



ABRAHAM C. DEVOL  
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PATRICK J. WHITEFORD  
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## IMMEDIATE USE PRESS RELEASE

TYPE: Fatal Traffic Crash

DATE OF RELEASE: November 24, 2015

DATE AND TIME OCCURRED: November 23, 2015 at approximately 1:00 pm

LOCATION: M-72 and Lake Valley Rd, Bear Lake Township,  
Kalkaska County, MI

VICTIM OF TRAFFIC CRASH: Gerald Winkler, 76 YOA male from Sterling Heights, MI  
Driving a 2013 Ford Edge

Deceased Driver Fran Denawetz, 71 YOA female, from Traverse City, MI  
Driving a 2007 Pontiac Solstice

**INFORMATION:** Sheriff Abe DeVol reports that the Kalkaska Sheriff Office responded to a two car head on collision on M-72 near Lake Valley Road in Bear Lake Township in Kalkaska County. Upon arrival of Emergency Personnel the 71 YOA driver of the Pontiac Solstice was pronounced deceased on scene. The 76 YOA, driver of the Ford Edge, was stabilized on scene and transported to Munson Medical Center and is in stable condition.

The Pontiac Solstice was west bound on M-72 near the top of a small hill and crossed the center line. The 2007 Ford Edge was East Bound on M-72 and came over the hill and was unable to avoid the other vehicle. The vehicles collided head on. The Kalkaska Sheriff's Office, Accident Reconstruction Team was on scene and is investigating the crash. Weather and speed are suspected to be a factor in the crash. M-72 was closed for 2 ½ hours for the investigation.

The Kalkaska Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by Station 8, Station 6 and Frederic EMS.

APPROVED BY:

ABE DEVOL, SHERIFF