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Ogemaw County celebrates Independence Day weekend



Photo by Paul Koning

Photo by Laura Bender

It was a very festive Fourth of July weekend in Ogemaw County. Parades and fireworks displays were held in West Branch, Rose City and Skidway Lake, to the delight of residents young and old. Pictured left above, fireworks lit up the sky over Lake Ogemaw. Pictured right above, the newly named 2025 Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year Randy Huyck was honored at the various parades. For more photos, see pages 8 and 9.

Kenyon's Lakeside Resort receives the 2025 'Preserve Our Heritage Award'

BY LAURA BENDER
 The 2025 Preserve Our Heritage Award was given to Joe and MJ Vicari, owners of Kenyon's Lakeside Resort, on July 4, following the parade in Rose City.



Courtesy photo

MJ and Joe Vicari, owners of Kenyon's Lakeside Resort, receive the 2025 Preserve Our Heritage Award from Lois Bergquist.

Representing the Ogemaw Genealogical and Historical Society, Lois Bergquist presented the award with appreciation for the Vacari's outstanding effort and dedication to preserving a unique piece of Ogemaw County's history.

"Joe and MJ have been continuing the work on restoring Kenyon's Lakeside Resort and keeping its 130 plus years alive," Lois said. "This is what the Preserve Our Heritage Award is all about."

Established by Charles Kenyon in 1903, during the Prohibition era (1920-1933) Kenyon's Lakeside Resort became a favorite hide-out for the notorious "Purple Gang," an organized crime syndicate of immigrants from Detroit's lower

east side. The Purple Gang got their start by hijacking smuggled Canadian liquor for Al Capone but quickly moved on to control all of Detroit's underworld, including the gambling, liquor and drug trade until their demise in 1935.

When previous Kenyon's owner Barb Goodboo renovated the building, she found secret passageways, stairs, trapdoors and tunnels not found on the blueprints. She even discovered a crate of unopened 1920s bootlegged booze. Fascinated by this history, she often held gangster parties, providing guests with fedoras and zoot suits to wear to enhance the atmosphere. Before her untimely death, Barb created several videos about the history of Kenyon's. Google "The Legend and Lore of Kenyon's Resort, Lupton" to see one created by Michigan Magazine.

When Kenyon's Lakeside Resort, on picturesque Sage Lake, reopened on Memorial Day weekend in 2022, residents were

AWARD continues on page 12 »

Pioneer Power Days returns for the 32nd year

BY LAURA BENDER
 The Pioneer Power Antique Tractor and Gas Engine Club, founded in 1993, will hold its annual show from Thursday, July 17, to Sunday, July 20.



File Photo

9 a.m. church service.

Admission is \$5 for adults and free for kids, 12 and under. There are still a few spaces for flea market vendors and arts and crafts people. For more information, contact Gloria at 419-681-3829 or Rick 989-884-3112.





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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 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 post-vention. Call 989-345-5571.

Monday – (Third of each month, April-Dec.) **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. My-Michigan 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.

12, noon, Logan Township Hall, 4507 E. M-55, Prescott. For more information, contact Lois Bergquist at 989-915-8597.

July 13

Fun in the Sun, sponsored by the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake, Sunday, July 13, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Elbow Lake Park.

July 16

Golf for Life, sponsored by the Life Choices Resource Center, Wednesday, July 16, Nightmare Golf Course, 5745 Old 76 (M-55) West Branch. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m., \$90 per person.

July 19

Wildlife EXPO, hosted by The A.R.K. Association to Rescue Kritters, Saturday, July 19, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the grounds between the Houghton Lake Library and Bobcat Stadium. During this free event, learn about wildlife rehabilitation and how to co-exist with our wildlife neighbors. Many activities for kids. Please no pets. For more information, call 989-329-2334.

To place your event in the Community Happenings, email information to deanna@superior-news.com

FAITH & WORSHIP

God is love

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
—Romans 8:37-39 NIV

God is love. And He loves us all no matter where we are in life. God’s love is unconditional. God’s love is without limit. God loves us so much and his love is so deep that nothing can change his love or stop him from loving us.

God loves us in all seasons of life. God loves us every second of everyday. God loves us. God’s love is permanent. God’s love can never fade away.

God loves us and because of his love he cares for us. God Himself his love. God is full of love.

When I am waking up it’s God loving me, God loves me in every situation and his love is always present in our lives. Even when I am not feeling well, his love is still there and yes I am not feeling well but that does not stop God from loving me, God does not want me to be in pain but his love is present to heal me of the pain. When I feel disappointed God loves me.

When I have failed God loves me. We need to start believing and accepting that God is love and he loves us deeply.

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Sunday Evening Service - 6 p.m.

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Groups meet at the Faith Alive Event Center
601 Progress st.
West Branch MI. 48661
At 6:00-7:30 PM on Thursday nights.
Hope to see you there!



faith alive

Love God. Love Others. Serve the World.

Local Medicare assistance available

BY LAURA BENDER

If you are about to turn 65 and run out of wood for your firepit, you can always use your enormous stack of Medicare Advantage brochures to light the night. But these advertisements don't just come in the mail, they also bombard your television screen and your computer inbox, all claiming their product is the best. So how do you make a good choice for your healthcare future?

Make an appointment with April Zettel, the only certified SHIP counselor in Ogemaw County. Medicare SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) is a free, one-on-one counseling service that provides you with personalized and up-to-date information about Medicare options. A SHIP counselor does not work for an insurance agency, nor do they profit from your enrollment decision. April works at the Ogemaw Commission on Aging and is available year-round to see clients nearing age 65 and older.

"I love my job helping seniors," April said. "It's really important to ensure they make the choices that will best benefit their situation."

Some issues April can assist with include:

- How and when to enroll in Medicare.
- Understanding the different parts of Medicare and what each covers.
- Understanding the differences between Part

D prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Part C plans so you can choose the one right for you.

- How to join or leave a plan.
- What to know if you need a supplemental Medigap plan.
- What out-of-pocket costs you might have with each plan.
- Understanding the eligibility requirements for additional low-income benefits such as Medicare Savings Programs and Extra Help.

Besides helping those nearing 65, April also assists clients who are on disability.

"When a person has been on disability for two years, they are switched to Medicare and the Part B premium is automatically deducted from their check," April said. "This comes as a surprise to some recipients. I can help them find out if they are eligible for a low-income offset of this amount."

Even those who have been on Medicare for many years will benefit from an appointment with April.

"Because needs change over time and plans may change what they cover each year, seniors need to schedule an annual review during the open enrollment period from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, when it is

possible to make a change," April said. "You don't want to find out too late that the medicine you need will no longer be covered by your plan."

In addition to her role as Ogemaw County's certified Medicare SHIP counselor, April assists clients with other concerns from helping them to fill out a form they don't understand to checking their eligibility for home heating and property tax credits. Her pleasant demeanor, love for seniors and knowledgeable professionalism puts her clients at ease so together they can make the best choices among so many often-confusing options.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with April, call 989-345-3010 extension 202 or email special.programs@ogemawcoa.org. The Ogemaw Commission on Aging, 1528 South M-33 in West Branch, provides a wide variety of services and activities for seniors. To learn more about what they offer, visit them online at <https://www.ogemawcoa.org/>, look for a copy of their monthly newsletter, The Senior Observer, at businesses around town, and check for future articles right here in the *Ogemaw County Superior News*.



APRIL ZETTEL

Recent OHHS graduate to serve as Delegate to Girl Scout National Convention

BY LAURA BENDER

Leadership is an art that doesn't just guide individuals and groups toward the accomplishment of a goal, it inspires excellence. Anna Leathorn is such a leader.

A 2025 Ogemaw Heights High School graduate, Anna is preparing to head off to Ferris State University, College of Education in Big Rapids, to pursue her goal of becoming a secondary education teacher. In that role, she will have a lifetime of opportunities to develop and encourage her students in the pursuit of excellence. But Anna hasn't been waiting for credentials to exercise leadership.

"I'm the oldest member of my Girl Scout troop in Rose City," said Anna. My job is to help the younger girls with badges and projects. I encourage them and try to develop them as individuals and as leaders. Also, I'm the one who plans our trips."

In recognition of her efforts, the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Council, which spans 29 counties, has selected Anna to be a delegate to the Girl Scouts of the USA National Convention next summer.

"First, I sent in an application. Then I had to go for an interview," Anna said. "I was asked many questions about my Girl Scout experience, including about badges and activities. Then they asked me how I apply what I have learned in Girls Scouts, especially the Law and the Promise, in my daily life."

For those who are unfamiliar with these tenets, they are:

Girl Scout Promise: On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all

times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law: I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do; and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

One example Anna shared with her interviewers was her experience of recruiting and organizing a team of OHHS students to compete in the Michigan Center for Civic Education Mock Trial Program Regional Tournament. The first year, the team fell short of the required number of participants, but Anna did not give up.

Instead, she spent that year encouraging students she believed would make good teammates. Then she set an ambitious schedule of practices designed to ensure the team would be ready to compete. The result? Anna's teammates, whose successful performance pushed them beyond perceived limits, became the first team to represent not only OHHS in the regional tournament, but all northern Michigan. And the team is eager to compete again.

As the Girl Scout mission states, their goal "is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place." Anna has not only embraced this goal for herself, but she also seeks to instill it in



ANNA LEATHORN

others. This makes her an excellent choice to influence the future of Girl Scouting at next year's National Convention. Congratulations, Anna!

The Girl Scout Convention is a six-day gathering which occurs every three years. It begins with the National Council Session, where delegates from around the country and overseas discuss, then vote on issues important to Girl Scouting, and elect leaders for the next triennium. Following the legislative session, there are interactive workshops, speakers, and once-in-a-lifetime adventures for all in attendance.

If you want to learn more about Girl Scouts, visit <https://www.girlscouts.org> or the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Council <https://www.gshom.org/> for more local information.

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KIWANIS OF
 WEST BRANCH

Our annual 1-2-3 Lottery Winners are picked weekly. We had a lot of fun watching the kids in the bounce houses during the 150-year anniversary event. Fun for all that came. See you in another 50 years.....

Come be a part of our team. The Kiwanis Club meets at noon on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at G's Pizzeria 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.

AKTION CLUB

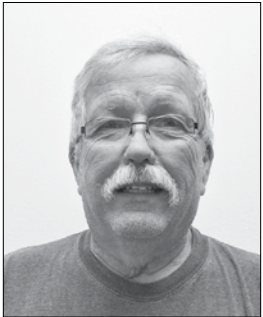
The Aktion Club continues to collect bottles and cans. You can call 315-725-1199 and make arrangements for pick up or drop off locations.

We will also have our annual Carnival on July 19. This year it will be at the parking lot at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads. Watch for the flyers.

It has been a great year for us so far, which means lots of donations going out. We support numerous organizations in Ogemaw County. Those with special needs interested in joining our club, come



Kiwanis
 CORNER



DENNY SHUMWAY

on the second Wednesday of the month at noon at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads.

OGE MAW
 COUNTY
 FOOD PANTRY

We are always accepting donations of food or money to help us with the influx of families. You can add to your grocery bill at Meijer

Store with card found at the checkouts or customer service. We will take donations every Wednesday of the month from 8:30 to 11 a.m. We are located in the outreach building 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 are open every Wednesday from 9-11am or until we run out of food. Families can come once a month. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FOOD TRUCK

The monthly food truck will be at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads on Aug. 22. Line-up at 9 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. There will not be a food truck in July.

Heartfelt thank you to
 2 Scoops & Holy Grounds

BY SALLY A. REA

My story for this time will come out after we have had our "Ice Cream Social," as our paper comes out every two weeks.

When attending the meeting for the upcoming 150th Birthday of the city of West Branch, I was asked if our Ogemaw County Historical Society and Museum would like to do an "Ice Cream Social."

I had no idea at all what was involved in putting this event together. So of course, I said yes. First, I got a group of ladies to be a team: Amy Winter, Ann South, Pat Sciotti, LuAnn Zettle and myself. Sally Drabek suggested that I call Stephanie Symons of 2 Scoops & Holy Grounds. Secondly, I called Stephanie and asked her if she could guide us through the steps for an "Ice Cream Social."

I told her we would buy from her what items we needed to purchase. After meeting with

Stephanie several times, she offered to be our "sponsor" for our event. She offered to furnish all the ice cream, syrups, and sprinkles. She would scoop 100 servings of vanilla ice cream into plastic bowls with lids that snapped on. She also would provide a freezer to store the ice cream in. All we needed to provide was napkins, spoons, whipped cream, tables and chairs.

Dan and Sandy Needham, along with their granddaughter, Violet, handed out the packaged ice cream and then the visitors went to a second table for the toppings and sprinkles. Pat and myself personally put the toppings and sprinkles on the ice cream.

During the "Ice Cream Social" our museum was open. On the front porch, Jan Hasty and Kathy Kruch played my old 45 records going back to my high school days. The old record player we used was donated many years ago by Saint Joseph Catholic School



SALLY A. REA
 HISTORIAN AND
 CURATOR

Cardinal Optimist Club hosts 'Fun in
 the Sun' on July 13

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ

One of the advantages of living in northern Michigan is the abundance of recreational lakes in our area for people to enjoy. One such local gem is Elbow Lake in Mills Township.

This picturesque 50-acre lake has a great park which offers many amenities including a boat launch, a well-maintained beach, a covered picnic area, large playground for the kids, and most importantly, clean restrooms. It is precisely due to these features that the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake has once again picked this location as the ideal setting for its annual "Fun in the Sun" event to be

held on July 13, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

This special event has been designed with the entire family in mind. Summer is a time for folks to gather together, have some fun and make lasting memories.

"Planning an event where families can spend quality time connecting with their children is important to our club," said Marty Elkins, event chair. "'Fun in the Sun' may take a bit of planning, but the hard work is well worth it."

Families attending the event can choose from a variety of activities Elbow Lake Park offers. Plus, on this fun-filled day, there

and it worked perfectly. Inside, Lynne Goldy was a greeter for the first shift and self-guided tours were available. Darlene Weinrich was on the second shift and by this time the museum was full of visitors and Darlene even stayed overtime because of the big crowd.

Thanks to our Chairman Ann Southworth for her time and hard work, Ganae' Zettle for the loaning of her table and chairs, thanks to all the people who were passing by when our tent decided to take a hike and helped us take apart and pack it away, which then we had to move onto the porch. A huge THANKS to Stephanie Symons for all of the time she took to make our "Ice Cream Social" so successful with her ice cream and toppings, her time, and most of all her wonderful smile that never quits, her great personality and the love that she showed to all of us. Thanks again 2 Scoops & Holy Grounds Ice Cream business. Your ice cream is the best! Bless you.

Watch for our upcoming Civil War Walks in the Rose City Area coming in September.



LADONNA SCHULTZ

will be organized games, prizes, food, vender booths, give-a-ways, archery, fire trucks to explore, and even temporary tattoos for kids. There is something for everyone to enjoy. The event traditionally ends with a free bike raffle. Not only will some lucky kids take home new bikes, but this year there are tricycles and wagons for the younger kids.

Ultimately, it doesn't matter what activities the families choose to join, as long as everyone is having fun and spending time together. Partaking in and sharing experiences with your kids helps build a strong, long-lasting familial foundation. So, make some fond summer memories with your family and have some "fun in the sun" exploring Elbow Lake Park with your family, compliments of the Cardinal Optimists.

Ogemaw County Superior News

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Publisher

Deanna Surbrook

deanna@superior-news.com

989-482-7695

Marketing & Sales Director

Kathryn Collins

kathy@superior-news.com

989-450-6163

Copy Editor

Nancy McLaughlin

Circulation

Lois Bergquist

Writer

Laura Bender

laura@superior-news.com

Historical Writer

Sally Rea

sallyrea2184@gmail.com

Special Contributors

Jamie Stout-Shirkey

Newspaper Pagination

Emily Reed

Contributors

Denny Shumway,

Peter Fabbri, Philip Durst,

Joe Bell and LaDonna Schultz.

P.O. Box 603

West Branch, MI 48661

Ph. 989-482-7695

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OPTIMIST
 INTERNATIONAL

Optimist Updates

The Optimist Club of West Branch meets every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. Loggers Depot in downtown West Branch hosts our meeting and feeds us a great breakfast with many menu options to choose from. We would love to have you come and join us for breakfast and let us show you what the Optimist Club is working on next to benefit the children of our community and the world.

At our last meeting in June, we had a great roundtable discussion about how life in Michigan has



JOE BELL
 PRESIDENT

changed during the course of our lifetimes. Part of the conversation focused on canning and what an important part of life it was in the mid to late 1900s. Many people presently can vegetables and fruits like strawberry jams and jellies. In my family, we can venison meats and use it to create sandwiches and meals

of venison stew. This stew included homemade egg noodles and was one of our favorite and most requested meals!

Steve Zdon is a newer member who is trying to develop a junior Optimist Club in cooperation with the West Branch-Rose City school system students. Membership in the club helps develop leadership and community service skills. It also teaches the value of the optimistic way of living life, which I have found to be a very worthwhile pursuit.

We close each meeting by reciting the Optimist Creed, part of which states: "Promise yourself to be too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble."

What a great way to approach your life! Bye for now.

Summer's in full swing in downtown WB

BY PETER FABBRI

Many people are rediscovering West Branch in ways they nev-

er have been able to before. There is good reason and West Branch is booming! Allow me to brag about our little town for just a bit.

To get where we are today it took plenty of insight, planning and determination and that's just what our community leaders put into play because of their love for the community.

Irons Park is one of the most beautiful city parks in the state. Actually, it was voted "Best City Park" in a recent TV news poll. With its playground, sports facility, pavilion, plenty of shade and the scenic Rifle River flowing through, it provides many enjoyable moments for all.

Connecting Irons Park to

downtown is the River Trail which has recently been expanded to the north side of town providing a beautiful walk along the river. Many tourists north are finding it a great stop during their travels.

There are several beautiful memorials to be enjoyed along the route, including

the Firemens and Veterans memorials, and a rain garden, located by the Artists Gallery. The beautiful flowers and plants are cared for by several committed local citizens.

Last year's total makeover of the downtown is complete. Now with expanded sidewalks, outside dining at many of the restaurants has been popular. Music fills the streets with the new sound system piped from one end to the other. American flags and banners

create an overhead umbrella enveloping the beautiful potted flowers that adorn the sidewalks. West Branch has a great sense of place. It's a great place to visit and to enjoy with friends and family.

April Russell, a July 4 out-of-town visitor from Lapel, Ind., commented, "The vibrancy of the town is outstanding. It has a good feel and vibe. There are places to go and things to see and I just love West Branch!"

The children love it too.

April's daughter, Carmin, age 11, shared her feelings. "I love the colorful stores and the friendly people and I look forward to coming back with my parents."

The events downtown have been colorful and memorable with car shows, parades and our 150-year sesquicentennial celebration. There is much more to come this summer, so come rediscover West Branch, the friendly City with a Smile!



PETER FABBRI

Following the footsteps of livestock and pioneers in Montana's central foothills

BY PHIL DURST

Through the rolling hills of central Montana, with majestic mountains framing the wide-open fields of wheat ready to cut, we drove, visiting livestock enterprises and the people who run them. We are in Montana for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents annual meeting and professional improvement conference, and we took the opportunity to sign-up for the Animal Science pre-tour June 27 and 28.

Sheep used to be the major livestock in south-central Montana where they would go with a shepherd up into the mountain pastures to graze. They still do, with the shepherd living in a shepherd's wagon, until about October when they come down out of the mountain for the winter.

We visited a museum of the life and accumulations of the Charles Bair family who at one time owned more than 300,000 sheep. He clothed the troops with wool during World War I, and the family foundation continues to produce fine wool, although prices are low. Graduate students from Montana State University (another MSU) talked about their research with wool fiber analysis and livestock tracking units and virtual fencing. The Bair Foundation works closely with the university, providing resources and cooperating on research.

Beef cow-calf operations are now the predominant livestock with a heavy emphasis on Angus, mostly black ones. Grazing in the west can be very extensive, requiring 20 to 60 acres per cow or cow-calf pair. They calve in spring and the calves are sold in the fall, many to be backgrounded before going to a feedlot for finishing. We visited the Judith Bain

Feedyard, a backgrounder that this year will raise 35,000 calves to around 1,000 pounds, gaining 2.25 to 2.5 pound per day, before they are sent north to Calgary to be finished as a "Product of Canada."



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Each day the cattle pens are monitored by cowboys riding the pens on horseback, checking the cattle and moving animals as needed. When we visited Lewiston Livestock Auction, Kyle Shobe, the owner, told us that "true cowboys" are increasingly few. On large ranches, he said, ranch hands ride "Japanese horses with four wheels" to check cattle.

Horse prices have increased steadily, further reducing the opportunity for developing those horsemen and women to work cattle. One stop we made was to Birdtail Ranch, a horse breeder where it was such a beautiful sight to see young colts with their mothers, moving with them like synchronized galloping.

While Montana was one of the original range areas of American bison, they are now pretty well confined to national parks such as Yellowstone and Theodore Roosevelt and private ranches that specialize in raising bison. Some of those are owned by the rich and famous, such as David Letterman and Ted Turner. We visited one ranch, Big Sky Bison, owned not so famously, and were intrigued to learn about the business of raising bison for hunting, meat and tours. We got a glimpse of the entrepreneurship of this individual as he kept looking for ways to add income to the overall business model.

Montana is not just the place where cattle roam, but we saw a

number of pronghorn antelope as well as deer. It is also the home of some of the intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) that form the basis of this country's nuclear deterrence. The bus driver pointed out a couple of sites, then it was easier to spot others as we covered (undisclosed) territory.

A couple of guys named Lewis and Clark also covered this countryside, along with their party of 29 others. They were going up the Missouri River, knowing that falls awaited them at Great Falls, Mont., only to learn there were five falls and the portage around them would be more than 18 miles, mostly uphill, with their large dugout canoes and supplies. We visited the Interpretive Center at Great Falls and learned about their perseverance despite the difficulties as they explored this new land clear through to the Pacific Ocean.

Water is supreme in the west. The melting of the winter snowpack in the mountains provides water for irrigation downhill for miles. One ranch owner teamed up with two partners, one of whom has small hydroelectric projects around the world, to make use of 126 feet of drop to power a turbine and generate electricity. If water would flow all year, he said, it would be a gold mine, but as it only lasts three to five months, it is paying back the investment in 12 years.

Attending this national conference, seeing colleagues that I've come to know over the years and the ones I meet each year, is a special time. It is a time of learning much, experiencing and seeing things that challenge my assumptions or the way I've thought they were to be done. Knowledge is an investment for the future, to use and to share freely. It's good to be west, but I'll look forward to returning to Northeast Michigan again.

Obituaries

Joan Rosetta Curtis Sept. 22, 1932 – June 26, 2025



Joan Rosetta Curtis, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at the age of 92, in West Branch, Mich. She was born on Sept. 22, 1932, to William and Rosetta (Walter) Illig in Edwards Township, West Branch.

Joan graduated from St. Joseph School in West Branch. She married Glen Curtis in 1952, and they had four children.

Joan dedicated many years of her career as an office manager at State Farm Insurance working for her husband for 26 years. Once Glen retired, she worked in the Standish office for her brother, Ken Illig, until he passed away. Joan then went to work at Cooley Department Store in West Branch until they closed.

In addition to her professional life, she was an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, demonstrating her faith through participation in various church activities. She volunteered at Tolfree Memorial Hospital for 15 years, Red Cross blood drives, chairman for Kiwanis dinners, and helping with dinners for weddings and funeral luncheons.

A passionate knitter, Joan was deeply involved in her community through 4-H Knitting, serving as a knitting instructor and inspiring many with her skills. Joan also enjoyed making Christmas wreaths and blankets, using her talents to create beautiful items that brought joy to her family and friends.

Joan is survived by her children, Randy (Mary Jo) Curtis, Glenda (Donald) Rogers, Ron Curtis, and Rick (Brandy) Curtis;

her grandchildren, Ryan (Jen Blair) Curtis, Ashley (Kevin) Tarras, Reggie Curtis, Allison (Roger) Lockshier, Tony Curtis, Alyssa (Taner) Wood, Haley Curtis, and Hannah Wenkel; and great-grandchildren, Desmond, Esme, Liam, Lyla, Aaron, Mallorie, Kenneth, Andrew, Lucas, Sophie, and Jude.

She is also survived by her siblings, Gerald "Chum" Illig, Geraldine Klann, Rose Marie (Roger) Detzler, and Mary Ann (Roy) Benjamin, and many nieces and nephews who will carry on her memory with love.

Joan was preceded in death by her husband, Glen Curtis; her parents, William and Rosetta (Walter) Illig; brothers, Walter (Janice), Ken (Annie), and Jerome (Florence); sisters Delores (Vern) Wangler and Alice Bartels. She was also preceded by several stepsisters, Virginia Schaefer, Melva Goldy, and Bea Kartes, and stepbrothers Ty Green, Vern Green, and Frank "Sonny" Green Jr. Additionally, she was preceded in death by her brother-in-law, John Klann, and sister-in-law, Lorraine Illig.

Visitation at Steuermol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch was held on Sunday, June 29. The funeral service was Monday, June 30, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in West Branch at 11:00 a.m. Father Al Pillarelli officiated and burial was at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to Compassus Hospice and U of M Organ Transplant.

Online condolences can be shared at www.steuernolmclaren.com.

Letter to the editor policy

The Ogemaw County 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 deanna@superior-news.com or by traditional mail to P.O. Box 603, West Branch, MI 48661.

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Ogemaw County
SUPERIOR NEWS

West Branch Little League presents annual awards



Little League players, coaches and fans gathered Thursday, June 26, to celebrate with this year's award winners. The 2025 Players of the Year are: Johnathan Biggs (Minor Baseball); Lucas Wakeman (Major BB); Conner Mrozinski (Junior BB); Hazel Hyde (Minor Softball); Adelynn Swanson (Major SB). The Sportsmen of the Year are Joel Parliament (Minor BB); Tayan Wangler (Major BB); Colton Swartz (Junior BB); Kadence Palm (Minor SB); Kate Dukaj (Major SB). The Coach of Year is Dustin Neubecker. Some award winners were not present for the photo.

Pictured (l-r) Dustin Neubecker, Colton Schwartz, Lucas Wakeman, Joel Parliament, Johnathan Biggs, Hazel Hyde and Adelynn Swanson.

Courtesy photo

Thank You

For providing us with all the ice cream and the toppings. We appreciate your generosity.

MyMichigan West Branch receives safety award

MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma, Alpena and West Branch were three of 13 hospitals honored with a 2025 Hospital Patient Safety Award by the Economic Alliance for Michigan (EAM). The award recognizes hospitals in Michigan consistently performing high marks and improvements in patient safety and quality of care. Hospitals can achieve two different awards, the Excellence Award and the Improvement Award. The three MyMichigan Medical Center locations received the Improvement Award.

“Receiving this recognition is not only a significant achievement for our Medical Centers but also for the communities we serve,” said Kay Wagner, D.H.A., M.S.N., R.N., vice president and chief quality officer, MyMichigan Health. “It really does reiterate the collective effort of our health care teams who work tirelessly to uphold the highest safety standards, shows our dedication to continuous improvement and ability to adapt and implement effective safety measures. More importantly, it assures our patients and their families that their well-being is and remains our top priority.”

To be considered for an award, hospitals must have participated in the 2024 Leapfrog Hospital Survey, demonstrating the hospital’s commitment to transparency.

The Leapfrog Group is the nation’s premier advocate of transparency in health care—collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data to inform value-based purchasing and improved decision-making.

Hospitals receiving the Improvement Award participated in the annual Leapfrog Group survey and demonstrated improvement in letter grades for four consecutive grading terms with Hospital Safety Grade (Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024). During the four terms, the grades must not trend backwards. The last term grade (Fall 2024) must be at least a “B” to qualify, and hospitals must improve by two letter grades during the four terms.

“Increased hospital patient safety contributes to lowering the cost of health care. Employers, patients and their families are often responsible for the costs that occur when an adverse event happens during a hospital stay – creating a preventable financial burden,” said Bret Jackson, EAM President. “Congratulations to the hospitals who earned an award this year. Your prioritization of patient safety is appreciated and one that all hospitals should invest time in.”

Those interested in more information on the EAM Hospital Patient Safety Awards may visit: www.eamonline.org

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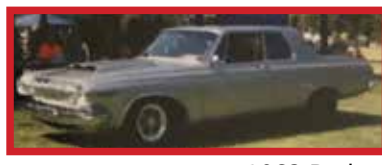
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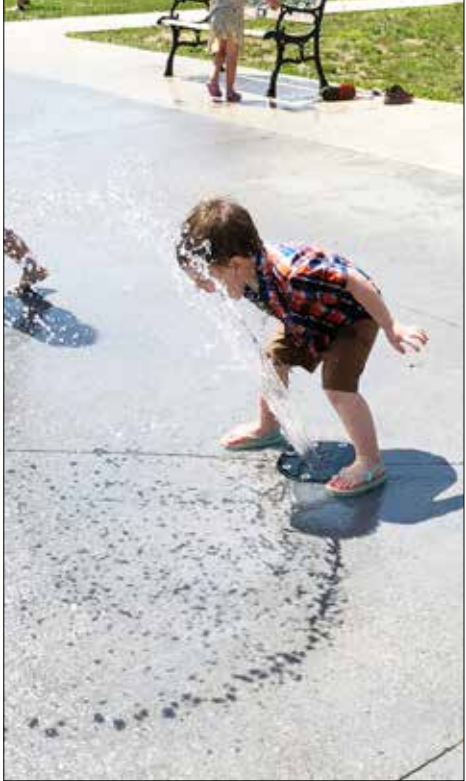
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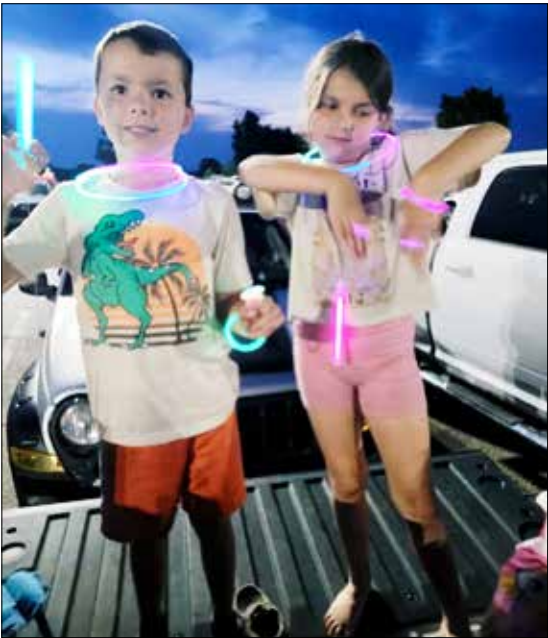
A festive Fourth of July weekend in Ogemaw County



Courtesy photo
Raelynn McCully, 7, waiting for the Skidway Lake parade to begin.



Courtesy photo
Hayley and Lydia Cooper of West Branch are ready to celebrate.



Courtesy photo
Jensen and Abby Maxwell waiting for the West Branch fireworks to begin.





Photos by Laura Bender and Kathy Collins



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The Villa of West Branch & Rose City
West Branch Creative Arts Association
West Branch Rose City Schools

And a big thank you to the folks that provided entertainment: Erin & Nathan Resteiner, Moonwalk Man bounce houses, Jackpine Lumberjack Shows, Northern Blend Chorus, Carol Ann's Dance Studio, Will & Kat, and Delilah DeWylde.

Mid Michigan Writers group holds workshop



Photo by Ken Anderson

The Mid Michigan Writers gathered in West Branch for their annual workshop on July 28. During the morning session, Ty Black provided an overview of self-publishing through Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing. After lunch, Karen Reasoner presented a workshop called Using ChatGPT in Writing. To learn more about Mid Michigan Writers, visit <https://www.facebook.com/midmichwritersinc>. The group meets from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every second and fourth Monday at West Branch Public Library. Pictured in the first row (l-r) Chris Lucka, Nancy Renko, Marylou Bugh; second row Nancy Low, Ken Stephenson, Laura Bender; third row Lucas Gordon, Tyrone Black, Jim Kitch and Karen Reasoner.

Disability Network Mid-Michigan hosts event

Disability Network Mid-Michigan (DNMM) is hosting a free community event on Wednesday, July 16, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Haitheco Park in Saginaw. This event celebrates the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) being signed into law.

The event features games and accessible recreation, sponsored by DTE, food vendors, and live music from Stone Street Revival, sponsored by Meijer. Local resources and community organizations will have vendor booths providing information about the services they provide. Throughout the park, attendees will notice signs and banners detailing the history of the ADA and describing how its passage has impacted the lives of people with disabilities.

Disability Network Mid-Michigan serves 12 counties and is thrilled to host this annual celebration in Saginaw this year. The event is free of charge and open to the public. The first 400 attendees will receive free food vouchers.

“As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we recognize both how far we’ve come and how much work remains,” said Kelly PeLong, Executive Director of Disability Network Mid-Michigan. “At a time when hard-won civil rights are being challenged across the country, this anniversary reminds us of the power of advocacy, community and persistence. We’re proud to stand with our community to honor this landmark legislation and to recommit ourselves to the ongoing fight for full inclusion, access, and equity for all people with disabilities.”

A federally funded Center for Independent Living, DNMM provides an array of services to people of all ages with many types of disabilities. DNMM is dedicated to creating accessible and inclusive communities and to promoting independence for all people with disabilities. You can reach Disability Network Mid-Michigan at 989-835-4041 or at dnmm.org.



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WANGLER, TAGEL
WILLIAMS, ADRIYANNA
WINTER, MACKENZIE

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BEDTELYON, TREY
BIERMANN, KAYLEE
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BREWER, SAGE
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MyMichigan nurses receive DAISY Award for excellence

Nurses across MyMichigan Health were recently honored with The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses®. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation’s mission to recognize the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care they provide patients and families every day.

Those receiving the award were: Nicole Moline, R.N., MyMichigan Medical Center Alma; Shelley Cooke, R.N., MyMichigan Medical Center Alpena; Alison Kosiara, R.N., MyMichigan Medical Center Clare; Nick King, R.N., MyMichigan Medical Center Gladwin; Elisha Gatten, R.N., MyMichigan Home Care Hospice; Terry Hilliard, R.N., MyMichigan Medical Center Midland; Katie Dore, R.N.; Jordan Wilga, R.N., MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw; Elena Rasaiyah, R.N., MyMichigan Medical Center Sault; Kelly Mackenzie, R.N., MyMichigan Medical Center Standish; Rachel Holmstrom, R.N., MyMichigan Medical Center Tawas, and Lisa Awrey, R.N., MyMichigan Medical Center West Branch.

“We continue to be proud to participate in the DAISY Award program,” said Marissa Palmer, D.N.P., R.N., system vice president of nursing services, MyMichigan Health. “Nurses go above and beyond every day. In fact, it’s the quiet moments of healing when the extraordinary compassion of a nurse shines brighter than any accolade. We’re so proud of all our nurses and it is important they know their work is highly valued. The DAISY Foundation provides a way for us to do that.”

Nurses are nominated for a DAISY Award by patients or their family members, fellow nurses,

staff, volunteers, health care providers or other personnel. Award recipients are chosen by a committee at MyMichigan Health to receive the DAISY Award. Awards are presented twice a year, in November and May, at a celebration attended by the nurse’s colleagues and nominator. Each honoree receives a certificate commending him or her as an ‘Extraordinary Nurse,’ a DAISY Award pin and a meaningful sculpture called A Healer’s Touch, hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Zimbabwe.

The DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Foundation is a non-profit organization, established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes by members of his family. Barnes died at the age of 33 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little-known but not uncommon autoimmune disease. The care Barnes and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and families.

“When Patrick was critically ill, our family experienced firsthand the remarkable skill and care nurses provide patients every day and night,” said Bonnie Barnes, co-founder of the DAISY Foundation. “Yet these unsung heroes are seldom recognized for the super-human, extraordinary, compassionate work they do. The kind of work the nurses at MyMichigan Health are called on to do every day epitomizes the purpose of the DAISY Award.”

Those who would like to learn more about the DAISY Award, or who would like to nominate a nurse, may visit www.mymichigan.org/daisy.



Courtesy photo
Lisa Awrey, R.N., MyMichigan Medical Center West Branch, (center with flowers) was one of 12 nurses across the MyMichigan Health system recently honored with The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses®.

Summer Fun

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| staying up late | hershey park | disney land | schools out | sunshine |
| vacation | campfire | barbeque | swimming | starfish |
| seashell | relaxing | friends | camping | running |
| movies | family | travel | summer | smores |
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see answers on page 12

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Public Hearings and Notices

CITY OF ROSE CITY
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 3, 2025

Mayor Michael Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on June 3, 2025.
Present: Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley.
Absent: None
Others present: City Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, Amy Hensel, Nicole Pennell, Kristen, Rhonda Copeland, Autumn Benjiman, Cody Curley, Carole Dallas, Mary Jane Schnautz.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Evans 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 May 20, 2025 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 \$ 8,543.62 from the Common Cash Account and \$458.40 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Scott Hamel, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Brent gave a Personnel Committee Report.
Scott gave a Compensation Committee Report.
Matt gave a DPW report.
Carol Lee Butler gave a Treasurers Report.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to sign the Interlocal Agreement. Ayes: Brent Hinkley, Ashley Herrick, Scott Hamel, Claire Myers, Don Freeman, Anthony Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Evans to hire Cody Curley as the DPW Supervisor. Ayes: Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Clair Myers, Scott Hamel, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve wages for 2025-2026. Ayes: Brent Hinkley, Ashley Herrick, Scott Hamel, Claire Myers, Don Freeman, Anthony Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mr. Evans to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CITY OF ROSE CITY
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 17, 2025

Mayor Protem Scott Hamel called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on June 17, 2025.
Present: Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley.
Absent: Michael Samples - excused
Others present: City Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, Interim DPW Supervisor Matt Lawrence, Police Chief Allen Muma, Amy Hensel, Nicole Pennell, Theresa Erickson and Kathy Curtis.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the Agenda. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Freeman to approve the Minutes for the June 3, 2025 Regular Rose City Council Meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Evans to pay bills as presented, in the amounts of \$11,850.52 from the Common Cash Account and \$1,108.27 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Claire Myers gave a Library Meeting Report.
Claire Myers gave a 4th of July Committee Report.
Ashley Herrick gave a Festivals & Events Committee Report.
Tony Evans gave a Fireboard Report.
Theresa Erickson gave a DDA/Planning Report.
Theresa Erickson gave an EDC Report.
Matt Lawrence gave a DPW report.
Allen Muma gave a Police Report.
Carol Lee Butler gave a Treasurers Report.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the 2025 Tax Role Request. Ayes: Brent Hinkley, Ashley Herrick, Claire Myers, Don Freeman, Anthony Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Myers to accept the 2025 Tax Rate Request for COOR ISD. Ayes: Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Clair Myers, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt the FY 2025/26 Budget. Ayes: Brent Hinkley, Ashley Herrick, Claire Myers, Don Freeman, Anthony Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Myers to accept April Kangas stepping down as Deputy Clerk. Ayes: Brent Hinkley, Ashley Herrick, Claire Myers, Don Freeman, Anthony Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to accept the appointment of Nicole Pennell to Deputy Clerk. Ayes: Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Clair Myers, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Evans to accept Elected Officials wages for the 2025-26 FY. Ayes: Brent Hinkley, Ashley Herrick, Scott Hamel, Claire Myers, Don Freeman, Anthony Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Kathy Curtis addressed the Council during public comment.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Evans to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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