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A Lasting Legacy 50 Years at Ogemaw Lanes & Lounge



Gerald "Chum" and Lorraine Illig. Lorraine looks at her list of youth bowlers.

BY LAURA BENDER

In 1957, Chum and Lorraine Illig fell in love. Not with each other. That had already happened, followed by their marriage in 1956. No, they fell in love with bowling, and have spent their lives encouraging others to do the same.

Lorraine, now 87, said, "Since 1975, I've been teaching children age four and up how to bowl."

She retrieved a notebook and opened it on the wooden counter, made from an old bowling lane. "Here are the names of all the children I've taught. There may be more."

The notebook, labeled "Ogemaw Lanes Youth Bowlers 1975-2021," lists children in alphabetical order.

Lorraine said, "Sometimes I show this book to those in the current kid's leagues. I show them their name. Then I show them their parent's names. And for some, their grandparents."

How many children has Lorraine taught to bowl?

She smiles, "1,641 and some I haven't recorded yet."

One thousand, six hundred and forty-one young people who have not only learned to bowl, but have been taught the life skills that accompany those lessons. Along with hitting the sweet spot that results in a strike, Lorraine has taught them how to focus, be patient, pay attention, work together as a team, follow instructions, develop a skill set,

50 YEARS continues on page 3 »

Ogemaw Heights High School top ten graduates of 2024



**VALEDICTORIAN
ALIVIA WHISMAN**

Alivia's parents are Kevin and Jamie Whisman.

Alivia plans on attending the University of Michigan to study Pre-Med and then become a neurosurgeon.



**SALUTATORIAN
CAMILLE PENNELL**

Camille's parents are Nicole and Bill Pennell.

Camille plans on attending Kirtland Community College to study business administration and cardiac sonography.

TOP TEN continues on page 3 »

Lovewells Corner Store spreads Easter cheer to families

BY JEAN PETERSON

There's a famous movie quote "Kindness is just love with its work boots on." There is not a better saying to encompass the work that a local store exhibits for its community. Each holiday season, Lovewells Corner Store in Lupton expands their outreach to local children and families, providing gifts and food boxes.

This year, Easter was no exception. Lovewells was able to provide 302 Easter baskets to local kids ranging from newborn-17 years, as well as several special needs adults, and provided 76 boxes or bags of food items. These 302 children encompassed 131 families in total residing in local surrounding areas including Lupton, Rose City, West Branch, Mio, Skidway Lake, Prescott, and Curran.

It would be impossible to carry out such a vast giving endeavor without help from community partners. Lovewells is grateful for many anonymous donations during the season and throughout the year. However, this Easter gifting was made possible in part by the following supporters: Susan



Jean Peterson fills Easter baskets.

Tschiggfrey from "I Want That Kettle Corn," Jennifer Grezeszak from "Aunt Jenni Jam Sweets & Treats," Ellen and Gil Scott, Lola McAlister and her sister, Michelle Marvin, Cliff Parent, Joyce Grezeszak, St. Vincent in West Branch, and Kenyon's Lakeside Resort.

Lovewells is also very grateful to Crystal Mayhew, manager at the former Dollar Tree in Rose City, who helped them purchase many toys, candy, and food items at a discount before the store closed. Pineview Discount Foods in McBain is a resource for reduced groceries and basket items to allow donations to be stretched and help more families. When possible, Lovewells always tries to partner

with local folks and businesses to make the most for the kid's baskets.

In addition, Lovewells takes donations of used items to give away to others. Their entrance area always has a supply of free clothes and household items that are free for anyone in need. In the warmer months, a rack of clothes and a table of items are put outside for free for customers to browse and take what they desire. These items are all donations that local folks have dropped off to be given away. If you'd like to donate, the store accepts donations at any time, but asks that you call ahead for furniture and large drop off amounts. All donations must be taken to the warehouse when you drop off.

If you wish to support Lovewells giving, please contact the owners, Jean or Margie Peterson, at the store located on the corner of Sage Lake and Wiltse Roads in Lupton. They are always accepting donations of toys, kid's books, wrapping paper, plastic eggs, baskets, gift bags, and, of course, monetary donations. Shopping locally at Lovewells throughout the entire year is undoubtedly the BEST way to show your support to those who give back!

It's showtime on M55

BY PETER FABBRI

An early spring has allowed the MDOT M-55 corridor makeover project to get underway making the color orange the prominent and fashionable spring color along many Michigan roads this time of year. West Branch is no exception.

At first sight, while viewing the downtown from either end of town, the sight of heavy equipment, barricades, trucks and workers appears ominous and impenetrable. If you loosen your fears and get a little closer look, what you will find will surprise you.

The businesses are open! Yes, open for business. The sidewalks are intact and parking is plentiful on the side streets and in the public parking lots. All of them.

Access to the very core of downtown on Third Street is open from State Street to Wright Street and going east and west on the detour routes is clearly marked and easy.

So, getting to the post office is doable. Getting to your favorite

restaurants and downtown shops is doable. Getting to the movie theater is doable. So is the eye doctor and hearing services, the furniture stores, the boutiques, the grocery store and gas stations, the library, the bakery, the auto parts stores, Dairy Queen and four new downtown businesses.

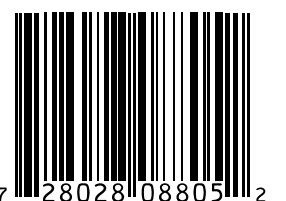


PETER FABBRI

The salons are accessible as well as the Historical Society Museum. All the businesses are easily accessible and they need your business. Now more than ever.

It's no secret that the color of orange barrels is a deterrent in any case and many people avoid them at all costs but the lifeblood of our community relies on the success of our small businesses. Look, it's also no secret that the economy is

SHOWTIME continued on page 6 »



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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 for location. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255 or text 741741.

Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) Ogemaw County Democratic Party 5pm at China Inn downtown West Branch. Call Ken at (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.

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

My Michigan Health UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Ascension Michigan's Northern Region to Become Part of MyMichigan Health

MIDLAND, Mich. – MyMichigan Health and Ascension have signed a definitive agreement under which Ascension Michigan's locations in Saginaw, Tawas and Standish will become part of MyMichigan Health.

"Our organizations share many common values and, together, we are committed to working closely to ensure high-quality health care is available to all of the communities we serve," said Lydia Watson, M.D., president and CEO, MyMichigan Health. "This agreement expands MyMichigan's commitment and purpose in Creating Healthy Communities – Together, while building on Ascension Michigan's already strong heritage of providing personalized and compassionate care, with the benefit of added quaternary care through our relationship with Michigan Medicine."

Ascension St. Mary's of Saginaw, a 268-bed acute care inpatient facility; Ascension St. Mary's Towne Center, an ambulatory surgery center,

wound care center, emergency department and short stay unit facility; Ascension St. Joseph in Tawas, a 47-bed acute inpatient facility, and Ascension St. Mary's of Standish, a 25-bed critical access hospital and 29-bed skilled nursing facility will join MyMichigan Health. This also includes all related sites of care and related physician practices of Ascension Medical Group.

"Ascension St. Mary's, Ascension St. Joseph and Ascension Standish have been committed to our mission of serving all persons, with special attention to those who are most vulnerable. As a regional provider, MyMichigan Health is well positioned to carry on this legacy, serving the community through an integrated care delivery system," said Jordan Jeon, interim regional president and CEO, Ascension Michigan's Northern Region and chief strategy officer, Ascension Michigan. "This transition will ensure that Saginaw, Tawas City and Standish have sustainable, quality health care access long into the future."

The transaction is expected to close this summer, subject to standard regulatory and other required third-party approvals.

Until that time, Ascension Michigan's northern locations and MyMichigan Health will continue to operate independently. All are committed to creating a smooth transition for patients, associates and physicians, with no disruption in services or procedures.

"We are focused and strongly believe in providing care close to home and to those that need it most," said Dr. Watson. "We will ensure that patients, their families, neighbors and loved ones will have an exceptional health care experience for many, many years to come."

Watson also shared that MyMichigan is working on a planning process that will include both employees and the community as an opportunity to build relationships and share its culture. MyMichigan will be looking at selecting a president over the facilities and will announce that individual in the near future.

FAITH & WORSHIP

Trust in God

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, [a] but only the Father."
—Matthew 24:36-44

When is the end of this age? Jesus predicted the fall of Jerusalem and the Gospel preached in the whole world. No one knows the day or the hour of His return, a purposefully vague prophecy. We keep watch, because we don't know on what day our Lord will come. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24:37-39)

Jesus confirms the Noah flood narrative. Does science prove it wrong? Are we sure? If the flood is a myth, how were transcontinental sedimentary rock layers formed? How were the Grand Canyon layers formed without any evidence of erosion between layers? How are whale and possum fossils found mixed together? Jesus includes a picture of normal life before Noah's flood. We can become deluded that we don't need to keep vigilant watch in prayerful preparation for his return. It appears that in apocalyptic times there may also be periods of normalcy. During those times watching will be even more imperative.

— www.SermonCentral.com

First United Methodist Church
2490 W. State Rd., West Branch, MI 48661
989-345-0210
Rev. Michelle Forsyth
reverendmichelleforsyth@gmail.com
Organist: Carol Lockhart
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

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)

50 Years

« Continued from page 1

work toward a goal, and even do the geometry needed to pick up spares. She's also taught them another vital lesson, written on the book's cover: "Always Enjoy!"

Lorraine said her four-year-olds never used gutter bumpers. She taught them to have fun and praised them when the ball made it to the pins. She offered help to improve their chances. "First, they have to enjoy the game. Then you teach them how to get better," she said.

Chum and Lorraine bought Ogemaw Lanes from Jack Schubert in 1974. Jack, a World War II Navy veteran, had purchased it from Lowell Crow, who had opened it in 1956. In 1988, the Illigs added the Indian Village Mini Golf.

Lorraine said, "Several local farmers brought us large stones from their fields so we could make the waterfall. In those early days, people who wanted to play mini golf would ring a bell and

Chum or I would run out from the bowling alley to get them started."

At that time, the bowling alley sat toward the front of the property, but a cigarette tossed in a wastebasket on Feb. 19, 2007, resulted in the loss of the original lanes. Thanks to great support, Ogemaw Lanes & Lounge re-opened for business on Aug. 25, 2007, in time for Fall Leagues.

Chum and Lorraine's son, Jeremy Illig, now general manager, said, "The bowling alley used to be in downtown West Branch near where the fountain is located. After the 2007 fire, we recovered the wood that held the lanes together. Some of it was stamped Houghton Avenue. It had been moved here from the previous bowling alley."

Jeremy smiled, "As I child, I used to play and sleep behind the counter."

Ogemaw Lanes & Lounge has been family owned and operated since 1975. In 1996, the Illig's son, Chris, bought the business

where Lorraine continues to work.

Lorraine said, "I'm 87, but I'm just not going to sit home every day watching television until it's time to go to bed. I love it here. We're always busy. People come from all over the state to bowl, especially for the Best Frame Tournament. I've also been teaching my great, great-grandchildren, ages two and three, to bowl."

Ogemaw Lanes & Lounge, 2357 South M-76, West Branch, is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. To inquire about leagues, tournaments, children's birthday parties and other activities, contact the Illigs at 989 345-2200 or ogemawlanes@gmail.com. To learn more about Ogemaw Lanes & Lounge, visit <https://www.facebook.com/p/Ogemaw-Lanes-Lounge-100063771903895/> or www.ogemawlanes.com. Better yet, stop by for a delicious meal in the lounge, relax, and bowl a few games!

A very special olympics



Area 4 swim team hosted a swim meet Saturday, April 6, at Ogemaw Heights High School. Eighty-four athletes were present to compete. They came from Sault St. Marie, Traverse City, Saginaw, Bay City, Midland, Mt. Pleasant and our own local area of Crawford, Ogemaw, Oscoda and Roscommon counties. The athletes are working hard training, competing and will be attending the State Summer games in Mt. Pleasant May 30-June 1. We would like to thank West Branch-Rose City Area Schools. Also a big thank you to our volunteers who helped make this happen, Sherrif Brian Gilbert, Christine Rice, Gail Hughey, Drew Watson, Trisha Ziegler, Kori Kripli and all the families of the athletes for all your help making the swim meet run smoothly.



Top Ten

« Continued from page 1



OWEN NEUBECKER

Owen's parents are Angela and Allen Neubecker.



LUCY LUPTOWSKI

Lucy's parents are David and Darla Luptowski.



KIRSTEN NEUBECKER

Kirsten's parents are Kristy and Joel Neubecker.



ANASTASIA KURTZ

Anastasia's parents are David and Lisa Kurtz.



SELENA CHAPA

Selena's parents are Jennifer Duvernois and Joshua Chapa.



KIERA DANITZ

Kiera's parents are Christine and Ralph Rosebrugh.



KARTER SCHMITT

Karter's parents are Jenny David and Tony Schmitt.



MATTHEW KEARNS

Matthew's parents are Heather and Bill Kearns.

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Mystic Michigan author Mark Jagers to do presentation at West Branch District Library

BY SALLY A. REA

Dear Readers,
On Wednesday, May 1, 2024, starting at 2 p.m. Mark Jagers will do a film screening and slide show of his "Mystic Michigan" books.

The West Branch District Library is donating Mark's use of their basement for his presentation. The library is located at 119 North 4th Street. Mark will be bringing Rob Dailey who is also an author, researcher, videographer, and photographer who takes all of Mark's videos and pictures.

The Ogemaw County Historical Society, The Rose City Historical Society, and the Roscommon County Genealogical Society are all sponsoring this event. Amy Winter of the West Branch District Library and myself have been working with Mark since last fall to get this event possible.



SALLY REA

There is no charge for this event but donations are welcome. Mary Cole, of the Ogemaw County Historical Society will be in charge of the refreshments of cookies, Grace Dooley of Rose City Historical Society furnishing coffee, tea, cream and sugar, Carmen Bogart

and Grace Dooley of Rose City Historical Society have been getting the information on the event out and Donnie Boursaw have been sending out information on the event

to other Historical Societies.

Be sure to mark this date on your calendar. May 1, 2024, from 2-4 p.m. at the West Branch District Library. You will not want to miss this presentation by Mark Jagers and Rob Bailey.

For more information call Amy Winter at 989-345-2235 West Branch District Library.



L-r: Rob Bailey, Sally Rea and Mark Jagers.

From the desk of Gail Hughey Superintendent West Branch-Rose City Schools WBRC Operating Millage Renewal Proposal

BY GAIL HUGHEY

Voters will be asked to renew the West Branch-Rose City Area School District's operating millage levy of 17.9532 on non-homestead properties at the polls on Tuesday, May 7, or by absentee ballot beginning on March 28, 2024. This millage vote will be for ten years, which has been typical for our school district.



GAIL HUGHEY

An operating millage generates revenue to support the general school budget and would be renewed at the rate levied in 2023. This millage accounts for about one-third of our total school budget. The operating budget funds essential day-to-day expenses.

The non-homestead operating millage will have no effect on a homeowner's primary residence.

The millage would be levied on businesses, second homes, vacant properties, and rental properties not otherwise exempt by law.

All registered voters living in the West Branch-Rose City Area School District can vote on this proposal at the polls on Tuesday, May 7, or by absentee ballot beginning March 28.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call my office at 989-343-2001.

News from Ogemaw County Fair

BY MICHELLE PARLIAMENT FAIR BOARD PRESIDENT

Work bees are beginning to clean up the grounds and get it ready for the summer.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information regarding volunteer opportunities.

As you all know, our trees are a huge part of what sets our fairgrounds above the rest.

Unfortunately, we have had several trees die in the last few years causing safety concerns. We were able to take advantage of the mild winter to remove many of them. It has been a very big project and we would not have been able to complete it without the help we have received from businesses in the community. We want to send out a big thank you to TR Timber, Fresh Coast Tree Care, Red's Property Maintenance, Wangler & Sons Trucking, Randy Wangler Trucking, Cedar Lane Dairy Farm, Bunting Sand & Gravel, Mierson Farms, and Miller Feed for all their help from taking down the trees to removing stumps and reseeded the grass.

We are still accepting donations of cans and bottles and we are very proud to share our new

playground equipment that was purchased last year with proceeds from this fundraising activity.

Our next goal is a new sound system throughout the grounds. We are in need of an update and look forward to raising enough funds with your help to purchase a system that will cover the entire fairgrounds.

Tickets are available online at www.ogemawcountyfair.org for the "Outlaw Nation" concert, the "Confederate Railroad" concert during fair week, bike bash and

the mega wristband for Arnold Amusements. The mega band is good for all ride sessions for the entire week and is a great value. We will be having some open office hours if you want to purchase your tickets in person.

Check our Facebook page for details of when those dates will be.

More than ever, we send a very sincere thank you to everyone in the community for supporting us. We simply cannot continue to do what we do without the help that we receive from our volunteers. We are exceedingly grateful for the relationships with all of our partners.



MICHELLE PARLIAMENT

Ogemaw County & Hale Area SUPERIOR NEWS

Your source for positive community news



KIWANIS CORNER

BY DENNY SHUMWAY

KIWANIS OF WEST BRANCH

We will not be putting American Flags out downtown this year. The construction of Houghton Avenue would make it impossible to complete.

The Kiwanis Club meets at noon on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the China Inn in West Branch. 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.

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

Looking for donations of food or money to help us with the influx of families. We had over 211 families this month, which continues to take a toll on our finances. We will take donations every Wednesday of the month from 8:30 a.m. 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. We intend to be open despite the road construction.



DENNY SHUMWAY

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.

We will be preparing for numerous activities in Irons Park this year. Some include Music in the Park, our annual Carnival, bake sales and more. Watch here for updates.

We support numerous organizations in Ogemaw

FOOD TRUCK OF WEST BRANCH

The monthly Food Truck held once a month also needs your help. Our next truck is coming on May 10. We served over 330 families on April 5. We need to raise money now to keep the trucks coming. Please sponsor a truck, contact Lisa Curnow at 989-345-0381.

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 50 cents per issue or annually for \$35.

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St. Helen American Legion Post 416 Celebrates 75th anniversary

Renovations mark Legion's beginning 105 years ago



Photos by Kathy Collins

Many volunteers worked on the renovation of the St. Helen's Post 416.

BY LAURA BENDER

On March 15, 1919, members of the American Expeditionary Forces, still in Europe after World War I, met in Paris. The fruit of that gathering was the American Legion, which soon received a Congressional charter. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion has evolved into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Today, there are nearly two million members and more than 13,000 posts worldwide.

One of these posts is in St. Helen, Mich. Post 416 received its charter on April 11, 1949. For 75 years, veterans and their families have been meeting there for mutual support and outreach to the community. In the mid-1960s, members erected a building at 10062 Ford Dr. in St. Helen. Less than ten years later, the post had grown enough to build an addition to be used as a meeting hall for events and activities. Fifty years later, this much-used hall needed renovation.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Home Depot Foundation, which provided materials, equipment and labor, members gathered to begin the

work. Professional flooring installers from Home Depot worked alongside 30 volunteers as well as many other professionals representing local and not so local companies.

Helpers included MSC Builders, MAS Solutions, Custom Tile and Flooring, CG&G Lic flooring, John Steele, The Welding shop, Legionnaires of the American Legion Post 416, Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion Post 416, Sons of American Legion Post 416, American Legion Riders Post 416, Floor Source, Country Counter Tops Ortonville, and Commercial Electric Inc.

Volunteers arrived early and worked all day with a short break for lunch. The volunteers included Ron Timmons, Jim Rose, Tina Carpenter, Brian Kunnard, John Shilling, Rachele Shilling, Gayle Timmons, Mary Eiteuner, Daniel Long, Tony Westrick, Diane Keen, Jay Collins, Jeff Beedle, John Voorhies, Jack Hawkins, Timothy David, John Sortman, Walter Phillips, Jim Gratham, Kelli Tullis, Jesse McMahan, Jim Herman, Richard Schwalm, Maurice Sears, Mark Hickey, Richard Piechowski, Kim Westrick, Mike Carpenter.

Today, as a result of this talented team effort, American Legion Post 416 has a new soft grey tile floor, as well as many other upgrades, including new PA and video surveillance systems, a new ceiling and LED lighting. The walls in the hall are painted a soft grey, and the Tiki bar has a white roof with a cool black background.

The American Legion Post 416 is grateful to Home Depot and the many other professionals and volunteers who made the much-needed renovation possible.

If you would like to learn more about Post 416, visit <https://alegion416.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/americanlegion416> to see a calendar of events and membership information. To contact post leadership call 989 389-4630 or email americanlegion416@gmail.com. To learn about the American Legion, visit the national organization's website <https://www.legion.org/>.

If you are curious about the renovations and want to see the handiwork for yourself, stop by on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. for hamburger night, which is open to the public.



Carrying the Cross on Holy Saturday



Barry Brown follows behind Chuck Blass, who carries a cross through downtown West Branch on Holy Saturday, March 30.

BY MICHAEL BUSCH

Barry Brown, a member of Faith Alive Church in West Branch, and Chuck Blass, a member of Abundant Grace Assembly of God in Prudenville, took turns carrying the cross 5.5 miles from Meijer to the West Branch Outlet Mall.

Brown said before the long walk, "We just want to give back what Jesus gave for us and have

people never forget what He did for us: dying on the cross and enabling us to have our name written on the Book of Life."

Holy Saturday occurs between Good Friday and Easter Sunday in the Christian tradition. The day marks the hopelessness felt by Christ's disciples after his death. Some churches practice an Easter vigil in the evening before Easter sunrise.

Meet Your Superior News Family



Nikki Szymkowski



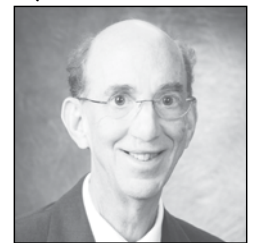
Kathy Collins



Laura Bender



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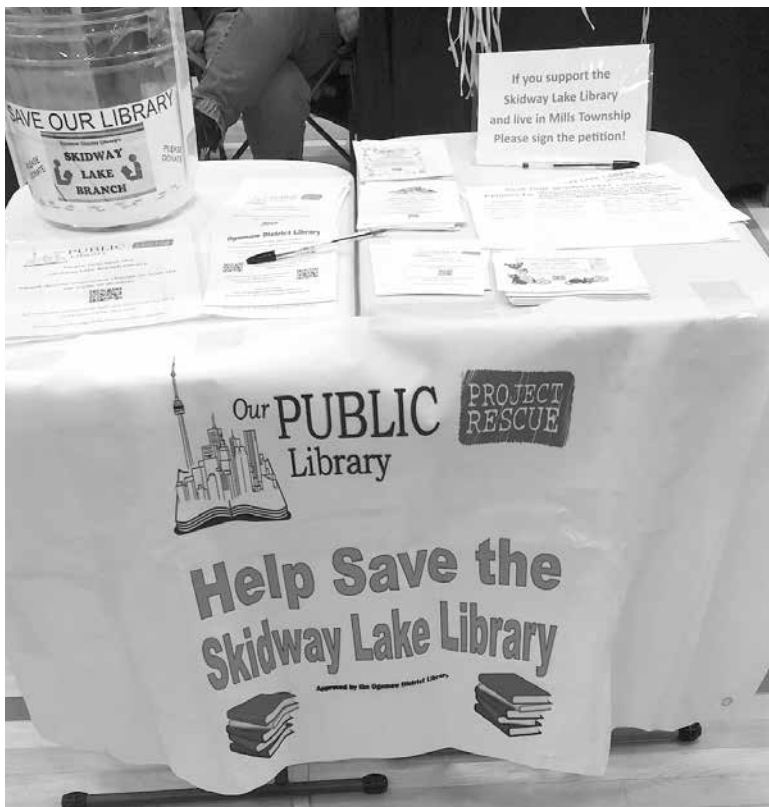
« Continued from page 1

tough right now and business as a whole is down.

I encourage everyone to embrace the change and to help keep our businesses vibrant

during this project. Come see and view the work up close and watch as the town is transformed into the next best small town makeover in Michigan!

Cardinal Optimist Club craft show



A craft show, sponsored by the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake, was held on April 6. A large crowd of shoppers were delighted with the display of vendors and crafts.

Photos by Kathy Collins

St. Joseph's School Family Night



Courtesy photo

St. Joseph School held their family night on April 4. One hundred and forty people including families and staff, attended the event for pizza and games.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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By Stefanie Austin

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West Branch Optimist Easter Egg Hunt



Photos by Chuck Snyder


An Easter egg hunt was held March 30 at Iron Park in West Branch. The event was sponsored by the West Branch Optimist Club.

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HALE EAGLES SUPERIOR NEWS



These articles and pictures were written and submitted by students at Hale High School.

Youth Champion Wrestler from Hale



Above shows the podium and Colton Lynch standing on the 1st place box.

BY SAVANNAH JONES
HALE AREA SCHOOLS

Although Hale Area Schools offers several athletic programs, one thing they do not offer is youth wrestling. Colton Lynch is a 4th grade student at Hale Elementary School and has

been wrestling for the Ogemaw Bulldogs past three years. He has done incredibly well since he has started wrestling. The Northeast Michigan wrestling program that the elementary and middle school students wrestle in is called NEMWA. Colton has

wrestled a total of 38 matches in NEMWA this season alone, with 32 wins and six losses. Within those wins, he has 20 pins. Five of his six losses were to one opponent from Reed City Wrestling Club, but he was able to defeat him later in the season in the championship match. Feb. 25, 2024, Colton competed in the NEMWA State Championship and took home a first place victory for the Bulldogs. Throughout this difficult season, he worked through tribulations, showed endurance, defeated his biggest opponent, and proved that every ounce of work and dedication pays off. Not only did Colton compete in the NEMWA State competition, but he competed in the MYWAY Regionals on March 10, 2024, which represents the Central, East, Metro, North, Far North, Northeast, Southwest, West and South regions of Michigan. In MYWAY, Lynch has a record of 15 wins and two losses with nine pins. Colton placed first at the MYWAY Regionals, and he will now advance to the MYWAY State Championship in Kalamazoo later this month.

Recap of Girls Basketball Season



Coach Kimmerer lining up a play during a timeout.

Sadly, the girls basketball season came to an end for the year. We concluded our final basketball game before districts on Feb. 29, 2024, against Ogemaw Heights High School. To recap the season, we started off our season with a win against Wolverine at home on Nov. 29, 2023. The score was 32-17. The Lady Eagles ended their season with the record of 9-13. It was a season of learning with

a young team. Many of the JV players played a fifth quarter on the varsity team throughout the season. Eighth graders: Aleese Kimmerer and Anella Barclay played on Varsity from our previous game against Hillman. As always, it is sad to watch our seniors play their final season. The seniors this year consisted of Erica Bernard, Laken Caverly, Felicity Hicks, and Kayla Wolanin.


SIDE EFFECTS OF VAPING

The short-time side effects of vaping:

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- Popcorn lung
- Strokes
- Heart attacks



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VIP Days

BY HAILEY CARPENTER
HALE AREA SCHOOLS

This March's reading month we had two VIP days. Each class of kids got to read for an hour. While they were reading they got to enjoy punch and cookies. If they had a VIP come to read with them they could go to the book fair. National Honor Society members helped and read to kids who did not have a VIP come to read with them. This year it was held on Feb. 27 and 28. It had a great outcome of VIP's who came and enjoyed punch and cookies while reading to their student.



NHS member Erica Benard reading to a student.

First grade students enjoying cookies and punch before they read.



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Hockey Recap

BY SEAN BEARNARD
HALE AREA SCHOOLS

The Tawas Braves varsity hockey team had an amazing season this year. The Braves final record was 12-11-2. Their last regular season game this year was against Thumb Area Legion which the Braves ended up winning. This season was the first time Tawas had been in a league for hockey, taking first place in the league. They played the Bay City Thunder to win the league championship (5-3). The Braves lost their first district game against the Gladwin Flying G's to end their season.

The team leader in points was Gage Maxfield with 63 points.

The following awards were given:

Most Valuable Players: Gage Maxfield and Braden Bolen

Most Improved Players: Charlie Schnettler, Oliver McKeon, and Zack Miller

Coach's Award: Devin Grathoff and Adian LaRose.

1st Team All-Conference: Gage Maxfield, Braden Bolen, and Ethan Wood.

2nd Team All-Conference: Devin Grathoff.

The Braves are losing three seniors this year: Kyle Indreica, Ethan Wood, and Cooper Gorman. Tawas has high hopes for the upcoming years in the program and hopes to keep on improving.



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 - (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

April

- 15 - Bean soup with ham, tossed salad, breadsticks, and tropical fruit cup.
- 16 - Pizza, tossed salad, broccoli, and banana pudding cup.
- 17 - Spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic toast and grapes.
- 18 - Orange chicken, brown rice, carrots and fruit parfait.
- 19 - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, cole slaw and applesauce.
- 22 - Lasagna, tossed salad, Prince Charles blend vegetables,

and hot peach delight.

- 23 - Sloppy Joe, potato wedges, cole slaw and an orange.
- 24 - Roast pork, mashed potatoes, broccoli and mixed fruit with Jello.
- 25 - Beef burrito, refried beans, tortilla chips and an apple.
- 26 - Chicken chop suey, brown rice, egg roll, Oriental vegetables and pineapple.
- 29 - Baked chicken breast, mashed potatoes, carrots and apple crisp.
- 30 - Cook's choice.

All meals include coffee, tea or milk and, served at noon. Suggested donation, 60 plus is \$4, under 60 is \$7.50. Call before 10:30 a.m. to make reservations. Hale 989-728-4251 or Sand Lake 989-469-9361. Oscoda Center 989-739-3668. Tawas Center 989-362-6892. Jeneane 989-728-2206. Shirley 989-739-3781. *Please be aware that meals are subject to change due to food availability.*

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Dept. Health and Human Services	989-345-5135
Emergency Assistance Program	989-345-8312
Ogemaw County Clerk	989-345-0215
Probate/Family Court	989-345-0145
Emergency Shelter	989-217-0973
Friend of the Court	989-345-5520
Healthaccess	989-343-3608
Ogemaw Commission on Aging	989-345-3010
Options Resource Clinic	989-345-7398
Ogemaw Public Transit	989-345-5790
Children's Assmt. Center	989-275-7145
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
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National Help Lines

Adult & Child Protective Services	855-444-3911
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Food Assistance (WIC)	800-504-2650
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National Suicide Prevention	800-273-8255
American Red Cross	800-691-6059
Poison Control	800-222-1222

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"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake..." Psalm 23:1-6

This passage is more often preached out of at funerals. But, I believe David was not talking about the after life when he wrote these powerful words of God's provision. One day I can see in my mind David grazing with the sheep on the mountain sides of Israel. He tends to them and watches out for their safety. As he is doing all of this, I can imagine him stopping to consider for a moment as much as he was the shepherd of his sheep, God is the great shepherd of all of his sheep. David was passionate for the heart of God, and sought after His every will. He understood the power of God, and His keeping grace over his flock. David thought on the fact that God the greatest of all shepherds, who watches omnipresently over all His sheep.

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West Branch Area Business and Professional Women's Club is proud to offer a Transitional Scholarship, specifically designed to support women aged 25 or older residing in Ogemaw County

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women in their journey towards personal and professional growth. We recognize the unique challenges faced by women in transition and are committed to providing financial assistance and

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For more information contact Pam Hilts, BPW President at 989-745-4067.

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Mike Krumm, men's first place winner, Dennis Jameson, father of Kurt Jameson.

WOMEN'S RESULTS		MEN'S RESULTS	
1st Place	Tina VanEtten 876	1st Place	Mike Krumm 863
2nd Place	Cati Kinderman 851	2nd Place	Richard Helle 830
3rd Place	Renee Keppen 822	3rd Place	Gary Ragels 817
4th Place	Melissa Streeter 798	4th Place	Pete Skacal 813
5th Place	Hailey Kohler 795	5th Place	Vern Smith 811

Going PRO Talent Fund information session offered for employers

Michigan Works! Region 7B will be hosting a free information session for employers who want to learn more about the Going PRO Talent Fund on April 18 from 1:30-3 p.m. Employers may choose to attend in-person at the Ogemaw County Service Center at 2389 S. M-76 in West Branch; or by Zoom.

The Going PRO Talent Fund (Talent Fund) makes awards to employers to assist in training, developing and retaining current and newly hired employees. Training funded by the Talent Fund must be short-term and fill a demonstrated talent need experienced by the employer. Training must lead to a credential for a skill that is transferable and recognized by industry.

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity - Workforce Development awards funds to employers through Michigan Works! agencies. Michigan Works! Business Services staff conduct fact-finding sessions with employers to assess their talent skill gaps, suitable training providers, and availability of federal funding

sources. Staff also assists with the application process.

This information session is free of charge and open to employers in Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw, and Roscommon counties. Come find out if a Going PRO Talent Fund application is right for your business.

Employers who would like to register for this information session should do so here: <https://forms.gle/R7somo11QMkBq1wT8>

You can also work out to the local Business Solutions Professional in your county to register or for more information. In Arenac or Clare County, please contact LeeAnne Comer at 989-846-2111 or 989-539-2173, or by email at lcomer@michworks4u.org; Gladwin County, Matt Lang, 989-426-8571, mlang@michworks4u.org; Iosco County, Clara Sherman, 989-362-6407, csherman@michworks4u.org; Ogemaw County, Penny Payea, 989-345-1090, ppayea@michworks4u.org; and Roscommon County, Brenda Bachelder, 989-366-8660, bbachelder@michworks4u.org.

Get To The Point - Tawas Point! Native Plant Sale Returns May 18

April 1, 2024. East Tawas, Michigan. Back again by popular demand – the Friends of Tawas Point Lighthouse and State Park Native Plant Sale fundraiser will be held at the Tawas Point Lighthouse! Join us to see, learn about, and buy native plants for your home or business at this returning event on the Lighthouse Lawn on Saturday, May 18. The event begins promptly at 9 a.m. and is scheduled until Noon, or until plant supplies are exhausted, whichever comes first...no early sales available, please. There will be a good variety of plants for sun, shade, partial sun/shade, plants that like different soil types and moisture levels, and those blooms of interest for all seasons. All plants in the sale are perennials grown by Wild Type Nursery," said Organizer, Sunrise Side Master Gardener, and Friends member, Gloria Kershaw. All plants will be Michigan grown and most are Michigan genotypes. The majority of plants will be 2" or 2 1/2" pots priced at \$4 and \$6 per pot, and some quart pots will be available at \$10 per pot. We will also have a few ferns and shrubs in gallon pots priced separately. Payment may be made by cash, check or credit cards via PayPal.

Sunrise Side Master Gardeners will also be present to answer your questions and help with your selections. A list of plants, subject

to availability, will be listed on our Facebook page: Friends of Tawas Point Lighthouse and State Park or on our website www.tawaslighthousefriends.com

Why should we care about native plants? Native plants have co-evolved with our native birds, bees, insects and animals. They thrive in local areas and require fewer human inputs. Their long roots help rainwater soak into ground quickly, and their filtering ability helps protect our rivers and lakes from pollution. Native plants also replenish groundwater and create beautiful landscapes throughout seasons and provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects. Native plants give us a direct connection to nature and to place. Even small additions of native plants improve the environment and benefit wildlife.

The fundraising and awareness event originated through a partnership

between the Sunrise Side Master Gardeners and the Friends of Tawas Point Lighthouse and State Park. Proceeds will help fund the ongoing Native Plant Projects and other special projects at Tawas Point State Park and Lighthouse. Friends Board member, Gloria Kershaw, continues to volunteer to do restoration projects near the lighthouse that began in 2017.



Spring

X F A N S M L O M Q J I S B H S E R F D M A F C
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 breeze
 grassy
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 April
 fresh
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 rainy
 sunny
 kite
 May



Answers on page 14.



Obituaries

Marilyn Sue Nathan

April 14, 1942 – March 22, 2024

Marilyn Sue Nathan, age 81 of West Branch, passed away on Friday, March 22, 2024, at her home. Marilyn was born on April 14, 1942, to William Stewart and Lucile Estelle (Van Voorhis) Steinmetz in Canton, Ohio.



MARILYN SUE NATHAN

Marilyn enjoyed sports, especially Ohio State, camping, crocheting, reading, loved cook outs with family, and gospel music.

Marilyn is survived by her daughters, Jeanette (David) Leathorn, Shirley (Bradley) Davis; stepdaughters, Jenny (Kevin) McCutcheon, Margaret (Anthony) Hope; grandchildren, William, Elizabeth, Christopher, Annabelle, Shana, Scott, Shanell, Sean, Adam; 13 great-grandchildren and one on the

way, and nieces, Tammy, Kim, and Susan. Also surviving are her sisters, Elizabeth (Dave) Schwab and Evelyn Steinmetz.

She is preceded by her brother, Lawrence Steinmetz; nephew, Phillip, great-nephew, Austin, and parents, Stewart and Lucile

Steinmetz.

A special thanks to Shana and the wonderful staff of Compassus Hospice, especially Alexis and Emily.

Memorial contributions may be made to Compassus Hospice or Ogemaw District Library.

Per her wishes, cremation has taken place.

You can share your condolences online at www.steuernolmclaren.com.

Benjamin Harrison Walby

May 1, 2001 – April 4, 2004

Benjamin Harrison Walby, a beloved son, brother, and friend, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at the age of 22. His departure has left a void in the hearts of all who had the pleasure of knowing him.



BENJAMIN HARRISON WALBY

Born to David and Patricia (Dantzer) Walby on May 1, 2001, in West Branch, Ben was a beacon of kindness and adventure. He lived a life filled with passion for board games, nature, geocaching, and helping others whenever he could. Every morning he'd get up and play with his cat, Mike, with her special string. Later, he'd set up the heated blanket for her to sit on or make caves for her to curl up in, whatever Mike wanted.

Ben's love for board games was infectious. Family gatherings were synonymous with marathon gaming sessions curated by Ben himself. Patiently explaining the rules to all while occasionally feigning annoyance at their forgetfulness brought joy to those around him. Even when the family couldn't all be there in person, he'd set everyone up to play online games together. His dedication to helping others extended beyond games; whether assisting Adrienne with AP Comp Sci or troubleshooting technical issues late into the night, Ben was always there with unwavering support.

In his pursuit of adventure, Ben tried out any and everything from spelunking to snowboarding. His friends and family knew to invite Ben to anything involving the outdoors, especially if it involved trying something new.

As a valedictorian of the Ogemaw Heights High School Class of 2020 and a student on the dean's list at Michigan Technological University, Ben's

academic achievements were only surpassed by his unwavering commitment to those he cared for.

Survived by his parents Dave and Patty Walby of West Branch; siblings Zachary Walby of Grand Rapids, Kelby Walby, Madison Walby, and Adrienne Walby,

all of West Branch; girlfriend Alyssa; his beloved cat, Mike; grandmother Mildred Walby of St. Clair Shores; along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins - Ben leaves behind a legacy of love and compassion that will be forever cherished.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Leonard Walby and Adrian & Maxine Dantzer, and uncles Jerry Dantzer and Stephen Walby.

Visitation will begin at Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch on Friday, April 19, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a rosary at 4 p.m. Services to celebrate Ben's remarkable life will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in West Branch on Saturday, April 20, starting with visitation at 10 a.m. followed by a Memorial Service at 11 a.m. Father Emmanuel Finbarr will officiate.

In honor of Ben's memory - a soul who touched countless lives with his generosity and spirit - may we find solace in our treasured memories as we bid farewell to a remarkable individual who will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Memorial contributions can be made to a scholarship fund set up in Ben's memory. Checks can be made payable to Benjamin Harrison Walby Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Arrangements were handled by Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch. www.steuernolmclaren.com.

MyMichigan's Erickson Appointed to Lead Future Saginaw, Tawas, Standish Locations

MIDLAND, Mich. – MyMichigan Health has named Mike Erickson to lead its future Medical Center locations in Saginaw, Tawas and Standish. This appointment follows the health system's announcement in late March that Michigan Ascension's Northern Region would become part of MyMichigan Health. Erickson is the current president of MyMichigan Medical Center Alpena.



MIKE ERICKSON

"Mike is simply the perfect fit for this opportunity. Not only does he have an impressive background in the health care industry, but he is someone who knows how to build trust and forge relationships. And, that means something," said Lydia Watson, M.D., president and CEO of MyMichigan Health. "Mike has such a profound passion to ensure patients and their families receive outstanding care and an excellent experience. He wears that passion on his sleeve. He will in no doubt hit the ground running in this role with an energy to meet and learn from all those he encounters."

Ascension St. Mary's of Saginaw, a 268-bed acute care inpatient facility; Ascension

St. Mary's Towne Center, an ambulatory surgery center, wound care center, emergency department and short stay unit facility; Ascension St. Joseph in Tawas, a 47-bed acute inpatient facility, and Ascension St. Mary's of Standish, a 25-bed critical access hospital and 29-bed skilled nursing facility will join MyMichigan Health. This also includes all related sites of care and related physician practices of Ascension Medical Group.

"It is such a great honor to be selected to not only lead but work alongside and get to know the staff, health care providers, volunteers and communities of Saginaw, Tawas and Standish," said Erickson. "I am very much looking forward to partnering together to do all we can to provide access to and positively impact the health of our communities."

Erickson has served as president of the Medical Center in Alpena since 2022. He began his career with MyMichigan Health in 2008 as the system vice president support services.

He then transitioned in 2021 to system vice president professional services where he was accountable for oversight, vision and leading the strategic direction for professional services across the health system.

With an extensive history of serving on local boards and councils, Erickson holds a master's degree in business administration and a master's degree in technology management, both from the University of Maryland. He also earned a bachelor's degree in management studies from the same university. He has been certified in facilities management. Erickson is married to his wife Annmarie and they have four children.

MyMichigan's transaction with Michigan Ascension's Northern Region is expected to close this summer, subject to regulatory and other required third-party approvals. Until that time, Ascension Michigan's northern locations and MyMichigan Health will continue to operate independently.

Those interested in more information on MyMichigan Health may visit www.mymichigan.org or Ascension may visit www.healthcare.ascension.org

Ogemaw County & Hale Area
SUPERIOR NEWS

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MSU Extension to offer virtual series for early childhood trainings

EAST LANSING, Mich. - The early childhood education staff of Michigan State University Extension is offering an online training opportunity for early childhood professionals called Building Early Emotional Skills (BEES) for Early Childhood Professionals. BEES is an opportunity to learn more about how children develop important social emotional skills, and how you can help them learn to understand and express their emotions appropriately. The class will focus on dealing with your stress as a caregiver and handling tantrums, biting and other challenging behaviors of young children. We will learn about the important role you play in helping

young children feel safe and secure as they learn to navigate their strong emotions.

The series is free and is done entirely online. It is an approved MiRegistry training for 8-training hours upon successful completion of the series. There is no cost for the training and all materials are provided digitally.

Registration runs from April 8 – April 21, pre-registration is required.

The series runs from April 15 – June 14, 2024.

For more information or to register for BEES, visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/building_early_emotional_skills_in_young_children/online-program-for-professionals

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Ogemaw County Business and Community Expo and Job Fair



West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce representatives Alli VanGoethem, executive director Heather Neuhaus and Samantha Defour.



Paul Lucynski owner of Lucynski Services.

Photos by Michael Busch and Kathy Collins.

The 2024 Ogemaw County Business Community Expo and Job Fair was held at Ogemaw Heights High School on March 26. The fair was well attended. Several local businesses and non-profit organizations set up booths and were available to answer questions from the public and job applicants.



Pam Yanoski and Amanda Rashotte, Sterling Area Health Center 2.



Ogemaw Heights High School Superintendent Gail Hughey and student Aaliyah Dantzer.

Reserve your spot in Mills Township Community Garden

BY LAURA BENDER

Do you like to garden? The Mills Township Community Garden, in Newman Park, is starting its third year under the leadership of Sue Boom.

Sue said, "It's almost time to prepare for this year's planting. We already have eight residents who have claimed spots for their vegetables and flowers. We have space for 12 more."

In 2022, Sue approached the Mills Township board and the Ogemaw County Commissioner, Charlie Wiltse, for permission to establish a community garden. The first year, several enthusiastic gardeners planted in the allotted area of Newman Park. Their efforts thrilled the local wildlife, who ate most of what they grew.

Undaunted, Sue asked the community for funds to buy cyclone fencing to keep out the critters. In 2023, a generous local donor paid for an eight-foot fence, and area residents worked together to erect it. The gardeners grew so much produce they were able to feed not only their own families and neighbors but also to donate excess vegetables to the food bank at St. Stephens. In addition, many gave vegetables to Skidway Lake Library for distribution.

Sue said, "The community garden is a place for kindness, teamwork and stewardship. Our goal is to provide gardening space in an accessible location."

No stranger to gardening, Sue grew up on a farm in Richmond, Mich., and participated in 4-H for nine years. For 34 years, Sue worked as a physical therapy



Photo from last year's gardens.

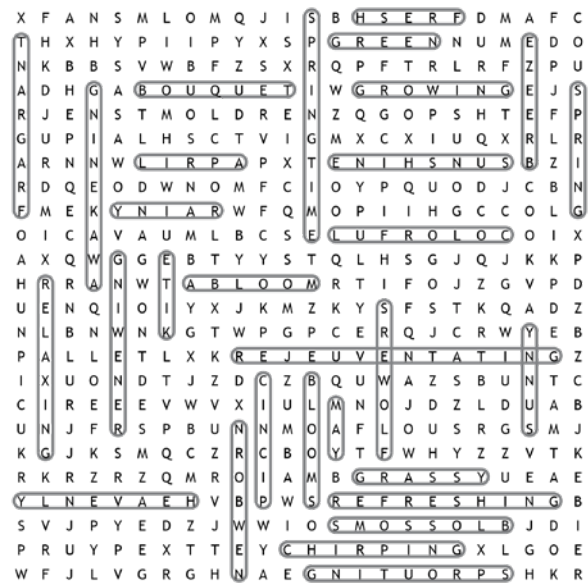
assistant at Ascension St. Joseph Hospital in Tawas City. A Desert Storm veteran, Sue also served in the National Guard's 144th MP Company for ten years. Retired from both, she is now a part time massage therapist at D.E. Greene Family Chiropractic, leaving her time to pursue her passion for gardening. Thanks to Sue's dedication and hard work, other members of the community have the opportunity to enjoy it, too.

If you would like to join Sue at the Mills Township Community Garden, call her at 989-387-4091. Plots are available at no cost to area residents. There are three sizes: 30 x 20, 15 x 20, and 10 x 15. Gardeners must take care of

the plot they claim and may not sell anything they produce. The entrance to Newman Park is on East Greenwood Road, on the left, just past St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church. For more information or to see photos from last year's gardens visit <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083196225607>

On April 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., local gardeners are also invited to help spruce up the flower beds around the Skidway Chamber of Commerce Building, 2777 Greenwood Rd., Prescott. If you would like to help, please bring gloves, pruning shears, shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Contact Sue Boom.

Spring



rejuvenating
refreshing
springtime
awakening
sprouting
blossoms
chirping
colorful
fragrant
heavenly
relaxing
renewing
sunshine
bouquet
flowers
growing
newborn
abloom
blooms
breeze
grassy
picnic
spring
April
fresh
green
rainy
sunny
kite
May



Puzzle on page 12.

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Public Notices and Meetings

CITY OF ROSE CITY REGULAR MEETING March 5, 2024

Mayor Jeremy Card called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:03 p.m. on March 5, 2024.

Present: Daniel McQuarrie, Scott Hamel, Kristina Danforth, Brent Hinkley.

Absent: Christopher Hebert- excused, Jenny Bentley - excused.

Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, DPW Supervisor Chase Wiltse, Deputy Clerk April Kangas, Theresa Erickson, Amy Hensel, Emily Wiltse, Ramona Huizar, Mary Florian, Nicole Pennell.

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

A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mrs. Danforth to approve the Minutes for the February 20, 2024 Regular Rose City Council Meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Danforth to pay bills as presented, in the amounts of \$9712.20 from the Common Cash Account, and \$0 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Daniel McQuarrie, Kristina Danforth, Scott Hamel, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

April Kangas gave a Farmer's Market Report.

Chase Wiltse gave a DPW Report.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to purchase a brush attachment for the Grasshopper, in the amount of \$7700.00. Ayes: Brent Hinkley, Scott Hamel, Kristina Danforth, Daniel McQuarrie. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Carol Butler gave a Treasurer's Report.

Jennifer Hurley gave Clerk's Report.

Jeremy Card gave Mayor's comments.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Danforth to accept the letter of resignation from Jennifer Bentley. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to participate in the Rose City Lions Flag Display. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to approve the Red, White and Blue Banner Festival Application. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to provide a match up to 25% for the USDA grant for the DPW plow truck, if accepted. Ayes: Daniel McQuarrie, Kristina Danforth, Scott Hamel, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Danforth to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CITY OF ROSE CITY REGULAR MEETING March 19, 2024

Mayor Jeremy Card called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on March 19, 2024.

Present: Daniel McQuarrie, Kristina Danforth, Scott Hamel, Christopher Hebert, Brent Hinkley.

Absent: None

Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, DPW Supervisor Chase Wiltse, Deputy Clerk April Kangas, County Commissioner Roger Mayhew, Theresa Erickson, Amy Hensel, Ramona Huizar, Michael Samples, Don Graves.

A Motion made by Mrs. Danforth and seconded by Mr. Hinkley 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 March 5, 2024 Public Hearing Meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mrs. Danforth and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to approve the Minutes for the March 5, 2024 Regular Rose City Council Meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mrs. Danforth and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to pay bills as presented, in the amounts of \$4860.07 from the Common Cash Account, and \$956.42 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Daniel McQuarrie, Kristina Danforth, Scott Hamel, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Scott Hamel gave a Town Hall Report with Mike Hoadley present.

Kristina Danforth gave a Library Board Report.

Brent Hinkley gave a Fire Board Report.

Theresa Erickson gave a DDA/Planning Report.

Theresa Erickson gave a EDC Report.

Roger Mayhew gave a County Commissioner Report.

Chase Wiltse gave a DPW Report.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to purchase a Paint Sprayer with Extension Wand, up to \$720.00. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Carol Butler gave a Treasurer's Report.

Jennifer Hurley gave Clerk's Report.

The City received a grant from the Great Lakes Loons for \$1000.00, to go toward the repair of the Cleveland Ball Field Fence.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hebert to purchase a new upgrade in Quickbooks Software in the amount of \$649.00/desktop, \$550.00/payroll, plus \$6.00 per employee. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

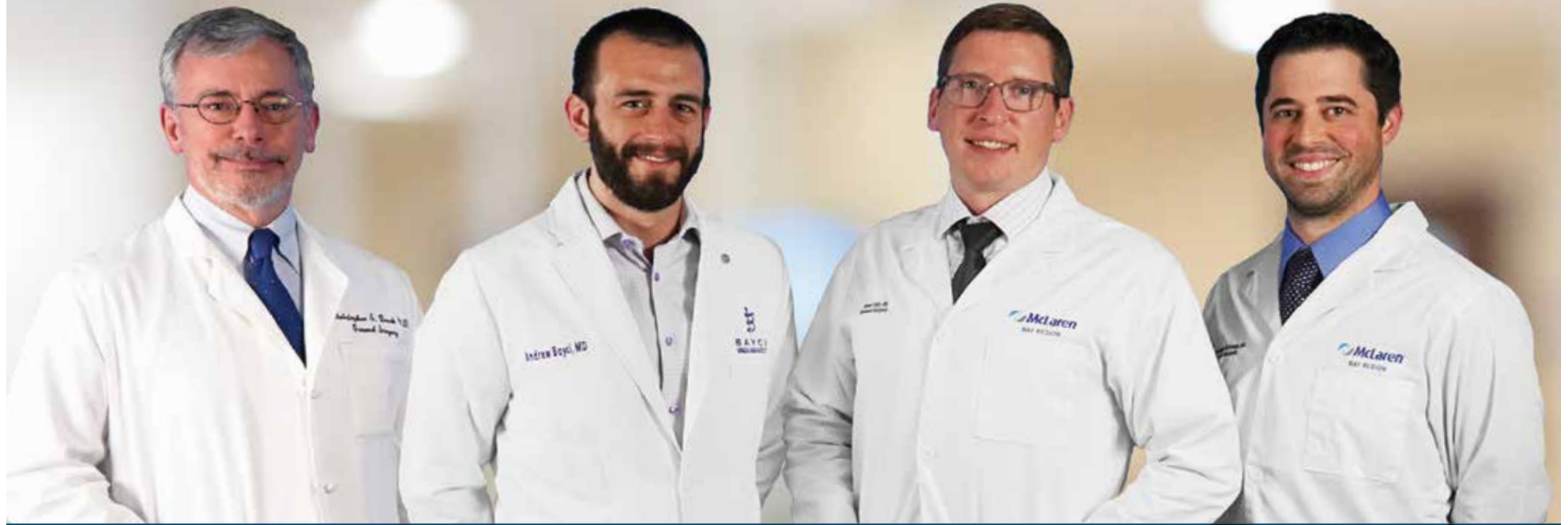
Jeremy Card gave Mayor's comments.

Jeremy Card gave a Report regarding the progress to the Sanback Dam Project.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Danforth to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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