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Pioneer Power Days steps back in time



Photo by Laura Bender

The 32nd Annual Pioneer Power Show opened on Thursday, July 17, with a flag raising. On display were vintage tractors, gas engines, historic farm and oilfield machinery and antique vehicles. Working exhibits included blacksmithing, a sawmill, wool spinning and other vintage arts. Delicious meals and baked goods were enjoyed in a down-home atmosphere accompanied by local musicians. The daily tractor parade provided a glimpse of the past as participants drove their lovingly preserved antiques. Activities for children and a flea market rounded out the event. See more photos on page 7.

‘Fun in the Sun’ shines on Elbow Lake



Photo by Deanna Surbrook

The annual “Fun in the Sun,” sponsored by the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway, drew about 180 kids to Elbow Lake Park on Sunday, July 13. The day-long event included games, prizes, bike raffles and more. Pictured, Vivian, 10, Ryker 7, Lydia 12 and Adeline, 5, enjoyed a picnic with lunch provided by the club. Afterwards, they had Black Bird Ice Cream for dessert. For more photos, see page 8.

Victorian Art Fair returns to Irons Park in West Branch

BY LAURA BENDER

Join your friends and neighbors in Irons Park on Aug. 9 and 10 for the 45th annual Victorian Art Fair. This juried event, which features original handcrafted items shown by the artists, is not to be missed.

Of the 175 exhibitors, 30 are new this year, providing a mixture of old favorites and new opportunities for shoppers.

“Irons Park is a beautiful setting which allows visitors to not only enjoy the park, but the river that runs through it, and the children playing in the fort,” said Marcia Young, chairperson of the Victorian Art Fair. “We have tried from the beginning to make this more of a family event than just an art fair. There are plenty of things for the kids, including games, boat races, minnow races, cherry seed spitting and a teddy bear picnic.”

The Fair opens at 9 a.m. on Saturday. At 10 a.m., the Light-hearted Quartet will sing the National Anthem. Confirmed events and entertainment for Saturday include a Teddy Bear Picnic at 10:30 a.m., a baby contest at 11 a.m., face painting and balloon animals by Shriner Clowns at noon, and the Northern Blend Chorus at 2 p.m. On Sunday, Carol Ann’s Dance Review will perform at 1 p.m. Both days will include a scavenger hunt for children and teens.

“We will confirm other activities closer to opening day,” Marcia said. “Be sure to check at the information booth for a complete schedule.”

As always, local nonprofit organizations will provide a selection of great food. The Knights of Columbus will serve breakfast burritos on Saturday morning. The Little League will serve hot dogs and nachos. Maxwell Therapy Center will have brats, burgers and pizza. For dessert, the Northern Blend Chorus will serve strawberry shortcake, and MyMichigan Volunteers will serve cream puffs. Other vendors include Turner Thyme, which will serve BBQ and ice cream, Almond Hut will sell cinnamon roasted nuts and iced coffee, and I Want That Kettle Corn will offer

ART FAIR continues on page 5 »

Creating admirable lawyers - one intern at a time

BY LAURA BENDER

Whittemore Prescott High School senior, Danycca Burns, is a woman with a mission.

“I’ve had the opportunity to see some of the legal system in action, and I wasn’t impressed,” she said. “I want to be someone who does something about it.”

When she graduates next spring, Danycca will not only have her high school diploma, but she will also have an associate’s degree in pre-law from Alpena Community College through the 13th Year Early Middle College Program. This dual-enrollment opportunity is a Michigan Department of Education-approved program of study offered at some high schools, including Whittemore Prescott.

For a year, Danycca has been taking four college courses at a time in addition to her high school requirements and maintaining a near-perfect GPA. She has also been a three-season athlete, taking part in volleyball, basketball and track.

“I loved playing sports, but I recently injured first one knee, then the other,” Danycca said. This year, instead of sports, I will get a job to help pay for college.”

Looking forward instead of



DANYCCA BURNS





sponsored by
West Branch Creative Arts Association

Irons Park, West Branch, Michigan

Sat., Aug. 9th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

& Sun., Aug. 10th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit www.victorianartfair.com for more information

Minnow Races • Baby Contest • Sail Boat Races • Cherry Seed Spitting Contest
Ice Cream Licking Contest • Teddy Bear Picnic and more...

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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. 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.

Aug 6
National Night Out & Resource Fair, sponsored by the Ogemaw District Library, Aug. 6, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Village of Prescott, Washington Street. Nearly 50 organizations, agencies and vendors will offer information about resources, services and goods available to the community.

Aug 9
45th Annual Victorian Art Fair, Irons Park, West Branch, Aug. 9, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Aug. 10,

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.victorianart-fair.com.

Aug 12
2025 Ogemaw County Fair, Aug. 12 to Aug. 16, Ogemaw County Fairgrounds, 2300 Rifle River Trail, West Branch. For more information, visit www.ogemawcountyfair.org.

Aug 23
Jeep Jam, Saturday, Aug. 23, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., downtown West Branch. Jeep Show and live music. Call 989-345-5226 to register. www.westbranchevents.com.

Aug 24
All Free Teen Fun Day, sponsored by the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake, Aug. 24, noon to 4 p.m., Cole Canoe Base Boy Scout Camp, 1356 E. Greenwood Rd., Skidway Lake. Zipline, kayaking, wall climbing, swimming and more. Free lunch provided at noon. Open to kids aged 13 to 18 or still in high school. To sign-up, call or text April at 989-578-8768.

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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Ogemaw County Superior News
marks one year in business



Photo courtesy of WBACC

The Ogemaw County Superior News family recently celebrated their first anniversary. “It’s been a remarkable year,” said Publisher/Owner Deanna Surbrook. “We extend our sincerest gratitude to our loyal readers and advertisers. We can’t bring the positive news to the community without you. We hope to continue for many years to come.” Pictured (l-r) Circulation Assistant Rich Heavlin, Marketing and Sales Director Kathy Collins, Publisher Deanna Surbrook, Graphic Designer Emily Reed, Writer Laura Bender and Circulation Manager Lois Bergquist. Not pictured are Copy Editor Nancy McLaughlin and Webmaster Nikki Szymkowski.

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The West Branch Creative Arts Association honors area artists



Courtesy photo
The West Branch Creative Arts Association held its annual fine art show on Sunday, July 13. Charles Schroeder, pictured with Chairperson Patricia Riegle (l) and Juror Amber Billman, was awarded Best in Show.

BY LAURA BENDER
The West Branch Creative Arts Association’s 47th Fine Art Show culminated with a reception on Sunday, July 13. Twenty-four artists representing 14 area towns offered a total of 61 pieces around this year’s theme, “Street Scenes.”
The works were judged by Amber Billman who holds a master’s degree in art from Western Governors University. Chairperson Patricia K. Riegle and Master of Ceremonies Linda Clark introduced the winners.
The work selected as the Best of Show was Charles Schroeder’s “Jazz Clubs New York 1948.”
The first place Theme Exhibit

award was given to Judy DeBolt for “Harbor Town.” Rebecca Goulder received second place for “Seattle Pride 2013” and Brian Dennis was given third place for “Hangin’ Out.”
Theme Honorable Mentions went to Dorothy Kolhoff for “Girl’s Day in the City,” Mark Winslow for “Parade,” and Wendy Seelhoff “26th Street Allegan.”
In the General Exhibit category, Robert Fowler’s “Lone Tree” took first place, Dorothy Kolhoff’s “American Icon” took second and Rebecca Spohn’s “The Chair” took third.
In the General Honorable Mention category, five pieces

were chosen: Chuck Schroeder’s “Your Father’s Buick” and “Au Sable River;” Karen A Jonker’s “Flowing Woman;” Carol Fink’s “On the Horizon” and Mark Winslow’s “Daybreak.”
The Gallery Committee who hosted the event included Patricia K Riegle, Dorothy Kolhoff, Carol Fink, Mark Winslow, Connie Maedel-Diehl and Rebecca Spohn. If you are interested in entering a piece in next year’s show, the theme will be “Glass.” For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/WBCAA/> or <https://fourthstartistsgallery.com/> or stop by the Fourth Street Artists Gallery at 124 N. 4th Street in downtown West Branch.

Christmas in July with the State Police

BY LAURA BENDER
The Michigan State Police (MSP) West Branch Post hosted their annual Stuff a Blue Goose: Toys for Tots Drive on Friday, July 18, at Northland Area Federal Credit Union in West Branch.
“Last December was so cold, we vowed to move the drive to July,” Shannon Wiley, the Toys for Tots chairperson, said. “So here we are.”
MSP troopers showed up in tee-shirts and shorts to offer people who donated gifts and cash the chance to dunk a trooper into a water-filled tank.
“Did one of us stop you for speeding? Tell you to turn down the music? Now’s your chance,” said Trooper Shane Noble as he handed a man three baseballs.
The first went low. The second over the top. When the third came close to the button, but missed, Shane told the man to just run up and smack the thing. Water splashed everywhere as a good-natured trooper slid off his perch and into the tank.
All day, people stopped to make donations and give a trooper a chance to cool off in the warm weather. Even Santa made an appearance, albeit in shorts.
Supporters of the event included Kimmie’s Pub N Grub, who sponsored the dunk tank, and



MSP Troopers and local military veterans man the dunk tank for the Ogemaw County Toys for Tots program chaired by Shannon Wiley and approved by Santa.

Bobby Dack who filled it, Northland Area Federal Credit Union employees, the Something Different food truck and Ogemaw County veterans.
The Toy for Tots drive distributes toys to local children at Christmas. To learn more about Toys for Tots, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ogemawcountytoys-fortots>. To make a donation, message Shannon Wiley via the Facebook page.

Photo by Laura Bender

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Our magical trip to The Brook Retirement Home

BY SALLY A. REA

Pat Sciotti and I loaded up our magical hats, purses and Lou Schilty's fur cap. This was a magical day as we did photo shoots of the clients at The Brook of West Branch. We had a long table set up with lots of artifacts.

There were a bunch of ladies waiting for us. Pat and I started out helping the ladies pick out their hats and purses and fur cape. The magic started when the hats were put on their heads and the biggest SMILES you ever saw, and we



SALLY A. REA
HISTORIAN AND
CURATOR

had brought several mirrors plus there was a large mirror in the hall. They laughed and giggled! They loved seeing themselves. As the ladies were having such a great time, several men walked by and asked, where were the men's hats? I never had thought about that. Pat and I felt what a joy we had brought to the ladies.

Pat and I visit The Brook every other month and it is such a blessing for us to be able to do this. We will return on Aug. 12, and we will bring items from

a beauty shop and barber shop.

On July 8, we had the "Questers" come to our museum for a tour. They had lunch at G's Pizzeria & Deli and held their annual meeting. Jan Coates helped with the tour upstairs and I did the first floor. What a great group! A good time was had by all.

I encourage more groups to tour our museum and see our wonderful collections.

Hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Don't forget the books we have to sell and the RADA knives. We have the new book on Prescott by LuAnn Zettel for \$25. The "Country School Books", Volume I, 2, and 3, are \$25 each. The "Driving Tour," all four books at \$10 each, or four for \$35.



Courtesy Photo
Ogemaw County Historical Museum Curator Sally Rea and Pat Sciotti recently visited the residents at The Brook of West Branch with their "magical hats."

What's happening in Rose City/Lupton area?



BY KRISTINA DANFORTH

Happy Summer from my little corner of Ogemaw County. Summer sure is flying by, before we know it fall will be here and we will wonder why summer went so fast. Rose City has had a lot going on lately. The 4th of July was a fabulous success with a great parade, lots of events in the park, and a beautiful fireworks show that always is so impressive.

We have also been busy with a new group, the "Friends of the Rose City Area Community Center." This group has been busy getting things in place and

cleaned up at the old middle school here in town. The group is looking for volunteers for cleanup and projects that need to be done to get this community center up and going. The RCACC meets at the school on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. until the end of August. If you are interested in helping out or just inquisitive of what's going on, stop in on Monday evenings.

Last but not least, the Rose City Lupton Chamber of Commerce will be holding its Annual Music in the Park on Saturday, Aug. 2. This event is free to the public, just bring a lawn chair or blanket and sit back and relax and listen to some great music. There will be a few food vendors including Radisovich's farm, Black Bird Ice Cream, and CP's tacos. Music starts at 4 p.m. with The Bentleys and at 7 p.m. Stone Street Revival. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Rose City Park, Aug. 2.

News from the Skidway Lake area



BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

If you have been paying attention to the area, there have been a lot of improvements made. The Mills Township Parks and Recreation workers have been busy. You can stroll on the boardwalk and see there are new dog poop bag dispensers on both ends of the boardwalk to use as you're walking your pet. We have a lot of residents who walk their dogs on the boardwalk and we hope this will help keep the boardwalk clean.

There is new split rail fencing around the area to picnic at the boardwalk also. The workers fixed and installed new split rail fencing in Newman Park and out at the entrance of the driveway; it really looks nice. The chain link fence around the ball fields has been repaired and a couple of the small sheds have new roofs. It looks very nice with all the roofs being red.

The workers fixed the driveway into the park and the driveway to the walking path; no more puddles when it rains. Down the Rifle River Road to the pipeline the split rail fencing was done

as well as Elbow Lake Park. We had a shoe tree that had become a nuisance, and the shoes were removed, and the tree looks nice now.

The Sterling Area Health Center fixed the huge low spot on Kathy Drive where a small pond would form after rain. Their employees had to drive through it to get to the employee parking lot. They did that at their own cost and it was greatly appreciated. They only ask for everyone to stay off their lawn with cars and ORV's due to the fact they have lawn sprinklers that can be damaged if something runs over them.

Mills Township will be recycling tires again this year. The dates are Aug. 23 and 24, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is for Mills Township residents, bring your ID. This year they will take tires on their rims. This is a great program to rid the area of old tires laying around that become mosquito breeding environments. Again, our Mills Township Parks and Recreation workers will be there to help you load the tires into the semi-trailers. This is paid for by a grant from EGLE (The department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.) The company taking the tires is Geocycle, out of Dundee, Mich.

How are your gardens growing? If you don't have one, the farmers' market at the Skidway Lake

Library is open on the first and third Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Support our local growers. Also, at the Skidway Lake library the summer reading program is still available on July 23 at 1 p.m. and July 29 at 1 p.m.

The Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake will be organizing the Teen Fun Day on Aug. 24, noon to 4 p.m. The host will be the Cole Canoe Base Boy Scout camp. This is an annual event where teens, ages 13 to 18 or still in school, can come enjoy ziplining, kayaking, gaga pit, wall climbing and swimming, all for free. Each teen who comes for the day will be entered to win one of four \$100 bills. We will meet at noon and eat lunch, then have fun the rest of the day. To register call or text April Mason at 989-578-8768.

Just for a heads up for anyone planning to participate in Halloween events, the Halloween parade will be on Oct. 25 and the trunk or treat will be on Oct. 31. I am also in charge of those events. If you have any questions, call or text me, April Mason 989-578-8768. I am looking for someone to just start the Halloween parade. I must be at a conference that day but I will get everything done and ready.

Remember to share any news you have with me, 989-578-8768. Until next time, God bless.

Ogemaw County Superior News

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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.

Our club, in cooperation with the COOR Intermediate School District and their staff, developed and implemented a pilot special



JOE BELL, PRESIDENT

communications competition for special needs students in our area. The Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake also implemented the same program with the IRE-SA Intermediate School District. These two successful programs will be featured in our next regional "Optiviews" newsletter, and it is being considered for adoption on a regional basis by Optimist International.

An exciting development which was brought to fruition by some very industrious local Optimist members including Allen Doss, Shawn Petri and Denise Edwards.

Steve Zdon is a newer member who is trying to develop a junior Optimist Club in cooperation with the West Branch-Rose City Area Schools 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!

Sarah Snyder – Making kids smile and you can too

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ

The Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake is 100 percent composed of a volunteer workforce committed to our mission of bringing out the best in kids. This happy band of volunteers, who work without financial compensation, allows our club to focus all hard-earned dollars directly on the numerous projects and events our community has come to know and rely on. Therefore, the COCOSL is always looking for new members with a wide range of skills and expertise to help organize and run these events.



LADONNA SCHULTZ

This volunteer search can be challenging in today’s world where people’s time is stretched between work and family. But by giving a little of your time and talents to nonprofit groups like COCOSL, not only will you be improving the lives of others in your community, I guarantee you will also personally receive many rewards as well. Numerous studies have shown that focusing on others can make you healthier by reducing stress and producing positive emotions like optimism, joy and gratitude.

COCOSL volunteer, Sarah Snyder, can attest to the many benefits of volunteering. Sara has been married to her husband Larry for 45 years. Their union produced three children and six grandchildren. While the demands of her growing family keep her very busy, Sarah also works full time. She is an entrepreneur who has been running her own daycare business for approximately 30 years. It goes without saying that her time is extremely valuable. None the less, for the last four years, she has managed to carve out some time in her schedule to volunteer for our club. I interviewed Sarah by phone to get her

perspective on “Why Volunteer?” Here is what Sarah had to say: What motivates you to volunteer?

“I love kids. I like working with kids. Volunteering with children keeps me energized and feeling young. In life you have to keep going forward in a positive way, if you don’t, life stops.”

Why did you choose to volunteer with the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake?

“I’ve spent decades taking care of and raising kids. It feels natural that I would join an organization like COCOSL whose organizational goals are the same as mine, helping kids. The club offers such a wide range of activities to get involved in; it keeps me interested in continuing to volunteer each year.”

What are some of your favorite experiences while volunteering with COCOSL?

“Recently at the ‘Fun in the Sun’ event, I was working the prize table. One little boy came up to me. In his hand was his game card with numerous punches he earned playing organized games. I said: Yay! What are we going to buy today? He smiled so widely at me. Together we picked out his treasured prizes. That wide joyous smile warmed my heart and had me smiling the rest of the day too.”

What do you gain from volunteering?

“My reward is the look on the kids’ faces when, for example, they meet Santa and are given a gift. It is seeing the delight on the children’s faces that makes me happy.”

What are your thoughts on working with other members of the COCOSL?

“We may be made up of many

different people, but this group gets along and works for the same goals. I have been in groups where petty bickering and drama zaps the pleasure out of volunteering. I want to help where I can. We are there for the kids. With everyone keeping that in mind, working with the other members of the optimist club is gratifying.”

I believe that other members of our club echo Sarah’s sentiments. If you would like to make life better where you live, meet your neighbors and make new friends, or simply try something new, you can volunteer too. Come join us. We meet at 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at Café International in Prescott. By volunteering, like Sara, you too will see countless smiles on kids’ faces. And if the latest scientific research is right, knowing you had a part in bringing joy to a young child will improve your well-being and overall life experiences. That is one great benefit for a few hours of your time.



Courtesy photo
Sarah Snyder is making a difference for children with her volunteer work with the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake. Here she is pictured at the club’s recent “Fun in the Sun” event at Elbow Lake Park manning the prize table.



Art Fair

« Continued from page 1

varieties of kettle corn and lemonade. Yum!

Paid parking around the park will be available at a variety of locations. Follow signs to find your spot or take the shuttle from downtown West Branch, or the Plaza East and McLaren parking lots.

The 45th annual Victorian Art Fair will be held Saturday, Aug. 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 10th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit <https://victorianartfair.com/> or email Marcia at victorianartfair@gmail.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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Photos by Laura Bender



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Fun In the Sun

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Photos by Deanna Surbrook
Zack and Amber Burton enjoyed the day with their children, McKenzie, Kylie and Tucker.



Aspiring golfer Oliver Smith, of West Branch, tries to sink a hole-in-one.



Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake member LaDonna Schultz spent the fun-filled day applying temporary tattoos to the kids in attendance.



Rebellynn Hensley, of Prescott, sinks a beach ball into the basket to win a prize.



Grandma Cheryl Lehr, of Skidway Lake, got some one-on-one time with little Olive.



MaKenna Sholes was all about the ice cream.

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MyMichigan Medical Center 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

Library hosts ‘National Night Out’

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make communities safer, more caring places to live. First held in 1984, it is now celebrated on the first Tuesday in August in all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide.

The Village of Prescott is no exception. From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 5, nearly 50 organizations, agencies and vendors will offer information about

resources, services and goods available to the community.

Job hunting? Looking for childcare? Need to lose weight? Want to learn more about emergency services, healthcare or disability? Are you a veteran, a fan of reading, or an animal lover? Interested in the community garden or hosting an exchange student?

Then come join in the fun on Washington Street for the Third Annual National Night Out and Resource Fair, sponsored by the Ogemaw District Library.

There will be a dedicated

activity zone for children where they can enjoy crafts, games and face painting. New this year will be a farm animal area where attendees can learn about animal care and maybe even meet a furry friend or two.

The streets will be closed for the event, so please follow the posted parking signs. Food will be available for purchase on-site. For more information, contact Colleen Boyd, Ogemaw East Branch librarian at prescottlibrary200@gmail.com.

Intern

« Continued from page 1

back is one of her strengths. Curiosity, faith in herself and the willingness to work hard are others that will help her reach her goal.

To find an appropriate summer job, Danycca asked Michigan Works! for help. Instead of a typical teen job working fast food or retail, they offered her a six-week internship in the Ogemaw County Prosecuting Attorney LaDonna A. Schultz’s office.

“This is not like you see on television where a case is finished in an hour,” Danycca said. “I’ve had the chance to read through some actual cases, and two things stand out: how long the process takes and how many people do not show up for court. I am learning a lot.”

Danycca has not yet chosen a college, but when she does, she will enter as a junior.

“Since a bachelor’s in pre-law is not available, I want to major

in philosophy and ethics,” she said. “I love debate, and I’ve enjoyed the ethics classes that have been part of my associate’s degree. I’d like to attend a small school and develop my critical thinking skills before law school.”

Danycca is not unlike others who Schultz has mentored in her office.

“We’ve fostered quite a few interns over the years,” Schultz said. “We like to mentor local students so they can reach their professional goals. Our current assistant prosecutor interned with us, as did the District Court magistrate. Courtney Brant is currently studying forensic science at Indiana State, and Libby Hodges is starting law school in the fall.

“We offer our interns a wide range of experiences, including job shadowing in and out of the courtroom, ride-a-longs with the police, a tour of the Grayling

crime lab, a tour of the jail and interviews with Department of Corrections personnel,” she added. “As an elected official, I never forget that being in this position is an honor and a privilege. One way I can serve the community is by mentoring young talent. Danycca is super smart, and she has been a great asset in the office. I hope her time here helps her keep going forward with her academic degree.”

Unlike most previous interns, who have worked only for the experience, Danycca’s six-week opportunity has been paid for by Michigan Works!

“When Michigan Works! said they could find me an appropriate summer job, they really did,” Danycca said. “I am extremely grateful for my internship in the Ogemaw County Prosecuting Attorney’s office. My goal is to become a prosecutor myself.”

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The AKTION Club of West Branch donated \$300 to the West Branch Little League 9-11 District 8 Champions as they prepared to play in the state championship in Gross Pointe recently. The team played hard but ultimately came up short. Accepting the check was WBLL Treasurer Mandi Chasey, and her son, Liam, who is a player on the team.

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Applications for student enrollments are available and will be accepted now, however, **applications will not be reviewed outside the application period which is from August 4, 2025, to August 28, 2025.**

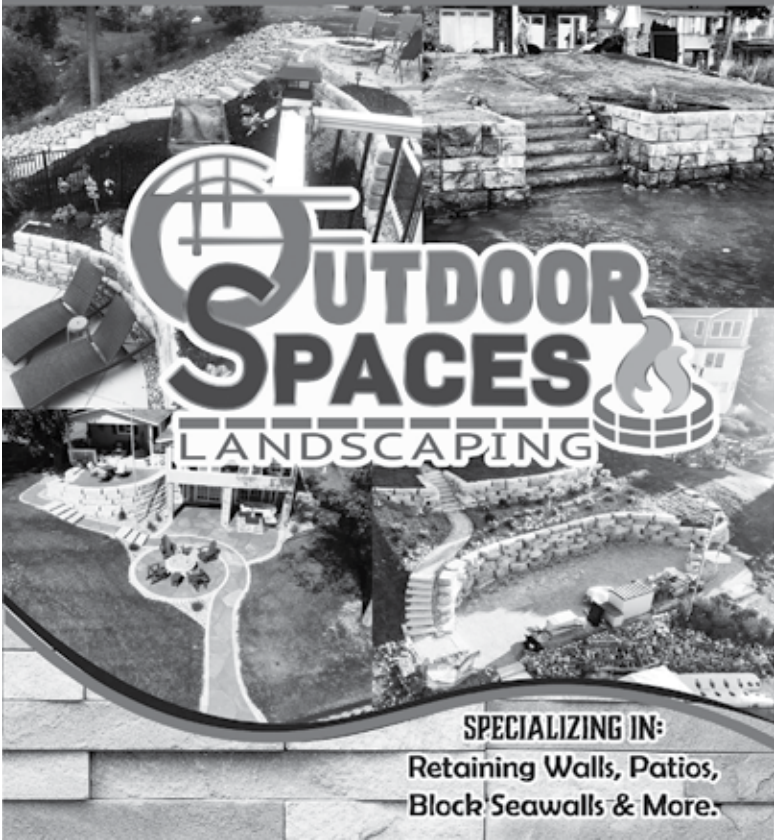
Students who are now currently 'schools-of-choice' in WBRC Schools need NOT reapply, as the original application remains active as long as they are enrolled.

For an application, please contact the superintendent's office (343-2001) at any time, or contact the building offices after August 4th. The application is also available on our website at www.wbrc.k12.mi.us, under 'Our District' > 'Schools of Choice'.

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