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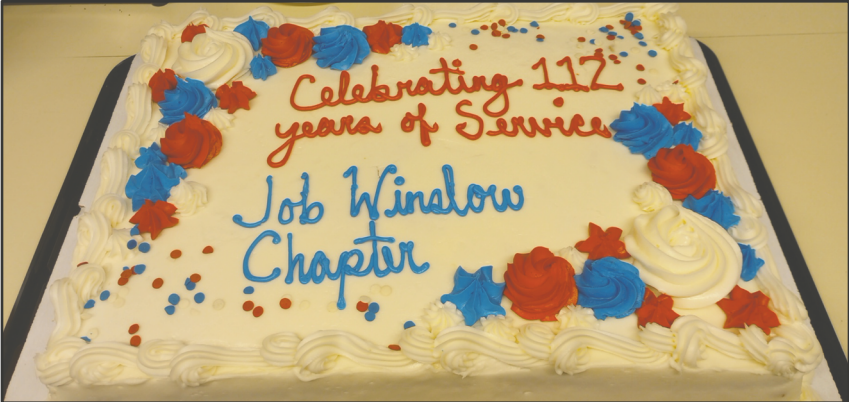
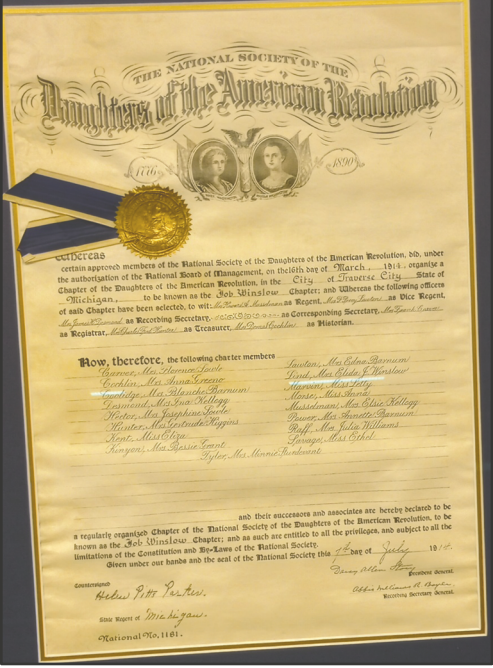
Vol2026:
July 24, 2026

A July of Celebration

By Tina Norris Fields

Traverse City – For America, for the Cherry Festival, and for the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), July 2026 was full of celebrations. For America, it is the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. For the Cherry Festival, it is the 100th anniversary. For the Job Winslow chapter of the NSDAR, it is the 112th birthday. Spearheaded by Carolyn Hoffmann, the Job Winslow Chapter, NSDAR, entered a float in the Cherry Festival’s 100th birthday parade; the float celebrated the 250th birthday of the United States, with a giant cake and Betsy Ross with h er flag. Marching ahead of the float was a color guard of HODARs and SAR members (Sons of the American Revolution). (A HODAR is the husband of a DAR member.)

While Saturday, July 11 was the Cherry Festival Grande Royale parade, the following Saturday was the Job Winslow Chapter meeting and 112th birthday party.



Top - float with group

Mid - color guard

Bottom - construction

Top left - Ginny Istnick is recognized for 35 yrs

Bottom left - the 1914 charter of the Job Winslow Chapter

Left - 112th birthday cake.

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](mailto:taartisansguild@gmail.com) or view our page at www.facebook.com/TorchAreaArtisansGuild.com. Sponsored by Alden District Library, 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

Rita Jaynes Kyselka

April 15, 1938 ~ July 13, 2026

Rita Jayne Kyselka, age 88, of Cypress, California, passed away peacefully on July 13, 2026.

Rita was born on April 15, 1938, to James L. and Ellen F. (Akers) Kyselka at their family home in Fife Lake, Michigan. She graduated from Fife Lake High School in May 1955.

In the late 1950s, Rita moved to California, where she studied ballroom dancing at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Long Beach. She later became a dance instructor there, sharing her love of dance with countless students.

Rita began her career at Douglas Aircraft in Huntington Beach. In 1971, she decided to pursue higher education at California State University, Long Beach. She earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Psychology in 1975.

After completing her education, Rita returned to McDonnell Douglas while continuing to teach dance through adult education programs and local community



colleges throughout Orange County, California.

Rita had a special love for animals. She rescued a kitten that became her beloved companion, affectionately naming her Cha Cha.

Rita was preceded in death by her parents, James and Ellen Kyselka, and her sister, Frances E. Ely (Kyselka) and her husband Leo B. Ely.

She is survived by her sister, Deanna Ruth Borodayko and her husband, Alex; her nephew, Jerry Lee Ely and his wife, Tiffany, and their children, Sarah and Hunter; her niece, Tina Marie Copeland and her children, Ashley and Cheyanne; and her niece, Bobbie Jean Crider and her husband, David, and their children, Sheri and Shannon.

Interment will take place at Fife Lake Cemetery. A graveside service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Cherryland Humane Society in Traverse City.

Lyle D. Kniss

December 29, 1940 ~ July 2, 2026

Lyle D. Kniss of McBain, formerly of Kalkaska, passed away on July 2, 2026. Lyle was born in Kalkaska to the late Boyd and Ruth (Six) Kniss on December 29, 1940.



He was raised in Kalkaska for his whole life and graduated from Kalkaska High School. After graduation, Lyle spent his life's career working with Kalkaska Screw Products manufacturing engineered machined components for the automotive, aerospace, and heavy truck industries.

Lyle enjoyed hunting, fishing, and farming. He listened to Country Western music and appreciated nothing more than a big, deep belly laugh.

He is survived by his brother Richard (Christine) Kniss and his

sister Ila (Christopher) Rosselit both of Niles, MI, and surviving spouse to Milton, Christine Kniss of Bellaire, along with many loving cousins, nieces, and nephews, who affectionately referred to Lyle as "Uncle Snort".

Lyle was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Milton Kniss.

A funeral service for Lyle was on Friday, July 10, 2026 at 1pm at Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home with a public visitation starting at Noon. Burial was at Oliver Township Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to a charity of your choice. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Ronald Glenn D'Water

February 16, 1947 ~ June 13, 2026

Ronald G. D'Water of Mancelona passed away on June 13, 2026, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. He was born to the late Nelson and Gladys (Misner) D'Water on February 16, 1947, in Antrim, MI.



He loved to camp. But most importantly, he loved his John Deere and taking his tractor to Buckley's yearly Steam Show parade and across the Mackinac Bridge. Ron was happiest helping people. He loved his dear significant other, Beverly O'Brien, and his fur baby. Ronald survivors include his daughters, Sandra Brigham of Rockford and Dawn

Kinney of Ionia; 7 grandchildren; siblings Joyce Ackerman, of Fife Lake, Pat (John) Johnson of Lake Odessa, FL, Judy Lilly, of Portland, Robert (Karen) Peabody of Hastings, Daisy Miller, of Ionia, Dorothy Januz, of Coldwater, Kathy (Tom) Jackson or Osseo, Nelson D'Water of Marshall, Larry D'Water and Terry D'Water.

Ron was preceded in death by his siblings, Leroy D'Water and Caroline Combs. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

James John Romans

December 20, 1976 ~ June 26, 2026

James John Romans, "JJ", passed away on June 26, 2026, after a lengthy battle with diabetes. He was born on December 20, 1976, to Chester & Sueko Romans. He graduated from Luther L. Wright HS in 1995 where he developed a love for sports, singing & theater. JJ was involved in community theater for many years having been in multiple musicals. Some of which included Grease; Shake, Rattle & Roll and Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, to name a few. He loved sports and especially watching the Minnesota Vikings, the Detroit Red Wings, the Detroit Tigers & wrestling. His passion for sports and statistics made him unbeatable at any sort of trivia contest or Jeopardy. He also had an amazing love for cooking and his culinary skills were exceptional. His love for family and friends was boundless, and he was always up for getting together for family functions and spending time with friends whenever he was able. He spoke often and highly of his family that preceded him in death such as his parents, Chester and Sueko Romans and his brother Ervin Romans. His



great love for his family included his best "Bud", his son, Jonathan Romans, his brother Arthur (Tiffany) Romans, his nephew PJ Panosso-Romans, or "Squirt" as he lovingly referred to him, his niece Kristina Romans, his nephew Justin (McKaela) Romans & great nieces Mazzy & Everly Romans. Sister-in-law Nicole (Tyler) Romans-Hall, niece Kimberly (Tom) Galbreth, great nephews Carter & Jaxton Galbreth and nephew Cameron Lawson. He also had a lot of extended family that he loved & cared for immensely. His smile and infectious laugh will be greatly missed by all. Funeral services will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ironwood, MI on Saturday, July 25th at 11 am with visitation at 10 am & a luncheon to follow in the fellowship hall. Burial will take place at Sunset Acres Cemetery immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Breakthrough T1D to bring awareness & help in finding a cure for this terrible disease.

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AND CREMATION SERVICES
KalkaskaFuneralHome.com



MANAGER:
BRUCE A. ZENNER II
231-258-3346
152 S. Cedar St.,
Kalkaska

Northwest MI

V O I C E

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Russell Stanley Bell

July 1, 1944 ~ July 2, 2026

Russell Stanley Bell, age 82 of Kalkaska, passed away Thursday July 2, 2026 at his home with family.

He was born July 1, 1944 in Ewart Michigan and was one of eleven children. Russ graduated from Ewart High School, then attended college at Central Michigan University. Russ then went to work at General Motors, being in supervision for over 20 years before relocating to Kalkaska, where he became owner of Krouse Tire and the Radio Shack store in Kalkaska before retiring in 2012. Russ was also a valued member of the Kiwanis Organization, and a Kalkaska County commissioner for seven years. Russ was very instrumental in the development of the Kalkaska Kaliseum Center which he was very proud of.

Russ loved his family and especially spending time at the family deer camp with his brothers, sons, grandson, nephews and niece.

Russ was an avid golfer which was his second passion in life, with his



family being his first.

Russell is survived by his wife Rosemarie Franco Bell, his brother Robert (Sherry) Bell, Sister Christie (Don) Dunlop. Sons Robert (Michele) Bell, David (Sheri) Bell, Charles Bell, Frank Franco and daughter Victoria (Chuck) Franco. Grandchildren, Brandon (Rebecca) Bell, Brittany Bell, Stephanie Bell, Destinee Bell and Russell Bell. Plus, many more nephews and nieces.

Russ was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Grace (Lincoln) Kinney, Iris (Dave) Jenson, Hazel (William) Spence, Charlie (Joan) Bell, Don Bell, Carl Bell, Clare (Betty) Bell, and Herb (Edna) Bell.

There will be no funeral services per Russell's request. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, August 9th, at Kalkaska Moose Lodge, beginning at Noon. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

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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.

Air Quality Index

GREEN	Good (AQI 0-50) Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
YELLOW	Moderate (AQI 51-100) Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
ORANGE	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (AQI 101-150) Members of sensitive groups* may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
RED	Unhealthy (AQI 151-200) Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
PURPLE	Very Unhealthy (AQI 201-300) Health alert; everyone may experience more serious health effects.
MAROON	Hazardous (AQI 301-500) Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more than likely to be affected.



*Sensitive groups include active adults, people with heart or lung disease (including asthma), older adults, and children.

Laura Pond, DNP, Joins Munson Healthcare
Outpatient Behavioral Health Services

Munson Healthcare is pleased to welcome Laura Pond, DNP, to the Outpatient Behavioral Health Services team.

Laura's career was inspired by family members who worked in the mental health field. Growing up, conversations about mental health were encouraged and she wants others to feel that same openness.

Laura values getting to know her patients and hearing their stories.

"I aim to provide patient-centered, collaborative care while prioritizing a safe environment where patients can feel heard and respected," she says.

She earned her graduate degree from Michigan State University College of Nursing.

Outside of work, Laura enjoys hiking, Pilates, and spending quality time with her family and three cats.

Munson Outpatient Behavioral Health Services is located at 4230 Copper Ridge Drive in Traverse City. To make an appointment with Laura, call 231-935-6382.

Learn more at munsonhealthcare.org/FindADoctor.



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JULY 2026

- 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.

July 30, Bellaire Dam Field Trip
Concerned about our local dam after the recent flooding event in Bellaire? Come join us for a field-trip style program to learn from our local expert Leslie Meyers, Antrim County Operator of Dams. 10:00am. Meet at the dam site in Richardi Park, E Antrim Street, Bellaire. For questions call the Bellaire Public Library 231-533-8814.

AUGUST 2026

- August 1 – 29, Torch Lake Camps Display. Come to the Alden District Library. The free display is presented by the Alden Depot Museum: www.aldendepot.com. View the display during library hours.. 8751 Helena Road in Alden. (231)331-4318.

August 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 “Outside In” by Deborah Underwood. Sponsored by Alden District Library.

August 6, 10*11 am, LEGO Creation Event. Kids of all ages are welcome to this free event. Come see what you and your imagination can create! Completed Lego Creations will be displayed in the library. Sponsored by Alden District Library, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

August 6, 2 pm, Dinosaur Art Day. Celebrate Summer with a family art day! Join us for a series of easy, prehistory-inspired crafts. Kids will get the chance to use crayons, clay, paint, ink, and more to make their own works of art. Summer Reading programs are free, and all families are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there! Located at the Railroad Square Pavillion, 107 Elm St, Kalkaska, MI. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.
- August 8, Antrim Photography Workshop- Harbor Days Fireworks. This is a great event to learn how to take pictures of fireworks & night light reflections on the water. Please contact Lisa at 231-313-8820 or LL.pics44@gmail.com for time and location to meet in Elk Rapids. Seasonal membership \$50.00 or non-members \$10 per workshop. Sponsored by Alden District Library 231-331-4318.

August 13, 3:30 pm, Books ‘n Brie Book Club. Enjoy the company of fellow book lovers while discussing “How To Read A Book” by Monica Wood. Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

August 20, 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.

August 30, 2 pm, Blues Musician Nick Veine. Nick’s program is a musical and historical survey of the Blues from the turn of the 20th Century until World War II. It covers the heavy hitters of acoustic blues music from Blind Lemon Jefferson to Charley Patton, Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters and more. This is a Free family friendly program. Held outdoors at Alden Depot Park & Museum; bring a chair. In the event of rain, the musical program will be held at Helena Twp. Community Center 8751 Helena Rd, Alden.

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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

DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)
Bringing down the house

29 December 2003

Dear Mark,

What do you know about a group of college students who were featured on NBC Dateline who beat the casinos in Las Vegas out of millions by card counting? Doug F.

First, Doug, a quick point of fact. It was ABC Primetime who did the segment, not NBC Dateline.

Here's how it went down. During the 1990s, six MIT students, by employing card counting techniques made millions of dollars playing blackjack in Vegas casinos on the weekends.

Your typical card counter can be spotted easily because they tend to make large bets for no apparent reason, but these counters had four individuals spread out making them as a group much harder to detect. They used a back-spotter that would stand and count cards, but not play. A spotter, who would make small bets at the table and relay messages to the Gorilla. The Gorilla would move around from table to table placing huge bets when the spotter and back-spotter indicated that there might be an advantage at a table. And finally, you had the Big Player, who would play large hands and count the cards.

Casinos fastidiously keep track on card counters by employing agencies that seek out and monitor suspected card counters. They were caught when someone from their own inner circle sold their names to an agency in Las Vegas. After that, anytime they entered a casino; they were shown the door.

It is an interesting story, yes, but hardly new. Ken Uston described the same sophistication of team collaboration and mathematical mastery two decades earlier in his book, The Big Player: How a Team of Blackjack Players Made a Million Dollars. But, Doug, if you want to read more about this group of counters, check out Ben Mezrich's book, Bringing Down the House: The Inside Story of Six MIT Students Who Took Vegas for Millions.

Dear Mark,

Do you happen to know the origin of strip poker? Russell R.

I received a question similar to yours a few years ago, but to date, I have yet to find the actual origin of the game strip poker.

I can perceive risk takers of past cultures sitting around a campfire playing with black walnut half shells filled with pine resin and charcoal shaking die trying to

induce the opposite sex to shed a garment or two, but I still cannot find any lineage of the game.

Your question, Russell, does remind me of a true story a dear friend shared with me that happened in a casino in Monaco. An American consultant working out of Milano, stopped off for an evening of fun while en route to Paris to pick up his wife — of French extraction — who'd been visiting the family farm up around Charleville.

He staked out a roulette table where a gorgeous brunette, very nearly into a low-cut gown, had done well early on, but had been on a slide for the last several spins and clearly didn't have enough moolah left to play again. She stamped a pretty little foot and began to leave with the bravura look that needs no translation: "OK, you bastards! Just you wait!"

She and my acquaintance had been playing on opposite sides of the table and were aware of each other but hadn't actually spoken until she now stormed past him. He had been quite lucky and now, like the generous philosopher he was, he tapped her on the elbow and offered to stake her for another round or so.

"And why would monsieur want to do that?"

"Blind faith, cash overload, not to mention an eye for the chic and decorative."

"Too kind, a gallant gesture and collateral ?"

"Your underwear — at so much per item."

"Oh, mon Dieu, jamais, jamais; I'm not that kind ... etc., etc."

And so it was arranged that in exchange for his loan, she would visit the ladies' room and return leaving in his hands whatever she wore under the gown — at 30,000 francs per item.

As it turned out, bit by bit, she lost the 90,000 francs and along about dawn withdrew to her hotel. The consultant, a man of wide-ranging concepts, well above dreary details, was left with three items of intimate apparel in his pockets.

Typically, he failed to dispose of the evidence, and would his wife ever believe how he got them out of a pure humanitarian gesture? Of course not.

=====

Gambling quote of the week:
"Vegas holds a warm place in my heart, although, I used to go in a \$30,000 car and come home in an \$800,000 bus." —actor James Caan

Sudoku Puzzle
July 24, 2026

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

Solution on page 15

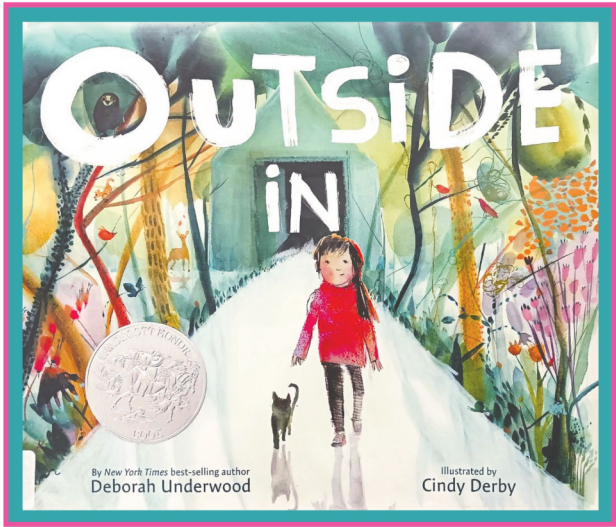
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AUGUST 1st-30th



Time & Location

Daily, Dawn to Dusk

Coy Mountain, 9011 Valley St, Alden

Christmas in July at Moomers to benefit Toys for Tots

Traverse City, Mich. — Santa will take a break from Christmas preparations this Saturday to help Toys for Tots of Northwest Michigan. Moomers Homemade Ice Cream shop will host Christmas in July on Saturday, July 25, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

The iconic ice cream store near Traverse City will serve special holiday ice cream flavors, play Christmas music, and feature a visit from Santa, who will take early gift requests.

Customers are encouraged to drop off toys or make a cash donation to Toys for Tots. Throughout the event, customers can register to win a variety of door prizes, including Moomers gift certificates and area restaurant gift cards.

“A visit with Santa in July is an unexpected experience,” said Moomers co-owner Jon

Plummer. “We’ve staged Christmas in July for many years, and it’s always fun to see the kids delight over an early visit with Santa.”

Toys for Tots of Northwest Michigan serves a five-county area that includes Grand Traverse, Antrim, Benzie, Leelanau, and Kalkaska counties. Last year, the local campaign distributed over 26,000 toys to more than 6,000 children through a variety of human service agencies. Other Toys for Tots campaigns are active throughout northern Michigan.

“We know that every donation goes to brighten children at Christmas,” said Maggie Kent, the Toys for Tots coordinator of Northwest Michigan. “That can only happen because of the generosity of this community.”

Local sponsors include Meijer, Fox Grand Traverse, Serra of Traverse City, Leelanau Sands

Casino, Turtle Creek Casino, Great Wolf Lodge, Up North Live News, Midwestern Broadcasting/WKLT, Black Diamond Broadcasting, Blarney Stone Broadcasting, Traverse City Record-Eagle, Jen Tees, Two Men and A Truck, A. Papano’s Pizza, Bay Area Transportation Authority, Fast Signs, Les & Ann Biederman Foundation, Jimmy John’s, and Traverse City Tourism.

Now in its 79th year, the toy drive is part of a national campaign started by the Marine Corps Reserve. It is the largest toy collection program in the country, with over 800 campaigns in all 50 states. Last year, the national campaign distributed over 24 million toys to 11 million children. More information is available at: ToysForTots.org.



TIRE RECYCLING COLLECTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026
9AM TO 1PM

- Please join us on August 15th for our annual tire recycling collection event!
- 12 tires per household are permitted to Kalkaska County residents.
 - Tires will be accepted until semi-trailers are full.
 - No commercial business or heavy equipment tires.
 - We cannot accept tires larger than 4 feet tall or 12 inches wide.
 - *This date has been rescheduled from June 2026 due to adjusted grant timelines.*

Call the Conservation District office with questions, 231-258-3307
or visit www.kalkaskaconservation.org/events/tires2026



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

Provide for the Common Defense

July 24, 2026

The fourth purpose for our Constitution, according to the Preamble is to “provide for the common defense.”

Among the powers granted by the people to the Congress is the authority to raise up an army and a navy, as well as to call on the militia of the several states when the national need arises (see Article I, Section 8).

Now we begin to see how the provisions within the Constitution overlap in meeting the purposes listed in the Preamble. Providing for the common defense also contributes to a sense of domestic tranquility, because the people know that they will not be left to their own devices to fend off a foreign invasion. Nor will their defense be left solely to their local community or state, but will be borne by the whole nation. That level of reassurance lends itself well to maintaining a sense of civil confidence and domestic tranquility.

Knowing that foreign aggression will be met with vigorous national defense reminds us that there are important areas of social life that work better when we are joined together with others in the effort. There are many good endeavors that are too much for just one person.

Within a community, it helps to have a professional police force to oversee the public’s adherence to the rules. We agree as a civil society to accept common standards of behavior to make our interpersonal transactions smoother. Our parents teach us how to be polite and how to play nicely with other children. They teach us not to take things that don’t belong to us, no matter how much we like them. They teach us to tell the truth and that getting caught lying about misbehavior will get more punishment than we would get just for the misbehavior. By teaching us these wise things as well as how to know right from wrong, they prepare us to become good citizens. And good citizens make for a good community. Even in a good community, however, there will be accidents and disagreements, which is why a well-trained police force is important.

Today, our nation has a very strong military network protecting us. We have the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, the Coast Guard, and now also the Space Force. At this time, these military services are staffed by volunteers – men and women who are willing to put their own lives at risk in order to protect all of us. The same is true of all the first responders in our civilian life. The people who take up arms to defend our nation, those who

race to put out a fire, those who go toward the danger to rescue others, and those who answer the 911 emergency – these are all special people. They are the ones with the courage to face the danger; they are the once with the compassion to comfort the crying baby or the distraught spouse; they are the ones whose love for humanity outweighs temporary danger to themselves. Society owes them a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

Whenever we hear the siren wail of a police car, fire truck, or ambulance, we know that someone is racing to take care of something that has gone wrong or someone who needs help. I can’t speak for anyone else, but I know that I am deeply grateful to our military members and our first responders. And I rejoice that our forefathers, those who framed our Constitution, had as one of their guiding principles that we should take care of one another and provide for the common defense.

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) In essence what do the first three Articles of the Constitution do?
- 2) What do Sections 1 and 2 of Article IV do?
- 3) What do Sections 4 and 4 of Article IV do?
- 4) What does Article V of the Constitution do?



Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue’s questions

- 1) What does Article VII of the Constitution declare?
A. It states that ratification of the Constitution by the states establishes it as the Constitution between those states.
- 2) What does the first paragraph of Article VI establish?
A. That all debts incurred by the earlier Confederation are to be honored under this new Constitution.
- 3) What does the second paragraph of Article VI establish?
A. That the Constitution is the supreme law of the land and that judges in all the states are bound by it notwithstanding anything contrary to it in the state constitutions.
- 4) What does the third and final paragraph of Article VI say?
A. That all senators and representatives as well as all executive of judicial officers of the United States or of the individual states are bound by oath or affirmation to support the Constitution, and that no religious test shall ever be required as qualification for any office or public trust under the United 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 info 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: Tue, 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

NPH - Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus Support Group
For those diagnosed with NPH, their caregivers, family members, or anyone seeking more information about NPH. This is an open discussion in a welcoming environment. Kalkaska Commission on Aging, 303 S Coral St, Kalkaska.
When: 2nd Tue. 10:00 am

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

To place a classified ad, or a display ad,

Email: tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com

or call: 231-322-2787 or 231-645-0244



News for Veterans



Kalkaska Farmers' Markets - Vouchers for Veterans

The Kalkaska County Department of Veterans Affairs was awarded a Grant from the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation. A portion of the Grant funds will be used to participate in the Kalkaska Farmers Market Vouchers for Veterans outreach program, in partnership with the Kalkaska Conservation District.

Eligible Kalkaska County Veterans can receive \$15.00 worth of Vouchers to be used on food items at the Kalkaska Farmers Market during the 2026 season.

Kalkaska County Veterans will need to provide their DD214 / discharge paper and proof of residency. Please call the Veterans Affairs office at 231-258-3370 to schedule an appointment to pick up the Vouchers. The office is open Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus (NPH)
SUPPORT GROUP

Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus is a condition in which excess cerebrospinal fluid builds up in the ventricles of the brain, causing them to enlarge. This can lead to symptoms such as difficulty walking, memory problems, and other conditions. Although it can often resemble other neurological conditions, NPH is often treatable, especially when diagnosed early – making awareness and support especially important.

There is a support group that meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am at the Kalkaska Commission on Aging, located at 303 S. Coral Street in Kalkaska.

Who should attend? Individuals diagnosed with NPH, their caregivers, family members, or anyone seeking more information about NPH. Come and share your experiences, offer your support, learn about NPH symptoms and treatments. This is an open discussion in a welcoming environment.

WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

Northern Michigan Takes Care of Its Own

By Dominic Fortuna

If you live up here, you already know it. There is something different about Northern Michigan. Maybe it is the way people wave when they pass you on M-72. Maybe it is how a cashier at the grocery store remembers your kid’s name. Or maybe, like I found out recently, it is what happens when you get sick and you need help fast.

I spent last week in a hospital bed. Nothing dramatic on the news, just one of those illnesses that knocks you flat and reminds you that health is the only thing that really matters. When you do not have it, nothing else does either. The mortgage, the politics, the weather. None of it counts for much.

And because I live in Kalkaska, I was not stranded. I was not waiting hours for an ambulance from two counties over. I was not told to drive myself three hours south for decent care. I was taken care of right here, by people who live here too.

Right Here in Kalkaska

Our hospital in Kalkaska is not big. It does not need to be. What it has is better than size. It has doctors and nurses who know your name, who have seen you at the hardware store, who ask about your family before they ask about your symptoms.

The nurses here work 12-hour shifts. They come in when it is dark, and they leave when it is dark. They are on their feet the whole time. They start IVs, they calm scared kids, they sit with people who do not have anyone else in the room. And they do it without making you feel like a number.

I watched one nurse, after a double shift, sit and explain to an elderly man three different times how to take his new medication. Not because she had to. Because she wanted him to go home and be okay.

That is what you get in Kalkaska. Convenient care, yes. But more than that, care that is personal.

The People Who Come When You Call

Before I ever got to a hospital room, there were the paramedics. Kalkaska County EMS showed up at my door in under ten minutes.

These are not people just punching a clock. Some of the crew have been running these roads for decades. They know every back road, every seasonal driveway, every place the GPS gets wrong in January.

They were calm. They were kind. They cracked a joke to keep me from panicking, and they held my wife’s hand when she was worried. That matters. When you are sick and scared, being treated like a human being is half the medicine.

Our ambulance crews are outstanding at their jobs, and they are personable doing it. That combination is rare. Up here, we have it.

And Then There is Munson

Not every rural community can say this, but we can. Forty-five minutes down US-31 is Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

Munson is state of the art. Full surgical suites. Cancer care. Cardiac cath labs. Trauma teams. The kind of hospital you would expect in a city five times our size.

What makes it different is not just the machines. It is the people who run them. The hospital network up here goes out of its way to hire quality medical professionals and keep them. They recruit doctors who want to practice medicine, not just push paperwork. Nurses who went to big-city schools and came back home because they wanted to raise families where people still look out for each other.

Medicine is an art. You can tell by some of them. The way a surgeon explains a procedure so you actually understand it. The way an oncologist sits down instead of standing in the doorway. The way they remember details about your life that have nothing to do with your chart.

Not many rural areas are blessed with this kind of talent so close. We are.

The Care We Do Not Talk About Enough

And then there are the people who do not make the headlines.

Our CNA workers. The ones in the assisted living facilities and residential complexes all over Northern Michigan. In Kalkaska, in Grayling, in Bellaire, in Mancelona.

They are the ones who get up at 5am to help our parents and grandparents bathe, eat, and get dressed with dignity. They are the ones who notice when someone is a little quieter today. They are the ones who work holidays so families can be together.

We have many facilities here, and they are stacked with quality nurses and aides. Think for a minute what it would be like if we did not. If our elderly population had to be shipped hours away, away from their grandkids and their neighbors, because there was no one here to care for them. We would be stranded.

Instead, we have people who chose this work. Hard work. Low pay. High heart.

A Moment for Gratitude

So this is not a political piece. This is a gratitude piece.

Take a moment and think about the people working tonight. The nurse starting her night shift

in Kalkaska. The paramedic cleaning his rig. The CNA changing sheets in Traverse City. The doctor at Munson reviewing scans at midnight.

They take the time. Twelve hours at a time. To take care of us.

When you are the one in the bed, you understand quickly that health is everything. Without it, you have nothing.

The Hard Part We Still Have to Face

But gratitude does not mean we ignore the truth. Healthcare is too expensive. Way too expensive.

It does not matter how good our doctors are if a working family cannot afford to see them. It does not matter how modern Munson is if people are skipping checkups because of the bill. It does not matter how dedicated our CNAs are if facilities cannot afford to keep them.

We need to do something. And we need to take the politics out of it first.

This is not about left or right. This is about neighbors. We need real people — the nurses, the doctors, the paramedics, the CNAs — sitting down with community leaders and figuring out how to make this awesome care affordable.

Because the most important part of a human being’s life is their health. And no one up here should have to choose between that and paying the heating bill in February.

We have the talent. We have the facilities. We have the heart. What we need now is a system that matches the people who work in it.

Closing

I came home from the hospital this week. I am sore, I am tired, and I am grateful.

Grateful for the doctor in Kalkaska who called me at home to check in. Grateful for the nurse who stayed late. Grateful for the paramedic who told me a bad joke. Grateful for Munson being 45 minutes away instead of four hours. Grateful for the CNA who will take care of my mom someday.

Northern Michigan takes care of its own. That is not a slogan. It is what happens, shift after shift, room after room.

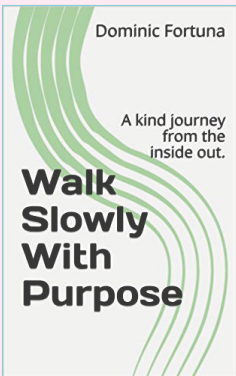
Let us not take it for granted. And let us make sure the next generation can afford it too.

Because when it comes down to it, health is all we really have.

Now Available from Amazon on Kindle and in Paperback

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

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

Kingsley
Kingsley Branch Library
Kingsley Village Offices

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

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

South Boardman
Yankee Boy

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

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School Board Meetings

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Sudoku Puzzle Solution July 24, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

Classic Cars and Fellowship

It was my pleasure and honor, recently to be a guest at the weekly gathering of the Cruisin' Pirates, a local classic car club. The members gather for a buffet breakfast and fellowship followed by a featured presentation. This particular week was about the Mustang. The presenter was extremely knowledgeable about the history of the car, how it was developed what challenges it faced, and how well it handled on a racetrack. After breakfast and the fine presentation, it was time to go see the cars parked outside. Proud owners showed the modifications they had made to their engines. The range of cars was breath-taking. Many were more than 50 years old, yet were in beautiful condition. It was a joy for this reporter to spend a morning with this wonderful group of men whose passion for cars binds them together in a lasting friendship. Thank you, gentlemen, for sharing this bright spot with me.



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