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The true meaning of life is to plant trees

under whose shade you do not expect to sit

~ Nelson Henderson

Vol2026:
May 29, 2026

Rapid City Elementary School moves boldly to become a Stewardship Campus

By Tina Norris Fields

The Rapid City Elementary School is stepping forward with a bold new venture. Beginning this fall, for the 2026-2027 school year, it becomes a Stewardship Campus. Features of this learning model include multi-age family-style classrooms where older children help teach younger children, project-based study for real life hands-on problem solving, and place-based learning to connect directly to the environment and resources of where we are. This kind of teaching model connects the academic skills to their practical application in real life. Rather than struggling to memorizing things that will become useful in the future, students discover the importance of what they are learning by working their way through projects.

Tuesday, May 19, the community gathered in the school gym to learn about this truly bold new venture. We are excited about our school’s new path into the future!

Ideally situated near the Rapid River, with both forest and open land nearby, the school has a ready-made outdoor classroom and laboratory for place-based learning. Water sampling and stream health monitoring; community garden planting, tending, and harvesting; orchard agroforestry, are among the many potential place-based learning experiences readily available due to the school’s serendipitous location.

K

Restoring the Heart of Rapid City:
A New Kind of School is Taking Root

Rapid City Elementary is entering a bold new chapter, and it's designed with your child in mind. Starting this fall, Rapid City will become a Stewardship Campus, blending strong academics with real-world learning experiences that go beyond the traditional classroom walls. In year one, we will transition to multi-age, family-style classrooms as we secure enrollment to expand into a self-contained middle school setting (grades 6-8).



Students will learn through:

- Hands-on learning using local woods, water, and local resources.
- Real-world projects that help students learn through problem-solving and critical thinking.
- Connected learning, where reading, writing, math, and science are woven together whenever possible.

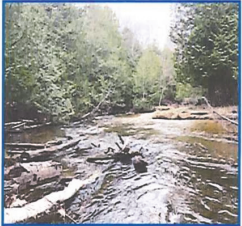
What this means for your child:

Students who are engaged, confident, and connected to what they're learning. Beyond the classroom, students will build strong connections through outdoor experiences and meaningful community involvement. To strengthen relationships and leadership, classrooms will shift to a multi-age, family-style model, where:

- Younger students are supported
- Older students lead
- Every child is truly known

This is about more than just a school.

- A place where kids feel connected.
- A place where learning has purpose.
- A place families choose to be a part of.



Have questions or want to learn more? Call Kevin Malbouef at (231) 331-6121

STEWARDSHIP CAMPUS
MODEL

LEARNING IS CONNECTED TO REAL LIFE THROUGH:

- Seasonal Community Fests
- Outdoor Learning Experiences
- Project-Based Learning
- Core Academic Foundations

Activate Windows

Go to Settings to activate Windows.

OUT & ABOUT

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

SENIOR & COMMUNITY MEALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FARMERS’ MARKET

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

FOOD PANTRIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEALTH AND FITNESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BINGO, CARDS & BOARD GAMES

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

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

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

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

contact Judy at jkuiper@learnsselfcompassion.com or 616-581-4668. Sponsored by Alden District Library and the Antrim County Bridge Club.
When: Tue 10 am - noon (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????

299er 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. 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 Center303 S. Coral St, all are welcome, play for pantry items, \$1 donation 231 258-5030
When: Fri, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Bingo, American Legion Hall, 9850 S. Front St, Mancelona community welcome, must be 18+, 231 499-2364
When: Sat, doors open at 4 pm, play begins at 6 pm

Pool, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, open to anyone who wants to play, must contact 231 258-5030 with your name and number
When: Sat, 6 pm

Crafts & Hobbies

Small Crafts Groups, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, bring a personal small craft to work on while socializing, many are willing to teach basics of crochet, knitting, embroidery, etc, 231 258-5030
When: Mon, 9:00 to 11:00 am

Wood Carvers, Kalkaska Senior Center 303 S. Coral St, all levels of skill, teaching available, 231 258-5030
When: Mon, 6 pm

Torch Area Artisans Guild (TAAG): This artisans’ group has been creating art and contributing to the community for over 40 years. Newcomers are always welcome! For more info, email taartisansguild@gmail.com. Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.
When: Tue, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Quilters Corner, Antrim County COA, 308 E. Cayuga St, Bellaire, bring your own project, 231 533-8703
When: Tue, 12:30 to 2:20 pm;

Juniper Garden Club, Clearwater Township Community Center, 5407 River St, Rapid City, contact 231 629-2498, new members welcome
When: 1st Tue, 1:00 pm

Alden Knitters & Crocheters, All skill levels welcome! For info, contact Sue Archer at 231-944-0013. Sponsored by Alden District Library, held at Helena Township Community Center & Library, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.
When: Tue, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Knitting - Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St,
When: Thu 10 to noon

Group Painting, Antrim County COA/Sr Meal Site, 308 E. Cayuga St, Bellaire, 231 533-8703
When: Thu, 10:30 am

Fiber Arts Group, Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Ln, Fife Lake, bring your own lap project and craft with others by our warm fireplace, not lessons, contact 231 879-4101
When: Thu, 3:00 to 4:30 pm

Kasky Kwilters, (Kalkaska COA) Senior Center, 303 S Coral St, come see what we are doing! 231-384-0595
When: 1st Thu, 4:00 pm

Letterpress printing. Learn how to set type and print your own scratch pads, business cards, and other items in an old-fashion print shop. Vintage Printing Company, 113 Merrett Street, Fife Lake.
When: Sat, 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

Great Lakes Scale Modelers, Traverse City Area District Library, 610 Woodmere Avenue, Thirlby Room. Plastic models, any scale, trains, planes, automobiles. Whatever floats your boat. Contact Bruce, 231-620-1767 or Frank, 231-228-3474
When: 2nd Sat, 1To 4 pm

Antrim/Kalkaska Paper Crafters, First Presbyterian Church in Elk Rapids. Soup and Salad Potluck lunch. Bring any handheld craft and work on your own project. Contact Beth Shuster at beth_scraps1960@sbcglobal.net
When: 3rd Sat, 9am - 5pm

Children’s Activities

Tot Time, Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Ln, Fife Lake, contact 231 879-4101
When: 1st Mon 10 am

STEAM Club - Central Lake District Library, 7900 Maple St., Central Lake. For Elementary age kids 8 years old and up. Class size is limited, registration required. Contact 231-544-2517
When: Mon, 3:15 to 4 pm

Story Time with Miss Diane- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, open to children ages 0-5 and their caretakers, stories, crafts, snacks, 231 533-8814
When: Tue, 10:00 am

Story Time, Mancelona Township Library, 202 W. State St, Mancelona, stories and crafts, 231 587-9451
When: Tue, 10:30 am

Wigglers Preschool Story Time, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson, Kingsley, children from birth to pre-kindergarten are welcome, stories, music, and movement, contact 231 263-5484
When: Tue and Wed, 10:30 am

Story Time with Miss Diana, Central Lake District Library, 7900 Maple St., Central Lake, with crafts, songs, stories, songs, and snacks, contact 231-544-2517
When: Wed, 10:30 am

LEGO Club, Central Lake District Library, 7900 Maple St, Central Lake, available to children ages 5+, drop-in club, registration required, call 231 544-2517
When: Wed, 3:15 to 4:00 pm

5toOne Playgroup, Kalkaska Early Head Start Classroom, 424 S. Cedar St, activities for children, resources for parents, music & movement, registration is encouraged, <https://bit.ly/EHSKa1Registration>
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 for info.
When: Fri 10:30 am

Story Time, Mancelona Township Library, 202 W. State St, Mancelona, contact 231 587-9451
When: Fri, 3:30 pm

5toOne Playgroup, Mancelona School’s Early Childhood Space, 203 Grove St, child-led playtime, healthy snack, and story, registration is encouraged, <https://bit.ly/PlayMancelona>
When: 3rd Fri, 12:00 to 1:30 pm

O&A - continues on page 11

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OBITUARIES

Thomas Wendell Runkel

July 28, 1935 ~ May 8, 2026

Thomas Wendell Runkel, of Fife Lake passed away peacefully on May 8, 2026, at Quiet Creek AFC home in Falmouth, while watching the Detroit Tigers game. He was born on July 28, 1935, in Holt to the late Emil and Lydia (Plogsterd) Runkel.

Tom received his bachelor's degree from Ferris State, a master's degree from Michigan State and he was a diehard Michigan fan. During summer breaks while attending college he waited tables on The Badger Car Ferry.

Tom married his high school sweetheart, Lois Joyce Nankee on June 16, 1956. They were married 58 years when she passed. Together they lived in Jackson where he was a business teacher for 30 plus years and also taught drivers education for Jackson and Forest Area Schools for 25 years.

In 1969 Tom and Lois decided to build a house in Fife Lake. They were the architects, builders and worker bees on this project. Upon retiring in 1992 they moved to the Fife Lake house and enjoyed traveling to over 70 countries. Tom loved boating, watching sports and hosting friends and family at the lake.

Tom served as a board member at both the Educator and Employees Credit Union in Jackson and Forest Area Federal Credit Union for over 20 years.



Later Tom was blessed to meet Beth, a loving partner for his last 12 years of life. They enjoyed pontoon riding, traveling and riding around in the convertible.

Tom is survived by his children, Linda (Mark Boehm) Runkel of Niles, Ellen Ford of Newaygo, Andrew (Tammy) Runkel of White Lake, Sam (Anna) Runkel of Fife Lake; his partner, Bethel Eckert of Fife Lake; grandchildren, Brad & Nate Runkel, Brooke (Alex) Calderon, Zack (Laura) Ford, Matt Ford and Adeline Ford, Sammy (Rieley) Runkel and Tommy Runkel; great-grandchildren, Jack and Abe Runkel, Dominic, Gia & Cain Calderon, Mikey & Lily Ford, Brody Ford.

Preceding Tom in death was Lois Runkel, his beloved wife; and son-in-law Mike Ford.

A Celebration of Life will be on Sunday, August 2, 2026 at Walton Junction Sportsman Club at 2:00 PM, 11207 E. County Line Road in Fife Lake.

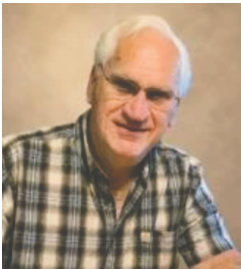
In lieu of flowers the family is requesting memorial contributions to Friends of the Fife Lake Library, PO Box 254, Fife Lake MI 49633.

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

Raymond M. Hoffman

June 24, 1944 ~ May 20, 2026

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the unexpected passing of Raymond Merle Hoffman, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and public servant, on May 20, 2026, at the age of 81.



family grew, his passion shifted to supporting the activities of his children and grandchildren. Whether in the stands or on the sidelines, he was their biggest cheerleader.

He also gave generously to his community, serving on numerous

boards and committees, including the Flat Rock School Board, Kiwanis, Cold Spring Township Supervisor, Kalkaska Fire Board, and the Kalkaska Hospital Board.

Raymond was born on June 24, 1944, to Betty and Glen Hoffman, who preceded him in death. He grew up in Flat Rock, Michigan, where he graduated from Flat Rock High School and later attended Madonna College.

A proud patriot, Raymond served his country in the United States Navy from 1962 to 1965. On October 12, 1967, he married the love of his life, Cynthia Hoffman, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waltz, Michigan. Together, they built a life and raised their three children in Flat Rock.

Raymond was a devoted father to his children: Glen Hoffman, married to Tonya Hoffman; the late Raymond Hoffman, who passed away in 2017, and his wife Pamela Hoffman; and Rachelle Queen, married to Ron Queen. He found endless joy in supporting and celebrating their achievements, teaching life lessons, and being an unwavering source of love and guidance.

Raymond dedicated his professional life to public service. He began his career with the Flat Rock Police Department in 1965 as a uniformed officer and was promoted to Chief of Police in 1980. Over the next 14 years, he served the community with unwavering commitment until his retirement in 1994. Retirement brought a move to Kalkaska, Michigan, for a quieter life. However, his dedication to law enforcement was unshakable, and he continued to serve with the Kalkaska County Sheriff's Department until 2009.

Raymond loved sports and an active lifestyle. In his younger days, he enjoyed bowling, golfing, running, and waterskiing. As his

Raymond is lovingly remembered by his wife of nearly 59 years, Cynthia Hoffman; their children, Glen Hoffman (Tonya), the late Raymond Hoffman (Pamela), and Rachelle Queen (Ron); his grandchildren, Chase, Lauren, Arika, Lanae, Nick, and Logan; and great-grandchildren, Ryker, Evaliah, River, Belle, and Kai. He also leaves behind his sister, Becky Davis (Bob); in-laws Diane Brown (Al Brown, deceased), John and Elaine Mills; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

He is preceded in death by his brothers, Ronald and Robert Hoffman, and in-laws Jean McLaughlin and Al Brown.

A celebration of Raymond's life took place on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2470 Beebe Rd, Kalkaska, MI. Family welcomed friends at 10:00 AM, with visitation beginning at 11:00 AM. A service followed at 3:00 PM with committal at Coldsprings Township Cemetery. A meal was served at the church following the committal service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Safe Harbor of Allegan, MI, or St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kalkaska, MI.

Raymond Merle Hoffman leaves behind a legacy of love, service, and unwavering dedication to his family, community, and country. He will be deeply missed and forever cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



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Amanda Marie Martinez

March 8, 1990 ~ May 7, 2026

Amanda Marie Martinez passed away peacefully and went to fly high with her angels. Amanda was born on March 8, 1990, in Flint. She graduated from Kalkaska High School in June of 2008. Amanda had a heart of gold, a beautiful smile that could light up a room, and a deep love for animals. She would take in any stray and give it a warm, caring home. Amanda loved the outdoors, from walking in the woods to hunting, and she was an incredible photographer who always made sure she captured the perfect shot.

Above all, Amanda loved her children — Debra, Benjamin, and Scarlett — with all her heart.

She leaves behind her loving children; her mother and father, Michelle and Guy Martinez; her brothers, Brandon (Rebecka) Harvey and Christopher Martinez and his girlfriend, Heather; her grandmother, Sharon Harvey;



along with many aunts, uncles, cousins, and loving friends. Amanda was preceded in death by her grandfather, Alvin Harvey; her grandparents, Dave and Yvonne Parker; and her uncle, Joe Martinez.

Amanda will be dearly missed by everyone whose lives she touched.

A funeral service was held at Kalkaska Funeral Home on Friday, May 15th; visitation began at 2pm until the time of the service at 4PM. Following the service, a gathering was held at Mom and Dad's house for all friends and family.

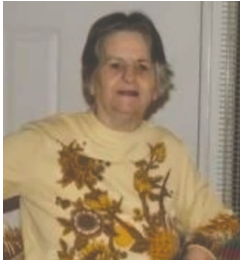
In lieu of flowers, the family asked that you donate a perennial flower or bush to be planted in Amanda's garden in her memory.

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

Eva May DeJonge

January 20, 1942 ~ May 17, 2026

Eva May DeJonge, 84, passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2026. She was born on January 20, 1942, in Charlevoix, Michigan, to Simeon and Hilda (VanZant) Perron. Eva married Louie DeJonge Jr. on April 18, 1964. They shared 52 years of marriage before his passing in 2016. Eva was a devoted homemaker and a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She enjoyed gardening, canning, and searching for treasures at yard sales. Most of all, Eva cherished time spent with her family and friends. She is survived by her son Louie (Lisa) DeJonge of Kalkaska;



grandchildren Louie (Kassie) DeJonge of Grand Blanc, Michigan, and Sarah (Tim) Free of Seven Fields, Pennsylvania; six great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild; siblings: David (Sandy) Perron, Sherri (Wayne) Harthorn, John Perron; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Louie DeJonge, Jr.; her parents Simeon and Hilda Perron; sisters Anna Marie, Shirley and Judy; brothers Simeon, Leon and Edward. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Teresa Mechell Galligan

July 11, 1953 ~ May 21, 2026

Teresa Mechell Galligan (Way) took her first breath in heaven at 1:05 am on May 21, 2026. Born July 11th, 1953, in Pontiac, MI to Neil and Evelyn Way. She graduated from Elk Rapids High School and later found joy driving school bus for over 10 years, ensuring the safe delivery of little ones to and from school.

Teresa loved gardening especially Raspberries and her flowers and had a gift of anything crafty. Spending hours creating jewelry, ornaments, pictures and many more beautiful things.

She adored her family and cherished her grandchildren, which always made her smile. She never missed a phone call to her family on birthdays or holidays.



She loved deeply, truly, and honestly.

She is survived by her two beautiful daughters Tonia (Rob) Savage and Tamera (Nathan) Olin. Grandchildren Keely (Matt) Olin, Thomas (Mieke) Olin, Kimberly (Donny) Olin, Johnathon Savage, and Emiley Savage. Sisters: Gwen Mason, Barbara Farmer, and Cindy (Dale) Schaaf. Brother: Don Way. Special friend Tom Kirchofer, and fur baby Nayla.

Preceded in death by: Her parents, sisters Cathy Sternaman, Christine Dykhuis, Janet Parry and brother, Dan Way.

Please join us in a Celebration of Life on July 11, 2026, beginning at Noon at Saylor Park in Yuba, MI.

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Lucy Belle Elliott

April 4, 1944 ~ May 16, 2026

Lucy Belle Elliott, 82, of Fife Lake, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, May 16, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on April 4, 1944, in Fife Lake, the daughter of the late Hubert and Malissa (Ingersoll) Beckwith. Lucy was the youngest of 11 siblings, all of whom she loved dearly and remained very close to throughout her life.

Lucy married the love of her life, Donald Elliott, on May 5, 1962, in Fife Lake. Together they shared 46 wonderful years of marriage while raising their two sons, Hubert Elliott and Brian Elliott. Lucy deeply cherished her boys and was grateful to have them living nearby throughout the years.

She was a proud and devoted grandmother to Joseph Rouse, Jestin Elliott, and Heidi (Gerry) Lewicki. Her heart grew even fuller with the arrival of her great-grandchildren, Hayden Lewicki, Elijah Lewicki, and Emerson Elliott, who brought her endless joy and will carry on her memory through the love and time they shared together.

Lucy was loved by all who knew her. She enjoyed taking car rides, playing scratch-off tickets, and bird watching — especially cardinals, which always held a special place in her heart. She was known for her wonderful home cooking, particularly her handmade pies and baked goods that were always a favorite at family gatherings and community events. Lucy also enjoyed old country music and was especially



fond of Elvis Presley, particularly when Don would charm her with his striking impersonations. During the summer months, Lucy could often be found sitting on her front porch, welcoming family and friends with warmth, laughter, and stories from years gone by.

Lucy was preceded in death by her parents; all of her siblings; many dear family members and friends; and her beloved husband, Don.

Per Lucy's wishes, cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at her home in Fife Lake on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Family and friends are invited to bring a dish to pass and a favorite memory to share in honor of Lucy's life and legacy.

Lucy Belle Elliott
Cry not for me, for I have lived,
A life both full and long.
I have walked beside so many souls
Whose hands I've had to release,
And now I find a gentle comfort
Wrapped in perfect peace.
Though you may wish I linger still
Within this earthly place,
I am surrounded once again
By every familiar face.
The voices lost through passing years
Now greet me from above,
And I am held within the arms
Of everlasting love.
So speak my name with stories shared,
Recall the days gone by.
For I will live within your hearts
In memories warm and true,
In every smile, in every hug,
In all the things you do.
And when the cardinal softly sings
Or summer breezes blow,
Perhaps you'll feel me by your side,
And know I'm always close.

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

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

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Munson Medical Center Welcomes Joe Du Lac as President

May 21, 2026

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Munson Healthcare Chief Operating Officer Laura Glenn announced today that Joe Du Lac has been appointed President of Munson Medical Center (MMC), effective June 22, following a nationwide search.

Du Lac brings more than two decades of leadership experience across complex healthcare systems, with a strong track record of improving quality, safety, patient experience and operational performance. He was selected through a rigorous process that identified him as the leader best positioned to guide MMC into its next chapter.

Most recently, Du Lac served as System Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Bronson Healthcare Group, where he led a significant hospital transformation—reversing financial challenges, strengthening safety and quality outcomes, and elevating patient experience. His leadership also drove gains in surgical capacity, patient throughput and workforce engagement.

Previously, Du Lac held executive leadership roles with Trinity Health of New England, where he helped lead a multi-hospital turnaround, and the Detroit Medical Center, where he supported systemwide operational transformation.

“Joe brings a collaborative leadership style and a proven ability to strengthen both culture and performance,” said Laura Glenn, Chief Operating Officer, Munson Healthcare. “His experience leading complex transformations and delivering meaningful results will be invaluable as we continue to advance care at Munson Medical Center.”

Du Lac is known for his focus on connection, transparency, and accountability, and for creating environments where teams are empowered to do their best work. Throughout his career, he has built strong partnerships with physicians and aligned teams around shared goals to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care.

“I am honored to join Munson Medical Center and the broader Munson Healthcare team. I was deeply impressed by the commitment, pride, and purpose of the people I met throughout the interview process,” said Du Lac. “Munson is a special organization with a strong mission and tremendous opportunity ahead, and I look forward to building on that foundation with our physicians, caregivers and community.”

Du Lac and his spouse, Beth, plan to relocate to Traverse City and are looking forward to becoming part of the northern Michigan region.



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JUNE 2026

- June 1 - 29, 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, and is open from dawn to dusk. The storybook for the month of June is “The Home Builders” by Varsha Bajaj.
- June 2 – 29, Rubber Duck Display. Come visit Alden District Library and see a collection of rubber ducks. The display can be viewed during normal library hours. The library is located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318. Free Event.
- June 10, 5 pm - Knitting Club at the Kalkaska County Library. Kalkaska Area Knitters is a free, come-as-you-are group for knitters (and crocheters) of any confidence level. Bring your own project and join us to socialize, trade tips and tricks, get ideas for your next project, or just to see if this is a hobby you might enjoy! Located at the Kalkaska County Library. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.
- June 11, 3:30 pm, Books ‘n Brie Book Club. Enjoy the company of fellow book lovers while discussing “Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood” by Alexandra Fuller. Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.
- June 13, 10 am, Story Time with Miss Lona. Miss Lona will be reading stories with a Father’s Day theme and making Father’s Day cards with the kids. This program will be held in the library located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.
- June 18 – August 1, Unearth a Story Summer Reading Program. Kids and teens sign up & receive their reading logs from June 18th to June 30th. Starting August 1st, reading logs can be turned in to collect prizes.
- June 18, 9:30am social time & 10am meeting . Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting & Spring Luncheon. Anyone interested in supporting the library is always welcome. Meeting is being held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751. Luncheon is 11:30am held at the Dockside, 6340 Old Torch Lake Dr, Bellaire. Contact the library at 231-331-4318 to RSVP by June 16th.
- June 18, 12 pm -TT Nooners Book Club. The TT Nooners Book Club and discussion group meets on the Third Thursday of every month at 12:00 noon at the Kalkaska Commission on Aging, 303 S. Coral St. Contact the Kalkaska County Library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.
- June 18, 2:30pm. Joel’s Jurassic Magic Show. Joel will stomp, chomp, and roar into the summer reading program with Dinosaur-themed books of all sorts that he brings to life with amazing magic, wacky stunts, and lots of audience participation. You do not want to miss out! Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and Held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751.
- June 23, 4 pm - Friends of the Kalkaska County Library Meeting. Located at the Kalkaska Commission on Aging, 303 S. Coral St.The public is welcome. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.
- June 30, 10 am - John Ball Travelling Zoo. Kick off Summer with a visit from the John Ball Zoo! Get an up-close look at several live (small) zoo animals, and learn how they grow up wild! Summer Reading programs are free, and all families are welcome to attend. Located at the Birch Street Elementary Gymnasium, 309 N. Birch St. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.

Antrim County 9th Annual M88 Outdoor Market Tour

When: Saturday, June 20th, 2026 9am-3pm

Bellaire, MI - Antrim County communities have come together to organize a M88 Outdoor Market Tour on Saturday June 20th, 2026. This 26-mile county wide community outdoor market sale will feature the villages of Mancelona, Bellaire, Central Lake and Eastport as well as homes and farms along the M88 route.

Participants will offer sidewalk sales, garage sales, arts & crafts, antiques, farm market produce and more. Various locations will offer pop-up booth venues for local vendors to setup for the day. Market shoppers can drive M88 from any direction to shop, eat and explore Antrim County. Market maps will be available at designated locations in each village and a grand prize drawing will be held for those completing the entry form.

Booth space for vendors, artisans, crafters, antiques etc. will BE available at the following business locations.

Mancelona: Contact Joanie Moore at moore@torchlake.com
Applesauce Inn B&B: Contact Jamie info@applesauceinn.com 231-533-6448
The Flying Pig: Contact Shelly at shellyjodayton@yahoo.com 231-313-1517
The Bird Gallery (Eastport): Contact Mira Bell at mirabellbc@aol.com

Please contact one of the above businesses for more information!!
Deadline for vendor booth rental is 6/03/26

SET-UP TIME FOR EVENTS -7am to 9am
A M88 Outdoor Market Tour map will be printed and distributed to visitors. Participants are encouraged to add their businesses and/or sale locations for only \$10.00. Please contact Shelly Dayton at 231-313-1517 for more details. Deadline for entries in 5/30/26

- Alden
Alden United Methodist Church
9015 Helena Rd, Alden
Sunday morning:
9:00 am - Worship Service
10:30 am - ACE (Adult Christian Education)
Thursday morning:
10:00 am - Prayer Group
- Boardman Township
East Boardman Community Bible Church
2080 Boardman Rd,S Boardman
Sunday morning:
9:15 am - Sunday School
10:00 am - Worship Service
10:30 am Junior Church
- Central Lake
Central Lake United Methodist Church
8117 W Old State Rd,
Central Lake
Sunday morning:
11:00 am - Worship Service
- East Jordan
Grace Bible Church
999 W Old State Rd,
East Jordan
Sunday morning:
11:00 am - Worship Service
- Fife Lake
Fife Lake Community Church
206 Boyd St, Fife Lake
Sunday morning:
10:00 am - Worship Service
- St. Aloysius of Fife Lake
403 East Merritt St
Sunday morning:
9:00 am - Mass
- Kalkaska
Calvary Baptist Church
815 W Dresden St, Kalkaska
Sunday morning:
9:45 am - Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:45 am - Worship Service
- Cornerstone Community Bible Church
6821 Co Rd 612 NE, Kalkaska
Sunday morning:
10:00 am - Worship Service
- Church Alive Church of God
2305 US 131 North, Kalkaska
Sunday morning
10:30 am - Worship Service
Wednesday night
5:30 pm - Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm - Bible Study
- Church of Christ at Spencer
4761 Western Ave SE, Kalkaska
Sunday
9:30 am - Sunday School, all ages
10:30 am - Assembly Hour
6:00 pm - Evening Assembly
Wednesday
7:00 pm - Bible study - all ages
- Kalkaska Church of Christ
1725 W Kalkaska Rd, Kalkaska
Sunday morning:
9:00 & 10:30 am
- Worship Service
9:00 &10:30 am
- Kids’ programs, birth - 5th grade
10:30 am - Faith Training
- Middle & High School
- Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene
1367 W Kalkaska Rd, Kalkaska
Sunday morning:
9:45 am - Sunday School all ages
10:45 am - Worship Service
- Kalkaska Peoples Church
Bible Based
216 S Cherry St, Kalkaska
Sunday morning:
11:00 am - Worship Service
- Kalkaska United Ministries for Christ
2525 Beebe Rd, Kalkaska
Sunday morning:
10:00 am - Worship Service
- Many Rivers Church
2305 N 131, Kalkaska
Saturday evening:
6:00 pm - Worship Service
Tuesday evening:
6:00 pm - Worship Service
- St Mary of the Woods of Kalkaska
438 Co Rd 612, Kalkaska
Saturday afternoon:
4:00 pm - Mass
Sunday morning:
11:00 am - Mass
- St Paul Lutheran Church
2470 Beebe Rd, Kalkaska
Sunday morning:
11:00 am - Worship Service
- Seventh-Day Adventist Church
2004 Birch N Birch St, Kalkaska
Saturday morning
9:30 am - Bible Study Time: Children & Adults
11:00 am - Worship Service
Tuesday evening
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1128 N Cedar St, Kalkaska
Sunday morning:
10:00 am - Sacrament meeting
- Mancelona
Antrim Church of Christ
10228 South US 131, Mancelona
Sunday morning worship
11:00 am - Sept - May
10:00 am - Jun - Aug
- Mancelona Baptist Church
609 N Jefferson ST, Mancelona
Sunday
10:00 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - worship service
6:00 pm - Bible Preaching
Wednesday
7:00 pm - Bible Preaching & Teen Group
- St. Matthew Lutheran Church
211 E. Hinman, Mancelona
Sunday morning:
9:00 am - Worship Service
- Rapid City
Rapid City Church of Christ
7964 Rapid City Rd, Rapid City
Sunday morning:
10:30 am - Worship Service
- Torch Lake Assembly of God
9456 Valley Rd, Rapid City
Sunday morning:
11:00 am - Worship Service
- Williamsburg
True North Vineyard Church
6517 Bates Rd, Williamsburg
Sunday evening:
5:00 pm - Worship Service
- Williamsburg United Methodist Church
5750 Williamsburg Rd, Williamsburg
Sunday morning:
9:30 am - Worship Service
- If you would like your church to be listed, please send an email to tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com

DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)
Kids show Pops the hazards of gambling

1 December 2003

Dear Mark, How do they do it? My kids have taught me a coin-flipping game called Mix or Match and are steering me toward bankruptcy. You bet on one of three possible outcomes: Two Heads, Two Tails, or the Mix — one Head, one Tail. You bet whatever amount you want (up to ten cents) on one of the outcomes, and your opponent bets on another; winner takes all money wagered. You can also bet on Any Match — whether Heads or Tails — and in that case, the wager for the Mix is just half the Any Match bet, since there are two Matches possible against one Mix. They're driving me nuts as well as broke, with no cheating I can detect. How? Wing T. B.

Nice name. I once knew another guy named Wing who I used to ski the steep and bumps with at Lake Tahoe. But like the casino, where danger lurks around every corner, a freak accident on a bunny run sidelined Wing for years. He went on to card counting somewhere in the Caribbean, I to another 12 years of 100-day ski seasons. I sure miss those days of skiing every day, pitching cardboard every night. It's the Any Match bet, Wing, that is your downfall, or broken leg if you will. You see two ways of winning with that wager and only one way with the Mix bet, and, thinking you'll show the kids a thing or two, you frequently bet on Any Match, putting up twice the silver that the kids risk. Right? While there may seem to be only one chance for the Mix bettor to win, there are really two chances — so the Any Match bettor is putting up twice the cash that the little con artist is risking when he (she?, they?) goes for Mix. And since the odds of a Mix are really the same as the odds for Any Match, and the Any Match bettor is paying off double half the time, it's a long slippery slope for the latter toward insolvency. Here are the possible outcomes of a flip:

- 1) Wing - Head / Kids - Head Matching Heads
- 2) Wing - Tail / Kids - Tail Matching Tails
- 3) Wing - Head / Kids - Tail Mix: Head-Tail
- 4) Wing - Tail / Kids - Head Mix: Tail-Head

Several street cons and bar bets turn on this same illusion — the overlooked possible outcome. Now that you know the ruse, you can probably score some few refreshments at your favorite watering hole. Better yet, bet em' they can't spell Albuquerque. Most can't. By the way, where do your kids go to school?

Dear Mark, Recently in the column, you mentioned that when playing video poker you should always break the low pairs (2s - 10s) against any four-card flush, straight flush, and three cards to a royal. Are you saying that in the above case you should hold the high pairs — or is that a "duh... of course"? Don P.

"Duh" questions for this column? Never, Don. Chalk this one up as an omission on my part. Keep the high pair against a four-card flush, but discard it against a 4-card inside straight flush or an open-ended straight flush. As for what to do when you have both a high pair and three-card royal, many experts advise you to hold the high pair. I lean towards keeping the 3-card royal. Either way, the difference is minuscule.

=====

Gambling quote of the week: *This is where I should have quit, but some kind of strange sensation built up in me, a kind of challenge to fate, a kind of desire to give it a flick on the nose, or stick my tongue at it.* Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Gambler* (1867)



Sudoku Puzzle
May 29, 2026

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

Solution on page 15

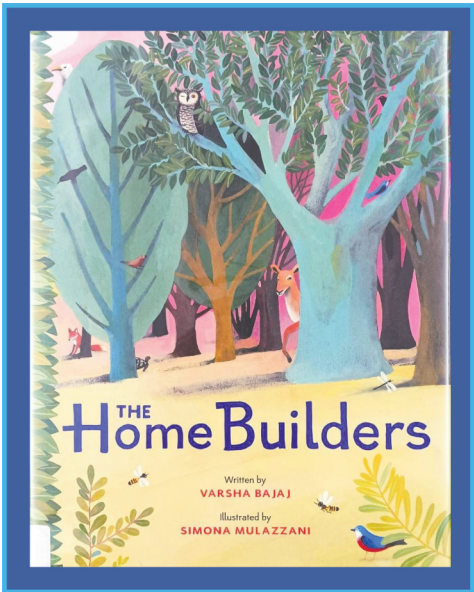
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= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

The Value of Boredom

We have lost a dear friend. We might not have even noticed that they left. That friend? Boredom.

Does anyone remember when waiting rooms used to be quiet? How about peacefully pumping your gas instead of listening to ads? I remember taking long drives with nothing playing on the stereo. So nice.

It seems that every space in our world is now filled with stimulation as if we are not even allowed to have quiet, peaceful moments. We have solved the “problem” of boredom with technology, but we just might have created a new mental health issue in the process: Many people are now no longer comfortable with silence or boredom.

Being uncomfortable is an important and healthy part of life. When we cannot learn to sit with this, we find ourselves plugging into the nearest distraction. We can look to phones as emotional escapes, doomscrolling as “being productive,” and watching endless videos as “learning.” We are filling every quiet moment with noise, and we hardly ever allow ourselves to just sit with our unresolved thoughts or emotions.

Distraction has become a socially acceptable form of avoidance.

Boredom, in all its glorious uncomfortableness, historically helped stimulate our imaginations, creativity and reflection. These are core components of a meaningful life. As children, we developed our imaginations through unstructured play. Reflection happens in the quiet moments of emotional processing. Our internal identities form in stillness.

Like the rest of our bodies, our nervous systems need rest from stimulation, and the mind ends up doing its deepest work in the times when nothing else is demanding our attention.

In our modern world with all its distractions, our mental health may require us to intentionally reclaim our times of quiet and boredom.

Here are a few simple and practical ways:

- Go for a walk without headphones
- Limit your phone use to half an hour per day (trust me, you won’t miss anything)
- Set aside quiet time in the morning for reading or slowly enjoying your coffee

- Spend time in nature
- Allow children unstructured time

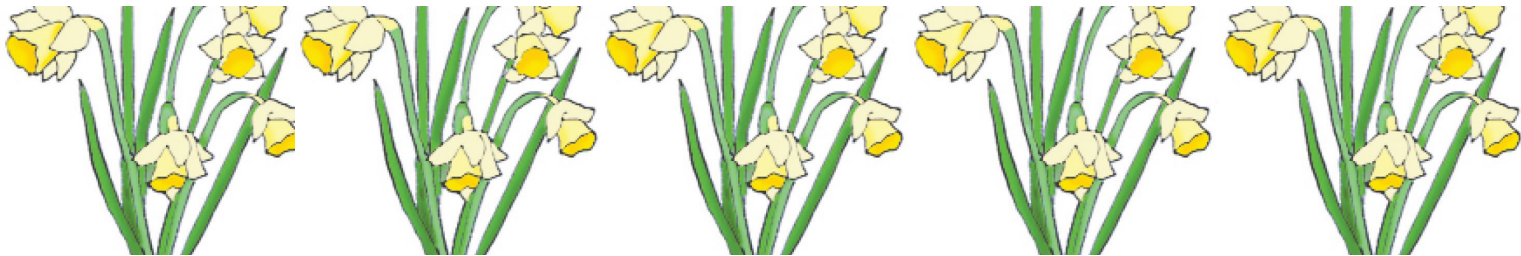
The act of sitting with stillness and boredom can help us build emotional resilience. One of my favorite podcasters recently called this “limbic friction,” and it is how we build a tolerance to being uncomfortable.

Getting to know yourself is hard work in a world full of distractions. Learning to be uncomfortable with boredom and silence allows us to avoid running away from ourselves. This is another way that we win at life.

-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECF

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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.



Trauma is not a Competition

There are many things in life we compete over. We compete in sports, video games, school, work, and so much more. Everywhere we look there is some kind of competition. While this is okay in some ways, in other ways it is not okay.

Trauma is one way competition is not okay. I have heard people say things like, “my trauma is worse than their trauma.” Really?!! We are now competing when it comes to trauma? No way!

Everyone’s trauma is bad. It is trauma! Something bad happened to someone. No matter what kind of trauma you have had it isn’t good. There is no good kind of trauma.

I have heard some pretty hard things in my years as a therapist. I have never thought that one person’s trauma is better or worse than another. What we need to understand is no matter what their trauma story is, it is their story to tell. Not anyone else’s.

When we hear someone’s trauma story we need to have empathy. Not the thought of, I’ve heard worse. I have had stories shared with me that no one should ever have to go through, especially children.

When someone is brave enough to share their trauma story with you it is not something to share with others. That is gossip! In my mind it is worse than gossip. When you share someone else’s trauma story without their permission you create more trauma for them. What happened to them is deeply painful and scary.

When we talk about trauma it needs to be with care and empathy, not a competition or gossip session. When we are talking about trauma we are talking about people and their lives. They are victims, especially children. They didn’t ask for this to happen to them. They didn’t ask for their lives to be dumped upside down.

For many children they have experienced many traumas in their young lives. What is trauma you might be thinking? Trauma is a scary, life-threatening event that changes your life in a considerable way. Examples of this might be, the death of a parent or caregiver, abuse, neglect, car accident, house fire, divorce, being bullied, and so much more.

I don’t wish a traumatic event on anyone, but they happen. But the reality is everyone will experience something traumatic in their

lifetime. In order to recover from it takes a village of support and help from family, friends, and professionals. Some people experience more trauma than others. This is not something to keep track of like a score on a scoreboard during a ball game.

For many people who have experienced trauma they are just trying to make it through the day. Their emotions are all over the place. They have triggers that can send them into a meltdown within seconds.

When someone shares their trauma with you, including a child, consider it a privilege and treat it as such. Don’t keep score. Don’t gossip about it. Just listen with empathy and care.

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

She would not let it die!

By Tina Norris Fields

Memorial Day in Alden, Michigan, has been celebrated and commemorated for sixty years with a parade, a memorial service, and a visit to the cemetery to honor the veterans buried there. But, for some reason this year it seemed doomed. Maybe the recent onslaught of cold wet weather had something to do with it. Whatever the reason, it seemed that this year there would be no parade in Alden for Memorial Day.

That is when Marilyn Ciszewski stepped up. "no way!" she declared. "It's been a tradition here for sixty years. I'm not going to let it die!"

Armed with little more than reverence for the tradition and faith in the people of her community, Marilyn went to work. She asked and people responded. So, yes, we had our parade in Alden this year, because she would not let it die. Thank you, Marilyn. And thank you to everyone who responded and helped to keep our parade tradition going.



O&A - continued from page 3
Kids’ Coding Club, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge, Bellaire, an opportunity for kids to explore the world of computer coding at their level, ages 8-13 welcome, registration required, call 231 533-8814
When: 3rd Sat, 10:00 to 11:00 am
Meet and Eat, Youth Event, Mancelona United Methodist Church, 117 W. Hinman, Mancelona, planned by youth for youth including a meal, music, pastor’s message, games & fun, grades 7-12, 231 587-8461
When: 4th Sunday (3rd if 4th is a holiday weekend) 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Miscellaneous

Monday Tech Help 1-on-1 Kalkaska County Library, 247 S. Cedar St, If you need some help setting up your new phone or laptop, troubleshooting tech problems, or just want to learn more about using the internet safely, then contact us to get 30 minutes of personalized support from our tech services librarian! Contact (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org to sign up!
When: by appointment Mon 10am-4pm & Thu 1-5pm
Love Locker Project, 449 W. State St at Fife Lake, Baptist, 49633 Free seasonal clothing, hygiene products, and blankets available 24/7
When: available anytime
Love Locker Project - Kalkaska 1972 Saunders Rd SE at Evergreen Bible Baptist, Free seasonal clothing, hygiene products, and blankets available 24/7
When: available anytime
Love Locker Project- Rapid City 7964 Rapid City Rd at North Light Ministry Free seasonal clothing, hygiene products, and blankets available 24/7
When: available anytime
Stroke Recovery Group, Antrim County COA/Sr Meal Site, 308 E. Cayuga, Bellaire, must register prior to each session, please call 231 533-8703
When: 3rd Mon, 3:00 to 4:00 pm
Tech Tuesdays with Gabe, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St, contact 231 533-8814
When: Tue, 11 am to 3 pm
Kalkaska County Breastfeeding Support Group, Blue Fish Early Learning Center, 405 E. Dresden St, contact District Health Department 10 at 231 258-8669
When: 1st & 3rd Tue, 10:00 to 11:00 am
Kalkaska Baby Pantry, Kalkaska Church of Christ, 1725 W Kalkaska Rd, Clothing, diapers, wipes available (donations of such are accepted), serving children to size 4T, contact 231 258-9441
When: 2nd & 4th Tue, 9:30 am to 1 pm.
Girlfriends Social Hour, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, grab a friend and enjoy a coffee or juice, and time with other ladies, senior and nearly senior women are welcome, contact 231 258-5030
When: Wed 10 am
Tech Tuesdays with Gabe! Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St, 231 533-8814
When: Wed, 11 am to 3 pm
Spanish Speaking Cohort, Bellaire Public Library, 111 s. Bridge St, 231-533-8814
When: Wed, 4 pm
Thursday Tech Help 1-on-1 Kalkaska County Library, 247 S. Cedar St, If you need some help setting up your new phone or laptop, troubleshooting tech problems, or just want to learn more about using the internet safely, then contact us to get 30 minutes of personalized support from our tech services librarian! Contact (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org to sign up!
When: Thu, 1:00 to 5:00 pm
Everyone Has a Story, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson Ave, join with the library and the Kingsley Folk School for a storytelling community circle, you are welcome to share your personal stories with others to create connections in our community, 231 263-5484
When: 2nd Thur, 5:30 to 7:00 pm
Antrim County Baby Pantry, St. Anthony’s Church, 209 Jefferson Ave, Mancelona, providing food, clothing, diapers, and other items for children from birth until their 6th birthday (donations accepted), masks optional, one shopper per family and children are welcome but must remain with their parent, new families, please arrive by 2 pm for paperwork and bring valid ID, 231 492-7426
When: 2nd & 4th Thu, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Dance, Mancelona Senior Center, 122 E. State St, Mancelona, \$7 admission, bring a dish to pass, contact Cheryl at 231 587-9131
When: 1st and 3rd Fri, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Fruit of the Womb Baby Pantry, Kalkaska Baptist Church, 1651 County Rd 612, contact 231 258-5409
When: Sat, 9:00 to 11:00 am

Rock n’ Jam, The Rock of Kingsley, local musicians are welcome to come jam and the public is welcome to come listen, tap their toes, dance, contact 231 263-7000
When: 2nd Sat, (through Oct) 5:00 to 8:00 pm
Simply Delicious with Chef Tom, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson Ave, a quick and inspiring cooking class, learning tips and techniques while exploring global cuisine and spices, contact 231 263-5484
When: Last Saturday of the month, 10 - 11 am
Veterans/Active Duty

MWR (Morale, Welfare, & Recreation), Belay My Last Barracks, 5210 E. Boardman Rd, South Boardman, veterans are welcome to hang out and enjoy a meal, use the rec room, gym, or theater, peer support specialist is also available, contact 231 631-5372
When: Mondays, 6:30 pm
Kalkaska VFW Land-O-Lakes Post 8684, VFW Post 408 Hyde St, Quartermaster: Joe Graff, Commander: Luke TenHopen
When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm
Mancelona American Legion Post #0264, 9850 S. Front St, Commander: Benjamin Zerod, Adjutant: Tamara Hunt
When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm
Antrim County Veteran Coffee Talks, 118 Bridge St, Elk Rapids, contact 231 533-8499
When: 3rd Mon, 9 am
Vets Coffee Time, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, free coffee and donuts, hosted by American Legion Post #480, contact Darel at 231 258-9445
When: 2nd Wed, 9:00 to 11:00 am
American Legion Post 219, 10283 M-186, Fife Lake, Commander: Cameron Wojoie, Adjutant: Craig Heckert, contact 231 879-4475
When: 2nd Wed, 6:30 pm
Coffee Talk for Veterans, M88 Morning Grind, presented by Antrim Co Veterans Affairs, contact 231 533-8499
When: 3rd Wed, 8:30 am
South Boardman American Legion #463 and Auxiliary Meeting, South Boardman Legion Hall, 5479 Boardman Rd (at the tank), South Boardman, Commander: Lindarae Radtke, Adjutant: Elwin Hall, contact 231 369-2944
When: 1st Thu, 6:00 pm
Kalkaska American Legion Post 0480, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S Coral St. Commander: Jim Brown, Adjutant: Stephen Bloomfield, contact 231 384-0762
When: 3rd Thu, 1:00 pm
M88 Monthly Muster, M-88 Morning Grind, 614 Cayuga St, Bellaire, coffee talk for Antrim County Veterans and their families to connect and share in much needed military camaraderie, contact 231 632-9155
When: 1st Sunday, 12:00 pm
BOOK CLUBS
The Bookies Book Club, at host’s home, contact 231 879-4101 or flpl@tadl.org for location and details
When: 3rd Tue, 7:00 pm
The Last Tuesday Book Group- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8814
When: last Tue, 1:00 pm
Monthly Book Club, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St, new book each month to be announced at previous meeting or contact 231 258-5030 for info
When: 2nd Wed, 1:00 [m
The Page Turners Book Club- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, registration appreciated, contact 231 533-8814
When: 2nd Wed, 7:00 pm
Kingsley Afternoon Book Club- Kingsley Branch Library, 213 Brownson Ave, Kingsley, does not meet in Dec, June, July, or Aug, contact 231 263-5484
When: 4th Wed, 2:00 to 3:00 pm
Fife Lake Library Book Club-Take 2, Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, 231 879-4101
When: 4th Wed, 2:30 pm
Mindfulness Book Club- Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8814
When: last Wed, 4:00 pm
Nature Book Club, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, led by members of the Antrim Conservation District, contact 231 533-8814
When: 1st Thu, 9:30 am
Books ‘n Brie Book Club, Presented by Alden District Library, Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, enjoy snacks and beverages while discussing the month’s book, free of charge, sponsored by the Alden District Library, contact 231 331-4318
When: 2nd Thu, 3:30 pm
T.T. Nooners Book Club, Kalkaska County Library, 247 S. Cedar St, 231 258-9411
When: 3rd Thu, 12 to 1 pm

Teen Book Club - at the Kalkaska County Library. Teens ages 14-18 are welcome to join us to read and discuss books with friends. Snacks will be provided! Contact (231) 258-9411 or info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more info.
When: 3rd Thu, 3:30pm
The Rory Gilmore Book Club, Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, contact 231 879-4101
When: Last Sat, 4:00 pm
Organization Meetings
Kalkaska Democrats, contact Gary at 231 590-3397 for current meeting location
When: 1st Mon, 6:00 pm
Kingsley Friends of the Library, Kingsley Branch Library, 213 S. Brownson, Kingsley, open for ages 0-5 years, contact 231 263-5484
When: 3rd Mon, 5:00 to 6:00 pm
Kalkaska Conservation District Board of Directors, District Office, 406 S. Cedar St, Suite A, Kalkaska, contact Mark, 231 258-3307
When: 3rd Mon, 5:00 pm
National Trout Festival, Trout Town Tavern & Eatery, 306 Elm St, 231 384-1509
When: 4th Mon, 5:30 pm
Kalkaska Republicans, Kalkaska COA/Senior Center, 303 S. Coral St
When: Last Mon., 7:00 pm
Kalkaska Kiwanis Meeting, Kalkaska Senior Center/COA, 303 S. Coral St
When: 2nd and 4th Tue, 12:00 pm
Friends of the Central Lake District Library, Central Lake District Library, Conference Room, 7900 Maple St, contact 231 544-1144
When: 3rd Tue, 10:00 to 11:00 am
Friends of the Kalkaska County Library, Kalkaska County Library 247 S. Cedar St, downstairs
When: 4th Tue 4:00 pm
Fife Lake Area Genealogy Society, Fife Lake Public Library. Everyone is welcome.. Any questions, please contact Linda Forwerck at 231-631-1750 or Chris Reamer at 231-263-7656.
When: 1st Wed, 10 am.
Friends of the Fife Lake Public Library, 77 Lakecrest Lane, Fife Lake, contact Denise, 734 444-2484
When: 2nd Wed., 11:00 am
Chain of Lakes Genealogy Club, Central Lake Library, 7900 Maple St, 231 544-2517
When: 3rd Wed, 6:00 pm
BIGG (Genealogy Group), Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire, contact 231 533-8814
When: 1st Thu., 10:30 am
South Boardman American Legion #463 and Auxiliary Meeting, South Boardman Legion Hall, 5487 Boardman Rd (at the tank), South Boardman, contact 231 369-2944
When: 1st Thur., 6:00 pm
Knights of Columbus, St Joseph the Worker Council #7419, St Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, 438 Co Rd 612 NE, Kalkaska, contact Dave at 231 587-4328
When: 1st Thu, 7 pm
Friends of the Alden District Library, Helena Township Community Center, 8752 Helena Rd, Alden, 231 331-4318
When: 3rd Thu, 9:30 am social time, 10:00 am meeting
Alden Men’s Club, Alden United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 9015 Helena Rd, Alden. Come see what we are all about, “Helping others in need,” contact 603 540-3581 or visit www.aldenmensclub.org
When: last Saturday of the month , 8:00 am (except July and November), no meeting in December.
SUPPORT GROUPS
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Alden United Methodist Church, 9015 Helena Rd, Alden
When: Sun, 7:00 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Central Lake VFW Hall, 1805 S. Main St, Central Lake
When: Sun, 7:00 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Sportsmens Club, 6095 Garfield Rd, Kingsley
When: Sun, Tue, 8:00 pm (Sun only May-Sept Mayfield Pond Park)
Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Living in Harmony, United Methodist Church, 2525 Beebe Rd, Kalkaska
When: Mon, 7:00 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Fife Lake Methodist Church, 206 Boyd St,
When: Mon, 8:00 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (AA), Hope Lutheran Church, 2680 S. M-88, Bellaire
When: Mon, 8:00 pm

REFLECTION

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

The Freedom of the Press

May 29, 2026

In 2018, the editors at the Boston Globe put out a national request for editorials on the importance of a free press. That topic is again in the news and I thought I'd share this piece once more. .

Amendment 1 to the United States Constitution 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 a redress of grievances.”

This amendment recognizes and guarantees five specific rights of the American people: 1) freedom to choose and practice one’s own religion, 2) freedom to speak one’s mind, 3) freedom to report and publish the news without government permission, 4) freedom to gather with others in peaceful public assembly, and 5) freedom to protest and seek help from the government to right wrongs.

Why are these freedoms important? Why are they to be celebrated, venerated, and protected? These freedoms establish the major principles of the political covenant we Americans have with the form of government our forefathers created.

We have all claimed our right to freedom of speech at one time or another. We have all certainly witnessed folks exercising their right

to protest actions of the government. Depending on how old we are, we may remember the 1960s and the Civil Rights struggles; or, perhaps we recall the nationwide protests over the war in Vietnam; and it is unlikely that we have failed to note the present discourse and discord regarding the statues that venerate Confederate heroes.

We may, however, not be fully aware of why a free and unfettered press is important to us, individually and as a nation. To be sure, we have all heard of lies and falsehoods being published. So, why should we insist on freedom of the press?

Why shouldn’t we have some central government department controlling what gets published? Why shouldn’t we have formal censorship? Wouldn’t that protect us from being misled by lies and falsehoods that some nefarious folks might publish?

The answer is simply that, as our forefathers knew, it is fatal to put all power in a central government. If a government can control what is published or broadcast, there is no defense against falsehoods generated by the government. It is only with a free and unfettered press that we, the people, have the choice to read and listen to the several points of view that surround us, and to decide for ourselves what is right – what is fact and what is fable.

Ultimately, it is our responsibility to sort things out – separate the wheat from the chaff, so to speak. It is up to us to learn to think critically, so that we may make rational and reasonable decisions, discerning whether what we are hearing makes any sense.

Historically, tyrants have sought to eliminate a free press, so that the press cannot contradict or criticize the government. If the government can silence the press, it can also silence the citizen. If we value our right to freedom of speech, we owe it to ourselves to defend freedom of the press with all our might.

It is well to remember that one of the things that make America great is the fact that we grant the freedom of expression even to those, who, if they got their way, would deny those same freedoms to us.

How happy are we that our forefathers had the wisdom to enact the Constitution and its first ten Amendments, establishing for all time the principle that we all have the right to express our thoughts, and that we maintain a free press to help protect that right. .

That is good news, indeed!

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 many times per year does the Constitution oblige the Congress to assemble?
- 2) When did the Constitution originally declare the Congress had to meet?
- 3) Is that still the date on which Congress begins a session?
- 4) When and how did the change get made?



Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue’s questions

- 1) In the Preamble to the Constitution, how many purposes are given for establishing the Constitution??
A. Six.
- 2) What are those purposes?
A. 1) to form a more perfect Union (of the states as a nation); 2) establish justice; 3) insure domestic tranquility; 4) provide for the common defense; 5) promote the general welfare; and 6) secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.
- 3) Where in the Constitution is the obligation stated for the federal government to protect the states from invasion?
A. Article IV, Section 4.
- 4) Does the United States have to assist states when they ask for help in the face of domestic violence?
A. Yes, also found in Article IV, Section 4.

Everything in this paper
is important to somebody



COFFEE TIME for VETERANS

Free coffee & donuts

Second Wednesday Each Month

9 to 11 am

Kalkaska Senior Center

303 S. Coral St

Hosted by American Legion Post 480

Contact-Darel at 258-9445

O&A - cont. from page 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Retiring Old Glory



When the United States Flag (Old Glory) becomes worn, torn, faded or badly soiled, it is time to replace it with a new flag, and the old flag should be "retired" in a dignified, respectful manner.

Kalkaska American Legion Post 480, together with Cub Scout Pack 629 and Boy Scout Troop 629, will host a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Monday, June 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. . The Ceremony will take place in the Gazebo Lawn area at the Kalkaska Commission on Aging, 303 S. Coral Street.

If you have a worn or torn flag that needs to be retired, you can drop it off in the Flag Retirement box at the Senior Center Monday through Friday, or bring it with you to the Flag Retirement Ceremony.



WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

You Can’t Keep What You Have Unless You Give It Away

By Dominic Fortuna

Traverse City — The first charter boats are back in the harbor. Coffee shops on Front Street have already swapped their chalkboards to summer hours. License plates from Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana are starting to outnumber the locals in the Meijer parking lot.

Up here in northern Michigan, we know the rhythm. The quiet pulls back like the tide in May, and by mid-June the towns from Petoskey to Leland will be full again. More people. More questions. More chances.

And maybe, more chances to give away the one thing that multiplies when you do.

Not money. Not property. The other stuff. The stuff you can’t hold.

The Paradox of the Empty Pail

Edna Wilcox is 74. She’s run a small art studio off M-22 outside Glen Arbor for 41 years. Watercolors, mostly. Lake scenes. Dune grass. The kind of work tourists buy and locals forget she painted.

Three summers ago, a girl in a Michigan State hoodie walked in, looked at Edna’s brushwork, and said, “I could never do that.”

Edna could have nodded. Sold a print. Taken the compliment and kept her method to herself. Instead, she pulled out a spare stool. “Yes, you can. Here. It’s just water and pigment and nerve. Watch my hand.”

For the next hour, Edna gave away 40 years of trial and error. How to load a brush. When to let the paper buckle. Why you paint the shadow of the tree before you paint the tree.

The girl didn’t buy anything. She came back the next week with her own half-finished sky. Came back the next summer with a portfolio. This May, she sent Edna a photo: her first juried show in East Lansing.

“I emptied my pail that day,” Edna says now, hands deep in her apron. “And I swear, it came back full. I’m painting better at 74 than I did at 50. Because every time I show somebody how the light hits the bay, I see it new myself.”

What We Guard, We Lose

It works the other way, too.

Frank Derenzy ran a guide service out of Houghton Lake for 28 seasons. He knew every drop-off, every weed bed, every early-ice crappie hole. He also knew that if he told anyone, they’d fish his spots.

So he didn’t. He’d smile, say “trade secret,” and watch his bookings. For a while it worked. Then the clients got older. The calls slowed. Two winters back, Frank had a stroke. His boat hasn’t left the garage.

“You can’t pass on a secret,” says his nephew, who’s trying to restart the business. “The lake didn’t change. The knowledge just stopped with him.”

Knowledge, talent, the way you calm an angry customer or tune a guitar or bandage a kid’s knee without them crying — these things rot in a closed fist. Use them, and they sharpen. Hoard them, and they go dull.

The Tourist Test

Summer up north is a stress test for generosity.

We’ll see 3 million visitors between Memorial Day and Labor Day. They’ll ask the same questions we’ve answered a thousand times. “Where’s the good swimming beach?” “Is this the road to Sleeping Bear?” “Do you know a place that isn’t crowded?”

You can sigh. Or you can give it away.

Not because it’s noble. Because it’s practical.

Marla Jensen runs a front-desk shift at a motel in Mackinaw City. Last July, a family from Dayton came in, flustered, two kids carsick, dinner reservations already missed. Marla could have handed them a key and a map. Instead, she gave them 10 minutes. Drew the back-road route to the bridge. Called her cousin at the diner to hold a booth. Told the little boy the legend of the Turtle Island while his mom signed the register.

They stayed three nights. They came back in October. They mailed her a Christmas card.

“I don’t own anything special,” Marla says. “Just 12 years of watching people get lost on I-75. If I keep that to myself, I go home empty. When I give it, I go home bigger somehow.”

That’s the paradox. You empty yourself of what you know, and you don’t end up with less. You end up with more room. More skill. More reason

to keep learning, because someone’s waiting to receive it.

The Human Condition, In Season

We don’t live up here for the crowds. We live here for the light on the water in September, when it’s ours again. But the crowds are part of it. They’re the reason the bakery stays open. The reason the kid down the street can bus tables and save for college.

And they’re the reason we get to practice this strange math: subtraction that leads to increase.

Compassion isn’t a finite resource. Neither is patience, or a good tip on where to find Petoskey stones, or the story of how your grandfather logged this peninsula. When you give it, you don’t have less. You have proof it was real. You have the version of yourself that knows it well enough to teach it.

The ones who guard it — the shortcut, the recipe, the trick that makes the sucker fly straight — they get to keep it. All of it. Until it’s gone.

The ones who hand it over, every chance they get, find their pockets full in a different way.

So this summer, when the traffic backs up on US-31 and the fudge shop line is out the door and someone asks you the question you’ve answered since 1998, remember:

You can’t keep what you have unless you give it away.

Not the cars. Not the money.

The wisdom. The talent. The kindness you earned the hard way.

Give it. Watch what happens.

Northern Michigan will get busy. It always does. The question is whether we’ll get bigger with it, or smaller.

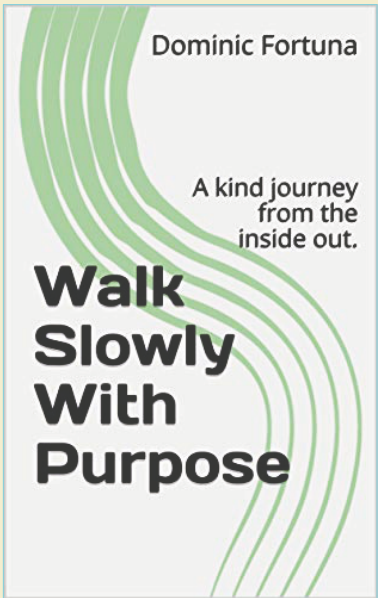
The answer walks in the front door about 10 a.m. daily, holding a map upside down.

Let’s not keep the light to ourselves. It’s the only way we stay bright.

So my good friends walk slowly with purpose, and walk hand in hand with humanity, when you give it away freely, even if it’s a short walk on the beach or a smile and a hello. Remember, you’re the reason for the season to someone..

Now Available from Amazon on Kindle and in Paperback

Dominic Fortuna’s book,
“Walk Slowly With Purpose”



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

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: 3nd Wed, 5 pm

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

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

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

Bellaire
Applesauce Inn
Bellaire Public Library

Central Lake
Central Lake District Library
Mary's Market

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

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

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

Kingsley
Kingsley Branch Library
Kingsley Village Offices

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

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

South Boardman
Yankee Boy

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

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NMCAA Early Learning Center Mancelona - Center Assistant



Position begins as a substitute role, with potential to transition to full-time in August.
High school diploma; CDA preferred.
\$18.05/hr. EOE.
For more details go to www.nmcaa.net select Careers/Search Jobs

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 29, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

TCC Artisan Market is open

By Tina Norris Fields

The Torch Conservation Center’s Artisan Market is open for the 2026 summer season.

Located in downtown Alden in the building that once was the public library, it is filled with beautiful things inspired by the beauty of Torch Lake. Here, you will find lessons in caring for the pristine waters of our region – sometimes as plain as can be (such as the display of what we should and shouldn’t flush down the toilet), and sometimes wrapped in the glorious colors of a painting or tinkling in the shimmer of a pair of delicate hand-crafted earrings.



The Market is open Monday through Saturday, from 11 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from noon to 3 pm. The beautiful art and the gentle teaching of stewardship for Torch Lake make the Artisan Market the bright spot for this week.



Arts and crafts of all kinds, by local artisans, inspired by our beautiful Torch Lake.



Because toilet paper is formulated to disintegrate in water, it is safe to flush. Other things, like facial tissue, paper towels and wipes (even those that claim to be flushable), do not disintegrate in water and are not good for our onsite sewage disposal systems (septic tanks and fields).



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

Sales:	Service & Parts:
Monday 8 am - 8 pm	Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Tues-Fri 8 am - 6 pm	Sat & Sun CLOSED
Sat 9 am - 3 pm	
Sun CLOSED	

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