Advanced
OFFICE SUPPLY
& PRINTING
EZ Online Ordering!
www.aoskalkaska.com
231-258-2810
332 S Cedar • Kalkaska

Northwest Michigan
Voice
FREE!
Celebrating the good news below the bridge

VOICE MOTOR SALES
www.voicemotors.com
Since 1921
Chevrolet
302 W Mile Rd, Kalkaska
231-258-9178

Since 2014

My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessing they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!
~ Thomas Jefferson

Vol2026:
September 4, 2026

We Will Never Forget!





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 i\f 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 lakesidetheraputics@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@learnselfcompassion.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 or view our page at www.facebook.com/TorchAreaArtisansGuild.com. Sponsored by Alden District Library, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.
When: Tue, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Children's Activities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Birch Street
DENTAL CARE
All Phases of Treatment including Extractions, Root Canals, Implants & IV Sedation.
www.birchstreetdental.com
- Same day service available
- Accepting new patients
- IV sedation
  Sleep while getting your dental treatment completed
- Payment plans available
- Ask about our in house membership program
- Extended hours 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

231 - 258 - 5395
508 N. Birch Street, Kalkaska

OBITUARIES

John Alden Nelson

March 23, 1943 ~ August 12, 2026

On August 12, 2026, at the height of the Perseid meteor shower, John Alden Nelson passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family. Doves and cardinals visited shortly before his passing, an especially fitting farewell for a man whose life was deeply connected to nature.

John will be remembered for his laughter, kindness, curiosity and extraordinary capacity for love. Quiet and humble, he was also a natural leader who listened carefully, spoke the truth and stood up for the causes he believed in. He was a thinker, athlete, teacher, advocate and adventurer who never lost his sense of wonder or playful spirit.

John's roots in Northern Michigan ran deep. His family included lighthouse keepers, fishermen, farmers, aviators and members of the military. Seven Pines, the family cottage north of Northport, built by his great-great-grandfather, was his true home and soul place.

Born in Jackson, Michigan, John spent his summers at Seven Pines and attended schools in Traverse City and Ionia. He graduated as valedictorian and excelled in basketball, football and tennis. Though he received a full scholarship to the University of Michigan, he accepted an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, where he distinguished himself academically and athletically. He is honored on the Academy's Wall of Fame for tennis. He later served as a Navy navigator, flying C-130 missions to and from Vietnam, and remained involved with Veterans for Peace throughout his life.



After his military service, John lived in Maine, where he met Linda Lee Hackney, his first wife. They moved to Ann Arbor, where John initially planned to attend medical school. Their daughter, Sonja, was born during those years. After visiting a teacher friend's classroom, John discovered his true calling. He earned a master's degree in science education and returned to Maine with Linda and Sonja, teaching mathematics, chemistry and aviation science for 27 years.

John also served his community in Freeport, Maine, on the school board and town council and later as mayor. He helped support new schools and fire stations while working to preserve natural areas.

He loved the outdoors and turned ordinary moments into adventures through skiing, hiking, sailing, biking, waterskiing and exploration. Music brought him joy as well; he was the lead singer of the Loose Screws. His mischievous humor and gift for making people laugh brightened the lives of those around him.

In the 1990s, John returned to Northern Michigan and reunited with his first love, Lynne Moon. They married and shared 31 years of love, friendship and companionship. Through Lynne, he embraced her daughters, Christa and Erica, as his own, becoming simply Dad and Papa. He treasured attending their children's activities and sharing adventures with his grandchildren.

John was known for his "secret hikes," stories and ability to notice small wonders. He encouraged his family to stay curious, appreciate nature and look more closely at the world.

His love for Northern Michigan also inspired decades of environmental service. He served for five years on the Grand Traverse County Road Commission, participated in the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council and spent more than 14 years as Baykeeper for the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Center. He conducted a 132-mile shoreline survey, helped launch the Center's Bay Monitor tugboat and served on committees focused on water quality and responsible development.

As John once said:

"I grew up on Grand Traverse Bay, and even though I left for a while, it's always been a part of me."

John is survived by his wife, Lynne; his brother, Jerry; his daughter, Sonja, and her husband, Bill Allen, of Ophir, Colorado, and their son, Parker; Erica and her husband, Brian Mohr, of Traverse City, and their children, Dillyn and Brady; and Christa and her husband, Peter Lortie, of Atlanta, Georgia, and their daughters, Ella, Kali and Avery.

John's legacy lives in the students he taught, the communities he served, the waters and wild places he protected, and the family and friends who loved him. They will remember his bear hugs, secret hikes, stories, music, laughter and mischievous smile, and the lessons he shared about curiosity, courage, nature and joy.

When the stars shine over Grand Traverse Bay, a cardinal appears or a trail becomes a secret adventure, John's family will think of him. His life became part of the story of Northern Michigan, and his love became part of the story of his family.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to The Watershed Center, 420 E. Front Street, Suite 200, Traverse City, Michigan 49686.

A Celebration of Life will be held next year, with details to be announced at a later date.

Richard William Brohn, Jr.

October 29, 1952 ~ August 9, 2026

Richard William Brohn Jr (Jody) was born in Flint, MI, on October 29, 1952, he passed away peacefully with his family by his side on August 9,2026.



He loved life and his family, loved his Iron Wheels Motorcycle Club Family of which he was a member for 23 yrs.

He left behind his wife of 26 yrs, Roxi Brohn and one stepson Chad Smith. Two grandchildren Adriana (Bryce) Toomsen, and Arissa Smith. And 4 great grandchildren, Finley, Emani, Gracie, and Laila. Two sisters, Debbie Pearson of New Mexico and Margie Dustman of Flint, MI. Special friends Doug and Susie Adkins and Brother-in-Law Dave Cole. And many friends who were like family.

He was preceded in death by his parents Lois and Richard Brohn Sr and sister Jan Cole.



Paul N. Buckler

May 15, 1958 ~ August 22, 2026

Heaven just gained an angel with one of the most memorable smiles (though those closest to him may call it a smirk). Paul Norman Buckler of South Boardman, Michigan, passed away peacefully on the evening of August 22, 2026, at the Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit, Michigan, at the age of 68. He was surrounded by family and friends



Paul was born in Marquette, Michigan, on May 15, 1958, and moved to Newberry in the fourth grade. After graduating from Newberry High School in 1976, he went on to graduate from Ferris State University, then moved to Kalkaska, Michigan, where he began his career in the oil and gas industry. He grew to become very respected in his field and ultimately ran his own successful partnerships. He met Sherry, the love of his life, in 1990, married her in 1993, and has been spoiling her ever since. He will perhaps be remembered most for his love of all things motorized, preferably anything he could race. He spent many years racing the Sault Ste. Marie I-500 and he also raced Michigan Modified in later years. He loved his antique snowmobiles, his prized '67 Chevelle, and his motorcycles to name a few.

His proudest role in this life was being PaPa. His greatest legacy will be in the way he led his daughters, grandchildren and nieces and nephews by example; he might steal your cookies, but at the end of the day he was always doing the right thing even when no one was looking. We will all carry too many lessons to count with us because of him.

He is preceded in death by his parents Billy and Lois Buckler and his great-niece Ella Gould. He is survived by his wife Sherry (Erickson) Buckler, brothers David (Joyce) Buckler and Lyle (Jen) Buckler, daughters Kristina (Kate) Mason and Jennifer Lewis, grandchildren Grace Robinson, Aiden Carter, Gabrielle Robinson, Owen Lewis and Cole Lewis, and many beloved nieces, nephews and friends.

Services were held on Saturday, August 29 at Paul and Sherry's home at 6612 Supply Rd SW; South Boardman, Michigan. They had a viewing at 11:00 am followed by a funeral service at 12:00 pm with a luncheon following. Memorial donations can be made to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Interlochen, MI.

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

Gwen Rakunas

September 26, 1940 ~ August 15, 2026



Gwen M. Rakunas, 85, passed away on August 15, 2026. Gwen was born to Estelle and Ernest Rubas at Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, on September 26, 1940. She attended Nativity B.V.M. School in Chicago, Saint Elizabeth Elementary, and Saint Elizabeth High School in Wilmington, Delaware. She moved back to Chicago and attended Maria High School, Chicago Teachers College, University of Illinois and Chicago Lighting Institute.

Gwen worked at Holy Cross Hospital, Chicago Savings & Loan and Design Galleries. While at Design Galleries, she worked on many projects, such as lighting for Marina City, Dick Congress Hotel, Conrad Hilton Hotel, and the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago.

On May 13, 1961, she married Fred C. Rakunas at Nativity B.V.M. Catholic Church in Chicago, the same church where she and Fred were baptized and made their 1st Holy Communion. They purchased their first home in Woodridge, Illinois. Together they shared over 60 years of marriage.

While living in Woodridge, neighbors told them of Torch Lake in Michigan where their family owned a cottage. They invited the Rakunases to join them on their next trip. Gwen and Fred fell in love with the lake and purchased property in Eastport. They built a cottage, and as the years progressed, they added on to the original building and moved there permanently. Their son Steve was born in April of 1968 and son Jeff in September of 1970.

Gwen worked at Central Lake High School for Russ Graves, Chet Budzinski, and Larry Blamer.

She is survived by her son Jeff (Rachel) Rakunas of Cypress, TX, grandchildren Drew Taylor of Algonac, MI, Ian Rakunas of San Francisco, CA, Owen and Peyton Rakunas of Cypress, TX, her brother Ernie Rubas of Oak Lawn, IL, and brother-in-law Larry Rakunas of St. Charles, IL.

Gwen was preceded in death by her husband Fred in 2023, son, Steve Rakunas of Grawn, MI, parents Estelle and Ernie Rubas of Burbank, IL, in-laws Bernice and Charles Rakunas of Woodridge, IL, sister-in-law Mary Rakunas of St. Charles, IL, and brother in-law Casimir Rakunas of Woodridge, IL.

Cremation has taken place and Gwen will be buried next to her husband and son in Lakeview Cemetery, Torch Lake Township. Donations may be made to one's choice in memory of Gwen. Arrangements are under the care of the Central Lake Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes. Please sign her online guestbook at www.mortensenfuneralhomes.com. From Gwen: "Remember regardless of our skin color, sexual orientation, religion, education, political choice, wealth or lack of wealth, we all have red blood, and all have the same body organs. Hope would be, 'Let there be peace on earth and love one another.'"

WOLFE-O'NEILL FUNERAL HOME

Our Family Serving Yours



106 S. Cherry
Kalkaska

David W. O'Neill, Licensed Manager

231-258-5121

- *Pre-Paid Funeral Arrangements*
- *Family Owned & Operated*
- *Marker & Monument Sales*
- *Cremation & Traditional Services*

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

Northwest MI

VOICE

Fields Media, PO Box 28, Rapid City, MI 49676

Editor in Chief
Tina Norris Fields
231-322-2787 or 231-645-0244
tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:
Dominic Fortuna
Alison Neihardt
& Adam DeVaney

Out & About and Calendar:
Tina Norris Fields - tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com

Locally owned, managed, and staffed.

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.

Memorial Service for Rita J. Kyselka



Family and friends are invited to attend a graveside memorial service honoring Rita J. Kyselka on Saturday, September 5, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Fife Lake Cemetery, Fife Lake, Michigan.

Following the service, all are welcome to join the family for a time of remembrance.



2026 Chain of Lakes CROP Walk

This year's Chain of Lakes Crop Walk will be held on Sunday, September 20, and will begin at 2 p.m. at the Forest Home Township Hall in Bellaire. Crop Walk, sponsored by Church World Service, is a community-led fundraising event to end hunger and includes walkers of all ages and backgrounds. It is not necessary to be affiliated with a church to take part in the walk—if you believe in the cause, walk with us. This event hopes to raise both money and awareness to end local and global hunger. 25% of the money raised will stay in our communities and benefit food pantries. 75% of the money will be used to end hunger around the world. We walk to show solidarity with the millions of people who walk everyday for food and water. And we walk to benefit our local food pantries. If you wish to support this cause but cannot join us on September 20, donations can be sent to Church in the Hills, P.O. Box 319, Bellaire, MI 49615. Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP.

Mary Krzystowczyk, NP-C, Joins Munson Healthcare Geriatric Inpatient Services

Munson Healthcare is pleased to welcome Mary Krzystowczyk, NP-C, to the Geriatric Inpatient Services team.

Mary chose to specialize in geriatric care because of her passion for building meaningful relationships and helping older adults maintain the best possible quality of life. She has a special interest in caring for patients with neurocognitive disorders, including dementia, and enjoys partnering with families and caregivers to develop personalized care plans that support patients both medically and at home. She believes in taking the time to understand each person's unique needs and helping patients age with dignity, compassion, and respect.

"I strive to foster supportive environments where patients feel safe having conversations about their health goals and concerns," she says.

Mary earned her graduate degree from Spring Arbor University.

Outside of work, Mary enjoys spending time with her husband, daughter, and pup. She loves exploring Northern Michigan's beaches, farmers markets, local restaurants, and community events with her family.

Learn more at munsonhealthcare.org/FindADoctor.

MUNSON HEALTHCARE



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

This space could be your ad



This space could be your ad

This space could be your ad



This space could be your ad

This space could be your ad



This space could be your ad

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2026

Extended to September 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.

September 1 – 29, StoryWalk®. Round up the family and head out to Coy Mountain, located at 9011 Valley St. in Alden, to enjoy a romp in the woods and reading a good book along the way. A new story will be placed each month and covers about a 1/2-mile portion of the trail. Open daily from dawn to dusk. The storybook for the month of September is "How Chipmunk Got His Stripes" by Joseph Bruchac & James Bruchac. Sponsored by Alden District Library.

September 5, 9am – 2pm, Book Sale. Friends of Alden District Library are having a book sale. Available items: books, DVDs, music CDs, puzzles & games. Proceeds will benefit Enrichment Programs for Adults and Children. Sale is held at Helena Twp. Community Center 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318

September 7, 10am, Annual Labor Day Barb Roberts Memorial Walk. Join us for our annual Labor Day walk through Bellaire. Meet at the Richardi Park Gazebo. We will walk the three bridges together. Any donations will benefit the Library in memory of Barb Roberts. All are welcome.

September 8, 5:30pm, Antrim Photography Workshop: Master Photographer James Wyant. James will be discussing B/W photography, use of color filters, and infrared photography. Held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. RSVP with Lisa at 231-313-8820 or LL.pics44@gmail.com. Seasonal membership $55.00 or non-members $10 per class. Sponsored by Alden District Library, 231-331-4318.

September 10, 3:30pm, Books 'n Brie Book Club. Enjoy the company of fellow book lovers while making the reading selections for the next 11 months. Free Event. Sponsored by Alden District Library and held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

September 12, 10am, Story Time with Miss Lona. Miss Lona will be reading stories with a Squirrel theme and making a simple craft. This program will be held in the library located at 8751 Helena Rd, Alden, 231-331-4318.

September 12, 10am – 2pm, 130th Celebration Open House, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire.

September 13, 2om, Keep Torch Lake Blue. Thomas Joseph from Torch Lake Protection Alliance (TLPA) will be sharing a summary of the KTLB Project, the most comprehensive study ever undertaken on Torch Lake. USGS is working to complete and publish the final report in late 2026 or early 2027. Free Program. Held at Helena Twp. Community Center 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. Sponsored by Alden District Library, 231-331-4318

September 17, 9:30am social time with regular meeting beginning at 10:00am. Friends of Alden District Library Monthly Meeting. Topics of discussion will be plans for upcoming programs and activities, as well as volunteer opportunities. Anyone interested in supporting the library is always welcome. Held at Helena Township Community Center, 8751 Helena Rd, Alden. 231-331-4318.

September 24, 3pm, Exploring the Bill of Rights, with Tina Norris Fields, Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire.

Job Winslow Chapter NSDAR

Upcoming event of the Job Winslow Chapter NSDAR

September 19, 2026 - "Have You Forgotten?"
9-11 25th anniversary
presented by PJ Steeby

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

To place a classified ad, or a display ad,

Email: tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com

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

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Alden

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

Boardman Township

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

Central Lake

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

East Jordan

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

Fife Lake

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

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

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

Kalkaska

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mancelona

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

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

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

Rapid City

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

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

Williamsburg

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

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

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

DEAL ME IN

By Mark Pilarski (reprinted with permission of the author)

All-in is double or nothin'

19 January 2004

Dear Mark,
I need further clarification on how "all-in" works in Texas Hold'em. This happened on television the other night while I was watching a poker tournament: Player "A" with a massive amount of chips bet a substantial amount of money, and player "B," with far fewer chips, consequently, went all-in. Do I understand that if player B had won he would only have received the portion of the pot that he could cover? If so what happens to the rest of the pot? Maribeth K.

To go "all-in," Maribeth, is to bet all the money you personally have on the table. A player who is all-in cannot be forced out of the pot, but can win only that portion of the pot that he or she is eligible for.

In your example, player B did not have enough table stakes to cover future raises, so he went all-in. He was simply contesting that portion of the pot that his money would cover.

Had other players still been active in the hand, wagers could still have been made, but those bets would then comprise a side pot. At the end of the hand, the side pot is decided first, then the main pot. Player B would not be eligible to win the side pot since he had no money invested in it, and it would therefore be distributed among the surviving players as though there had been no Player B.

Dear Mark,
Where I play, they just introduced single-deck blackjack. As a trade-off, you do not get a full payoff for a blackjack. The dealer said you make up for it with the single deck. Was he right? Jim B.

The dealer dealt you erroneous information, a bad deal, one might say. On these single-deck games, blackjacks are paid at 6 to 5 odds ($6 for $5 bet) instead of the usual 3 to 2 odds ($7.50 for $5 wagered). This one rule change, making for a 12-to-10 payoff in place of the customary 15-to-10, raises the casino edge around 1.5%. Two thumbs down!

Dear Mark,
I was playing Texas Hold'em with my wife and got a pair of kings. Nothing that followed, the flop, fourth or fifth street, helped either of us. As this was the final hand of the evening, we decided to bet dinner at our favorite restaurant on the outcome. Wouldn't you know it, she had aces. What were the odds of her having aces? Clay B.

You'd think, Clay, with a starting hand of kings, dinner would be on your spouse, but against your wife's pocket rockets (aces), you only had a 17.82% chance of winning.

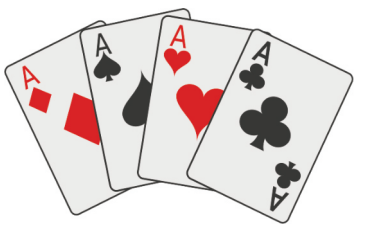
As to the odds of your wife having aces, there are 1,326 two-card combinations that can be made from a 52 card deck, with six combinations for each pocket pair. 1,326 divided by 6 equals 221, therefore, the odds of your wife being dealt pocket aces, or any other pocket pair (your Cowboys for that matter), are 220 to 1. In some happy marriages, the wife always wins on the last hand.

Dear Mark,
What are your thoughts on machines that constantly shuffle cards? Jay P.

No fan here, Jay. My hang-up is that continuous shuffle machines have a negative effect on the typical blackjack player, primarily because the casino gets 20% more hands dealt per hour by using them. With more hands per hour, the player's hourly loss increases, since the casino already holds an edge over the average player.

= = = = =

Gambling quote of the week:
"How long does it take to learn poker, Dad?" "All your life, Son."- Michael Pertwee



Sudoku Puzzle
September 4, 2026

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

Solution on page 15

Antrim County
Women's Conference
Joyful Abundance
featuring Christine Hoy
Saturday, September 19, 2026
register at newhope.cc/next

= MENTAL HEALTH CORNER =

Mental Health Is Built in Ordinary Moments

Our media personalities and influencers love to talk about mental health. They often tell stories about the one moment that changed everything. A conversation. A diagnosis. A breakthrough. A tragedy. We are constantly surrounded by these "life-changing" stories.

Many of them are genuinely inspiring. When we see someone overcome something we've never faced ourselves, we borrow a little of their confidence, their courage, and their hope. Those stories matter.

But they aren't where true mental health is built.

The truth is that our mental health is developed in ordinary moments.

Throughout the course of a lifetime, you may experience only a handful of truly life-changing events. They are memorable because they are rare. So why would we expect something as important as our mental health to depend primarily on moments that happen so infrequently?

Most of life isn't extraordinary. It's waking up, getting the kids ready, going to work, paying bills, making dinner, cleaning the house, and doing it all again tomorrow. Along the way, there are moments of prayer, moments of gratitude, moments of hope, and moments of despair. It is in those ordinary routines that resilience is quietly being built.

Years ago, it took me six months to open my counseling practice. For six months, income was scarce. I made difficult phone calls with my creditors, stretched every dollar, created policies, designed forms, posted job openings, and slowly built something that didn't yet exist except in my imagination. None of it was exciting. None of it made for a dramatic social media post.

It was simply the discipline of showing up every day.

Looking back, I realize that what I built during those six months wasn't just a clinic. I built mental toughness. I built perseverance. I learned that resilience isn't forged in one dramatic moment. It's forged through hundreds of ordinary decisions to keep moving forward.

When we finally opened our doors, it was a day worth celebrating. But that celebration wasn't really about that one moment. It represented hundreds of small victories that had quietly accumulated over time.

Life-changing mental health isn't usually built through life-changing moments. It's built through healthy sleep, regular movement, meaningful work, prayer, gratitude, genuine relationships, and the routines that help us faithfully show up each day.

I hope you experience many extraordinary moments in your life. But don't overlook the ordinary ones, because it's in the mundane disciplines of everyday life that extraordinary people are made.

And that's another way we win at life.

-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECP

= = = = =

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

Be the Village

It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child. How true of a statement. Parents can't do it all. They need help every single day! Parents are human and have limits just like anyone else.

So, who might be in this village? Anyone who cares for children. There are many types of helpers and caregivers. This could range from family and friends to medical professionals. Kids have so many needs in their lives.

Part of being part of a village for a child is parents choosing who is in their child's village. You don't let just anyone in your village. This is especially true if you or your child has experienced trauma. Your child's safety is the highest priority.

As a village of helpers, it is our job to watch out for children in every setting we are in. This could be in public or in private. Part of being part of a village is watching for children out in public. This would include places as simple as a store or parking lot. If something looks off, then keep watch or maybe intervene if necessary.

If you welcome children into your home, create a safe place. Your home may be the only safe place they have in their lives. Help them feel welcome and safe. Make your home a safe place in the neighborhood. Children around you know they can come to your home and know they will be taken care of by you.

There are so many ways to go about making kids feel welcome in your home. I apply some of these things in my office. Your home should be kid friendly. Welcome children with open arms. Offer them a snack and a comfortable place to sit. Provide activities that would appeal to a child. My office is full of games, toys and books.

You also should establish boundaries with children. Things like your home is a safe space. If they need anything they can ask. Make yourself approachable to them and their parents. Show them around your home so they know where to find things. Get to know the children who come to your home. Include them in your family events when appropriate.

Some children don't have safe homes or adults in their lives. This is what being part of a village is about. Your home and family might be the only safe place they have in their lives. Each child needs an adult who cares about them. Being part of that village is one of the most important jobs we could ever do.

Alison Neihardt, LPC, NCC

= = = = =

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



Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame to Induct Four Farm Families

HASTINGS, Mich. — Four Michigan farm families will be inducted into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame during the 2026 induction ceremony on Saturday, September 12, at 2:00 p.m. The ceremony will be held at the Presbyterian Church in Hastings.

This year's inductees are Dennis and Dawn Iott of Kalkaska, Darrell and Kathy Newton of Nashville, Darwin and Kathy Sneller of Sebawaing, and Phil and Becky Wenger of Middleville.

The Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame was established in 1982 through the vision of Bill Aukerman, a Barry County farmer who wanted to recognize those who had dedicated their lives to Michigan agriculture. Each year, farmers who demonstrate excellence and perseverance in agriculture are nominated and considered for induction. Honorees have not only established high standards in production agriculture, but have also contributed to the advancement of agriculture and made a difference in their communities, state, and nation.

The 2026 inductees represent the many ways Michigan farmers have strengthened agriculture and their communities through generations of dedication.

Dennis and Dawn Iott – Kalkaska
Dennis and Dawn Iott of Iott Seed Farm have been farming for more than 45 years, growing approximately 27 million pounds of seed potatoes each year along with wheat and rye. Under Dennis' guidance, the farm has tripled its seed potato production. Their accomplishments have been recognized with Frito-Lay's Seed Supplier of the Year award in 2026, as well as Kalkaska Business of the Year in 2025 and Michigan Association of Conservation Districts Farm of the Year honors in 2024. Dennis has also given back to agriculture and his community by serving as chairman of the Kalkaska Conservation District and president of the Potato Growers of Michigan.

Darrell and Kathy Newton – Nashville
Darrell and Kathy built their farm from the ground up after Darrell caught the farming bug at just 14 years old. Over the years, they grew the operation to 2,000 acres and maintained a cow-calf operation for more than 45 years before they retired from farming in 2021. Their commitment to agriculture and their community includes service on the Farm Bureau County Committee Board and as 4-H leaders. Their contributions have been recognized with the Barn Again Award in 1988, sponsored by the National Trust Historic Preservation and Successful Farming Magazine, and as the Barry County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award in 2005.

Darwin and Kathy Sneller – Sebawaing
Darwin and Kathy Sneller of Starward Farms have been farming for more than 50 years on a 943-acre registered Holstein dairy and cash crop operation. The farm, which began around 1952, includes approximately 100 milking cows and produces corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, and sugar beets. Their commitment to the dairy industry includes extensive service with the Holstein Association, where Darwin served as president at the county, district, and state, levels, as well as leadership with the Huron County Promotions group. Darwin has also served as a 4-H leader and a dairy judging coach. Their accomplishments have been recognized with the Holstein Master Breeder award in 2018 and the MHA Distinguished Person Award in 2026.

Phil and Becky Wenger – Middleville
Phil and Becky Wenger began farming in 1976, building an operation that included a 150-head dairy and 1,400 acres of cash crops. Phil adapted corn planters to help local farmers promote minimum tillage at planting and also provides custom field work, including planting, harvesting, and round baling. Since 1992, their operation has focused on growing grains, corn, soybeans, and alfalfa, as well as raising dairy steers. Phil also worked at the local school until 2012 and served on the Caledonia Farmer's Elevator Board, while the family has been active in their United Methodist Church. The farm is on track to become a Centennial Farm in 2027, with their son preparing to take over the operation as the fourth generation.

The induction ceremony will include recognition of the honorees, remarks from state and national leaders, and entertainment. A meal will follow the ceremony. The event is open to family, friends, fellow farmers, and community members who wish to join in recognizing this year's inductees and their contributions to Michigan agriculture.

The Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame continues its tradition of recognizing farmers whose dedication, perseverance, and service have helped shape Michigan agriculture and the communities they call home. For more information about the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame and its inductees, visit Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame at
https://www.michiganfarmershalloffame.org.

Kalkaska County Sheriff Dave Wagner

Kalkaska County Sheriff Dave Wagner graciously agreed to be interviewed and met with your reporter on Monday, August 24, 2026. He grew up in Southwest Michigan and is a graduate of Vicksburg High School. He attended Kalamazoo Valley College for two years and transferred to the Ferris State University. Following graduation from university he went into the Police Academy. Graduating from the Academy on October 18, 2002, he started work in the Kalkaska County Sheriff's Department just three days later as a road patrol officer. Promoted to Sergeant in 2009, then Dispatch Sergeant in 2015, he was appointed Undersheriff in 2018 by Sheriff Pat Whiteford. Upon Sheriff Whiteford[s retirement, he was appointed Kalkaska County Sheriff in May 2026.

Although he originally thought he wanted to be a Conservation Officer, he quickly discovered that was not going to be a good fit. The Kalkaska County Sheriff's Department suits him well. His wife, Shannon, also works for the Corrections Department as a probation and parole officer. Sheriff Wagner acknowledges that when both spouses work in law enforcement, they have a strong bond of shared interests and concerns, but the work can also spill over into their family life. This reporter was surprised to learn that in spite of his youthful appearance, Sheriff Wagner has a son in his junior year at Lake Superior State University.

Asked for comments about Kalkaska, Sheriff Wagner quipped that the community is good enough that when he retires he is not leaving. That's a very fine recommendation coming from an officer who sees not only the best, but also the worst, of the community he serves. We are very glad to have Sheriff Dave Wagner at the helm here in Kalkaska County.



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

O&A - continues on page 13

REFLECTION

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

Moments

September 4, 2026

There are moments in life that get instantly and permanently etched into our minds and memories. Those moments that hit us so hard that we could not possibly avoid reliving them over and over through the rest of our days.

One such moment for me was November 22, 1963. When I think back on that day, I can still feel the cold of the refrigerator door as I leaned my forehead against it in anguish and disbelief. My president had been assassinated. It wasn't possible, yet it was so. I hadn't been quite old enough to vote when he was elected in 1960. I would have to wait for the 1964 election season – and now eve that was impossible. My president, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, was dead.

Five years later, when both his brother, Robert Francis Kennedy, and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. were also assassinated, the anguish and horror hit again, but it was different – the disbelief wasn't there. This time, I had already experienced the reality of assassination being used as a political tool. What's more, I had seen the accused assassin of JFK, Lee Harvey Oswald, himself be gunned down by Jack Ruby. No, I will never understand the workings of minds capable of such evil behavior, but I cannot deny that they are real.

September 11, 2001, is another date permanently etched into my soul. Yes, I know exactly where I was and what I was doing when hijackers flew planes into the two towers of the World Trade Center. I could not help remembering that it was in one of those towers that I had, years earlier, spent about a week learning about international trade documentation because I had been recently promoted to manage the export operations of my company.

I fretted with the awful feeling that somebody might have been doing exactly as I had done, only this time that person would never get to go home and put the learning to use. It could have been me up there on the 87th floor except for the passage of time. It was days before I could shake off that horrible feeling.

I know about Pearl Harbor, and President Abraham Lincoln, but I have no personal memory of those moments. So, although I reflect on them with reverence, they don't live in me the way the November 22, 1963, and September 11, 2001, do.

Not all the permanent memory moments are painful. The day I first saw the man to whom I am now married, I was smitten. His astonishing blue eyes and silver hair and his outgoing personality caught my heart instantly. I tried hard to resist his allure because my previous relationships had failed and I just didn't trust myself. Fortunately, he was persistent and we will soon celebrate our 39th anniversary.

The moments I first held each of my four babies in my arms are also seared into my loving memory. Though all my children are adults now with families of their own, I can still see them as they were when they first emerged into this world.

Still, as we turn now into September, and it is 25 years ago that hijackers flew planes into the towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and the brave passengers of United Airlines Flight 93 thwarted the terrorists' intentions by crashing it into a field in Pennsylvania, I cannot help reliving that day in my heart. It spurs me to strive to be a person worthy of the blessing I have of still living. I still get to enjoy sunrises and sunsets, to hear the birds sing and the river gurgle, to still snuggle in the arms of my beloved. The memory of the sacrifice of so many does press me to strive to be the best I can be.

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

Shalom

Tina Norris Fields
Editor

Citizenship Corner

These questions may require some research on your part. Thank you for making that effort. The answers will appear in the next edition of the Voice.

We have heard lots of political terms being called out lately. Perhaps we should look at what they mean.

1) Let's look at some definitions. What is a democracy and what is a republic?

2) What is a democratic republic?

3) What is socialism?

4) What is fascism?

Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue's questions

1) Where in the Constitution do we find the right to a speedy and public trial by a jury of one's peers?
A. Amendment VI, the first sentence.

2) That right includes some details. What is the next one?
A. The right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation.

3) What rights does the accused have with regard to witnesses?
A. To be confronted with the witnesses against him [and] to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor.

4) What is the final protection for the accused?
A. To have the assistance of Counsel for his defense.

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 Hydrochepalus 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



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

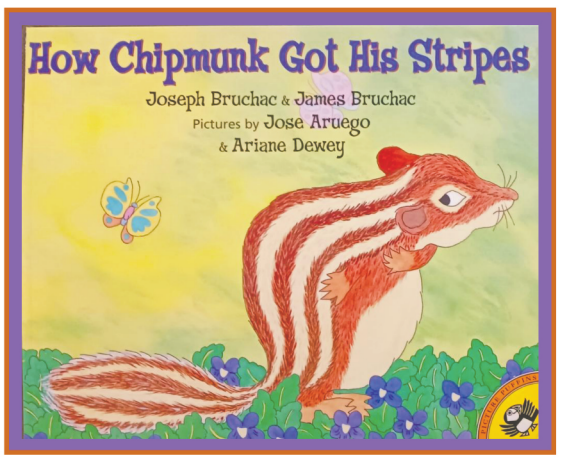
To place a classified ad, or a display ad,

Email: tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com
or call: 231-322-2787 or 231-645-0244

StoryWalk®

presented by Alden District Library

September 1st-29th



Coy Mountain,
9011 Valley Street, Alden
When: Daily, Dawn to Dusk



WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

Honey

By Dominic Fortuna

KALKASKA COUNTY — Before there were orchards in rows and farm stands on US 131, there was honey.

The first families who cut a clearing in the hardwoods north of the Manistee learned quickly that the bees had been here first. The woods were full of basswood and wild cherry and clover in the low places. In late June the air would turn heavy with the smell of basswood bloom, a scent you can still catch on a warm night around Lodi and Spencer, and the bees would work it into something that could carry a family through winter. In a time before white sugar came cheap in a paper bag, honey was sugar and medicine and a little bit of money you could trade in town. It was survival sweetened.

That truth has not changed much in Northern Michigan. We still live where we eat.

Ask anyone who grows cherries around Traverse City or apples over near Acme or blueberries down near Fife Lake what keeps their crop alive and they will tell you the same thing. No bees, no fruit. The honeybee, which is not even native to this continent but has become as Northern Michigan as a snow shovel in April, does the quiet work that makes the entire food web possible here. One hive will visit millions of blossoms in a season. The apple blossoms in May, the raspberry in June, the star thistle that paints the sandy fields purple in July, the goldenrod and aster that hold on until the first frost. Every one of those flowers becomes honey in a jar and fruit on a tree because that bee made a stop.

It remains one of the most honest foods you can buy in this part of the state. Raw honey from a local hive is not heated, not filtered to death, not cut with corn syrup from somewhere far away. It is exactly what the bees capped in wax last week. Spoonful for spoonful it carries pollen from the very fields you drive past on your way to work. That is why people who deal with seasonal allergies swear by it. That is why old timers still put it on a cut. And that is why a quart of real Northern Michigan honey on the counter means you are eating from this place in a way that almost nothing else in the grocery store can offer.

You cannot talk about that honey without talking about the people who tend the hives.

Up in Wolverine there is a beekeeper named Crystal who folks know simply because she answers the phone. It does not matter if it is late or if the snow is coming sideways. If someone needs raw honey for a sick child or a neighbor who just got out of surgery and wants something real to stir into tea, Crystal is on time. Every time. People talk about her like that because in a region where help can be twenty miles away, reliability is a kind of currency. She keeps her hives clean, she keeps her word, and her honey tastes like the high woods up there, light and floral in early summer and darker and rich like molasses when the wildflowers turn.

Down in Suttons Bay, Eva has built a different kind of reputation. If Crystal is about dependability, Eva is about soul. She is the one chefs call when they want to understand what flavor actually means. She will sit with you and have you taste honey like you would taste wine, asking you to notice the basswood mint on the back end, the little berry lift from the summer brambles, the way raw honey from Leelanau County can finish almost buttery. Customers come for a quart and leave with a story and a little more peace than they came with. Eva talks about bees as if they are teachers. Be patient, work hard, share everything, protect the queen. There is a spiritual side to what she does, and you feel it in the way she hands you the jar, like she is handing you a piece of the season itself.

These women are part of a longer line. Go to the historical museum in Kalkaska and you will see photos of beekeepers in veils made from window screen, standing next to white boxes in the stump fields after the logging era. When the timber was gone and the farms were still trying to find their feet, honey and beeswax were among the first cash crops that actually made sense here. You did not need rich soil. You needed flowers and time. That economy never left. Today a single strong hive in a good year can produce eighty to a hundred pounds of surplus honey. At farmers markets from Grayling to Charlevoix, that honey sells right alongside tart cherries and peaches and sweet corn. It belongs there. It completes the table.

Nutritionists will tell you honey is energy in its most natural form. Simple sugars the body can use quickly, trace enzymes, a little bit of everything the flower had to give. But for those of us who live here, it has always meant more than calories. It has meant that the landscape is healthy. When the bees are thriving, the orchards are thriving, the fields are thriving, and we are thriving.

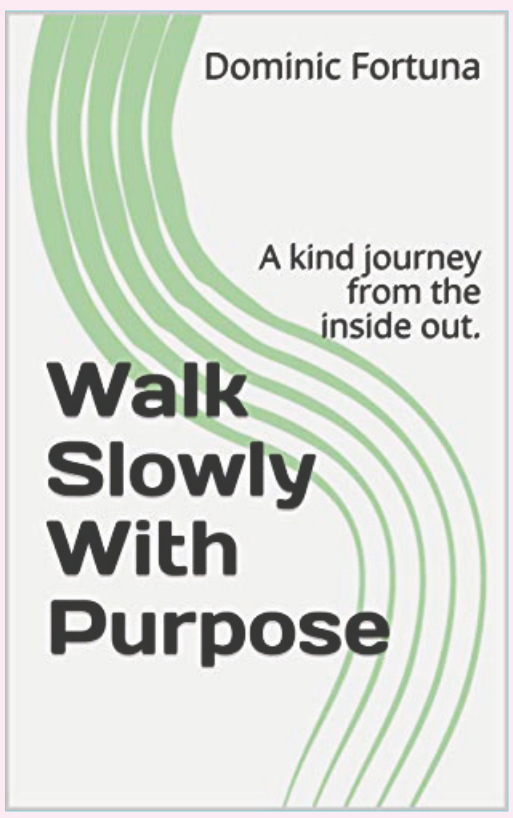
Drive north on a July afternoon with the windows down and you can hear them in the basswoods if you listen. That hum is old. Older than any town charter or county line. It was here before us and if we are careful, if we keep planting and keep protecting the hives and keep supporting the people like Crystal and Eva who do the hard work in the bee yard when nobody is watching, it will be here long after.

And on a cold January morning when the lake effect is piling up against the windows, you can still open a jar from last summer and taste that afternoon. That is not just food. That is Northern Michigan keeping its promise.



Photo by Andy Holmes on Unsplash

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: 3nd Wed, 5 pm

Standing Committees-
When: 2nd Wed, times below

Judiciary & Public Health- 9 am

Health & Welfare- 10 am

Public Works- 11 am

Personnel/Interview- 1 pm

Budget & Finance- 2 pm
(also meets the Tue before, 5 pm)

County Affairs/
IT & Computer- 3 pm

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, 7:0o 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

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.

Yes, you CAN subscribe!,

First Class Mail delivery of the Northwest Michigan Voice, to your home is available for $26 per year. If you are interested, please contact us.
email: tina.fieldsmedia@gmail.com,
or call: 231-322-2787 or 231-645-0244

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS This 21st day of August 2026, notice is given in the estate of Alan W. Miller, late of Kalkaska, Michigan, deceased (01/22/1949~ 05/25/2026). All claims against the above estate duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the Estate of Alan W. Miller, c/o Nancy Worthing, 328 Portage Lake Rd, Munith, MI 49259, before November 30, 2026.

Sudoku Puzzle Solution September 4, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

2026 RC Heritage Festival Wrap-up

By Tina Norris Fields

The final Thursday Live Music Night of the 2026 Rapid City Heritage Festival was August 20. These weekly evenings of music are one of the truly special features of the annual Heritage Festival celebration.

Local artists are especially featured, in the weekly events, which is wonderfully appealing to the community. Food and games are also always a part of the celebration. As their web page says: "Every Thursday our community comes alive with a fantastic array of attractions: enjoy the sounds of live music, browse unique goods from local vendors, savor delicious treats from a variety of food trucks,and let the kids have a blast with dedicated activities. Plus, unwind at our beer tent and challenge your friends to a game of cornhole, all with free admission. It's the perfect way to spend a summer evening in Northern Michigan."

We can hardly wait for next summer's Heritage Festival!

It’s all about the community, and that is this week’s bright spot.



The family that provides the animating spark for the Heritage Festival. Dawn Keyes (center), her son Andrew Hulburt (righy) and his son Jameson Hulburt (left)









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

Sales:
Monday 8 am - 8 pm
Tues-Fri 8 am - 6 pm
Sat 9 am - 3 pm
Sun CLOSED

Service & Parts:
Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Sat & Sun CLOSED

Since 1921
Chevrolet

VOICE MOTOR SALES
www.voicemotors.com