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~ C.S. Lewis

Vol2026:  
May 1, 2026

## Kalkaska Citizen and Business of the Year

By Tina Norris Fields

Kalkaska – It’s not every day that the good things in our community get acknowledged and celebrated. So, when the opportunity comes along to attend the annual celebration of Kalkaska’s Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year, I jump at it. Hosted since 2019 by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, and housed in Kalkaska’s Railroad Square Pavilion, this luncheon event is a refreshing change from the gloom and doom that so often seems to cloud our mental skies.

This year’s festivities were on Tuesday, April 21. The luncheon was prepared by the Twin Birch Golf Club Restaurant and served smoothly and seamlessly. The program was neatly organized and stayed on schedule. The sponsors were all properly thanked for their support. But, what made it wonderful was why we all were there.

We came to hear about the ways the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation is working to lift up the people of the five counties it serves (Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau), and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

We came to learn how our hospital, Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, has matured into a top-notch facility, providing the lifesaving and affirming care needed every day. The nearest other hospital is about 35 miles away. So, we are absolutely blessed to have KMHC right here to take the immediate action needed to provide the best outcomes, especially when time is of the essence. Three of my family members have been well cared for by KMHC in the past couple of years, and I am deeply grateful.

We came to thank Kim Cotton for being the kind of science teacher everybody wishes they had when they were in high school.

We came to cheer on Leah Cox whose inspiration led to the delightful Sunday Morning Flowers shop that has grown into a true community treasure.

And we came to hear how the young people of our high school are serving in the Youth Advisor Council, helping to decide on grants to benefit our community.

When it was over, I know I wasn’t the only one who left feeling lighter, prouder, and more ready to take on whatever the challenges of the day might be.



L-R: 2026 Kalkaska Citizen of the Year, Kimberly Cotton, Miss Kalkaska 2026 Caylee Carr, and the 2026 Kalkaska Business of the Year owner, Leah Cox.



L-R: Rob Carson (AICP Community Development Regional Director of Networks Northwest), Alison Metiva (President & CEO of the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation), and Andrew Raymond (CEO of Kalkaska Memorial Health Center)



The Kalkaska YAC members.

L-R: Jaylea Erickson, Dixon Guggemos, Anna Martin, Coltrane Paryani (also a Community Foundation Board Director), Abigail Minion, Tré Bromley, Caylee Carr (also Miss Kalkaska 2026), Xavier Simpson, and Marissa Manchester.



The Kitchen Crew from Twin Birch Golf Club and Restaurant

# OUT & ABOUT

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

## SENIOR & COMMUNITY MEALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FARMERS' MARKET

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

## FOOD PANTRIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Fitness Over Fifty**, Fife Lake Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, contact to register 231 922-491  
**When: Tue, Thu, 10:30 to 11:30 am**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BINGO, CARDS & BOARD GAMES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**When: Tue, 1 pm**

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

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

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

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

**199er Bridge Game & Free Lessons:** Free lessons at 11:30am. Lunch (bring your own) and bridge talk at Noon. ACBL-sanctioned bridge game for \$5.00 at 12:30pm. For more details, contact Lou Slyker at 248-770-6152 or [ljslyker@gmail.com](mailto:ljslyker@gmail.com). Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

**When: Wed 11:30 am except 3rd Wed each month and July 29 -(May 6 - Oct 28)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**When: Wed, 6 pm**

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

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

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

**When: Thu, 1 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**When: Sat, 6 pm**

## Crafts & Hobbies

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

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

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

**When: Mon, 6 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**When: Thu 10 to noon**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Children's Activities

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

**When: 1st Mon 10 am**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**When: Fri 10:30 am**

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

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

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

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

O&A - continues on page 11



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**231 - 258 - 5395**

508 N. Birch Street, Kalkaska

# OBITUARIES

## Ronald Max Davis

July 14, 1932 ~ April 20, 2026

Ronald Max Davis passed away peacefully on April 20th, 2026, in Bellaire, MI. He was born on July 14th, 1932, to Clarence and Alice (Metz) Davis in Clarksburg, WV. At ten years old the family moved to Detroit, where he'd meet his lifelong friend, Don Miller. He went on to meet the love of his life Emma Jean (Walker) Davis there as well. Marrying her, and spending the next 74 loving years together.



searching out the best hot dogs, giving golf cart rides, and berry picking around the property.

Ronald had a generous heart and was always willing to help family, neighbors, his coworkers, and many charitable causes. He continued golfing until the age of 90 and could often be found relaxing in his barn, enjoying a beer and a cigar.

Above all, Ronald was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He adored spending time with his children and grandchildren. Ronald is survived by his wife; Emma Jean Davis, and his children; Deborah (Greg), Sandra (Robert), and Ron; his siblings Ed (Sharon), and Norma (Lou); grandsons Todd (Amber), Corey, Kyle, Joel, Darrick, Bobby (Chloe), Jessie, and Joseph; great-grandchildren Connor, Samantha, Miles, Alexis, Brianna, Evan, Elijah, Mable, Owen, Axl, Ethan, and Scarlett; as well as many other cousins, nieces, nephews, and close friends. Ronald was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Alice Davis. A celebration of life will be announced with a date and time to be determined. "May the Lord bless you with a straight drive, a soft landing, and a final putt that drops. Rest in Peace." Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Ronald enjoyed a long and successful career in the trades, working in sheet metal. He was a proud member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 292, where he served as Vice President. During his years of service, he negotiated contracts, organized golf outings, and helped raise money for Dads for Diabetes. Ronald was also a graduate of Wayne State University's School of Labor Law.

He was a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, the Northern Michigan Antique Flywheelers Club, and was a Freemason.

Ronald's love of hunting, boating, and golf brought him to Kalkaska, where he purchased a cabin and 40 acres of wooded property in 1961. He spent 32 years living between Kalkaska and Florida during the winter months.

A true family man, Ronald especially cherished time spent with his grandsons. He loved taking them to McDonald's,

## Douglas Dale Waldie

October 25, 1950 ~ April 16, 2026

Douglas Dale Waldie, age 65, passed away on April 16, 2026, at his home on Elk Lake in Rapid City, Michigan. Doug passed away peacefully, surrounded by family. He chose to spend his final days where he felt most at peace — at home with the people he loved most.



He was deeply grateful for the prayers, kind words, and support from family and friends near and far. Even in his final days, Doug's focus never wavered — his family came first.

Doug was born on October 25, 1960, in Bay City, Michigan, to the late Darwin and Elaine (Foco) Waldie. He was the third of four boys and grew up in a lively household filled with energy and mischief, resulting in a lifelong bond with his brothers. He was a standout athlete, excelling in football, basketball, and track, earning several awards and trophies.

He graduated from Bay City Western High School in 1978 and went on to attend Grand Valley State University on a full football scholarship, graduating in 1982 while obtaining a bachelor's degree in computer science. Later in life, he earned a master's degree in organizational leadership from Lourdes University.

Doug spent his career in leadership roles built on hard work, determination, and respect for others. He retired from UPS as a manager after a 20-year career, worked for Lourdes University, and later served as an owner and CEO of Crum Manufacturing in Waterville, Ohio, for 16 years. There, he had the unique opportunity to work alongside his wife, Debbie, as a co-owner, and with all his children in various capacities, something that brought him great pride.

On September 13, 1997, Doug married Deborah Crum, the love of his life and his partner in every sense. Sharing a life of love, laughter, and adventure, it was apparent they were meant for one another. Together, they built a life centered around family, loyalty, trust, and being each other's best friend. Doug enjoyed nothing more than spending quality time with his wife — whether it was a sunset cruise on a warm summer evening, being snowed in due to a blizzard in Northern Michigan, or just taking their dogs for a walk through their property. Their journey was filled with precious memories, priceless teachings and much laughter.

Doug was a proud, devoted, and very present father. He coached all five of his children in sports and rarely missed a game, always supporting and encouraging them

in their endeavors. He had a unique relationship with each of his children, providing guidance and unwavering love. Doug especially cherished being a grandfather. His granddaughter, Maizy, brought him immense joy, and he looked forward to welcoming two more granddaughters later this year.

His impact extended well beyond his own family. Doug was a trusted mentor and a father figure to many of his children's friends. He was always ready to listen, offer advice, or lend a helping hand. Doug had a remarkable ability to make others feel welcomed, valued, and loved. With his strong presence, hearty laugh, and big warm hugs, he left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Doug had a deep love for the outdoors and found his greatest peace in Northern Michigan. He enjoyed boating, fishing/hunting, snowmobiling, and spending time on his property, where he was always working on projects. Alongside his wife, they created a special place for family and friends to gather for years to come. He was a devoted fan of the Michigan Wolverines and enjoyed cheering them on each season. Doug also had a great love for animals, and he will be deeply missed by his loyal dogs, Owen, Doogan, and Hope.

Doug was a man of strength, humility, and deep love for his family. His legacy lives on through the values he instilled in his family — integrity, honesty, hard work, and kindness — which will continue to guide future generations and the lives he touched. He lived a full and meaningful life and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He is now free...cruising on his boat off into the sunset.

Doug is survived by his beloved wife of 28 years, Deborah; his children, Aaron (Aby), Ryan, Collin, Evan, and Helen Bain (Blake); his granddaughter, Maizy, with two additional granddaughters arriving in May and August; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Helen and Ernest Crum. He is also survived by his brothers, Dean, Barry, and Brent (Sandy) Waldie; numerous nieces and nephews; and many close friends near and far.

In honoring Doug's wishes, a Celebration of Life will be held by his family at a later date. In lieu of flowers, any contributions in Doug's honor may be made to Potcake Place K9 Rescue, or Dirty Paws Agape Haven.

In honoring Doug's wishes, a Celebration of Life will be held by his family at a later date. In lieu of flowers, any contributions in Doug's honor may be made to Potcake Place K9 Rescue, or Dirty Paws Agape Haven.



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Kalkaska

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.

## Carol Mae Smith

January 21, 1937 ~ April 15, 2026

Carol Mae (Strand) Smith, 89, passed away peacefully on April 15, 2026, in Williamsburg, Michigan. Born on January 21, 1937, in Detroit, Michigan, Carol lived a life filled with love, dedication, and an enduring commitment to her family and faith.



Helen (Hilty) Strand; her sister Gail Olack; and her brother Charles Strand. She is survived by her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and leaves behind countless extended family members who will forever treasure their memories of her.

Carol earned her bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan in 1983, a testament to her determination and intellect. Her professional journey included roles as a telephone operator and gift wrapper in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She also worked at her father's company, C.A. Strand Co., in Detroit before becoming the co-owner of Hughes Electronics Products Corp in Livonia, Michigan. After retiring, Carol volunteered for many years at the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce in Elk Rapids, Michigan. Through these endeavors, Carol demonstrated a strong work ethic and a commitment to excellence.

Family was at the heart of Carol's life. She was the beloved wife of Rich for 68 years — a partnership built on love and devotion. Together, they raised four children: Richard Jr. (Vicki) Smith, Kurt Smith, Amandasue Butterfield, and Suzanne (Joseph) Moscynski. Carol cherished her role as a grandmother to Alicia, Jonathan, Jeramy, Jelana, Brianna, and Courtney; and as a great-grandmother to Braelyn, Izaiah, Onyka, Zoey, Mira, Kynzlie, Sophie, Liviana, Tristan, Korbyn, Wesson, Ayla, and Josie. She also held a special place in her heart for her sister-in-law, Joan Smith, and her goddaughter Pam (Rob) Thomas.

Carol was predeceased by her parents, Charles Strand Jr. and

A woman of deep faith and compassion, Carol was a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Her spirituality guided her throughout her life and inspired those around her.

One of Carol's greatest passions was researching her family history — a labor of love she pursued for decades. She meticulously gathered not only names and dates but also the stories that brought her ancestors to life. This dedication ensured that future generations would have a rich understanding of their heritage.

Carol will be remembered for her humor, compassion, and boundless love. She touched the lives of all who knew her as a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister-in-law, aunt, godmother, and friend. Her legacy is one of kindness and connection — a reminder to cherish the bonds we share with one another.

May Carol's memory bring comfort to all who mourn her passing. A memorial service will be held in Carol's honor on May 9th at 11:00 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2305 US 131 NE, Kalkaska. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

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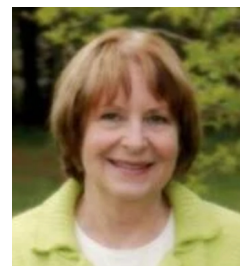
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## Sharon Kay Wegner

July 26, 1943 ~ April 16, 2026

Sharon Kay Wegner, 82, of Springfield Township, passed away on Thursday, April 16, 2026. She was born in Tawas City, Michigan, on July 26, 1943, to the late Eugene and Floybelle (Allen) Wegner. Sharon was a hardworking, talented, and fiercely independent woman. She raised her two sons and dedicated 37 years of service to General Motors in Flint. Later in life, she moved to a farmhouse in Clio where she enjoyed raising pygmy goats and Yorkies. Sharon was an excellent seamstress who often created beautiful quilts and blankets for those she loved. She enjoyed shopping and was always fashionable, classy, and well put



together. Above all, Sharon was loving, fun, and a joy to be around. Sharon will be lovingly remembered by her children Troy (Teresa) McIntyre and Greg (Sylvia) Szabo; her grandchildren: Ashley, Joshua, Maria, Abigail, and Callie; her great-grandchildren: Vivian, Emery, Jerek, Isabella, and Juliet; and her siblings Gloria Wegner and Michael Wegner. She was preceded in death by her parents and her grandson Zachary Szabo. A celebration of Sharon's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

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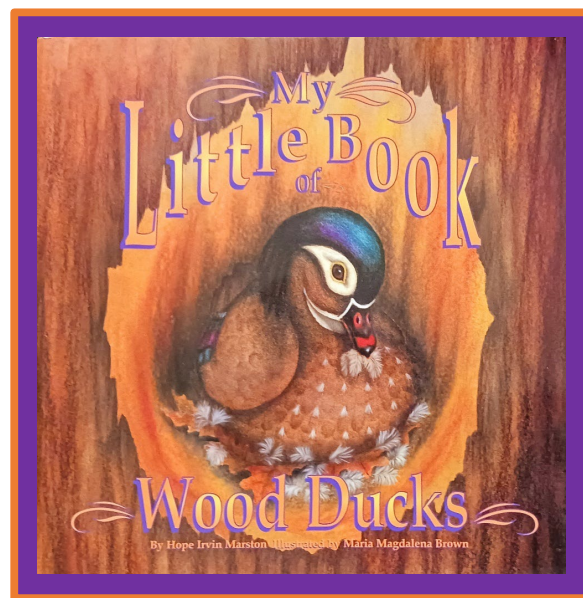
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## Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department Earns National Excellence Award as Hospital Celebrates 75 Years of Service

Frankfort, MI — For the fourth consecutive year, Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital (POMH) has been named a 2025 Human Experience (HX) Guardian of Excellence Award® winner by Press Ganey, the global leader in healthcare experience solutions and services. This distinction places POMH among the top 5% of hospitals nationwide for delivering exceptional patient experiences, and once again recognizes the outstanding care provided in its Emergency Department (ED).

This year's honor is especially meaningful as POMH celebrates its 75th anniversary and reflects on its legacy as Michigan's first Critical Access Hospital. For decades, the ED has served as a trusted lifeline for residents and visitors across Benzie County—often the first point of contact in moments of crisis. This recognition highlights not only clinical excellence, but also the compassion, teamwork, and personal connection that continue to define care at Paul Oliver.

"This award speaks to who we are as a team and what we value," said Kristi Johnson, Chief Nursing Officer for Munson Healthcare's South Region. "Our emergency department staff consistently shows up with empathy, skill, and an unwavering commitment to every person who walks through our doors. Their ability to deliver remarkable care in a rural setting demonstrates the very best of nursing and teamwork."

Designated as a Level IV Trauma Center, POMH's Emergency Department cares for approximately 6,000 patients each year. Behind every visit is a coordinated group of nurses, physicians, technicians, and support staff who work closely together to ensure timely, patient-centered care. Their focus on communication, safety, and compassion has strengthened year after year, reflected in consistently high patient experience ratings.

"What makes our department special is our people," said Jacob Ramseyer, DO, Medical Director of the POMH Emergency

Department. "Our team treats every patient like a neighbor—because most of the time, they are. We know this community, and the community trusts us. That relationship creates a level of care that is personal, responsive, and deeply meaningful. I'm incredibly proud of this team and the way they rise to every challenge."

As POMH celebrates this achievement, the ED team remains focused on continuous improvement and strengthening the experience of every patient who turns to them in a moment of need. This award reaffirms their dedication—and highlights a

commitment to compassion that extends far beyond clinical walls.

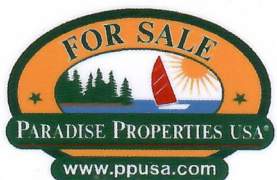
Press Ganey works with more than 41,000 healthcare facilities in its mission to reduce patient suffering and enhance caregiver resilience to improve the overall safety, quality, and patient experience. For additional details on the Press Ganey Human Experience Awards, visit 2025 Human Experience Award Recipients | Press Ganey.

To learn more about Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital, please visit [munsonhealthcare.org/POMH](http://munsonhealthcare.org/POMH).

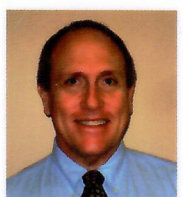


From left: Peter Marinoff, President and CEO - South Region; Jessica Hoffman, Nurse Manager; Colleen Green, CENA; Jacob Ramseyer, DO - POMH ED Medical Director; Margaret Gillen, RN; Lauren Corwin, RN; Brian McComb, DO - CMO South Region; and Kristi Johnson, CNO - South Region.

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## MAY 2026

May 1 – 29, Jaw Harp Display: Come visit Alden District Library and see Dave Varga's collection of Jaw Harps. The display can be viewed during normal library hours. The library is located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318. Free Event.

May 1 – 30, StoryWalk®: Round up the family and head out to Coy Mountain, located at 9011 Valley St. in Alden, to enjoy a romp in the woods and reading a good book along the way. A new story will be placed each month and covers about a 1/2-mile portion of the trail. The storybook for the month of May is "My Little Book of Wood Ducks" by Hope Irvin Marston.

May 3, 2 pm, Mardi Jo Link, award winning author, presents "Writing & Investigating: How the Two Come Together." Crime has always captured our imaginations, whether in non-fiction books or mass media. But how do these true stories come together? Where do crime writers get their ideas? Step into the research and writing process with NYT bestselling author and award-winning newspaper reporter Mardi Jo Link, as she shares some of her behind-the-scenes discoveries. Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and Friends. Held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

May 5, 7 pm, One Room Schools of Antrim County. Join us for a Visual Presentation by Bob Holtzmann from the Bellaire Area Historical Museum and Antrim County Historical Society files of one room schools. Located at the Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For info call 231-533-8814.

May 7, 3:00 – 4:30 pm, History Hounds: From Cadillac to Traverse City, the Historic Old Indian Trail. Learn about the history of the centuries old trail and its new guide map. History Hounds is presented by the Historical Society of Michigan hosted by the Bellaire Area Historical Society at the Bellaire Public Library. There will be refreshments and time for discussion afterwards. Each video is about an hour long. Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call 231-533-8814.

May 9, 10 am, Story Time with Miss Linda. Miss Linda will be reading stories with a Teddy Bear theme and having a Teddy Bear Picnic with the kids, so make sure to bring your Teddy Bear or favorite stuffed animal. This program will be held in the library located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

May 9, 10:30 – 11:30 am, Second Saturday Story Hour. Join us at the Bellaire Public Library on the Second Saturday of the month for Second Saturday Story Hour. We read stories, do a craft, and have a snack together. Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call 231-533-8814.

May 11 – 22, Friends of the Library Silent Art Auction: Visit the Kalkaska County Library to view a silent art auction! Featuring biddable lots of donated pieces made by local artists and artisans right here in Kalkaska County. Works to bid on may include water colors, oil paints, acrylics, stained glass, wood carving, quilts, photography, jewelry, needle art, gift baskets, and more! Bidding ends on Friday, May 22nd at 3:00pm. All proceeds to benefit the New Library Building Fund. Kalkaska County Library. Contact (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.

May 12, 6 pm, Antrim Photography Workshop – Northern Lights. Vincent Ledvina "The Aurora Guy" is presenting this virtual workshop on meet.google.com. He will discuss the best camera settings to capture the Northern Lights, as well as the post processing of your photos. RSVP with Lisa at 231-313-8820 or LL.pics44@gmail.com and a Link will be provided. Seasonal membership \$55.00 or non-members \$10 per class. Sponsored by Alden District Library.

May 13, 5 pm, Knitting Club: 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 (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.

May 14, 2 pm, Breathe new life into old books! Join us for a hands-on crafting session and transform pages into a stunning folded book vase — perfect for your home or as a thoughtful gift. All materials provided — just bring your creativity! Limited spots and FREE — register now to claim yours. Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call 231-533-8814.

May 14, 3 pm, Books 'n Brie Book Club. Enjoy the company of fellow book lovers while discussing "Crow Mary" by Kathleen Grissom. Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

May 21, 9:30 am social time & 10am meeting time, Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting, held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. Topics of discussion will be plans for upcoming programs, book sales and activities. Anyone interested in supporting the library is always welcome. Held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. 231-331-4318.

May 21, 12 pm, TT Nooners Book Club: The TT Nooners Book Club and discussion group meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Kalkaska County Library. Contact t (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.

May 23, 9 am – 2 pm, Book Sale. Friends of Alden District Library are having a book sale to raise funds for Children & Adult Enrichment Programs. Available items: books, audio books, DVDs, music CDs, games and puzzles. Sponsored by Friends of the Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

May 26, 4 pm, Friends of the Kalkaska County Library Meeting. Located at the Kalkaska County Library. Public is welcome. Contact (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.



### Alden

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

### Boardman Township

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

### Central Lake

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

### East Jordan

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

### Fife Lake

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

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

### Kalkaska

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Mancelona

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

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

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

### Rapid City

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

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

### Williamsburg

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

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

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

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## DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)

### Slot nostalgia

24 November 2003

Dear Mark,

My first day gambling was in Reno the day President Kennedy was killed. An unlucky day to say the very least. I remember which casino I was in, Harold's Club, but I'm not quite certain what type of slot machine I was playing on when I heard the grim news. I believe, though not 100% sure, it was a triple-line machine by Bally's. The maximum jackpot was \$7.50, which I hit, and I remember it having an owl near the top. Surprising what you remember the day Kennedy was shot? Does any of this help?

I am asking about this machine because I am in a position to purchase (for sentimental reasons) a Bally's triple-line, sight unseen from a friend of a friend. Would this be the machine I played 40 years ago? Clark R.

You gave me three nice clues, Clark, and they absolutely rule out Bally's triple-line slot machine. The leads were, the timeline, the \$7.50 jackpot and the owl, which tell me that it was a Mills Hightop, manufactured by a Reno company called Mills Bell-O-Matic.

Bally's possibly did have a machine on the casino floor that day, (though I believe its debut was more like somewhere in 1964 than in November of '63), that model was the Money Honey, the first slot machine to have a hopper as part of its innards. This machine was the first to have electronic circuitry to read the reels, a hopper, relays for protection against slot cheating, and a brightly lit front end. The latter, mind you, was not for esthetics but for inducing play. Who'd a thunk it?

So, why is this important? Because the older slots like the Hightop could only pay as much as their stacked coin tubes could hold. A Mills slot could only guarantee a \$7.50 jackpot on a nickel machine. But with a hopper, jackpots could be increased a hundredfold. Besides, Clark, it was not until 1968 — your 10th trip to Reno? — that Bally's introduced their first machine that paid on more than one line. Bally's three-line pay machine had a three-coin option. The first coin activated the middle line, the second the top line and the third brought the bottom line to life.

So, no, your friend's friend's machine was not the one that painted your young palm with

nickels, but it might go nicely in your den, anyhow, and help out with party costs.

Dear Mark,

I have a question regarding the history of slot machines in Vegas and Nevada. I am working on a story for the Travel Channel called Made In America, and am doing a short piece on Vintage Vegas and gambling. Do you know where the first slot machines were manufactured? L. L.

Ja wohl! A Bavarian immigrant named Charles Fey, a San Francisco mechanic, invented the first mechanical slot machine, which he astutely named the Liberty Bell, in 1895. Fey linked the three reels to the slide payout mechanism, creating the first, exclusive, reeled gambling machine, and as the saying goes, "'twas the clang heard around the world."

His reel symbols were playing-card spots, and each spinning reel was decorated with diamonds, spades, hearts and one cracked Liberty Bell. When the bells lined up, they produced the mightiest payoff: 10 nickels. WOW!

The original Liberty Bell is on display in Reno at the Liberty Belle Saloon & Restaurant, on 4250 S. Virginia. I believe Fey's family still runs the Saloon. If I'm wrong, well, some reader is bound to correct me.

Fey eventually made a deal with the Mills Novelty Company of Chicago to manufacturer his machine. Mills re-engineered the game as its own Liberty Bell in 1909, which was quickly copied by Caille Brothers Company, then by Watling Manufacturing Company. By 1925, a whole slather of companies had sniffed the wind and begun making similar-type slot machines.

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**Gambling quote of the week:** "Every time I see someone writing down past numbers at a roulette table, I want to grab his pen and notebook and yell in his face, 'It don't mean diddly squat!'" -VP Pappy



## Sudoku Puzzle May 1, 2026

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

Solution on page 15



## Traverse City Uncorked Starts Friday, May 1, 2026

### Events Highlight Distinct Local Wines

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Local wines take center stage starting Friday, May 1, 2026, with the ten-day Traverse City Uncorked. More than two dozen special events, wine tastings, and experiences take place from May 1st through May 10th at various locations.

A free digital passport unlocks a self-guided wine tour and offers discounts, experiences, and the opportunity for wine prizes. Those who check into at least five wineries can redeem the passport for a pair of Traverse City Uncorked drink coasters at the Traverse City Tourism Welcome Center. Guests who stay at Traverse City area lodging partners are eligible to win a wine-themed vacation.

Some of the special events include:

- A lunch and parade honoring the patron saint of wine, St. Vincent.
- Wine events themed to the Kentucky Derby
- Cooking classes
- A Cabernet Franc wine school
- Live musical performances
- Winery tours with the owners
- Mother's Day brunch

More events are being added to the schedule. The complete lineup can be viewed at [www.TraverseCity.com](http://www.TraverseCity.com).

"It doesn't matter if you are a seasoned wine enthusiast or someone just starting to explore the remarkable flavors of the

region. Traverse City Uncorked opens a surprising world of the local beverage scene," said Traverse City Tourism President, Trevor Tkach (tah-KACH).

Traverse City has two wine-growing regions on the Leelanau and Old Mission peninsulas. Together they produce about 60 percent of Michigan wines. They are renowned for cool-climate wines that are nurtured by a micro-climate created by Lake Michigan and a sandy soil courtesy of receding glaciers.

Access to the Traverse City Uncorked Passport is available at: <https://www.traverscity.com/traverse-city-uncorked/uncorked-app/>

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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](http://www.TraverseCity.com)

Mike Kent | Public Relations Mgr  
231.995.3927 | [mikek@traverscity.com](mailto:mikek@traverscity.com)

= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

**Understanding the Seasons of Life Part 3**

This is the third and final part of the series on understanding our mental health in the different seasons of our lives.

I often emphasize being intentional about life, and moving through the seasons of our lives is no different. While some seasons of life pass by naturally, others can leave us feeling trapped. We end up worrying “What if I am stuck here?” It turns out that passing through the seasons of life is yet another aspect of our lives where it’s better to be active than passive.

As we pass through seasons in life, we can unintentionally prolong them by resisting the process. While we cannot force a season to end, we can start with acceptance and move into intentional action. Each is as important as the other.

There are several reasons that we can find ourselves stuck in a season:

1. Avoidance: When we resist and refuse natural and necessary endings (Fall) or needed rest (Winter) our resistance drags it on.
2. Over-Identification: When we say to ourselves, “This is just who I am now”

(especially in Winter Seasons/Depression) we tend to stay there.

3. Control Dramas: When we try to force growth before we are ready, this can lead to burnout.
4. Loss of Meaning: When we walk through life without intentional purpose, the seasons can feel random instead of intentional.

So, how do we move forward?

1. Accept and Even Embrace the Season: This reduces the resistance and internal conflict that unintentionally prolongs seasons.
2. Do the “Work” for the Season: Rest in Winter, Release in Fall, Build in Spring and Execute in Summer
3. Hold a Long-Term View: Tell yourself that this is a chapter...not the whole story.

I would like to end this 3-part series with a personal example. My wife and I had quite a last 6 months of 2017. During that time, we were married, had a child and bought a house. I also had three different professional jobs during that time. There were many overlapping seasons: Getting Married (Summer), Birth of our Child (Spring), Buying a House (Summer-

Maintaining/Moving our Horse Ranch) and Three Different Professional Jobs (Fall at the end of each and Spring at the beginning of each). We are rarely in a single season of our lives.

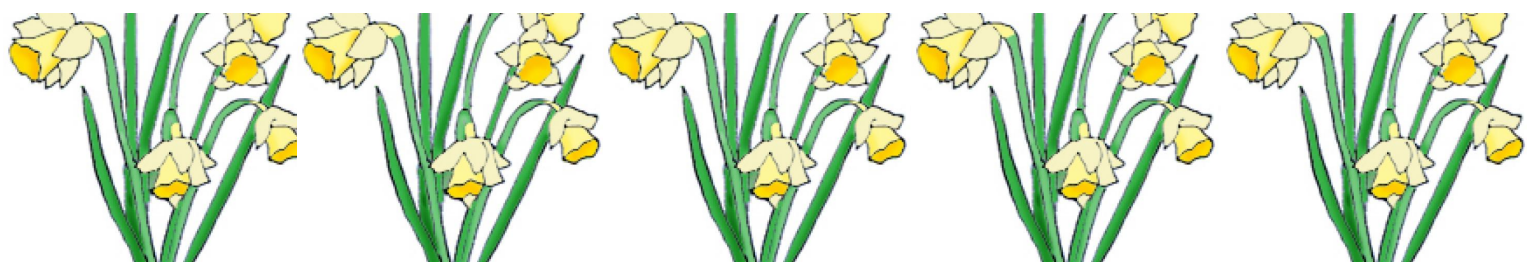
The best mental health advice I can give you on the Seasons is this: “Name it. Work with it. Move through it.”

Our lives are not defined by the Seasons of our life but rather by how we move through them. Understanding this is just another way that we win at life.

**-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECFP**

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



**God Doesn’t Make Junk**

God doesn’t make junk! I tell the kids in my life this all the time. What do I mean by this? Well, we are created in God’s image. So therefore, He doesn’t make junk. We are created by a loving Heavenly Father who created us with purpose.

We are created for the purpose of serving God and loving others, including ourselves. God doesn’t want us to talk bad about anyone, including ourselves. We tend to be our own worst critics. We tear ourselves down better than anyone else ever could. We as God’s creation need to know our value.

The world tells us how we should value ourselves. We are seen as important by how many followers we have on social media. We are seen as important by how we dress or if we are following the current trends.

God sees our hearts. He sees who we are on the inside. You can be beautiful according to the world on the inside but have an ugly heart. I tell

my kiddos all the time they are beautiful inside and out, because God made them.

What we all need to understand, kids and adults, is we are enough just as we are. God created us in His image and likeness. We are called to love others as much as we love ourselves.

God didn’t call us to be perfect. The only one who was perfect was Jesus. We are human and make mistakes. He called us to love others and care for those around us. God loves us just as we are, mistakes and all.

When we talk about ourselves or others remember we are all created and loved by God. So, treating others by loving them the way God would is being created in God’s image.

How do we love others the way Jesus would? We serve, we encourage, we step alongside and help when the opportunity presents itself. We need to start placing our value on godly things.

We tend to place our value on things in this world. If we don’t have these things then we feel like we have failed. We feel like we are not good enough. That is the biggest lie that has ever been told. Our value is not placed on things like stuff, looks, and money. Our value is placed in who are in Christ Jesus.

In Him, we are children of God, who loved us so much He sent His son to die on a cross for us and our sins so we can spend eternity with Him in Heaven. We need to be storing up treasures in Heaven, not here on earth. People are the most important treasure, including you!

**Alison Neihardt, LPC, NCC**

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*Alison Neihardt is a local child therapist at her private practice Helping Kids Counseling Services, LLC located in Kalkaska, MI. Reached at 231-590-4812 or email hkupnorth@gmail.com*

## Impact100 Traverse City Announces 2026 Grant Funding at Annual Big Reveal Event

Traverse City, MI — Impact100 Traverse City announced 360 members for its 2026 giving cycle at its annual Big Reveal event, generating a total grant pool of \$360,000 to support local nonprofits. Built on a simple but powerful model, each member contributes \$1,000 annually, pooling resources to fund large-scale grants that meaningfully expand nonprofit capacity, reach, and impact.

Based on this year's membership, Impact100 TC will award 3 grants of \$120,000 each, continuing its mission to provide transformational funding to organizations across the five-county region. Impact100 TC also announced that, as part of this grant cycle, each of the two finalists not selected for a full-scale grant at the Annual Meeting on September 23 will receive a \$3,000 award in recognition of their impactful work and strong proposals.

This year's announcement marks a major milestone for the organization, as Impact100 TC celebrates 10 years of collective giving and surpasses \$3 million invested in Northern Michigan nonprofits.

"Celebrating 10 years of awarding grants to local nonprofits is a major milestone for Impact100," said Amy Devey, President of Impact100 TC. "And in honor of this milestone, we are striving to grow our organization so that we can continue to meet the vital needs of our communities for the next decade. And, thanks to our members and the power of

collective giving, we have done just that! This year we have increased our membership, and ultimately, increased the amount we can award local nonprofits."

In 2025, Impact100 TC awarded \$348,000 in grants, funding three nonprofits with \$116,000 each to support initiatives ranging from housing and food rescue to teaching kitchens.

Since its founding in 2016, Impact100 TC has funded more than 25 nonprofit projects across focus areas including Arts & Culture, Education, Environment & Recreation, Family, and Health & Wellness. These investments have supported initiatives such as rural outreach programs, workforce development, and innovative housing solutions—demonstrating the long-term ripple effect of collective giving.

Following the Big Reveal, eligible nonprofits in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties will be invited to apply for funding in the 2026 grant cycle. Applications opened April 24, 2026 and will close May 15, 2026.

Grant recipients will be selected by Impact100 TC members through a collaborative review and voting process, culminating at the organization's Annual Meeting in September.

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Impact100 Traverse City is an all-women, all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving Antrim,

Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties and has granted over \$2.8 million since its inception in 2017. Guided by the mission of women transforming our communities through collective giving, each member provides an annual \$1,000 donation that is combined and awarded in \$100,000 increments to regional nonprofits doing meaningful work. Through these transformational grants, Impact100 Traverse City strives to achieve its vision of ensuring the vital needs of our region are met year after year. Impact100 has over 70 chapters across the United States and beyond that have awarded more than \$160 million to nonprofits in their communities since 2002.

###

Media Contact:  
Maria Purvis  
504-214-8022  
purvism@gmail.com  
or info@impactTC.org



## O&A - continued from page 3

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

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

## Miscellaneous

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Veterans/Active Duty

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BOOK CLUBS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Organization Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

O&A - continues on page 13

# REFLECTION

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

## The First Amendment

May 1, 2026

*Because some family emergencies have required more of my time than anticipated, I am offering this piece I wrote several years ago on the First amendment. Thank you for your understanding.*

I'd like to speak to you today about one small portion of the Constitution of the United States of America. I have in mind the First Amendment to the Constitution, which reads:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances.

There are five liberties guaranteed in this one simple paragraph: 1) Congress will never impose any specific religion upon the citizens, nor prohibit the free exercise of any citizen's religion; 2) Congress will never abridge the freedom of the citizens to speak their minds; 3) Congress will never abridge the freedom of the nation's press; 4) Congress will never interfere with the people's right to gather peaceably; 5) Congress will never prevent the people from petitioning the Government for redress of grievances.

These rights are guaranteed to every citizen. Are they without limit? No, no right is without limit for the simple reason that there are

boundaries between rights; thus, my right to swing around with my fist extended ends where your nose begins. For instance, freedom of speech does not make it okay to yell "Fire" in a crowded theater, as Oliver Wendell Holmes made clear in the 1919 case of *Schenck v. the United States*. Another example is that the right of a smoker to smoke wherever he or she desires, may be limited in a shared space with non-smokers; the smoker doesn't have the right to impose poisoned air on the non-smokers.

I'd like to focus today, on the religious freedom guaranteed to us by the First Amendment. The Constitution guarantees that you and I may freely practice our religion, as long as our practices do not harm others or violate the laws of our community. We may pray when and where we wish, silently or out loud, whether alone or in a crowd, whether at home or in church or school or a public building. That is a constitutionally-protected freedom. It is so important a freedom that it is the very first one addressed in our Bill of Rights. We have heard that prayer has been banned in schools by the Supreme Court. That simply is not true. The 1962 landmark Supreme Court case of *Engel v. Vitale* was brought because the Regents of the State of New York had composed a prayer that they directed every public school to adopt, each class being required to recite the prayer at the beginning of its day in the presence of a teacher. The parents of ten students challenged the

constitutionality of such a requirement, under the First Amendment Establishment clause.

The Court found that "Because of the prohibition of the First Amendment against the enactment of any law 'respecting an establishment of religion,' which [prohibition] is made applicable to the States by the Fourteenth Amendment, state officials may not compose an official state prayer and require that it be recited in the public schools of the State at the beginning of each school day -- even if the prayer is denominationally neutral and pupils who wish to do so may remain silent or be excused from the room while the prayer is being recited" (Syllabus <http://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/370/421/>).

In other words, because the public school system is an arm of the government, its sponsorship or imposition of any religious activity is unconstitutional. However, not even the Supreme Court can interfere with our right, yours and mine, to pray as we see fit, when and where we wish. There are people in the world who do not have this precious and sacred right guaranteed to them in a written document that is the Supreme Law of the Land.

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) How long is the term of a Supreme Court Justice?
- 2) Can a Supreme Court Justice be removed from Office?
- 3) What penalties does the Constitution impose on a person who has been impeached and convicted?
- 4) After removal from office, can there be any other penalty??



### Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue's questions

- 1) Does the Constitution grant rights?  
*A. No. It recognizes and guarantees them. The language used in amendments is generally "The right of the people ... shall not be abridged." Thus, recognizing the existing right.*
- 2) Does the Constitution list all rights?  
*A. No, Amendment IX specifically states: The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.*
- 3) Is the power of the United States government limited by the Constitution?  
*A. Yes. Amendment X states: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.*
- 4) Are powers granted to the United States government by the Constitution?  
*A. No. As stated in Amendment X, they are delegated not granted.*

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

**Al-Anon, Al-Teen Meeting for Families & Friends of Alcoholics,** (Kalkaska COA) Senior Center, 303 S Coral St, contact Linda 231 384-3227  
**When: Tue, 7:00 pm (except 5th Tue in a month)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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## Gov. Whitmer Announces 40 New Jobs Coming to Adrian

*Investment from Adrian Steel Company marks the company's largest investment in Michigan since 1953*

LANSING, Mich.- Today, April 28, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) Board approval for Adrian Steel Company's expansion in Adrian (Lenawee County) that will create at least 40 new jobs and result in \$43.4 million in capital investment to grow the economy.

"Michigan is on the move and open for business, competing for and winning big projects in industries like steel manufacturing," said Governor Whitmer. "Today's announcement will create 40 good-paying jobs and cement Michigan as the best place to build the future. Let's keep working together to create good-paying jobs, bring supply chains home from overseas, and tell Michigan's story."

"Today's approved project underscores the continued votes of confidence that industry-leading companies in manufacturing give our state," said Quentin L. Messer, Jr., CEO of the MEDC and MSF Board Chair. "This industry is at the core of our state's heritage and future competitiveness. I congratulate Adrian Steel

Company for choosing to 'Make It in Michigan' and thank Governor Whitmer, the members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board, the Michigan Legislature and our economic development partners for the collaboration that made today happen."

Adrian Steel Company investing \$43.4 million, adding at least 40 jobs to expand operations in Lenawee County

**OVERVIEW:** Adrian Steel Company is making a \$43.4 million investment to significantly expand its operations in Adrian, reinforcing its long-standing commitment to Lenawee County and the state of Michigan. The MSF Board approved a \$320,000 performance-based Michigan Business Development Program (MBDP) performance-based grant to support the company's expansion, which includes a 112,000-square-foot addition to its existing Adrian facility.

The expansion will enhance Adrian Steel's manufacturing capabilities with additional

space dedicated to raw material storage, cutting, forming, welding, painting, assembly, office functions, and shipping operations — further strengthening the company's ability to serve customers across North America. Over the next five years, the project is expected to create at least 40 new jobs and bring Adrian Steel's total capital investment to \$43,453,278.

In support of this investment, the MSF Board also approved a five-year, 100% State Essential Services Assessment (SESA) with an estimated value of up to \$228,751 for \$25,791,240 in eligible personal property. Additional support includes an anticipated real property tax abatement from the City of Adrian, along with a State Education Tax abatement authorized by the MEDC.



# WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

## Northern Michigan Spring

By Dominic Fortuna

As the first light of dawn creeps over the Sleeping Bear Dunes, the world outside my window transforms into a winter wonderland – except it's not winter anymore. The snow's gone, replaced by a carpet of soggy earth and the faintest hint of green. Spring's here, and with it, a renewed sense of purpose.

I throw off the covers, and the chill of the morning hits me like a slap in the face. Perfect. The cold is just enough to get the blood pumping, reminding me that I'm alive, and there's a whole season of possibilities waiting to be seized. In northern Michigan, spring's a fleeting affair – a mad dash to get everything done before the summer crowds descend. So, I'm grabbing the day by the horns, or

rather, the gardening gloves.

First things first, the yard's a mess. Winter's left its mark – dead branches, soggy leaves, and a general air of disarray. Time to get to work. I head out to the garage, the smell of damp earth and gasoline mingling with the promise of a new season. The lawn mower's still got some life left in it, and the weed whacker is ready to go. But first, a cup of coffee, and maybe, just maybe, a dip in the nearby woods for some morels.

Mushroom hunting's a springtime ritual in these parts. The morel season's short, but sweet. There's something magical about tromping through the woods, the forest floor still soggy from the snow, and spotting that first morel – like finding a small, mysterious treasure. The trick, of course, is knowing where to look. The old oaks, the creek

beds, the spots where the wild leeks grow. It's a treasure hunt, and I'm the eager prospector.

But back to the yard. The garden's gotta be planted, and I'm thinking big. Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers – the works. The Traverse City area's got a growing season that's shorter than a politician's promise, so every day counts. I've got seedlings started indoors, waiting for the soil to warm up enough to transplant them outside. And while I'm at it, I'll tackle some of the "fix-it" projects around the house. Spring's the perfect time to get the deck sanded, the gutters cleaned, and the porch repainted.

Of course, spring cleaning's a big part of it, too. The house has been shut up tight all winter, and it's time to let some air in, literally and figuratively. I'll be sorting through the clutter, donating stuff we don't need to Goodwill, and generally trying to make some order out of the chaos. The garage, in particular, is a project. I'm thinking a good sort, a ruthless purge, and maybe even a coat of paint to make it look halfway decent.

As the day warms up, the yard's going to need some serious attention. The grass is growing, the weeds are winning, and the flower beds are a mess. But it's all part of the fun. In northern Michigan, spring's a time to reconnect with the land, to get your hands dirty, and to remember why you live here in the first place. The smell of fresh-cut grass, the sound of birds singing, and the satisfaction of a job well done – it's all part of the package.

By the time the sun sets, I'll be tired, dirty, and content. The yard'll be looking a little more respectable, the house'll be shipshape, and the garden'll be planted. And I'll know that I've made the most of this spring day in northern Michigan.

And don't forget to be neighborly, a lot of our snowbirds are coming back from the warm climate. It always feels good to be a good neighbor and to be helpful, especially when we all went through this horrendous winter. So walk slowly with purpose into another beautiful and God gifted northern Michigan spring.

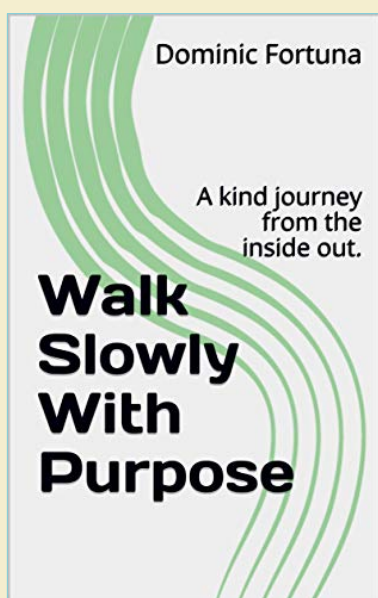


A basket of Morels

Photo by Carlos Amanda on Unsplash

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Dominic Fortuna's book,  
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## Government Meetings

### Kalkaska County Townships:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

====

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

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

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

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

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

**When: 2nd Mon, 5:30 pm**

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

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

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

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

**Village of Kingsley:**  
Village Offices, 207 S. Brownson, 231 263-7778

**Village Council- When: 2nd Mon, 6:00 pm**  
**DDA- When: 3rd Tue, 6:00 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Alden District Library  
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Paradise Properties  
The Muffin Tin

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Applesauce Inn  
Bellaire Public Library

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

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

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**Kingsley**  
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The Hen's Den

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

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## School Board Meetings

**Kalkaska Public Schools,**  
Board of Education room, 315 S Coral St Kalkaska , 231-258-9100

**When: 3rd Mon, 6 pm**

**Forest Area Community Schools**  
Band Room, Forest Area High School, 7661 Shippy Rd SW, Fife Lake 231-369-4191

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

**Crawford School, Excelsior District #1**  
Crawford School 5621 M-72 NE, Kalkaska 231-258-2934

**When: 3rd Wed, 4:00 pm**



**Mancelona Public Schools**  
Media Center, Mancelona Middle School, 1122 St Johns Ave, Mancelona 231-587-9764

**When: 2nd Tue, 4:30 pm**

**Central Lake Public Schools,**  
8190 W. State St, Central Lake, 231 544-3341

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

**Bellaire Public Schools,**  
204 W. Forest Home Ave, Bellaire, 231-533-8015

**When: 3rd Mon, 6:30 pm**

**Kingsley Area Schools,**  
High School Library, 7475 Kingsley Rd, Kingsley

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

## Sudoku Puzzle Solution May 1, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

## DAR - New Members & Young Winners

By Tina Norris Fields

Traverse City - It's a wonderful tradition of the Job Winslow Chapter, NSDAR (National Society Daughters of the American Revolution), to dedicate its April meeting to honoring the winners of DAR student competitions. This year, on Saturday, April 25, 2026, chapter members had the privilege of enjoying the essays written by local students for the American History essay contest and the Good Citizen contest.

From Elk Rapids Cherryland Middle School, eighth grader Adriana Smith read her winning composition on which signer of the United States Constitution she would like to have lunch with and why. She chose Benjamin Franklin and noted that he was the only one who had signed all four of our essential foundational documents: the Declaration of Independence (1776), the Treaty of Alliance, Amity, and Commerce with France (1778), the Treaty of Peace between England, France, and the United States (1782), and the United States Constitution (1787).

The competition for the Good Citizen award was so close that although the chapter can have only one winner, three high school students were recognized. They were Desiree Wetherbee from Northport, Landen Brandt from Pellston, and Gabriel Bouton from Boyne Falls. Landen was unable to attend, but both Desiree and Gabriel were able to come and read their essays on the necessary traits of a good citizen and the role that good citizenship will continue to play in securing the future of the noble American experiment in self-governance. Of note in this particular competition are the conditions under which the candidate must write his or her essay. The candidate has two hours in which to write the essay and receives the topic just before beginning. So, no time to prepare. No reference materials are available to the candidate during the writing time. The essay has to come entirely from the mind and understanding the young candidate brings to the effort. Desiree Wetherbee is the Job Winslow chapter winner. The three were so close that if we had the ability to do so, we would have gladly named the trio our winners.

At this same meeting, the Job Winslow chapter welcomed two new members, Rosemary Hagan and Stephanie Walker. The chapter is blessed to have twenty-eight prospective members working on documenting their lineage back to patriots of the American Revolution. The continued interest in an all-woman organization dedicated to service, historic preservation, education, and patriotism remains an uplifting bright spot in our community.



L-R: Jeanne Cotanch, First Vice Regent and Membership Chair; new members Rosemary Hagan and Stephanie Walker; Janet Scheiwe, Regent



L-R: Joy Garwold, Chaplain and Good Citizen Chair; Desiree Wetherbee, Job Winslow Good Citizen 2026; Corrine Wetherbee, Mother; Janet Scheiwe, Regent



L-R: Joy Garwold, Chaplain and Good Citizen Chair; Shane Bouton, father; Gabriel Bouton, Job Winslow Good Citizen Runner-Up 2026; Janet Scheiwe, Regent



L-R: Janet Scheiwe, Regent; Adriana Smith, American History Essay Contest Winner 2026 (grade 8); Sebastian Smith, brother; Jessi Smith, mother; Tina Norris Fields, Registrar and American History Chair



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