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Without a strategy, execution is aimless.

Without execution, strategy is useless.

~ Morris Chang

Vol2026:

March 6, 2026

Miss Kalkaska Pageant is on March 14, 2026

And here are the contestants by category



Tiny Tot - L-R: Josie Sue Bear Balhorn, Brexlee Gayle Boger, Daylynn Mae Lou Harrison, Willow Grace Solo, Wren KC Wallace



Little Miss - L-R: Lucy Lou Ellory Dyell, Maralyn Jayne-Shandell Roach, Hannah Lois Somner, Amelia Loraine Stolp, Blakelee Virginia Jane Burkam, Scarlett Carolina Weston



Pre-Teen - L-R: Adalynn Paige Karazia, Annabelle Rebecca Caswell, Makayia Ann Smith, Cecilee Viola Grace Burkam



Pre-Teen - L-R: Addison Lea Ellison, Paisley Ann Adams, Faith Lillian Kovalcsik, Ella Michelle Bittenbender, Elizabeth Ann Cox



Teen - L-R: Aubrey Lynn Drinkwine, Mona Vivian Inman

Miss - L-R: Olivia Maria Cox, Kailey Rose Dougherty, Caylee Ann Carr

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 Chereese Villareal, contact 580 471-7778
When: Mon, Wed, 11:00 to 11:30 am

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BINGO, CARDS & BOARD GAMES

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

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

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

When: Mon, 6 pm

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

Carlos Wilfred Torres

February 11, 1941 ~ February 12, 2026

Carlos Wilfred Torres, born February 11th, 1941, passed away peacefully in his home on February 12th, 2026 at the age of eighty-five. Known high and low as "Sonny," as his Mother called him, he spent his life surrounded by family, friends, and decks of cards. Sonny was born to Elvira and Carlos Torres as one of five siblings. Ever since a young man, Sonny was known as a jovial spirit who never failed to bring a smile to those lucky enough to be around him. After graduating from Beecher Hope High School, Sonny enlisted in the Air Force, serving in Communications for some time before settling into civilian life as an electrician for General Motors. After he retired he followed his Son, Tony, up north to Rapid City. It was there that Sonny and his loving wife, Linda, made their final home. From his youth to his golden years, frequent hunting trips, golf

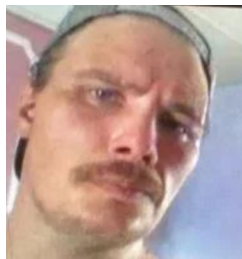


outings, and poker nights kept Sonny happy as he met new friends and volunteered around Alden and Rapid City. He enjoyed nothing more than getting together with a group of good folks and eating great food, laughing, and making memories he cherished his whole lifetime. Sonny was preceded in death by his Son, Tony, in 2022, and his Wife, Linda, in 2023. As well as his parents, and his siblings: Millie, Virginia, and Ricky. Sonny is survived by his brother, Johnny, and daughter, Stacey. Sonny was the proud Grandfather to several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His is a loss that we will mourn forever, but his presence, his laugh, will never truly fade, for he was a kind soul, and helped many in ways that few of us could hope to do. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

Thomas John Potter

March 6, 1977 ~ February 24, 2026

Thomas John Potter, 48, of Kalkaska passed away suddenly on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. He was born on March 6, 1977 the fifth child of the late Ross and Linda (Cook) Potter, Jr. Surviving Thomas are his siblings, Charlotte (Dennis McNinch) Doyle of Kalkaska, Ross H. Potter, III, Cheyenne Pedroza and Patricia Potter all of Sioux City Iowa; his children, Elexis, Seth, Kora, Trinity and Liviya; two grandchildren who love and miss him dearly; many nieces and nephews; and great nieces. Thomas moved to Kalkaska December 25, 2025 to be near his sister Charlotte and her family. He loved football, the Cubs, fishing and watching the History



Channel. He would help out everybody with a heartbeat. Thomas worked in construction and later as a cook after he was injured on a construction site. As a young man he loved to work with his father in a coin shop and enjoyed learning about coins and history. Thomas loved to play his guitar, draw and listen to different kinds of music. We love him very much. Thomas is with our parents; and his daughter, Ebonie in heaven. His memorial service was on Saturday, February 28th at 1:00 pm at his sister Charlotte's home. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Debra Sue Spitzza

October 28, 1954 ~ February 18, 2026

Debra Sue Spitzza, 71, passed away peacefully February 18th, 2026 at her home surrounded by family and friends. Debra was born October 28th, 1954 in Bellaire, Michigan to the late James and Joyce Spitzza. A loving mother and dedicated grandmother, Debra enjoyed spending quality time with her family and friends (particularly her best friend Sherry and cousin Dan). Some of her favorite pastimes included Morel mushroom hunting, swimming in Torch Lake and marveling at its colors, traveling, and she was passionate about thrift store shopping. Her love for travel led her on many adventures starting out west in her younger years, and ending with Florida and North Carolina later, where she enjoyed the ocean and the beauty around her. Debra also attended Northwestern Michigan College where she achieved a medical assistant degree and also worked at Kalkaska County

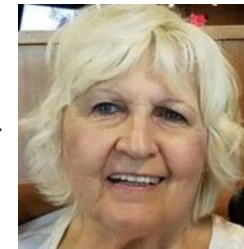


Clerk's office and Liberalizations for a time. Debra is survived by daughters Stephanie Murden (Andrew Mcallum), Jamie Molski (Derek) Shutt, granddaughters Ashley Erickson, Kinzey Shutt, Sister Connie (Brad) Raby as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Debra was preceded in death by her parents Joyce (Sam) Long, James Spitzza and sister Pamela Countryman. A celebration of Life for Debra will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, charitable donations can be made to Women's Resource Center in Traverse City, Project Feed the Kids (J&S Hamburg), Kalkaska County Commission on Aging, Kalkaska County Animal Shelter or Michigan Medicine (University of Michigan). Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Barbara J. Artrip

September 23, 1942 ~ February 13, 2026

Barbara Joyce Artrip, born Barbara Joyce Serwick, passed away peacefully on February 13, 2026, in Mancelona, Michigan, at the age of 83. Barbara was born on September 23, 1942, in Detroit, Michigan. She spent most of her life in the metro Detroit area, where she built her home and raised her family. Later in life, she developed a fondness for the Fort Myers area of Florida, a place she enjoyed and held close to her heart. Barbara was a mother and grandmother. She is survived by her three children: Debbie Bookless and her husband Peter, and their daughter Francesca; Donna Artrip; and her son John



Artrip and his wife Anika, along with their children Terry, Jack, Henry, and Xavier. She is also survived by her brother, Robert Serwick, and his wife, Diane. She had a deep love for her dogs and was a loyal fan of the Detroit Red Wings. Those who knew Barbara will remember her for her straightforward nature, her quiet presence in the lives of those she cared about, and the simple joys she cherished. In accordance with her wishes, no service will be held. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Joanne Scott

November 30, 1946 ~ February 22, 2026

Joanne (Schmiege) Scott, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and sister, passed away peacefully at her home on February 22, 2026. Jo was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School and went on to earn a degree in Social Work from Michigan State University. Neighbors while growing up in Kalamazoo, Jo married Phillip (Phil) in 1968. After moving to Kalkaska, where Phil was employed, Jo began her career teaching Head Start. After taking time off to raise her sons, she resumed working part time as a teacher at ABC Cooperative Nursery School. Jo later transitioned to a 17-year career with the Health Department as a social worker, where she provided maternal support to mothers and babies. Following her retirement, Jo volunteered at the Kalkaska High School Baby Pantry, the Festival of Trees, and served as a trustee on the Kalkaska Library



Board. Jo was preceded in death by her parents, Lester and Barbara Schmiege, and her brother-in-law, Walter Arnold. She is survived by her loving husband, Phil; her sons, Andrew (Kimberly) Scott of Midland, Michigan, and Steven (Katie) Scott of Kalkaska, Michigan; and her four cherished grandchildren, Ben, Sam, Luke, and Maddie Scott. She is also survived by her sisters, Marilyn Arnold of Chelsea, Michigan, and Kay (Gary) Campbell of Santa Rosa, California. Jo was kind, compassionate and had great empathy. Her favorite moments included reading, traveling, boating, and daily walks, but her greatest joy came from spending time with her family. A celebration of life will be held this spring. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

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TRAVERSE AREA
DISTRICT
LIBRARY

New Exhibit Explores Traverse City Psychiatrist's Historic Research

This March, explore a fascinating piece of local history with a new exhibit from Traverse Area District Library's Local History Collection. Featuring original documents from Traverse City State Hospital psychiatrist Dr. Paul H. Wilcox, the display examines mid-20th-century psychiatric research and his work with electroshock therapy.

Dr. Paul H. Wilcox," will be on view throughout March 2026 on the first floor of the Traverse Area District Library Main, in the exhibit cases leading into the Sight & Sound Department.

For more information please contact the Local History Collection at lhc@tadl.org or visit www.tadl.org, Local History.

"Traverse City Psychiatrist Makes History: The "Shocking" Career of



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.



Traverse Area District Library
Main Library
1st floor

Exhibit

March 2026



The "Shocking" Career of
Dr. Paul H. Wilcox

TRAVERSE CITY PSYCHIATRIST MAKES HISTORY

Traverse City State Hospital
Historical Documents
Electroshock Therapy

Munson's New Elk Rapids Specialty Clinic Represents Another Step in Regional Care Transformation Plan

Expanding outpatient specialty care outreach seeks to improve accessibility in rural areas

Elk Rapids, MI - Munson Healthcare is pleased to announce the opening of an Outpatient Specialty Care Clinic in Elk Rapids on Monday, February 16 as part of ongoing efforts to provide greater access and convenience to patients.

The clinic, located at 115 Bridge Street in Elk Rapids, will now offer consultation in three different specialty areas in addition to existing lab services. Neurologists, Nick Zandler, DO and Anne Pawlak, DO, Neurosurgeon, John Campbell, MD, and Rheumatologist, Nicole Tramontini-Gunn, MD will now see patients at the location.

"Transportation is one of the greatest barriers in rural healthcare," said Laura Glenn, Chief Operating Officer of Munson Healthcare. "We've seen how specialty outreach in a variety of areas has benefited patients in many of our communities and we're excited to be expanding this access to our specialists in Neurosciences and Rheumatology."

While Munson Medical Center in Traverse City remains the hub for most treatments, surgical procedures, and diagnostics in Neurology and Rheumatology, this new specialty clinic represents a broader initiative to improve accessibility and convenience for patients.

"We're excited to bring this to our neighbors in Elk Rapids and continue to recruit specialists to Northern Michigan with a goal of expanding access to these types of services in our outlying communities," added Glenn.

Lab services at the clinic are available Monday-Friday, 7:00am to 5:00pm. Patients can speak to their primary care provider about a referral or direct questions to each of the specialties at the phone numbers below:

- Neurology: 231-392-0430
- Neurosurgery: 231-392-0640
- Rheumatology: 231-935-2525

Munson Healthcare Foundations Celebrates \$1M Gift to Heart Services

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — In recognition of American Heart Month, Munson Healthcare Foundations is thrilled to announce a \$1 million gift to cardiac care from Traverse City residents Richard and Deborah Pascoe.

Richard Pascoe, who worked as a periodontist in northern Michigan for over 40 years, was a lifelong supporter of local healthcare before his death in November 2025. He was inspired to make a legacy gift by neighbors Bob and Pauline Young, who are longstanding supporters of Munson.

"We are grateful for this extraordinary \$1 million gift and the trust it demonstrates in our heart team at Munson," said Dr. Dino Recchia, MD, FACC, Heart and Vascular Service Line Medical Director for Munson Healthcare. "Rick and Debbie's generosity will directly enhance our ability to deliver advanced, lifesaving care for patients across northern Michigan. Through investments like this, we can continue providing the highest level of

cardiac care for many years to come."


Munson Healthcare is home to northern Michigan's most comprehensive cardiovascular programs and services. Through the Webber Heart Center and Traverse Heart and Vascular network, thousands of patients receive world-class heart care at Munson each year.

Pascoe's wife and children share that seeing future advancements in cardiac care made possible by Richard's generosity brings them comfort and helps them honor his life.

For more information about supporting local healthcare, please contact Munson Healthcare Foundations at 231-213-1150 or foundation@munsonhealthcare.org




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March 2026

March 3-30, Model Train Display. Come visit Alden District Library and see a collection of model trains in a variety of size scales. The display is a collaborative effort of collectors Greg Movsesian & Paul DeLange. 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.

March 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.

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

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

March 14, 10am, Story Time with Miss Linda. Miss Linda will be reading stories with a St. Patrick's Day theme and doing simple activities with the kids. This program will be held in the library located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

March 14, Second Saturday Story Hour Join us at the Bellaire Public Library on the Second Saturday of the month from 10:30am-11:30am for Second Saturday Story Hour. We read stories, do a craft, and have a snack together. The Bellaire Public Library is located at 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call the Library at 231-533-8814.

March 14, Seed Library Opening Day Join us for the Seed Library Opening Day! Check out the seed library for the upcoming growing season, pick up seeds for your garden, or bring seeds that you saved from last fall. 10:00am-2:00pm. The Bellaire Public Library is located at 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call the Library at 231-533-8814.

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

March 21, Job Winslow Chapter NSDAR, monthly meeting, 11 am, at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 912 S. Garfield Ave., Traverse City. Presentation on Maple Syrup, by Joe Woods.

March 22, 2-4pm, Pie & Coffee Chat: Buggies, Beards, and Bonnets. This light-hearted and informative program about the rich heritage and traditions of the Mennonite Amish people is presented by Carmen Yoder. Join us for pie and coffee while Carmen, who grew up in a Mennonite family, shares fascinating stories and lively discussions that unpack the history, traditions, language and culture of the Amish. Free Event. RSVP not required but appreciated. Contact Alden District Library 231-331-4318. Sponsored by Alden District Library and Friends. Held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden.



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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

DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)
A handful of specifics to commit to memory

20 October 2003

Dear Mark,

Playing Jacks or Better and using correct basic strategy, what do I do in the following situations?

a.) A pair (10s or lower) and a face card.

b.) A pair (10s or lower) no face card.

c.) A pair of face cards with another face card.

d.) If I have flush (four cards), do I draw one and try to fill it every time, or, do I act differently if I have face cards or a pair?

e.) Finally, I think I read that you're supposed to always bet the max on progressive machines, is that right? Bill S.

Four of your five questions, Bill, have straightforward answers. So let's giddy up on the four and pirouette on the toughie.

A pair (10s or lower) and a face card: Keep the low pair.

A pair (10s or lower) no face card: Again, keep the low pair.

A pair of face cards and another face card: Keep the pair, discard the other face card.

Slippery question d.) can be a bit tricky. If you have a four-card flush, and a low pair, toss the low pair overboard. If you have a high pair, it's worth keeping. If you have three cards to a royal, keep those and drop the other two. (Note: I always tend to keep three cards to a royal flush over a high pair, though many experts believe a high pair is more powerful than a three-card royal. Either way, the power rating [expected value] difference between the two hands is minuscule.)

Two even more powerful hands than a three-card royal or a high pair are: a) a four-card inside

straight flush or b) an open-ended four-card straight flush. Play those accordingly, with a respectful nod at your favorite saint.

As to your final question, Bill, always bet the maximum number of coins on a progressive machine, to get the bonus for royal flushes. The same holds true for non-progressive machines. Typically, with one coin inserted you get 250 coins back for a royal flush, then 500 returned with two coins inserted, 750 back for three coins, 1,000 coins for four coins in, and a well-earned jump to 4,000 coins returned for that fifth coin inserted. That escalated return is your bonus for playing the maximum in coins.

Dear Mark,

In video poker, what is more powerful, an ace or a jack? Dean M.

Some players do not realize this, Dean, but the ace is not the most important card in the deck, the jack is. Holding the jack over the ace gives you more opportunities of making more lucrative hands than you'd get with an ace; one example would be the open-ended straight.

Dear Mark,

Playing Jacks or Better, which do you recommend: holding two non-suited face cards and drawing three or picking one and drawing four? Lee C.

Two high cards is a slightly better hand — (not a 10 unless suited with another high card) — than a single high card hand. So, Lee, keep two high cards instead of one.

=====

Gambling quote of the week:
"Gamblers can be divided into three groups. Those who win, those who lose, and those who haven't a clue."
 VP Pappy



Sudoku Puzzle March 6, 2026

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

Solution on page 15

Anyway

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you.

Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.

Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten.

Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them, anyway.

-this version is attributed to Mother Teresa

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= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

**Mentorship and Mental Health Part 2:
Choosing a Mentor**

So much of our mental health is connected to our nervous system. When this is balanced, we feel healthy, and our lives feel stable. Our central nervous system is actually co-regulating. In other words, we actually “borrow” others’ confidence and overall nervous system regulation from others. Yes, the opposite is true, so it becomes important that we have people in our lives who are “ahead” of us in some aspects of life.

When we have mentors in our lives, they actually help to reduce uncertainty in our brains and nervous systems. Since anxiety tends to thrive in uncertainty, good mentorship can actually provide us with the maps our brains need to see our paths forward.

In this way, mentorship actually provides us with protective factors in the development of our own attachment styles and the building of our overall resilience.

When we look at the neuroscience of mentorship, we find that when we model a healthy mentor, we can learn to emotionally regulate through mirroring them. Since this does not come naturally to us, we actually tend to learn this from others. This is the same with confidence in that it is typically “caught” from

others and has a hard time being “taught”.

We also tend to internalize the voices that we hear most, and in this way, healthy mentors can actually shape our internal dialogue. Over time, our mentor’s voice can become our own inner coach that we carry around with us.

Healthy mentorship encourages our own decision-making, invites accountability in our lives, gently challenges us and actually celebrates our independence.

Unhealthy mentorship creates reliance and dependency, discourages questioning, elevates the mentor to the ultimate authority and creates an emotional fusion that is difficult to break.

Healthy mentors should support constructive ego development, not replace it with their own.

Here are some practical steps to choosing a healthy mentor:

Ask:

- Does this person live what they teach?
- Do they respect boundaries?
- Do they celebrate your growth?
- Are they secure enough to let you grow beyond them?

Practical Qualities:

- Seek character before charisma.
- Look for consistency over intensity.
- Observe how they treat those “beneath” them socially.

Finally, I want to invite you to reflect. Who shaped you into becoming the person you are today? What type of person do you still want to become? Are there any people in your life today who are mentoring you?

Next issue we will explore real-life examples of mentorship.

-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.



Mancelona Ironmen Wrestling

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

February 18, 2026

Ironmen were in Glen Lake for team regionals. Ironmen lost in the first round to Glen Lake.

Final score
Mancelona -39
Glen lake -42

This brings a close to our team season.

February 21, 2026

Mancelona Ironmen boys were in Charlevoix for boys individual regional tournament. We sent 7 boys to the tournament and 5 of them boys will be advancing to the state individual

boys championship at Ford Field in Detroit on March 6/7.

Mancelona Ironmen state qualifiers for boys wrestling are as follows.

Michael Clingan 106# 2nd place
Austin Barnhart 113# 3rd place
Theodore Parzych 138# 4th place
Hunter Stuck 215# 3rd place
Gavin Woodcox 285# 4th place

February 22, 2026

Today the Ironmen girls that qualified for regionals wrestled in Cadillac for their chance to wrestle in the state finals championship at Ford Field on March 6/7.

Unfortunately neither girl wrestler from

Mancelona was able to advance to the state championship.

A great effort was given by all involved.

Next event is the final event of the season and is the state individual finals at Ford Field in Detroit March 6/7-. We will have 5 boys that made it to this point. As mentioned before;

Michael Clingan -106#
Austin Barnhart -113#
Theodore Parzych -138#
Hunter Stuck -215#
Gavin Woodcox -285#

Coach Rich Southwell will report back after the tournament with a season recap.



COMMUNITY

Paint Grand Traverse 2026 Announces Nationally Acclaimed Artists; Fresh Paint Party Tickets Now on Sale

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – Crooked Tree Arts Center (CTAC) proudly announces the 2026 participating artists for Paint Grand Traverse, the week-long plein air painting festival and competition returning to the Traverse City region June 21–28, 2026. Now in its ninth year, the event continues to draw nationally recognized painters and collectors to northern Michigan, further establishing the Grand Traverse region as a premier summer destination for art and cultural travel.

A Cultural Anchor for the Region

“Paint Grand Traverse has become a signature summer event for our region,” said Kristi Wodek, Managing Director of Crooked Tree Arts Center – Traverse City. “Collectors from all over the country travel here specifically for this week, and artists return year after year. It’s a powerful example of how the arts elevate both the cultural and economic vitality of northern Michigan.”

Featuring 32 accomplished artists from across the country, Paint Grand Traverse transforms northwest lower Michigan into an open-air studio. Throughout the week, artists paint on location across Old Mission Peninsula, Leelanau Peninsula, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Downtown Traverse City, and beyond, capturing the region’s shifting light, shoreline vistas, vineyards, marinas, and historic small towns.

2026 Participating Artists

Artists are invited based on prior awards and selected through a competitive juried process, ensuring an exceptional level of quality across the collection. This year, one-third of participating painters call Michigan home, reinforcing the event’s strong regional roots:

Kevin Barton – Petoskey
Lori Feldpausch – Traverse City

Kristin Hosbein – St. Joseph
Debra Howard – Omena
Logan Hudson – Fife Lake
Mark Mehaffey – Empire
Thomas Moberg – Lansing
Julio Suarez – Jackson
Jill Stefani Wagner – Saline
David Westerfield – Grand Rapids
Adam VanHouten – Traverse City

These artists will paint alongside peers from across the country, including Lisa Burger Lentz (Media, PA), Lyudmila Tomova Clark (Cary, NC), Vlad Milan Ducheve (Baltimore, MD), John Eiseman (Hebron, MD), Millie Gosch (College Park, GA), Steve Griggs (Centennial, CO), Neal Hughes (Medford, NJ), Fred Jackson (King of Prussia, PA), Lynn Lewis (Kensington, MD), Jimmy Navarro (Des Moines, IA), Crista Pisano (Nyack, NY), Robin Roberts (Ashland, OH), Kari Ganoung Ruiz (Interlaken, NY), James Sampsel (Port Orford, OR), Richard Sneary (Kansas City, MO), Jeff Steiner (Minneapolis, MN), Jeff Suntala (Cleveland, OH), Mark A. Vander Vinne (Porter, IN), Richie Vios (Austin, TX), Rokhaya Waring (Clyde, NC), and Stephen Wysocki (Armstrong Creek, WI).

A Week of Art in the Open Air

Derived from the French phrase en plein air, meaning “in open air,” plein air painting captures fleeting atmospheric and lighting conditions outdoors. During Paint Grand Traverse, visitors can encounter artists working throughout the region, attend live demonstrations, participate in workshops, and bring young creatives to the popular Kids Pint-Sized Paint Out.

More than 250 original works will be created throughout the week, each one a direct response to the landscape, light, and energy of a northern Michigan summer.

Fresh Paint Party: A One-Night-Only Experience

At the conclusion of the festival, the paintings are brought together into a dynamic, salon-style exhibition, with the first opportunity to view and purchase the collection taking place at the marquee event, the Fresh Paint Party, held Saturday, June 27. This is a lively evening and the only opportunity to see the entire collection of paintings in one place. As artwork is purchased, it leaves with its new collector and is no longer on view, making the event a truly fleeting, can’t-miss experience.

Guests will enjoy live music, light appetizers, drinks, and the opportunity to meet and mingle with the artists.

Saturday, June 27, 2026
Crooked Tree Arts Center – Traverse City
322 Sixth Street, Traverse City, MI

Ticket Options

To serve both serious collectors and art enthusiasts, two ticket types are available:

Purchase Award Ticket – Ideal for collectors; includes early entry and first access to view and purchase artwork, plus admission to the Awards Presentation and Fresh Paint Party.

General Admission – Perfect for those who want to experience the celebration without a purchase commitment.

Following the festival, a small exhibit of work created during Paint Grand Traverse will be on view through August 22 at Crooked Tree Arts Center – Traverse City, with online sales available for collectors nationwide.

Tickets are now on sale and available at <https://www.crookedtree.org/events-and-exhibitions/events/paint-grand-traverse/> or follow @paintgrandtraverse on Instagram for more information.

Fresh Season Ahead for Kalkaska Farmers Market

**By: Sarah Schroeder,
Kalkaska Conservation District**

Lettuce, turnips, and bread, oh my! The Kalkaska Farmers Market will kick off the 2026 season on Tuesday, May 12 at 2:00 PM at Railroad Square Pavilion in downtown Kalkaska.

Hosted by the Kalkaska Conservation District (KCD), the Market is powered by a dedicated team of three staff members who work closely together to bring fresh food and vibrant community energy to Railroad Square each week. Leading the effort is Market Manager Sarah Schroeder, alongside fellow certified Market Managers Renee Penny and Stephanie Wiley. All three have earned their Market Manager Certification through the Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA), demonstrating their commitment to professional development and strengthening local food systems.

Wiley, who completed her certification this February, is excited to put her new knowledge into action. “I’m looking forward to building on what we already do well and bringing new

ideas to the Market,” she said. “There’s so much potential to continue growing something really special for our community.”

Schroeder credits the Market’s success to teamwork. “We feel fortunate to have a staff that is so passionate about local food and the Farmers Market,” she said. “It’s not common to find three people who are all willing to learn, better our community, and genuinely support one another. We’re able to bounce ideas around and lean on each other to keep improving year after year.”

The 2026 season brings exciting additions. On July 28, the Market will take a special “field trip” to the Kalkaska County Fair, partnering with the Fair to host Market Day on the fairgrounds. This new collaboration brings together two longtime community traditions in a way that fits together like peas and carrots.

The Market will also pilot a new program called the “Neighbors Table,” designed to act as an incubator for those who are new to the customer-facing Market world. This shared space will be available to vendors who are just starting out, have limited product, or may not

yet be ready to commit to a full booth. The Neighbors Table provides an affordable, low-risk opportunity to gain experience, connect with customers, and build confidence before expanding into a larger Market presence.

The Kalkaska Farmers Market runs May 12 through October 27, 2026, every Tuesday from 2:00–6:00 PM at Railroad Square Pavilion, Downtown Kalkaska, MI. Community members can expect fresh produce, baked goods, honey and maple syrup, artisan crafts, and more throughout the season.

Interested vendors are encouraged to apply, especially those offering produce, dairy, sourdough bread, meat, and ready-to-eat foods. The Market Policy Manual and Vendor Applications are available at kalkaskaconservation.org/farmers-market.

For questions, contact Sarah Schroeder at 231-564-9055 (call or text) or kalkaskafarmersmarket@gmail.com.



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

It's not bliss!

March 6, 2026

What is the point of learning? Serious question that I would like us all to consider. I do know some people who don't see much point in learning.

Is the point of education, or learning, to be prepared for a particular job? I have heard it suggested that if the job you end up doing does not match the major of your serious studies that somehow that means you are not "using your degree," or that pursuing your degree was a waste of your time and effort.

My colleague, Dick, who was the domestic traffic manager for the company we worked for, had earned his bachelor's degree with a major in History. At the time, I was the supervisor of the Export Support Team, effectively the international traffic manager, and I had not yet earned a college degree of any kind.

I have, since that time, earned both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. And these days, instead of keeping up with export regulations and preparing shipping manifests, I write for and publish a community newspaper. My degrees are in business with computer science concentration, and leadership.

Neither Dick nor I had any way of knowing precisely what jobs we would end up with. So, how would we have chosen exactly the curriculum to match up with those future jobs? We couldn't have done that.

Some people do know, as they are growing up, what kind of work they want to do in the world. And in many cases, they are best served by trade schools or very specific professional tracks. Doctors, nurses, attorneys, as well as plumbers and electricians, all need coursework tailored to their ultimate goal.

I believe that the point of education is to be an educated person. If that sounds stuffy, how about saying it this way: the point of learning is to be knowledgeable. I think it is the same thing. And this brings me to the thought that led me to write this essay in the first place. Ignorance is dangerous.

Ignorance, especially ignorance of how to think critically and analytically, puts a person always at risk. Just being able to ask and answer the question, "does that make sense?" is a powerful tool. Gaining that ability is, I believe, the essential purpose of education.

For several years, in the early days of Internet and email, there were frequent urgent emails telling of one disaster or another that we were all supposed to alert all of our friends and family members about. They detailed in panic inducing terms the grave dangers headed our way, our the intolerable behavior of prominent people. I remember one that wanted me to sign a petition to force Congress to abide by the 28th amendment to the Constitution. The problem with that is that there are only 27 amendments to the Constitution. But the sender of the email did not know that. I feel certain that the person who originated the email knew better, but for some reason wished to send out something that would upset people and get them all to send it out to everyone they knew. I don't understand that mindset, but I can hardly deny that it exists.

Whenever I received the latest "oh, ain't it awful" message, I generally did the research to verify or debunk it. Then, I sent the information I found back to the family member or friend who had sent the message to me. Over time it became clear that some people did want to know the truth and others would rather stay scared or outraged. The ones who wanted to know what was what began to ask me to check things out. The others just cut me from their mailing lists.

Ignorance can put people in jeopardy of being scammed. I've seen it happen and it's really scary. If you don't know that your Internet provider does not send out email blasts telling you to make major changes to your account and asking you to click the button to update your information, you might just go ahead and click the button. Boom! You've just given enough personal information to enable that scammer to rip you off.

These days, the fake emails and telephone calls try to fool you with lots of tricks. But here's the deal: if you don't have an account with a particular bank, and the caller claims to be from the security department of that bank, having received a credit card application in your name, stop and ask yourself whether that makes any sense at all. I got such a call a couple years ago and at first I thought there might be a problem. But, it became clear that this was in fact just a "phishing" trip. The idea was to get me to deny I made the application and then go over the information they claim to have about me, with me correcting them when there are errors. Of course, all that really does is give them my personal information.

A similar scam is the caller claiming you are in trouble because you've missed jury duty. You haven't been summoned for jury duty and you say so. The caller says well maybe you are the wrong person and asks you to verify your name, address, social security number, etc., in order to determine whether the summons was actually sent to someone else. Again, it is just to get enough personal information to enable the scammer to rip you off.

How best to protect yourself? Well, you could just hang up. You could just delete the email. But, if you are already conversing with the scammer, don't volunteer information. As soon as you get that feeling that there's something fishy about the call, hang up.

Now, earning a college degree is not going to insulate you from being fooled by scammers. But, learning to think critically, and taking the time to think, will greatly reduce your likelihood of falling for their tricks.

If you choose to go after a degree, do it because you want to learn stuff. That really does feel good.

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) The Preamble to the Constitution states as a purpose, "to form a more perfect union." How many other purposes does it list
- 2) What is the second stated purpose?
- 3) What are the remaining purposes?
- 4) What does the Preamble to the Michigan State Constitution say?

Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue's questions

- 1) When did the right to vote get recognized and guaranteed for men regardless of race, color, or previous servitude?
A. Amendment XV, ratified February 3, 1870.
- 2) When did the right to vote get recognized and guaranteed for women?
A. Amendment XIX, ratified August 18, 1920.
- 3) When did the right to vote get recognized and guaranteed for citizens aged 18 or older?
A. Amendment XXVI, ratified July 1, 1971.
- 4) Per the Michigan State Constitution, who may vote?
A. Per Article II, Elections, Section 4, the opening sentence: Every citizen of the United States who is an elector qualified to vote in Michigan.

***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
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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

LSSU'S PETOSKEY REGIONAL CENTER ANNOUNCES FALL 2025 GRADUATES

Petoskey, Mich. – Four area residents have earned bachelor's degrees from Lake Superior State University (LSSU). Graduates achieved their degrees through LSSU's Petoskey Regional Center, which offers baccalaureate degree programs for students on North Central Michigan's (NCMC) campus. Graduates are invited to participate in commencement May 2, on LSSU's main campus in Sault Ste. Marie.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in General Studies with a business concentration and a marketing minor is Rebekah Olds of Boyne City.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Teacher Education are Brooke Baker of Petoskey, Jayna Bearss of Boyne City, and Shaylee Michael of Indian River. Bearss earned a concentration in grades prek-3, and Baker and Michael earned concentrations in grades prek-3 and 3-6.

Baker graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors, earning a 3.90-4.00 cumulative grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale. Bearss and Michael graduated with Cum Laude honors, earning a 3.50-3.69 cumulative GPA on a 4.00 scale.

Bearss said, "Professor Seth McCall made a lasting impact on my time at LSSU. His support, knowledge, and willingness to adapt his classes to meet students' needs made my college experience truly meaningful."

Olds said, "My advisor at LSSU, Heidi Rife, encouraged me throughout my academic journey and made the process easier by helping me select courses, keeping me on track, and consistently answering my questions. From my very first semester, her support played an important role in my decision to continue my education at LSSU."

Students completed their coursework through LSSU's Petoskey Regional Center, in partnership with North Central Michigan College, allowing them to pursue LSSU Bachelor's degrees on NCMC's campus in Petoskey. The Petoskey Regional Center continues to expand access to LSSU Bachelor's degrees in Northern Michigan.

About LSSU's Petoskey Regional Centers

LSSU's Petoskey Regional Center, housed on the North Central Michigan College campus in Petoskey, offers a student-oriented approach

to higher education. It features small class sizes, experienced faculty, and the ability to pursue your educational dreams close to home. LSSU's regional centers and locations are committed to providing Northern Michigan-area residents with educational opportunities for intellectual, personal, and professional growth. For more information, visit www.Lssu.Edu/regional-center/ or contact Heidi Rife at 906-217-4123 or Hrife@Lssu.Edu.

About Lake Superior State University

Lake Superior State University is a close-knit university in Michigan's Upper Peninsula where faculty and staff know their students by name. Founded in 1946, LSSU offers a unique personal education shaped by its size, setting, and spirit of community. The University's one-rate tuition seeks to make education accessible to all students, while Laker athletics foster competitive spirit and school pride. Learn more at www.Lssu.Edu.

WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

By Dominic Fortuna

March 17, 2026 -- Today, millions of people around the world will don green attire, raise a pint of Guinness, and revel in the festive spirit of St. Patrick's Day. But amidst the parades, parties, and platefuls of corned beef and cabbage, have you ever stopped to think about the real meaning behind this beloved holiday?

For Father Michael Kelly, pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in New York City, St. Patrick's Day is a time for reflection, celebration, and connection to Ireland's rich heritage. "St. Patrick's Day is more than just a party," Father Kelly said. "It's a time to remember the man who brought Christianity to Ireland and to honor the faith and traditions that have been passed down through generations."

But did you know that St. Patrick's Day wasn't always a cause for celebration in Ireland? In fact, it was actually frowned upon by the Catholic Church for centuries. The Irish Catholic Church initially viewed March 17th as a solemn holy day, not a festive occasion.

So, how did St. Patrick's Day become the rowdy, raucous celebration we know and love today?

The story begins in the 17th century, when Irish immigrants in the United States began to organize parades and festivities to honor their patron saint. The first recorded St. Patrick's Day parade took place in Boston, Massachusetts in 1737, followed

by New York City in 1762. These early celebrations were more about community and cultural identity than religious observance.

Back in Ireland, the Catholic Church was initially hesitant to embrace the festivities. "The Church was concerned that the celebrations were becoming too rowdy and worldly," explained Father Kelly. "But over time, we've come to see the value in honoring our heritage and traditions, and St. Patrick's Day has become an important part of Irish culture and identity."

As the years went by, St. Patrick's Day gained popularity, and the Vatican eventually took notice. In 1961, Pope John XXIII declared St. Patrick a Doctor of the Church, solidifying his place in Catholic tradition.

Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated not only in Ireland but also in countries around the world, from the United States to Australia, Japan, and beyond. The holiday has become a symbol of Irish pride, community, and the enduring power of faith.

But what about the Italian Catholic Church's take on St. Patrick's Day? "We celebrate St. Patrick's Day with great joy and respect," said Father Giovanni, a priest at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. "It's a time to honor the missionary work of St. Patrick and to recognize the rich cultural heritage of Ireland. We're proud to share in the festivities and to welcome our Irish brothers and sisters in faith."

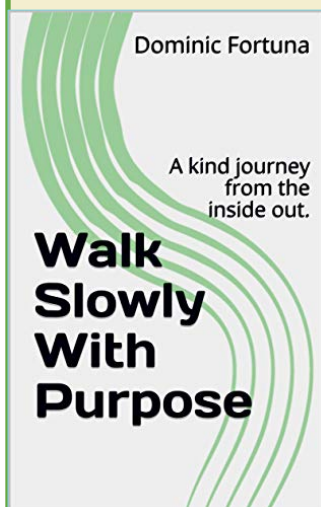
As you celebrate St. Patrick's Day today, take a moment to reflect on the true meaning behind the holiday. Whether you're Irish or not, whether you're Catholic or not, St. Patrick's Day is a time to come together, share in the joy and traditions of Ireland, and remember the enduring power of faith and community.

So, raise a glass, wear some green, and join the global celebration of St. Patrick's Day!



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

**Dominic Fortuna's book,
"Walk Slowly With Purpose"**



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

Kalkaska County Sand & Snow Foundation receives Great Lakes Energy People Fund grant

Kalkaska County Sand and Snow Foundation announces the receipt of a Great Lakes Energy People Fund Award for \$2000. The grant will be used to buy tables and chairs for our community classroom. Members of Great Lakes Energy support the People Fund by voluntarily rounding up their bills to the next highest dollar. The rounded-up amount is distributed to non-profit organizations and charitable activities that benefit people in communities served by the cooperative. Kalkaska County Sand and Snow Foundation encourages our members and community members to consider rounding up to support GLE and their People Fund Award. Please contact Great Lakes Energy, 1-888-485-2537, or visit gtlakes.com for more information.



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

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 March 6, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

Ice rink for Clearwater Township

People working together to do something good for the community is what makes living in a small town really special. This winter, Clearwater Township volunteers worked together to build an ice-skating rink.

Setup and layout of the 40' x 70' liner, which was donated by EPI, Environmental Protection Inc, "The Liner Company" in Traverse City, was accomplished by Clearwater Township's Trustee Bob Underhill, Maintenance man Gordy Hulburt, Supervisor Jim Leffew and Citizen Jeff West. Later, James Haggard, Katarina Alleman and Chief Derrick Tharp from Station 5 assisted with 3 tanker loads of water, totaling nearly 8,000 gallons. With a little help from Mother Nature, we succeeded in getting the rink operational by the end of January. Thanks to The Rapid City Heritage Festival Committee for offering to illuminate the rink, which is located in the field just North of the Township Hall in downtown Rapid City.

In this inaugural year of the township ice rink, it has been lightly used throughout the month of February.

Supervisor Leffew said, "I am grateful that we learned a great deal about what is needed to build and operate a rink this year, and I promise you we will be back next year with a bigger and better rink. I also want to give a big thank you to all those involved who made our rink possible this year."

The beginning of a new tradition in Rapid City – an ice-skating rink for winter fun. Thank you for that lovely bright spot!



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

Sales:

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

Service & Parts:

Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Sat & Sun CLOSED

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