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The earth laughs in flowers.
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Vol2026:
April 17, 2026

Crews work through the night to increase water flow through Cheboygan Lock and Dam

Crews worked through the night Sunday to increase the flow of water through the Cheboygan Lock and Dam Complex, using a crane to remove gates from the dam, adding pumps and bringing in a load of electric cable needed to reopen the hydroelectric station and further increase flow.

"We had a productive session overnight and we are continuing our work today," said Mike Janisse, leader of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Incident Management Team that is leading the effort to mitigate flooding while preserving the dam and lock.

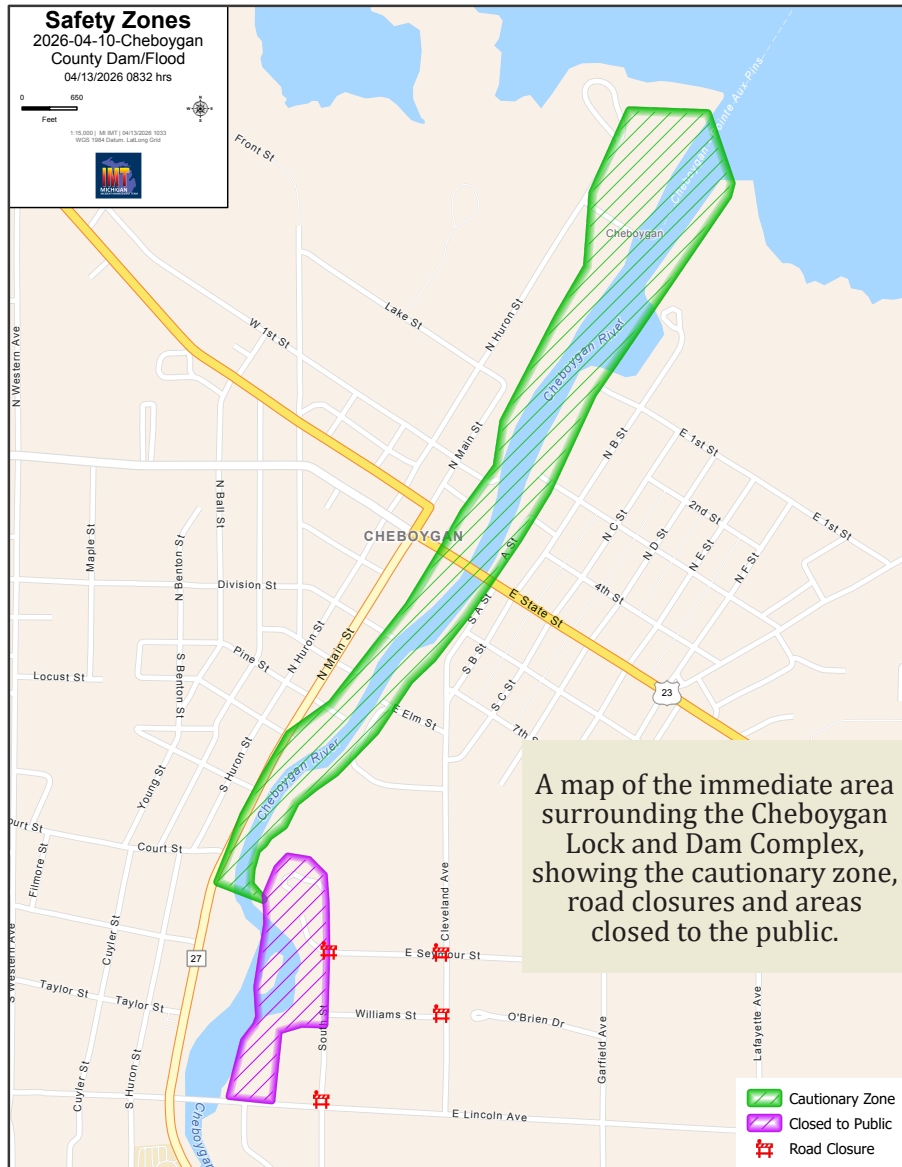
Efforts late Sunday included:

Using the crane - so large it took multiple trucks to carry - to remove gates from the dam. Although all of the dam's six gates have been open, removing the doors increases the water flow capacity.

Bringing industrial wire from Illinois to Cheboygan, where it will be installed to fully open the dam's hydroelectric station, which also will increase flow. Work began last night and continues today.

Efforts planned today include adding to the five pumps already moving water around the dam and additional sandbagging in the area.

The Michigan Department of Transportation has closed the US-23 bascule bridge in



A crane company was brought in Sunday night to remove the gates from the Cheboygan Dam to increase the water flow.

Cheboygan near the dam by raising its deck to the open position. The foundation of the bridge, built in 1940, is susceptible to erosion during flood events. Traffic is being detoured to the Lincoln Avenue Bridge. An operator from the Cheboygan County Road Commission can open the bridge in an emergency if needed.

The DNR, county and city officials also have worked together to create a map of the river and safety zone around it.

Water levels remain unpredictable. This map shows the current projected areas of potential flooding.

Purple Zone: This is an active work zone and is closed to the public. Please stay out of this area.

Cautionary Zone: This is the target area for potential flooding. Please avoid this area if possible. Community members within this area should be prepared with a go bag and secure valuables. The Cautionary Zone will be updated as the situation evolves.

These are predictions. Residents outside the green zone should still use caution

and monitor the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Office Facebook page for updates: www.facebook.com/people/Cheboygan-County-Sheriffs-Office/100081259028439/

"We're all working together to keep water flowing through the dam and to make sure that people are informed," said Jeremy Runstrom, emergency manager for Cheboygan County.

Additional rain is expected in the area over the next several days. The Cheboygan River helps drain the watershed in the area into Lake Huron.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency beginning Friday for Cheboygan County due to rising water levels at the Cheboygan Lock and Dam Complex.

For tips on how to prepare before, during and after an emergency or disaster, visit www.michigan.gov/miready. Cheboygan County officials also are encouraging local residents to sign up for notifications through Be Alert.

OUT & ABOUT

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

SENIOR & COMMUNITY MEALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FARMERS' MARKET

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

FOOD PANTRIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEALTH AND FITNESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BINGO, CARDS & BOARD GAMES

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

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

Euchre, CETA Hall, 6615 CR612 NE, 231 587-9475
When: Mon, 6 pm

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

contact Judy at jkuiper@learnsselfcompassion.com or 616-581-4668. Sponsored by Alden District Library and the Antrim County Bridge Club.

When: Tue 10 am - noon (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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When: Wed, 6 pm

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

When: Thu, 12:45 pm

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

When: Thu, 1 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When: Sat, 6 pm

Crafts & Hobbies

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

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

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

When: Mon, 6 pm

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

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

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

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

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

When: 1st Tue, 1:00 pm

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

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

Knitting - Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St,

When: Thu 10 to noon

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

When: Thu, 10:30 am

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

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

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

When: 1st Thu, 4:00 pm

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

When: 3rd Sat, 9am - 5pm

Children's Activities

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

When: 1st Mon 10 am

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

When: Mon, 3:15 to 4 pm

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

When: Tue, 10:00 am

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

When: Tue, 10:30 am

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

When: Tue and Wed, 10:30 am

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

When: Wed, 10:30 am

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When: Fri 10:30 am

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

When: Fri, 3:30 pm

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

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

O&A - continues on page 11



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231 - 258 - 5395

508 N. Birch Street, Kalkaska

OBITUARIES

Barbara Jean Smith

August 10, 1948 ~ March 30, 2026

Barbara Jean Smith, 77, passed away peacefully on March 26, 2026.

Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Barbara was a proud graduate of Western Michigan University. She dedicated many years of her life to teaching elementary school in Traverse City, where she touched the lives of countless students with her kindness, patience, and deep love of learning.

In her retirement, Barbara made her home in Glen Arbor, where she fully embraced the natural beauty of northern Michigan. She found great joy at Fisher Lake, spending her days kayaking, swimming, and biking around the circle. She cherished her beloved dog, Grace, as well as life's simple pleasures and the close-knit neighbors she called home. She had a great laugh and was always ready for an adventure!

Barb was preceded in death by her father, Russell Smith Sr.; her mother, May Kathleen Damery; her sisters, Marilou Harris and Bonnie Spears; her brother, Russell Smith Jr.; her niece, Karen Harris; Stacey Spears and her great-nephew, Michael Lawrence.

She is lovingly remembered by her nieces and nephews: Julie



Stapnowski (husband Keith; children Michael, Madelyn, and Collin), Steve Harris (wife Shirlisa; children Shireena Bennett, Steven, Scott and Shelby), Thomas Spears (children Lauren Bailey, Taylor, Dane, and Brittany), Robert Spears (children Connor, Brooklyn, Cody, and Breana Morris), Bryan Smith (Penny and Ethan Kawakami), Jody Gritter (husband Joel; children Mitchell Lawrence, Colin, and Grace), Shanna Ax (husband Steven; children Tyler and Timothy), and Kristen Bechler (husband Tony; children Brook Barba and Britta) and many great nieces and nephews.

Barb will be remembered for her adventurous spirit, her devotion to her dogs, students and family, and her deep appreciation for the beauty of the world around her.

In lieu of a funeral, charitable donations can be made to Tunnel to Towers or Empire Methodist Church in her honor. A summer gathering will be planned for honoring/celebrating Barb's life.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Joseph A. Kucharski

April 22, 1946 ~ April 6, 2026

Joseph Anthony Kucharski, 79, of Kalkaska, passed away on Monday, April 6, 2026.

Joe was born on April 22, 1946, in Detroit, Michigan, to the late Ben and Jean (Agnello) Kucharski.

Joe was known for his energetic spirit and fun-loving personality. He was outgoing and enjoyed spending time exploring the outdoors. He loved hiking and traveling, and he had a deep appreciation for history, always



eager to learn more and share what he knew. Joe proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps.

Joe is survived by his loving wife, Tanya Kucharski; his three sons, Chris, Ben, and Joe; and his three

stepchildren, Nicole, Rachel, and Nathan.

Joe will be laid to rest at Great Lakes National Cemetery.

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

Douglas Eugene Carpenter

May 1, 1952 ~ March 25, 2026

Douglas Eugene Carpenter 73 of Kingsley passed away peacefully at home. He was born to the late Marcel and Bonnie (Russell) Carpenter in Weaver, South Dakota on May 7, 1952.



Doug grew up in Elk Rapids before joining the US Army at 17. He proudly served 3 years including one tour in Vietnam from 1970-1971. After his honorable discharge Doug traveled to and worked in many states across the country. He worked in construction and masonry. Doug's countless experiences and incredible stories were nearly endless. In the late 70's he moved back to the Elk Rapids area and married Cindy Coyne and together they had his only child, Lee who is his pride and joy.

In 2001 Doug married the love of his life, Lynda Burtch. They settled down in Kingsley. Doug was an avid fisherman. He enjoyed the outdoors and greatly respected it. He was also a R/C car and CB

radio enthusiast along with a deep knowledge of classic cars and military history.

Doug made many, many, friends throughout his life. Sharing his wisdom, showing compassion and was always willing to help someone in

need. Doug had so many struggles in life but fought through them, put those most important to him before himself. His honesty, dedication and sense of humor will be missed and never forgotten.

Doug is survived by his son, Lee Carpenter; siblings, Patricia Glandon, Lydia (Jerry) Annis, Barbara (Tim) Bachi, Russel (Sue) Carpenter and Bob and Sandra Dusseau.

A memorial service will be held on June 27, 2026 at the Elk Rapids Veterans Memorial Village Park.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Charleen Kay Morrison

May 5, 1943 ~ March 28, 2026

Charleen Morrison, 82 of Kalkaska went to see the Lord on March 28, 2026. She was born on May 5, 1943, in Flint, the daughter of the late Edward and Myrtle (Hutchinson) Morrison, Sr. It is with heavy hearts and tears in their eyes her siblings announce her death.



with her. In fact, when on her death bed she was giving Marilyn her cookie recipe. She was devoted most of all to lifting them up in prayer. In latter days, those praying for her would hear her praying for them. Even in the last

few days when her voice was no longer audible, she would lift her hand and you knew that she was praying.

Char survived by her siblings, Lawrence Morrison, Carol Carddock both of North Carolina, Edward Morrison, Jr., of Flint and Marilyn Morrison of Kalkaska; numerous nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews; and great-great nieces and nephews.

Preceding Char in death were her brothers, Dale Morrison, David Morrison; niece Robin Weaver; nephew Dale Morrison, Jr.

Funeral services were held on Friday, April 3rd at 1:00 pm at the Kalkaska Church of Christ with visitation beginning at 11:00 am until the time of service. Officiating was Rev. David Morrison, Jr., pastor of Church Alive Church of God in Kalkaska where Char was a faithful member and Rev. Bruce Badder of Flint, MI. Burial will be at Evergreen Cemetery on May 5th at 1:00 pm.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Char was a devoted aunt to her nieces and nephews, making sure they had fresh cookies when they would come to visit or go on trips

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

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Genevee Marie Hartzell

May 18, 1943 ~ April 4, 2026

Genevee Marie Hartzell, 82, of Kalkaska, passed away on Saturday, April 4, 2026. She was born on May 18, 1943, in Paradise Township, Kingsley, Michigan, the daughter of the late Floyd and Theresa (Schuster) Adams. Genevee married the love of her life, Wayne A. Hartzell on June 13, 1959, in Buckley, Michigan. They have been residents of Kalkaska for 60 years and active members of Calvary Baptist Church. She loved spending time with her family, whether cooking a meal, or just sharing stories and a laugh. Genny was a creative person who found joy in woodburning as well as knitting, and she was well known for her baking, especially her bread and pies. She made many meals for people in the community and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need, always just a phone call away. At the first sign of Spring, you could find her raking

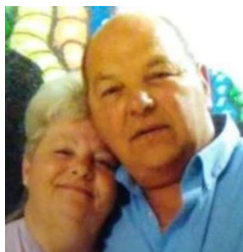


in her yard. Surviving is her husband Wayne of 66 years; her children Steve (Allison Swikoski) Hartzell of Kalkaska, Jeff (Lisa Farabaugh) Hartzell of Kalkaska and Janette (Glenn) Spratt of Kalkaska; her grandchildren, Kendall Spratt, Lacey Hartzell, Wayne Spratt, Carolyn Spratt, Nathan (Michelle) Hartzell, Amanda (Diondre) Britton; her great-grandchildren Chet and Owen Britton; and her sisters Rosalie Sieting and Geraldine Utter of Kalkaska, Michigan. Genevee was preceded in death by her daughter Dawn Hartzell and her grandson Dustin Hartzell. Visitation for friends and family was on Friday, April 10, 5:00-8:00pm at Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral home in Kalkaska, Michigan and the funeral was on Saturday, April 11, 11:00am at Calvary Baptist Church in Kalkaska, Michigan. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home.

Daniel Carl Szyska

May 3, 1954 ~ March 27, 2026

Daniel Carl Szyska, 71 of Mancelona, went home to be with our Father, Friday March 27, 2026. He was born on May 3, 1954, to the late Joseph and Marion (Ettinger) Szyska in St. Clair, MI.



Dan drove a school bus for Bellaire Public School for 28 years. He owned and operated A-1 Septic Tank Service and A-1 Excavating. He loved to build things, fish, and in the spring, it was all about mushrooming. Dan shared fishing with his great-grandsons and brothers. He was always ready and willing to lend a helping hand. Dan loved God and family above all.

Dan is survived by his loving wife, Regina; daughter, Danielle (Brian) O'Dell and son, Daniel Burrell; 5 grandchildren, Carli (Brandon) Lynch, Kristin Thompson, Brent, Carson and Ariel Burrell; great-grandchildren, Michael

Thompson, Landon, Clayton and Sophia Lynch; brothers, Bob (Joann) Szyska, Larry (Barb) Szyska, Bill (Colleen) Szyska, Michael Szyska, David Szyska and Brian Szyska; sister, Lisa Sah; brothers-in-law, Jack (Ranae) Thrasher, LeRoy (Mary) Thrasher, Paul Thrasher Jr. and Leonard Nichols; sisters-in-law, Lena Thrasher, Mary Szyska, and Rose Bordeau.

Dan is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Joseph Szyska; sisters-in-law Donna Szyska and Molly Nichols; brother-in-law, David Bourdeau; and nephews, Cory Szyska and Kary Szyska.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be held in the summer.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

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Matt V. Moore

June 21, 1957 ~ April 6, 2026

Matt V. Moore was called home to be with our Lord at 68 years old on April 6, 2026. He was surrounded by his family at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, MI. Matt was born in Grant, Michigan on June 21, 1957, to Alvin and Carol (Kreh) Moore. Preceding Matt on their journey home were his parents Alvin & Carol Moore. His brother Alvin Wayne Moore, Matt's children Jesse Moore and Amy Bracewell Swart. Matt's best four-legged friend Kobe. Matt's allegiance to his Country and his family was unmatched. It ran true and deep. He never minced words, so you always knew where you stood. He had a huge personality and a great sense of humor. Followed by a giggle that will never be forgotten. He loved to travel everywhere, in all seasons. He was adventurous, he captained his own boat and never missed an I-500 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He loved music of all genres. Matt was tough on the outside, hiding his pain. His



grandchildren accused him of being a softie. He never missed one of their sporting events, he loved to see them excel and did his best to support them. Living the lives Matt wished for them are Siblings: Clay (Cheryl) Moore of Kent City, MI and Arlene (Norman) Nester of Grant, MI Children: Chad (Chelie) Moore, Danny (Kelli) Boger, Jason Boger, Chris (Jamie) Moore; Grandchildren: Ryan Moore, Kelly Harris, Ashley Bracewell Duffy, Gage Bracewell, Matthew Swart, Noah Swart, Julia Moore, Kylee Moore, Gunner Nisch, Willow Moore, and Jacqueline Boger. Great-grandchildren: Dixie Moore and Oaklynn Nisch; Let us not forget his devoted partner in life of 42 years Maureen Boger of Kalkaska, MI May the Lord hold his family tightly as they navigate this journey in his honor. A memorial service will be held on May 9th at Kalkaska Funeral Home; visitation will begin at noon, followed by the memorial service at 1PM.

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Munson Healthcare Celebrates Ashley Ochoa's Statewide Recognition as Hometown Health Hero

Traverse City, MI — Munson Healthcare is proud to celebrate Ashley Ochoa, Coordinator of Coding Operations for the Oncology Service Line at the Cowell Family Cancer Center, who has been awarded the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Hometown Health Hero Award. Ashley's recognition reflects not only her own extraordinary leadership, but the deeply rooted tradition of compassion and innovation that defines Munson Healthcare — a tradition carried forward in recent years by fellow Hometown Health Hero recipients Paul Bock and Tammie Budrow, whose commitment to community service helped set the standard Ashley now continues.

Ashley was nominated for her development of Fuel for Recovery, a program she created after witnessing firsthand the burdens patients with cancer face during long infusion therapies. Many patients travel great distances across northern Michigan for four-to-six-hour treatment sessions, some of which are challenged by food insecurity.

Through Fuel for Recovery, patients receive nutrient dense meals during extended infusion sessions, helping them maintain strength and tolerate treatment more effectively. The program also provides personalized grocery coordination, with oncology nutritionists helping patients select foods that meet cancer supportive dietary needs through

local store apps, ensuring convenience, dignity, and individualized care.

Since launching in April 2025, Fuel for Recovery has delivered more than 390 meals through Oryana's Sprout Café at the Cowell Family Cancer Center, improving patients' physical resilience and easing the emotional strain of treatment.

"Ashley's work on the Fuel for Recovery program is an inspiring example of how innovation, compassion, and collaboration come together to directly improve the lives of our patients, said Kathy LaRaia Interim President, Munson Medical Center; Vice President,

Oncology & Professional Services. "Her dedication reflects the very best of Munson Healthcare — a relentless commitment to meeting people where they are and removing barriers so they can focus on healing. We are incredibly proud of Ashley and grateful for the positive impact she continues to make across our cancer care community."


What began as Ashley's idea quickly became a meaningful support system for patients. By bringing together community partners and securing sustainable resources, she designed a program that delivers both practical support and dignity of care. In

addition to its local impact, Ashley's expertise now informs broader statewide initiatives addressing food insecurity among cancer patients.

Ashley's award embodies this mission: a testament to how individual compassion, supported by systemwide commitment, can transform care for some of the region's most vulnerable patients. Munson Healthcare is honored to celebrate Ashley's exceptional achievement and proud to stand alongside the many heroes — past, present, and future — who make our organization and our community stronger.



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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 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 for more information.

April 23, 1-2pm, Poetry & Tea at the Library. Come celebrate National Poetry Month with us at the Library! We often turn to poems in times when words can be difficult to find. They

offer us different perspectives of how to look at and experience our lives. During this event we will turn to poems together, by sharing, reading, and even writing some ourselves. All levels of interest and experience levels are welcome. Tea will be provided. The Bellaire Public Library is located at 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call the Library at 231-533-8814.

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 for more information.

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PUBLIC NOTICE THREAT TO TRANSPARENCY

Tell your lawmakers to prioritize transparency and keep Michigan's public notice requirements in newspapers.

Public notices like this one play a critical role in helping Michiganders learn about and weigh in on important tax proposals, zoning changes, new ordinances and proposed property developments that may affect you and your family.

Michigan already ranks among the worst states in the U.S. for government transparency, and some of our state lawmakers are trying to remove public notice requirements. That would make actions and decisions by government officials even less transparent to the people they serve.

Michigan lawmakers should focus on improving transparency, not making it worse.

Tell your lawmakers to prioritize transparency and keep these accountability measures. Please visit legislature.mi.gov to contact your elected leaders.



Alden

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

Boardman Township

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

Central Lake

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

East Jordan

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

Fife Lake

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

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

Kalkaska

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mancelona

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

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

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

Rapid City

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

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

Williamsburg

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

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

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

DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)

Man of letters moving up

10 November 2003

Dear Mark,

I am currently a magazine editor looking to work part-time as a dealer, simply for a little extra income and because I would really enjoy it. I am good mathematically, smart, friendly, know all the games inside and out, a college graduate; in short, a very good dealer. How do I break into the business? Any advice? John W.

Most newbies looking for jobs pitching cardboard get 'em in one of two ways: a) going to a local dealing school and then auditioning, or b) being hired from within, i.e. boosted from some low-level job at ABC casino, like lugging 50 pounds of change strapped to your waist. If you cheerfully survive the mule-service, rarely call in sick, your work history file shows no major boo-boos, and management requires a few new dealers, you may be sent to their in-house college of dealing.

But — and you knew there would be a but — there are exceptions, of which Yours Truly was one. It's known as the Ironing Board method.

I learned on an ironing board from Jerry (who went on to become a gaming control agent for the State of Nevada), then auditioned for a job. Of course, faking it can only go so far when learning on a hot-press table. Initially, like all break-ins, I got the heebie-jeebies if a player happened to bet over 50 cents. That's right folks, my virginal hour dealing blackjack was on a 50¢ game at the Club Cal Neva in downtown Reno.

After my 20-minute break, I was assigned a dead \$2 game. No problem, no bettors. I can do this. Then SLOSHY STAN showed up, feeling no pain, and started betting \$5-\$25 a hand. Five minutes into his play he got a pair of aces, and then split them.

Huh, mathematically interesting, I thought, punching my memory back to the ironing board, but to no avail; Jerry had never mentioned splitting aces. Actually, a frazzled dealer of ten minds with limited knowledge of the game does not know what to do or pay when a player splits aces.

This crisis situation required drastic measures to avoid total disaster. So I pondered briefly whether to call over a pit boss and look like an idiot, didn't, then pretended to know what I was doing. I made the airy decision that if you split aces and got two face cards as lucky Stan had just done, you just got yourself two blackjacks, so I paid him accordingly. Stan liked me. Oh yeah!

I was actually paying this unmerited royalty on split aces for most of my first shift until an old-time pit boss named Dennis Healy (my all-time favorite old-time pit boss) noticed my generosity and asked, "You're new, right?" Yeah, I answered. "Is your name Pilarski?" I replied, yes. Then he asked, "Are you Polish?" Yep, I said proudly. His next words were, "See me on your break."

No slap on the wrist, nothing from Healy, unless you count being put on secret double probation and the demotion to the sole 50¢ game in the house for the next two months.

So to complete my answer to you, John, get a high-grade ironing board and a watchful roommate willing to spend more than four hours tutoring you.

=====

Gambling quote of the week: "Life is a gamble, like crossing the road. One day chicken, next day feathers." —Unknown



Sudoku Puzzle April 17, 2026

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

Solution on page 15



Forest To Fork Ticket Sales Started April 6

Events highlight spring culinary creations

Traverse City, Mich. — From the first foraging harvest to carefully crafted dishes that celebrate the culinary creativity of the region, the inaugural Forest to Fork: A Springtime Gathering will take place next month in the Traverse City region. Ticket sales for most of the events started April 6 at www.TraverseCity.com.

Forest to Fork events will be held at more than a dozen venues from May 14 to 17. Local chefs, farmers, artisans, and hosts have designed a series of activities that shed light on springtime foods and pairings. Events include foraging excursions, vineyard walks, cooking classes, intimate dinners featuring spring ingredients, and seasonal beverage pairings.

"This is a tribute to the connection between the land, our culinary culture, and the community," said Traverse City Tourism Chief Operating Officer, Whitney Waara. "In the springtime, with the longer days and the flora waking up around us, the flavors are vibrant and alive. We are excited to bring people together to enjoy some of the unique wild and cultivated foods growing around the region."

A few of the events include, "Foraging and Found: A Wild Food Dinner Experience," Vines and Forest Finds," "An Edible Container Garden Demonstration," and "Morels in Season: An Old World, New World Wine Tasting."

One event will include a sneak peek behind the newest vineyard in Leelanau County, Bohemian

Cellars, which is scheduled to open later this year. The small-group experience will include exploring nearby woods to uncover mushrooms.

"There's nothing like the experience of foraging for the freshest ingredients and tasting them moments later. We have an incredible bounty growing here and experts who know how to bring the flavors and textures together perfectly," Waara added.

Forest to Fork is created as part of Traverse City Food & Wine, a five-day culinary festival scheduled this year for August 19 – 23. Details of the August event will be announced soon. Traverse City Food & Wine is produced by Traverse City Tourism and presented by 4Front Credit Union.

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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

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

= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

Understanding the Seasons of Life Part 2

In the last article, I spoke of the importance of knowing what season the different areas of our lives are in. In this article, we will be looking at ways to reduce our resistance to these seasons and how to create alignment within ourselves, because once you know what the season is, the next question is: What do I do with it?

Most people don't suffer from the seasons of their lives because of the season itself. We suffer because we fight it like it is a war taking place in our hearts and heads. Our mental health actually improves when our behavior and mindset matches and aligns with the seasons we find ourselves in.

Here's a simple clinical truth: When we understand that each season of life has different expectations, energy levels and aligned goals, we can see that the goal is not consistency, as we are told by self-help gurus. It's alignment.

The important part in understanding how we approach each season is to:

1. Identify the Season and
2. Align with the Season.

Here are some examples:

- **Spring (Growth)**
 - Lean Into: Trying new things, setting goals and building habits.
 - Look Out For: Overcommitting and impulsivity
- **Summer (Stability/Productivity)**
 - Lean Into: Execution of goals, being consistent and strengthening systems and habits
 - Look Out For: Ignoring our limits and over-identifying with being productive
- **Fall (Transitioning/Letting Go)**
 - Lean Into: Reflection, pruning our commitments and difficult decisions
 - Look Out For: Avoidance and clinging to what no longer fits you
- **Winter (Recovery/Survival)**
 - Lean Into: Rest, healing, reduced expectations and basic routines of life
 - Look Out For: Isolating that turns into disconnection and loss of supportive/healthy structures in our lives

For example, if you are in a fall season of letting go of what no longer works for you, you might not do very well to maintain what was started in the inspiration of spring. The summer energy needs to make way for the letting-go energy of the fall. Trying to force this to be different reduces our ability to align with the season.

Our symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression are amplified when we resist the energy of the season we find ourselves in. We can't fix a season, but we can learn to cooperate with it. This is another way we win at life.

Next issue we will look at how we can move through the seasons without getting stuck.

-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECP

=====

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.



TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY
KINGSLEY BRANCH LIBRARY

Everyone Has a Story: Storytelling Community Circle

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

Together, we'll listen, laugh, reflect, and connect with neighbors through the power of spontaneous storytelling. Participants are welcome to speak for up to 5 minutes, or simply come to enjoy the stories and sense of community.

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

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

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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

COMMUNITY

Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce & Elk Rapids Schools partner to host Community Job Fair and Career Opportunities event

Elk Rapids, MI --- April 13 — The Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Elk Rapids Schools, is pleased to announce a comprehensive Job Fair & Career Opportunities Event taking place on Friday, May 1, 2026, at the Elk Rapids Schools Athletic Complex from 11:30 to 4:00pm which is completely free of charge.

This collaborative initiative is designed to strengthen the local workforce, support regional economic growth, and connect area businesses with motivated individuals seeking employment. The event will provide valuable opportunities for students, residents, and job seekers of all experience levels—from those looking for summer employment to individuals pursuing long-term careers or considering a professional transition.

A diverse range of employers from across Northern Michigan will be in attendance, representing industries such as aviation maintenance, skilled trades including plumbing and electrical, construction and building services, hospitality and restaurant operations, retail, and more. Participating businesses will be available to discuss current openings, future workforce needs, and career pathways within their organizations.

“This event is about creating meaningful connections between our business community and the people who live here,” said Jean Derenzy, Executive Director of the Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce. “By partnering

with Elk Rapids Schools, we are not only supporting our employers, but also helping students and community members explore career options, understand workforce needs, and discover opportunities they may not have previously considered.”

“We are excited to partner with the Chamber to bring real-world career exposure directly to our students and community,” said Bryan McKenna, Superintendent of the Elk Rapids Schools. “Providing opportunities like this allows students to see the wide range of career paths available right here in Northern Michigan and helps them make informed decisions about their future.”

In addition to offering direct access to employers, the event aims to highlight the breadth of career opportunities available locally, reinforcing the importance of workforce development and community engagement. Attendees will have the chance to learn about training requirements, growth potential, and the skills needed to succeed in a variety of fields.

Businesses are encouraged to participate whether they are actively hiring or simply looking to build awareness of their industry and future opportunities. This event serves as a platform to showcase career paths, promote organizational visibility, and engage with the next generation of the workforce.

Community members are encouraged to

attend prepared to engage with employers, ask questions, and explore a wide range of employment possibilities in a welcoming and informative environment.

For more information or to inquire about business participation, please contact the Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce at 231-264-8202.



Special Thank You to Meadow Brook for Co-hosting

Bellaire Conservation Club's 48th Annual **Kids Fish Day!**

Saturday, April 25, 2026
Meadow Brook Pond, Bellaire

**Free Trout Fishing
for Kids!** 9am - 2 pm
Awards at 2:30

*Kids must use the free bait that will be provided
Fishing poles will be available
Ages 14 and under*



Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors

Alden State Bank ~ B.C. Pizza ~ Bellaire Hardware
Bellaire Centennial Golf Club ~ Debbi Stevens & Corey Arsnoe
Bellaire & Elk Rapids Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

Kalamazoo College Singers FREE CONCERT Apr. 25 at 4:00pm

HOPE FOR TOMORROW



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SAT. APR 25, 4:00PM

CHURCH IN THE HILLS

6401 SHANTY CREEK RD, BELLAIRE, MI

FREE CONCERT W/ FREE WILL DONATION TAKEN

O&A - continued from page 3

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

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

Miscellaneous

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

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

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

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

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

Stroke Recovery Group, Antrim County COA/Sr Meal Site, 308 E. Cayuga, Bellaire, must register prior to each session, please call 231 533-8703
When: 3rd Mon, 3:00 to 4:00 pm

Tech Tuesdays with Gabe, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St, contact 231 533-8814
When: Tue, 11 am to 3 pm

Kalkaska County Breastfeeding Support Group, Blue Fish Early Learning Center, 405 E. Dresden St, contact District Health Department 10 at 231 258-8669
When: 1st & 3rd Tue, 10:00 to 11:00 am

Kalkaska Baby Pantry, Kalkaska Church of Christ, 1725 W Kalkaska Rd, Clothing, diapers, wipes available (donations of such are accepted), serving children to size 4T, contact 231 258-9441
When: 2nd & 4th Tue, 9:30 am to 1 pm.

Girlfriends Social Hour, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, grab a friend and enjoy a coffee or juice, and time with other ladies, senior and nearly senior women are welcome, contact 231 258-5030
When: Wed 10 am

Tech Tuesdays with Gabe! Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St, 231 533-8814
When: Wed, 11 am to 3 pm

Spanish Speaking Cohort, Bellaire Public Library, 111 s. Bridge St, 231-533-8814
When: Wed, 4 pm

Thursday Tech Help 1-on-1 Kalkaska County Library, 247 S. Cedar St, If you need some help setting up your new phone or laptop, troubleshooting tech problems, or just want to learn more about using the internet safely, then contact us to get 30 minutes of personalized support from our tech services librarian! Contact (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org to sign up!
When: Thu, 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Everyone Has a Story, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson Ave, join with the library and the Kingsley Folk School for a storytelling community circle, you are welcome to share your personal stories with others to create connections in our community, 231 263-5484
When: 2nd Thur, 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Antrim County Baby Pantry, St. Anthony's Church, 209 Jefferson Ave, Mancelona, providing food, clothing, diapers, and other items for children from birth until their 6th birthday (donations accepted), masks optional, one shopper per family and children are welcome but must remain with their parent, new families, please arrive by 2 pm for paperwork and bring valid ID, 231 492-7426
When: 2nd & 4th Thu, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

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

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

Rock n' Jam, The Rock of Kingsley, local musicians are welcome to come jam and the public is welcome to come listen, tap their toes, dance, contact 231 263-7000
When: 2nd Sat, (through Oct) 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Simply Delicious with Chef Tom, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson Ave, a quick and inspiring cooking class, learning tips and techniques while exploring global cuisine and spices, contact 231 263-5484
When: Last Saturday of the month, 10 - 11 am

Veterans/Active Duty

MWR (Morale, Welfare, & Recreation), Belay My Last Barracks, 5210 E. Boardman Rd, South Boardman, veterans are welcome to hang out and enjoy a meal, use the rec room, gym, or theater, peer support specialist is also available, contact 231 631-5372
When: Mondays, 6:30 pm

Kalkaska VFW Land-O-Lakes Post 8684, VFW Post 408 Hyde St, Quartermaster: Joe Graff, Commander: Luke TenHopen
When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm

Mancelona American Legion Post #0264, 9850 S. Front St, Commander: Benjamin Zerod, Adjutant: Tamara Hunt
When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm

Antrim County Veteran Coffee Talks, 118 Bridge St, Elk Rapids, contact 231 533-8499
When: 3rd Mon, 9 am

Vets Coffee Time, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, free coffee and donuts, hosted by American Legion Post #480, contact Darel at 231 258-9445
When: 2nd Wed, 9:00 to 11:00 am

American Legion Post 219, 10283 M-186, Fife Lake, Commander: Cameron Wojoie, Adjutant: Craig Heckert, contact 231 879-4475
When: 2nd Wed, 6:30 pm

Coffee Talk for Veterans, M88 Morning Grind, presented by Antrim Co Veterans Affairs, contact 231 533-8499
When: 3rd Wed, 8:30 am

South Boardman American Legion #463 and Auxiliary Meeting, South Boardman Legion Hall, 5479 Boardman Rd (at the tank), South Boardman, Commander: Lindarae Radtke, Adjutant: Elwin Hall, contact 231 369-2944
When: 1st Thu, 6:00 pm

Kalkaska American Legion Post 0480, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S Coral St. Commander: Jim Brown, Adjutant: Stephen Bloomfield, contact 231 384-0762
When: 3rd Thu, 1:00 pm

M88 Monthly Muster, M-88 Morning Grind, 614 Cayuga St, Bellaire, coffee talk for Antrim County Veterans and their families to connect and share in much needed military camaraderie, contact 231 632-9155
When: 1st Sunday, 12:00 pm

BOOK CLUBS

The Bookies Book Club, at host's home, contact 231 879-4101 or flpl@tadl.org for location and details
When: 3rd Tue, 7:00 pm

The Last Tuesday Book Group- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8814
When: last Tue, 1:00 pm

Monthly Book Club, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, new book each month to be announced at previous meeting or contact 231 258-5030 for info
When: 2nd Wed, 1:00 [m

The Page Turners Book Club- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, registration appreciated, contact 231 533-8814
When: 2nd Wed, 7:00 pm

Kingsley Afternoon Book Club- Kingsley Branch Library, 213 Brownson Ave, Kingsley, does not meet in Dec, June, July, or Aug, contact 231 263-5484
When: 4th Wed, 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Fife Lake Library Book Club-Take 2, Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, 231 879-4101
When: 4th Wed, 2:30 pm

Mindfulness Book Club- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8814
When: last Wed, 4:00 pm

Nature Book Club, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, led by members of the Antrim Conservation District, contact 231 533-8814
When: 1st Thu, 9:30 am

Books 'n Brie Book Club, Presented by Alden District Library, Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, enjoy snacks and beverages while discussing the month's book, free of charge, sponsored by the Alden District Library, contact 231 331-4318
When: 2nd Thu, 3:30 pm

T.T. Nooners Book Club, Kalkaska County Library, 247 S. Cedar St, 231 258-9411
When: 3rd Thu, 12 to 1 pm

Teen Book Club - at the Kalkaska County Library. Teens ages 14-18 are welcome to join us to read and discuss books with friends. Snacks will be provided! Contact (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more info.
When: 3rd Thu, 3:30pm

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

Organization Meetings

Kalkaska Democrats, contact Gary at 231 590-3397 for current meeting location
When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm

Kingsley Friends of the Library, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson, Kingsley, open for ages 0-5 years, contact 231 263-5484
When: 3rd Mon, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Kalkaska Conservation District Board of Directors, District Office, 406 S. Cedar St, Suite A, Kalkaska, contact Mark, 231 258-3307
When: 3rd Mon, 5:00 pm

National Trout Festival, Trout Town Tavern & Eatery, 306 Elm St, 231 384-1509
When: 4th Mon, 5:30 pm

Kalkaska Republicans, Kalkaska COA/Senior Center, 303 S. Coral St
When: Last Mon., 7:00 pm

Kalkaska Kiwanis Meeting, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St
When: 2nd and 4th Tue, 12:00 pm

Friends of the Central Lake District Library, Central Lake District Library, Conference Room, 7900 Maple St, contact 231 544-1144
When: 3rd Tue, 10:00 to 11:00 am

Friends of the Kalkaska County Library, Kalkaska County Library 247 S. Cedar St, downstairs
When: 4th Tue 4:00 pm

Fife Lake Area Genealogy Society, Fife Lake Public Library. Everyone is welcome.. Any questions, please contact Linda Forwerck at 231-631-1750 or Chris Reamer at 231-263-7656.
When: 1st Wed, 10 am.

Friends of the Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, contact Denise, 734 444-2484
When: 2nd Wed., 11:00 am

Chain of Lakes Genealogy Club, Central Lake Library, 7900 Maple St, 231 544-2517
When: 3rd Wed, 6:00 pm

BIGG (Genealogy Group), Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8814
When: 1st Thu., 10:30 am

South Boardman American Legion #463 and Auxiliary Meeting, South Boardman Legion Hall, 5487 Boardman Rd (at the tank), South Boardman, contact 231 369-2944
When: 1st Thur., 6:00 pm

Knights of Columbus, St Joseph the Worker Council #7419, St Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, 438 Co Rd 612 NE, Kalkaska, contact Dave at 231 587-4328
When: 1st Thu, 7 pm

Friends of the Alden District Library, Helena Township Community Center, 8752 Helena Rd, Alden, 231 331-4318
When: 3rd Thu, 9:30 am social time, 10:00 am meeting

Alden Men's Club, Alden United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 9015 Helena Rd, Alden. Come see what we are all about, "Helping others in need," contact 603 540-3581 or visit www.aldenmensclub.org
When: last Saturday of the month , 8:00 am (except July and November), no meeting in December.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Alden United Methodist Church, 9015 Helena Rd, Alden
When: Sun, 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Central Lake VFW Hall, 1805 S. Main St, Central Lake
When: Sun, 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Sportsmens Club, 6095 Garfield Rd, Kingsley
When: Sun, Tue, 8:00 pm (Sun only May-Sept Mayfield Pond Park)

Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Living in Harmony, United Methodist Church, 2525 Beebe Rd, Kalkaska
When: Mon, 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Fife Lake Methodist Church, 206 Boyd St,
When: Mon, 8:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Hope Lutheran Church, 2680 S. M-88, Bellaire
When: Mon, 8:00 pm

O&A - continues on page 13

REFLECTION

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

So is he

April 17, 2026

Proverbs 23:7 As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.

Every so often a thought just socks me right in the stomach and knocks the wind out of me. This verse from Proverbs hit me hard this week. The context of the verse has to do with why it is not wise to accept food or drink from a miserly man, because although he may say "eat" or "drink," he is actually thinking about how much it costs him to give you food and drink.

I get that. I know how it feels to be reminded of exactly how much something bought for me costs. It sends the message "you are a burden to me." And that message is painful.

But, what about the other part of that verse? The part about being what we think, or having the character of our thoughts? Now, mostly, I am a "glass half-full" person. I generally look for and find the good in people and situations. But, not always.

If I have previously had a bad experience with someone, I will likely find myself expecting more of the same. It is not easy to simply let go of the earlier difficulty and give the person the benefit of the doubt. That's not altogether a bad thing. It does make sense to protect myself

against a repeat of bad treatment. But I don't want to become a suspicious or cynical person. So, how does one find the right balance?

I know I am not the only one who has ever had disturbing experiences with people I care about – family members and close friends. I'll bet I'm not the only one who has carried on make-believe conversations with those dear ones, laying out why I am distressed and counseling them on better behavior. And I'll also wager I'm not alone in feeling a bit guilty about carrying a grudge around and ruminating on it long enough for it to become a sort of shadow armor – protecting me from anticipated future affronts.

That's the part of this verse in Proverbs that hit me hard. I do not want to be a suspicious, cynical, or bitter person. I want to see the smiles on the faces of my loved ones and trust in their sincerity. If my husband brings home a dozen roses, I want to see that as an act of love; I don't want to think he has done something awful and needs forgiveness. As someone, much wiser than I, told me many years ago, it is not the stimulus that is the issue, the problem lies in the value I attribute to the stimulus. So, does he love me, or is he atoning for something? I choose to believe he loves me. For

as I think in my heart, so am I. At least, that's what Proverbs 23:7 tells me.

I am not absolutely certain of how to strike a proper balance between trust and doubt. But I am certain that such a balance is essential for good emotional and mental health. The reason that verse hit me hard is that there are some people in my world whose behavior has led me to put up a protective wall of doubt.

Is it reasonable to guard myself from injury by the actions of another? Yes. However, it is not reasonable for me to allow the bad behavior of others to control my life. I have agency to choose how I think in my heart and thus to be. And I want to be that person who sees the glass as half-full and sees the sunshine emerging through the clouds. I want to self-confidently sidestep the slights of others – intended or not – and disregard them.

Most of the time, that's already who I am. But not always, and that's the part of me I want to improve. I'm working on it.

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 grant rights?
- 2) Does the Constitution list all rights?
- 3) Is the power of the United States government limited by the Constitution?
- 4) Are powers granted to the United States government by the Constitution?



Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue's questions

1) Does the Constitution specify who is a citizen of the United States?
A. Yes, Amendment XIV, Section 1, Clause 1 states: All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.

2) Does the Constitution restrict who is eligible to become President of the United States?
A. Yes, Article II, Section 1, Paragraph 4, lists the basic eligibility requirements for becoming President, starting with: No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President.

3) Why is there a reference to being a citizen at the time of adoption of the Constitution?
A. Because the Constitution created a new nation and all persons there were born before the nation existed. Therefore, there could not yet be any "natural born" citizens.

4) What is the definition of a natural born citizen?
A. A natural-born citizen refers to someone who was a U.S. citizen at birth, and did not need to go through a naturalization proceeding later in life (8USC, §1101 Definitions).

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



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

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: 2nd and 4th Wed, 10:30 am

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

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

S-Anon Support Group - Calvary Lutheran Church, 10180 Elk Lake Rd, Elk Rapids. For 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



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Kalkaska Veterans Affairs grant award

The Kalkaska County Department of Veterans Affairs was recently awarded a Grant from the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation in the amount of \$2,000.00. These Grant funds will be used for various Veteran outreach programs including the Kalkaska Farmers Market Vouchers for Veterans program, in partnership with the Kalkaska Conservation District. This voucher program encourages healthy eating habits, addresses food insecurity, and can provide our Veterans with plants and produce to be grown in their own gardens.

The Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation stewards community assets for

lasting impact by investing in the people and places of Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau Counties as well as the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, a federally recognized tribe. Established in 1992, the Community Foundation works to support healthy, resilient, thriving communities for all across the region by serving donor partners, awarding meaningful grants and scholarships, and

participating in collaborative leadership efforts on important community issues. For more information, please visit GTRCF.org.

Article submitted by Melanie Pauch



Grand Traverse Regional
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

AWAKENING: The Magic of Spring in Northern Lower Michigan's

By Dominic Fortuna

As the last wisps of winter's chill dissipate, the forests of northern Lower Michigan stir from their slumber. The trees, those towering giants that dominate our landscape, stretch their branches and shake off the remnants of snow. It's a time of renewal, of rebirth, and of vibrant green life bursting forth from the earth.

I stood in the woods, breathing in the scent of damp earth and decaying leaves, and watched as a Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) unfurled its leaves. The process was almost imperceptible, a slow-motion explosion of green that seemed to pulse with life. The bud scales, which had protected the delicate tissues inside, cracked open like tiny doors, releasing the tender shoots within. As I watched, the leaves unfolded, their veins etched like a map of the forest's own circulatory system.

This is the magic of spring, a time when the very fabric of the forest seems to shimmer and come alive. And it's not just the deciduous trees, the

maples and oaks and birches, that are awakening. The conifers, those evergreen stalwarts, are also stirring, their needles pushing out tiny, bright green shoots from the tips of their branches.

The science behind this transformation is fascinating. As temperatures rise, the trees' internal clock begins to tick, triggering a surge of hormones that awake the dormant tissues. The sap, which has been static for months, starts to flow, carrying nutrients and sugars to the buds. It's a process that's both familiar and mysterious, like watching a friend emerge from a long slumber.

Dr. Jane Smith, a forest ecologist at the University of Michigan, calls it "a big orchestra, with each species responding to the same cues – temperature, daylight, moisture – but playing its own unique melody." She's been studying the phenology of spring, the intricate dance of growth and development that unfolds in the forest each year.

As I walked through the woods, I noticed the different species were at different stages of awakening. The Sugar Maples were further along,

their leaves already unfurled, while the Red Maples (*Acer rubrum*) were still in the process of budbreak. The Eastern White Pines (*Pinus strobus*) were candling, their new growth pushing out like tiny candles on a Christmas tree.

The weather, of course, plays a crucial role in this spring awakening. A warm, wet spring can lead to explosive growth, while a cold, dry one can slow things down. But even in the driest of years, the forest finds a way to thrive, the trees drawing on their deep reserves of energy to push forth new life.

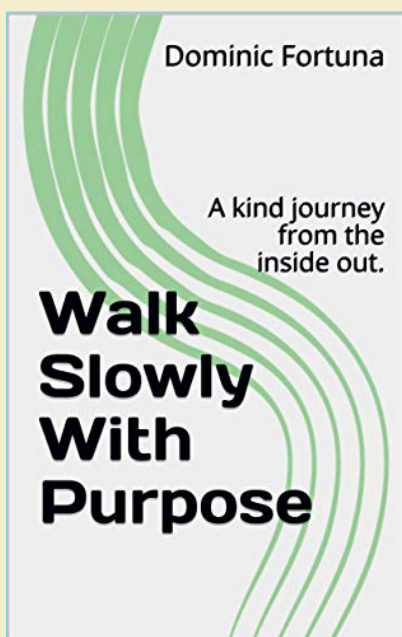
As the days lengthen and the sun shines brighter, the trees of northern Lower Michigan burst forth in a riot of green. It's a testament to the power of life, to the resilience of the natural world, and to the magic of spring's arrival. So take a walk in the woods, breathe in the sweet scent of sap and new life, and marvel at the miracle unfolding before your eyes.

The forest is awake, and it's a beautiful thing. So as you walk slowly with purpose through the month of April, remember April showers bring



Photo by Pascal Debrunner on Unsplash

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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

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

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

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

Village of Mancelona:
Village Offices, 120 W. State, Mancelona, 231 587-8331

When: 2nd Tue, 6:00 pm
Mancelona DDA, Antrim County Title, 504 S. Williams, Mancelona, 231 58-833

When: 2nd Mon, 5:30 pm
Mancelona Township:
Township Offices, 9610 S. M-88, Mancelona, 231 587-8651
When: 3rd Mon, 6:00 pm

Village of Fife Lake:
Village Hall, 616 Bates St, Fife Lake, 231 879-4291
Village Council- When: 3rd Mon, 6:30 pm
DDA-When: 3rd Tues, quarterly Jan, April, July, October, 6:00 pm

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

Village of Kingsley:
Village Offices, 207 S. Brownson, 231 263-7778
Village Council- When: 2nd Mon, 6:00 pm
DDA- When: 3rd Tue, 6:00 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bellaire
Applesauce Inn
Bellaire Public Library

Central Lake
Central Lake District Library
Mary's Market

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

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

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

Kingsley
Kingsley Branch Library
Kingsley Village Offices

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

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

South Boardman
Yankee Boy

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

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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 17, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

Celebration, Coffee, and Community!

By Tina Norris Fields

Rapid City, Michigan – What’s more fun than a birthday? Well, maybe a birthday surprise. Maybe especially if it’s one of those significant birthdays – like say 95! Rapid City belle, Bea Berry celebrates her 95th birthday this week - Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Friends wanted to find a way to just let her know how cherished she is, without tipping her off ahead of time. You know, so it could be a surprise. How about getting a bunch of us to be at the coffee gathering that Molly Vanzandt provides every Tuesday morning at Rapid City’s Little Red Schoolhouse? Great idea! She’ll generally be there anyway, so it won’t feel out of place for one of her friends to call her up and set up a time to meet for coffee.

Right! We got it planned out perfectly. Becky Redman would call her and say “Hey, meet me for coffee at 9.” Others planned to be there and surprise Bea with birthday greetings. Well, we all know how perfect plans work out. We walked in to the coffee only to learn that Bea had been there to bring her famous banana bread to share and had already let -just before we walked in. So, somebody had to go out looking for her to get her to come back and have coffee. Becky Norris drew that assignment, going first to Bea’s home, but not finding her there. Oh, somebody remembered, she said she needed groceries. So, Becky went next to the Dollar General, then to Village Market, where she found Bea, and persuaded her to come back for coffee. Yes, we surprised her with a rousing rendition of “Happy Birthday” with everybody joining in.

Two other lovely ladies there cheered her on as she had now caught up with them. We just had to get a photo of the three nonagenarians, Della Vaillancourt, Jeanne Newman, and Bea Berry.

This is a serendipitous moment to tell you about the Tuesday morning coffee at Rapid City’s Little Red Schoolhouse. Molly Vanzandt and Sarah Drinkwine provide a lovely, welcoming, local *Kaffee Klatch* every Tuesday from 7 am to noon, as part of the North Light Ministries’ community outreach. There are several flavors of coffee offered, with specialties available upon request. Community members often bring snacks in to share with everyone. There is no charge, although donations are joyfully accepted. If you haven’t ever been there, consider giving it a try one of these Tuesday mornings. It will be a bright spot in your day.



Recovered from her surprise, Bea enjoys coffee and a chat.



Welcomed into the 95-year sisterhood:
L-R: Della Vaillancourt, Jeanne Newman, Bea Berry



Coffee carafes lined up with a variety of flavors.



Molly Vanzandt (L) and Sarah Drinkwine (R) the welcoming hostesses of Tuesday morning coffee.



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