

The West Branch Visitors Bureau Presents

Oktoberfest

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

DOWNTOWN WEST BRANCH, MI

12:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Ogemaw County

75¢

SUPERIOR NEWS

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Civil War Cemetery Walks honor soldiers



Courtesy photo
 Pictured (l-r) David Frienel, Genevieve Zuemet, George Martin, Becky Shantz and Dale Shantz bring the Civil War era to life at Richland Cemetery in Prescott.

BY LAURA BENDER

The American Civil War began in April 1861 when Confederate forces fired upon Fort Sumter, South Carolina, and ended in April 1865 when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Although no battles were fought in Michigan, nearly 90,000 Michiganders joined the fight. According to Michigan Genealogy on the

Web (<https://www.migenweb.org/michiganinthewar/index.htm>), “During the war, Michigan fielded 31 regiments of infantry, 11 regiments of cavalry 14 batteries of artillery, one regiment of sharpshooters, and one regiment of engineers.” Some of those who joined these units were from Ogemaw County.

To remember the service of these men, the Ogemaw County Genealogical and Historical

Society, the Rose City Historical Society and the Ogemaw East Branch Library sponsored two recent events. On Saturday, Sept. 6, 58 guests braved the chilly weather to tour Richland Cemetery in Prescott, where uniformed re-enactors brought the stories of local soldiers to life. A second event, this time telling the stories of those buried in Rose City Cemetery, happened on Saturday, Sept. 20.

CIVIL continues on page 10 »

Youth Hunt yields great results



Young hunters took to the woods on Sept. 13 and Sept. 14 for the annual Youth Hunt, also known as the Liberty Hunt. This two-day firearm hunt is specifically for hunters aged 16 and younger, as well as for individuals with qualifying disabilities.

Grace Pierce, 12, of Prescott, harvested a nine-point with her crossbow, while out hunting with her dad, Ray.

See more photos from the youth hunt on page 6.

Courtesy photo

Polka, ponies and plenty of fun at the WB Oktoberfest

BY LAURA BENDER

Celebrate fall in downtown West Branch at the first ever Oktoberfest on Oct. 11. This family-friendly event begins at noon and features entertainment, kids’ activities, craft vendors, pony rides, Uncle Hans and a petting zoo. The first 100 attendees at the Visitors Bureau booth will receive a free grab bag full of goodies.

Watch as experienced chainsaw carvers John Wesley, Justin Driver, Alonzo Montoya, Matayo Montoya and Ron Kane find the statue hidden inside every log. These cool creations will be judged at 4:30 p.m. and auctioned at 6:15 p.m.

From noon to 3 p.m., dance as long as you are able to the joyful sounds of the Kowalski Brothers Polka Band. Following a half-hour clogging exhibition and lesson, Linda Lee and the Golden Aires will perform from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Linda Lee is the recently retired house musician

at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, where she’d entertained for 35 years. Her lively band will get you back on the dance floor.

A kids’ treasure hunt at 6 p.m. will keep you busy until dinner-time, when local restaurants will be happy to serve you while you rest your weary dancing feet.

If you or your organization wish to provide 100 items for the grab bags, volunteer to work at the event or supply Oktoberfest themed food, drinks, promotions or merchandise, contact the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, 422 W. Houghton Ave., at 989-345-2821 or www.visitwestbranch.com. The deadline for registering your involvement is Oct. 2.

“We are thrilled to bring Oktoberfest to Downtown West Branch, Michigan,” said Heather Neuhaus, executive director of the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce Visitors Bureau. “We can’t wait to see you there.”

Witches, Warlocks and wicked fun in West Branch

BY LAURA BENDER

Dust off your pointed hat. Pack an eye of newt in a Ziplock bag. Fire up your broom, but remember, no texting while flying. West Branch is calling all witches and warlocks to an evening of Halloween fun.

The “wickedly mettlesome assemblage” will gather in downtown West Branch from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. following the Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 11.

The event begins with a children’s costume contest and a pumpkin decorating competition. Pumpkins must be real and uncarved. They may be decorated with paint, glue, stickers, push pins, markers, etc. The five categories for awards are: Fairytale, Silliest, Most Imaginative, Spookiest and Film Character. Contestants will be divided by age groups: four through nine-year-olds and 10 through 12-year-olds. Children may submit a pumpkin for each category, but each one entered must be accompanied by a registration form. For more

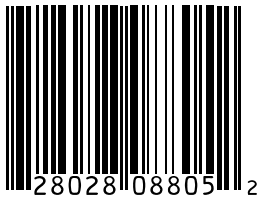
information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/WestBranchAreaChamberofCommerce>.

Other events throughout the evening include:

- 6 p.m. and 8:15 - A Haunting Horror of a Hayride
- 6:30 p.m. - Halloween-themed Karaoke (isn’t regular karaoke scary enough...)
- 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. - Chilling Tales Walk (Bet you’ll scream!)
- 7:30 p.m. - Adult Costume Contest for Individual Contestants—Elvira? Dracula?
- 8 p.m. - Witches and Warlocks Cauldron Dance
- 8:15 p.m. - Adult Costume Contest for Groups - Zombies-R-Us? The Addams family?

Around town you will find

WITCHES continues on page 5 »



West Branch 40th Annual Quilt Walk
 for the benefit of Rea Animal Shelter

October 2nd, 3rd, 4th 2025 • Thursday & Friday 10-4 • Saturday 10-3

200 quilts on display, Quilt Raffle
 Pick-A-Prize
 Sewing Boutique Sidewalk Sale

Prizes for
 Winners of
 “Peoples Choice”
 Votes

Admission \$5
 Passport Tickets sold at
 4th St. Gallery and
 West Branch Library
 in West Branch

Contact Us at:
westbranchquiltwalk@gmail.com

Presented by: Rifle River Quilt Guild and
 West Branch Creative Arts Association

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.

Sept 28

The Iron Bandogs and the West Branch Free Masons are hosting a **charity bike ride**, Sunday, Sept. 28, Masonic Lodge, 191 Page St., West Branch, to benefit Rayola Foundation, which helps children entering foster care. Kickstands up at 11 a.m. Following the ride, a Spaghetti Dinner, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. All you can eat, \$10.

Oct 12

Texas Hold’em Tournament, to benefit Max-Well Therapy Center, Sunday, Oct. 12, noon, West Branch Moose Lodge, 1731 W. State Rd., West Branch. All proceeds go towards the Center.

Oct 16

Ogemaw Hills Free Clinic, 2106 Gray Rd., presents **Operation: Game Night**, Thursday, Oct. 16, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Food, silent and live auctions and games. Free admission. All proceeds from the event benefit the clinic.

Oct 25

Fall Harvest Craft Show, Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church, 5315 Henderson Lake Rd., Prescott.

Oct 31

Trunk or Treat, organized by the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake and hosted by the Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce, Friday, Oct. 31, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Parents are asked to park at St. Stephens Church. Sign up your trunk to pass out candy by calling or texting 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.

— www.SermonCentral.com

Gladwin Cornerstone Baptist Church
3925 Round Lake Road,
Gladwin, MI 48624
989-426-6897
Sunday School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:30
www.gladwincornerstone.com
Pastor Scott Bradstreet

Churchill United Methodist Church
501 E. State Rd.
(corner of State and Morrison roads)
989-685-2350

Worship & Children’s
Sunday School: 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Helen Alford

Calvary Baptist Church
235 Minzer Ct. • West Branch
989-345-1651

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

WEDNESDAY
Youth Group - 6:30 p.m. • Awana - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 7 p.m.
Pastor Tom Teall • Youth Pastor Josh Pierce
www.cbcbw.org

Edward’s Community Church
4520 Greenwood Rd., West Branch
989-345-4227
Pastor Jon Scott

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship Service 11 a.m.

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

Hale Methodist Church
Everyone Welcome! Pastor: Mike Tullis
Sunday Worship - 10am; Sunday School - 11am


Come when you can!
We’d LOVE to
have you join us!!

201 W Main/Esmond, Hale; 989-728-9522
FB & IG: Hale Methodist Church

New Beginnings Lutheran Church
960 S. M-33, next to Ogemaw Heights High School,
West Branch, MI
Pastor David Jansen
989-836-6133
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.

Together for Robin Shipe:
A benefit of love and support

BY LAURA BENDER

“For over 20 years, Robin has been more than a friend; she has been family. As the proud owner of R&J Screenprinting for over 35 years, she has touched countless lives with her generosity, encouragement and joy. Now she is the one in need. To me, being able to help her, whether through this benefit dinner or by supporting her on her transplant journey, is not just an act of friendship; it’s the blessing of a lifetime. Whether through a living donation or a legacy donation, the gift of life has the power to save lives—and giving that gift to Robin would be the greatest blessing of all.” – Linda Hall, friend of Robin Shipe

These heartfelt words from Linda are a call to action for our community to come and support a friend and neighbor experiencing a profound medical issue.

Robin Shipe is awaiting a liver transplant and is battling advanced liver disease caused by hereditary MASH (metabolic associated steatohepatitis),

a severe form of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease characterized by inflammation and fibrosis in the liver. One profound effect of liver disease is the onset of hepatic encephalopathy (HE). This causes toxins from the blood that the liver cannot filter to build up and affect the brain. The result is confusion, memory loss, mood or personality changes, and in severe cases, unresponsiveness. For families, it’s heartbreaking to see a loved one struggle with these symptoms. While treatment can help, HE is a constant reminder of how deeply liver disease affects both body and mind.

To receive needed medical care, Robin must make frequent trips to Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, over two-and-a half hours from her home. Besides all the medical challenges, Robin is now facing increasing financial burdens, including the cost of travel, medical prescriptions, and co-payments.

To ease some of the financial strain, friends are hosting a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Oct.



ROBIN SHIPE

11, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Horton Township Hall, 2120 Rau Road in West Branch. Tickets for adults are \$10 and \$5 for children ages five through 12. Along with the dinner, there will be a bake sale and silent auction.

“Come enjoy a warm meal, great company and an evening of support, unity, and giving as we help Robin on her journey toward recovery,” Linda said. “Your presence and contribution will make a meaningful difference in her life.”

For more information or to donate, including bake sale or silent auction items, contact Linda at 989-578-1737.

Visit Our Website At
www.superior-news.com

Ogemaw County
SUPERIOR NEWS

West Branch Ace Hardware’s Mini Mac of Miracles



Courtesy photos

BY JESSICA MADZIAR
ACE HARDWARE MARKETING DIRECTOR

Ace Hardware is one of the largest partners of Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Throughout the year, Ace participates in several fundraising efforts for local CMN hospitals.

One of the biggest events is the annual CMN Hospitals Bucket Promotion, now in its 12th year. The Bucket Sale is held on the first weekend of August. Special edition buckets are sold for \$5, and 100 percent of the Bucket Sale goes directly to the store’s local CMN Hospital. During the promotion, once a bucket is purchased, most items you can fit inside are 20 percent off.

In addition, the Ace Foundation hosts a Miracle Bucket Display Contest, where stores can enter displays built around the special edition buckets. Eight winners are selected, with donations made in the store’s name to their local CMN Hospital:

1st Place: \$7,500 donation

2nd Place: \$5,000 donation
3rd Place: \$2,500 donation
Honorable Mention (5 awards): \$1,000 donation each

The only real rule is that the display must include the limited-edition CMN buckets.

We had never entered before, but this year, we decided to go all in and involve all 23 Clouse-owned stores by creating our own internal bucket display competition. On top of that, owner Byron Clouse decided he wanted us to take a shot at the national contest. He challenged me to come up with a display that could win.

After researching past winners and brainstorming many ideas, the breakthrough came during a conversation with our district manager, David Kaufman. Half-jokingly, he suggested building the Mackinac Bridge. At first, it seemed impossible — but the more I thought about it, the more it felt doable. I loved the idea of tying it to our home state, and if we built it outdoors, we could go big enough to stand out.,

I pitched the idea to Byron, who immediately loved it and told us to make it a top priority. With my brother, Josh, (head of our construction crew) and my dad, Carl, leading the build, I knew we could pull it off. The week of the sale, construction began. On the first day, Josh and his team of four, plus Byron and Brandon Clouse, worked on the foundation. On day two, the same crew, joined by me and District Manager Patty Murlick, completed the “Mini Mac of Miracles.” We submitted it to the Ace Foundation and were thrilled to be selected as a Top 3 finalist. From there, voting went to Facebook — and we won first place!

Winning meant a \$7,500 donation to our local CMN Hospital, Hurley Children’s Hospital. Between that donation and fundraising across all our stores, we raised over \$20,000 for CMN Hospitals this year. The experience was not only meaningful but fun. It

MIRACLES continues on page 5 »



Bridge crew (l-r): (back row) Brandon Clouse, Carl Boyd, Scott Garcia, Josh Boyd, Scott Bigger and Byron Clouse. (Front row) Patty Murlick and Jessie Madziar.

West Branch hosts 40th Annual Quilt Walk

BY LAURA BENDER

A handmade quilt is a work of art, an idea you can touch. It is a treasure of shared skill, honed amid laughter, stories, pricked fingers and mutual support. It is a piece of history, each stitch a moment in time. Some quilts honor occasions like a wedding or the birth of a child. Others celebrate the memory of a loved one or a cherished place, hobby or time of life. A handcrafted quilt is love made tangible.

The best of West Branch’s quilting talent will be on display at downtown venues during the 40th Annual Quilt Walk on Oct. 2, 3, and 4. Sponsored by both the Rifle River Quilt Guild and the West Branch Creative Arts Association, this year’s event will also include a sidewalk sewing sale, boutique shopping, handmade gifts, prizes and a raffle of two exquisitely crafted quilts. Raffle tickets are \$5 each, with the drawing to be held on Tuesday, Oct. 7. You can buy a passport/map of quilt locations at the West Branch Library and the 4th Street Art Gallery for \$5. Prizes for first,

second and third place quilts will be awarded based on votes by those purchasing passports.

Those who have registered their quilts for display should bring them to the Knights of Columbus Hall, 601 Columbus Drive, West Branch, on Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have questions, email them to wbquiltwalk@gmail.com. There is no fee to enter quilts for display.

Proceeds from this year’s Quilt Walk will be donated to the Rea Animal Shelter, a.k.a. Ogemaw County Humane Society. They are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose passion is animal welfare. They help the forgotten, neglected and unwanted pets who find themselves in their care. The Rea Animal Shelter staff takes pride in providing a clean facility, where animals receive love and compassion. If you’re interested in adopting, volunteering or have a general question, visit <https://www.reafamilyanimalshelter.org/>, contact them at 989-343-7387 (PETS) or rfa1367@gmail.com, or stop by at 1367 M-33, West Branch. The Rea Animal

Shelter is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed Saturday and Sunday.

Come support this worthy cause while you check out over 200 beautiful handmade quilts during the 40th Annual Quilt Walk, Thursday, Oct. 2, and Friday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in downtown West Branch. For more information, email wbquiltwalk@gmail.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/West-BranchQuiltWalk>.



Eastern Arenac Sportsman’s Club

We’re the only local gun range in the area with a 25-, 50-, 100- and 200-yard rifle and pistol ranges, and an archery range!

-A place for disabled veterans to hunt with 40 acres
-A free, 1 year membership to first responders in Ogemaw, Arenac and Iosco counties

For more information, please visit our website:
easternarenacsportsmansclub.org.



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Second letter saved from 50-year time capsule

BY SALLY A. REA
This letter was not destroyed in the 50-year-old time capsule that was dug up this past summer during our 150th birthday of the city of West Branch. Ruth is 70 years old at the time and it was written on June 22, 1975.

To the children of my grandchildren,
My sincere love and God's richest blessings to each of you. Wish I could have known you, but the thought of having you in the future brings one deep love and gratitude of knowing you will carry on after I have gone to be with the Lord.
Someday, I hope to meet each of you around the Great White Throne in Heaven, and we can have a glorious reunion together.
I would like you to know, perhaps it will be of interest to you, that your ancestor, Otho Raymond Durfee, Sr., was of French and Irish ancestry and had a great-grandmother that was a

full-blooded Cherokee Indian.
His wife, me, Ruth May "Oliver" Durfee, was of Irish decent. My mother's grandfather came from Ireland, and his son, her father, were both Methodist ministers. Her mother was adopted, so don't know too much about her.
As of now I have four children, 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, with three more expected by fall. My youngest daughter had twins April 18, 1975. The first twins to live in all the grandchildren on either side of the Durfee's, or Oliver's families. Otho Durfee Sr. was a city policeman for 17 1/2 years. He passed away on Feb. 11, 1969, after a six months' illness with lung cancer. Yes, he smoked cigs. He had a large funeral of police, city and state both. The flags were at half-staff on all county buildings and the Michigan State Police Post. He also was a collector of antiques.
Me, I've just been a good

mother and a homemaker. I'm very proud of my children, grandchildren and greats.
This Centennial Celebration has really been very nice. I belong to the Methodist Church Belles and have belonged to the Methodist Church all of my life. Otho Durfee Sr. had a complete Indian costume, a chief's headdress, coup stick, moccasins, ankle bells, bear claw necklace, and Indian design trimmed leather vest. It was made by oldest daughter and her husband, Yvonne Durfee Haines and Rev. Cyril Haines, in 1957.
It took them two years to make it. It has been worn in Old Fashion Days Parade before, but this time the man wearing it will be leading the parade June 28, 1975, on horseback and represent Chief Ogemaw. I gave it to Yvonne's oldest son, Keith. My family is Richard Durfee, presently of Tucson, Ariz., Otho R. Durfee Jr. of West Branch,

Yvonne Haines of Vassar, Mich., Sherry Jean Durfee Spycher of Flint, Mich. Richard had four children, Otho Jr. four, Yvonne five, Sherry Jean seven, with twins. My mother is now 89 years old and living with me, Martha May Larkin, Oliver, Timothy. I had four sisters, three of us are living, around our late 60s, two sisters passed away in their early 40s with cancer.
I am going to include a picture of me and my late husband, Otho Durfee Sr., taken in 1962. I'd include one of him in his police uniform, but I want to keep it. He was a marvelous husband, father and grandfather, they never came any better. Liked by all who knew him.
Guess I've told you all about me and my family. Fifty years from now, I'd love to be there and see who gets to open this, but that's not possible. Besides, I wouldn't want to live that long. It's much better to go and be with the Lord



SALLY A. REA
HISTORIAN AND
CURATOR

before I am too old and become ill or infirm.
My greatest wish for you and all who follow me is the blessings of the Lord and to say a life lived for God is the only rewarding one.
May God richly bless each of you with good health and happiness in this life and a great reunion in the hereafter.
Yours in Christ,
Ruth May Durfee

News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON
We have made more progress in our area. The Mills Township Board voted to purchase the property at 5240 Park Street. The township plans to demolish the condemned house and clean up the lot to increase the parking space for the boardwalk area. This will be a great improvement, stopping cars from parking on the side of Greenwood Road. during special events. The improvements may not happen until spring 2026 as it takes time for the transfer of

property and cleaning up.
The Mills Township Board accepted bids to work on the boardwalk and preserve the wood. After further inspection it has been discovered that the wood is too far gone and should have been preserved the year after it was installed. Now we must wait until the wood is ready to be replaced and start over with a new board walk deck and preserve it the following year as recommended. It was also discovered that the pilons were not driven deep enough past the frost lines and that is why

heaving is present now. That also will be fixed when the time comes.
Mills Township also has a new cemetery ordinance, as well as plans to survey the cemetery. There will be a link on the future website to take care of cemetery business online. A copy of the new cemetery ordinance is available at the township hall, 2441 Greenwood Rd.
The tire recycle event went very well as 1,525 tires were sent to recycle. That is 24.27 tons of tires gone from the area. It solved a lot of blight problems and less breeding ground for mosquitoes.
Mills Township now has a new Recreation Master Plan. The old plan expired and to apply for DNR grants and other grants we needed an active five-year master plan. Thank you to the parks and recreation committee for all their hard work in putting this together for us. The committee consisted of Janet Smith, Daniel Greene, Tina Ailport, David Gray, Teddy



APRIL MASON-HARKEY
Thayer, Wendy Chestnut and Ronald Luckett.
Whitemore-Prescott Area Schools has a new after-school bus schedule on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If your students stay after school for tutoring, detention, sports practice, or club activity and need a way home, they can ride the bus. This is a much-needed addition to our transportation program that will increase student participation in after-school activities.

Whitemore-Prescott after school bus SCHEDULE	
Time	Stop
4:41 PM	Nester Creek, 4971 M-55
4:53 PM	Moose Lodge, 2531 Mills Rd
5:01 PM	Rosati's, 1819 Greenwood Rd
5:05 PM	Mills Twp Hall, 2441 E Greenwood Rd
5:13 PM	111 Washington St
5:19 PM	Presbyterian Church, 2926 Maple Ridge Rd
5:30 PM	Dore's Mobil, 3013 M-65
5:32 PM	Whitemore Fire Dept, 621 M-65
5:37 PM	Crossroads, 30 M-65

The schedule is posted here in the photo.
Remember, if you have any news to share with me, call or text 989-578-8768. Until next time, God bless.

Ogemaw County Superior News

The *Ogemaw County Superior News* is published the second and fourth Saturdays of the month and distributed in West Branch, Rose City, Prescott, Lupton, Alger, Skidway Lake and Hale. It is available at newsstands for 75 cents per issue or annually for \$50.

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OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Optimist Updates

Beginning Oct. 1, local students can participate in the Optimist Essay Contest. Students are asked to write an essay on this year's topic:
"How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me!" Local students can work with their teachers to develop their essay and submit them to our club. Local winners can win up to \$500 and go on to compete at the state level. State competition pays \$2,500 for first place, \$1,500 for second and \$1,000 for third place. If you have a student who may be interested in competing, please reach out to our club at Loggers Depot



JOE BELL, VICE PRESIDENT
Thursdays or contact their teachers.
Club member Sheriff Brian Gilbert gave us an update on the difficulties he is encountering trying to staff a night shift for the road patrol in Ogemaw County. He cited the lack of qualified applicants that is hampering his efforts. Kirkland Community College President Dr. Gary Roberts, who is also an Optimist Club member, explained that the school is having a difficult time recruiting candidates for

their law enforcement training program. Lack of interest in law enforcement careers is a regional and statewide concern for law enforcement and community leaders.
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.
We close each meeting by reciting the Optimist Creed, part of which states: "Promise yourself to talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet!" What a great way to approach your life!
Bye for now!

Fall construction Open House at OHHS

BY GAIL HUGHEY

Voters passed the \$25 million bond proposal in May of 2022 to modernize, expand, and improve instruction for our students. The design and planning of the construction project occurred throughout the 2022-23 school year. Final plans were completed in the fall of 2023, and the project was put out for bids. Work, under the direction of Clark Construction, began in the spring of 2024 and has continued throughout the last school year and summer months. All projects will be completed this fall.

We invite our community to visit our completed projects at Ogemaw Heights High School on Oct. 15 and 16, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., during our parent-teacher conferences. Enjoy a snack in our cafeteria and free admission to our volleyball game on Oct. 15.

The completed projects include

Kitchen/Serving, Auditorium, Music Room, CAD Lab, Health Occupations, Pool Filtration System, Central Offices, Restrooms, Gym Floor and Bleachers, Parking Lot/Sidewalks, Building Trades/Wood Shop, Metal Shop, PE Locker Rooms, Livestock Lab, and Storage Barn. The greenhouse will be completed in early November.

We deeply appreciate our local contractors, some of whom are graduates of Ogemaw Heights. We appreciate their hard work and expertise in the skilled trades.

Thank you to the staff for their flexibility throughout the projects and their commitment to educating our students. Construction has created the need for some to be creative in planning while the finishing touches are addressed.

Thank you to our community for your trust to use these bond funds wisely, ensuring that we



GAIL HUGHEY
SUPERINTENDENT
WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY
SCHOOLS

enhance the educational experience of our young people, prepare them to compete in a global economy and equip them with the skills to pursue their dreams.

Come visit us on Oct. 15 and 16, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. It is a great day to be a Falcon!

Obituary

Clark Douglas Pattullo
Aug. 15, 2007 – Sept. 12, 2025

Clark Douglas Pattullo was born on Aug. 15, 2007. He led a short but full life. In early childhood he was diagnosed with non-verbal autism and intellectual disability. Later, he developed a seizure disorder, which ultimately took his life. On Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, in the early morning hours, Clark suffered a massive seizure that stopped his heart. Paramedics worked for nearly an hour trying to revive him, but to no avail. He was 18 years old.

Clark touched

would often replay audio clips on his iPad while stimming with his hands or his entire body; he whistled and danced when he was happy. He enjoyed camping, cooking, and most of all, swimming. Being immersed in water fulfilled his sensory needs and brought him a sense of profound peace and joy. During most summers, he would swim in the American Legion pool in Edinboro almost every day. On two occasions, he had a seizure in the water, resulting in near drowning events that landed him in the hospital.



many lives: he was a student at Elizabeth Lee Black School at the Barber National Institute for the past three years; prior to this he was a student at General McLane High School. He is best remembered for his warm, easy-going personality and easy smile. He went through difficult periods marked by SIBs (self-injurious behavior) and occasional outbursts, but as he transitioned into young adulthood, he settled into a happier, more upbeat disposition. Although Clark was non-verbal, he became very adept at communicating his wants and needs with his body, his eyes, and his iPad – he would pull up relevant video clips from YouTube to express himself.

Clark was a sensory seeker who enjoyed exploring textures, tastes, smells, and sounds. He

Clark is survived by his parents, Brad and Jamie Pattullo; his two brothers, Bernie and Grant; his grandparents, Doug and Leslie Pattullo of Port Charlotte, Fla., and several aunts, uncles, and cousins including the Ward family: Jamie, James, Davis, and Reese of Rockford, Mich., and the Quates family: Julie, Dan, River, Willow, Bear, Canyon, and Archer of Hempstead, Texas. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Kathy Clark of West Branch.

Clark was full of love and life and brought joy to the countless lives he touched. He was a sweet and gentle soul who will forever be missed and cherished by his family, friends, and teachers.

Witches

« Continued from page 1

palm readers, crystal ball gazers, ooly-ghouly jars, Eyeball Black Elephant giveaways, special witches' brews and spooky potions - more eerie stuff than you can shake a broom at. Stop by The Silver Lining for their wine tasting... if you dare!

This event in all its spooky creepiness is brought to you by

the warped and wonderful folks of the city of West Branch, the Ogemaw County Genealogical and Historical Society, the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau and the West Branch District Library. For more information, contact these sponsors or visit their Facebook page.

Miracles

« Continued from page 3

brought our teams together and inspired us to start dreaming even bigger for next year's contest.

On top of this success, Ryan Clouse has launched a new initiative called "120 Miracle Miles." He will be competing in the AuSable River Canoe Marathon in 2026, dedicating the race to CMN Hospitals. From now until race day, Ryan is raising funds for this cause, with 100 percent of proceeds going directly to CMN Hospitals. You can follow his journey and find donation information on the Facebook page called 120 Miracle Miles:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579464552526>. This is a cause close to Ryan's heart, and we are excited to see how much more we can achieve for kids and their families in the year ahead.

Acknowledgments:
Idea: David Kaufman
Owners: Byron Clouse (CEO), Brandon Clouse (COO), Ryan Clouse (CFO)
Builders: Josh Boyd, Carl Boyd, Scott Bigger, Scott Garcia
Additional Helpers: Patty Murlick (district manager), Jessie Madziar (marketing director), plus Byron and Brandon Clouse.

Anniversary



Photos by Laura Bender



Michael and Jean Thorne celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with over 100 family members and friends at a Sept. 13 party. Joined in marriage on Sept. 11, 1965, their love still shines. May Jean and Mike be blessed with many more years together,



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.

Youth Hunt

« Continued from page 1



Clint Bonnell, 10, of West Branch, harvested an impressive nine-point buck.



Zep Horn, 11, of Prescott, bagged a nice nine-point buck.



Courtesy Photos
Zander Temple, 12, of West Branch, bagged his first deer ever, a four-point, on Sunday morning, Sept. 14.



Kendra Temple, 14, of West Branch, harvested a very nice nine-point on the evening of Saturday, Sept. 13. This was her second deer ever, after harvesting a seven-point last year.



Blayne Weber, 7, of Hale, shot his first deer the first evening of the Youth Hunt.

Rolling out the fun:
West Branch Hay Bale Trail

BY LAURA BENDER
Ever see a hay bale and think, “I could make it look like a Minion? With a little color, it could be a pumpkin, an ogre or Sponge-Bob.”
Now is your chance! The West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce, the West Branch District Library and Witches & Warlocks are sponsoring the first ever Hay Bale Trail. If you want to get in on the fun, registration forms, which must be returned by Sept.

30, are available from the West Branch District Library, 119 N 4th Street.
Decorated hay bales must be in place by Oct. 10 and remain in place until Nov. 1. Bales must be visible from a public road. The winner will receive bragging rights and a roving trophy, which they will hold until the beginning of next year’s Hay Bale Trail.
So put on your creative bonnet, painter’s beret or tinfoil hat and get ready to win!

Honoring service, supporting women veterans



Photo by Laura Bender
Female veterans gathered at the Women Veterans Benefits Fair and Town Hall held Sept. 16, at the Ogemaw County Commission on Aging. The event, organized by Lori Parrish, LMSW, the Women’s Health Social Work Coordinator at the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw, provided resources and timely information delivered by over a dozen VA employees. During the hour-long town hall following the benefits fair, staff members fielded questions from the audience.

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Softball Game is a win/win for local children



Local law and fire department officials competed against each other at a softball game on Thursday, Sept. 11, to commemorate 9/11. It also served as a fundraiser to benefit Ogemaw County Toys for Tots. While the firefighters came up short on the field, they outdid the police when it came to raising money.



Photos by Laura Bender

BY LAURA BENDER

To commemorate 9/11, Ogemaw County’s First Responders held a fundraiser to benefit local children. The softball game, held at the Ogemaw Hills Recreation Complex, began with a moment of silence in remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001, and a salute to the flag provided by the Veterans Alliance Honors Team.

The first run batted in went to the police. So did the second. Undaunted, the firefighters gave it their best, scoring four runs overall. But the police, with a total of

nine runs, won the game.

Then it was time to count the donation buckets to see who raised the most money for Toys for Tots. This time the win went to the firefighters, who raised \$851. The police bucket held \$371. Overheard during the bucket counting was a suggestion from an unnamed firefighter: “If you guys stopped giving out tickets, people might want to donate more... just saying.”

So, who was the real winner of the first annual Ogemaw County First Responders’ softball game? The children who will receive

Christmas presents at the annual Toys for Tots distribution.

In remembrance of the sacrifices made by first responders on 9/11, let’s honor our own police and firefighters who took the time to go the extra mile for local children. Members of the Law Enforcement team: Trooper Joe

Okopien, Trooper Andrew Farley, Trooper Josh Sauve, Trooper Tanner Harrison, Trooper Josh Blakely, Officer Bryce DeGrammont, Officer Joshua Clark, DNR Officer Brad Bellville, Sergeant Jason Wood, Deputy Addison Kennedy, Cadet Brayden Provoast and team manager Trooper Shane

Noble. Members of the Ogemaw Fire Fighters team: Bobby Dack, K.J. Wooley, Tyler Card, Tyson Dantzer, Trevor Zettel, Tyler Dantzer, Brad Schrems, Cooper Gough, Jon Hoydic, Justin Johnson, Adam Provoast, Steve Zettel, Brent Banning, James Szwarc and Derek Ehinger.

AKTION Club donates school supplies



Courtesy photo
The West Branch AKTION Club recently donated school supplies to Rose City Elementary School, Surline Elementary School, St. Joseph School and Calvary Christian Academy. Club members wish all the students a great school year.

The West Branch Visitors Bureau Presents

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Roundtable brings Iosco and Ogemaw County leaders and manufacturers together



Courtesy photo

Local business leaders, manufacturers and resource partners gathered recently for the Small Business Manufacturing Roundtable.

Local business leaders, manufacturers and resource partners gathered recently for the Small Business Manufacturing Roundtable, hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Michigan District Office in partnership with Michigan Works! Region 7B, the Ogemaw County Economic Development Corporation, the Lake Huron Region Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC).

The event provided a platform for manufacturers in Ogemaw and Iosco counties to share their experiences, challenges and opportunities in the current

economic climate. Attendees had the opportunity to engage directly with local, regional and state partners who are committed to strengthening the manufacturing sector.

“Parts of the discussion, and again in wrap-up, there were concerns voiced about tariff’s and what it means for Ogemaw and the surrounding area,” said Penny Payea, Ogemaw County Director of Business Services and Economic Development for Michigan Works! Region 7B. “What I applaud everyone for was that they were sharing some really out-of-the-box thinking on how to handle this and related issues. We learn so much when we

have these conversations together!”

The session featured presentations, a Q&A and an open dialogue where manufacturers provided valuable input on how to support growth and innovation locally, regionally and nationally.

“There is another conversation slated for April and we hope more of our local and partnering manufacturers will be at the table,” Payea said.

For more information about resources available to manufacturers and small businesses in Ogemaw and Iosco counties, contact your local Michigan Works! Region 7B office or visit www.michworks4u.org.



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IS SEEKING A
Graphic Designer

The Ogemaw County Superior News is seeking an experienced freelance graphic designer to join our dynamic team. Remote position.

For more information, including a detailed job description and required skills, please submit your resume and cover letter to: Publisher Deanna Surbrook at deanna@superior-news.com.

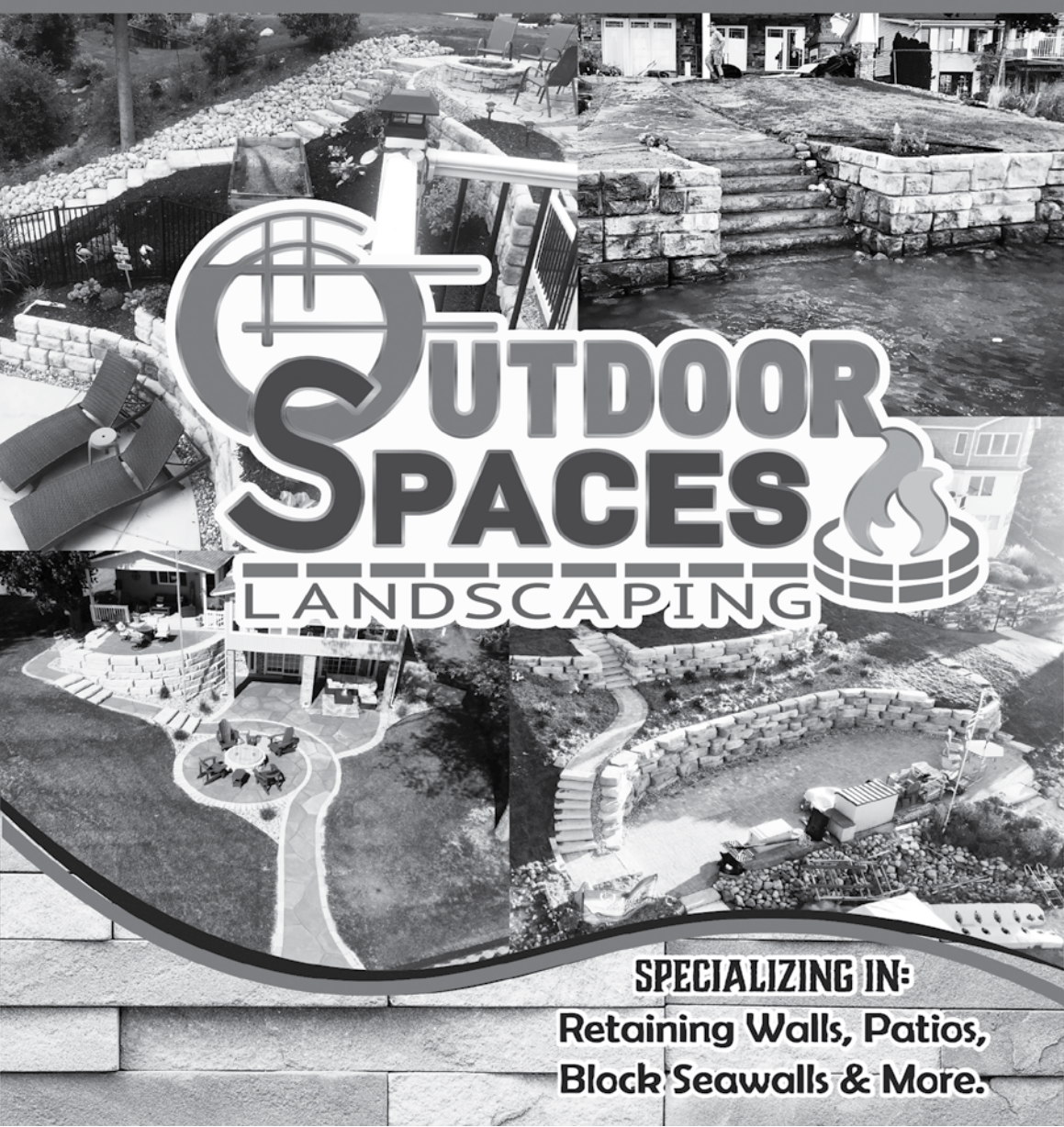
Happy Halloween

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See puzzle on page 11

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AuSable Valley CMH	989-345-5571
Caring Pregnancy Center	989-345-3909
Dept. Health and Human Services	989-345-5135
Emergency Assistance Program.....	989-345-8312
Ogemaw County Clerk	989-345-0215
Probate/Family Court.....	989-345-0145
Emergency Shelter	989-217-0973
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Healthaccess.....	989-343-3608
Ogemaw Commission on Aging	989-345-3010
Options Resource Clinic	989-345-7398
Ogemaw Public Transit.....	989-345-5790
Children’s Assmt. Center	989-275-7145
Salvation Army	989-345-4690
Community Food Pantry.....	989-345-0493
MSU Extension/4-H.....	989-345-0692
Ogemaw County Prosecutor	989-345-5700
Michigan State Police	989-345-0955
Ogemaw County Sheriff	989-345-3111
West Branch Police	989-345-2627
Rose City Police.....	989-685-3051

Public Hearings and Notices

CITY OF ROSE CITY
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on September 2, 2025.

Present: Mayor Mike Samples, Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Claire Myers Scott Hamel, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley

Absent: none

Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, DPW Supervisor Cody Curley, Police Chief Allen Muma, Deputy Clerk Nicole Pennell, Theresa Erickson and Camille Pennell.

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

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the Minutes for the August 19, 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 \$52,513.12 from the Common Cash Account and \$5,043.44 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Brent Hinkley, Ashley Herrick, Scott Hamel, Claire Myers, Don Freeman, Anthony Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Theresa Erickson gave an DDA Planning Committee report.

Cody Curley gave a DPW report.

Allen Muma gave a Police report.

Carol Lee Butler gave a Treasurer’s report.

A Motion made by Mrs. Myers and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to purchase a grapple in the amount of \$1,100.00. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to purchase a 3rd function switch tractor attachment of up to \$850.00. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to order street signs. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CITY OF ROSE CITY
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2025

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:01 p.m. on August 19, 2025.

Present: Mayor Mike Samples, Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Claire Myers Scott Hamel, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley

Absent: Jennifer Hurley - excused

Others present: DPW Matt Lawrence, Deputy Clerk Nicole Pennell, Amy Hensel, Roger Mayhew, April Kangas, Theresa Erickson and Steven (Veteran’s Concert).

A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the agenda. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Myers to approve the Minutes for the August 5, 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 \$26,911.19 from the Common Cash Account and \$671.29 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Brent Hinkley, Ashley Herrick, Scott Hamel, Claire Myers, Don Freeman, Anthony Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Brent Hinkley gave a Fireboard Meeting report.

Theresa Erickson gave an EDC report.

Theresa Erickson gave an DDA Planning Committee report.

Claire Myers gave a Library Board Meeting report.

Roger Mayhew gave a County Commissioners report.

Matthew Lawrence gave a DPW report.

A Motion made by Mrs. Myers and seconded by Mr. Freeman to table the purchase of a grapple for the DPW. Ayes: Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the request to ask the DDA to waive their TIF funds for this year. 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. Hamel to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.



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At 6:00-7:30 PM on Thursday nights.
Hope to see you there!



faith alive

Love God. Love Others. Serve the World.

Civil

« Continued from page 1

Identified graves of Civil War soldiers in Prescott include Best, Cornelius B.; Blackman, Emory Pitt; Button, William; Churchill, Charles; Cliff, William H.; Lynch, Elisha; McKinzie, Thomas; McKinzie, William; Manwaring, Henry K.; Rockwell, David A.; Scott, Abrah G.; Stone, Anthony E.; Tousey, C. Grandos. Those buried in Rose City include Rose City soldiers: Barber, Burnham P.; Brooks, Hiram F.; Cockrane, Chester; Cook, Allan S.; Cook, Thomas; Frisbie, Wm. A.; Markham, Seth; Rose, Allan S.; Thielicke, Henry.

If you are interested in learning more about Ogemaw County Civil War Veterans, contact the Ogemaw County Genealogical and Historical Society, 135 S. Second St., West Branch, 989-701-2524; and the Rose City Historical Society, snider_cathy@hotmail.com 989-345-5659.

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See answers on page 8

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This summer has been an exciting and a successful season our community has experienced with the well attended events, enhancements and improvements throughout our town. We have celebrated many busi-versaries and welcomed new businesses. Make time to discover and enjoy the charm of our community Enjoy your day!.
Heather Neuhaus, IOM, BSc.



Play Train Gets New Look
Thank you Chamber member Taylor Entrance Systems for helping the Chamber & Visitors Bureau staff paint sand and paint the train.



Alli Van Goethem
Administrative Assistant



Samantha Defour
Administrative Assistant

Business After Hours

Thank you to Ogemaw County EDC for hosting September Business After Hours. Next will be on October 16th from 4:30 to 6 at Erickson Family Agency.

Congratulations Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies & Busi-Versary

- Ogemaw County Superior News 1st Year
- West Branch Township Water Tower
- Rightway Auto Sales 1st Year
- YMCA Camp Timbers on Leadership Center
- Wangler's Farm Store
- Fetterlof's Flooring
- Fourth Street Artists Gallery Remodel
- Wolverine State Credit Union
- Taylor Entrance Systems 76th Year
- Office Central and Teacher Store 35th Year
- Morris Richardson Real Estate 65th Year
- City of West Branch 150th
- The Dirty Mitten 1st Year



Michigan Cares for Tourism

West Branch participated in the Michigan Cares for Tourism event held at the Tawas Lighthouse. Over 150 Volunteers helped with the park. Great time and amazing work was completed in one day.

Learn at Lunch

The Chamber has partnered with member Heartland to do Learn at Lunch series once a month focusing on health and wellness. Call the Chamber for details on the next one held monthly.

Welcome New Chamber Members

- Ace Hardware
- At Home Inspections
- B. Martin General Contracting
- Cole's Appliance
- Coming Home
- Death Before Decaf
- Eastern Arenac Sportsmans Club
- Hooligan UTV
- Evergreen Contracting
- Great Lakes Gospel Riders
- K&G Cleaning
- Orthotech Prosthetics & Orthotics
- Rightway Auto Sales
- Taylor Entrance Systems
- The IXL Company
- West Branch Candy Cane Lane

Chamber Golf Outing

- Team Winner: B. Martin General Contracting
- Shootout Winner: Rob Kish
- Best Decorated Cart & Best Themed Team: Mercantile Bank

Mini Golf Outing

- Business Team Winner: Primerica Financial Services, Frechette & Associates.
- Community Team Winner: Tee Time Girls
- Team Spirit Award: MyMichigan Health

WBACC Outstanding Award Winners

- Chamber Member of the Year; Wise Heating & Cooling
- Visionary Award- Max-Well Therapy Center
- Most Dedicated Award- Mercantile Bank
- Community Impact Award- North Central Community Foundation
- Appreciation Award- West Side Storage
- Chamber Ambassador of the Year- Cyndi Egan
- Business After Hours of the Year- M&I Graphics and Promotions
- Chamber Connections of the Year- MyMichigan Health

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