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Vol. 1, Issue 4 Your source for positive community news! March 9 - March 22, 2024

**A life saved**



Sheriff Gilbert said, "These three gentlemen helped to save the life of Skidway Lake resident Rick Fuerst who had fallen through the ice. We are proud of all three, their dedication to the community and their volunteer spirit. We salute you. Well done gentleman!" Pictured L to R: Bill Sperow, Brent Gilbert, Paul Phillips, Sr., Sheriff Brian Gilbert and Rick Fuerst.

**BY LAURA BENDER**

March 7, 2023, on a drive past Skidway Lake, Paul Phillips, Sr. saw what appeared to be a ball sitting on the ice. He slowed to get a better look. The ball moved.

Curious, he pulled in by the boat ramp behind an unoccupied vehicle and walked toward the lake. In front of him, across the thinning ice, a man struggled to pull himself out of the hole into which he had fallen.

Earlier that day, Rick Fuerst left home to run a few errands. An avid snowmobile racer, he stopped along the way to check the ice on Skidway Lake. If it was hard enough, he and his buddies could get another day of fun before spring.

Rick parked at the ramp, and carrying his ice drill, wandered onto the lake. He followed the snowless, frozen path used for racing. Satisfied it remained solid, he decided to check the snow-covered area nearby to ensure it, too, was still safe. His sudden plunge through the ice pulled him

below the surface.

"I remember looking up at chunks of ice floating above my head," he said. "I tried to get my heel out of the hole to pull myself out, but it kept slipping. Since I still had my drill, I reached out of the opening, jammed it into the ice, and held on. Suddenly, I heard a voice. Was this it? Was I dying and hearing a voice from heaven?"

Paul Phillips shouted across the ice. "Stay calm. Don't move. I've called for help."

Rick floundered for a moment, but Paul was insistent.

"Stay still. Help is coming."

Sirens grew louder as the Mills Township Fire Department ambulance neared, then stopped at Skidway Lake. Volunteer firefighters Bill Sperow and Brent Gilbert got to work immediately. Using the rescue sled, Bill crawled out to get Rick. Once secured, Brent pulled them back

LIFE continues on page 3 »

**West Branch Airport receives Aviation Award**



Courtesy photo  
Left to right: Betsy Steudle, MDOT Office of Aeronautics; Ben Evergreen, West Branch Community Airport general manager, and Stephanie Whiting, MDOT Office of Aeronautics.

**BY MICHAEL BUSCH**

The West Branch Community Airport received the General Aviation Airport of the Year award during the 2024 Michigan Airport Conference in East Lansing on Feb. 22. Accepting

the award was airport general manager, Ben Evergreen.

The award, which is given by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) and Michigan Department of

AIRPORT continues on page 3 »

**Off to the Moose Races**

**BY LAURA BENDER**

Laughter and good-natured conversation filled Skidway Moose Lodge #440 as members waited for their first ever Moose Race to begin. "Moose bucks" bets on the 36 sponsored moose

sweetened the pot, an effort to fund a new roof on the pavilion used in the summer months for family gatherings.

Jerry Banks, president and 20-year member, said, "We hold our Memorial Day,



Pictured: Gary McMillan

Photo by Laura Bender

Fourth of July and Labor Day picnics in that pavilion. We need to do the repairs soon." He and his wife, Jan, showed their enthusiasm by wearing matching "Mooseaholics" shirts. Currently, 271 people belong to the Skidway Moose Lodge. Half are local folks. The other half are weekenders and snowbirds. But one thing is clear - they like to be together.

When asked why they are lodge members, the most common answer was, "Because these people are my friends." Nikee Craine-Kanitz, the Moose's chaplain, said, "I love the mission which takes care of children and older folks." Darlene Touchard simply said, "Good people, good friends." Rose Meyer said she attends because the members are like family to her. "Also, I don't have to cook on Wednesdays and Fridays. Linda is the best cook!" Around the room, people were happily eating spaghetti and tossed salad. Although it was Saturday, what is a gathering without a tasty meal?

Debbie Engster and Tammy Wilson agree Skidway Moose is a place to meet people. Michael

MOOSE continues on page 5 »

**Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Club celebrates 56th Anniversary**



Photo by Michael Busch  
Avery Vandebosch and her father, Matt, stand next to their restored Pink Panther sled.

**BY MICHAEL BUSCH**

The Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Club celebrated its 56th anniversary on Feb. 24 at its clubhouse on Clear Lake Road. The OHSC had a display of 124 antique and vintage snowmobiles, hosted a vintage snowmobile clothing fashion show, and held a fundraiser for a variety of local

causes. An estimated crowd of over 700 people came to the open

SNOWMOBILE continued on page 3 »



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*With everything changing daily, if not hourly, we would advise that you call ahead to be sure the event is still scheduled.*

### Ongoing

**Mondays – Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary meet** the third Monday, 5 p.m. at the VFW/American Legion Post 496 E. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call 989-473-3416.

**Mondays – Rose City Lions Club meets** the second and fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin in the Rose City Park. Call Ed 989-387-0609.

**Mondays – (Second of each month) Coalition of Hope** 9 a.m. Meeting virtually. Suicide prevention, intervention and postvention. Call 989-345-5571.

**Monday – (Third of each month) Ogemaw County Genealogical and Historical Society** 12:30 p.m. at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave., West Branch. Call 989-701-2525.

**Tuesdays – Kiwanis Club of West Branch meets** at noon at China Inn, 601 W. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call 989-345-0978.

**Tuesdays – Rose City Area Historical Society meets** the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., April through November, except August. Meet at the Rose City Lions Club Cabin. Call Cathy 989-345-5659.

**Tuesdays – T.O.P.S. (Take Off**

**Pounds Sensibly) weigh in** at 1-1:30 p.m., meeting starts at 1:30-2 p.m. Ogemaw Hills Free Clinic, 2106 S. Gray Rd. in West Branch. Call Robin 989-343-0592.

**Tuesdays – (First of each month) West Branch Creative Arts Association meeting,** 7 p.m. located at 124 N. Fourth St. in West Branch. Call 989-345-1451.

**Tuesdays – (First of each month) West Branch Area Retail Merchants Association meeting,** 6 p.m. Held at the West Branch City Police Department. Call 989-345-5226.

**Tuesdays – (Second of each month) Christian Motorcycle Association** 6 p.m. for food and fellowship, 7 p.m. business meeting at G's Pizzeria, 200 W. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call Gary 989-343-9876.

**Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) Rifle River Quilt Guild** 9:30 a.m. at the K of C Hall, 601 Columbus Dr. in West Branch. The meeting will be followed by a Show and Tell, mini-classes, quilting tips, demos and time to sew. Bring your sewing machine, a project and your lunch. Any level of quilter is welcome. Call Diane 989-345-7206.

**Tuesdays – (Third of each month) Cardinal Optimist Club**

**of Skidway Lake.** Third Tuesday 5:30 p.m. at Café International, 4761 Sage Lake Rd. in Prescott. Call Janet 989-387-2640.

**Tuesdays – (Second of each month) Survivors of Suicide Support Group** 6:30 p.m. Call Vicki 989-510-0911 or [info@coalitionofhope.net](mailto:info@coalitionofhope.net) for location. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255 or text 741741.

**Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) Ogemaw County Democratic Party meeting** 5 p.m. at Buccilli's Pizza in downtown West Branch. Call Ken 989-345-1066.

**Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) Ogemaw County Republican Party meeting** 5:30 p.m. at G's Pizzeria in downtown West Branch. Call Kristine 989-343-5120.

**Tuesday – (Last of each month) Diabetes Support Group** 1-2 p.m. Medical Arts Center, diabetes education conference room. Call 989-343-3276.

**Wednesdays – West Branch Area Business and Professional Women's Organization** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Different locations each month. Call 989-745-4067 for information.

**Wednesdays – (First of each month) Veterans coffee hour** 9-10 a.m. Held at the Ogemaw County Commission on Aging, 1528 S. M-33 in West Branch. Call 989-345-3010.

**Wednesdays – (First and third) Grief Support Group** 6:30 p.m. Faith Alive Church, 2945 Hansen Rd. in West Branch. Open to the entire community. Call 989-345-5440.

**Thursdays-GriefShare Support Group.** 2-4 p.m. Fresh Start Community Church, 690 Campbell Rd., West Branch. March 7 through May 30. \$20 for workbook. Scholarships available. Call Brenda 989-312-0105 for registration or info.

**Thursdays – (First and third of each month) Newborn Parent Support Group** 6-7:30 p.m. MyMichigan Health - West Branch in the executive dining room. Call 800-999-3199.

**Thursdays – Northern Blend Sweet Adelines meets** every week 7 p.m. at Logan Township Hall, 4507 E. M-55, Prescott. Call Ellen 989-345-0978.

**Thursdays – (Second and fourth) Sit & Knit,** 1 p.m. Knitting, needlework, and friendship. Whatever you craft. Ogemaw Commission on Aging, 1528 S. M-33 in West Branch. Call Alicia

989-345-3010, ext. 201.

**Thursdays – (Third of each month) Rose City/Lupton Chamber of Commerce meets** at 6:30 p.m. at the Rose City Council Chambers. Call Carl 989-473-3268.

**Thursdays – Optimist Club of West Branch** meets at 7 a.m. at the Loggers Depot in West Branch. Call 989-942-6608.

**Thursdays - The Ogemaw County Fair board** meets the first Thursday of each month in the main building at the fairgrounds. Call 989-345-5393.

### March

**16 - West Branch Optimist 15th Annual Camel Races.** Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Post time 6:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, desserts and set-ups - BYOB. For more information contact Chuck at 989-942-6608.

### April

**13 - Art Walk & Wine Tasting.** 5-8 p.m. Downtown West Branch. Sponsored by West Branch Area Merchants. Call 989-345-5226.

*To place your event in the Community Happenings, email information to [kathy@superior-news.com](mailto:kathy@superior-news.com)*

## The Skidway Lake Branch Library Needs You

BY LAURA BENDER

*“When you are growing up, there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully: the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you. The public library is a great equalizer.”*

-Keith Richards (Rolling Stones)

*“That library is my saving grace. A lot of kids, like mine, don't have internet at home.”*

-A Skidway Lake resident

A public library is a great equalizer. Whether developing skills to succeed in school, learning to read, exploring possible careers, having a baby, or planning retirement, people of all ages can find in their community library what many could not otherwise afford—the resources needed to live, learn and work.

Story times and Summer Reading Programs help children enhance comprehension. Books, CDs and DVDs introduce new worlds, develop critical thinking skills, increase creativity, and provide entertainment. They also support literacy and promote lifelong learning. Book clubs enhance so-

cial networks and decrease loneliness. Computers with access to the internet help folks develop the technological and informational skills essential in our culture. They also allow people to conduct personal business, which today has mostly moved online.

The Skidway Lake Branch Library is part of the Ogemaw District Library System, established in 1977. Together with the Ogemaw East Branch in Prescott and the Rose City Branch, it has been providing access to resources and information for decades. Like any other institution, it must have a consistent source of revenue to continue to meet the needs. Over time, the sources for funding the library system have changed. The Skidway Lake Branch Library is currently between sources and in need of help until new ones can be established.

To that end, residents have launched “Save Our Skidway Lake Library,” an organization dedicated to finding ways to provide for the shortfall, and keep the library open. If you are interested in joining them, the

next meeting is March 27 6 p.m. at the Prescott Library.

On Saturday, March 16, “Save Our Skidway Lake Library” is hosting a craft fair and a visit with the Easter Bunny. The “Snowy Shenanigans Arts and Crafts Show” opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos from noon to 3 p.m. Both events will be held at the Skidway Lake Library. Vendors may apply for a \$15 space at [circskidway@gmail.com](mailto:circskidway@gmail.com). Donations in cash or checks made out to “Ogemaw District Library” will be graciously accepted.

Why support the Skidway Lake Branch Library? Besides lending books, DVDs and CDs, the library provides reliable Wi-Fi, copy and fax service, and computers with internet access. Using a library card, patrons can access Libby, a free app for reading ebooks, digital audiobooks, and magazines which can be read online or downloaded for offline use and read anytime, anywhere. The Summer Reading program keeps local children focused on growing their

*LIBRARY continues on page 9 »*

## FAITH & WORSHIP

### The Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-25, Luke 22:7-23

The story of the Last Supper is an invitation from Jesus to partake of Him, first to His apostles and to all Christians. This is a summary of the Last Supper Bible story as told in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke below. Read more in-depth Bible verses from the Scripture below and use the articles and videos to understand the meaning behind this teachable event in the Bible.

The last supper occurred on Passover's first day, or the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Jesus sent his disciples to the city to prepare a meal to celebrate Passover. Passover is the remembrance of Israel being freed from slavery to Egypt, specifically when the angel of death passed over the homes of the Israelites that had lambs' blood over the doors.

As the disciples reclined and ate dinner with Jesus, he explained that one of the twelve would soon betray him. One by one the disciples denied that it would be them, including Judas who would be the betrayer. Jesus responded that the person who betrays him will have a terrible fate and that it was Judas.

Jesus prayed and thanked God for the meal. He then broke the bread, shared the wine with the disciples, and explained to them how the bread was a symbol of his body, broken for them, and the wine a symbol of his blood which would be poured out for their sins to be forgiven. This is where the church's tradition of communion comes from.

*Continued next issue.*

### First United Methodist Church

2490 W. State Rd., West Branch, MI 48661

**989-345-0210**

Rev. Michelle Forsyth

[reverendmichelleforsyth@gmail.com](mailto:reverendmichelleforsyth@gmail.com)

Organist: Carol Lockhart

[www.westbranchfumc.org](http://www.westbranchfumc.org)

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School: 8:30 a.m.

### Churchill United Methodist Church

501 E. State Rd.

(corner of State and Morrison roads)  
989-685-2350

Worship & Children's

Sunday School: 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Helen Alford

### Calvary Baptist Church

235 Minzer Ct. • West Branch  
989-345-1651

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. all ages  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. • Youth Group - 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Evening Service - 6 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Youth Group - 6:30 p.m. • Awana - 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 7 p.m.

Pastor Tom Teall • Youth Pastor Josh Pierce  
[www.cbcbw.org](http://www.cbcbw.org)

### Edward's Community Church

4520 Greenwood Rd., West Branch

**989-345-4227**

Pastor Jon Scott

Sunday School 10 a.m.

Worship Service 11 a.m.

(Greenwood Rd. west of S. M-30)

Life

« Continued from page 1

to safety.  
 “I lost my tape measure in the lake, but I wouldn’t leave my ice drill behind. It saved me until help arrived.” Rick said.  
 Once in the ambulance, Rick called his wife to ask her to bring him dry clothes.  
 “Why do you need them?” she asked.  
 Before she arrived, Mills Township Supervisor David Ryan stopped by the ambulance to see how Rick was doing.  
 “You better check the ice. There’s a bad spot out there,” Rick grinned.  
 On Feb. 29, 2024, Rick

Fuerst joined Sheriff Brian Gilbert, County Prosecutor LaDonna Schultz, Sheriff Office employees, family and friends in thanking his rescuers. Paul Phillips, Sr., the good Samaritan who not only stopped to help, but knew what to do, along with Mills Township volunteer firefighters Brent Gilbert and Bill Sperow, received Life Saving Awards.  
 Sheriff Gilbert said, “These three gentlemen helped to save the life of Skidway Lake resident Rick Fuerst who had fallen



Paul Phillips, Sr. (left), the Good Samaritan whose initial actions led to Rick Fuerst’s rescue, shakes his hand.

through the ice. We are proud of all three, their dedication to the community and their volunteer spirit. We salute you. Well done gentleman!”

Cannabis retail store opens in Skidway Lake

BY MICHAEL BUSCH

Lyfted, LLC, a new cannabis retail store in Skidway Lake, held its grand opening March 1 with a large crowd attending. An estimated 75 people lined up at the door at 9 am. By the close of the day, 12 hours later, 387 customers had visited the dispensary, according to the store’s owners, Sara and Bruce Beach.  
 By any measure, opening day was a great success.  
 The idea of having a cannabis retail store began when the couple were operating the 989 Smoke Shop that sells tobacco products. From time-to-time customers would come into the store because they thought it was a cannabis retailer.

in and does random inspections.”  
 She said the application process took about six months before the store could open for business. Helping her and husband, Bruce, was their combined business experience. Sara ran a daycare for several years and Bruce is the owner of Primary Electric in Prescott. The couple also owned other small businesses over the years, including a grocery store and currently the 989 Smoke Shop.

Sara Beach explained, “When I started the 989 Smoke Shop, everyone thought it was a cannabis store. So when I had a response from customers looking for a cannabis store, that’s when I decided to see how I could get one started.”  
 Following up on the idea, the Beaches went through their local government. Sara described the complicated process. “I wrote a letter to my board members here at the (Mills) township. I put together some good facts that they might appreciate, knowing our township is missing out on our community. Then we were put on the agenda for the township for approval and showed them our idea. They gave us approval.”

Lyft gets its cannabis nearby in an effort to stimulate the local economy. Beach tries to “keep all my vendors as local as I can. I’m trying to target the people who really care about the products they’re producing for their consumers. That’s really important to us.”  
 Lyft sells a variety of cannabis, such as edibles, concentrates, flowers, and what are classified as health or wellness products. Since the cannabis industry is new and customers may not know what is available, Beach said, “I help to provide the knowledge that maybe they’re lacking to make the best choices.”

Like the sale of alcohol, marijuana is heavily regulated by the state of Michigan. Potential shop owners must submit an application, pay a large fee for processing the application, and ask for local government approval. Two state agencies oversee sales to the public. The Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA) is in charge of economic promotion of the industry and ensuring public safety. The Marijuana Regulatory Agency has regulatory authority, overseeing licensing, enforcement, and taxation.

Another way of accommodating customers is offering drive thru purchasing. “We have a drive-through window for customers who can’t or don’t want to get out of their vehicles.”  
 Despite some public opposition to the store, Beach has also found a lot of support for the business. She observed, “We are locals in the community. We always have tried to reinvest in our community and in our people too. We really do care and try to always have a good representation for a small town.”

In explaining the basic retail laws, Beach said, “Everyone who comes in the store has to be 21 or older. We are a 21 plus cannabis retail store. So, you do not have to have a medical card is what that means. The state monitors our cameras. The state is where all of the regulations come from. We also follow all the fire regulations. The bureau had to come in and do inspections. The CRA comes



Photo by Michael Busch  
 Owners Bruce and Sara Beach in front of their new cannabis store.

for acceptance of what was once an illegal drug is the tax revenue generated from sales. The Michigan Department of Treasury announced in February 2024 that \$87 million dollars in fiscal year 2023 revenues would be distributed directly to 279 municipalities across the state. Ogemaw County received \$59,000 based on one cannabis dispensary last year. In the future, with the opening of two more stores in the county, including Lyft, revenues will only increase.

In addition to money for local governments, \$101.6 million from cannabis sales taxes was sent to the School Aid Fund for K-12 education and another \$101.6 million to the Michigan Transportation Fund.

Beach summed up the current state of the cannabis industry by saying, “There’s a lot of navigating in an industry that’s still learning and growing itself.”

Arguably, a major reason

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Airport

« Continued from page 1

Transportation (MDOT), recognizes the “outstanding contribution and sustained excellence toward aviation progress and safety in Michigan. The airport demonstrated exemplary leadership and dedication in providing exceptional aviation services to the public.”  
 The airport is owned by the city of West Branch and has one runway. According to the website

AirNav.com, 16 single engine and two multi-engine aircraft are based at the field. The airport averages 115 flights a week. The Federal Aviation Administration warns pilots landing in West Branch about the potential for deer and birds on the runway.  
 level, these high school bowlers looked happy to be working on their game, and to be doing it together.

Snowmobile

« Continued from page 1

house.  
 In years past, the anniversary has been one of the largest events in Ogemaw County, averaging 1,500 people, but this year’s numbers were down due to warm weather and lack of snow. Two major snowstorms in January followed by record warm temperatures melted most of the snowpack on the trails. Plans for a guided trail ride for the vintage sleds had to be canceled.

Doug Lubahn, OHSC trustee and organizer, observed about the weather, “Mother Nature could have been a lot crueler to us because at least it was cold. The ground was frozen and it felt like winter.” The day before the event Lubahn said the ground was muddy. “We had 33 club members show up on Friday to help get everything ready. It was muddy and wet. It was miserable. Saturday morning came around and it was 9 degrees in Lupton.” Despite the lack of snow, he said, “It was very welcome to have the cold.” Muddy ground would have made it difficult to arrange the displays of snowmobiles and set up equipment.

take a mandatory online safety class at age 12, which is required before being permitted to drive a snowmobile on her own.  
 The fastest sled on display was a 1981 factory built Ski-Doo Twin Track owned by Pat Erskine from Sanford. He used to race it on the Midwest International Racing Association (MIRA) circuit. The snowmobile is capable of going over 100 mph. When he was asked if it was dangerous to go so fast in a snowmobile, he replied, “No. Just don’t fall off.”  
 The OHSC was founded in 1967 and incorporated in 1972. Lubahn said, “We are one of the oldest clubs.” The club has over 150 members who come from all over the state. The mission of the OHSC is to “preserve and improve snowmobiling for future generations.” Its primary task is maintaining 105 miles of trails on state land in Ogemaw County through grants from the Michigan Department of National Resources. The club also advocates for snowmobilers through its association with the Michigan Snowmobile & ATV Association and the Michigan Snowmobile Advisory Workshop.

The oldest snowmobile on display was a 1962 Polaris K70 with all original parts. One of the more unique snowmobiles was the Pink Panther, a pink colored sled restored by 11 year old Alden native Avery Vandenbosch together with her father Matt, a former champion racer. Avery said she began restoring the sled when she was eight. The sled has a four stroke engine and goes about 20 mph. While she is too young to have an automobile driver’s license, she plans to

According to the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association, a trade industry group, snowmobiling’s economic impact on the US economy is estimated at 26 billion dollars annually. The average snowmobiler spends \$2,500 a year on recreation, such as lodging, food, and sled maintenance. Michigan has 167,000 registered snowmobiles and ranks third in the US after Wisconsin and Minnesota.



124 snowmobiles were on display at the Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Club Anniversary by

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# The ghost in the woods

BY SALLY A. REA  
CURATOR, OGEWAW COUNTY MUSEUM

Dear Readers,  
Richard Dooley, vice president of The Rose City Historical Society, approached me a while back to tell me about a Native American Ceremonial Headdress that had belonged to Gary Davis. His wife, Beth Davis, and her family wanted to preserve and display Gary's headdress.

He brought Beth over to our museum and this is when I decided we were very interested.

Beth was going to have a glass case made for the headdress and she would loan it to our museum. Randy Mason of Mason's Lumber Yard volunteered to make the case. A year and a half later, Randy finished

the case and delivered it to the Ogemaw County Museum with the help of Richard Dooley, Denny Turow, and now we have an outstanding display case that shows Randy's love and imagination for this case. Randy calls this case "Ghost In the Woods". He made the case from wood salvaged from a turn of the century barn that had stood on Sage Lake Road.

We are expecting to have a program at the Ogemaw County Museum late in the spring to thank the Davis family. We are inviting visitors to come and tour the museum. Richard Dooley, I can't thank you enough for following through all of these months to make sure this artifact

was "preserved". It is on loan to us. Also on loan is a bow and quiver with arrows that has been put in the case that once belonged to Gary.



SALLY REA

Now I will tell you about Gary Davis. Gary Lee Davis was born in Flint, Mich., May 25, 1949, the son of Leo and Joyce (Johnson) Davis. Gary was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. He loved and enjoyed spending time with his family. Gary retired from General Motors.

Gary Lee died Feb. 11, 2021. Surviving are his wife, Beth;



Pictured is of Randy Mason of Mason's Lumber and Sally Rea, curator of the Ogemaw County Museum. Shown is Gary Lee Davis's "Ceremonial Headdress".

children, Tony, Tim (Melissa), Troy and Tara Davis; stepson Gary Gallagher; sisters Sandra (Jeff) Charles and Lisa Davis; brother Chuck Roades, and many grandchildren. He is buried in Flint Memorial Park.

The "Ceremonial Headdress" is on loan to our museum by his wife, Beth. The name Randy Mason chose "Ghost of the Woods" is perfect. Thank you Randy again. Imagined and custom made by Randy. Thanks for "Preserving Our Heritage" and donating it to the Davis family. We will display it as long as Beth lets us. Beth told me Gary had purchased the headdress at a Chippewa Pow Wow in the U.P.

# From the desk of Gail Hughey Superintendent West Branch-Rose City Schools

## Meet Korey Kripli, WBRC Athletic Director

Korey graduated from Red Land High School in Lewisberry, Penn. He played basketball and baseball all four years of high school and played baseball for Legion Post 974 in which his team finished fifth in the state of Pennsylvania in 2011. Korey also played two years of baseball in the West Shore Twilight Baseball League where he found his passion to become a baseball coach.

Korey graduated from West Virginia University with a Bachelor Degree in Sports Management with minors in Athletic Coaching and Business Administration. After college, Korey was the manager of the West Branch Rec Center for eight years while coaching JV baseball and varsity baseball at Ogemaw Heights High School. Korey was hired as the athletic director for West Branch Area School District in August of 2023. In his spare time, Korey enjoys attending Detroit Lions games and activities outdoors, and spending time with family and friends.

After several years of not being part of a conference for athletics, Ogemaw Heights High School will be joining the Jack Pine Conference in the fall of 2024. The Jack Pine Conference will now consist of Beaverton, Bullock Creek, Clare, Farwell, Gladwin, Harrison, Meridian, Pinconning, Shepherd,



GAIL HUGHEY

St. Louis, Standish-Sterling Central and Ogemaw Heights.

There will be two divisions:

Division 1 - Bullock Creek, Clare, Gladwin, Shepherd, Standish-Sterling and Ogemaw Heights

Division 2 - Beaverton, Farwell, Harrison, Pinconning, Meridian and St. Louis

Recognized conference sports, beginning in 2024-2025 include:

Boys Sports	Girls Sports
Football	Volleyball
Cross Country	Cross Country
Soccer	Golf
Basketball	Basketball
Wrestling	Competitive Cheer
Bowling	Bowling
Golf	Soccer
Track and Field	Track and Field
Baseball	Softball

Middle School sports that are offered as conference sports are:

- Girls Volleyball
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Track

# From the desk of the Ogemaw County Sheriff

On behalf of myself, the Command Team and the Road Patrol Officers of the Ogemaw County Sheriff's Office, THANK YOU Ogemaw County residents who voted YES for the millage renewal to maintain 24-hour road patrol. The support and appreciation of our friends, families and



SHERIFF BRIAN GILBERT

neighbors means so much to the entire staff of the office. We look forward to the ongoing opportunity to serve our community whenever and wherever we're needed. We appreciate you!



## Kiwanis CORNER



DENNY SHUMWAY

BY DENNY SHUMWAY

Kiwanis Club held a luncheon at the First United Methodist Church for Farmers in Ogemaw County on March 5. Each year the club invites farmers to come and enjoy a meal with us as a thank you for all they do.

The Kiwanis Club meets at noon on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the China Inn. Anyone interested in learning about our organization is welcome to attend. If you would like to be a guest speaker to show us what you do, call Jolin at 989-873-4532.

### Aktion Club of West Branch

The Aktion Club continues to collect bottles and cans. You can call 315-725-1199 and make arrangements for pick up or drop off locations.

Aktion Club Week is March 4 - 8. If you see a club member

wearing the club shirt, say hi. We are holding our anniversary on March 13. We have been active for five years. There are only 18 such clubs in Michigan.

We support numerous organizations in Ogemaw County. Those with special needs interested in joining our club, come on the second Wednesday of the month at noon to the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State Streets.

### Ogemaw County Food Pantry

We are looking for donations of food or money to help us with the influx of families. We had over 210 families last month, which continues to take a toll on our finances. We will take donations every Wednesday of the month from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Thank you for your assistance. We are located in the garage behind the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100

E. Houghton Ave., PO Box 543, West Branch. We want to thank those that have donated. If bad weather, call ahead at 315-725-1199 to see if we are open. Meijer has donation cards available at the self-checkout wall and customer service desk. You can donate increments of \$10 to help us. They are available until the end of March for our pantry.

### Food Truck of West Branch

The monthly Food Truck held also needs your help. Our next truck is coming on March 15. They need to raise money now to keep the trucks coming. Please sponsor a truck. Contact Lisa Curnow at 989-345-0381.

### Kids Coalition Against Hunger

The annual food packaging is being held at St. Joseph Elementary School on March 14 starting around 9 a.m. Come see how it is all done.

## Superior News

The Superior News is published the second and fourth Saturdays of the month and distributed in West Branch, Rose City, Prescott, Lupton, Alger, Skidway Lake and Hale. It is available at newsstands for 75 cents per issue or annually for \$45.

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## Letter to the editor policy

The Superior News encourages all readers to submit letters to the editor for possible publication. Please limit letters to 200 words or less.

The author must include a daytime phone number as they will be contacted prior

to publication. Unsigned letters will not be published. We reserve the right to edit and/or reject any letter.

Letters can be submitted via email to news@superior-news.com or by traditional mail to P.O. Box 603, West Branch, MI 48661.

**Moose**

« Continued from page 1

Williams chimed in, "Sure is, I met my wife here!" Bob David, sporting a cap with fuzzy moose antlers, grinned, "We are very friendly people. Come join us!"

Recent community events included a float in the Skidway Halloween parade and a Christmas party for local children. Each Wednesday, folks gather for a dinner with a varied menu, but dinner on Fridays is always fish, shrimp and chicken.

Before the races started, the emcee gave brief instructions to the crowd. His last comment addressed a concern surely on everyone's mind: "No moose will be harmed in the running of these races." Whew. That said, the races and the cheering began. In between, donated items were auctioned, the top prize being a guided waterfowl hunt. The winner of each of the six races competed in the seventh and final race. The overall winner? Retired carpenter Keith Taylor's moose aptly named "First."

Saturday night's event raised over \$1,400 toward replacing the roof on their pavilion. Additional fundraisers are in the works to raise the rest.

The Skidway Moose Lodge #440 is happy to welcome new



**Moose president Jerry Banks and his wife, Jan Banks.**

members. If you would like to join, visit them at 2531 Mills Road, Prescott, near the corner of Lucinda Drive. Call 989 873-4350.

Moose International is a fraternal and service organization founded in 1888 with nearly 650,000 people in 1,600 Lodges in 49 states and four Canadian provinces, plus Great Britain. Nationally it supports the operation of Mooseheart Child City & School, a 1,000-acre community for children and teens in need, west of Chicago, and Moosehaven, a retirement community for its members near Jacksonville, Fla. To learn more visit <https://www.mooseintl.org/>.



**Four of the six race winners: Nick Walters, Tammy Wilson, Gary Mc-Millan and Toni Miller.**

**Lyfted Cannabis Shop ribbon cutting ceremony**



**Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce President Shane Gamez reads a welcome speech during the opening of the Lyfted Cannabis Shop in Skidway Lake. It marked the first-ever ribbon cutting ceremony for the Skidway Lake Chamber.**

**Dirty Mitten ribbon cutting**



*The Dirty Mitten gift shop celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, March 1. The Dirty Mitten is located at 322 W. Houghton Ave., West Branch. Pictured is owner, Ann Butler, cutting the ribbon, surrounded by family, friends and chamber representatives. Watch for a feature story in an upcoming issue of Superior News.*



**KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP...**

To enroll students in West Branch-Rose City Area Schools' Kindergarten/Young 5s programs

**Surline Elementary School** Monday, April 15, and Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Appointments** can be made by calling 343-2189

**Rose City School** Tuesday, April 16, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Appointments** can be made by calling 343-2248

**What you'll need:**

1. Your child's LEGAL birth certificate
  - (certified copy with raised seal/signatures)
2. Your child's immunization record
3. Proof of Residency
  - Driver's License/State ID with current address, AND
  - One (1) of the following with your name and address: utility bill, lease, deed, voter registration card, bldg. permit



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The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) will host

## National Agriculture Day

**March 19, 2024**

March 19, 2024 is National Ag Day, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture.

As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food, fiber and renewable resources produced in the United States.

The National Ag Day program believes that every American should:

- understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced.
- value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis, and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products. Each year, members of the agricultural industry gather together to promote American agriculture. This effort helps educate millions of consumers.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role you play in helping spread the word. A few generations ago, most Americans were directly involved in—or had relatives or friends involved in—agricultural-related endeavors. Today, that is no longer the case. That is why it is so important that we join together at the community level...our voices, in concert, become a shout that carries our message a great deal further than any one of us can do alone! We are pleased that you have joined this effort to promote American agriculture.

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# Hale Area SUPERIOR NEWS

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## SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

BY FRED LEWIS - SUPERVISOR, PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP

Here we are in March, just waiting for the snow to be gone and warmer weather so that we can get out of the house and, as my mom used to say, "blow the stink off" from being cooped up inside all winter. Actually, we did have a pretty mild winter considering the two snowfalls that we had. Just enough to let you know you're in Michigan but not so much that you get sick of it. Now we enjoy the coming of spring. The rain (and mud), the warm sun (and bugs), and the blooming flowers (and bees). Well, I guess there are two sides to everything and we can't always have one without the other. So let's be happy for what we have and look forward to a great summer.

However, before we get there we have spring break coming at the end of March. Many of you may leave on vacation during this week but for those of us that stay home, we get to have a staycation. In honor of that event our library will be hosting a Nerf mobile game event at the resource center starting at 11 a.m. on Monday. You can bring your

favorite Nerf gun or use one of the furnished ones. The township is going to get in on this staycation thing and offer an open gym on Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. for anyone who wants to come in and play at the rec. center in Eagle Point.

On Wednesday afternoon, weather permitting, we will have a nature walk at the Loon Lake Park off of M-65 just north of Shellenbarger Road starting at 1 until 2 p.m.; dress accordingly, and if it rains, the walk is cancelled. All are welcome, moms, dads, grandmas and grandpas, brothers, sisters, friends and relatives. Thursday afternoon we are going to offer a movie and popcorn starting at 2 until 4 p.m. Bring your own beverage and a friend. Hopefully this will help keep the boredom to a minimum during the week that you are out of school and get you ready for summer. If you have any questions about these events, contact us at the numbers below.

Consider a membership at the Community Center and

Eagle Point Plaza. You can come and enjoy pickleball at any time, yoga, cardio drumming, fitness training, walking or some more intense TOWANDA. Whatever your need we probably have some form of activity to assist you. So, stop in and see Roma about a membership. We have family rates and business/group rates also. We would love to see you. When you're here stop in on Tuesdays to the Plainfield Township Historical Museum. They have great displays of our community throughout history and how our members lived long ago. The members do a great job preserving and showcasing our heritage. They also have genealogical workshops, so stop and ask about the next event.

As always if you ever have any questions, comments or concerns regarding our community please contact me. I am in the office Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 989-728-2811 or my cell at 989-984-7073 or by email [supervisor@plainfieldtwpmi.com](mailto:supervisor@plainfieldtwpmi.com).

## FAITH & WORSHIP

Why should we confess sin if it's already forgiven?

**Believers' Sins Are Removed**  
According to Psalm 103 above, He has removed our transgressions (offenses against God) from us "as far as the east is from the west." That is an immeasurable distance. In other words, my sins are gone – if I have, through faith, believed in Jesus and received His death on the cross as payment for my sins.

**Believers Aren't Perfect or Sinless**  
Even though believers have received Christ's forgiveness as well as His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21), we will sadly continue to sin occasionally as long as we are still in the flesh. Though as we learn to walk according to the Spirit rather than the flesh, selfish and sinful living will diminish. "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh" Galatians 5:16. Despite our strivings to please God, we still continue to commit acts that "fall short" or "miss the mark" of God's standard of holiness (which is moral perfection). We aren't perfect, even after receiving forgiveness for our sins. I've never met a perfect Christian yet.

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## HALE HAPPENINGS

With everything changing daily, if not hourly, we would advise that you call ahead to be sure the event is still scheduled.

- Ongoing**
- First Friday - Bingo** 12:30 p.m. Hale Resource Center. Call 728-4251.
  - Wednesdays - X-live, Hale Baptist Church Youth Group** 6 p.m. Faith, food and fun. Sixth through 12th graders. Call 728-3821.
  - Wednesdays - (Second of each month) Sunrise Side Beekeepers**, 7 p.m. at Eagle Pointe Plaza in Hale. Anyone interested in honeybees is welcome. Call Gail 734-775-3703.
  - Saturdays - (May 27 through September) Plainfield Township Farmers Market**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Locally grown and produced items. Always looking for new vendors. Located between the firehall and the library in Hale on M-65. Call Cheryl 586-747-8767.
  - Sundays - (Last of each month) Hale Area Citizens Patrol** 1 p.m. at the Eagle Pointe Plaza. Call Connie 989-728-4796.

## Hale Senior Center Menu

- March**
- 11 - Chili with beans, carrots, tossed salad, corn-bread and apple.**
  - 12 - Breakfast for lunch casserole, cottage cheese with fruit and pudding cup.**
  - 13 - Spaghetti, green beans with almonds, garlic toast and orange.**
  - 14 - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, brussel sprouts and red grapes.**
  - 15 - Old fashioned vegetable beef soup, tossed salad, breadstick and peach fruit cobbler.**
  - 18 - Stuffed cabbage, rolls, carrots, biscuit and pistachio pudding.**
  - 19 - Hamburger, potato wedges, waxed beans and fruit salad.**
  - 20 - Chicken taco salad, tortilla chips, mexican corn and apricots.**
  - 21 - Steak sandwich, sweet potato fries, wax beans and banana pudding cup.**
  - 22 - Baked cod, red skinned mashed potatoes, normandy blend vegetables and tropical fruit cup.**
- All meals include coffee, tea or milk and, served at noon. Suggested donation, 60 plus is \$3, under 60 is \$7.50. Call before 10:30 a.m. to make reservations. Hale 989-728-4251 or Sand Lake 989-469-9361. All meals include coffee, tea or milk and, served at noon. Suggested donation, 60 plus is \$3, under 60 is \$7.50. Call before 10:30 a.m. to make reservations. Hale 989-728-4251 or Sand Lake 989-469-9361.*

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# Obituaries

## Michael Lee Jameson Sept. 29, 1987 – March 1, 2024

Michael Lee Jameson, age 36, of West Branch, died tragically in an automobile accident on Friday, March 1, 2024, in West Branch. He was born Sept. 29, 1987, to Dennis and Nancy (Ranger) Jameson at Tolfree Memorial Hospital in West Branch.

He grew up in West Branch where he was an active child, playing Little League, Ogemaw Browns football, Ogemaw Heights football and baseball, and being part of the FFA. Michael loved the Ogemaw County Fair where he raised pigs with 4-H for many years. His family will note that he was also an active wrestler and caused fun chaos wherever he went.

Michael was never hard to find, with his blond hair and distinguishable, smug, almost devious grin. If you knew Michael, you know exactly what that grin looked like. After graduating from Ogemaw Heights High School in 2006, Michael would later enlist in the United States Army where he bravely served his country from April 26, 2007, until Oct. 25, 2020. He was a highly decorated soldier, with his most prestigious award being a bronze star.

Other than his beautiful children, the Army was Michael's best life. In this environment, his best traits were able to shine brightest, and his accomplishments were many. Don't worry though, in the midst of serving, he still managed to cause a little bit of that fun chaos he was so known for. During his 13 years of service to his country, Michael spent 39 months on deployment overseas in combat situations. With tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, he developed a family with his brothers and sisters in arms. Michael never lacked love and support from his

guys. In 2020, Michael honorably separated from the United States Army, completing his duty and service to his country, and moving back to his hometown to be close to his children and family. He was working on the Kartes farm, giving him the daily solace he needed and was seeking.



MICHAEL LEE JAMESON

After purchasing a home, Michael worked to resettle his roots in West Branch, but those close to him know, and it was no secret, his heart was still in the Army. To his last day he shared with those around him that he was ready to go back. His most honest and proud life was as a soldier, serving his country, and we will always remember the amazing soldier that he was.

Michael could often be found at the farm, bowling alley, or football field coaching his son. You could see him riding his motorcycle, spending time with friends, or gathering with his family. He was notorious for bear hugs and tickle torturing his kids, nieces, and nephews. Michael was a sweet, kind, caring, goofy, and some would say mischievous soul...but only in the best ways. His loss is significant and shattering.

Michael was a beloved son, grandson, uncle, and friend. He was a cherished father by his four beautiful children, including Ryan 15, Lucas and Cody 14, and Halee 12. They will forever remember and miss his goofy antics and big bear hugs. He is also survived by his mother, Nancy Jameson of St. Helen; father, Dennis (Vicki Barnes) Jameson of West Branch; sister, Amanda (Dennis) Parks of Houghton Lake; brothers, Nathan (Andrea Gray) Rachow of West Branch and Danny (Michelle) Rachow of West Branch; grandparents, Joe and Nancy Ranger of West Branch;

aunts and uncles, Barb and Tim Wynkoop, Joe and Basia Ranger, and Jake and April Jameson; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He is preceded in death by his sister, Leslie Jameson; brother Kurtis Jameson; grandparents Donald and Pat Jameson; cousin Jonathan Wynkoop, and sister-in-law Kathy Rachow.

The life that Michael Lee Jameson lived, and the energy he brought to this world, was both intoxicating and addicting. Anyone who was on the receiving end of his hugs, the finger followed by his smug grin, or a smile and a wave will forever hold a piece of that exuberant personality we all knew and loved.

Michael's family wants to give a special thanks to John and Christa Campbell of Kentucky for being the family Michael loved and needed in his times away from his home and family. They showed him incredible love, support, and kindness. We are forever grateful.

The memorial service will be held at Ogemaw Hills Free Methodist Church in West Branch on Saturday, March 16, at 1 p.m. with visitation beginning at 11 a.m. Pastor David Kurtz will officiate. Burial of ashes will follow at Brookside Cemetery in West Branch with military honors.

Online condolences can be shared at [www.steuernolmclaren.com](http://www.steuernolmclaren.com).

**Home Delivered Meal Drivers Needed**

The Isosco County Commission on Aging is looking for caring volunteers to deliver Home Delivered Meals to our homebound clients in the Hale area. It usually takes one to two hours to run the meal route. You get to choose how often you would like to volunteer. You receive a mileage reimbursement of .56 cents a mile and also receive a free meal on the days that you drive. Most important, you get to help the seniors that are homebound in our community. If you are interested, please call Karen at 728-4251.

## Connie Sue Oliver May 18, 1955 ~ March 2, 2024

Connie Sue Oliver, born on May 18, 1955, to the loving Leroy and Olabelle Penoyer of Lapeer has been called home by our Heavenly Father on March 2, 2024, in the peaceful town of West Branch. She completed her earthly journey with grace and dignity, surrounded by the love of her family, as she entered into eternal rest after a valiant battle with cancer.



CONNIE SUE OLIVER

Sister Connie, as she was fondly known in her church community, was a beacon of joy and faith, greeting everyone with a radiant smile that mirrored the love of Christ. She was a devoted wife to her husband, Dan Oliver, and together they walked a path of love and partnership that stood as a testament to the sacred vows they shared. As a mother, she poured her love and wisdom into her children, Wade and his wife, Nicole; Megan and her husband, Brent, and Danelle and her husband, Nathan, nurturing them with the same strength and tenderness she inherited from her own parents.

Her role as Nana to her beloved grandchildren, Alexa, Breydan, Nolan, Rayna, Collin, Kelby, and Paisley, was one she cherished most deeply. The legacy of her love will continue to blossom in their hearts, each one carrying a spark of her spirit into the future.

Connie's love extended beyond her family into her community. She was a steadfast participant in Bible study, where her insights and devotion inspired many. Her presence at church was a constant source of comfort, her welcoming demeanor embodying the warmth and inclusivity of her faith.

Her zest for life was evident in her hobbies, which included bike riding through the countryside, feeling the wind in her hair and the sun on her face. Summers found her swimming in her pool, her laughter mingling with the splashing water, creating ripples of joy that touched all who were near. Connie's hands were as green as the gardens she tended, each flower and plant a testament to her patience and care.

Camping under the stars, she would often recount the wonders of God's creation, instilling

a sense of awe and reverence for the natural world in all who accompanied her on these treasured family excursions.

To say Connie was loving and friendly would be to capture but a glimpse of her essence; she was indeed faith-filled, her life a living sermon of love, service, and compassion. Her spirit was a guiding light that shone brightly, even in the darkest of times, and her absence will be felt deeply by all who were blessed to know her.

As we bid farewell to Connie Sue Oliver, let us not dwell in the valley of sorrow, but rather climb the mountain of fond memories she has left us. Let us celebrate the love she gave so freely and the faith that kept her steadfast. Though her physical presence is no longer with us, her spirit continues to embrace us, reminding us that love is eternal and that those who believe shall find comfort in the arms of the Lord.

Connie, we thank you for the time you shared with us, for the lessons you taught, for the love you gave, and for the light you brought into our lives. You have run the race, you have kept the faith, and now the crown of righteousness is yours. Rest well, dear sister in Christ, until we meet again at the heavenly gates, where there shall be no more night, no more pain, no more tears, only the everlasting joy of the Lord's presence.

Visitation at Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch was held on March 6. The funeral service was held at Faith Alive Church in West Branch on Thursday, March 7, with visitation before. Pastor Chad Deerman officiated and a private burial was to be held at Edwards Township Cemetery in West Branch.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the family of Connie Oliver.

*May God's perpetual light shine upon you, and may your soul, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

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## Kit's host Business After Hours

Kit's hosted the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours on Thursday, Feb. 15. Browsing, refreshments and networking were enjoyed by those attending. The next BAH will be held March 21 at 313 Designs, downtown West Branch from 4:30-6 p.m.

Photo by Lois Bergquist





## St. Joseph Catholic School Week

We celebrated Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4 and as part of the celebration, our school family showed their appreciation for the Veterans, the Knights of Columbus, the Council of Catholic Women, school/parish volunteers and the parishioners.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, St. Joseph Catholic School had invited the veterans of our school family and parish family to join us for coffee and doughnuts and a sing along. What an honor it was to have the veterans as part of our school family. Unfortunately, school was canceled due to slippery roads.

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, the school invited the Knights of Columbus and the Council of Catholic Women to Mass and lunch immediately following Mass. We greatly appreciate their support and participation in our school family.

On Thursday, Feb. 1, we invited the volunteers of our school family and parish family to join us for a school-wide breakfast. Thank you volunteers!

Finally, on Sunday, Feb. 4, we invited the parishioners to join us for breakfast after the 11 a.m. Mass. The support of the parishioners is so great. We thank you and appreciate you immensely.

Thoughts From the Students  
Why I am thankful for St. Joseph School?

"My friends when we play together. To read books." Hayley

"I like building a snowman with my friends, and I like hugging my

friends." Owen

"Because I get to learn about God." Danny

"Because I love God. I love Jesus. I like to go to gym." Andre

"Because I like to be here with my friends. Because Jesus is in my heart." Carson

"Because I love the teachers when they help us to learn. We are taught respect, we pray and are kind to one another. We love going to church as a class. We learn to respect God. That's why that's a good school." Isabella

"I am thankful for St. Joseph



Students with the volunteers.

School because we get a Catholic education and we are allowed to talk about our religion. What I am also thankful for is that we get to go to church every single Wednesday of the week. I used to be Methodist but this school encouraged me to become Catholic and I am so happy and excited to become Catholic and be able to take the body and the blood." Percy

"I am thankful for St. Joseph School because I am learning a new subject in school and the class is smaller. Before I came to this school I had never been to church. Also, I honestly think the bible stories are really cool and the teachers are really nice." Eivin

## Library

« Continued from page 2

skills while school is not in session. In addition to traditional library services, in the past year the Skidway Lake Library has partnered with local agencies and individuals to provide a diaper pantry, a clothes closet, a personal hygiene item monthly giveaway, a Halloween Costume lending closet, hats and mittens for children, and a meeting place for Take (T) Off (O) Pounds (P) Sensibly (S), a weight loss program. The library also assists those who need help from the Department of Health and Human

Services (DHHS) to fill out applications online through MIBridges.

Libraries empower individuals and families by providing free access to resources. Because of our nation's public libraries, folks at all income levels have the opportunity to achieve their dreams. Won't you help to keep the Skidway Lake Branch Library open?

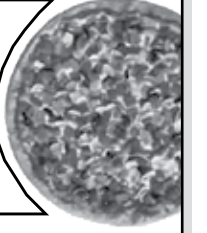
The Skidway Lake Branch Library, 2129 Greenwood Road, Prescott, Michigan 48756-0250

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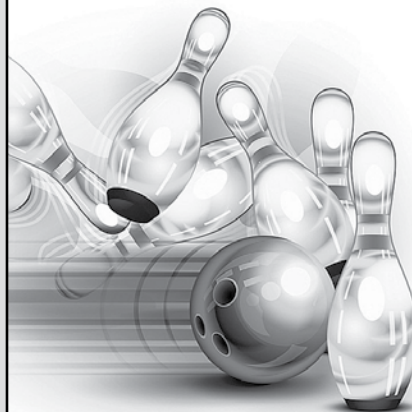
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Friday, March 8th - Thursday, March 14th

**Dune 2** PG-13  
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**Kung Fu Panda** PG  
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## Spring Art Walk & Wine Tasting

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**  
**5 - 8 p.m.**

Downtown West Branch is partnering with local artists for the perfect spring evening.

Each shop will host an area artist and their work along with wine & hors d'oeuvres.

What a better way to welcome spring!



Commemorative wine glasses will be on sale at Kit's for only \$6 while supplies last.

Visit [www.WestBranchEvents.com](http://www.WestBranchEvents.com) for more information or call 989-345-5226.



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West Branch VISITORS BUREAU  
www.visitwestbranch.com  
Visitors Bureau Facebook



We spent most of January packing and moving back into the train depot. We are now all in and very excited to show off the "all Aoard Project." Preserving the oldest standing building in West Branch. Stop by for a tour! Along with moving, these past few months have been extremely busy with ribbon cutting ceremonies, business hppenings and event planning. Make sure you check out our websites and "like" us on Facebook and join the "Chamber Tracks" e-blast that goes out twice a month. Enjoy your day!  
Heather Neuhaus, Executive Director, IOM, BS



Welcome Samantha Defour  
Administrative Assistant

### 20th Chamber Ball & Outstanding Awards

Saturday, April 20th at the Columbus Hall in West Branch  
Tickets please visit the website, stop in or call!



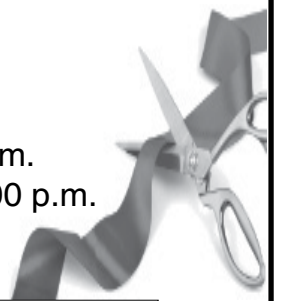
Tuesday, March 26th  
Ogemaw Heights High School from 5:00 to 7:00 pm  
Vendor application on website

- Welcome New Chamber Members
- 313 Designs
- Arrow Power
- AT&T
- Northern Bed & Biscuit
- Pedersen Woodworks
- St. John Lutheran Church
- Superior News
- The Dirty Mitten

Meet the Candidates Nlght  
Sunday, June 9th from 4:00-6:30 p.m.  
Ogemaw County Fairgrounds Griffin Barn

### Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

April 18th Ogemaw Eye Institute 4:30 p.m.  
Friday, April 19th Northern Bed & Biscuit 3:00 p.m.



### Chamber Connections

2nd Friday from 7-8 a.m.  
March 8th: The Brook Retirement  
April 12th: Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau  
May 10th: Lumber Jack Lodge

### Business After Hours

3rd Thursday from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.  
March 21st: 313 Designs  
April 18th: Ogemaw Eye Institute  
May 16th: Turner Thyme Hospitality  
June 20th: Lumber Jack Lodge  
Thank you Human Trafficking Group for hosting January and Kit's for hosting February

The West Branch Visitors Bureau has partnered with the Ogemaw County Fairgrounds to bring "Outlaw Nation" to West Branch on Sunday, June 9th. Please visit for more information [outlawnationofficial.com](http://outlawnationofficial.com)

Executive Director Heather Neuhaus ~ "Stay focused, stay strong, learn, be adventurous and create your happiness"  
West Branch Visitors Bureau President Emil Rousseau ~ "Make the most of this day. Love, Laugh and Learn. Most of all don't forget to love, play and dream. Make the difference today and do not regret tomorrow."  
West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce Board President Nikki Biermann ~ "A dream can become reality when you establish a goal with an action plan. Begin with the end in mind."

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**Public Notices and Meetings**

**CITY OF ROSE CITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 6, 2024**

Mayor Pro Tem Kristina Danforth called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on February 6, 2024.

Present: Daniel McQuarrie, Jennifer Bentley, Scott Hamel, Brent Hinkley.  
Absent: Jeremy Card- excused, Christopher Hebert – excused.

Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, DPW Supervisor Chase Wiltse, Deputy Clerk April Kangas, Nicole Pennell, Theresa Erickson, Amy Hensel, Mary Jane Schnautz, John Schnautz, Carole Dallas, Dean Coleman, Mark Archer, Mary Florian, John Payne, Louise Bernard, Autumn & Brandon Benjamin, Brandi Coleman, Brenda Butler.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the Agenda. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the Minutes for the January 16, 2024 Public Hearing Meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to approve the Minutes for the January 16, 2024 Regular Rose City Council Meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to pay bills as presented, in the amounts of \$10,635.72 from the Common Cash Account, and \$261.57 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Daniel McQuarrie, Jennifer Bentley, Scott Hamel, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Kristina Danforth gave a Library Report.

Kristina Danforth gave a Festival & Events Report.

Josh Leisen from Huron Pines gave a Report on the Dam Removal Project. There is an online Survey to voice opinion and comments.

Chase Wiltse gave a DPW Report.

Carol Butler gave a Treasurer's Report.

Jennifer Hurley gave Clerk's Report

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve Banners and Parade Dates for 2024, July 4th 3:30 to 5:30, October 1st 5:00 to 6:00, December 5th 6:00 to 7:00. Ayes: Daniel McQuarrie, Jennifer Bentley, Scott Hamel, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and Mr. Hamel to approve the Parade Resolution for 2024. Ayes: Daniel McQuarrie, Jennifer Bentley, Scott Hamel, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to adjourn at 6:22 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Auction**

On Monday, March 18th at 10am

**Silver Creek Auto Repair & Towing** is Holding a Police Auction, We will be Auctioning a Blue 1998 Ford F250 Condition: Has rust damage and is not drivable.

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Salvation Army ..... 989-345-4690  
Community Food Pantry..... 989-345-0493  
MSU Extension/4-H..... 989-345-0692  
Ogemaw County Prosecutor ..... 989-345-5700

Michigan State Police ..... 989-345-0955  
Ogemaw County Sheriff ..... 989-345-3111  
West Branch Police ..... 989-345-2627  
Rose City Police..... 989-685-3051

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American Red Cross ..... 800-691-6059  
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Michelle VanOosten, NP  
Family Medicine

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