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To our good friends in France on July 14, Bastille day, "Bonne fête nationale!"
May France be free forever.

Vol2026:
July 10, 2026

Independence Day festivities at the Kalkaska Senior Center

By Tina Norris Fields

Kalkaska, July 2, 2026 - In preparation for the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence,a commemoration event was held at the Kalkaska County Commission on Aging Senior Center, that was both solemn and joyous.

In solemnity and reverence, a color guard unit from the Kalkaska American Legion Post 480 presented the flag and led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance, then seven-year-old Hallie Golden sang the Star Spangled Banner. Three historical and patriotic videos offered inspiration. A prayer of thanks was offered before staff members began delivering luncheon plates to the crowd.

That's when the joyous portion began. Dominic Fortuna entertained the crowd whit selections reaching all the way back into the 1630s and coming forward to some of today's modern country music. Songs from Creedence Clearwater Revival, Seals & Crofts, England Dan, The Temptations, and other favorites kept the fun going. Dominic ended his show with a rollicking dance tune that got the crowd out on the floor.

There was a solid, solemn yet jubilant flavor to the entire celebration.



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- We read stories, do a craft, and have a snack together. The Bellaire Public Library is located at 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call the Library at 231-533-881414
When: Tue, 10:00 - 11:00 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/EHSKaRegistration>
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

Margaret Mary Lewis

May 16, 1935 ~ June 29, 2026

Margaret M. Lewis, age 91, of Kingsley, Michigan, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving daughters.

She was born on May 16, 1935, to John B. and Alice Mary (Younglas) Ockert.

Margaret graduated from St. Mary's Hannah School in 1953. Following graduation, she worked as a bookkeeper for S.S. Kresge Co. for 10 years. She later joined Kingsley Insurance Co. and became an insurance agent, where she faithfully served her community for 29 years before retiring.

On October 24, 1959, Margaret married the love of her life, William "Bill" Lewis. Together they lovingly raised their four daughters.

Margaret was an active member of St. Mary's Hannah Catholic Church, where she sang in the church choir. She also dedicated countless hours to the Lions Club,

the Red Hatters, the Senior Center, blood drives, the Eagles, the Grange, and the Widows and Widowers group.

She was well known throughout the community for her tireless volunteer work, supporting countless charities, benefits, and fundraising events. She was often joined by her beloved "sister" (in-law), Donna Martin. Together, the pair became affectionately known as "Double Trouble" as you could rarely get by them without contributing to their mission of the day. They enthusiastically devoted decades to helping others while bringing smiles wherever they went.

Margaret found joy in playing cards, bingo, camping, and spending treasured time with family and friends. Her adventurous spirit took her on travels both near and far, including hiking glaciers in Alaska



and whitewater rafting in Idaho, Blue Ridge Mountains and many travels with family. She embraced life with enthusiasm and inspired those around her to do the same.

Margaret is survived by her four daughters and their spouses: Audrey (Fred) Hoyt, Renee (Henry) Jones, Linda (Kent) Stiner, and Catherine (Don) Smith; her brother, Gerald (Kathy) Ockert; her niece, Betty Walker; nine grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William "Bill" Lewis; her parents, John B. and Alice Mary Ockert; her siblings, Ethel Nickerson, Eleanor Bauer, Beatrice Weidner, Donaldine Nickerson, Marie Sedlacek, Leroy "Stub" Ockert, Clarence "Bud" Ockert, Robert "Bob" Ockert, Joseph "Jay" Ockert, Ralph Ockert, Fred "Fritz" Ockert, Geraldine Ockert, Gary Bauer, and Joyce Bauer; and two

beloved grandchildren.

Margaret's generous heart, unwavering faith, and lifelong commitment to serving others left a lasting impact on her family, friends, and community. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary's Hannah Catholic Church on Friday July 3rd, 2026, at Noon, with visitation from 10am-noon. Luncheon followed at St Mary's Hannah School. Burial followed the luncheon, at Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in Margaret's memory to St. Mary's Hannah Catholic Church or The Rock of Kingsley, organizations that reflect her lifelong faith and commitment to serving her community.

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

Jean Elaine Lantzer

January 12, 1932 ~ June 21, 2026

Jean Elaine Lantzer, 94, of Kalkaska, passed away on Sunday, June 21, 2026. She was born in Alma, Michigan on January 12, 1932, to the late Lester and Alice (Crane) Hulbert.

Jean was deeply devoted to her faith in God and her family. Her home and heart were always open to others. She had a tremendous gift for making people feel welcome and cared for, blessing each one in her family with abundant prayers and sending birthday cards covered with loving stickers. A faithful prayer warrior, Jean found great joy in attending Bible studies and lifting others up in prayer. She had a strong work ethic and worked hard to provide for her family. Jean's love extended beyond blood relations, and she embraced each of her children's spouses as her own.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children: Donna (Ron) VanderHulst, Lee Roy (Diane) Lantzer, Mary Ellen (Ron) Pereira,



Shirley Triplett, Cathy (Paul) Kissling, Patricia (Dean) Little, John (Amy) Lantzer and Amy Jo (Cliff) Graves; 23 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; brother Gordon (Nancy) Hulbert. She was preceded in death by her daughter Jean Evon

Lantzer, parents Lester and Alice Hulbert, son-in-law Vic Triplett and sister Patricia Hulbert.

Visitations was held at Kalkaska Funeral Home on Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 4:00 - 8:00 pm, as well as 10:00 - 11:00 am on Friday, June 26, 2026. The funeral service took place at Kalkaska Funeral Home on Friday, June 26, 2026, at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Kalkaska Church of Christ or a charity of your choice.

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

Gerald Joseph Siecienski

March 8, 1936 ~ June 25, 2026

Gerald "Jerry" J. Siecienski, 90, of Kalkaska passed away on June 24, 2026, at KMHC - Eden Center. Jerry was born in Detroit to the late Joseph and Bernice Siecienski on March 8, 1936.



Usher and Minister to shut ins. Jerry was a charter member of the American Legion Post 480, Charter Member and Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 7419 and 4th degree Color Corps member of Assembly

499 of Traverse City.

Jerry attended St. Stanislaus School in Bay City and graduated from Bay City Central in 1953. He served his country as a member of the United States Navy from 1955-1959 serving aboard the battleship New Jersey and Carrier Forrestal as a boiler operator.

Jerry married Chloe Donnelly on June 22, 1963 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Detroit. He worked for Chrysler Corporation downstate and retired from Kalkaska Memorial Health Center with 21 years of service in 1996 as a maintenance supervisor. In his younger years he enjoyed hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and playing the clarinet.

Jerry is a member of St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church. He served as Eucharist Minister,

Jerry is survived by his sister Barbara Tolley of Palm Harbor, Florida; 2 nephews, Robert Wardenski and Richard Ferrell; dear friend and neighbor Marilyn Morrison; and many friends.

Preceding Jerry in death is his wife Chloe; sister, Marlene Wardenski; and brother-in-law, Charles Tolley.

The funeral mass was on Thursday, July 2 at 11:00 AM at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church with the Rosary at 10:00 AM with the Knights of Columbus. Burial was at Evergreen Cemetery with the military honors by the American Legion Post 480.

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

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Northwest MI

V O I C E

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Michael Lee Beaver

August 23, 1955 ~ June 20, 2026

Michael Lee Beaver, 70, passed away on June 20, 2026. Born in Grayling, MI, on August 23, 1955, to Lloyd and Bernice Beaver (Thorington/Helsel), he graduated from Kalkaska High School and later moved to Romulus, Michigan. A devoted family man, Michael was known for his strong work ethic, exemplified by a devoted 25-year career at Halliburton, and his love for tinkering with mechanical projects. Michael had a lifelong love of motorcycles and cars, and took great pride in working on them. The open road and a well-tuned engine were sources of joy and freedom for him throughout his life.



He is survived by his loving wife of many years, Peggy (Belcher) Beaver; son, Cameron (Tamra) Beaver; stepsons, Joshua Barger and Jacob Freeland; and grandchildren, Colten and Maxon Beaver and Ian Barger. He also leaves behind his brothers, Kenneth (Georgia) Beaver and Dennis Beaver. He is preceded in death by his beloved mother, Bernice Helsel, and his father Lloyd Beaver, as well as his loving stepfather, Francis "Sy" Helsel. Mike will be deeply missed by his family and all who knew him.

The funeral service was on Thursday, June 25th at 1:00 PM at Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home with visitation beginning at 11:00 AM. Burial was at Excelsior Twp. Cemetery immediately following.

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

A dedicated provider, he always made time to take care of his mother and took every opportunity to spoil his beloved grandkids. In his downtime, he could often be found relaxing to the sounds of classic rock, especially The Rolling Stones.

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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.

Richard L. Smith

December 3, 1935 ~ June 22, 2026

Richard "Rich" Lawrence Smith, age 90, passed away peacefully on June 22, 2026, in Williamsburg, Michigan. Born on December 3, 1935, in Albany, New York, to Chester and Carolyn (Jaquay) Smith, Rich lived a full and remarkable life dedicated to his family, faith, and career.

A proud graduate of the University of Michigan in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, Rich embarked on a career that spanned more than four decades. He began his professional journey at Sandia Air Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Later, he contributed his expertise at Scans Associates in Livonia, Michigan. Together with his beloved wife, Carol, Rich co-owned Hughes Electronics Products Corp., also based in Livonia. His dedication and hard work were evident throughout his career.

Rich was a devoted husband to Carol for 68 wonderful years until her passing in April 2026. Their bond was the cornerstone of their lives as they built a loving family together. Rich is survived by his children: Richard (Vicki) Smith Jr., Amandasue Butterfield, Kurt Smith, and Suzanne (Joseph) Moscynski. He also leaves behind his sister Joan; grandchildren Alicia, Jonathan, Jeremy, Jelana, Brianna, and Courtney; and great-grandchildren Braelyn, Izaiah, Zoey, Onyka, Mira, Kynzlie, Sophie, Liviana, Tristan, Korbyn, Wesson, Ayla, Josie, and Ellie Mae. Additionally, he is remembered fondly by many nieces and nephews.



Rich's life was enriched by his passions and hobbies. He enjoyed bowling and golf and had a deep interest in family history research. Rich had a strong passion for travel and adventure. One of his greatest joys was traveling the world with Carol by his side. Together, they explored all 50 states and six continents, creating countless memories along the way. Their journeys included over 25 ocean and riverboat cruises, reflecting their shared love of discovering new places and cultures. They especially cherished their winters spent in Hawaii and Albuquerque.

Rich dedicated much of his life to serving and enriching his community. For 15 years, he was a valued member of the Elk Rapids Planning Commission,

contributing to the growth and development of the area. His commitment extended to the Elk Rapids Golf Club, where he served as secretary and treasurer for over two decades. Rich also played an integral role in the Elk Rapids Harbor Days Committee for more than 20 years. In recognition of their dedication to this cherished local tradition, Rich and his wife Carol were honored as Grand Marshals for Harbor Days.

As a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Rich found strength and purpose through his faith.

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

Gary Allen Piatt

March 5, 1952 ~ June 29, 2026

Gary Allen Piatt, age 74, of South Boardman, Michigan, passed away peacefully on June 27, 2026.

Gary was born on March 5, 1952, in Jackson, Michigan, to Kenneth and Lucy (Slick) Piatt. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend whose kindness and generosity touched the lives of everyone who knew him.

On November 4, 1972, Gary married the love of his life, Deborah (Keller) Piatt in Waterloo, MI at the Waterloo Methodist Church. Together they shared 53 wonderful years of marriage, building a family centered on love, faith, and hard work.

Gary is survived by his loving wife, Deborah; his son, Kennith Piatt; and his daughter, Maureen Piatt.

He also leaves behind five cherished grandchildren: Rebekka Jones, Skylar Fore, Angelina Castillo, Kaegen Piatt, and Kolten Piatt; and two great-grandsons, Xavier Pombo and Major Winstead. He is also survived by his nephew, Rick (Christina) Barnes, who held a special place in Gary's heart and was loved as a son.

Gary is survived by his brothers, Mike Piatt, Dave White, and Frank White, along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Lucy Piatt; his sister, Joan Craft; and his sister-in-law, Christine Massie.

Gary grew up in Waterloo, MI, and



graduated from Chelsea High School in 1970. He proudly served his country in the Army National Guard before beginning a long career as a certified welder with Ross Tank, where he worked for 20 years. Gary and Debbi built their home and raised their family in Waterloo. In 1994, Gary and Debbi moved to South Boardman, Michigan. He later joined Howard's Collision, where he remained until his retirement in 2012.

In retirement, Gary found joy in woodworking, attending church at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Kalkaska, MI, and, above all, spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Whether building something with his hands or

sharing stories with his family, he found happiness in life's simple moments.

Gary will be remembered as a selfless man who never hesitated to lend a helping hand. He was known for his strong work ethic, quiet strength, unwavering faith, and willingness to help anyone in need. His love for his family and his generous spirit will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know him.

Gary will be cremated, and no additional services are planned at this time.

Though he will be deeply missed, Gary's legacy of love, compassion, and service will live on in the hearts of his family and friends forever. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Cowell Family Cancer Center Marks 10 Years of Care, Celebrates with Generous Pledge

Traverse City, Mich. — The Cowell Family Cancer Center (CFCC) is celebrating 10 years of providing advanced, compassionate cancer care to Northern Michigan with a significant philanthropic investment that will help shape cancer treatment in the region for the next decade and beyond.

To commemorate its 10-year anniversary, the center’s namesake, Casey and Dana Cowell, are renewing their support with a \$1 million community rallying gift. Their vision is simple, yet powerful: to inspire our community to invest in the future of local cancer care.

“Dana and I are pleased to announce our \$1 million pledge supporting future growth of cancer programs and expanded services across our region,” said Casey Cowell. “We made this commitment to challenge others across northern Michigan to join us in building on this momentum.”

Community members can support this effort by making a gift at www.munsonhealthcare.org/cancercarechallenge. Gifts of all sizes make a meaningful difference and no amount is too small in helping advance cancer care close to home.

The pledge and donations made will help support key priorities, including:

- Enhancing access to advanced treatment options and technologies
- Expanding supportive care services for patients and families
- Strengthening clinical programs and care coordination

- Investing in future growth, research and innovation

Since opening its doors, the Cowell Family Cancer Center has grown into a comprehensive regional cancer network, expanding access to high-quality care close to home. Today, the network includes eight locations, 30 oncology providers and 197 dedicated staff members working together to deliver coordinated, patient-centered care.

“For the past 10 years, the Cowell Family Cancer Center has been a place of hope and healing,” said Debra Henderson, Chief Development Officer, Munson Healthcare. “This generous gift ensures we can continue to elevate care, invest in new technologies and expand programs that make a difference for patients and families across northern Michigan.”

Over the past decade, the center has made a profound impact across northern Michigan, serving more than 46,000 patients. Each year, care teams support 105,000 infusion visits and delivery approximately 72,865 radiation treatments. The center also offers 113 infusion chairs and 16 advanced treatment options, ensuring patients have access to leading-edge therapies without the need to travel far from home.

Growth continues through innovative clinics and programs designed to meet emerging patient needs including:

Cancer Drug Repository (2021), which has collected more than 280 unused cancer medication donations to support patients in need.

Oncology Diagnostic Clinic (2023)

which has already served 1000 patients.

High-Risk Breast Cancer Clinic (2025) which has received 1,175 patient referrals, helping with earlier identification and support for individuals at elevated risk.

In addition to clinical care, the center has built strong connections throughout the region, hosting and participating in 21 partnerships and community events that promote education, prevention and support.

The Cowell Family Cancer Center was founded through the generosity of the Cowell family and community donors committed to bringing world-class cancer care to the region. Over the years, the center has evolved into a regional leader in oncology care, offering a comprehensive approach that includes medical oncology, radiation oncology, infusion therapy, imaging and supportive services—all under one roof.

“We are proud of what has been accomplished over the past decade and deeply grateful for the

continued support of our donors and community,” said Kathy LaRaia, Vice President, Oncology & Professional Services. “Together, we are building a stronger future for cancer care in northern Michigan.”

As the center looks ahead, leaders remain focused on advancing innovative, patient-centered care while continuing to grow access across the region.

“Reaching this 10-year milestone is both a celebration and an opportunity,” said Ed Ness, President & CEO of Munson Healthcare. “As cancer care continues to evolve, so must we. This extraordinary pledge from the Cowell family helps position Munson Healthcare to meet growing needs, advance innovation and ensure that world-class care remains accessible here in northern Michigan for years to come.”

For more information about the Cowell Family Cancer Center or to learn how to support its mission, visit <https://www.munsonhealthcare.org/cancer>.



Ed Ness, Casey and Dana Cowell, Debra Henderson, Joe du Lac

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JULY 2026

- July 1 -30, StoryWalk®. Round up the family and head out to Coy Mountain, located at 9011 Valley St. in Alden, to enjoy a romp in the woods and reading a good book along the way. A new story will be placed each month and covers about a 1/2-mile portion of the trail. Open daily from dawn to dusk. The storybook for the month of July is “Bud Finds Her Gift” by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Sponsored by Alden District Library.
- July 1-30, Quilt Square Display. Come visit Alden District Library and enjoy a selection of quilt square samples by the Torch Area Artisans Guild. Each colorful pattern will be labeled with a name and a brief description or story. The display can be viewed during normal library hours. Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri 9:30a-5p, Tue 9:30a-6p, Sat 9:30a-2p. The library is located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318. Free Event.
- July 2, 10 am - Summer Reading Program: Discovering America’s Past Enjoy a special presentation to celebrate America’s 250th anniversary! Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge St., Bellaire. For details call the Library at 231-533-8814.
- July 7, 11 am - Guided Family Hike with the Kalkaska Conservation District. Meet at the North Country Trail parking area in Kalkaska for a family-friendly hike, guided by the Kalkaska Conservation District! We will hike rain or shine, so dress for the weather. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.
- July 8, 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. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.
- July 11, 9am – 2pm, Book Sale. Friends of Alden District Library are having a book sale. Available items: books, audio books, DVDs, music CDs & puzzles. Proceeds will benefit Enrichment Programs for Adults and Children. Sale is held at Helena Twp. Community Center 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318
- July 14, 11am, Community Field Day. Come play outside! Join us on the Senior Center Lawn for a series of fun outdoor games, races, and contests. There will be some water, so dress to get wet! In case of rain, Field Day will be rescheduled for the following week, July 21st. Summer Reading programs are free, and all families are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there! Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.
- July 14, 5:30pm, Antrim Photography Workshop at Royal Farms & Winery, 10445 US-31 N. Ellsworth, Mi. With the wide variety of plants and flowers at the farm, this workshop allows you to practice your macro photography skills. Then, visit the gift shop and tasting room for some food & drinks. Contact Lisa for details and to RSVP, 231-313-8820 or LL.pics44@gmail.com Sponsored by Alden District Library 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.
- July 16, 9:30am social time & 10am meeting, Friends of Alden District Library Monthly Meeting, held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. Topics of discussion will be plans for Alden Days craft booth and parade, upcoming book sales, and activities. Anyone interested in supporting the library is always welcome. Held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. 231-331-4318.
- July 16, 10am, Children’s Activities. Story Time - Watermelon theme & craft (baby-age 5) and Kids’ Crafts: Leaf Rubbing & Watercolor prints (ages 6-12). Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.
- July 18, 10am, LEGO Creature Lab. Stop by the library and use our LEGOs to build your own prehistoric animal! Follow a set pattern to build a real dinosaur, or create a creature that’s totally unique. Summer Reading programs are free, and all families are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there! Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.
- July 23, 10am, Children’s Activities. Story Time – Dinosaur theme & activity (baby-age 5) and Kids’ Crafts: Pan Pipe (ages 6-12). Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.
- July 24, 10am, Dinosaur Story Time. Join us for a very special Summer story time, featuring an exciting dinosaur guest! Kids from birth through kindergarten will get the chance to read, roar, dance, and more. Summer Reading programs are free, and all families are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there! Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.
- July 24 & 25, 10am- 4pm,Torch Area Artisans Guild Quilt & Art Show and Market, during Alden Festival. Free Admission. All quilts and art on display, and for sale in the Artisans Market, were crafted by Guild members. Also available are tickets for the “Kaleidoscope” Raffle Quilt, raffle is held November 21 during the Guild’s Art & Craft Show. Both events are held at the Helena Twp. Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. Sponsored by Alden District Library, 231-331-4318.
- July 28, 4pm, Friends of the Kalkaska County Library Meeting: Tuesday, July 28th, 4:00pm. 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.
- July 29, 2pm, Magic Show with Cameron Zvara. Don’t miss this exciting performance by magician and comedian, Cameron Zvara! His show is an outrageous, unforgettable event perfect to entertain kids of all ages. Summer Reading programs are free, and all families are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there! Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.

Alden

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

Boardman Township

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

Central Lake

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

East Jordan

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

Fife Lake

Fife Lake Baptist Church
449 W State St, Fife Lake
Sunday morning:
10:00 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship Service
Wednesday
6:00 pm - Bible Study

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

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

Kalkaska

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mancelona

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

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

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

Rapid City

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

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

Williamsburg

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

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

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

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DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)
Those hungry slots

22 December 2003

Dear Mark,

Today's machines seem so complicated. Lines going everywhere, coin amounts needed to insert confusing, and of course, try figuring out the payoffs. Most confusing though is multipliers and multiple paylines machines. Help! Also, is there any consistent way to win at playing these new machines? Helen G.

Slots, Helen, like burnt toast, haven't really changed that much over the years. They all work the same way; you kiss a coin a fond farewell, insert it, pull the handle, and fish through pocket or purse for more money. If, by some weird brain short circuits, you think you have any chance of winning consistently, not a chance.

The only consistent winners at slots are the casino owners. Both the slots of old and today's cybernetic one-armed bandits are machines designed by wizards not, wherefore, you should never, ever, think you can beat these gambling marvels with regularity.

As to multipliers and multiple payline machines, here's the skinny. A multiplier is a machine that has a given payout for a certain symbol, and the number of coins you play multiplies it. For example, If the machine pays five coins for three bars when you play one coin, it would pay 10 for the second coin and 15 for three coins played. What I like about this machine is that it does not penalize you for NOT playing maximum coins.

If you are the type of player who typically plays one coin at a time, this is the type of machine you should look for. However, Helen, if you tend to play the maximum amount, look for a Bonus Multiplier machine. This machine operates like the multiplier except that it offers a bonus when you play maximum coins and hit the jackpot. Three treasure chests may pay 1,000 for one coin, 2,000 for two coins and 10,000 for

maximum coins. As plain as day, the bonus makes it clearly worth going for the max.

As for a Multiple Payline machines, they have more than one line of play, and each coin inserted activates a particular line. If you hit a winner on an activated line, whoopee!, but winning on a non-activated line gets you nothing.

All of the slot machines, Helen, have the information you need posted somewhere on the front. Before you sit down to play, I recommend taking a moment and studying the machine. True, some of the older machines had but three lines and some of the newer slots have lines criss-crossing in every direction, but if you just take the time to educate yourself on any machine you're tempted to play, you will become a smarter player (Now, there's an oxymoron to treasure: a smart slot player.) and this will help you pick the machine that is best for you.

Dear Mark,

While watching the World Poker Tour on the Travel Channel, they used the term "belly buster." The game was moving so fast that I did not quite get what they meant by that term. So, what is a belly buster? Chuck R.

That's nicey talk for the gut shot, Chuck,. A belly buster is a draw to an inside straight; a straight that can be made only with a card of one rank, usually somewhere in the middle. For example, you are holding a nine-eight-six and a five, and only the seven will give you a straight. Then there's the double belly buster. An example of a double belly buster would be a queen-ten-nine-eight and a six. This is technically an open-ended straight because either the jack or seven would make your hand.

=====

Gambling quote of the week: "A man who can play delightfully on his guitar and keep a knife in his boot would make an excellent poker player." Winner J. Florence, Handbook for Poker (1891)



Sudoku Puzzle
July 10, 2026

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

Solution on page 15



Before



After

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Connection is a Nutrient

When I was younger, it seemed like I could eat and live however I wanted. At some point in our lives, we come to the realization that we cannot live, or live well, on poor food, no sunlight, movement or proper sleep. Well, what if healthy and supportive relationships were just as important? What if, like the food we eat, our relationships are an essential nutrient that cannot be ignored? What if, like hunger, loneliness is simply a way our soul reminds us that it needs to be fed?

As humans, we are designed for connection. As a species we develop in families, groups, neighborhoods and communities. These all provided the important nutrients we needed to grow into people who felt safe, learned to share responsibilities, create purpose and share emotional regulation. Our modern life may have created a whole bunch of new conveniences, but it has also proved to have fewer meaningful points of connection.

When we compare our friendships and in-person social connections with our physical health, it's easier to understand that we don't

get strong without exercising. We don't get a garden without watering it, and we don't develop skills without practice. In the same way, we cannot expect our relationships to survive or even thrive without being intentional about our investments in them.

Our connections don't typically disappear suddenly. They fade away slowly when we stop maintaining them. Here are several simple ways to cultivate the connections that we already have or ones that we just met:

- 1. Make the phone call you have been putting off
- 2. Schedule a time for coffee, a walk or some Bible study.
- 3. Check in on people and let them know right up front that this is what you are doing.
- 4. Join something locally that is meaningful like yoga, a painting class or something that gets you around others.
- 5. If possible and safe for all parties, repair damaged relationships when possible.

That feeling of loneliness is really a message. It's not a failure. Just as hunger reminds us that it is time to eat, loneliness reminds us that it is time to connect with others. Is there a relationship in your life that could use the nutrient of attention? If we want a healthy life, we will need both nutrients from our food and nutrients from connecting with those we share our lives with. This is another way that we win at life.

-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECF

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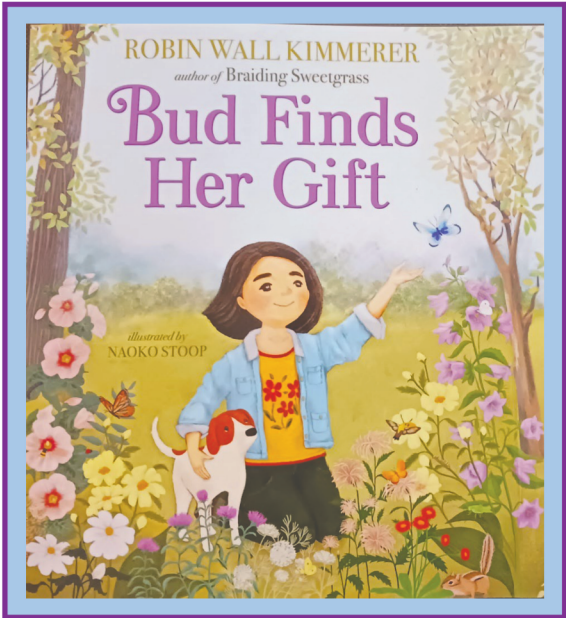
Adam DeVaney is a clinical social worker and therapist with over a decade of experience working with clients with a diversity of challenges from addiction and anxiety to overcoming trauma and helping people to learn what it takes to live their best lives. Along with his wife, Mandi, he founded Life's 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.



StoryWalk®

presented by Alden District Library

JULY 1st-30th



Time & Location

Daily, Dawn to Dusk

Coy Mountain, 9011 Valley St, Alden

Alden Men's Club

Rummage Sale!

SILENT AUCTION

Under 4 Big Tents!

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July 25th • 8:30am - 2 pm

Parking Lot and Garage

of the Alden United Methodist Church

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Furniture • Home Decor • Glassware

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Alden Men's Club • www.aldenmensclub.org

Does our system of voting reflect the will of the people?

By Becky Norris

Every state in the Union has the constitutionally-guaranteed right to representation in the Federal Government. Each state is guaranteed two senators who are elected by the registered voters of the state for six-year terms. The total number of senators is two times the number of states, 13 states when the union was formed and currently 50, for a total of 100 senators. Each state is also guaranteed a number of representatives who are also elected by the registered voters of the state for two-year terms. The total number of representatives for the entire country is currently limited to 435 and the number allotted to each state is based on population determined every 10 years by census, something which may require adjustment to the number of representatives a state is allotted.

Every candidate for office is entitled to seek affiliation with any political party or with none. Members of the two main parties (Republican and Democratic) caucus within their party's membership to determine policy on issues before them and independent members of congress make their own decisions with whom to caucus.

Candidates for senator in each state are voted upon state-wide by the electors of the state and the candidate with the most votes wins. In the rare circumstance that the vote is tied, a second election is held to choose the winner.

Candidates for representative in each state may not be voted upon state-wide. Instead, candidates for representative, typically, are voted upon separately in voting districts established by the legislature of each state. It has historically been the practice of states to establish the voting districts based upon the 10-year census population data, which may change the number of representatives allotted to the state and thereby require a change in the district boundaries so that an approximately equal number of electors are living within each district. It has also at times been the case that district boundaries are established by the

majority party in the state legislature in an effort to maximize the likelihood that the candidate(s) selected by the electors will be of the majority's party (gerrymandering).

Establishing voting district boundaries is a topic that has been in the news a great deal recently, something that has caused me to reflect upon systems of voting and criteria for selecting winners. If the purpose of voting is to establish what candidate will fill the role of representing the electors in whatever position is being determined, it seems that the voting system should reflect the choices of the electors as closely as possible. After all, our system of government is established as of the people, by the people, and for the people.

When there is a single seat being determined, it seems simple enough to count the votes and declare the person with the most votes the winner. There is an issue with that system, however, if the candidate with the most votes does not have a majority of the votes. In other words, the candidate with the most votes was not the choice of a majority of the electors. To remedy such a situation, a system was devised to have electors rank candidates in their personal order of preference. In this system, referred to as ranked voting, electors are called upon to vote again after eliminating the candidate with the fewest votes, and repeat this process until some candidate achieves a majority. This is generally considered to be unworkable as the burden of repeated voting causes electors to quit participating, thereby losing the very purpose, which was to accurately reflect the will of the electors. To get around the burden of repeated voting, various systems have been devised, having the electors rank candidates in order of their personal preference on the initial ballot and mathematically adjusting votes for each candidate based on criteria established in that system. In some systems, the votes for the candidate defeated at each decision-point are discarded and in some systems those votes are re-allocated to another candidate on an elector-by-electors basis as determined by the

individual elector's ranking of candidates. The outcome depends upon the criteria by which vote adjustments are made, and the process of mathematically determining the winner requires the use of sophisticated computer programs and is obscure. Not everybody is happy with such systems! And, so, in many instances, determining the winner of an election is based on simple majority despite the issue of failure of that majority to possibly reflect the actual preference of the electors.

When several seats are being determined in the same election, as typically occurs when voting for representatives, a commonly-used system is to limit the vote of each elector to only the candidates running in the voting district where the elector is registered. And when the district boundaries are gerrymandered to favor one party over another, there is a built-in disincentive for voting for the elector who may favor candidates from other parties. So, the vote resulting from the within-district system is virtually unable to reflect the actual profile of the district's elector preference.

Why should the vote of the electors of a state be limited to just one portion of the state? Why should not the candidates for representative to the federal government be voted on state-wide, just as are the candidates for senate to the federal government? Other than creating a temporary advantage for the party in the majority in the state legislature, what is accomplished by dividing the state into voting districts that can be designed to favor one party over another? If there are several seats for representatives to be determined in a given election, why not let every elector vote for as many candidates as there are seats to fill? If in a given election there are, for example, seven seats to fill, the seven candidates with the seven highest vote totals would be elected and those with fewer votes not elected. Well, that seems to me to be worthy of consideration. And, it might even be a reasonable idea to consider how the members of the state legislature are voted upon, too.

Three Lakes Association Invites you to our education event at the Summit Village Beach Clubhouse
5597 Northlakes Rd.
Bellaire, MI 49615

Tuesday, July 14th, 4:30pm to 6:30pm with presentations at 5:00

Adult refreshments and a meal of hors d'oeuvres will be provided!

Get the latest news about Eurasian Water Milfoil,
Aquatic Plant Surveys, Quagga Mussels impacts
And meet our 2026 interns!

There will also be a silent auction in support of
the Science Education Outreach Program (SEOP)
promoting stewardship in our local schools!



**THREE LAKES
ASSOCIATION**

Call: 231.412.7551
email: 3lakes.info@gmail.com

We have gift cards for golf, local eateries, guided boat tours,
unique one of a kind items and much more!

This event is for the general public as well as members! Bring your family and friends!

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, Gabe is here to answer any technology related questions you have. 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

Insure Domestic Tranquility

July 10, 2026

The third purpose listed in the Preamble to the Constitution is to “insure domestic tranquility.” Our young nation had just been through an immense upheaval as it fought the Revolutionary War.

The individual states had all been sort of independent, self-contained little fiefdoms, often in fierce almost hostile commercial competition with one another. They had their own sets of rules, their own currencies, etc. The Articles of Confederation only loosely held them together as a nation.

Our forefathers considered domestic tranquility to mean that no state would take up arms against another. They strove to craft provisions in the Constitution that would bind the states more closely together in cooperation rather than competition, and to assure each state that it would be fairly and even-handedly treated within the new Union.

And, though we don’t always want to think about it, not everybody here agreed with the idea of separating from England. As the family historian, I was having trouble finding some ancestral records that I knew must exist for one branch of the family. Eventually, I discovered that one of my 5x great-grandfathers was a British loyalist and had fled, with a brother, to Nova Scotia. Since the Americans won that war, the family was not especially proud of this man who was on the wrong side. That explained why it was hard to find records for this ancestor. Mine is not the only family that experienced internal conflict during the American Revolution, so domestic tranquility has an expanded meaning for us.

What measures did the framers write into the Constitution that would promote domestic

tranquility? Let’s have a look. One provision was for Congress to raise up an army and a navy that would defend the entire country. Article I, Section 8 grants Congress those powers. States kept their own militias, and Congress could call them up, also, in times of need, such as invasion or insurrection. States kept their own armed defense in their own militia, they were also protected by the national military, and if the need arose they could be aided by the militias of the other states. What a balancing act! National military protection and interstate military collaboration.

Article I, Sections 9 and 10, established rules against any state independently imposing taxes, duties, or imposts on other states.

There are no clauses in the Constitution that declare specific domestic tranquility regulations. Rather, there are rules of governmental conduct, courts, commerce, and mutual military defense that strive to assure a peaceful national civic order.

How well has it worked? Well, we did have one terrible crisis, beginning in 1860. South Carolina threatened to secede from the Union if Abraham Lincoln was elected, because he ran on a campaign of preventing slavery from being expanded beyond its then-current boundaries. Indeed, after Lincoln was elected in November 1860, South Carolina seceded in December, followed within a few months by the rest of the slave-holding states. Talk about domestic disruption! The firing on Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861, launched the battle that raged until 1865. Slavery was formally abolished in the United States of America with the ratification of Amendment XIII, December 6, 1865.

In the ensuing years, our nation has experienced a roller coaster of national upheavals, Reconstruction, Jim Crow laws,

segregation, forced integration, etc. Yet, we did put the country back together and over time we continued to creep ever closer to living up to the principles eloquently expressed in the Declaration of Independence. There still is hope that we will someday truly understand that all are created equal and that human rights are an endowment from our Creator. Domestic tranquility is still, in many ways, a goal a little bit out of our reach. But we will not give up in our striving for it. And the vision laid out for us by the framers of the Constitution will inspire us in that endeavor.

Today, more than two hundred years after the drafting of our Constitution, the nation has grown from thirteen states to fifty, with a population approaching 350 million souls. We still live under the protective umbrella of its carefully crafted original language along with its twenty-seven amendments. How very wise of our forefathers to recognize that the Constitution would need to be amended as time went on. They crafted the document with the very means of its own modification and improvement built right in. See Article V for the full information on how the Constitution is to be amended.

Remembering the philosophy of planting trees under whose shade we do not expect to sit, or planting for a harvest we will not live to see, I believe we must keep on striving to achieve domestic tranquility because it really is important. Let us not ever give up.

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) What does Article VII of the Constitution declare?
- 2) What does the first paragraph of Article VI establish?
- 3) What does the second paragraph of Article VI establish?
- 4) What does the third and final paragraph of Article VI say?



Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue’s questions

- 1) Where in the Constitution is it specifically states that the powers of the United States government are limited??
A. The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.
- 2) In the original Constitution, who elected Senators?
A. Article I, Section 3, declared that senators shall be chosen by their state legislatures.
- 3) When and how did that change?
A. Amendment XVII. Ratified April 8, 1913, declared that the election of Senators shall be by the people of the state.
- 4) Are amendments to the Constitution really part of the Constitution?
A. Yes. Article V of the Constitution says they “hall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States..”

Everything in this paper
is important to somebody

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, Ursela 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





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

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District #5
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for Board of Directors



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WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

AMERICA AT 250: ONE NATION, MANY VOICES, STILL MOVING FORWARD

By **Dominic Fortuna**

KALKASKA, Mich. — The fireworks have faded and the bunting has come down, but the question lingers across kitchen tables and town halls from Maine to California. We just marked 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and the celebration was grand. Parades filled Main Streets. Brass bands played. Flags snapped in the July wind.

Yet not everyone celebrated.

In a nation of 340 million people, some sat it out. Some protested. Some asked hard questions about whether a country with an imperfect record deserves a birthday party. The truth is simple and old as families themselves. If we look only at the hard times, we miss the full story. And America’s story is wide, complicated, and still being written.

A Record that shaped the world

Perfection has never been the American claim. Impact has. Over 250 years, the United States has changed the course of human history in measurable ways.

American scientists split the atom and then led the world into the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. American researchers developed the polio vaccine, the smallpox eradication campaign, and the first successful use of insulin to treat diabetes. American inventors gave the world the telephone, the light bulb, the airplane, the internet, and the GPS system that now guides ships, trucks, and ambulances across every continent.

American aid rebuilt Europe after World War II through the Marshall Plan, committing more than 13 billion dollars between 1948 and 1952 to restore cities, factories, and farms. American food assistance through programs like Food for Peace has fed hundreds of millions during famine. The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, launched in 2003, has saved more than 25 million lives in Africa and around the globe.

Strength used to protect

The United States remains the dominant military power on earth. Our Navy keeps sea lanes open for trade that feeds and fuels the planet. Our Air Force has delivered humanitarian relief after earthquakes, tsunamis, and hurricanes from Haiti to Indonesia. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and guardians have stood watch in Korea for 70 years so that a free people could build a democracy that now ranks among the world’s leading economies.

Have we used force in ways that drew criticism? Yes. Have we made mistakes in Iraq, Vietnam, and elsewhere? Yes. A nation that acts will sometimes act imperfectly. The difference is that we debate those choices openly, change course when needed, and hold leaders accountable at the ballot box.

Out of many, one

We are a nation built by every nation. More than 45 million Americans were born in another country. We speak over 350 languages at home. We worship in churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and in the quiet of our own hearts. *E pluribus unum* still appears on our currency for a reason. Out of many, one.

From Washington to Lincoln to Roosevelt to Reagan to Obama, the presidency has reflected that diversity of thought and background. Washington resigned his commission and walked away from power, setting a precedent for civilian rule. Lincoln held the Union together and issued the Emancipation Proclamation. FDR led the nation through Depression and world war. Eisenhower sent the 101st Airborne to protect Black children walking into school in Little Rock. Reagan challenged Moscow to tear down a wall. Every administration has carried both achievements and failures. That is the nature of leadership in a free republic.

A system that corrects itself

Yes, we have downfalls. We lived with slavery for 89 years under the Constitution and ended it with the 13th Amendment in 1865. It took another 100 years to guarantee voting rights for all citizens with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Women could not vote nationally until the 19th Amendment in 1920. We have interned our own citizens, fought unjust wars, and fallen short of our ideals.

But the American story is the story of self-correction. Our justice system, with trial by jury and due process, remains a model studied by new democracies. Our courts have overturned segregation, protected speech, and checked the power of presidents. Our ballots have peacefully replaced leaders for 59 straight presidential elections. That record is unmatched in human history.

Why some did not celebrate

So why did some Americans not feel like lighting a sparkler this year? Some are grieving personal loss, economic hardship, or the sense that their corner of the country has been forgotten. Some are angry at politics that feel bitter and loud. Some believe gratitude is unearned until every problem is solved.

Have we lost our way when it comes to gratitude? Maybe we are out of practice. Gratitude does not mean blindness. It means seeing the whole picture. A family that has been through illness, job loss, and arguments can still be grateful for the roof, the table, and the chance to try again tomorrow. A nation can do the same.

The view from middle America

America is not only New York and Los Angeles. It is not only Washington. It is Kalkaska and Gaylord and Petoskey and Traverse City. It is the farms between them and the forests that run to the water.

And that is where the story turns to summer.

Northern Michigan and the American summer

If you want to see the country at its best, come north in July and August. For generations, families have pointed their cars toward the Mackinac Bridge and felt their shoulders drop. The bridge itself is an American feat. Opened in 1957, it stretches five miles across the Straits of Mackinac and stands as one of the longest suspension bridges in the Western Hemisphere. Every Labor Day, tens of thousands walk it together, strangers becoming neighbors for five miles.

Come in early spring and you will find the National Trout Festival in Kalkaska, a celebration of cold water, clean rivers, and small-town pride that has run since 1936. Come in July and the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City draws over 500,000 people to honor the growers who made this region the cherry capital of the world. Walk the stalls and you will hear a dozen accents and see license plates from every state.

Go a little farther and you find Torch Lake. On a sunny Saturday the sandbar is a floating city of families. Pontoon boats tie up, side by side. Kids jump into water so clear it looks shallow at eight feet. The people there are every color and background the country holds. They are there for the same reasons. Freedom to gather. Safety to bring children. Public water that belongs to everyone. That is liberty you can touch.

Mackinac Island bans cars and runs on horses, bicycles, and time. It reminds us that some things are worth preserving. The Grand Hotel porch has seen soldiers home from war, couples on honeymoons, and grandparents teaching grandchildren how to play checkers. Generation after generation has come here and left with the same feeling. This place is special because the country that holds it is special.

The best place on earth

We have problems to solve. We always will. But when people around the world vote with their feet, they come here. More than one million people become naturalized American citizens each year. Students cross oceans to attend our universities. Refugees seek our shores because our system, with all its flaws, still protects speech, property, faith, and the right to a day in court.

Our justice system is not perfect, but it is open. Our voting rights have expanded across two and a half centuries, and the ballot remains the great equalizer. We abolished slavery, endured a civil war, and then built a nation where the grandchild of a slave could become president, and the child of immigrants could command a space shuttle mission.

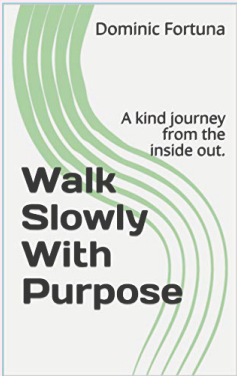
A summer invitation

So as the rest of summer rolls on, remember where you live. Northern Michigan is not a backdrop. It is a front porch for the American idea. The tourists who come up US 131 and I-75 are not strangers. They are countrymen. They are here for the same lakes, the same sunsets, the same freedom you wake up to.

Be kind on the road when traffic slows for a fudge shop. Hold a door in a crowded ice cream line. Help a family launch a kayak at the sandbar. Wave a boat past when the water is busy. Say good morning on the trail. That is not small. That is the American way lived out in the space we share.

America is beautiful. It is a wonderful place to be and a wonderful place to live. From the cherry orchards to the trout streams, from the blue of Torch Lake to the white of the Mackinac Bridge towers, the evidence is all around us. We have had hard times, and we will have them again. But no one should be bashing this country. It is still the best place on earth to call home.

See you on the water.



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

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 Wed, 5 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Village of Kalkaska:
Village Offices, 200 Hyde St, Kalkaska, 231-258-9191
Village Council- When: 2nd Mon, 6 pm
DDA- When: 1st Tue, 5:00 pm

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

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

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

- Alden**
Alden Bar & Grille
Alden State Bank
Alden District Library
Legacy Watersports & Marina
Higgins Store
Paradise Properties
TCC Artisan Market
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
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Birch Street Dental Care
Carter Lumber
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Kalkaska County Building
Kalkaska County Library
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The Shopping Basket
Trout Town Tavern & Eatery
Voice Motors

Kingsley
Kingsley Branch Library
Kingsley Village Offices

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

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

South Boardman
Yankee Boy

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

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School Board Meetings

Kalkaska Public Schools,
Board of Education room, 315 S Coral St Kalkaska , 231-258-9100
When: 3rd Mon, 6 pm

Forest Area Community Schools
Band Room, Forest Area High School, 7661 Shippy Rd SW, Fife Lake 231-369-4191
When: 2nd Mon, 7:00 pm

Crawford School, Excelsior District #1
Crawford School 5621 M-72 NE, Kalkaska 231-258-2934
When: 3rd Wed, 4:00 pm



Mancelona Public Schools
Media Center, Mancelona Middle School, 1122 St Johns Ave, Mancelona 231-587-9764
When: 2nd Tue, 4:30 pm

Central Lake Public Schools,
8190 W. State St, Central Lake, 231 544-3341
When: 2nd Mon, 6:30 pm

Bellaire Public Schools,
204 W. Forest Home Ave, Bellaire, 231-533-8015
When: 3rd Mon, 6:30 pm

Kingsley Area Schools,
High School Library, 7475 Kingsley Rd, Kingsley
When: 2nd Mon, 7:00 pm

Sudoku Puzzle Solution July 10, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

LSSU's Petoskey Regional Center Announces Spring 2026 Graduates

PETOSKEY, Mich. – Three area residents have earned bachelor's degrees from Lake Superior State University (LSSU). Graduates achieved their degrees through LSSU's Petoskey Regional Center, which offers baccalaureate degree programs for students on North Central Michigan's (NCMC) campus. Graduates attended commencement May 2, on LSSU's main campus in Sault Ste. Marie.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration-Management is Casey Kitley of Petoskey.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in General Studies with a business concentration and a public relations minor is Margaret McKinney of Cheboygan.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Teacher Education with a concentration in grades PreK-3 and 3-6 is Madison Matthews of Boyne City. Matthews also earned an associate degree in general studies with an education concentration.

Kitley and Matthews graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors, earning a 3.70-3.89 cumulative grade point average (GPA) on a 4.00 scale.

Matthews said, "I received my degree and stayed debt free!"

Students completed their coursework through LSSU's Petoskey Regional Center, in partnership with North Central Michigan College, allowing them to pursue LSSU bachelor's degrees on

NCMC's campus in Petoskey. The Petoskey Regional Center continues to expand access to LSSU bachelor's degrees in Northern Michigan.

About LSSU's Petoskey Regional Center

LSSU's Petoskey Regional Center, housed on the North Central Michigan College campus in Petoskey, offers a student-oriented approach to higher education. It features



Graduate Madison Matthews (left) accepts degree from LSSU President David Travis (right).

small class sizes, experienced faculty, and the ability to pursue your educational dreams close to home. LSSU's regional centers and locations are committed to providing Northern Michigan-area residents with educational opportunities for intellectual, personal, and professional growth. For more information, visit www.lssu.edu/regional-center/ or contact Heidi Rife at 906-217-4123 or hrife@lssu.edu.

About Lake Superior State University

Lake Superior State University is a close-knit university in Michigan's Upper Peninsula where faculty and staff know their students by name. Founded in 1946, LSSU offers a unique personal education shaped by its size, setting, and spirit of community. The University's one-rate tuition seeks to make education accessible to all students, while Laker athletics foster competitive spirit and school pride. Learn more at www.lssu.edu.



LSSU Regional Students Attend Commencement in Sault Ste. Marie.



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