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Sweet April showers  
Do spring May flowers  
~ Thomas Tusser (1557)

Vol2026:  
April 3, 2026

## Phyllis Moravec honored with DAR State Award for Service to Veterans

At the March 21, 2026, meeting of the Job Winslow Chapter, NSDAR, Regent Janet Scheiwe led the celebration of Phyllis Moravec, a U.S. Navy veteran, who serves as the chapter's Treasurer, Chair of Service to Veterans, and Chair of Service to America. Phyllis has won the Michigan DAR State Award for Service to Veterans.

Noting that March is Women's History month, Regent Scheiwe began, "may we celebrate those before us, honor those beside us, and inspire those who follow." She gave a historical summary of some of the courageous women who have served the nation throughout its history, concluding with the comment that "as we now approach the 250th anniversary of America's independence, we pause to recognize one of those remarkable women among us."

From the moment Phyllis joined the DAR, a process that took nearly two years as she strove to secure the documentation tracing her lineage back to a Patriot of the American Revolution, she took on leadership and supporting responsibilities. As Treasurer, she has faithfully tended to accurate record-keeping while always seeking ways to make the payments collection process as smooth as possible for all our members. As Chair of Service to Veterans, as Regent Scheiwe put it, "she has become a driving force behind our veteran outreach efforts across the seven counties in Northern Michigan."

Her dedication to veteran outreach has led her to be an active volunteer with the Reining Liberty Ranch and its Equine Therapy Program, meals for veterans, and many other forms of healing support for those who have put their own lives on the line in service to our nation. She is also active in the Northern Michigan Veterans Coalition. And her caring extends to the veterans who reside in our area's nursing homes and hospice care. She initiates projects to provide lap blankets and treats as holiday gifts to our veterans in those facilities, enlisting the help of volunteers to go into each facility with the gifts.

Phyllis is also a volunteer for the Mid Michigan Honor Flights, and she coordinates our chapter's participation in the Wreaths Across America program.

As Regent Scheiwe concluded her remarks, she presented Phyllis with a special Women Veterans Challenge Coin. Then, she invited Becky Bigelow, of the Reining Liberty Ranch to address the gathering. Becky spoke of Phyllis' work on the ranch and how greatly she is loved and valued there for her devotion and many years of service. Becky also presented Phyllis with a special Reining Liberty Ranch Challenge



Above: Phyllis Moravec, honoree for the DAR State Award for Service to Veterans (L), Kathy & Becky of Reining Liberty Ranch (C), Janet Scheiwe, Regent of the Job Winslow Chapter, NSDAR (R).  
Below: the Reining Liberty Ranch and Women Veterans Challenge Coins



Coin. All the military members out there know the significance of a Challenge Coin. If you don't know, ask your favorite military person, active or veteran.

The following impact statement was included in the official nomination form submitted by the Job Winslow Chapter, NSDAR for Phyllis Moravec:

Impact Statement

Phyllis Moravec combines sustained leadership, hands-on service, and personal

military experience as a U.S. Navy veteran to deliver meaningful recognition, resources, and care to veterans across Northern Michigan. Her dedication exemplifies the highest ideals of DAR Service for Veterans and reflects an extraordinary commitment to those who have served.

**CONGRATULATIONS,  
PHYLLIS!  
YOU EARNED IT!**

# OUT & ABOUT

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

## SENIOR & COMMUNITY MEALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FARMERS' MARKET

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

## FOOD PANTRIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

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

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

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

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

**Let's Get Moving**, Bellaire Community United Methodist Church, 401 N. Bridge St, Bellaire, 30-minute "Body Groove" video for all levels (can be done in a chair, too) lead by 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](mailto:jkuiper@learnsselfcompassion.com) or 616-581-4668. Sponsored by Alden District Library and the Antrim County Bridge Club.

**When: Tue 10 am - noon (Beginning May 5)**

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

**When: Tue, 1 to 4 pm**

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

**When: Tue, 1 pm**

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

**When: Tues, 6:00 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**When: Wed, 6 pm**

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

**When: Thu, 12:45 pm**

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

**When: Thu, 1 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**When: Sat, 6 pm**

## Crafts & Hobbies

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

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

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

**When: Mon, 6 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

**When: 1st Tue, 1:00 pm**

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

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

**Knitting -** Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St,

**When: Thu 10 to noon**

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

**When: Thu, 10:30 am**

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

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

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

**When: 1st Thu, 4:00 pm**

**Letterpress printing.** Learn how to set type and print your own scratch pads, business cards, and other items in an old-fashion print shop. Vintage Printing Company, 113 Merrett Street, Fife Lake.

**When: Sat, 3:00 to 5:00 pm.**

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

**When: 2nd Sat, 1To 4 pm**

**Antrim/Kalkaska Paper Crafters,** First Presbyterian Church in Elk Rapids. Soup and Salad Potluck lunch. Bring any handheld craft and work on your own project. Contact Beth Shuster at [beth\\_scraps1960@sbcglobal.net](mailto:beth_scraps1960@sbcglobal.net)

**When: 3rd Sat, 9am - 5pm**

## Children's Activities

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

**When: 1st Mon 10 am**

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

**When: Mon, 3:15 to 4 pm**

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

**When: Tue, 10:00 am**

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

**When: Tue, 10:30 am**

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

**When: Tue and Wed, 10:30 am**

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

**When: Wed, 10:30 am**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**When: Fri 10:30 am**

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

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

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

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

O&A - continues on page 11



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**231 - 258 - 5395**  
508 N. Birch Street, Kalkaska

# OBITUARIES

## Chris John Lamesfield

April 15, 1944 ~ March 17, 2026

Chris John Lamesfield, 81, of Rapid City, passed away, March 17, 2026, in the care of the ICU staff of Munson Hospital. Chris was born on April 15, 1944, in Flint, Michigan. He graduated from Grand Blanc High School in 1962. He was in the US Army from 1962 through 1968. He married Sharon Klusmeyer on May 31st, 1981. They welcomed two girls into the world in 1982 and 1989.

Chris lived a life defined by connection, passion, and a deep love for both people and nature. To those who knew him, he carried many titles—husband, dad, brother, son, friend, neighbor—but the one he cherished most was “Papa.” It was in that role that his warmth and playful spirit shined brightest. Chris loved in a way that was uniquely his own. He pushed his family to be strong, resilient and direct, always wanting the best for them, even when it wasn't easy. Beneath that intensity was a steady, unwavering love that shaped the lives of those closest to him. He found joy in the simple things—anything with tires, anything with four legs, and especially the outdoors. He was a member of the Pirates Car Club. If given the choice, Chris would have spent all his days surrounded by trees, listening and whistling along with the birds. Throughout his life, he made it a tradition to feed families of deer wherever he lived, forming a bond with the wildlife around him.

A true social butterfly, Chris never met a stranger. His service dogs often served as the perfect introduction, opening the door to conversations wherever he went. He loved being part of the moment, part of the community, and part of people's lives.

One of his greatest joys was sharing meals with those he loved. Whether it was breakfast or dinner, Chris treasured the connection that came from sitting



around a table, enjoying good food and even better company—especially when it included a touch of Southern comfort.

Chris leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, and stubbornness. He will be remembered for his big presence, his laugh and sarcasm, and the many ways he brought people—and even nature—a little closer together.

He was preceded in death by his father, Frank, and mother, Vivian; his stepmother, Trudi; his sister, Sandy; his brother-in-law, Tom; his father-in-law, Clifford, and mother-in-law, Wanda; another brother-in-law, David; and Blue, his faithful service dog and constant companion, along with many beloved animals who were part of his life.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon (nee Klusmeyer); his four daughters, Sherri, Ramona (Greg), Nicki (Dean) and Abby (Corey), and three sons, Norman (Crystal), Mike (Tina) and Scott; ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; his sister-in-law, Connie; his loyal service dog, Casper; Rocky; and many dear friends who became like family.

He will be profoundly missed by his family, his friends, and all those whose lives he touched.

Viewing was on Monday, March 23 at the Kalkaska Funeral Home at 152 S Cedar St, Kalkaska, MI 49646. Family viewing from 1pm-2pm, and friends and public viewing 2pm-6pm.

In lieu of flowers, we kindly invite you to consider making a donation to a non-profit animal organization of your choice, in honor of Dad's love for all animals.

We will NOT be doing a service at this time. Burial will take place in the spring at Evergreen Cemetery. We will be having a bonfire later this year to celebrate his life. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

## Paul J. Teno

October 6, 1938 ~ March 19, 2026

It is with great sadness that the family of Paul Junior Teno, of Alden, Michigan announces his passing on Thursday March 19th, 2026.

Paul was born on October 6th, 1938 in Johnson, Pennsylvania to Paul Teno Sr. and Anna Turcheck. Paul was the second eldest sibling of seven children. Growing up in rural Pennsylvania Paul was often known for stirring up mischief in his small town. He often chuckled reminiscing about the stories to his children and grandchildren, where they too laughed and couldn't believe their Dad/Grandpa was capable of creating such chaos. In the early 1950's the Teno family moved to Inkster, Michigan where Paul later met the love of his life Barbara Buchacz. In the early 1960's and first years of their relationship Paul served 2 years in the U.S. Army overseas working as a combat engineer. He then came home and married Barbara in 1964. Barbara and Paul would follow the Teno family in having a large family and welcomed 5 children of their own- their eldest Lisa, twins Paul and Paulette, Annette, and youngest Jason.

During the next 37 years Paul proudly worked at Ford Motor Company in Ypsilanti, while Barbara kept things in order and was chief manager of the children and household back home. In his spare time Paul could be found tinkering in the garage on anything that needed fixing. When Paul was nearing retirement he and Barbara decided they would like to live the rest of their years in the slower paced Northern Michigan and ended up landing in Alden, Michigan in the late 90's after retiring from Ford Motor Company.

Paul and Barbara purchased their dream home on 11 acres of rolling hills and trees just a short distance to the beautiful and coveted Torch Lake. It was here they hosted many holidays with



all of their family and enjoyed having a house full of loved ones. Paul would sit in his favorite spot by the front door ready to greet anyone who walked in. He was always surrounded by his posse of “guard” dogs where they knew was the best place to be to get a treat or 10!

While Paul's true love was Barbara, as you couldn't go far from one without seeing the other, his second pride and joy was his John Deere tractor. He loved cruising his property and doing odd jobs around the yard just to be on it, tending to his chickens and driveway many hours of the week. He also enjoyed testing out his handyman skills on their home and slowly worked on projects inside the house which led to his love of woodworking. He would make all sorts of goodies for his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends. All in all Paul lived out his years doing what he loved best, enjoying his time doing the things he loved.

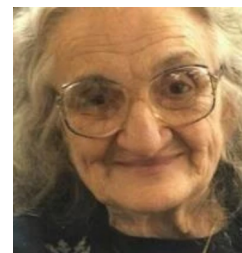
Paul Jr. will be deeply missed by his wife Barbara; his 5 children Lisa McManman, Paul Teno, Paulette Teno, Annette(Brad) Tremba, Jason(Courtney) Teno; his grandchildren David(Chelsey) McManman, Amanda(Nick) Tompkins, Emily McManman, Tristan Teno, Lauren(Tyson) Kappen, Joseph Teno, Dylan Tremba, Nina Tremba, Addison Teno; his great-grandchildren Zander, Broden, and Dax Tompkins, Oliver Farley, Lexi McManman, Aiden and Samantha Teno, Layne and Wyatt Kappen; his siblings Cecelia Teno Shaull, Catherine Norman, Rose Zajdel, Michael Teno, Madeline Williams and Nicholas Teno (deceased), as well as his nieces, nephews, and friends.

The funeral service was held Friday, March 27, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Kalkaska Funeral Home. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

## Stella Louise Jakee

March 7, 1942 ~ March 11, 2026

Stella Louise Jakee, 84, of Kalkaska, passed away on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at Kalkaska Memorial Health Eden Center. She was born on March 7, 1942, in Caruthersville, Missouri, to the late Oscar and Flossy (Garrett) Batchlor. Stella married John Arthur Jakee on November 18, 1958, and together they raised four daughters. She was a devoted mother and grandmother who loved her family deeply. Those who knew Stella will always remember her favorite saying, “God bless you.” In her free time, Stella enjoyed spending evenings volunteering at the Salvation Army, coloring, and bowling. Stella is survived by her daughters Evelyn Joan (Dave) Hammond, Donna Ann Irish, and Mary Ann



Morgan; grandchildren: Christian, Carrie, Robert, Rebecca, Lisa, and Marissa; great-grandchildren: Alex, Kaleb, Keith, Brandon, Austin, DJ, James, and Evie; brothers David, Alvin, and Wesley; sister Rubie; and nephew Timmy; extended family members: Ross, Jackie, Bryan, Mike, Kari and Desi. She was preceded in death by her husband John A. Jakee; daughter Clara Louise Jakee; her parents; and many siblings, nieces, and nephews. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Heartland Hospice and KMHC Memory Care. A memorial service will be held in the spring. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

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## Ora Albert Porter

August 14, 1961 ~ March 24, 2026

Ora Albert Porter, 64, of South Boardman, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, March 24, 2026. He was born in Mount Clemens, Michigan, on August 14, 1961, to the late Cleve and Rose (Burke) Porter.

Ora was a kind-hearted man who loved his family and enjoyed the simple things in life. He especially loved spending time outdoors camping and fishing. In his downtime, he also enjoyed watching The Walking Dead.

Ora will be lovingly remembered by his daughters, Sarah, Sierra,

Nicole, Olivia, and Kayla; seven grandchildren; his siblings: Donna Smead, Lawrence Porter, Rose Ann Porter, Iva Brown, Alice Parker, and Lois Porter; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings: Jimmy Porter, Cleve Porter Jr., Cole Porter Sr., Evelyn Cash.

The memorial service will be scheduled in July. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

## 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 Wyoming, MI, 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 was 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 followed at the church. Her family invited 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.

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## AWA EVENT

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EVENT 6-9, DOORS OPEN @5:30



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Online Tickets Located under fundraiser tab



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## Munson's Cowell Family Cancer Center Announces Achievement of Accreditation for Rectal Cancer, 1 of 8 Hospitals in Michigan

*American College of Surgeons Awards Accreditation Through National Program*

Traverse City, Mich. - Munson Medical Center's Cowell Family Cancer Center (CFCC) recently achieved accreditation through the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC), a distinction awarded by the American College of Surgeons. Munson Medical Center is one of only 8 hospitals in Michigan with this credential.

NAPRC accreditation is more than a credential — it represents a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to care that directly benefits our patients and strengthens our professional community.

"This recognition underscores Munson's commitment to delivering the highest-quality, evidence-based care for patients with rectal cancer across Northern Michigan," said Ed Hagen, MD, Colorectal Surgeon at Munson Medical Center.

In 2025, Munson Medical Center treated over 60 rectal cancer patients — a volume achieved by only 6% of hospitals nationally. Additionally, Munson Medical Center in Traverse City operates the only 3 Tesla Magnet (MRI) north of Grand Rapids which allows for specific rectal MRI protocol. Also, available is the only Fixed CT/PET scanner in northern Michigan at the Cowell Family Cancer Center.

### Key Values of Accreditation Include:

- **Multidisciplinary collaboration:** Munson's three fellowship-trained colorectal surgeons — Dr. Richard Tooley, Dr. Shruti Sevak, and Dr. Edward Hagen — work alongside medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists, and pathologists to ensure coordinated, optimal oncologic treatment.
- **Evidence-based protocols:** The team uses standardized treatment pathways proven to reduce recurrence rates and improve survival.

- **Enhanced patient outcomes:** There are lower permanent colostomy rates, improved functional recovery, and better long-term quality of life.

This Accreditation places Munson's program among a select group of hospitals nationwide committed to excellence in rectal cancer care and brings an approach to continuous improvement through regular review and adherence to updated standards.

"For our patients, this accreditation means confidence that their care is benchmarked against the best practices in the country," added Dr. Hagen. "For our

providers, it affirms the value of teamwork, innovation, and dedication to advancing surgical quality."

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and serves as a reminder of the importance of getting screened. The American Cancer Society recommends that individuals at average risk for colorectal cancer begin screening at age 45. If you have a family history or certain genetic conditions, it is recommended to talk to your primary care provider to determine if earlier and more frequent screening may be necessary.



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## APRIL 2026

April 1 - 29, Bunny Rabbit Figurine Display. Come visit Alden District Library and see Barb VanPelt's collection of bunny rabbit figures & figurines. The display can be viewed during normal library hours. The library is located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318. Free Event.

April 7, 5-7pm, Kalkaska County Seed Swap. Join the Kalkaska Conservation District and the Kalkaska County Library for a community seed exchange! Bring your extra seeds, plant starts (fruits, veggies, herbs, & non-invasive flowers), and any gardening tips you wish to share. Located at the Kalkaska County Library, 247 S. Cedar St, Kalkaska. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at [info@kalkaskalibrary.org](mailto:info@kalkaskalibrary.org) for more information.

April 9, 3:30pm, Books 'n Brie Book Club. Enjoy the company of fellow book lovers while discussing "Wild Dark Shore" by Charlotte McConaghy. Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library, held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

April 10, 9am - 5pm and April 11, 9am - 2pm, Book Sale. Available items: books, audio books, DVDs, music CDs & puzzles. Sponsored by Friends of the Alden District Library, held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

April 11, 10am - 1pm, Copy the Constitution. All are welcome. Let's gather as a community to copy the US Constitution. Let's reacquaint ourselves with what our Constitution really says, heighten our consciousness about this document of democracy, place ourselves in closer kinship with those early writers and thinkers, and refresh our understanding of this important piece of writing. Then, let's read it aloud together. Sponsored by: Bellaire Public Library, Elk Rapids Public Library, Michigan Writers. Located at Bee Well Meadery, 116 North Bridge Street, Bellaire. For more details call the Bellaire Public Library 231-533-8814 or visit [bellairelibrary.org](http://bellairelibrary.org).

April 11, 10am, Story Time with Miss Linda. Miss Linda will be reading stories with a Springtime theme and doing simple activities with the kids. This program will be held in the library located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

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

April 12, 2-3pm, Illustrated History of the Soo Locks. Join us for a deep dive into the history of the Soo Locks with Chief Park Ranger Michelle Briggs. This presentation uses historic photos dating back to the 1860s to review the construction of the eight U.S. locks built on the St. Marys River and put them into the context of world and US events. This presentation also includes an update on the 9th navigation lock currently being built. Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and Friends. Held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. 231-331-4318.

April 14, 5:30pm, Antrim Photography Workshop Open House. Please join Lisa Lirones and other local photographers for a new workshop season. Enjoy some food, handouts, discussion on settings, and then head out to Alden Depot Park to capture the sunset. Make sure to bring your camera equipment and tripod. Seasonal membership \$55.00 or non-members \$10 per class. If you'd like to become a member you can pay: PayPal at: [ll.pics44@gmail.com](mailto:ll.pics44@gmail.com). Please RSVP with Lisa 231-313-8820 or [LL.pics44@gmail.com](mailto:LL.pics44@gmail.com). Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

April 16, Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting, 9:30am social time & 10am meeting held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. Topics of discussion will be plans for upcoming programs, book sales and activities. Anyone interested in supporting the library is always welcome. Held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. 231-331-4318.

April 16, 12pm, TT Nooners Book Club and discussion group meets on the Third Thursday of every month at 12:00 noon at the Kalkaska Library. Contact the Kalkaska County Library at (231) 258-9411 or at [info@kalkaskalibrary.org](mailto:info@kalkaskalibrary.org) for more information.

April 22, 5pm, Knitting Club at the Kalkaska County Library. Join us for an open hour of social knitting. Bring your own project and work while spending time with other knitters. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at [info@kalkaskalibrary.org](mailto:info@kalkaskalibrary.org) for more information.

April 28, 4pm, Friends of the Kalkaska County Library Meeting. Located at the Kalkaska County Library. Public is welcome. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at [info@kalkaskalibrary.org](mailto:info@kalkaskalibrary.org) for more information.

### Alden

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

### Boardman Township

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

### Central Lake

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

### East Jordan

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

### Fife Lake

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

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

### Kalkaska

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Mancelona

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

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

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

### Rapid City

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

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

### Williamsburg

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

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

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

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## DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)

*With one lonely Ben Franklin left, I would . .*

.27 October 2003

Dear Mark,

**If you had just \$100 left to bet in a casino, how would you wager it? Doug D.**

You should have asked me earlier, Doug. The casino's mission is twofold: first, to empty your wallet, and second, to keep you smiling. This was best described by Bob Stupak, a former casino operator in Las Vegas, when he told U.S. News and World Report: "It's our duty to extract as much money from the customers as we can and send them home with a smile on their face."

If you are down to your last \$100, the casino's goal is accomplished. Except, Doug, I hardly think that one of sane mind would be smiling about it.

Realize that casinos are green felt jungles and you're playing war. The gurus of guerrilla gambling will tell you that you fight back only by making bets that have a 2% house advantage or less. If you do, you'll stand a better chance of: turning the tables back in your favor, staying in action longer, smiling, and yes, stopping the plinking of your hard-earned cash into the casino's piggy banks.

So, here you stand, nearly insolvent, with just \$100 remaining, and quite possibly someone near and dear saying, "I told you, but you just won't listen." Here is what most, if not all the gaming experts, Yours Truly included, would recommend you play:

**Blackjack:** Played with perfect basic strategy.

**Craps:** A pass line bet with odds or placing the 6 or 8. A pass line bet and placing the 6 or 8. Both have a house advantage of less than 1.5%.

**Video Poker:** Good machine selection, and again, perfect basic strategy.

**Baccarat:** Betting either the bank or player hand. The house advantage is 1.17% when betting the bank hand or 1.36% with a player hand wager.

I have just mapped out the avenue most experts would take with their last \$100. Nevertheless, if you are down to your last \$100, one of two things has probably happened. Either your evening's allotment of luck has gone way south, dooming even your last \$100, or your play has been so apocalyptically bad, despite the advice of gurus, that nothing can come out of it but a postmortem.

So, the \$64 (\$100) question remains. If I personally were limited to making just one play in a casino and had just \$100 left, what wager(s) would I make?

Too easy! Whether or not a professional sporting event is preceded by the national anthem, by golly, you can get action on it in the Silver State. And since one of my passions is open wheel racing (IRL), my one wager would be on the Indianapolis 500, sitting in a sportsbook for three hours sipping free cocktails and watching grown men (and woman, Sarah Fisher) making left-hand turns while wasting methanol. Yet, the gambling public may not share my fixation for boredom, so here's plan B, a point-spread wager on your favorite sporting event. Now park your tail end in one of their cushy chairs and enjoy the game.

Whenever you place a point-spread type wager, you lay 11 to win 10. That means if you want to win \$100, you have to wager \$110 (borrow the extra \$10 from your spouse who is probably winning, or, just bet the \$100) no matter which team you are betting on. If you win, you will collect \$210 — your \$110 wager plus the \$100 winnings. The 11 for 10 commission, also called a vigorish (aka vig), is the compensation taken by the house on every sport bet wagered. You might need to scrounge about in your lint-filled pockets for a couple quarters to enjoy the \$1 hot dogs, or those denizens of the deep, 99-cent shrimp cocktails.

Then there is plan C: Betting the ponies. A \$2 wager on an equine long-shot overdue for the glue factory can be an inexpensive diversion when the casino is pounding the hell out of your bankroll. How hard is it to spend 10 minutes with a racing form, and then guess? Giddy up!

And who knows, Doug, you might actually calm the near-and-dear, put an extra \$100 in your hip pocket, enough to put you back in action to fight another round guerrilla style, making ONLY those bets that have less than a 2% house edge.

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**Gambling quote of the week:** "I wouldn't put a red cent in a slot machine, and the only time you'll see me at a craps table is when I'm running it." *Amarillo Slim*



## Sudoku Puzzle April 3, 2026

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

Solution on page 15



## Ticket sales started March 24 for the International Fireworks Championship

Traverse City, Mich. — Tickets for the International Fireworks Championship in Traverse City went on sale March 24. The fourth annual competition is slated for two days, on Friday, September 11, and Saturday, September 12, at Turtle Creek Stadium.

The championship format will include internationally renowned teams that have previously won fireworks competitions. While the teams have not yet been announced, three different teams will perform each night. The teams will have up to 15 minutes to create a pyrotechnic display synchronized to music. Both nights will be capped off by a special fireworks finale.

Awards will be given each night through a public vote, then a panel of fireworks experts will crown the overall winner of the two-night show.

Ticket sales started at 10 am on Tuesday, March 24th, and are available at [www.TraverseCity.com](http://www.TraverseCity.com).

"The fireworks displays are nothing short of spectacular," said Traverse City Tourism President Trevor Tkach. "These are some of the best pyrotechnic teams from around the

world that are working hard to outperform each other. It creates a magical atmosphere and incredible fun for everyone."

Last year, teams from China,

Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Canada, and the USA competed, with Poland walking away with the top prize.

Ticket options include stadium/field seats, the "Pit Spitters Porch", high-top tables, private suites, single and two-night packages. Prices start at \$45.

The show is organized by Traverse City Tourism. Sponsors include The Carrithers Family, Priority Health, Saffire, GFL Environmental, true north Convenience Stores, OAV, Bookkeeping Solutions of Traverse City, Fox Grand Traverse, Traverse City Airport, and Michigan Air National Guard.

###

### About Traverse City Tourism

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

Mike Kent  
Public Relations Manager  
231.995.3927  
[mikek@traversecity.com](mailto:mikek@traversecity.com)

= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

The Seasons of Our Lives Part 1

Life in Michigan has its seasons. Love them or hate them, wait just a little while and it will change. Our lives can be a lot like this too. As the seasons of our lives change from one to the next, we can find ourselves in a season that feels like growth while others feel like survival.

Sometimes we think that something is “wrong” when life feels heavy or stagnant, but when it comes to mental health, it is helpful to look at these shifts as seasons--not failures.

Our emotional states can often mirror the natural seasons.

- Spring feels like growth, hope and new beginnings
- Summer is full of stability, productivity and confidence
- Fall offers a transition, time for reflection and letting go
- Winter is a time when we sometimes withdraw, suffer from fatigue and focus on survival and healing

No season is “bad” in and of itself. Each of these “seasons” serves its own purposes in our lives.

Many of my clients mistake feeling “depressed” for being in a literal or figurative Winter season in their lives.

Sometimes people think that they are “failing” when they are simply in a literal or figurative Fall (transition/letting go) in their lives.

Culture can also affect our seasons. Western culture rewards productivity year-round, but this is a Summer type of energy that is not designed to last the entire year.

Our distress often comes from the resistance we feel to the season of our lives...not the season itself.

Here is a simple question to ask yourself to find out what “season of life” you are in:

- Are you building, maintaining, letting go or recovering in your life right now?

We have a lot of different areas of our lives, and we can have different areas of our lives in different seasons at the same time. For example, you may be experiencing your children leaving home (Fall) while you are simultaneously expanding your business (Spring/Summer). Awareness of the seasons

can help to reduce shame and increase our ability to be intentional.

Maintaining our mental health during the different seasons of life can take some self-awareness. One way we can ground ourselves is to understand that we don’t always have to force Spring into our lives when we are actually in the middle of a Winter season. This is another way we win at life. Next time, we will look at how to respond to each of these seasons.

-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.*



**FAMILY FRIENDLY**  
*Spring*  
**EQUINOX HIKE**

**NEW DATE**

APRIL  
FRIDAY | **10** | 5:00-6:30 PM

UPPER MANISTEE HEADWATERS:  
THE MILOCK FAMILY PRESERVE  
CAMP TAPICO RD, KALKASKA, MI

Youth, their families, & the community are invited to join us in celebrating the Spring Equinox! Get outside, explore, and welcome the new season together!

MORE INFO & RSVP:  
[kalkaskaconservation.org/events/spring](http://kalkaskaconservation.org/events/spring)  
231-564-9055 (call or text)

**PRESCRIPTION TAKE BACK DAY AT THE KALKASKA COA**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 21 FROM 10 AM - 1 PM**

Protect the ones you love! ❤️

Turn in your unused or expired medications during our Take Back Event – it’s a simple way to prevent misuse and keep your home safe.

**Lunch and Learn: Safe Medication Practices**  
Presentation by Dr. David McGreaham of the Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC)

Did you know? Adults 55+ are one of the fastest-growing groups affected by overdose.

Prizes!!!  
Free Narcan

**LIVE WELL**  
Kalkaska Substance Free Coalition  
Eliminating Stigma • Providing Education • Connections • Support

Questions? [SPrentice@catholicumanservices.org](mailto:SPrentice@catholicumanservices.org)

# COMMUNITY

## SEEDS expands Farmers Market leadership across Northern Michigan

*Nonprofit to manage multiple markets in 2026, including Cadillac Commons*

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — March 6, 2026 — SEEDS Ecology & Education Centers is expanding its role in supporting local agriculture and food access across Northern Michigan with the addition of a new Friday farmers market at Cadillac Commons in Cadillac, Michigan.

Beginning in May and running through October, SEEDS will manage the weekly Friday farmers market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Market at Cadillac Commons in partnership with the Wexford Conservation District and the Cadillac Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Market hours may expand throughout the season. The market aims to provide a professional, fresh-food-focused marketplace that connects regional farmers with local residents.

SEEDS was selected by the Cadillac DDA following a competitive application process that evaluated organizations on community impact, local benefit, organizational structure, and event management experience. The nonprofit brings more than a decade of farmers market management experience, including its long-standing role operating the Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market in Traverse City.

“We are excited to bring our farmers market management experience to Cadillac and help create a vibrant space where farmers, vendors, and community members can connect around fresh, locally produced food,” said Jennifer Flynn, EcoCorps Program Director at SEEDS. “Collaborating with the Wexford Conservation District and the Cadillac DDA will help ensure the market reflects the needs and strengths of the local agricultural community.”

The new Cadillac market is part of SEEDS’ broader effort to strengthen local food systems and provide hands-on workforce development opportunities through its EcoCorps program.

- Through SEEDS EcoCorps, individuals as young as 16 receive training in green-collar career skills, including agriculture, food systems, and community market management. Under the mentorship of Farmers Market Manager, Kyle Warner, EcoCorps members gain on-the-job experience supporting the flow of locally grown produce from farm to market to table.

SEEDS plans to onboard food assistance purchasing programs to benefit both vendors and market customers alike. Programs such as SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, WIC, and Project Fresh are being explored. SEEDS will support vendors and customers in utilizing these programs as the market and vendors are approved to receive them.

“Farmers markets have enabled communities to connect with local Farmers in a safe and friendly environment. The relationships that we make are core to communities like Cadillac, and we are happy to help grow them,” said Warner. “In today’s world, knowing where and who is growing your food is key and you’ll get to meet the dirt-laden hands that grew your food during the market!”

In addition to the new Cadillac market, SEEDS continues to manage two established farmers markets in the Grand Traverse region:

- Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market in Traverse City, operating Wednesdays and Saturdays from May through October

- East Bay Corners Farmers Market, operating Thursdays at East Bay Township Hall from June through early October

“Farmers markets are more than places to buy food—they are family-friendly spaces where communities connect with the people who grow their food and where people can learn about healthy eating and sustainable agriculture,” says Flynn.

Residents are encouraged to support local farmers by shopping at regional markets, participating in food access programs, and engaging with educational programming throughout the market season.

Additional details about the Cadillac Commons market, vendor participation, and upcoming programming will be announced in the coming weeks. Interested Cadillac vendors can reach out to Kyle Warner for details [kwarner@ecoseeds.org](mailto:kwarner@ecoseeds.org).

### ABOUT SEEDS ECOLOGY & EDUCATION CENTERS:

SEEDS Ecology & Education Centers is a 501c3 nonprofit organization formed in 1999 to implement local solutions to today’s global challenges at the intersection of ecology, education and community design. SEEDS exists to foster healthy, vibrant communities filled with clean food, great kids, and helpful neighbors. Find us at [www.ecoseeds.org](http://www.ecoseeds.org) or @SEEDSTC on Facebook and Instagram.



## Prescription Take Back Week Kicks Off in Kalkaska

KALKASKA, MI — In recognition of the upcoming DEA National Prescription Take Back Day on Saturday, April 25, community partners in Kalkaska are hosting a full week of opportunities for residents to safely dispose of unused or expired medications.

In partnership with the Live Well Kalkaska Substance Free Coalition, the Kalkaska Sheriff’s Office and the Kalkaska County Commission on Aging, Prescription Take Back Week will begin with a kickoff event on Tuesday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kalkaska Commission on Aging (COA), 303 S. Coral Street, Kalkaska.

Community members are encouraged to bring unused or expired medications for safe disposal to help prevent misuse and protect local families.

### Accepted items include:

- Prescription medications, including controlled substances
- Over-the-counter medicines
- Pet medications
- Nutritional supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs) Medicated ointments and lotions

- Medications should be well sealed or placed in a plastic bag.

### Items not accepted include:

- Needles, lancets, or pen needles (no sharps of any kind) Aerosol cans
- Bloody or infectious waste Hydrogen peroxide Thermometers
- IV bags
- Trash or mail

As part of the kickoff event, attendees can also participate in a Lunch & Learn on safe medication practices, presented by Dr. David McGreaham, Medical Director of the Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium. The presentation will take place during normal Kalkaska COA lunch hours. Salad bar begins at 11:30 and lunch is at 12:00. Lunch is open to all individuals. The cost for a meal is by donation for those 60 and older and \$7 for those ages 59 and younger.

“Adults ages 55 and older are one of the fastest-growing groups affected by overdose,” organizers note. “This event is an opportunity to learn how to stay safe and informed.”

Free Narcan will be available while supplies last, and participants can enter prize drawings

during the event. Residents who are unable to attend the April 21 event can still participate throughout the week by dropping off medications at the Kalkaska Sheriff’s Office while traveling to and from Trout Festival. Organizers will track the total amount of medications collected between March 21 and March 26.

Safe disposal options are also available year-round at the Kalkaska Sheriff’s Office, Kalkaska Village Office, and Kalkaska Memorial Health Center.

For more information, contact [SPrentice@catholichumanservices.org](mailto:SPrentice@catholichumanservices.org).



### Kalkaska Substance Free Coalition

Eliminating Stigma • Providing Education • Connections • Support



## O&A - continued from page 3

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

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

## Miscellaneous

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

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

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

**When: available anytime**

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

**When: available anytime**

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

**When: available anytime**

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

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

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

**When: Tue, 11 am to 3 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

**When: Wed 10 am**

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

**When: Wed, 11 am to 3 pm**

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

**When: Wed, 4 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thu, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

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

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri, 6:00 to 9:00 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Veterans/Active Duty

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

**When: Mondays, 6:30 pm**

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

**When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm**

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

**When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm**

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

**When: 3rd Mon, 9 am**

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

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

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

**When: 2nd Wed, 6:30 pm**

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

**When: 3rd Wed, 8:30 am**

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

**When: 1st Thu, 6:00 pm**

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

**When: 3rd Thu, 1:00 pm**

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

**When: 1st Sunday, 12:00 pm**

## BOOK CLUBS

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

**When: 3rd Tue, 7:00 pm**

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

**When: last Tue, 1:00 pm**

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

**When: 2nd Wed, 1:00 [m**

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

**When: 2nd Wed, 7:00 pm**

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

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

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

**When: 4th Wed, 2:30 pm**

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

**When: last Wed, 4:00 pm**

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

**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Thu, 9:30 am**

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

**When: 2nd Thu, 3:30 pm**

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

**When: 3rd Thu, 12 to 1 pm**

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

**When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu, 3:30pm**

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

**When: Last Sat, 4:00 pm**

## Organization Meetings

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

**When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm**

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

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

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

**When: 3rd Mon, 5:00 pm**

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

**When: 4th Mon, 5:30 pm**

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

**When: Last Mon., 7:00 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

**When: 4th Tue 4:00 pm**

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

**When: 1st Wed, 10 am.**

**Friends of the Fife Lake Public Library**, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, contact Denise, 734 444-2484

**When: 2nd Wed., 11:00 am**

**Chain of Lakes Genealogy Club**, Central Lake Library, 7900 Maple St, 231 544-2517

**When: 3rd Wed, 6:00 pm**

**BIGG (Genealogy Group)**, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8814

**When: 1st Thu., 10:30 am**

**South Boardman American Legion #463 and Auxiliary Meeting**, South Boardman Legion Hall, 5487 Boardman Rd (at the tank), South Boardman, contact 231 369-2944

**When: 1st Thur., 6:00 pm**

**Knights of Columbus, St Joseph the Worker Council #7419**, St Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, 438 Co Rd 612 NE, Kalkaska, contact Dave at 231 587-4328

**When: 1st Thu, 7 pm**

**Friends of the Alden District Library**, Helena Township Community Center, 8752 Helena Rd, Alden, 231 331-4318

**When: 3rd Thu, 9:30 am social time, 10:00 am meeting**

**Alden Men's Club**, Alden United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 9015 Helena Rd, Alden. Come see what we are all about, "Helping others in need," contact 603 540-3581 or visit www.aldenmensclub.org

**When: last Saturday of the month , 8:00 am (except July and November), no meeting in December.**

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)**, Alden United Methodist Church, 9015 Helena Rd, Alden

**When: Sun, 7:00 pm**

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

**When: Sun, 7:00 pm**

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA)**, Sportsmens Club, 6095 Garfield Rd, Kingsley

**When: Sun, Tue, 8:00 pm (Sun only May-Sept Mayfield Pond Park)**

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**, Living in Harmony, United Methodist Church, 2525 Beebe Rd, Kalkaska

**When: Mon, 7:00 pm**

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA)**, Fife Lake Methodist Church, 206 Boyd St,

**When: Mon, 8:00 pm**

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA)**, Hope Lutheran Church, 2680 S. M-88, Bellaire

**When: Mon, 8:00 pm**

O&A - continues on page 13

# REFLECTION

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

## Enemy

April 3, 2026

Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry famously wrote to Major General William Henry Harrison, that "We have met the enemy, and they are ours," following the battle that secured American control of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

Many years later, (circa 1970) in the Walt Kelly comic strip "Pogo," the character Pogo Possum paraphrased the famous quote, saying "We have met the enemy and they is us," indicating humanity's responsibility for a large part of the damage being done to our earthly environment.

I'm paraphrasing the famous quote again, to say "We have met the enemy and the enemy is ignorance!"

Seriously, if we don't know the name of the capital city of our state, or the name of the country on our northern border, or the names of our current U.S. Senators, or the name of our township supervisor, or what the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution are generally called – and what they say – we are ignorant. I can make a very long list of things, names, facts, and principles we should all know by the time we are adults, that many of us do not know.

We are graduating seniors from high school who do not know that they, as citizens, are not only part of the government, but also members

of the ultimate authority of the government. Yes, the preamble to the Constitution means it when it says, "We, the people of the United States ... do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." Without all the explanation of why (to form a more perfect union, etc.), the statement is that we, the people, ordain and establish our government's founding document.

When Benjamin Franklin responded to the question of what sort of government had been created, by saying "A republic, if you can keep it," he was serious. A republic requires the active participation of a virtuous and informed electorate. We are mistaken when we refer to the government as "them." We citizens are an integral part of the government.

It is ignorance that clouds our thinking about our place in the government. It is ignorance that lets us forget that we elect public servants and temporarily delegate to them the authority we have written into our Constitution.

Why do I say that ignorance is the enemy? Because of the dangers we are exposed to through ignorance. A woman I know got into trouble when she came up to an intersection with a red traffic light. She knew she could turn right on a red light, but she didn't know that was true only after coming to a full stop and yielding to pedestrians and traffic with the right of way. So, she just made a right turn directly into the path of another vehicle – one

with the right of way. She paid the price, both in terms of the law and finances, as well as in physical injury. Ignorance is what put her in jeopardy. Not every negative instance of ignorance is that dramatic. I'm sure you can think of many small moments where not knowing (ignorance) caused mischief in your life. I know that's been true in my life.

So, what do we do about it? Let's at least put some real effort into educating ourselves about our own form of government – that is if we still have any desire to keep our republic.

If you read the Declaration of Independence, and take note of all the reasons listed for why we wanted to separate from England, the ways in which the King of England had abused us, you are likely to come away with a renewed passion for our republic.

We have a government that is based on mutual respect, the division of authority, checks against abuse of power, and protection of basic individual human rights. I believe that is worth the effort to be an active and informed citizen.

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) Does the Constitution specify who is a citizen of the United States?
- 2) Does the Constitution restrict who is eligible to become President of the United States?
- 3) Why is there a reference to being a citizen at the time of adoption of the Constitution?
- 4) What is the definition of a natural born citizen?



### Citizenship Corner


Answers to last issue's questions

- 1) Where is the law making, all legislative, power lodged in the United States government?  
*A. Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution states: All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.*
- 2) What is listed as the first power of the Congress?  
*A. Article I, Section 8, begins: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.*
- 3) What is the second listed power of the Congress?  
*A. Article I, Section 8, paragraph 2, states: To borrow Money on the credit of the United States.*
- 4) What is the third listed power of the Congress?  
*A. Article I, Section 8, paragraph 3, states: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.*

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



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 morrisonelectricinc.com



**O&A - cont. from page 11**

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

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

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

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

**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**

**Weight Management Support Group,** Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, 419 S. Coral St, Classroom A, contact Ashley Snyder, 231 258-3613  
**When: 2nd Tue, 1:00 to 2:00 pm**

**Diabetes Support Group,** Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, 419 S. Coral St, Classroom A, contact Ashley Snyder, 231 258-3613  
**When: 4th Tue, 1:00 to 2:00 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**All Recovery Meeting,** 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**

**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**

## American Legion Post 480 - Veterans Coffee Hour Help managing your VA health care information

The Kalkaska County American Legion Post 480 hosts Coffee & Donuts on the second Wednesday of each month at the Kalkaska County Senior Center from 9:00 am - 11:00 am.

Veterans: Have you switched to Login.gov or ID.me yet to manage your VA Health Care information? If not, and you need help creating an account, an Outreach Nurse from the Saginaw VA Medical Center will be at the Kalkaska County Commission on Aging on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m. to assist Veterans with creating their account.

The MyHealthVet program on VA.gov is the new health portal for managing your health care online. With this change, you can manage your VA medications, medical records,



appointments, receive notifications, as well as send and receive secure messages from your VA Care Team.

Please bring your cell-phone with you, and the

following documentation: Two primary identification documents or one primary and one secondary document. A primary document is a driver's license, passport or other government-issues photo. A secondary document is your social security card, utility bill or vehicle registration. **(You CANNOT use your VA health care ID Card).** You will also need to have a valid e-mail address.

If you have questions, please contact the Kalkaska County Veterans Affairs Office at 231-258-3370.

The Kalkaska County Veterans Affairs Director is also on-site to answer questions and assist with VA healthcare enrollment, or filing VA claims.

# WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

## Carefree Cruisin'

By Dominic Fortuna

As the snow melts and the days grow longer, Northern Michigan is gearing up for a busy summer on the roads. Tourist season is just around the corner, and with it comes the inevitable congestion and frustration that can turn a pleasant drive into a nightmare. But it doesn't have to be that way. With a little preparation and the right mindset, you can navigate the summer traffic with ease and arrive at your destination feeling calm and relaxed.

The key is to be proactive. Don't wait until you're stuck in a traffic jam or confronted with an aggressive driver to decide how you're going to react. Take some time now to prepare yourself for the chaos that's coming.

First, let's talk about the dangers of road rage. It's a real and serious issue that can have devastating consequences. Aggressive driving behaviors like tailgating, speeding, and yelling at other drivers can escalate quickly and lead to accidents, injuries, and even violence. And it's not just the

aggressive drivers who are at risk – innocent bystanders and passengers can get caught in the crossfire.

So how can you avoid becoming a victim of road rage? The answer is simple: stay calm. Take a deep breath, put on some soothing music, and focus on the road ahead. If you find yourself getting frustrated, pull over and take a break. A few minutes of fresh air and a quick stretch can work wonders for your mood.

Another crucial aspect of safe driving is avoiding distractions. We've all been guilty of glossing over a text or adjusting the radio while driving, but these habits can be deadly. Put your phone on silent mode and keep it out of reach, and set your music playlist before you hit the road. If you need to make a call or send a message, pull over and do it safely.

When it comes to navigating heavy traffic, it's all about being aware of your surroundings and anticipating potential hazards. Keep an eye on the road ahead and be prepared to slow down or

change lanes if needed. Use your mirrors and blind spot checks to stay aware of other drivers, and signal your intentions clearly.

Finally, let's talk about defensive driving techniques. These aren't just for driving school – they're essential skills for staying safe on the road. Leave plenty of space between you and the car ahead, and be prepared to react to unexpected situations. If someone cuts you off, let them go and focus on your own driving.

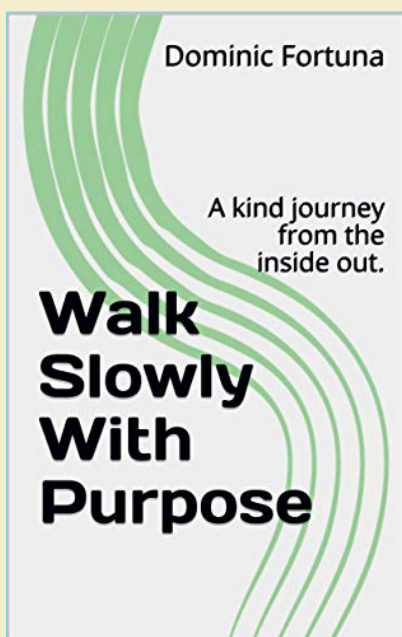
If you can avoid festivals and concerts in the area, if not participating in them, then navigate the congestion. Leave earlier than you normally would and stay calm.

As the summer months approach, take some time to review your driving habits and make a plan for staying calm and safe on the road. With a little practice and preparation, you can navigate even the most congested roads with ease. So take a deep breath, put on your favorite road trip tunes, and enjoy the ride – Northern Michigan's beautiful scenery is waiting for you.



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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

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Applesauce Inn  
Bellaire Public Library

**Central Lake**  
Central Lake District Library  
Mary's Market

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

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Kalkaska County Building  
Kalkaska County Library  
Kalkaska Funeral Home  
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The Shopping Basket  
Trout Town Tavern & Eatery  
Voice Motors

**Kingsley**  
Kingsley Branch Library  
Kingsley Village Offices

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

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

**South Boardman**  
Yankee Boy

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

## Yes, you CAN subscribe!

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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 April 3, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

# Volunteers Honored for Support of Toys for Tots Campaign

By Mike kent

Traverse City, Mich. — Two stalwart volunteers for Northwest Michigan Toys for Tots were honored last night with “Star Awards” during the wrap-up meeting of the program. Plus, the unwavering support of the Young Marines was recognized with a presentation of the Commander’s Award.

Toys for Tots organizers reported that during the 2025 campaign, as expected, requests for toys had increased. The campaign distributed 26,388 toys to 6,023 children. That represents about a 20-percent increase in toy requests from previous years. The toy donations were augmented by 245 bikes contributed through Piper’s Project This Girl Can and Bikes for Tikes.

“Every year our community responds with generosity to assure that every child in the region has a great Christmas,” said campaign Director, Maggie Kent. “We faced more challenges this year. Once again, families found the help they needed to make this season special. But none of that would happen without the tremendous support of our volunteers and donors.”

For the first time since the start of the local campaign, Toys for Tots of Northwest Michigan presented a Star Award to a previous recipient. The award is given for outstanding contributions to the campaign. George Champlin was given the Star Award for the 2025 campaign, after having received the award in 2016. “George gives his time freely to helping children in the region. His help with the logistics of storing and distributing the toys is invaluable. He does so much work behind the scenes and seldom gets enough credit,” said Kent.

The owner of the local Two Men and a Truck franchise, Mara Crofoot, was presented with the award for her work in helping pick up the toys from dozens of drop-off destinations and bringing them to the sorting location. Employees of the company were given the Star Award in 2018, but it’s the first time Crofoot was singled out for her heartfelt support.

The Commander’s Award was presented to the Young Marines of Traverse City. The youth program fosters leadership and character-building skills through a variety of activities and works with Toys for Tots at numerous toy sorts and campaign activities. The Commander’s Award is a joint presentation by the Marine Corps Reserves and the local campaign that recognizes years of help to the toy program.

Local corporate sponsors include Meijer, Fox Grand Traverse, Serra of Traverse City, Great Wolf Lodge, Two Men and A Truck, Up North Live News, Midwestern Broadcasting, Black Diamond Broadcasting, Blarney Stone Broadcasting, Traverse City Record-Eagle, Leelanau Sands Casino, Turtle Creek Casino, The Les & Anne Biederman Foundation, Jen Tees, A. Papano’s Pizza, Bay Area Transportation Authority, Fast Signs, US Coast Guard, Menards, Republic Services, Service Masters, Poolside, Home Depot, Grand Traverse Industries, Lowe’s, Trout Town Tavern & Eatery, Moose & Stella’s Café, Jimmy Johns, and Traverse City Tourism.

The toy drive is part of a national campaign initiated by the Marine Corps Reserves 78 years ago. It is the largest toy collection program in the country, with 800 campaigns in all 50 states. More information is available at <http://www.toysfortots.org/>.



George Champlin (l), Mara Crofoot (c) and Steve Weaver (r) (representing the Traverse City Young Marines), received awards from Toys for Tots of Northwest Michigan.

Photo courtesy of Toys for Tots of Northwest Michigan



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