dan followed God's call into pastoral ministry, completing his theological education at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1981. He was ordained into the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod on July 25, 1982.

Dan served his vicarage and first pastoral call at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Centreville, Michigan, from 1981 to 1987. He then served as pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Mancelona, Michigan from 1987 to 2003, and at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pinckney, Michigan from 2003 until his retirement in 2005. In addition to these calls, he faithfully served congregations

James Philip Green

April 10, 1938 ~ February 4, 2026

James Philip Green, 87, died at Kalkaska Medical's Eden Center on February 4, 2026. A former Marine, grocer and avid outdoorsman, James, (Jim), spent over fifty years in the community of Kalkaska. Jim served in the Kalkaska Village Council, a Kalkaska County Commissioner and the President of Chain of Lakes Little League. He cherished his days coaching Kalkaska teams. Born on April 10, 1938, in Muskegon Michigan. He leaves behind his son, James Philip Jr., (Jayme) of Grand Haven, Michigan. His daughter Gwen Catt (Glen) of Charlevoix, Michigan. Jim was the proud grandfather to Olivia, Tanner, Gabrielle, Parker



and Brokton. He was blessed with great-grandchildren, Reece, Rhodes, Scottlyn, and Charlotte. He also loved his nephews and nieces, William and Joseph Green, Kimberly Garvey-Cucciniello, and James and Jason Grady. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Gilbert and Arlene and all his siblings, Betty, Lyle, Gilbert Jr., Maxine, Phyllis and William. The family would like to thank Eden Center and Hospice for their exceptional care. A family service will be held this summer. In lieu of flowers please send memorial donations to Kalkaska Animal Control Shelter, 605 N. Birch St. Kalkaska Michigan.

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Kalkaska High School Drama Club Presents:

Our Town
A drama by Thornton Wilder

February 19th, 20th, & 21st at 7 PM
Kalkaska High School Auditorium
Tickets available at the door
Students \$3 Adults \$5 Doors Open at 6:30

Written By: **Thornton Wilder**
Directed By: **Steve Ford**
Assistant Directors: **Grace "Garce" Hilmert & Allie Mitchell**

Presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by Concord Theatricals.

Munson Healthcare Encourages Winter Safety, Plus Snowmobile Reminders After Uptick in Accidents

Increase in trauma-related accidents a cause for concern

Traverse City, Mich. - Munson Healthcare has seen an uptick in trauma cases over the past several weeks, with many cases involving snowmobiles. On average, across the Munson system, there has been a 150 percent increase in snowmobile-related accidents from late December to late January, with several patients involved in snowmobile impacts with vehicles.

Factors contributing to accidents include high speeds, high snowbanks, decreased visibility during snowfall, drifting snow, and blowing snow from traveling vehicles.

"With the increased amount of snow this season bringing more visitors into the area, we want to encourage people to ride safely. Snowmobiles are powerful machines and ensuring both snowmobile and vehicle drivers are looking out for one another is crucial," said Dr. Shaun Ramsey, emergency physician and EMS Medical Director for North Central and Northwest Regional Medical Control Authorities.

More crashes occur at nighttime when decreased visibility, speed, and alcohol can often be factors in accidents.

Tips for snowmobile drivers:

- Ride sober
- Follow traffic laws
- When approaching a crossing, slow down, stop, stand up and look twice for vehicles
- Wear bright clothing as it improves detection distance by up to 300 percent and enhances visibility

- Ride with helmets that have lights on them
- Consider purchasing after-market lights for enhanced visibility
- Slow down - High speed is the number one cause of serious injury and death and if traveling faster than 30MPH in low visibility, snowmobilers cannot stop within their visible range.

"Vehicle drivers can also do their part by slowing down at snowmobile crossings, driving defensively, and assuming that snowmobile drivers may not see vehicles," added Dr. Ramsey.

Winter safety extends further than snowmobiles. Many winter activities can cause trauma or injury without proper safety measures:

- Winter activities that call for helmets include sledding, tubing, skiing, snowboarding, and any high-speed activity or one that may cause a risk of falling, such as ice skating.
- Munson Healthcare also encourages citizens to be aware of ice safety as temperatures warm up this week. Ice Safety
- In the United States, over 20,000 patients are treated in emergency rooms annually for sledding related injuries. Seventy percent of those are children under the age of nineteen and over 80 percent suffer injury to their head.
- Studies show that wearing a helmet prevents or reduces the severity of

traumatic brain injury by 62-88 percent, depending on the activity.

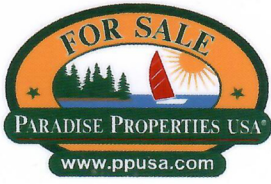

- The risk of falls also increases in winter and safest way to navigate snowy, icy conditions is to "Walk Like a Penguin." Keep your hands free; bend your knees slightly; and take slow, short, shuffling steps. Consider shoes or boots with good grips to ensure proper footing in various conditions.

More snowmobile safety tips can be found at www.michigan.gov/dnr/education/safety-info/ride-right.

For more information on how to avoid winter falls on other winter safety tips, visit www.munsonhealthcare.org/blog/8-tips-to-avoid-winter-falls.




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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 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.

February 22, 3pm, Kalkaska County Democratic Convention at CETA Hall, 6615 County R. 612. The purpose of the meeting is to elect delegates to attend the State of Michigan Democratic Convention. Candidates must be members of the Democratic party for a minimum of 30 days prior to April 19, 2026 to be eligible.

March 2026

Thursday, Mar. 5, History Hounds: The Bellaire Area Historical Society will be presenting a selection of recorded programs on the Library's big screen the first Thursday of the month at 3:00pm. There will be refreshments and time for discussion afterwards. Each video is about an hour long. March's Topic: Rivers, Lakes and Lumber: Michigan's White Pine. The convenience of water transportation amongst the Great Lakes and its rivers was a major contributing factor to the rise of logging in the state. Presented by Rob Burg.



TRAVERSE AREA
DISTRICT
LIBRARY

KINGSLEY BRANCH LIBRARY

Everyone Has a Story: Storytelling Community Circle

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

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

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

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

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

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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:
9:30 am - Worship Service

If you would like your church to be listed, please send an email to tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com

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DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)

Henry on the attack, and BEEEG wins

13 October 2003

Dear Mark,

I just found out there is a one-dollar craps table in one of the Mississippi casinos, and would like to know what the odds would be if you played the 6, 8, 4, 5, 9 or 10. I have only played craps a couple of times. Henry M.

I'm not quite sure if you're asking whether the odds change whether you are playing on a dollar game, or, what the odds are if you had a pass line bet, or placed the following numbers: 6, 8, 4, 5, 9 and 10. I'll answer all. Every single casino game has a built-in edge working for the house. This house edge does not discriminate against the size of a wager, even if you were so lucky as to find a dollar crap game. With your example, the casino holds the same 1.4% advantage on a pass line bet (without odds) no matter which number you play.

As for "placing" the numbers mentioned above, the price of the table (\$1) would not make a difference as to the casino edge, but the odds do change depending on which number you place. The house edge for placing the 6 and 8 is 1.5%, for the 5 and 9 is 4.0%, and for the 4 and 10 is 6.7%.

Now, Henry, even being the newbie you are to craps, you are now armed with the bets to make, a pass line wager, placing the 6 & 8, and which ones to avoid placing: the 4, 5, 9 and 10. Go git 'em, Henry.

Dear Mark,

I just saw in the paper that someone hit a Wheel of Fortune machine for over 10 million dollars. Was this the largest jackpot ever hit? Do they get the money up front, or is it annual installments? Dusty F.

You're right, Dusty, IGT's Wheel of Fortune, the most successful slot machine theme ever developed,

was recently hit for \$10,745,500. It was not the largest as Nevada Megabucks and Jeopardy quarters both had bigger jackpots.

Megabucks paid \$39.7 million in March 2003, and Jeopardy was hit in Biloxi, MS and paid \$13.8 million.

All IGT MegaJackpots's top awards are paid in annual installments with the exception of Rapid Riches MegaJackpots and MegaJackpots Instant Winners Jackpots. These two machines pay the entire jackpot immediately upon verification of the win.

Dear Mark,

Do you still offer your laminated Best Bets cards for FREE? Tammy T.

Yes, Tammy, a freebie it still is.

Allow me, Tammy, and any other readers interested, to arm you folks with a FREE, yep you're reading it right, zilch, zap, nada, AKA: FREE, Casino Pocket laminated WIN Card, that not only lists all the "Best Bets" in a casino, but a roll call of money management techniques that let you hold on to your winnings. Just drop me a note along with a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to: Mark Pilarski, ATTN: Best Bets, P.O. Box 1234, Traverse City, MI 49685.

[Editor's note: While this was still true in October of 2003, we are not certain that it still is in February 2026, since Mark has moved out of the state.]

====

Gambling quote of the week: "Whether at Binion's World Series or played for pennies around the kitchen table, poker makes con jobs not only legal, but lucrative." James McManus, *Positively Fifth Street*



Sudoku Puzzle February 20, 2026

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

Solution on page 15

ER Area Culinary Experience - flyer on page 1

ELK RAPIDS AREA — This winter, the Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce invites residents and visitors alike to savor the best of Northern Michigan's food and drink scene during the **first-ever Chain-O-Lakes Culinary Experience**, taking place **Sunday, February 22 through Saturday, February 28**.

Designed as a community-wide culinary celebration, the week-long event highlights the incredible diversity of restaurants, cafés, wineries, breweries, and tasting rooms across the Chain-O-Lakes region. Participating locations will offer discounted or fixed-price menus, special tastings, and creative culinary features—giving diners the perfect opportunity to explore new flavors and discover establishments they may not have tried before.

"The Chain-O-Lakes Culinary Experience is about showcasing what makes our local food scene so special and unique," said Jean Derenzy, Executive Director of the Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

"This event gives us the chance to really showcase what we love to do in the kitchen," said Dane Porter, Co-Owner of Magnum Hospitality. "Working with seasonal ingredients and collaborating with local wineries pushes creativity and lets us create dishes that truly reflect the flavors of our region. I'm excited to be part of a week that celebrates food, craftsmanship, and community."

The Culinary Experience also provides a valuable opportunity for participating establishments to attract new customers, highlight signature dishes, and build momentum during the slower season. By encouraging partnerships and cross-promotion among venues, the event strengthens the region's dining, wine, and craft spirits community as a whole.

A full list of participating restaurants, wineries, craft spirits, menus, hours, and event details will be announced soon. **Mark your calendars and plan to taste your way through the Chain-O-Lakes region this winter.**

For updates and more information, visit www.elkrapidschamber.org/culinary



= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

Mentorship and Mental Health Part One

This is Part One of a Three-Part Series on the Value of Mentorship.

Most of us can name one person who helped change the trajectory of our life. That person had an outsized role in molding how we saw ourselves. Mentorship has been a staple of human development throughout history. It also has a protective effect on our overall mental health, because the truth is that we don't grow or heal in isolation.

Mentors come in many forms. They can be formal mentors, elders in our lives, coaches, teachers, therapists and other community leaders. Sometimes, the "mentor" does not even know that they have this role in our lives as we silently observe them and learn from them. Healthy mentors provide us with perspective, emotional modeling and can help us course correct when we may not even know that we have strayed.

Healthy mentorship has a long list of positive mental health benefits including: reduced anxiety and isolation. When we have someone in our life who is "ahead of us," our uncertainty

about the future becomes less, and we can see through our mentor that struggles and failures are just a normal part of life.

When we have someone who is invested in us, it helps reinforce our own value as people. This helps us increase our self-worth, teaches us that we have a purpose as well as recognizing our God-given potential within that. In this way, they can help us "zoom out" to see our life in perspective when the trials of this life muddy things up.

Great mentors can also help us with identity formation as we see our mentor(s) model what emotional regulation, healthy boundaries and resilience look like in practical, real-life ways.

Things to keep in mind when looking for a mentor or assessing if your mentors are healthy:

Mentors should be guides not saviors. They don't need to come in to save you all the time, but they should be there to help point out pitfalls or avenues you might not see.

Healthy mentorship encourages independence and autonomy not dependency.

Always keep in mind that it is perfectly normal and healthy to outgrow mentors. It is a poor student that will not eventually surpass their teacher. If it is not an expected outcome, I would refer you back to the second point.

Mentorship is yet another way that we can win at life. In the next issue we will look at this with even more depth.

-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECF

=====

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

Mancelona Ironmen Wrestling

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

February 7, 2026 - Ironmen wrestling was in Roscommon today for boys individual conferences. Mancelona brought 13 wrestlers. There were 12 teams in attendance. Mancelona placed 4th.

- 1-Pine River
- 2-Roscommon
- 3-Houghton Lake
- 4-Mancelona
- 5-Benzie Central
- 6-Glen lake
- 7-Evart
- 8-Lake City
- 9-Mcbain
- 10-Frankfort
- 11-Manton
- 12-Forest Area

Notable performances by:
Michael Clingan 106#-2nd
Austin Barnhart 113#-2nd
Theo Parzych 138# 1st
Tyler Shepherd 138# -4th
Don Harcourt 157#-4th
Matiass Konevals 165#-4th
Jaden Grutsch 190#-2nd
Hunter Stuck 215#-4th

February 12, 2026 - Today Mancelona Ironmen varsity wrestling won districts. We wrestled against Atlanta and then Johannesburg in Mancelona.

Mancelona -72
Atlanta -12

Mancelona -72
Jo-berg -11

Mancelona moves on to team regionals on 02/18 location to be determined.

Mancelona individual boys districts is 02/14 in Manton and then girls individual districts on 02/15 in Grayling.

We are happy with the performance of our team tonight. We are pleased to have the opportunity to move on to regionals. This year has been plagued with adversity from injuries and other eligibility issues. We are very proud of how this team has worked together to find success even without several key starters.

All teams deal with adversity. It's how the team handles this adversity that decides how deep into the post season the team goes.

February 14, 2026 - The Ironmen boys were in Manton today for individual districts. As a team we have 8 boys that have qualified to advance to individual regionals in Charlevoix 02/21.

Micheal Clingan 106# -2nd
Austin Barnhart 113#-3rd
Aaron McQueen 126#-4th
Theodore Parzych 138#-2nd
Jaden Grutsch 190#-2nd
Hunter Stuck 215#-2nd

Carson Phillips 215#-3rd
Gavin Woodcox 285#3rd

February 15, 2026 - the Ironmen girls wrestlers were in Grayling for individual districts. Mancelona sent 7 girls to this competition. Two girls qualified to move on to regionals. Brianna Dishaw first year wrestler who is a senior will advance at 135 pounds and Jazilyn Zuniga freshman will advance at 190 pounds.

A great effort was given by all of these girls that participated this year. Having 7 girls on the team is a great improvement from what we have seen for numbers of girls in the past. We are hoping that the number of girls continues to grow.

The season is winding down now and after a team is eliminated from team competition the season is over for the wrestlers that have not qualified to move on in individual districts.



TRAVERSE city TOURISM

TripAdvisor ranks Sleeping Bear as a Top Ten One-of-a-Kind Beach

Traverse City, Mich. — Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was named by TripAdvisor as one of the top beaches in the world. The online travel guidance platform unveiled a number of Travelers' Choice Awards that included its "One-of-a-Kind Beaches." The Sleeping Bear beaches came in at number four in the world.

With 80 million reviews and contributions, TripAdvisor is one of the largest travel resources in the world.

"Exploring the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore truly is a magical experience," said Trevor Tkach (tah-KACH), President of Traverse City Tourism. "The pure, fresh-water beaches are unlike any other shoreline in the world."

TripAdvisor uses the awards to celebrate the highest level of excellence in travel. On their website, TripAdvisor says the recognition is "...awarded to those who receive a high volume of above-and-beyond reviews and opinions from the Tripadvisor community over a 12-month period. Out of the 8 million listings, fewer than 1% achieve this milestone."

The northern Michigan beach shares the spotlight with beaches from Hawaii, the Bahamas, Australia, Italy, Brazil, and 13 other

locations. Other beach categories on the list included the Top 10 Beaches in the World and the Top 10 Beaches in the US. Sleeping Bear Dunes was the only Michigan location recognized on the listings.

"There are sand dunes and then there are the Sleeping Bear Dunes which rise 450 feet from Lake Michigan at a breathtakingly steep angle. Brave the walk down to the base to picnic and lounge along the beach — just remember you've gotta climb back up." This is how TripAdvisor praised the beach.

"This ranking validates what we locals already know — Sleeping Bear Dunes is an iconic example of Pure Michigan," said Laura Ann Johnson, Executive Director, Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes. "This recognition reminds everyone of the beauty, nature, and history that can be found right here in Michigan. This is why the work the National Park Service and the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes does to protect our wonderful landscape is so important."

More information on Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is available at www.TraverseCity.com.

About Traverse City Tourism

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

Mike Kent | Public Relations Manager
231.995.3927 | mikek@traversecity.com



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O&A - continued from page 3

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

Meet and Eat, Youth Event, Mancelona United Methodist Church, 117 W. Hinman, Mancelona, planned by youth for youth including a meal, music, pastor's message, games & fun, grades 7-12, 231 587-8461
When: 4th Sunday (3rd if 4th is a holiday weekend) 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Miscellaneous

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

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

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

When: available anytime

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

When: available anytime

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

When: available anytime

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

When: 3rd Mon, 3:00 to 4:00 pm

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

When: Tue, 11 am to 3 pm

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

When: 1st & 3rd Tue, 10:00 to 11:00 am

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

When: 2nd & 4th Tue, 9:30 am to 1 pm.

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

When: Wed 10 am

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

When: Wed, 11 am to 3 pm

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

When: Wed, 4 pm

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

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

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

When: 2nd Thur, 5:30 to 7:00 pm

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

When: 2nd & 4th Thu, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

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

When: 1st and 3rd Fri, 6:00 to 9:00 pm

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

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

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

When: 2nd Sat, (through Oct) 5:00 to 8:00 pm

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

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

Veterans/Active Duty

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

When: Mondays, 6:30 pm

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

When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm

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

When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm

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

When: 3rd Mon, 9 am

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

When: 2nd Wed, 9:00 to 11:00 am

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

When: 2nd Wed, 6:30 pm

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

When: 3rd Wed, 8:30 am

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

When: 1st Thu, 6:00 pm

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

When: 3rd Thu, 1:00 pm

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

When: 1st Sunday, 12:00 pm

BOOK CLUBS

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

When: 3rd Tue, 7:00 pm

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

When: last Tue, 1:00 pm

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

When: 2nd Wed, 1:00 [m

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

When: 2nd Wed, 7:00 pm

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

When: 4th Wed, 2:00 to 3:00 pm

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

When: 4th Wed, 2:30 pm

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

When: last Wed, 4:00 pm

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

When: 1st Thu, 9:30 am

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

When: 2nd Thu, 3:30 pm

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

When: 3rd Thu, 12 to 1 pm

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

When: 3rd Thu, 3:30pm

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

When: Last Sat, 4:00 pm

Organization Meetings

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

When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm

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

When: 3rd Mon, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

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

When: 3rd Mon, 5:00 pm

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

When: 4th Mon, 5:30 pm

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

When: Last Mon., 7:00 pm

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

When: 2nd and 4th Tue, 12:00 pm

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

When: 3rd Tue, 10:00 to 11:00 am

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

When: 4th Tue 4:00 pm

Fife Lake Area Genealogy Society, Fife Lake Public Library. Everyone is welcome.. Any questions, please contact Linda Forwerck at 231-631-1750 or Chris Reamer at 231-263-7656.

When: 1st Wed, 10 am.

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

O&A - continues on page 13

REFLECTION

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

Who is my neighbor?

February 20, 2026

I'll make the bold statement that doing the right thing is not a political choice; it is a moral choice.

There! I said it. To support my contention, I will remind my readers of the parable of the Good Samaritan [Luke 10:25-37]. We are so familiar with the story, having heard it hundreds of times in our lives, that we may not truly appreciate what it sounded like to the legal expert Jesus was responding to. Consider that the Samaritans were hated by the Jews – and vice-versa. Depending on how you grew up, there may be people your family ardently despised. If so, imagine the story being told to members of your family, with the characters in the story being switched around to include one of those despised people being the hero. Yes, that's how the story had to sound to pious Jewish ears. Awful! Awkward! Even absurd!

I remember the night my father, then deep into his 80s, told this story. "Of course, I began as a racist" he said, "I was born into a racist society and family. Once I got old enough to think for myself, I could see that it didn't make any sense. And I vowed that when I had kids, my kids would not be exposed to racial bigotry – not under my roof."

This was all a surprise to me because, true to his word, he and my mother had kept all racial bigotry away from my sister and me. That must have been quite a challenge. They had to keep

our grandparents from saying or doing anything racist around us. I don't know how they had the courage to confront that issue with their own parents, but they did it. My sister and I did not meet up with racial bigotry until we went out into the world. I am grateful for the headstart our parents gave us, because we did not get infected by hatred of other people, regardless of color or race or nationality or any of the myriad differences humans can dream up as reasons to fear the "other."

I am also deeply grateful to be a citizen of a nation with a Constitution to limit the powers of the federal government, and amendments to that document to preserve, protect, and guarantee my human rights – those fundamental basic rights that, per the Declaration of Independence, are given me by the Creator. Those "self-evident truths" that our founders wrote into our nation's bedrock principles, yet failed to live up to. The Preamble to the Constitution says "in order to form a more perfect union," clearly acknowledging that there was still some distance to go. It has been my delight over the many years of my life to note that those principles are so strong that they are slowly but surely awakening the conscience of the nation. We may one day reach the goal of a nation where all are judged by their character, not by the color of their skin, as Reverend Martin Luther King prayed, nor by the word they use for God, nor by the nations

from which they flee to find a new and better life here.

So, I know it is wrong to break into anyone's home without a judicial warrant. I know it is wrong to kidnap anyone from the street. I know it is wrong to imprison anyone or deport anyone without due process. I know it is wrong to treat people cruelly. I know it is wrong to murder a person who is protesting the actions of masked armed men. I know all these things, and more, are wrong.

That's not a political statement, that is a moral statement. It is backed up by the foundational documents of my nation, as well as by its laws. It is backed up by the teachings of Jesus Christ, and as I understand it, by the teachings of virtually all the world's religions.

So, let's stop doing wrong things. Let's do the right things. We really do know how to behave civilly, to be gracious to other human beings, and to follow our own laws. Come on, people, let's get together and show that we are better than this.

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

Shalom

Tina Norris Fields
Editor

Citizenship Corner

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

- 1) When did the right to vote get recognized and guaranteed for men regardless of race, color, or previous servitude?
- 2) When did the right to vote get recognized and guaranteed for women?
- 3) When did the right to vote get recognized and guaranteed for citizens aged 18 or older?
- 4) Per the Michigan State Constitution, who may vote?



Citizenship Corner


Answers to last issue's questions

- 1) Who regulates the time, place, and manner of electing Representatives and Senators?
A. Article I, Section 4, begins: *The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof.*
- 2) Can Congress have a part in those regulations?
A. Yes. Article I, Section 4 continues: *but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.*
- 3) What is an emolument?
A. Per Merriam-Webster online: *the returns arising from office or employment usually in the form of compensation or perquisites. Also, archaically: advantage.*
- 4) What does the Constitution say about the President and emoluments? And is the matter mentioned anywhere else in the Constitution?
A. Article II, Section 1m next-to-last paragraph: *The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.*
Yes, it is referred to twice in Article I.

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



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



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 admin@morrisonelectricinc.com
 morrisonelectricinc.com



O&A - cont. from page 11

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

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

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

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

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

AI-Anon, AI-Teen Meeting, (Kalkaska COA) Senior Center, 303 S Coral St, contact Linda 231 384-3227
When: Tue, 7:00 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Weight Management Support Group, Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, 419 S. Coral St, Classroom A, contact Ashley Snyder, 231 258-3613
When: 2nd Thu, 3:00 to 4:00 pm

Diabetes Support Group, Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, 419 S. Coral St, Classroom A, contact Katie Daman, 231 258-3091
When: 4th Thu, 3:00 to 4:00 pm

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

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

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

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

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

Award-Winning Author Karen Dionne to Headline 5th Annual Walloon Lake Writer's Retreat (April 16-19)

WALLOON LAKE, MI – Limited space remains for the 5th Annual Walloon Lake Writer's Retreat (April 16-19, 2026) at Hotel Walloon, featuring Karen Dionne – the #1 internationally bestselling thriller author of *The Marsh King's Daughter* and *The Wicked Sister* (both set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula).

Dionne will share her experiences in writing her award-winning Michigan-based novels, including the process of turning *The Marsh King's Daughter* into a motion picture. During this immersive weekend, attendees will also be introduced to the works of Ernest Hemingway and how the regional landscape around Walloon Lake inspired his storytelling. There will also be individual and group writing exercises; one-on-one guidance from published authors; group readings and critiques; insider tips on working with agents, publishers and publicists; suggestions on marketing and promoting published works; and supportive camaraderie from fellow writers.

"I continue to be impressed with the writers who attend this retreat," notes event founder,

author and Michigan Hemingway Society Board Member Dianna Stampfler. "Over the past five years, these writers have become friends...more than friends really. They've become a support system, full of encouragement and critiques, inspiration and guidance. A handful of our writers have had works published since joining the group and it's wonderful to see them building their confidence throughout the process."

The Walloon Writers Retreat begins Thursday evening, April 16 and continues through Sunday morning, April 19. The weekend packages start at \$1,200 per person (based on room type/occupancy/availability) and includes:

- Three nights' accommodations at the award-winning Hotel Walloon (including three breakfasts)
- Prix fixe group dinner one evening at the historic Walloon Lake Inn (excluding alcohol)
- An autographed copy of Karen's book, *The Marsh King's Daughter*

- VIP viewing of the movie "The Marsh King's Daughter" starring Daisy Ridley and Ben Mendelsohn, plus author discussion
- writing and promotional sessions led by Karen and other published writers
- Access to unique locations around the quaint Village for private writing time
- Networking and collaboration with fellow budding writers

Reservations can be made by calling Hotel Walloon at (231) 535-5000.

Hotel Walloon is located in Northern Michigan and is a privately-owned AAA Four Diamond boutique property, rated the #1 Resort in Michigan by Travel + Leisure. Hotel Walloon is a luxury boutique hotel that hosts (32) unique guest rooms.

Hotel Walloon offers an Up North atmosphere with unlimited adventure. The Hotel, open year-round, provides an unparalleled level of hospitality for guests during their stay. We are centrally located between Petoskey, Charlevoix and Boyne City.

WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

The Sweetest Tradition: Tapping into the Magic of Maple Syrup in Northern Michigan

By **Dominic Fortuna**

As the snow melts and the winter chill begins to lift, a familiar call echoes through the woods of northern Michigan: the time has come to tap into the ancient rhythms of the maple trees. For centuries, humans have been gathering the sweet, golden nectar of the maple, transforming it into liquid gold: maple syrup. And in northern Michigan, we're lucky enough to be smack dab in the middle of it all.

The tradition of maple syrup production dates back to the indigenous peoples of North America, who first discovered the sweet treat and taught European settlers how to tap the trees. The process has evolved over time, but the basic principle remains the same: tap the trees, collect the sap, and boil it down to create that unmistakable flavor.

In northern Michigan, maple syrup production is a badge of honor, a way to connect with the land and the generations that came before. We caught up with local syrup maker, Mike Kwiatkowski, at his sugarbush in Roscommon to get the lowdown on the art of maple syrup production.

"Maple syrup is all about community and tradition," Mike says, his face aglow with enthusiasm. "My family has been making syrup for years, and it's a labor of love. You're not just making a product, you're creating something that's a part of who you are."

So, how do you tap into this sweet tradition? Here's a step-by-step guide to get you started:

1. Find your trees: Look for sugar maple trees (*Acer saccharum*) with a diameter of at least 10 inches. You'll need to check the trees for signs of disease or damage before tapping.
2. Gather your gear You'll need a drill, taps, spiles (or spouts), collection vessels, and storage containers. Local hardware stores or online retailers usually carry maple syrup equipment.
3. Drill and tap: Drill a small hole about 3-4 feet off the ground, and gently hammer in the tap. Hang your collection vessel, and wait for the sap to flow.
4. Collect and boil- Collect sap every day or two, and boil it down in a large, shallow pan (called an evaporator). The rule of thumb is 40 gallons of sap = 1 gallon of syrup.
5. Filter and bottle: Once you've reached the desired consistency, filter the syrup through a cheesecloth or filter press, and bottle it up.

In northern Michigan, the tapping season typically runs from late February to early April, depending on the weather. The ideal conditions are daytime temperatures above freezing (40°F-45°F) and nighttime temperatures below freezing (20°F-25°F).

Mike takes us on a tour of his sugarbush, pointing out the different trees and explaining the importance of sustainable tapping practices. "You want to make sure you're not harming the tree," he says. "Take only what you need, and leave enough for the tree to thrive."

As we wander through the woods, the smell of sweet sap wafts through the air, mingling with the earthy scent of thawing soil. It's a moment of pure connection to the land, to the trees, and to the generations of syrup makers who came before.

And then, there's the taste. Oh, the taste. Mike hands us a tiny cup of steaming hot syrup, poured over a snowbank. The flavor explodes on our taste buds – rich, complex, and utterly unique. It's a flavor that's been crafted by the trees, the land, and the people who've tended it for centuries.

So, grab a bucket, find a tree, and tap into the magic of maple syrup production in northern Michigan. Trust us, you won't be disappointed. I always make it a family event, I grab the boys and we walk slowly, with purpose onto our 20 acres in the woods, a giant sugar bush of maple .

Always a sweet and sticky good time..



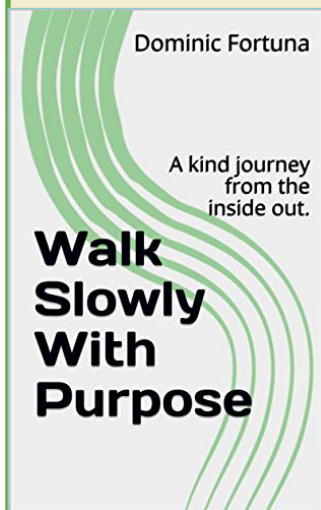
A tapped Maple tree.

Photo by Dominic Fortuna

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Government Meetings

Kalkaska County Townships:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

==+==+==+

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bellaire
Applesauce Inn
Bellaire Public Library

Central Lake
Central Lake District Library
Mary's Market

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

Kalkaska
Advanced Office Supply
All Seasons Hotel & Resort
Birch Street Dental Care
Carter Lumber
Earth's Garden
Family Fare
Forest Area Federal Credit Union North
K.A.I.R.
Kaliseum
Kalkaska Commission on Aging

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

Kingsley
Kingsley Branch Library
Kingsley Village Offices

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

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

South Boardman
Yankee Boy

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

Yes, you CAN subscribe!,

First Class Mail delivery of the Northwest Michigan Voice, to your home is available for \$26 per year. If you are interested, please contact us. email: tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com, or call: 231-322-2787 or 231-645-0244

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 20, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

\$10,200 for the food pantries!

By Tina Norris Fields

It's a fine thing when any organization sets about doing good for its community. It's even better when two such organizations join forces to do something special.

The Alden Men's Club (AMC) began its life as a ministry of the men in the Alden Community United Methodist Church. It matured into a nondenominational men's club, attracting community-minded men, with a heart for volunteer service, whether from the church or not. In 2009 the Alden Men's Club attained IRS 501(c)(3) status, a recognized nonprofit charity actively working for the good of the people in need in Antrim and Kalkaska Counties.

The AMC has traditionally supported its work through the annual rummage sale, held on the final Saturday of July, in the church parking lot.

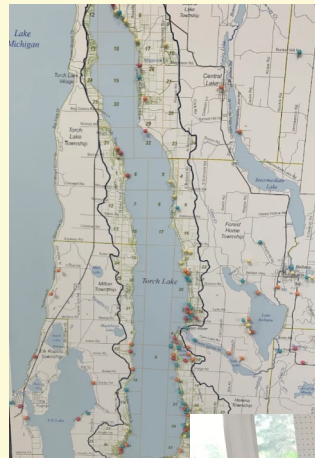
The Torch Conservation Center (TCC) has as its primary purpose the protection of the pristine waters of Torch Lake. Incorporated in 2013 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity, it supports its work largely through donations, environmental teaching, and proceeds from its Artisan Market in Alden. The TCC often collaborates with other environmental organizations on water quality projects.

These two nonprofit organizations, although primarily focused on different community benefits, have nevertheless joined together in a special community outreach. AS AMC President Brad Fields put it, "The Alden Men's Club and the Torch Conservation Center teamed up on February 2nd to provide a total of \$10,200 in one-time grants to the food pantries in Rapid City, Bellaire, Central Lake, Mancelona, Ellsworth and Alba."

Kudos to the Alden Men's Club and the Torch Conservation Center, and Thank You! You are definitely a bright spot in our community.



L-R: Norm Neuenschwander (Vice Pres), Brad Fields (Pres), Dan Bean (Sec)



Torch Lake map



Shoppers at the July 2025 Alden Men's Club Rummage Sale.



Beautiful examples of the various artisans' work available at the Market.



Cashiers in the church garage, ready to accept the shoppers' donations.



The Artisan Market, open from spring through fall Thursday - Sunday



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

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

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Sat & Sun CLOSED

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