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If you truly loved yourself, you could never hurt another.
~ Buddha

Vol2026:
August 7, 2026

Alden Day

By Tina Norris Fields

The final Saturday in July is Alden Day, and it is just jam-packed with activities. The famous Alden Run kicks off at 9 in the morning, alongside the Methodist Women's Bake Sale. The annual Alden Men's Club Rummage Sale runs from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The TAAG (Torch Area Artisans Guild) is in the middle of its display of colorful quilts and other art forms. Then, the parade winds through town, led off by the Antrim County Sheriff and the Canine Officer. So, here is a scramble of photographs representing this wonderful chaotic, day of celebratory activity.



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@sbcbglobal.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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Betty J. Mott

July 17, 1932 ~ July 21, 2026

Betty Jean Mott of Kalkaska passed away on July 21st, 2026, at Kalkaska Memorial Health Center - Assisted Living, where she had been a resident for the last five years. She was born to the late Jesse and Klo (Riggs) Ewing on July 17, 1932, in Lead Hill, Arkansas.

Betty is survived by her sons, Timothy K. Heathcoat of Kalkaska and Randy W. Heathcoat of Owosso. There will be no memorial services planned at this time. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Michael Dennis Neubecker

October 15, 1952 ~ July 24, 2026

Michael Dennis "Mike" Neubecker, 73 of Kalkaska, passed away at his home on July 24, 2026. Mike was born on October 15, 1952, in Detroit, Michigan, the son of Ernest J. and Hazel Daisy (Burch) Neubecker. After growing up in Detroit, he later continued his education at City University in Seattle, Washington.

On February 5, 1972, Mike married Cecelia Verreau. Together, they shared more than 52 years of marriage and built a life centered around their family, love, and many treasured memories.

Mike proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1972 until 1993. He loved the Navy and remained deeply interested in boats, ships, and life on the water throughout his life. Whether swimming, boating, or simply spending time near the water, Mike felt at home there.

Known for his big heart, Mike was always willing to help others. He was a true jack of all trades who could fix, build, or figure out nearly anything. His generosity, resourcefulness, and willingness to lend a hand left a lasting impression on those who knew him.

Mike loved his family deeply and treasured the time they spent together. Some of his happiest memories came from the family's annual camping trips throughout the State of Michigan. He enjoyed being outdoors, camping, and gathering with those he loved most.

A longtime automobile enthusiast, Mike served as president of the Kaiser Frazer Owners Club International. He greatly valued the friendships, experiences, and shared appreciation for classic automobiles that came through his involvement with the club.

Mike was also an animal lover. He especially cherished his pets, Buddy and Rex, along with the many other animals that were part of his family through the years.

Mike is survived by his loving wife; Cecelia Neubecker; his sons; Richard Neubecker and Douglas Neubecker; his grandchildren; Joslynn Neubecker, Ellie Neubecker, Jason Neubecker, Abby Neubecker, and Charley Neubecker; his brother, Ernest J. Neubecker Jr.; and many extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his siblings, Jack Sabin, Shirley Sabin, Alton Sabin, and Gerald Sabin.

Visitation was held at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church in Kalkaska on Thursday, July 30th from 10:00 AM until the time of the funeral service at 11:00 AM. Burial took place at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Cemetery with military honors and a graveside committal service. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

LeRoy Ivan Jenkins Sr.

September 29, 1943 ~ July 25, 2026

LeRoy Ivan Jenkins Sr., age 82, passed away on Saturday, July 25, 2026. Born on September 29, 1943, in Grayling, Michigan, LeRoy spent his life as a hardworking truck driver. He was a kind-hearted man with a wonderful sense of humor and always willing to lend a helping hand for someone in need.

LeRoy married the love of his life, Carol Louise Galbreath and together they shared 63 years of marriage, building a life centered on family, friendship, and countless cherished memories.

Whether surrounded by friends and family at the campground, enjoying the company of family Larry & Kathy and friends Scott & Julie, or out riding his motorcycle. He found happiness in the simple pleasures of life. He had a way of making people laugh and leaving those around him with a smile.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Carol; his children, LeRoy Jr. "Lee" (Sherry) Jenkins of Fife Lake, Michael Jenkins of Kingsley, and



Sheila (Jamie) Eldred of Fruitport; several grandchildren and many more great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers, Larry (Kathy) Jenkins of Kalkaska, Lynn (Andrea) Jenkins of New Mexico, and Todd (Debbie) Jenkins of Kalkaska, along with many nieces, nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ivan & Elizabeth Jenkins; his sisters, Carolyn Jenkins and Sheryl Miller; and his in-laws, Duward and Dallas Galbreath.

LeRoy will be remembered for his generous heart, his willingness to help anyone, his love for his family, and the laughter he brought wherever he went. His memory will live on in the countless lives he touched and in the stories shared by those who knew and loved him.

The family will honor LeRoy's request for no funeral or memorial service. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Kari A. Richards

April 15, 1938 ~ July 13, 2026

With profound sadness and endless love, we announce the passing of Kari Ann Richards on July 25, 2026, at the age of 52, at her home in Kalkaska surrounded by her family who loved her beyond measure. Lovingly known to so many as "Care Bear," she was born on June 7, 1974, in Traverse City, Michigan to the late Allen and Maxlyn (Stack) Richards.

Kari lived a life that was uniquely her own-filled with laughter, determination, compassion and an unwavering love for those around her. She had a heart bigger than life itself and a spirit that left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Kari found joy in the simple things that made life exciting. She loved playing bingo, buying scratch-off tickets, spending time at the casino and challenging herself with games on her iPad. She had a wonderful stubborn streak, and if you knew Kari, you knew there was no changing her mind once it was made up. She was fiercely protective of the people she loved, always wanting to know where everyone was and that they had arrived safely.

Kari had a servant's heart. She proudly volunteered at the Commission of Aging and was a member of the VFW Post 8684, where she found purpose in helping others and serving her community. She also proudly participated in the Special Olympics.

Those left to cherish Kari's memory are her sisters, Tracy



(Dwane) Eldridge, Erin (Chuck) Raschi and Channon (Tom) Durga; step mother, Jane Richards; half sister Jenny (David) Gale; stepbrother, Bryan Neihardt; step sister, Beckey (Mike) Craven; 13 beloved nieces and nephews; and great nieces and great nephews, all of whom knew and loved her as their proud and devoted Great Aunt Kari.

Kari was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Allen Richards; and her grandparents.

Our family truly believes Kari was sent into this world with a special purpose--to teach compassion, patience, unconditional love and kindness toward people with disabilities. She never judged a person by their differences; instead, she loved with her whole heart. Through her life, she helped shape our family and our children into more accepting, understanding and compassionate people. Because of Kari we learned that every life has value, every person deserves respect and kindness is one of the greatest gifts we can give.

Our beloved Kari may no longer walk beside us, but her spirit will forever live on in the family she cherished, the friends she loved.

The celebration for "Our Care Bear" will be held on August 22, 2026 from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the VFW Post 8684, 408 Hyde St., in Kalkaska. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Guiding Families Through Difficult Times with Genuine Care and Compassion



KALKASKA FUNERAL HOME
AND CREMATION SERVICES
KalkaskaFuneralHome.com

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

Kenneth Dale Borgen

January 28, 1945 ~ July 28, 2026

Kenneth D. Borgen passed away on Tuesday July 28, 2026, in Kalkaska at Kalkaska Memorial Health Center-Assisted Living, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on January 28, 1945, in Fife Lake on the family farm to the late Richard and Minnie (Ludlow) Borgen.

Ken married Gloria Peck on August 18, 1966. He was a Vietnam veteran in a signal unit in the US Army serving honorably. Ken was a mechanic for more than 20 years for the Kalkaska County Road Commission before he retired. He was a lifelong resident of Kalkaska.

Ken was a loving family man. Farming, raising cows, and working on tractors were his hobbies.

Ken is survived by his wife, Gloria of nearly 60 years; his daughters,



Amanda Borgen and Lisa (Doug) Abramczyk; his son, Eric Borgen; granddaughters, Crystal King and Jen (Dan) Held; grandsons, Dustin Abramczyk, Andrew (Annie) Borgen, John (Katelyn) Borgen, Chris (April) Coltson; and several great grandchildren.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, John, Frank and Dickie; his sisters, Goldie Aho, Ursal (Marvin) Clay; and granddaughter, Sadie Alice Abramczyk.

Cremation has taken place per Ken's wishes. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, August 8th at 1:00 PM at Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home with visitation beginning at noon until the time of service. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Kevin Ray Morgan

July 1, 1963 ~ July 14, 2026

Kevin Ray Morgan, 63, of Kingsley, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, July 14th, 2026, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, MI. Kevin was born July 1st, 1963, in Traverse City, MI to Kester Ray Morgan and Susan Carol (Houghton) Morgan. Kevin married the love of his life, Barbara Jean (Sumner) Morgan on June 25th, 1994, in Kingsley, MI. "The Rev" was a jack of all trades but master of none. In his spare time, he loved hunting & fishing, camping with friends and family, and even cutting wood. He enjoyed spending time in the Upper Peninsula and many of his Saturdays in the summer were spent at Merritt Speedway. He also enjoyed working on his 1940 Chevy Coupe and attending the St. Ignace Car Show. Heavy Kevy and Hazel (Barb) loved going on drives together and stopping for a scratch off ticket. He was passionate about helping others and was a big brother and dad to many. Above all, he was a family man who loved spending time



with his wife, kids, and grandchildren. Our fat little brother will be missed by all and remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Kevin is survived by his wife Barbara Morgan; children Jason, Nicole (Ron), Brandon, and Tiffany (Edward); grandkids Hannah, Alivia, Alaynah, Ariella, Tristan, Amiyah, Lincoln, Nickolas, Hunter and Laylie; great-grandkids Jaxon and Ollivander; siblings Carl (Kerry), Gracie (Bruce), Clinton (Lori), and Kyle; along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Kester Morgan; mother Susan Morgan; father-in-law Gerald Stachnik; mother-in-law Wilma Stachnik; brother-in-law Brian Sumner; many aunts, uncles, and cousins. A celebration of life was held at The Summit City Grange Hall on Saturday, August 1st, 2026, beginning at 11AM until 3PM. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

Northwest MI

VOICE

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Shirley Ann Myas

January 19, 1934 ~ July 18, 2026

Shirley Ann Myas, 92, of Kalkaska, passed away on Saturday, July 18, 2026. She was born in Detroit, Michigan to the late Edward and Gladys (Green) Gelinas on January 19, 1934. Shirley was a devoted wife and mother whose Catholic faith was an important part of her life. She cherished her rosary and prayer shawls and faithfully prayed for her family, friends, and anyone in need. She loved her family deeply and treasured the fellowship of her parish community. Shirley also enjoyed crocheting and approached everything she did with great care, organization, and diligence. She will be lovingly missed by her children: Connie (Bob) Reiten, Gary Myas, Dave Myas, Greg Myas, Cindy (Dan) Webster and Dennis (Melanie) Myas; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and her



brother Nelson (Shirley) Gelinas. She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years Donald Myas and sisters Elaine Heisler, Beverly Demerest and Joyce Leslie. A visitation will be held at Kalkaska Funeral Home on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, from 4:00 - 8:00 pm. A rosary was held at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 2:15 pm with a visitation following until 3:30 pm. The Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church at 3:30 pm with burial following the service at Evergreen Cemetery. In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Kalkaska Memorial Eden Center Memory Care Unit. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

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

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www.northwestmivoice.com

ALDEN CHURCH
WOMEN'S
RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday - Sunday
AUG. 13, 14, 15, 16
Thur. / Sat. 9 AM - 4 PM
Sun. 11 AM - 3 PM
Proceeds to local charity +
Alden Community United Methodist Church
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Clothes, Household Items, Books, Toys
and More!

Kayla Vermeer, PA-C, Joins Munson Healthcare Neurosurgery

Munson Healthcare is pleased to welcome Kayla Vermeer, PA-C, to the Neurosurgery team.

Kayla’s passion for neuroscience started with psychology classes in high school and grew into her current role advocating for stroke patients. She is passionate about helping her patients navigate recovery after stroke. She completed her graduate education at The University of Toledo.

“I am a big advocate for patient-centered care and working with everyone involved to ensure we have the best treatment plan possible,” she says.

Kayla and her husband have a dog named Maverick. Outside of work she loves to hike with her dog, lounge by the pool, read, as well as play and watch sports.

Learn more at munsonhealthcare.org/FindADoctor.



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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 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.

August 20, 4 pm, Friends of the Kalkaska County Library Meeting. Located at the Kalkaska Commission on Aging, 303 S. Coral St.The public is welcome. Contact the library at (231) 258-9411 or at info@kalkaskalibrary.org for more information.



Upcoming event of the Job Winslow Chapter NSDAR

August 15, 2026 - "Why the Bill of Rights?" presented by Tina Norris Fields

Meeting at 11 am, at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 912 S. Garfield Ave, Traverse City,

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In the past year, our Electric Service Fee has increased +28% and Usage +9%!



I’m Gary White, an electrical engineer running for the Great Lakes Energy Board of Directors in District 5 to:

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- Say no to Mega Data Centers
- Prioritize high speed internet
- Put our Co-op Members first

Log into your GLE Account and [Vote Now!](#)
Go to Gary4GLE.com for more info
Or return the ballot in Michigan Country Lines Magazine

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

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

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

DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)
Biased machines and a damned system

5 January 2004
Dear Mark,
I gamble in one of three places: The South where I live, Biloxi and Shreveport, and where my daughter resides, Reno, Nevada. I limit my play to only video poker. Though my playing style stays consistent, it seems I am luckier in Reno than the casinos here in the South. My question is this. Is it possible that the video poker machines are not truly random here in the South, but instead, biased that high cards come up less often than expected? Marty C.

A few quick thoughts, Marty, before I answer your question regarding biased machines. First, because you most likely play less often in Reno, your gambling timeline is shorter. Shorten your exposure in front of any machine, anything can happen, including winning more.

Also, you did not mention that the pay tables were the same in all three gaming jurisdictions. Quite possibly, you are playing on machines that have a better pay table in Reno. Get back to me, Marty, on that one.

As for machines being set so high cards appear less frequently, you might find those kind of shenanigans in foreign casinos, cruise ships, online, etc., but where you play, Mississippi, Louisiana and Nevada, regulations mandate that every unseen card in video poker must have an equal probability of appearing just as if the cards were being dealt by a well-shuffled deck.

Dear Mark,
A slot attendant told me that a particular video poker machine has not hit in over six months. You have stated in the past that the chances of hitting a royal are about 40,000 to one. My guess is that this machine has probably seen more than 40,000 plays over that period. Wouldn't it be logical to assume that the machine is now due to hit a royal? Karen K.

True, Karen, I did state that the odds of a royal flush occurring are once per 40,000 plays, but I never said that a machine will hit once every 40,000 hands. No matter how long it has been since that machine has paid a jackpot, the random number generator used to shuffle the cards has no memory. It does not know Karen needs a quick score to pay the rent. So, the probability of a royal flush on each and every hand remains the same; ALWAYS 40,000 to one.

Like all slots, video poker machines do run hot and cold, but there is no way you, me, a slot attendant, or even the casino owner knows when a royal will appear next.

Dear Mark,
I received some e-mail for a slot system based on cycling. Do you know anything about it? Is it worth the money? Jan F.

The seller hawking this Stygian system believes that slot machine combinations are programmed to go through a cycle. At the end of each cycle, combinations will repeat themselves in the exact same order. **SAVE YOUR MONEY,** Jan. Each combination is random and independent of past ones.

Speaking of combinations, some progressive machines can have 16,777,216 possible outcomes. I recommend bringing a sack lunch to any ninny who plans to record every one of them.

***Gambling quote of the week:** Gambling on football has never been really good for you; but on some days, it can be serious fun. That is how it works for some people; and on Monday night, I was one of them. I won big on Indianapolis, and came dangerously close to winning a mysterious woman from a visiting gambler. She almost went crazy when he said he would leave her here as collateral until he could pay off his losses in cash, which has been standard gambling procedure out here in the sporting West for 200 years. -Hunter S. Thompson*



Sudoku Puzzle
August 7, 2026

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

Solution on page 15

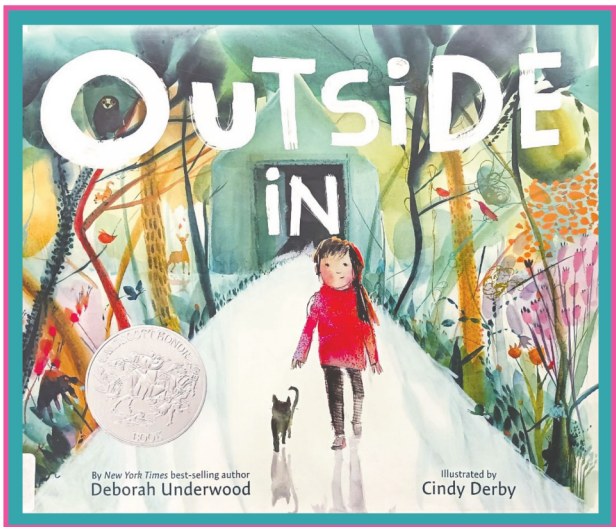
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StoryWalk®

presented by Alden District Library

AUGUST 1st-30th



Time & Location

Daily, Dawn to Dusk

Coy Mountain, 9011 Valley St, Alden

= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

Purpose Is Worked, Not Found

Our culture tells us to "find our purpose." For many of us, that means waiting to discover it. For others, it means searching until we eventually uncover it. The truth is more nuanced than that.

Our purpose doesn't discover us. We actually uncover it through purposeful action. It is through taking on responsibility in healthy and intentional ways that we find a deeper sense of purpose in our lives.

Just about two decades ago, I had just finished a career in sales and was looking for my next direction. I had some college under my belt, but I had no real idea how to find the path I was supposed to take that everyone said would lead to a meaningful life.

One day, during that season of searching, there was a knock at my door. Standing there were two missionaries from Jehovah's Witness. I invited them in and asked them a simple question.

"If someone comes to you and says, 'I'm looking for my purpose in life,' what do you tell them?"

To their credit, they admitted they didn't know

the answer. They asked if they could come back the following week, and it was on the third visit that they returned with one of their elders. I asked him the very same question.

He looked at me and said, "Oh, that's easy. When you are living out your purpose, it will be effortless, like the wind blowing or the grass growing."

At first, I was stunned. There wasn't a clear-cut answer in his answer. He didn't tell me what my purpose was or even how to find it. Instead, he described what it would feel like and what the experience of living it would be.

Oddly enough, that conversation changed my life. I realized that even these two things required input. The grass needs sun, water and nutrients. The wind needs the sun and changing pressures. My life purpose would also require me to act, and in that action, it would become clearer over time.

We can all stop struggling to find our calling. Instead, we can faithfully embrace the responsibilities in front of us, exercise our creativity, step into life with purpose and follow the direction that feels natural and life-giving—

like the wind blowing or the grass growing.

Purpose, it turns out is not something that we find by seeking. It's something that shows itself when we are in motion. And that's another way 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.

LIFE'S WORK CLINIC

THREE GENERATION

STARGARDT
FAMILY
JAZZ
TRIO

PRESENTED BY
Church in the Hills
6401 Shanty Creek Rd
Thursday
August 20
7pm
Adult \$20
Student \$10



Steve Stargardt - piano • Lori Jane (Stargardt) Dear - Flute • Jack Stargardt - String Bass

Joy, But Make It Academic: Inside Laura Kirchofer’s Kindergarten Classroom



Paper snowballs fly across the room as music plays and laughter fills the air. When the song stops, kindergarteners scramble to uncrumple their papers, sound out letters, and write CVC words (three letter words of consonant-vowel-consonant structure). No one has the same paper. No one is singled out. Everyone is learning.

By Jessica Barnes-Henderson

“It looks chaotic,” Laura Kirchofer says with a smile, “but it’s academic.” For Laura, moments like this capture what matters most. Every student is engaged. Every learner can access the content. And joy is part of the process, not a break from it.

Laura is a kindergarten teacher at Birch Street Elementary in Kalkaska, where she has spent the last six years building classrooms rooted in safety, curiosity, and growth. Her path into teaching began early, shaped by her love for children and the educators who made school feel fun, welcoming, and meaningful.

“I always knew I wanted to work with kids,” she says. “I wanted to give students the same excitement and sense of safety I felt in school.”

Laura’s journey into the classroom was exciting, humbling, and at times overwhelming. She completed her teacher preparation through Central Michigan University’s University Center in Traverse City, gaining experience as a substitute and long-term substitute before stepping into her own classroom.

In January 2020, she officially began her teaching career. Just one month later, schools shut down. “Everything changed,” she says. “I had to learn how to make learning fun and meaningful through a screen.”

That early disruption forced Laura to adapt quickly and creatively. It also reinforced a lesson she carries with her today: what matters most isn’t rushing through content, but creating an environment where students feel safe enough to learn. “If I could go back and give myself advice,” she says, “it would be to slow down. Hands-on experiences and a safe classroom matter more than just getting through the curriculum.”

At the start of each school year, Laura tells her students she has two jobs. “First, to keep you safe and make you feel loved,” she says. “Second, to help you get to first grade.”

On hard days, that reminder grounds her. When behaviors feel heavy or lessons fall flat, it gives her permission to pause, adjust, and extend grace to herself and her students.

“They’re five,” she says. “If we need to play for a bit, we play. If a lesson isn’t working, we try again tomorrow.”

That mindset doesn’t lower expectations. It creates space for learning to happen. “I want

them to master standards,” Laura explains. “But more than that, I want them to feel safe, loved, and capable. That’s when academic and emotional growth really take off.”

Laura measures success in moments both big and small. Sometimes it’s the excitement on a student’s face when a concept finally clicks. Other times, it’s quieter.

Earlier this year, Laura had two students who struggled to identify the first sound in a word. Progress was slow. The work was hard. During a routine progress-monitoring check, Laura refreshed her screen and saw growth.

“The kids didn’t know yet,” she says. “But I did.” She jumped up, celebrated with them, and ran through the school sharing the news. When the students saw her excitement, they understood something important had changed.

“The smiles on their faces,” she says. “They realized they could do it.”

For Laura, those moments affirm why she stays.

The same care that shows up during everyday classroom moments extends into school traditions as well. Laura plays a leading role in organizing Birch Street Elementary’s kindergarten graduation, helping create a memorable celebration for students and families. From designing the program and collecting photos throughout the year to creating a farewell video, she works to ensure families leave with full hearts and a lasting reminder of how much their children have grown.

Laura works intentionally to create a classroom where every child feels seen and valued. She builds trust, sets clear expectations, and creates space for students to take risks. “I tell them mistakes are learning,” she says.

Whether it’s adapting instruction, celebrating small wins, or designing lessons that allow every student to participate, Laura centers belonging as the foundation for growth. Colleagues say she is intentional about meeting students where they are, whether they are working below, at, or above grade level. Through engaging lessons, repetition, and consistency, she creates opportunities for every learner to grow.

“Laura is very upbeat, highly engaging, and supportive of every student’s needs,” says Student Success Advisor Taren Moses. “She makes learning fun and forms meaningful

relationships with both students and families.”

“I want students to walk into my room and know they’re safe and loved,” Laura says. “Everything else builds from there.”

Being part of the TeachMichigan network has strengthened Laura’s confidence and leadership as an educator. As a 2024 Early Career Educator Fellow, she has connected with teachers beyond her district, reflected deeply on her practice, and pushed herself to grow.

“I’ve felt supported and valued,” she says. “TeachMichigan helped me step outside my comfort zone and grow—not just as a teacher, but as a person.”

She describes the network in one word: **Brilliant**.

Looking ahead, Laura is excited to continue learning alongside educators who strive for excellence and believe in the power of strong classrooms.

When Laura thinks about how she hopes to be remembered, the answer is simple. “I want people to remember that I was welcoming,” she says. “That everyone who entered my room felt like they belonged.”

Her mission reflects that belief: to help students grow into compassionate, resilient, and smart humans.

As the school year came to a close, one moment stood above the rest. “Kindergarten graduation is a memory I will carry with me,” Laura says. “The smile on their face as they walk across the stage to get their diploma makes my heart so full. It’s a beautiful way to end the school year because we get to celebrate all the success and growth students have shown.”

And while saying goodbye is never easy, Laura is already looking forward to welcoming a new classroom family in the fall. “I love the start of the school year,” she says. “It’s full of firsts, developing a new classroom family, and a lot of organized chaos. I enjoy seeing students create new friendships and engage in new content.”

Whether learning happens through a paper snowball fight, a small-group lesson, or a moment of celebration on graduation day, Laura Kirchofer continues to show that when students feel safe, loved, and engaged, learning follows.

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TeachMichigan Website: <https://teachmi.org/>

O&A - continued from page 3
Kids’ Coding Club, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S. Bridge, Bellaire, an opportunity for kids to explore the world of computer coding at their level, ages 8-13 welcome, registration required, call 231 533-8814
When: 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

Promote the general welfare

August 7, 2026

The fifth purpose for our Constitution, according to the Preamble is to “promote the general welfare.”

In order to properly interpret this purpose, it is necessary to understand how these words would have been understood at the time of the writing of the Constitution. A truly thoughtful analysis was written in 2022 by Stuart Ford of the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law. From the Abstract of this research paper we get the following understanding:

It was almost universally accepted that all governments had a duty to promote the general welfare of their subjects. In fact, the duty to promote the general welfare was viewed as one of the most important goals of every government. Elected officials, in particular, were expected to place the general welfare of those they governed ahead of their personal interests. This meant striving to promote the health, wellbeing, happiness and prosperity of all members of society. The decision to include the duty to promote the general welfare in the Preamble of the Constitution both represented the culmination of more than a century of political thought and recognized the importance of that duty to eighteenth century Americans. (Ford, 2022)

Here again we see that provisions in the Constitution serve more than one purpose. Certainly, the provision of national common defense protection contributes to the general sense of well-being. Also, rules for civil operation and resolution of disputes also contribute to a general sense of secure living.

Congress also determined it to be wise “to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries” (see Article I, Section 8).

The structures established within our Constitution are, indeed, intended to “promote the health, wellbeing, happiness and prosperity of all members of society.”

What is not and cannot be established by the written rules of the Constitution is the part about “[placing] the general welfare of those they governed ahead of their personal interests.” How often in life have we all learned that goodwill cannot truly be legislated? Goodwill, concern for others, honesty, and playing by the rules are all a matter of character. Character has to be developed and lived willingly.

Among the things that George Washington warned us about in his Farewell Address, was that some men were not of good character and they would likely take undue advantage of us if the possibility arose. He was especially dubious about the wisdom of forming parties.

they are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion (Washington, 1796).

It is well that he warned us ahead of time to remain vigilant and to never let our political

parties or leaders become unaccountable to us for their behavior.

And that is where I turn to the matter of our responsibility as citizens to hold to account those whom we elect. It is our patriotic duty to love our country deeply enough to not just praise it for how wonderful it is, but also to correct it when we see it veering from the path of honor.

Anyone who is a parent knows that children need praise and encouragement, but also correction. We have to love our children enough to bear their anger when we do teach them with appropriate discipline. The same holds true with regard to our government. We are the ultimate authority in this American experiment in self-governance; it is up to us to hold our elected leaders to account. Those to whom we temporarily delegate certain authority are beholden to us and are expected to use that authority wisely, judiciously, and honestly. It is our job to see that they do.

Well, that’s what I’ve been thinking about.

Shalom

Tina Norris Fields
Editor

References:

Constitution of the United States of America

Ford, Stuart, The Original Meaning of the Duty to "Promote the General Welfare" (April 15, 2022). 59 Willamette Law Review 263 (2023), Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4085046> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4085046>

Washington, Farewell Address, 1796

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 Amendment III say?
- 2) Why was this important to Americans?
- 3) What does Amendment IV sy?
- 4) Why was that important to Americans?



Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue’s questions

- 1) In essence what do the first three Articles of the Constitution do?
A. They establish the structure of our government in three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial..
- 2) What do Sections 1 and 2 of Article IV do?
A. Section 1 establishes reciprocity between the states for public acts and records. Section 2 establishes the legitimacy of extradition when a person flees one state to another to avoid legal penalties. The portion of Article IV, Section 2 that applied to escaping slaves is changed by Amendment XII, ratified in December 1865, that abolished slavery.
- 3) What do Sections 4 and 4 of Article IV do?
A. Section 3 addresses how new states could be formed and admitted to the Union. Section 4 guarantees to each state a republican form of government and also promises to protect them against invasion, and domestic violence if requested.
- 4) What does Article V of the Constitution do?
A. It establishes the means of amending the Constitution.

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

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

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



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



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WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

August: The Bittersweet Month Where Northern Michigan Says Goodbye to Summer

By Dominic Fortuna

KALKASKA — If you’ve lived here long enough, you know the feeling. The mornings in August still smell like lake water and cut grass, but the light starts to go a little sooner. The tourists are packing up their kayaks at Torch Lake. The school supply aisles at the store are full again. And somewhere between the county fair and the first night you need a sweatshirt, summer slips away.

August does that. It’s the month of last chances and first goodbyes.

How It Got The Name

August wasn’t always August. On the old Roman calendar, it was called Sextilis — the sixth month. That changed in 8 BC when the Roman Senate renamed it after Emperor Augustus. He’d had a pretty good run that month: he conquered Egypt, and several of his big victories fell in Sextilis.

Augustus wanted a month to match July, which had been renamed for Julius Caesar. July had 31 days. Augustus wasn’t going to settle for 30. So he borrowed a day from February. That’s why both July and August have 31 days and why we’re stuck with that short February.

The name stuck for 2,000 years. And somehow it still fits. Augustus meant "the revered one." August feels a little revered too — the last full month of summer, treated like royalty.

Back to School and Boat Hoists in Northern Michigan

Around here, August is when the season turns on a dime.

The first two weeks, US-131 and M-72 are still bumper to bumper. Families from downstate and Indiana and Illinois are squeezing in one more week at the cabin. The ice cream shops in Traverse City have lines out the door at 9 PM. Charter boats are still running out of Leland and Charlevoix, chasing salmon before they go deep.

Then about the third week, you feel it. The rental houses go quiet. The “For Sale” signs go back up. And the kids in Kalkaska, Bellaire, and Grayling start talking about football practice and new teachers.

Most Northern Michigan schools are back by the last week of August. It’s always a little early and a little unfair. The water is still 72 degrees. The blackberries are just coming in. But the buses start rolling anyway.

My neighbor down on County Road 612 already has his dock pulled. "Do it in August or you’ll be doing it in snow," he told me last year. That’s Northern Michigan logic.

While We’re Going Back, Europe Is Just Getting Started

Funny thing is, while we’re packing lunches here, half of Europe is doing the opposite.

August is the vacation month across Europe. In France, it’s *les grandes vacances*. Whole towns near Paris empty out. In Italy, it’s Ferragosto on August 15th — a national holiday that basically shuts the country down for two weeks. The Germans head to the Baltic. The British head anywhere with sun.

They’ve been doing it for centuries. Roman emperors used to retreat to the countryside in August to escape the heat and politics of Rome. Now it’s just everyone with two weeks and a rail pass.

So while kids here are learning long division, kids in Spain are still on the beach until September. Different calendars, same sun.

The Late Bloomers: Michigan Flowers That Wait for August

If you missed the tulips and lilacs in June, August gives you a second show. Drive the back roads around Kalkaska and Antrim County right now and you’ll see them. Black-eyed Susans are everywhere, tough little yellow flowers that don’t care about dry weather. Joe-Pye weed is tall and pink along the ditches. Goldenrod is starting to light up the fields — and no, it doesn’t cause hay fever, that’s ragweed.

In gardens, it’s phlox, coneflowers, and hosta blooms. Up near the lakeshore, beach asters start showing their purple. And in the woods, the wood asters and closed gentians wait until the last week of the month.

Gardeners call them the late bloomers. They’re the ones who waited for the heat. Fitting for August.

History Written in August

August has a weight to it in the history books. Big things seem to happen when the days are long.

Wars that started or ended:

World War I kicked off in August 1914. World War II effectively ended in August 1945, with V-J Day on August 15th. The Gulf War began with Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

American moments:

The 19th Amendment was ratified August 18, 1920, giving women the right to vote. The Voting Rights Act was signed August 6, 1965. And on August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave the "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington.

Michigan moments:

The Great Fire of 1871 that burned through Manistee and Holland started in early October, but the dry, hot August that came before it set the stage.

August Birthdays:

The month has no shortage of famous birthdays. Maybe it’s the Leo and Virgo energy.

August 1: Herman Melville, 1819
August 4: Barack Obama, 1961
August 15: Napoleon Bonaparte, 1769
August 19: Bill Clinton, 1946
August 28: Jack Black, 1969

Locally, a lot of kids born in August are the youngest in their class. They spend the whole school year being the last to turn whatever age. Then August rolls around and they finally get to be first at something — blowing out candles while everyone else is buying notebooks.

The Feeling of It

August in Northern Michigan isn’t like August anywhere else.

Its morel season’s long gone, but the blueberries are perfect. It’s the last weekend you can get away with swimming without a wetsuit at Lake Leelanau. It’s the county fairs, the last garage sales, the smell of wood smoke one random cold night.

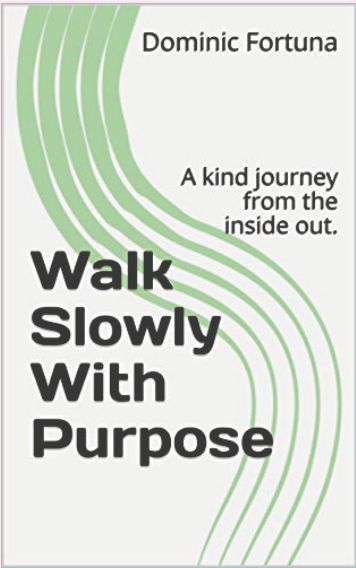
It’s also the month that reminds you nothing lasts. Summer doesn’t end on September 21st on the calendar. It ends in August, somewhere between the last boat launch and the first day of school.

So if you haven’t gone to the beach yet, go. If you haven’t picked berries, pick them. If you haven’t called someone, call them.

August gives you 31 days. Augustus would have wanted it that way. And as you walk slowly with purpose into September, remember August lays out the red carpet to a time when the leaves and the sunsets will all start their journey..

Editor’s note: August 3 just happens to be the birthday of one Dominic Fortuna, as well as another famous Italian-American singer: Tony Bennett.

Now Available from Amazon on Kindle and in Paperback



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

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

www.amazon.com/Walk-Slowly-Purpose-journey-inside/dp/1796373141

Government Meetings

Kalkaska County Townships:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

==+=+=+=

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 August 7, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

KAIR gets Great Lakes Energy grant



Kalkaska Area Interfaith Resources

324 S. Cedar St. - P.O. Box 766 - Kalkaska, MI 49646
Phone: 231-258-0060 – Fax: 231-258-3441

Date: July 26, 2026
Contact: Cathy Somes-Executive Director of KAIR
Phone: 231-258-0060

Kalkaska Area Interfaith Resources (KAIR) has received a \$5,000 grant from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund. This grant will be used to repair our building located at 324 S. Cedar St. in downtown Kalkaska and will aid KAIR in continuing to serve families in need throughout Kalkaska and Antrim Counties. We are very blessed to have the support from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund. The grant dollars received will help KAIR continue serving 1,600 to 1,700 people each month with nutritional foods in our fight against food insecurity.

Members of Great Lakes Energy support the People Fund by voluntarily rounding up their bills to the next highest dollar. The rounded-up amount is distributed to non-profit organizations and charitable activities that benefit people in communities served by the cooperative. Please contact Great Lakes Energy, 1-888-485-2537, or visit gtlakes.com for details.

Editor's note:
The KAIR announcement is this week's bright spot!



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

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

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