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When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Vol2026:
September 18, 2026

Thank You!

By Tina Norris Fields

September 11 has a special meaning for all Americans, but this year in our community it had an extra special meaning. For, on Patriot Day, in Rapid City, Michigan, it was also Appreciation Day for our Military and First Responders. Hosted by Cold Front Diesel, on Rapid City Road, under an immense American flag, the second annual Appreciation Day celebration featured fire trucks from the South Torch Fire Station and Rapid City's own Station Five, the KLT Rock Station truck, good company, and lots of food. Donations were also accepted for the Patriot Park Veterans Memorial project, located on highway M-72, that honors all our fallen heroes.











Above: Dave Schafer II, CEO of Cold Front Diesel. Below: Three members of Rapid City's Station Five, Scott & Katie Waggoner and Katerina Alleman





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

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OBITUARIES

Russel Dale Bogart

October 30, 1955 ~ August 1. 2026

"I'm sorry to inform you, but apparently I have died."

Russ Bogart of Cadillac, MI (formerly Kalkaska and Belding, MI) passed away on August 1, 2026, at the age of 70, with his beautiful partner of 19 years, Kathy Hannum, by his side.

Russ was the son of Betty and Dale Bogart (both passed), brother to Kelly and Susan, father to Deanna, Ashley, and Amber, and stepfather to Jenny, Jayden, and Jeremy Hannum. He is also survived by 4 grandchildren, Walter, Helen, Journey, and Ryder, as well as many nieces and nephews who loved him greatly.

Russ was a roughneck in the oil fields throughout the late 1970s and 1980s. The stories from those years became some of his favorites, and he continued sharing them, usually with plenty of laughter, for the rest of his life.

He was also a Finish carpenter, and his workmanship was something to be admired. He had a gift for working with his hands, and the things he built reflected both his skill and his care. His handiwork was beautiful and lasting.

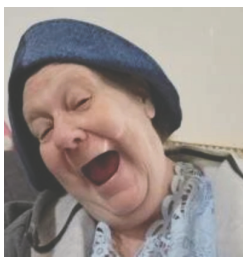
Russ was a teller of stories. He had lived enough life to have plenty of them, and he was never shy about sharing them. And when something struck him as funny, Russ laughed out loud with his full voice, the kind of laugh you couldn't help but notice.

His stories, his laughter, his craftsmanship, and his unmistakable presence will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Cremation has taken place, and the family will be holding a private Celebration of Life at a later date.

Terry Lee Thomas

February 18, 1959 ~ September 4, 2026



It is with heavy hearts we are saddened to say that Terry Lee (Hicks) Thomas 67, of Kalkaska, Michigan passed September 4, 2026, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. She was surrounded by her family and friends who loved her. She was born February 18, 1959, to the late Shirley (Culberson) Warnke.

Terry grew up with her late stepfather Rodney Warnke and 4 siblings in the Kalkaska area. Her brothers Mike and Ted preceded her in death. Her younger brother Gordon a.k.a. Donnie of North Carolina and older sister Helen (Gary) Fosmore of Alabama, loved her dearly.

Terry left behind a menagerie of 4 children, Tiffany (Craig) Walker, Samantha (James) Roznowski, Brenda (Kenneth) Brown, and Daniel (William) Babcock; 7 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

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

As we all know, with Terry's stubborn streak she asked only for everyone to have a cup of coffee in remembrance of her. So, we the family ask that anyone who wishes to just take time Saturday September 12th around 2pm to grab their favorite caffeinated beverage of choice and think of her.

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

Brenda Lee Lacy

December 10, 1957 ~ August 12, 2026



Brenda left her earthly life behind on August 12, 2026, for something far greater than hearts can imagine. She was ushered into Heaven, into the loving arms of Jesus, where she will wait for her family and friends to join her.

She was a Charter Member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary #6579 in New Lothrop, MI.

She was a long-time member of Bear Lake Christian Church, where she served in various roles throughout the years. Her favorite role within the church was singing with the praise team.

She was an avid gardener, who had the greenest of green thumbs. She could make anything grow. Some of her happiest times were made up of simply sitting in her flower garden, enjoying the peace and tranquility that it brought her.

She was a fabulous cook, who wasn't afraid to try something new. Though she owned cookbooks, she didn't need a recipe to follow to keep her family and friends fed. She had the innate ability to throw together lavish meals, simply by knowing what things to pair together.

Brenda was the most loving wife, mother, sister, aunt, friend and especially grandmother. Her grandsons were her biggest joy.

Those closest left behind to cherish her memory are husband Allen Lacy; daughters Billie Lee (Marvin) Wrubel, Tracy (Michael) James; sons Dan (April) Lacy, Jeremy Lacy; grandsons Taylor (Andrea Alband) James, Clyde Davis, Andrew Jacobs, Kelvin Jacobs, Dalton James, Grady Lacy & Brody Lacy; siblings Sandra Choate and William (Susan) Schlink, along with her nieces, nephews and countless others.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Norman and Sarah (Simon) Schlink, brother-in-law, Tom and son, Tony.

A celebration of the beautiful and adventurous life of Brenda will be held at 1pm on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at the Bear Lake Christian Church, in Kalkaska, MI. Pastor Scott Hoffer will officiate the celebration. The family will accept visitors that day from 11:00 am until the time of celebration at 1pm. In true Brenda fashion, feel free to wear something bright and colorful!

The family would like to express their utmost gratitude for the care she was given by the very loving staff that became family, at both Munson Medical Center of Traverse City (D5) and the Kalkaska Infusion Clinic.

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

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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.

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,

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- FUN FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES
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WHEN
October 5th-10th

WHERE IN KALKASKA
Serra Automotive
408 W. Mile Rd.
Northland Foods
2010 US-131
Family Fare
784 S. Cedar St.
K.A.I.R.
324 S. Cedar St.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
Make a monetary or food donation at any of the above locations.
Donate anytime online @
KalkaskaKairs.com

Learn more about this year's event and how to donate by visiting the Facebook Event page.

6 DAY FUND RAISER



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Northwest MI

VOICE

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Academea Club Silent Auction

SATURDAY, SEPT 26, 2026
9:00-10:30AM
KALKASKA UNIFIED MINISTRIES FOR CHRIST
2525 BEEBE RD
KALKASKA

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We support: Kalkaska County Library, KAIR & Festival of the Trees, Kalkaska/Forest Area High School Scholarships, God's Garden, Feed the Kids, Kalkaska Area Animal Shelter, Embracing Imperfections - Suicide Prevention Program for Teens, and other local projects

Grand Traverse Mental Health Crisis and Access Center Receives Michigan Health & Hospital Association Ludwig Award

Traverse City, Mich. — The Grand Traverse Mental Health Crisis and Access Center (GTMHCA) has received the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) Ludwig Award, recognizing its innovative, collaborative approach to strengthening behavioral health crisis care across northern Michigan.

The Ludwig Award honors programs annually that improve patient care, demonstrate meaningful community impact, and advance healthcare through partnership and innovation. GTMHCA was selected for its responsive, person-centered crisis care model and its measurable success in improving access and outcomes.

"This recognition reflects years of collaboration and a shared commitment to expanding timely, compassionate behavioral health care," said Dr. Chris Archangeli, Medical Director, Behavioral Health Service Line, Munson Healthcare. "By listening closely to community needs and working across systems, our partners came together to design a solution that is making a real difference for individuals and families across northern Michigan."

Behavioral health has consistently ranked as a top priority in the Munson regional Community Health Needs Assessments. As demand for crisis services grew, Munson and community partners invested in a more specialized continuum of care—ensuring people experiencing mental health crises are served in settings designed for stabilization, dignity, and recovery.

That investment is already showing results. Since opening, the Center has facilitated 1,211 crisis encounters across 26 counties, resolving 82% of crises on site and reducing the need for emergency department visits and higher-level transfers.

The Center is grounded in strong cross sector collaboration, including Munson Healthcare, Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Authority, regional partners, and local organizations. Community voice remains central to operations, guided by ongoing input from residents and a standing Community Advisory Group focused on access, safety, and cultural responsiveness.

Looking ahead, the final phases of the Center include the development of adult and pediatric Crisis Residential Units—addressing one of the most significant gaps in Michigan's behavioral health system. The pediatric unit the only the second of its kind in the state.

"The Ludwig Award affirms that when healthcare systems and communities work together, we can deliver solutions that are effective and sustainable," added Archangeli,. "This recognition reinforces our momentum and our commitment to continued innovation."

For more information about the Grand Traverse Mental Health Crisis and Access Center, visit gtmentalhealth.org.



BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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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 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 19, 10:30-11:30am, Seed Saving for Kinds. Free kids’ program (geared for ages 4-10 but flexible). Try some hands-on activities as we learn why we save seeds, how to process seeds, and do crafts with... you guessed it, seeds! Bellaire Public Library, 111 S Bridge St, Bellaire.

September 19, 11am - Job Winslow Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, monthly meeting, PJ Steeby presents: 9-11 25th Anniversary "Have You Forgotten?" St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 912 South Garfield Ave,. Traverse City.

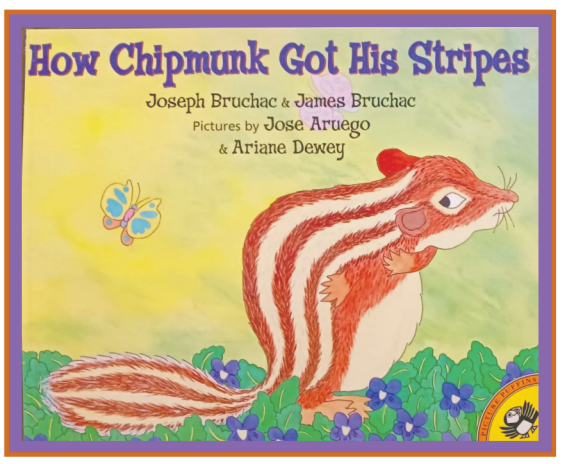
September 19, 11am - 5pm, The Talents of Recovery. Come celebrate the talents, creativity, business, and accomplishments of people in recovery. Railroad Square, Kalkaska.

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

StoryWalk®

presented by Alden District Library

September 1st-29th



Coy Mountain,

9011 Valley Street, Alden

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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)

Nephew not the sharpest knife in the drawer

2 February 2004

Dear Mark,
I have a nephew who thinks he has a foolproof system for winning at blackjack. He is not very intelligent, does not have a good background in mathematics, does not understand probability theory, does not know how to count, and does not even know how to play blackjack well enough to reduce the house's advantage to its minimum. His system is one of the oldest and obviously fallacious ones around, simply doubling his bet every time he loses. When he wins, he goes back to his basic betting unit, $10.00, although he tells me he has played using $100.00 as a basic betting unit. He tells me he has won thousands of dollars and has never lost playing his "system." Personally, I don't believe him. Can you recommend anything that I could tell him? Can you explain why this is a bad system, a losing system? George M.

y George, correct you are. Your nephew, Mr. Flawless J. System, probably isn't the brightest crayon in the box, especially if he feels his system is flawless. You are describing a sure loser, mentioned before in this column, called the Martingale System, a historic name for doubling up after every loss. In essence, the gambler doubles his previous bet after a loss, hoping to recoup that loss and win back his initial wager. It is the absolute worst money management system extant, even if your nephew thinks his modus operandi is foolproof, because he is going to win eventually. Well, my friend, his biggest problem is that he does not have an inexhaustible bankroll, while Joe Casino Owner is free to limit the maximum size of Nephew's wager. By the time Neph is in for the wager limit, there's nothing left for him but the French Foreign Legion. With the Martingale system, he is betting $10, losing, then putting down $20 to recoup that loss. Then $40, $80, $160, $320, $640, $1,280, $2,560. Look at the smile on Mr. Casino's mug. MISTAKE ONE: He has now invested $5,110 to get back his paltry $10. MISTAKE TWO: He might have been playing on a game with a table limit of $500 or $1,000. A few losses and the casino automatically protects itself against his ever welcoming home his measly sawbuck. What you've got going here, George, is a nephew using a lethal system. As for my advice to him, how about say NEVER GO NEAR A CASINO, OR IF YOU MUST, YOU WON'T BE USING NO MONEY OF MINE (future inheritance) and remember . . . the Martingale system is not your strategy; it's the casino's.

Dear Mark,
You stated in your column of Jan 30, 04 that Binion's Horseshoe was the last family-owned casino in the USA. isn't John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, NV family owned? Also what about the Eldorado in Reno, NV?
Elaine S.

You're absolutely right, Elaine, I stand corrected. Besides, I knew better as I worked in Northern Nevada for over 22 years, my boy was born literally feet from the Eldorado at St. Mary's Hospital (I was in the Eldorado's buffet when my wife broke water), and keeping on the topic of food, I've had my share of meals at John's Oyster Bar at the Nugget and the La Strada at the Eldorado. So, Elaine, allow me to retract that sentence altogether, and for the catch, I'm sending along a set of my tapes, Hooked on Winning. Thanks for looking over my shoulder.

Gambling quote of the week: *"I do believe in the sanctity of marriage, I totally do, but I was in Vegas and it took over me and things got out of hand." —Britney Spears (I'd say almost a believable excuse.)*



Sudoku Puzzle
September 18, 2026

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

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 =

Finding Growth in Discomfort

Life in the United States is uniquely comfortable. If we compare our lifestyles to those living 300 years ago, we are all living better than many kings and queens of that era. Of course, we have stressors, but when it comes down to it, we also have climate-controlled homes and offices. We can eat more or less on demand. We have entertainment whenever we are bored, GPS, cars and phones. We are comfortable in ways that our ancestors couldn't have even dreamed of.

What if by eliminating nearly every possible inconvenience from our lives, we have created a unique set of downsides that we might not be aware of? In his book, The Comfort Crisis, Michael Easter challenges us to think about what we have sacrificed in the name of all our modern conveniences.

Easter argues that when we deliberately do hard, difficult or uncomfortable things, we rewire ourselves and recalibrate what we think of as hard. There are many different ways that we can do this. When we expose ourselves purposefully to cold, hunger, strenuous exercise, solitude, boredom or things that are inconvenient, we learn a valuable lesson: Yes, this is uncomfortable, but I can handle this. In these experiences, we increase our mental toughness and overall resilience to life's challenges.

The Japanese have a term for this type of experience: The Misogi. These are annual challenges that push people's limits. There are, for example, men in Japan who stand under cold waterfalls for up to 4 hours in December! These experiences don't need to be this extreme, of course. The purpose of Misogi is to push oneself to do something that is outside of our comfort zone.

The results speak for themselves: Hunger through fasting changes how food tastes. Physical exhaustion from exercising changes how rest feels. Boredom by eliminating social media for a few weeks helps change how we feel about entertainment or socializing.

The psychological payoff comes from learning that the limits we have placed on ourselves were not our actual limits, and the results are lower rates of anxiety and depression and increases in our self-image and confidence.

The goal of a Misogi-type experience is not to make our lives harder. It is to remind ourselves that every form of discomfort does not need to be removed from our lives. Through this we become stronger and more resilient, and this is yet another way we win at life.

-Adam DeVaney, LCSW, CECP

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Adam DeVaney is a clinical social worker and therapist with over a decade of experience working with clients with a diversity of challenges from addiction and anxiety to overcoming trauma and helping people to learn what it takes to live their best lives. Along with his wife, Mandi, he founded Life's Work Clinic in Kalkaska, Michigan, and Life's Work Coaching with a local and global footprint. Adam has dedicated his life to serving others and walking with them on their healing journeys.

LIFE'S WORK CLINIC

Jesus Set Boundaries Too

Boundaries can be very hard to set with people. We don't want to hurt people's feelings. We don't want to cause conflict. We don't want to have any problems. There is a problem with this, however. If you don't set boundaries, it invites people to take advantage of you.

Jesus set boundaries. Yup, He did! He set boundaries with the pharisees. He told them what was right and wrong. He called them out when He needed to. They of course didn't like it, but Jesus did it anyway.

Jesus also set boundaries with His disciples. He would guide them and teach them, and in that process like any wise teacher He set boundaries. There were many times the disciples didn't understand Him. Jesus knew this, and He was patient, kind and loving, just like we should be.

We are called to love others like Jesus. We are called to lay down our lives to serve Jesus. We are not called to be doormats. We are called to stand up for what is right. That involves many things, including setting boundaries.

We set boundaries with any relationship we have, whether that is kids, spouse, family or friends. We set boundaries. Things we are willing to tolerate, and things we are not willing to tolerate.

Some people are easier to set boundaries with than others. For example, kids will test the boundaries you set all the time. They will try to see what they can get away with. You may have family members that like to purposely push your buttons.

It is also necessary to set boundaries when it comes to your time and resources. You don't have to do everything that is asked of you. It is okay to rest. Jesus took naps too. It is important to take time for yourself. You need and deserve rest too.

Scripture tells us to let your yes be yes, and your no be no. It is okay to say no to others, including your child who is having a complete meltdown in the middle of the store over a toy.

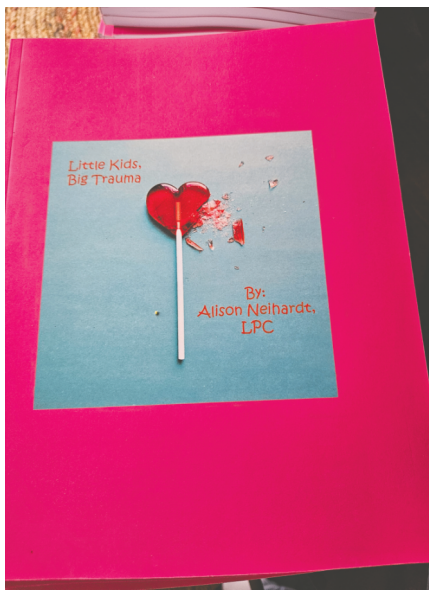
It is okay to say no to more volunteer activities and commitments just because someone needs your help. It will be okay to say no to taking on more things to do. It is okay to put your own needs and wants first. That isn't selfish.

If you are struggling with setting boundaries, talk to the Creator. Talk to God about how to kindly set boundaries and be consistent with doing so. You will get push back from people, especially first setting boundaries, but it does get easier. Don't let the guilt get to you. Stand your ground. It will pay off, eventually.

Alison Neihardt, LPC, NCC

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



Impact100 Traverse City Announces 2026 Grant Finalists as Organization Marks 10th Anniversary

TRAVERSE CITY, MI — The women of Impact100 Traverse City named the five local nonprofit Finalists that will compete for grants at the organization's Annual Meeting on September 23 — the same event where Impact100 TC will mark 10 years of collective giving and surpassing $3 million invested in nonprofits across the five-county region.

After an application and review process, the Impact100 TC Focus Committees (Arts & Culture; Education; Environment, Preservation & Recreation; Family; and Health & Wellness) named this year's Finalists: The Bay Community Theatre; Friends of the Fife Lake Public Library; Friends of the Betsie River Valley Trail; Michigan Indian Legal Services; 5Loaves2FishNMI.

Based on this year's 360-member giving pool, the three nonprofits receiving the most member votes at the Annual Meeting will each receive a $120,000 grant. The two Finalists not selected for a full grant will each receive a $3,000 recognition award in honor of their proposals.

Impact100 TC President Amy Devey says, “Reaching our tenth year and surpassing three million dollars invested locally is a milestone our members have built together, one thousand dollars and one vote at a time. This year's Finalists represent exactly why we do this work — real, transformational proposals from nonprofits across our five counties, striving to make our region a great place to live for all.”

Impact100 TC selects five Finalists each year, one from each focus area. This year's review process identified nonprofits that embody the organization's commitment to funding initiatives with strong impact, capacity, and sustainability, ensuring members' investment creates lasting change.

This year's announcement carries added significance: 2026 marks Impact100 TC's 10th anniversary since its founding in 2016; and this year, the organization’s grant totals will surpass $3 million supporting nonprofits across Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties.

Impact100 Traverse City is an all-women, all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties. Each member provides an annual $1,000 donation that is collectively granted in $100,000+ increments to support regional nonprofits with transformational funding. Impact100 Global has over 80 chapters across the United States and internationally and has awarded more than $178 million to nonprofits in their communities since 2002.

For more information and to join Impact100 TC, visit www.impacttc.org or email info@impactTC.org.

Impact100 Traverse City 2026 Finalists/Initiatives by Focus Area

ARTS & CULTURE

Organization: The Bay Community Theatre
Initiative: Live at the Bay!
Description in Organization's Words: This proposal is not about the movies, live concerts, or comedy shows. The Bay Theatre is about you, me and strengthening our community. A movie theater is never just a place to watch movies, it’s a community hub that brings people together to create memories, to enrich each other and strengthen the fabric of our community. Beyond entertainment, The Bay Theatre supports our growing after school program for middle and high students, giving them an outlet to explore critical thinking skills, public speaking, engagement with peers, and expanding their understanding of the world around them. It also supports our monthly programming aimed at seniors, where lively discussions engage and enrich patrons in a communal setting. It’s about the 17,000 people who visit The Bay each year. It’s about the marquee that welcomes everyone everyday and it’s about the 450 members, 100+ volunteers, and over 1,000 generous donors.

EDUCATION

Organization: Friends of Fife Lake Public Library
Initiative: Room for Community: The Fife Lake Learning Hub
Description in Organization's Words: In Fife Lake, many needs land at the same public door. A child hears the first story that makes reading feel possible. A student comes because school requires internet, and home does not have it. A senior comes for movement, laughter, and companionship. A job seeker prints the application that could mean paying next month’s rent. A local group comes because community needs a place to gather. The Fife Lake Public Library in southeast Grand Traverse County is a vital resource in a rural area with few alternatives. Serving over nine townships across four counties, this expansion will better meet residents’ needs. Impact100’s grant for the Learning Hub will become the tables people gather around, the technology they learn on, the audio-visual equipment for workshops and meetings, and accessibility making participation possible. Impact100’s grant means this new space becomes access, dignity, connection, and opportunity for all close to home.

ENVIRONMENT, PRESERVATION & RECREATION

Organization: Friends of the Betsie River Valley Trail
Initiative: Betsie Valley Trail – Trail Access Accessibility Project
Description in Organization's Words: This project involves accessibility improvements at an existing trailhead parking area on the accessible portion of the Betsie Valley Trail. The project includes: relocating the entrance drive; resurfacing of the existing gravel parking lot; construction of four concrete ADA-compliant, van-accessible parking spaces; an asphalt access pathway connecting the accessible parking spaces to the trail; and replacement of the existing non-accessible vault toilet with an ADA-compliant accessible vault toilet building. The parking lot resurfacing will use compacted aggregate to stabilize the existing surface and support accessible vehicle maneuvering. The Benzie Area Chamber of Commerce, Disability Network Northern Michigan, Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission, and The Maples extended care facility have all submitted letters of support affirming the community need. Joy-2- Ride Benzie, a program serving individuals with disabilities through adaptive cycling, relies on this trail and specifically needs this trailhead accessibility upgrade to allow their participants to access the trail independently.

FAMILY

Organization: Michigan Indian Legal Services
Initiative: Gikendaasowin Guide: The MILS ChatBot and Legal Navigator
Description in Organization's Words: Michigan Indian Legal Services (MILS) seeks support to launch the Gikendaasowin Guide, a culturally grounded, AI-enabled legal navigator designed with and for Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) citizens across the five-county service region. Available 24/7 and built for voice access, the Guide will help community members and families understand and act on urgent legal issues involving tribal law, child welfare, housing, and protective orders. Rural attorney shortages and the complexity of overlapping tribal, state, and federal systems leave many Native families without timely, practical legal guidance. The Gikendaasowin Guide will convert dense tribal codes, procedures, and court opinions into plain-language explanations, guided forms, and clear attorney intake pathways—meeting people at the moment they need help and strengthening their ability to self-advocate safely and effectively. With grant support from Impact100 Traverse City, MILS will create a replicable digital justice model that can be sustained through modest ongoing operating costs and adapted for all 12 federally recognized Tribes in Michigan down the road. By combining legal accuracy, cultural grounding, and accessible technology, the Gikendaasowin Guide will reduce barriers to justice, protect families, and advance Tribal sovereignty through community-centered legal empowerment.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Organization: 5loaves2FishNMI
Initiative: Food is the Vehicle, Love is the Answer
Description in Organization's Words: 5Loaves2FishNMI Co-Founders Michelle and Bill White, with dedicated volunteers, came together in 2020 with a mission “to promote compassion by providing nourishing meals, infused with love, to those experiencing food insecurity and homelessness”. Leland Community United Methodist Church’s kitchen became the permanent location for planning, preparing, and packaging delicious homemade meals, transporting them directly to hungry guests in the Grand Traverse region, with no questions asked. To date, 100,000 meals have been served. 5Loaves2FishNMI proposes to purchase a Ford Van, with upgrades to improve food safety and volunteer experience. It would increase capacity, facilitate loading and unloading, assure safer, more reliable delivery of homemade meals to designated meal sites, and transport food and equipment to fundraisers and educational events. A well-equipped van would be transformational to all aspects of 5L2FNMI’s operation, resulting in more meals delivered to hungry people in the Grand Traverse region.

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

Either – Or?

September 18, 2026

Let's talk about the current apparent generational rift in American politics. I know you've heard the call for term limits in Congress and on the Supreme Court. I know you've heard the complaint that there are way too many really old people in government. I know you've heard the demand for younger people and fresh ideas to take over the reins of government. Either we have old people or we have young people.

I seriously maintain that that is a false dichotomy. It isn't **EITHER** old **OR** young; it has to be **BOTH** old **AND** young!

Why? Because we need both the wisdom and experience of our elders and the audacious imagination of our youth.

We humans take a long time to reach full adulthood. We are sexually mature long before we are emotionally and intellectually mature. Puberty arrives somewhere in our teens, but our brain doesn't fully develop until we are halfway through our twenties.

It is a common saying that good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment. It's a hilarious thought, but pretty close to the truth. We learn from our mistakes and that is what contributes to our accumulation of wisdom.

When we are new on a job, don't we look for a mentor among those who have been on the job for a while, those who "know the ropes"? Of course, we do. Do we also bring new ideas to the job? Again, of course we do. It's the blending of new ideas and experience that makes innovation possible. Just having a new idea – even a very good new idea – isn't enough. Knowing how to get new ideas accepted and implemented requires the wisdom of experience, and most likely, negotiation.

Now, I can't speak for others, of course, but I remember myself as a very young adult. I was pretty full of myself and thought I knew all the answers. It was important for me to be right, and I was a fiercely opinionated proponent for my own ideas. It's amazing and humbling to look back now at how much I thought I knew and how little I actually knew. I remember telling my dad about the flaws in a company I worked for, and his admonition that I ought to learn a little more about how things worked before storming into the boss's office with my solutions. He said a person ought to know something about how trains work before trying to run the railroad. I've kept that image in my head as I have begun quite a number of new jobs over the years. Most of the young adults I have known have exhibited at least a few of the same traits. So, while I am enthusiastic about young people with new ideas, I am also keenly aware of the pitfalls of inexperience.

In many of the world's cultures elders are revered for the wisdom they have gained and are willing to share. I hope there is still some of that in our twenty-first century America. Learning from our elders means that we don't have to make all the mistakes for ourselves.

My answer to those who call for term limits in Congress is that we already have term limits; they're called elections. Nobody gets to stay in office if we don't elect them. So, if we have, as I have heard said, a "geriatric Congress," that is because we keep electing the same people to Congress. I believe it is that simple. Imposing automatic term limits for Congress would require a Constitutional Amendment.

As for the Supreme Court, if we read the plain language of the Constitution, we see that it does not say anything at all about a lifetime appointment. It says that the Justices "shall hold their offices during good behavior." How anyone interprets that to be a lifetime appointment baffles me. However, if we do want to impose specific term limits on Supreme Court Justices, we must pass and ratify a Constitutional Amendment.

So far, I have not heard of anyone putting forth a bill to amend the Constitution with specific term limits for Congress or the Supreme Court. I have only heard several "talking heads" wax emphatic about it. So, all talk, no action. If this is truly to be a national discussion, then, someone must put the idea forth in a bill to be argued in Congress. Once there is concurrence of two-thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the proposed amendment must go out to the several states for their legislatures to consider. If three-fourths of the fifty states' legislatures will ratify the proposed amendment, it becomes part of the Constitution, the supreme law of the land.

Nothing short of a Constitutional Amendment can impose specific term limits on Congress or the Supreme Court. This cannot be done by simple legislation. No such authority is delegated by the people via the Constitution to the legislative branch of our government.

To remove a Supreme Court Justice from office for not maintaining "good behavior," requires impeachment by the House and conviction by the Senate. Impeachable offenses are defined in the Constitution as "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors," as is clearly laid out in Article II, Section 4.

Finally, I leave you with this thought: the form of government we have, a constitutional democratic republic, requires an educated and informed electorate to participate in the governing process. That's you and me. We have an obligation to take part in this government. It is up to us to carefully select the candidates we propose to temporarily delegate authority to. Yes, it is all up to us.

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

Shalom

Tina Norris Fields
Editor

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References:

Constitution of the United States of America

Citizenship Corner

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

1) According to the Constitution, who can be impeached?

2) What is the Constitution's definition of treason?

3) Does the Constitution establish the number of Justices to serve on the Supreme Court?

4) Why do we have an odd number of Justices on the Supreme Court?

Everything in this paper is important to somebody

Citizenship Corner

Answers to last issue's questions

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

1) What is a democracy and what is a republic?
A. Democracy: The people choose their leaders through free elections. Republic: The country has no monarch, and the government is run according to law for the public good.

2) What is a democratic republic?
A. A democratic republic is a country where the people hold the power, but they rule through elected representatives rather than voting on every law directly.

3) What is socialism?
A. Socialism is an economic and political system where the community or the government owns and manages the major resources, factories, and businesses instead of private individuals.

4) What is fascism?
A. Fascism is an authoritarian and ultranationalist political ideology that places the nation—and often a specific race—above the individual.



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

Letter to the Editor

November 3, 2026 "Headlee Restoration" KPS Request

Dear Editor:

The Kalkaska Public Schools, has arranged for a General Election ballot item that asks voters to approve a 1 mill addition to our operating levy that is already capped at 18 mills overall for "Non-Homestead" properties. That levy, last renewed by KPS voters in 2022, had an extra 1 mill approved alongside the 18 mills in order to offset future Headlee rollbacks. Since then, yearly rollbacks have nearly used up that 1 mill cushion. With the current 18 mill levy in effect through 2031 another 1 mill should keep the 18 mills maintained, which is the maximum allowed by law.

Taxpayers who pay this particular levy are owners of second homes, vacation, investment and commercial properties. Principal residences and qualified farms are exempt.

As a reminder, the 18 mill levy is for operational purposes and represents the district's single largest funding source. Funds from this levy are combined with State Aid to comprise the per-pupil funding needed to operate. If the 18 mills is reduced by rollbacks, the State will not make up the lost funding to KPS.

In short, please know that this ballot proposal simply asks for a continuation of the existing 18 mill levy paid by "non-homestead" taxpayers for the past 32 years. Upon passage, this restoration millage will be in place for another five years before an overall operating renewal is once again requested. For those seeking additional information please contact us at 258-9109 and/or visit the District's website at www.kpschools.com.

Jeff Scroggins, CPA

Director of Business Services

Kalkaska Public Schools

Antrim County and Elk Lake Community Choirs December Concert Rehearsals

The Antrim County and Elk Lake Community Choirs will hold rehearsals for their December 6 and 13 concerts as follows: Saturdays at the First Presbyterian Church in Elk Rapids from 10:00-noon beginning October 3 and Mondays starting October 5 at 6:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Bellaire. All singers are welcome; the ability to read music, perfect attendance or perfect pitch (although helpful) are not required. Newcomers are welcome to the first rehearsals to see if it is a good fit. Music and folders are provided.

For further information contact directors Dorothy Clore at 231. 676-9277 or Cheryl Knight at 231. 409.3316. Free will offerings from the December concerts benefit local non-profits and the Antrim singers' music scholarship program.

WALK SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE

THE QUIET WORK OF TELLING YOURSELF YOU DID WELL

By Dominic Fortuna

Why the smallest jobs deserve a word of thanks — from you, to you.

By the time most of us are done with breakfast, we've already done five or six hard things and given ourselves credit for none of them.

You got up when the alarm went off. You made the bed. You let the dog out, you made the coffee without spilling it everywhere, you found the keys, you got to work on time. On paper it is nothing. In a life, it is everything.

We have become a people who are very good at keeping score of what we have not done. The dishes we left in the sink, the bill we forgot, the extra ten pounds, the word we should not have said. The list runs all night in the back of our heads. What we are not good at — what we were never really taught — is to pause and affirm what we did do.

Affirmation has gotten a bad reputation. It sounds soft. It sounds like standing in front of a mirror and lying to yourself. It is not. Real affirmation is not pretending you are perfect. It is simply telling the truth about the effort you already made.

There is a dignity in fixing your bed in the morning. It is the first promise you keep to yourself for the day. You straighten the sheets, you pull the blanket tight, you make order in one small corner of the world. No one will give you an award for it. Your boss will not call. But it matters because it says, "I am the kind of person who finishes what I start." If you can affirm that — just quietly, "Good, I did that" — you start the day with a win in your pocket.

And that win carries.

The same muscle you use to affirm making the bed is the same muscle you use to affirm paying the taxes, calling your mother back, shoveling the driveway when it is 19 degrees and the wind is coming off the lake. These are not glamorous accomplishments. Nobody posts them. But they are the quiet infrastructure of a responsible, decent life. A citizen is not built in one big heroic moment. A citizen is built in ten thousand small decisions to do the right thing when no one is watching.

Progress, not perfection. You have heard it, but have you ever let yourself live it?

Perfection says, "If I can't do it flawlessly, I shouldn't try, or I should beat myself up until I do." Progress says, "I did a little more than yesterday. I am moving." Perfection is a tyrant that keeps you in debt to yourself. Progress is a neighbor who helps you carry the groceries in.

I have spoken to men who are in their fifties and sixties who have worked hard their whole lives — in shops, on the road, in kitchens, in schools — and when you ask them what they are proud of, they go blank. Not because they have nothing to be proud of, but because they have never given themselves permission to be proud. They can tell you every mistake they made in 1998. They cannot tell you that they raised good kids, kept a roof over their head, showed up when it was hard. That is a tragedy. Not because they need applause. Because a man who cannot affirm his own good work will eventually stop doing it.

Here is a pearl that took me too long to learn: Guilt is a good servant but a terrible master.

Guilt can remind you to pay the bill, to apologize, to try again. But if you let it run the house, it will convince you that you are the bill, you are the mistake. You are not. You are the person who noticed the mistake and is trying to fix it. That deserves to be said out loud.

So how do you actually do it? Not the Instagram version. The real version.

One, make it specific. "I'm a good person" is vague and your brain won't believe it. "I got up and made my bed even though I was tired — good job" is true. Your brain believes true things.

Two, make it daily and make it small. Before your feet hit the floor, think of one thing. After lunch, one more. Before sleep, one more. Three honest acknowledgments a day is enough to rewire how you speak to yourself.

Three, say it in your own voice. Not in some guru's language. If "attaboy" is how you talk, say "attaboy." If "well, look at that, I did it" is more you, say that. It has to sound like you or it won't stick.

Four, let it include the hard things. "I paid my taxes today and I didn't like it, but I did it. I'm handling my business." That is affirmation. "I cleaned the bathroom even though I wanted to leave it. I am taking care of what I have." That is affirmation.

We live in a time that profits from you feeling like you are not enough. If you feel lacking, you will buy more, scroll more, compare more. Affirmation is a quiet act of rebellion against that whole economy. It says: I have enough, I do enough, I am enough — not because everything is perfect, but because I am paying attention to the good that is already here.

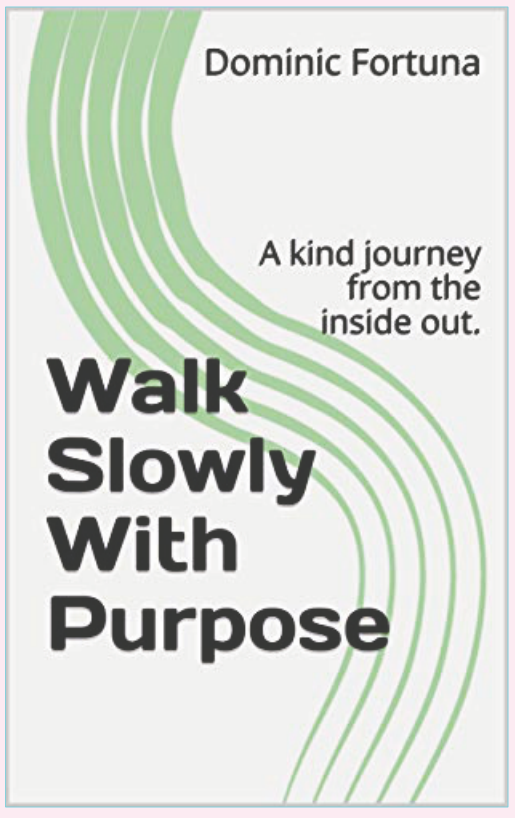
You don't have to become a different person tomorrow. You just have to stop ignoring the person you already are when you do something right.

So tomorrow, fix the bed. Pay the bill if it is due. Take the walk. And when you do, stop for two seconds. Put your hand on the dresser. And tell yourself, plainly and without apology: "That was good work. I'm doing a good job."

Because you are. And you have been for a long time. You just forgot to tell yourself.



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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
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Kingsley
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Mancelona
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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

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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 18, 2026

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

Puzzle on page 8

TLA Summer Interns Wrap-Up

By Tina Norris Fields

The 2026 Summer Interns for the Three Lakes Association, completed their Lake Bellaire Aquatic Plant Survey and reported their findings to the TLA Board of Directors on August 25, 2026. Four interns began the project, two from Kalkaska High School and two from Elk Rapids High School. One Kalkaska student had to drop out of the project due to a scheduling conflict with Driver's Ed.

The students will also make reports to their respective School Boards before the end of September.

This summer's internship gave these young people the opportunity to do environmental science field work in the very lake waters that graced their childhoods. It gave them a sense of stewardship in the health of our lakes. And these young people provide a very bright spot for our community.



L-R: Jeanie Williams of Wayfinder Facilitation, Project Lead, Charlie Shannon, Brooke Jennings, Elsie Thomas, Gary Bart, TLA Board Intern Program Lead



The four original interns from left to right: Charlie Shannon, KHS, ; Alaina Booth, KHS; Brooke Jennings, ERHS; Elsie Thomas, ERHS. All four were 11th graders this year.







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