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The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another.
~ Henry Van Dyke

Vol2026:
March 20, 2026

2026 Kalkaska Citizen and Business of the Year Winners Announced



KALKASKA COUNTY – This year’s Kalkaska Citizen of the Year is Kimberly Cotton, a teacher at Kalkaska Public Schools, and this year’s Kalkaska Business of the Year is Sunday Morning Flowers, owned by Leah Cox. Both award winners were selected through a community nomination process facilitated by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation and the Kalkaska Awards Committee.

Kim Cotton moved to Kalkaska in 1994 to marry her husband, Bruce Cotton. Together, they made their home next to the Cotton Family Farm, where Bruce continues working as part of the fourth generation. Kim holds a degree in science and education from Olivet Nazarene University. Kim began her professional career working in analytical laboratories. She later transitioned to teaching middle and high school science at Manton Consolidated Schools. In 2000, she joined Kalkaska Public Schools where she has taught science ever since. Over the years, she has impacted countless students through her dedication, high standards, and genuine care for their success.

Leah Cox is the owner of Sunday Morning Flowers in Kalkaska. What began as a leap of faith has grown into a vibrant, community-centered flower shop known for its creativity, warmth, and personal touch. After relocating to Kalkaska, Leah quickly fell in love with the people and the strong small-town spirit. Through Sunday Morning Flowers, she has built more than a retail space, she has created a welcoming gathering place. From weddings and community celebrations to holiday workshops and everyday bouquets, the shop has become a hub for connection, collaboration, and support of fellow local businesses.

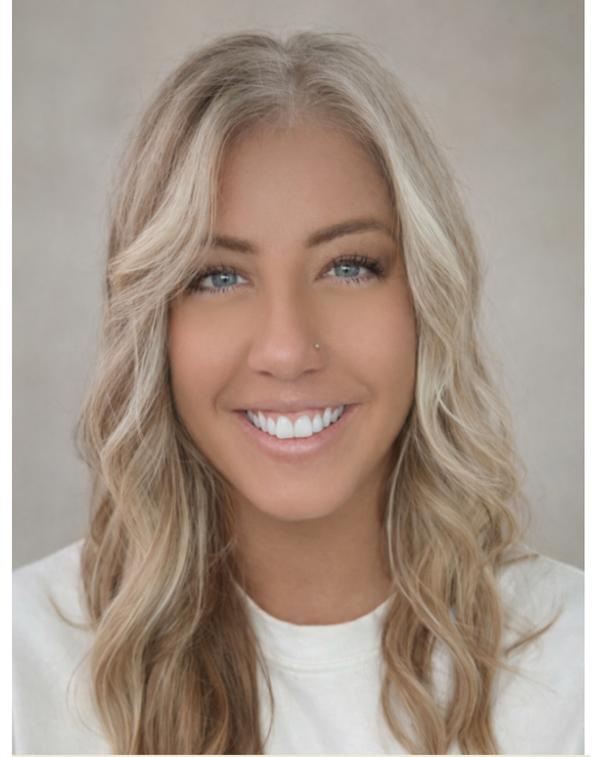


Kim Cotton, 2026 Kalkaska Citizen of the Year

The Kalkaska Citizen of the Year Award was established in 1970 to honor a Kalkaska area community member for their exceptional service and commitment to the local community while the Kalkaska Business of the Year Award was established in 2005 to honor a local business for their outstanding service.

The Kalkaska Citizen and Business of the Year will be honored at the 56th Annual Kalkaska Luncheon on April 21 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at Railroad Square Pavilion in downtown Kalkaska, kicking off the National Trout Festival celebration. The event is hosted by the Community Foundation and sponsored by DTE Energy Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Farrier Surveying, Forest Area Credit Union, Habitat for Humanity Grand Traverse Region, Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, Kalkaska Public Schools, Northland Foods, Traverse Connect, Trout Town Tavern & Eatery, and Woodland Creek Furniture.

Event registration is \$20 per person or \$250 for table sponsorship and can be purchased online at: <https://www.gtrcf.org/events>. The Community Foundation covers the cost of the Kalkaska Luncheon so that 100% of event registrations and sponsorships can directly support the Endowment for Kalkaska Area, a permanent fund dedicated to supporting the people and places in the Kalkaska community. All additional donations support the Endowment's growth, furthering community benefit.



Leah Cox, owner of Sunday Morning Flowers, 2026 Kalkaska Business of the Year



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



OUT & ABOUT

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

SENIOR & COMMUNITY MEALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FARMERS' MARKET

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

FOOD PANTRIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEALTH AND FITNESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fitness Over Fifty, Fife Lake Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, contact to register 231 922-491
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

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

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: Sat, 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@learnsselfcompassion.com or 616-581-4668. Sponsored by Alden District Library and the Antrim County Bridge Club.

When: Tue 10 am - noon

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

When: Tue, 1 to 4 pm

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

When: Tue, 1 pm

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

When: Tues, 6:00 pm

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

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

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

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

O&A - continues on page 11



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OBITUARIES

Ricky A. Henderson

September 7, 1955 ~ March 10, 2026

Ricky Arvid Henderson, age 70, left this world to enter eternal salvation on March 10, 2026. Rick was born September 7, 1955, in Kalkaska, Michigan to Arvid "Zeke" Henderson and Erma Lucille Warner Henderson. He was the eldest of four brothers. His brother, Mike Henderson, spent hours talking about history and Vikings and was his confidant. Dennis (Jolanta) Henderson was the one he wanted to talk to when he needed some laughter. His baby brother, Andy (Molly) Henderson, was the gentle and caring one that Rick guided through educational and parental responsibilities. Deb Brode, a loyal friend of Rick, was consistently present, bringing him happiness, and the comfort of her pets.

Rick was raised in Rapid City and frequently returned there regardless of his career pursuits. He valued the memories of exploring forests, rivers, and fields with the Dalton, Guy, and Deater children, among many others. David Dalton, Dale Gaylord, and Mark Guy maintained lifelong friendships, often contesting who was his closest friend. Rick

graduated from Kalkaska High School in 1973, which he regarded as the best class ever. His passion for learning led him to Northwestern Michigan College, where he developed an interest in Geology. Subsequently, he attended Western Michigan University. Although college kept him away from home, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology and Elementary Education. His love for his hometown led to his Viking poem:

Rick the Red of Rapid City
Brave and Bold
And what a pity
He is so very witty
Ta Ha... Ta Ha... Ta Ha!!!

Despite obtaining his degree to pursue his passion for teaching, Rick was employed by the State of Michigan as a Geologist within the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality (DNR/EGLE). He remained a dedicated employee, advancing to the position of Senior Regional Geologist. His career included postings in Roscommon and Cadillac, and he worked remotely until his retirement after more than 4 decades of service.

Throughout his career, he spent weekends in Rapid City. Had health issues not arisen, he would likely still be working. His continued guidance and advice for colleagues after retirement were sources of great pride. Rick was a lifelong member of the Rapid City Church of Christ, where his beliefs were deeply rooted in tradition and community support, with God as the central focus. Through his faith in Jesus and commitment to community, he provided opportunities for numerous youth in Rapid City to engage in various activities and work. He frequently employed cousins, nephews, nieces, and neighbors for odd jobs on the family property, often concluding these chores with target practice using an assortment of firearms. He spent many hours driving through the woods in the Upper Peninsula disguised as bird hunting with his friend Bill Cornish as a way to connect with God's creation.

He was the uncle to four nephews—Dylan (Lindsay Gondol) Henderson, Deryk (Kyleigh) Henderson, Jack Stewart, and Mykolas Henderson—and

four nieces—Nicholle Sherwood Trubiroha, Kelly Jeanne Sherwood, Alayna Stewart, Gabrielle Henderson, Three great nieces and nephews Wyatt Gondol, Juna Gondol, and Mckinley Henderson—whose lives he enriched through advice, homework assistance, vehicle loans, and critiques of farming practices.

Rick was preceded in death by his mother Erma, father "Zeke," and brother Mike. He is survived by his brothers Dennis (Jolanta) Henderson and Andy (Molly) Henderson; his devoted friend Deb Brode; stepmother Patricia (Udell) Henderson; step-sisters Debra Meadows, Sharon (Rex) Alspaugh, Jody Fritz; and stepbrother David Meadows.

The visitation was held at the Kalkaska Church of Christ on Tuesday, March 17, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM, followed by a service beginning at 3:30 PM. Burial will take place in the spring at Clearwater Township Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

Elizabeth Antonia Ludka Leask

April 16, 1942 ~ February 25, 2026

Our beloved Elizabeth "Liz" Antonia Ludka Leask, age 83 of Kalkaska, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. Born April 16, 1942, in Traverse City, Michigan, Elizabeth was the daughter of Frank and Lillian (Antony) Ludka. On April 16, 1973, Elizabeth married Paul D. Leask in Traverse City and they moved to Kalkaska in 1974. Elizabeth worked as a Supervisor for Michigan Family Independence Agency, retiring in 1997 after 25 years of service.

Elizabeth is survived by three children, Kevin (Rachael) Leask of Charleston, South Carolina, Mark Leask of Kalkaska and Robyne Fournier of LaCygne, Kansas. Also surviving are brothers and sisters, Larry (Loretta) Ludka, Elaine (David) Kozlowski, and Charles Ludka all of Traverse City and sister Ruth Holsather of Midland. She is also survived by thirteen grandchildren, eight great-



grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her husband Paul Leask, son Michael Leask, daughter Tari French; her mother and father; her brothers Walter Bud Ludka and

Frank Ludka II; her sister Virginia Ludka Schram; sister-in-law Julia Ludka and brother-in-law Wilfred Holsather.

The funeral Mass of Christian Burial for Elizabeth will be celebrated on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. with visitation at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Francis Catholic Church in Traverse City, Michigan. Remembrance memorials may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation at 5005 LBJ Freeway in Dallas, Texas 75244. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Judith Ann Petroff (Martin)

June 27, 1943 ~ March 1, 2026

Judith Ann Petroff [Martin] 83, born June 27, 1943, in Madison, Wisconsin passed away peacefully Sunday night March 1, 2026 in her hometown of Kalkaska, Michigan. She was a long-time resident of Kalkaska for almost 50 years. She became a registered nurse and, from there became an administrator of several nursing homes all around northern Michigan. She had a passion for horses and dogs her whole life and owned and cared for many. She loved the outdoors, gardening, reading, traveling, horseback riding, and she loved where she lived. She was the most kind human being, always thoughtful and caring. She is predeceased by her father Stanley

Yancey, mother Charlotte Basel [Yancey] Stepfather William Basel, brother James Yancey, first husband Diminko [Danny] Petroff and second husband Robert Martin. She is survived by her nieces and nephews Tammy Yancey, Mike Yancey, Christine Jeavons, Matthew Yancey and Michelle Bratton. She is also survived by several great nieces and nephews. No services will be held at this time. She will be laid to rest at Garfield Township Cemetery, Fife Lake MI, in the spring. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

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Northwest MI

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Dennis John McDonald

August 10, 1941 ~ March 4, 2026

Dennis John McDonald was born in Rochester, Michigan, on August 10, 1941, to John and Enid McDonald. He was a Christian man who loved his family and adhered to the values of respect and godliness. Dennis grew up in Rochester and graduated from Rochester High School. He attended Cedarville College in Ohio for his bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and excelled at baseball to such an extent that he signed for the Detroit Tigers before sustaining an injury that brought an end to his professional baseball aspirations. After recovering from his injury, he returned to school to earn his master's degree in Special Education/Autism at Wayne State University in Michigan, and his post-graduate degree at Central Michigan University as an Education Specialist. He spent his fifty-year professional career working in education, teaching and mentoring students with special needs before moving into an administrative role. Dennis was a farmer at heart who enjoyed the slow pace of country life. He never passed up the opportunity to "haggle" (in his words) for the trade of equipment or favors. He loved to tinker in the barnyard with his farm equipment and take care of his farm animals. He spent many days baling hay or mending



fences. He also loved to spend his time outside on the golf course, perfecting his self-proclaimed ugliest swing in the game. Dennis enjoyed his morning devotions sitting on the porch with his wife and spiritual partner. He also enjoyed a good book from bygone eras. He possessed an inquisitive mind and loved to pose and debate thoughtful, philosophical questions. He loved to go for drives with his wife but never found the "long way" to be too long when the route took him past a donut shop or ice cream parlor. Dennis passed away on March 4, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Jay Ann, his son and daughter-in-law, Sean (Erin) MacDonald, as well as his two brothers, David (Jackie) and Bruce (Beverly) McDonald. The first visitation for Dennis took place on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, from Noon until 1:00 PM at the Evergreen Bible Baptist Church, Saunders Rd., in Kalkaska, Michigan. The funeral service was at 1:00 PM. A second visitation gathering was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM at Sharp Funeral Home in Grand Blanc, Michigan. The family asks for donations to St. Jude or the Wounded Warrior Project in lieu of flowers. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Jacob K. Kade

March 13, 2006 ~ February 24, 2026

Jacob Kenneth Kade, 19, of Fife Lake, passed away in his home on February 24th, 2026. He was born in Traverse City on March 13th, 2006. Jacob graduated from Forest Area High School in Fife Lake, MI and continued his education at Kirkland Community College in Grayling, MI. Jacob married the love of his life Kaylinn Kade (Root). He was an avid outdoorsman, amazing baker, and loved every single thing about vehicles, mechanics, small engines, and had a vast general knowledge when it came to turning a wrench. In his free time, he loved tinkering with his beloved truck, Roxanne ("Roxy"), his '86 Ford, and his vintage Arctic Cat snowmobile. He was well-known around town for his work ethic and always being willing to help the next guy in line. He got his start wrenching at his first job at the hardware in Fife Lake working on small engines. He was also a very involved member of the Sons of the American Legion and would spend most of his time doing lawn maintenance, working the fish fry, and working the EZ meals. He was also a part of the Color Guard where he had an amazing mentor, Randy Gilbert, who was also like a father figure to him. Jacob and Kaylinn met at



his auto parts job in Kalkaska on April 12th, 2025. From there they lived together and spent almost every day together. They often spent time with friends or out camping. On December 15th, 2025, they lovingly exchanged their wedding vows. Jacob was oftentimes considered a "bull in a china shop" by those around him but also "as a young man with an old soul". He is preceded in death by his two unborn children; Grandma & Grandpa Turk; Kaylinn's mom Noelle Vasquez and sister Elisa Root. He is survived by his wife Kaylinn Kade; his father Shawn Volger and mother Lindsay (Michael) Gresser; his grandparents Doug & Sandra Kade; his uncle Jason and Aunt Kim; his half-siblings Brodie (Abby) Long, Jobe Trelfa, and Katie Williams; his nephew Arlo Long; and his countless cousins and many friends. Jacob was truly one of a kind and will forever be missed. Matthew 19:26 was his favorite verse. A memorial service was held at the American Legion Post 219 in Fife Lake at 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 8, 2026, with visitation and a luncheon following. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

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Reatha Marie Cochran

March 21, 1945 ~ March 7, 2026

RAPID CITY - Reatha Marie Cochran, 80, a former court reporter in Michigan, passed on Saturday, March 7th, 2026, at home on the Torch River surrounded by family. Reatha was born to Zelda (Gray) Smith and Orin Gray on March 21st, 1945, in Grayling. She graduated from Kalkaska High School in 1963 and Lansing Community College - Court and Conference Reporting in 1979. She worked as a court reporter for the State of Michigan until her full retirement in 2009. Reatha was married to Max (Mick) B. Cochran on July 9th, 1966, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City due to Mick's severe motorcycle accident two days before their actual wedding date while Mick was on leave from the Navy. As Reatha always joked, their nearly 60-year marriage started with a crash and bang. The couple lived in Vernon, Michigan, for decades, travelling North to their cabin near their beloved Torch Lake and the infamous Elvis Houseboat. As Reatha worked in the court system, Mick worked at



Buick-GM Flint until his retirement. The couple had one daughter, Reye Marie (Cochran) Kenney, in 1970. In 2000, they built their dream house on Torch River, enjoying the beautiful views from their front porch and the fun associated with the lake. She spent her retirement years visiting friends and family, playing euchre, or gambling at Turtle Creek Casino. Reatha is preceded in death by her parents, Zelda (Gray) Smith and Orin Gray. She is survived by her beloved husband, Max (Mick) B. Cochran; their child and grandchildren, Reye (Cochran) Kenney, Tanner Kenney, and Taylor Kenney; brother Tom (Julie) Gray; nieces and nephews, Jodi (Gray) Thayer, Krisi (Gray) Scheidel, Tawni (Gray) Dieki, Rick (Lisa) Knust, Robin (Kim) Knust (Wells), Tammy (Jim) Leithow, and Terri (Cindy) Reasoner. No services are planned at this time. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Cheryl A. Buffington

May 21, 1959 ~ March 12, 2026

Cheryl A. Buffington, 66, of Grayling and formerly of Marine City, passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at home with her husband, Phil by her side. She was born on May 21, 1959, in Windsor, Canada, the daughter of the late Robert and Frances Lee. Cheryl married her love, Phillip S. Buffington on 9/14/2010 in Marine City. She is also survived by her son, Robert (Lisa) Hopkins



of Marine City, and grandson, Bryson. "Cheryl was friendly, loving and the best partner a person could ask for" said Phil. She will be sadly missed by those who loved and cared about her. Cremation has taken place per Cheryl's wishes. No services are planned at this time. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

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

Additional Obituaries on pages 8, 9 & 10

Building Stability: Munson Healthcare Boosts Safe Harbor Manistee Services and Reinforces Its Regional Commitment to Housing

Manistee, MI — February 25, 2025 — On the first hard freeze of the season, the lights at Safe Harbor Manistee flicker on and volunteers begin setting out bowls of warm dinner. For neighbors who've spent their days bracing against the wind off Lake Michigan, the promise of warmth and a safe bed—just for tonight—can be lifechanging. This winter, that promise extends even further, as Munson Healthcare supports expanded services that help guests take meaningful steps toward long-term stability and independence.

Through its community health investments, Munson is helping Safe Harbor Manistee strengthen basic needs supports and skill building resources—including access to laundry facilities, financial literacy education, life skills coaching, and educational opportunities such as GED preparation. These investments help ensure guests experience not only immediate safety and stability, but also the tools necessary to rebuild their lives.

“Warmth and safety matter—but so do the building blocks of independence,” said Jeff Carter, Director of Safe Harbor Shelter, operated through ECHO is love. “Munson’s support strengthens the resources and guidance we can offer guests as they work toward long-term stability.”

Housing Is Health—and Munson Is Investing Accordingly

The partnership is rooted in Munson’s Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), which identifies economic security and housing as core drivers of health.

“Housing is health, and stability is built—often one achievable step at a time,” said Kristi Johnson, Chief Nursing Officer for Munson Healthcare’s South Region, including Manistee Hospital. “Access to clean clothing, help with budgeting, or support while pursuing education can remove critical barriers and create pathways forward. We’re honored to invest in these social determinants of health alongside Safe Harbor Manistee.”

Munson Healthcare’s investment in Manistee is part of a larger,

region-wide commitment to supporting housing stability and economic security in Northern Michigan. In the past year, Munson has directed:

- \$150,000 to street medicine programs in Traverse City, Cadillac, Benzonia, and Kalkaska
- \$75,000 to Goodwill Northern Michigan, supporting regional homelessness solutions
- \$10,000 to River House to help survivors of domestic violence build long-term security in Grayling

Together, these investments underscore Munson’s belief that housing and health are deeply connected—and that partnerships strengthen the pathway from crisis to stability.

About ECHO His Love and Safe Harbor

ECHO His Love began in 1992 as Love for Children supporting Manistee County families with young children, expanded to Love INC of Manistee in 2005, and into Benzie County in 2006. Today, ECHO His Love mobilizes area churches to meet physical and spiritual needs—connecting basic needs with resources, teaching life skills through Family Life Centers, providing Safe Harbor winter shelter, and repurposing quality donated goods through the Love INC Store. The shelter is open from November 1 through April 30 with 20 beds providing 2,960 overnight stays each season. This work is carried out by a small staff, more than 300 volunteers, 44 church partners, and numerous community organizations, service clubs, and businesses. Love has no boundaries.

To learn more, visit [Ministry | United States | ECHO His Love](#).



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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 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

March 24, and 31, 3:00- 4:30pm, Tech for Students with Gabe. Gabe will be at the Bellaire Public Library for Tech Time for Students to allow for after school tech questions from students, ideally grades K-12. The Bellaire Public Library is located at 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call 231-533-8814..



TRAVERSE AREA
DISTRICT
LIBRARY

KINGSLEY BRANCH LIBRARY

Everyone Has a Story: Storytelling Community Circle

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

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

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

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

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

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Alden

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

Boardman Township

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

Central Lake

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

East Jordan

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

Fife Lake

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

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

Kalkaska

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mancelona

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

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

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

Rapid City

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

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

Williamsburg

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

Williamsburg United Methodist Church
5750 Williamsburg Rd, Williamsburg
Sunday morning:
9:30 am - Worship Service

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

DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)

Downright lethal vs. pretty good

3 November 2003

Dear Mark,

Please explain what you mean by "winning progressive" betting? You mentioned it in a column without an explanation. Does it differ from doubling your bet after each loss? I play in Atlantic City, generally blackjack (I'm relatively new to the game), and \$10 a hand (hard on weekends to find anything lower). Keith B.

The latter part of your question, Keith, describes the "Martingale system," an historic name for doubling up after every loss. In essence, you, the gambler, double your previous bet (after a loss) leaning on the statistical certainty that sooner or later you're bound to win. Sounds great, Right?

MID-TERM QUIZ: Why is it the worst money management system you can use? Read on.

Far too many players believe the Martingale system is foolproof because you have to win eventually. The three problems with this money management system are: 1) you do not have an inexhaustible bankroll, 2) the casino owns the bank and sets the rules — like the table limit, and 3) your hourly wage if you win could be something like \$0.01.

Let me show you, Keith, how fatal this form of wagering can be. You bet \$10 and lose, then \$20 to recoup that loss. Then \$40, \$80, \$160, \$320, \$640, \$1,280, \$2,560 and finally \$5,120. You have just invested \$10,230 to get your \$10 back. And let us not forget, Keith, "the Donald" (Trump) might have his \$10 games set with table limits of \$500. A string of six defeats and you're up against the table limit - maxxed out, as they say. On the bright side, they'll probably say; "Thanks, Keith, and have a beer on us."

Ever met a gambler who has not lost six, eight or even 10 hands in a row? I haven't. That 10 bucks could buy a first class bandanna for wiping the sweat from your forehead.

Horsemen sometimes use a Martingale bit to control a fractious horse; each twitch of the reins doubles the discomfort in the horse's mouth. There may be a connection — don't know, seems likely.

The far superior "Winning Progressive" betting method goes like this:

You set a predetermined percentage increase to follow any winning bet, and pull in your horns after losses. Example? OK. On the advice of my brilliant better half, I increase the bet that follows any winning bet except the first by 50%: First \$10 bet wins, next bet also for \$10 wins, and now we're off on the 50% gallop: \$15, \$22, \$33, \$50, \$75 etc., then drop to the table minimum — "flat betting" — after every loss.

Side note here: Many players increase their bets after a win by 50% after the first win. I just happen to be a little more conservative with my hard-earned money — actually, only when my wife is standing next to me — and wait out the second win before plunging.

Either way, Keith, a winning progressive method of betting, will minimize your losses and usually protect your winnings.

=====

Gambling quote of the week:
"When you enter a casino, remember that you are entering a place of business run by very shrewd business people who understand human emotions."-Henry Tamburin



Sudoku Puzzle March 20, 2026

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

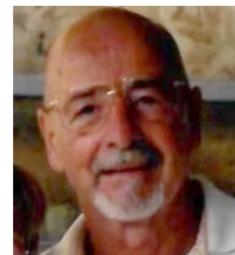
Solution on page 15

Additional Obituaries on pages 4, 5, 9, & 10

Raymond LeRoy Peka

August 7, 1945 ~ March 12, 2026

Raymond Leroy Peka (80) of Fife Lake, Michigan passed away on March 12, 2026, at a nursing home in Romeo after spending an afternoon with his niece and time with an old friend and his favorite son in law.



a good life by traveling and taking family trips between Michigan and Minnesota. "Butch" and Mary loved visiting Aruba, but most of all, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, hosting reunions, building campfires, and

Raymond (Ray, Butch) was born in Little Falls, Minnesota, on August 7, 1945, to the late Raymond F. Peka and Eleanore D. Oldakowski. During his childhood, the family moved to Roseville, Michigan where he grew up.

chopping wood at his retirement home in Fife Lake, where they were members of the Catholic church.

Ray was married to the love of his life for almost 60 years. Mary Elizabeth Sherrill (Peka) passed away in September of 2024.

Butch is survived by his three children, John D. Peka (Melissa), Brian J. Peka, and Cynthia D. Brunk (Robert); five grandchildren, Raymond (Kristin), AJ, Kourtney (Alex), Evelyn, and Zach; six great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and poodle, Max.

Ray served in the U.S. Air Force, got stationed in Marquette, toured in Thailand, went to Vietnam, and worked as a helicopter mechanic. After his two enlistments, he was a truck driver for many years until he started his own home-remodeling company. He retired downstate in 2008. The couple then moved up north to spend summers near Ray's youngest sister Patti's place. They wintered in Florida, where he volunteered at Sun N Fun Aerospace Flight School in Lakeland. Ray was part of the maintenance team there. His main job was to exterminate all the ants, which gave him the nickname of "Ant Man." Ray lived

Butch is predeceased by his sisters, Jane (Jan) Dine, Lois Jovanov, and Patricia (Patti) Dooley; nephew, Steven Kenward and great nephew, Jason Kenward. Cremation services have been entrusted to Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home in Kalkaska. Memorial contributions can be made to Kalkaska County Commission on Aging, or St. Aloysius Church. Please go to www.wolfeoneill.com/obituaries to visit Raymond's tribute page and share a memory with his loved ones. A small, private service will be held at a later date.,

To place a classified ad, or a display ad,

Email: tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com

or call: 231-322-2787 or 231-645-0244

= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

Mentorship and Mental Health: Part 3

In the last two columns, we explored how mentorship supports our mental health and how healthy mentors help regulate our nervous systems, provide perspective and guide our development. But, in reality, mentorship is not just an abstract idea or something that only happens in formal programs or coaching. The truth is that most mentorship actually happens quietly in everyday life through relationships and shared experiences.

When I was 19 years old, I took a job bussing tables at Mr. Bill's Family Restaurant. Little did I know that this was going to forever change the course of my life. It was here that I finally developed a true work ethic and job loyalty. This was in no small part because of the leadership of Bill Winkler.

One day, while I was sitting down for my lunch break, Bill sat down across from me at the booth. He said something to me that day that would change my life forever. He looked me in the eye with a demeanor that would set anyone at ease and said, "Adam, what the hell are you still doing working for me?" What? I loved working for this guy. What in the world could he be talking about?

He then said, "Adam, you're great with people, and you are smart. Why are you at least not in college?" I didn't have an answer for him. If I was being honest, I didn't see myself as college material, so these questions really struck me hard.

Well, within a week, I had applied to college, and the rest, as they say, is history. Without this mentor kicking me in the butt, this might have never happened.

My previous columns shared the mental health benefits of mentorship. In this final column on this important topic, I want to show how sometimes mentors come in the most unexpected forms. Over the years, I have had mentors in coaching, licensing, business and personal development. These were deliberate and intentional, but mentors will also come from some often-unexpected sources.

Now, the question is: Who have the mentors been in your life? If the answer is not obvious, I recommend you get intentional about getting some mentorship.

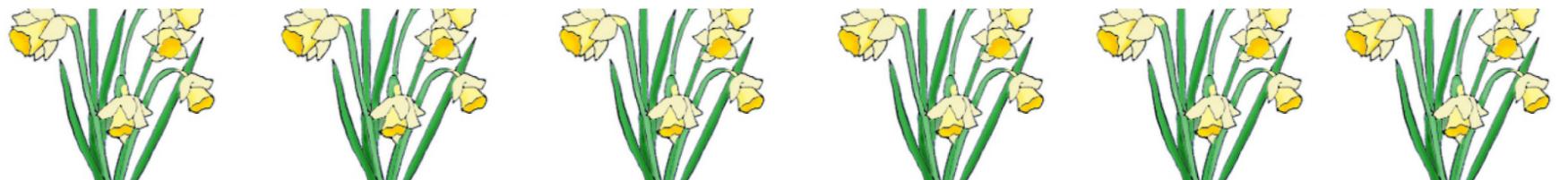
The final question is this: Do you see yourself as a potential mentor? If the answer is even a tepid

"yes", then consider stepping up and sharing your hard-fought life wisdom with another person. I guarantee that this will change both of your lives for the better. This is just another way that we all win at life.

-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECP

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



Additional Obituaries on pages 4, 5, 8 & 10

Shirley J. Knust

November 5, 1938 ~ March 14, 2026

Shirley Joyce Knust, 87, passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the Eden Center in Kalkaska surrounded by her family. Shirley was born on November 5, 1938, to Bernard "Buster" and Marie Cochran. She graduated from Kalkaska High School. Shirley married the love of her life, Eddie Knust, on September 8, 1956. They were married for almost 67 years until Eddie's death on June 26, 2022. They raised two children, Rick and Robin, lived in the same home on Ladd Drive at Torch Lake for 68 years. Shirley loved going fishing with Eddie. She also loved taking care of her grandkids and they often took them fishing with them. But most of all Shirley loved and cherished her family. Shirley is survived by her two children, Rick (Lisa) Knust and Robin (Kim) Wells; 3 grandsons, Mick (Katie)

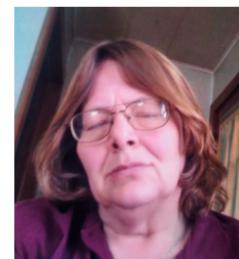


Knust, Matthew (Alyssa) Knust and Brandon Knust; four great grandchildren, Harper Knust, Mason Knust, Hadley Knust and Brayden Knust; her sister Beatrice Cochran, brother Mick Cochran and sister in law, Janice (Knust) Clark; along with several nieces and nephews. Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Buster and Marie Cochran; her beloved husband, Eddie Knust, sister in law, Reatha Cochran; brother in law and sister in law James and Heather Knust and brother in law, Russell Clark. We want to thank the Awesome staff at the Eden Center for taking such great care of Shirley for the last two years. No services are planned at this time. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Darlene R. Moran

January 20, 1960 ~ February 28, 2026

Darlene Ronda (Maynard) Moran was born in the back of an Army Jeep on a base in the beautiful town of Munich, Germany, on January 20, 1960. She lived out her life in the wholesome town of Mancelona, MI, with her husband Mike and daughter Beth.



Darlene went to be with the Lord on February 28, 2026. Darlene loved to spend time working in her garden and spending as much time as she could outdoors. She enjoyed fishing, kayaking, side by side rides and spending time with close friends and family. Darlene had a very unexpected departure from us here, earth side, but she had the privilege to say her goodbyes and depart surrounded by her family that she loved the most until her very end.

She is survived by her husband Mike Moran of Mancelona, MI, her 3 children, Ronda (Donnie) Spencer, Elizabeth (Titan) Spencer, Nathan Spencer, her step-son Trent (Kari) Moran and her grandchildren Alyssa Smith, and Tristan Hoffman.

She was preceded in death by her parents JoAnn Phillips, and James Maynard, and her first love/husband Ward Spencer.

At Darlene's request there will only be a private burial and Celebration of Life. Thank you for all your love and support during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. Arrangements are in the care of the Mancelona Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes.

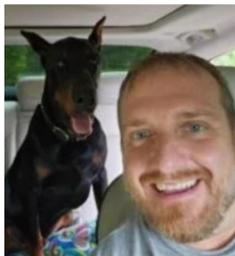
ADDITIONAL OBITUARIES

Additional Obituaries on pages 4, 5, 8 & 9

Brett L. Beller

November 13, 1981 ~ March 5, 2026

Brett L. Beller, 44, of Kalkaska, passed away peacefully at home on March 5, 2026. Brett was born on November 13, 1981, in Royal Oak, Michigan, to Edwin Beller and Janette Toussaint. In the early 2000s, Brett moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he spent several years building his business and helping raise two children, Devon and Jordan. Brett later returned to Michigan, where he lived the remainder of his life and helped raise two more children, Carter and Wyatt. He also shared a special bond with his niece, Keira. Brett was known for his strong work ethic and was always willing to lend a hand or share his knowledge with others. Although Brett never had biological children of his own, he had a special place in his heart for his Dobermans, Sampson, Jake, and Atlas. Brett was happiest when he was building something, repairing something, or helping someone



else. He will be remembered for his strength, his generosity, and his willingness to help others. He is survived by his wife, Alisa Beller; the children he helped raise, Devon, Jordan, Carter, and Wyatt; his mother, Janette Toussaint; his siblings, Cori Crowell and her husband Alec Crowell, Keith Shepherd; and their children, Rachel, Nikita, Gage, and Keira along with their own families. Brett leaves behind many family members and friends who will deeply miss his presence and the steady, dependable man they knew him to be. The family is grateful for the care and support provided by hospice and the many friends and loved ones who stood by Brett during his illness. A private family memorial gathering will be held. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Carol Jean Tanner

January 24, 1943 ~ March 9, 2026

Carol Jean Tanner, 83, of Kalkaska, passed away peacefully on March 9, 2026. Carol was born January 24, 1943, in Kalkaska to the late Thaddeus and Irene (Angell) Tanner. She grew up on the Tanner family farm on Sharon Road, where she spent most of her life and where she remained until the day she left her earthly life to join her parents, her sister Sharon, brother-in-law Ed Bandlow, and other loved ones in heaven. The Tanner Farm was the original homestead of Thaddeus Tanner's grandfather and continues to remain in the Tanner family's name today.



Friends, neighbors, and family eagerly awaited every batch she made, and her fudge became a beloved tradition at the annual Tanner family reunion. Throughout her life, Carol was known as an incredibly hard worker. She worked at Iott's Potato Farm, Cooley's, and Traverse Bay Woolen Company, and later served the community through her work at the Kalkaska County Equalization Department until her retirement in 2013. Carol was also gifted at organizing and decorating. She lovingly planned celebrations and created decorations for weddings, birthday parties, and many special events. She enjoyed decorating seasonally at Spencer Church of Christ and spent many years decorating the Christmas tree at the Kalkaska Governmental Center, sharing her festive spirit with the community.

Carol was raised alongside her siblings, Audrey (Harry) King, Alta (Wesley) Beasley, Sharon (Larry) Birgy, Thaddeus John (Martha) Tanner, and Ann (Ed) Bandlow. Growing up in Kalkaska, Carol was crowned Homecoming Queen and was known for her joyful spirit and love of life. Carol was a woman of faith. She was baptized on December 16, 1956, along with her three older sisters at the Kalkaska Church of Christ, which today is the location of the Kalkaska Funeral Home. More than anything, Carol loved her family. Her children, Valerie (Dale) Thornburg, Carla (David Avery) Waite, Danny (Tammy) Woodin, and Ryan Woodin, were the center of her world. She was a proud and devoted grandmother to Dustin (Nanci) Dimon, Celsey (Logan) Kline, Cody (Megan) Waite, Dylan Woodin, Emma Woodin, Wyatt Woodin, and Tanner Woodin. She was also blessed with great-grandchildren Adrian, Melany, Ian, Corey, Parker, and Cooper, who brought her endless joy. Simply put, her family was her life.

Carol will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, creativity, and her heart of gold. A memorial service celebrating Carol's life will be held on June 6, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Kalkaska Funeral Home. A private graveside service will follow at Oliver Township Cemetery. In place of a luncheon, Carol's family will share a parting memorial gift with those who attend in honor of her life. Carol's love, warmth, and the many memories she created will remain in the hearts of all who knew her. Her family finds comfort in knowing she is now at peace in the presence of the Lord she loved. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

Carol will also be remembered for her famous peanut butter fudge.

Betty Ann Martinson

August 10, 1942 ~ March 6, 2026

On March 6, 2026, Betty Ann (Mockerman) Martinson, went home to her Lord and Saviour at the Munson Hospice House. Born on August 10, 1942, in Grand Rapids, MI, Betty graced our world with warmth, kindness, and a spirit that would touch all who were fortunate enough to know her. Betty was the cherished daughter of Harold Rowan and Lillian Gertrude (Watson) Rowan, and she was preceded in death by her father, Kenneth Mockerman, her loving stepfather, Harold Rowan, her devoted mother, Lillian Watson, her baby sister Janet and her dear mother-in-law, Mary. She is survived by her devoted husband, George Martinson, with whom she shared 64 wonderful years of marriage. Their love story began on April 14, 1961, when they exchanged vows at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints in East Grand Rapids, MI. A proud graduate of Lee High School in Grand Rapids, Betty's life was marked by a deep commitment to her family and community. She was the beloved mother of Debra Grose, Ronald Martinson, and David Martinson. Her legacy lives on through her 10 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren, who brought immense joy and pride to her life. Betty's passions extended beyond her family, as she was an



avid bowler who enjoyed participating in tournaments across the country. Her presence was a familiar and cherished one at Fife Lake Baptist Church, where she found spiritual nourishment and community. Betty also took great pleasure in traveling with George, exploring new places and creating lasting memories. A devoted fan of NASCAR and baseball, she never missed an opportunity to cheer on her favorite teams or support her grandchildren and great-grandchildren at their games. She also loved her dogs very much. Betty's life will be celebrated on March 28, 2026, at 12:00 PM at Fife Lake Baptist Church, located at 449 W State St, Fife Lake, MI 49633. Luncheon to follow at the church. Her family invites all who knew and loved her to join in honoring her remarkable life. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to her husband, George, as a tribute to their enduring love and shared journey. Betty Ann (Mockerman) Martinson will forever remain in the hearts of those she touched. Her family shares this special message: "Forever in our hearts." May her gentle spirit continue to guide and inspire us all. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

Mark R. Allen

July 24, 1964 ~ March 3, 2026

Mark Richard Allen, age 61, passed away unexpectedly on March 3, 2026, following a work-related accident while working as a Technician for Summit Fire. He was born on July 24, 1964, in Clio, Michigan, to his parents, Richard Loisell and JoAnn. Following Richard's passing, Mark was lovingly adopted by his stepfather, Mark Allen Jr.



Mark grew up in Clio, Michigan, alongside his three siblings and attended Clio High School, where he graduated before proudly joining the United States Navy. While home on leave nearing the end of his active service, Mark met the love of his life, Deborah Barry. Deborah was already serving in the Navy, as a Junior Officer. They often found humor that their meeting was best described as "An Officer and a Gentleman." Their relationship grew into the kind of love story people dream about. Mark and Deb were not only husband and wife but truly best friends, sharing a deep bond throughout their 36 years of marriage.

Together, they enjoyed traveling, the outdoors, boating, golf, gardening, and spending time with their family. Most importantly, spending time side by side in all that life brought them. Mark considered himself an outdoor enthusiast, and he enjoyed time spent in the woods. He especially loved deer hunting,

where he proudly pursued—and often returned with—the biggest trophy.

Mark had a natural ability to make any gathering more fun and was admired for his likable personality. He was warmhearted, had a gift for making people laugh and bringing joy to those in his presence. Above all, he cherished time with family and friends and simply loved having a good time.

Mark is survived by his beloved wife, Deborah; and his mother, JoAnn; his sister Jeannette and brother Stephen, as well as, numerous nieces and nephews who will forever cherish his humor, kindness, and unforgettable spirit. Mark's fathers Richard, Mark, and his younger sister Stephanie preceded him in death.

A cremation is planned along with a Catholic Memorial Mass at St. Charles and Helena Church in Clio, Michigan at 11a.m. on Friday, March 20, 2026. A memorial service will be held in Traverse City on Friday, April 24, 2026 "International Employee Memorial Day" coordinated by Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home, followed by a private celebration of life. In lieu of flowers gifts can be made to St. Charles and Helena Catholic Church or to the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, in memory of Mark Allen.

O&A - continued from page 3

Meet and Eat, Youth Event, Mancelona United Methodist Church, 117 W. Hinman, Mancelona, planned by youth for youth including a meal, music, pastor's message, games & fun, grades 7-12, 231 587-8461

**When: 4th Sunday (3rd if 4th is a holiday weekend)
7:00 to 8:30 pm**

Miscellaneous

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

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

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

When: available anytime

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

When: available anytime

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

When: available anytime

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

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

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

When: Tue, 11 am to 3 pm

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

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

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

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

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

When: Wed 10 am

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

When: Wed, 11 am to 3 pm

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

When: Wed, 4 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Veterans/Active Duty

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

When: Mondays, 6:30 pm

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

When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm

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

When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm

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

When: 3rd Mon, 9 am

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

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

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

When: 2nd Wed, 6:30 pm

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

When: 3rd Wed, 8:30 am

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

When: 1st Thu, 6:00 pm

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

When: 3rd Thu, 1:00 pm

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

When: 1st Sunday, 12:00 pm

BOOK CLUBS

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

When: 3rd Tue, 7:00 pm

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

When: last Tue, 1:00 pm

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

When: 2nd Wed, 1:00 pm

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

When: 2nd Wed, 7:00 pm

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

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

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

When: 4th Wed, 2:30 pm

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

When: last Wed, 4:00 pm

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

When: 1st Thu, 9:30 am

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

When: 2nd Thu, 3:30 pm

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

When: 3rd Thu, 12 to 1 pm

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

When: 3rd Thu, 3:30pm

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

When: Last Sat, 4:00 pm

Organization Meetings

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

When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm

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

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

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

When: 3rd Mon, 5:00 pm

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

When: 4th Mon, 5:30 pm

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

When: Last Mon., 7:00 pm

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

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

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

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

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

When: 4th 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

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), St Anthony Catholic Church, 209 Jefferson Ave, Mancelona

When: Mon, Wed, Fri 7:00 pm

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

Thankfulness

March 20, 2026

So, as I write tonight (March 17, 2026), we have hot water again. It's been a tough few days for us since the water heater sprung a leak and gave up the ghost last Friday. At first, it really seemed as though only the pipe bringing water into the heater was leaking, but no, it was much more. Bummer!

Now, to be fair, it is appropriate to note that this tank water heater has been serving our family in this house for a very long time - 73 years, to be exact. No kidding. My grandparents had this heater installed in 1953, and I am writing about its demise in 2026. So, the heater owes us no apology.

Still, being unable to use the dishwasher - heating water in the teapot to wash the dishes by hand - or to enjoy a nice hot shower, - doing quick cold-water wash-ups - made the last four days very distressing.

That's why we are very thankful for Torch Plumbing and the McKinnon family of professional plumbers. We do well to remember that this was in the midst of the big snowstorm that shut down much of northern Michigan. Yes, we have a couple feet of snow drifts around our home. Yesterday, many people could not get out of their driveways. Yet, Stuart McKinnon came to evaluate the water

heater situation in our basement, then got the new heater ordered for delivery today, and the crew came out this afternoon to take out the old heater, update the water pipe connections, and install the new heater. We have hot water again. Hurray!

The crew very kindly removed the identification label from the "historic" water heater and gave it to me as a souvenir. I think I may frame it and give it a place of honor on the mantelpiece or wall.

It got me to thinking about all the everyday services we get to enjoy with really very little disruption. Saturday morning, the blizzard wind took out our power. The outage was very localized and it was fixed in less than three hours - by workers who went out in the freezing cold, wind, and blowing snow, to make the necessary repairs. I don't know their names, but 'd like them to know just how thankful I am that they did the job. Without them, would I yet be able to use my computer to write this story? Could we have had any hot meals, or would we have had to content ourselves with cold cereal and the like? I wonder whether the water heater replacement would have yet been possible. Yes, thank you, members of the crew from Consumers Energy, for rescuing us from the cold of a long power outage.

Another crew I want to thank is the snowplow gang. We know the driver from our little town. We watched him grow up here, playing baseball on the same teams as our own kids. Andrew Hulburt drives the plow truck that clears the roads in our town. We hear the truck go by, plowing the snow from our road, and although he doesn't know it, we always say "Hi, Andrew" and "Thank you."

These are not the only people in our world who deserve our thanks. In fact, it is a good practice to thank everyone whose acts of service help to make life good. The owners and employees of the Village Market, for instance; or the Alden State Bank; or the libraries in our several nearby towns; or the schools; or the churches; or our local elected public servants. There is no end to the list of people for whom we are - or should be - thankful.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

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) Where is the law making, or legislative, power lodged in the United States government?
- 2) What is listed as the first power of the Congress?
- 3) What is the second listed power of the Congress?
- 4) What is the third listed power of the Congress?

Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue's questions

- 1) The Preamble to the Constitution states as a purpose, "to form a more perfect union." How many other purposes does it list?
A. It lists the "more perfect union" plus five other purposes.
- 2) What is the second stated purpose?
A. The second one listed is to "establish justice."
- 3) What are the remaining purposes?
A. They are: "insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."
- 4) What does the Preamble to the Michigan State Constitution say?
A. We, the people of the State of Michigan, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of freedom, and earnestly desiring to secure these blessings undiminished to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution.



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O&A - cont. from page 11

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

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

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

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

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

Al-Anon, Al-Teen Meeting for Families & Friends of Alcoholics, (Kalkaska COA) Senior Center, 303 S Coral St, contact Linda 231 384-3227

When: Tue, 7:00 pm (except 5th Tue in a month)

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

Downtown Bellaire Unique Art of Antrim County



CALL FOR ARTISTS

Bellaire: Past and Present
 Juried Outdoor Public Art Exhibition
DEADLINE for entries: April 17th, 2026

The Village of Bellaire Downtown Development Authority (DDA) invites artists of all ages from Northern Michigan to submit original artwork for Bellaire: Past and Present, a juried outdoor public art exhibition exploring the historical significance of the 250th birthday of the United States, with a red, white & blue Americana theme, with weight given to the pieces that best represent the Antrim County Chain of Lakes region.

This Call for Artists applies specifically to the

outdoor public art exhibition, which has been presented successfully by the DDA for several years at select locations throughout downtown Bellaire, with the help of local donations and with a grant from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council.

More information is available on our website: Bellaire Art

Email questions to ddabellaire2026@gmail.com

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WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

GRATITUDE

By Dominic Fortuna

The crunch of gravel beneath his boots, the scent of pine and damp earth filling his lungs – Alex had always found solace in the north woods. Growing up in Northern Michigan, he'd spent countless hours exploring the vast forests, fishing the crystal-clear lakes, and chasing the thrill of a fresh snowfall. But lately, the beauty of it all had felt a bit... muted.

Alex lived in a small cabin on the outskirts of Kalkaska, surrounded by the sounds of the forest and the occasional rumble of a logging truck on the highway. He worked as a mechanic in Traverse City, fixing up old trucks and snowmobiles for the locals. It was a good life, but something had been missing.

One crisp autumn morning, Alex decided to take a drive up to Torch Lake, the water's striking blue color a siren's call. He parked his truck and walked down to the shore, the sand crunching beneath his feet. The wind rustled the leaves, and the sun sparkled on the water like a thousand tiny diamonds. He sat down on a rock, feeling the familiar ache in his chest.

As he gazed out at the lake, Alex's mind began to wander. He thought about his grandfather, a Finnish immigrant who'd settled in this very spot, drawn by the promise of the north woods. He'd taught Alex how to fish, how to split wood, and how to appreciate the quiet beauty of the seasons.

Alex remembered the countless hours they'd spent together, building a cedar canoe, fixing fences, and sharing stories of the old country. His grandfather had always said, "A man should be grateful for what he's got, not bitter about what he ain't."

As the sun began to set, casting the lake in a golden glow, Alex felt something shift inside. He remembered the countless blessings he'd taken for granted: the beauty of the north, the love of his family, the simple pleasures of a life lived close to the land.

He thought about the people who'd shaped his life: his grandfather, his parents, his friends in Rapid City, who'd always been there to lend a hand or share a laugh. He remembered small everyday moments, the sound of loons calling on a summer evening on Manistee Lake, the feel of a warm fire on a cold winter night.

As the stars began to twinkle, Alex felt a sense of gratitude wash over him, like the gentle lapping of the lake's waves on the shore. He realized that it wasn't about the big, grand gestures or the dramatic moments; it was about the small, quiet acts of love, kindness, and appreciation that added up to make a life.

From that day on, Alex approached life with a new found sense of wonder. He started a gratitude journal, writing down the things he was thankful

for each day. He spent more time with his family, sharing stories and making memories. He volunteered at the local food bank, helping those in need.

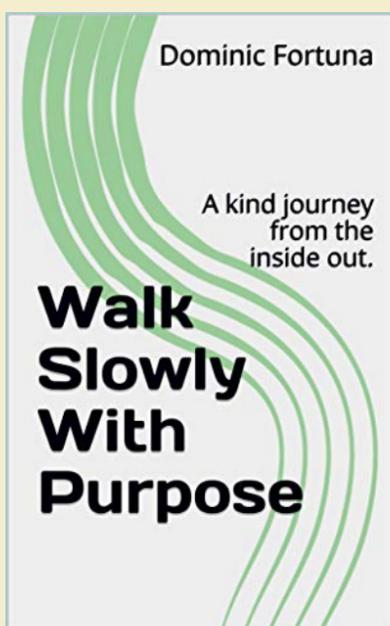
As he navigated the ups and downs of life, Alex found that gratitude was like the north woods themselves – resilient, strong, and always there, waiting to be tapped into. And whenever he felt lost or uncertain, he'd drive up to Torch Lake, sit on the shore, and remember the beauty, the love, and the gratitude that had been there all along.

A beautiful short story, of my friend Alex... He chose to remain anonymous, but there are still angels among us. Literally, my friends, walk slow slowly with purpose.



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Government Meetings

Kalkaska County Townships:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

====+

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alden

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

Bellaire

Applesauce Inn
Bellaire Public Library

Central Lake

Central Lake District Library
Mary's Market

Fife Lake

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

Kalkaska

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

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

Kingsley

Kingsley Branch Library
Kingsley Village Offices

Mancelona

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

Rapid City

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

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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 20, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

Kids Fish Day Challenge

By Lori Sak

"Wow, look at this big fish on my line," a young child with a huge smile shouts as a rainbow trout squirms on the end of their rod. This was the scene the Bellaire Conservation Club members envisioned back in the 1970's when they planned their first Kids Fish Day. The members of the club strove to encourage respect and love for nature through the sport of fishing. This year's Kids Fish Day on April 25, 2026, is free to all 14-year-old and younger youths. This event gets children outside and away from their phones, computers, IPADS, tablets, TikTok, TV, and Nintendo games. Over the last four years, Kids Fish Day was attended by Bellaire kids as well as children from 20 counties in Michigan and 47 Cities, Towns, and Villages.

For almost 50 years on the last Saturday in April, Bellaire Conservation Club stocked Meadow Brook Pond in Bellaire with rainbow trout. In past years fish were supplied from Jordon River National Fish Hatchery at no cost. The all-volunteer club would buy bait, prizes, loaner fishing poles, and some additional fish for Kids Fish Day.

Unfortunately, fish are no longer available through any national or state program. This year the Club is faced with purchasing over a thousand fish at \$5 - \$7 per trout from private hatcheries. They need help to continue offering this program for kids. Another benefit of this program is that residents of Meadow Brook Medical Care Facility can fish and enjoy the outdoors. The Club also offers several Community Senior Citizen Fish Days, as well as other programs for kids and adults throughout the year.

If you have a great memory of catching a fish on Kids Fish Day, or watched your children and grandchildren experience the thrill of landing a fish, please consider donating to Kids Fish Day. Please send your donation to:

Bellaire Conservation Club
P.O. Box 177
4820 Stover Rd.
Bellaire, Michigan 49615

If you have any questions, please email: bellaireconservationclub@gmail.com.
Contact: Lori or Paul Sak
586-604-1892



And thank you Bellaire Conservation Club for being our bright spot of the week!



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