

Book Your Reservations Now!!



LIKE OUR OWN KENNEL
4513 Cook Rd. • West Branch
(989) 312-4320

DAYCARE • BOARDING

Visit us on our Facebook Page or email us at
like.our.own.kennel@gmail.com

Ogemaw County

75¢

SUPERIOR NEWS

EVERGREEN CONTRACTING



- ▲ LANDSCAPING
- ▲ PAVER PATIOS
- ▲ RETAINING WALLS
- ▲ HYDROSEEDING

Call Toby: 989-709-6615

Vol. 3, Issue 3

Your source for positive community news!

Feb 14 - Feb 27, 2026

Rose City hosts annual Snow Box Derby



Photo by Laura Bender

Lots of snow and sunshine brought out the crowds for Rose City's Annual Snow Box Derby, sponsored by Knights of Columbus #8948. Amid laughter and cheers, 15 children aged 13 and under raced their creations to the downhill finish line. Age group winners were Maxwell for age six and under, Lincoln for ages seven to 10, and Jayden for ages 11 to 13. Other winners included Eli Andres', who was voted Most Original, Best Design went to Joseph for his pirate ship and Most Colorful was awarded to Elizabeth Andres'. See more photos of the event on page 6.

Mason's century-old family farm taps a new future

BY LAURA BENDER

For 100 years, the Mason family has farmed on M-55, three and a half miles east of the M-33 intersection. When they purchased the 240-acre tract in 1926, Oscar and Freada Mason started a berry farm. Today, their great-grandson, Russell, and his wife, Amy Bruder Mason, and their three children, Elsie, Emma, and Rocky, still farm 40 acres of the original family land.

In 2019, the Masons began tapping their maple trees. At first, they processed the sap in a two by eight-foot pan in an outbuilding. As the business grew, Russell and Amy invested in more professional equipment. In 2021, they opened their Sugar Shack, which houses a press and an evaporator. Russ and Amy then began the process toward certification with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. MDARD's mission is "to assure food safety, protect animal and plant health, sustain environmental stewardship, provide consumer protection, enable rural development and foster efficient



Courtesy photo

Russell and Amy Mason, owners of Mason's Maple, on the day they got certified with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

administration operations through service, partnership and collaboration."

In March 2025, after a state inspection, Mason's Maple became

a licensed facility.

"When you purchase our products," Russell said, "you can have peace of mind knowing we offer

MASON'S continues on page 6 »

Ogemaw County to honor veterans with new memorial park

BY LAURA BENDER

The parade begins, led by the Veterans Alliance Honor Guard. You place your hand over your heart, or if a veteran, render a salute as the flag and those who fought under it pass by.

The ceremony ends. The jarring sound of the gun salute recalls a moment of sacrifice. A lone bugler sounds Taps.

While enjoying the Ogemaw County Fair, in a country which owes its freedoms to those who rose to its defense for two and a half centuries, you stop by the Ogemaw County Veterans Museum. Framed on the walls are the faces of neighbors, friends, and loved ones who fought for our freedoms, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The residents of Ogemaw County have a long history of

honoring and supporting their military veterans. At the close of World War II, the county erected a wooden memorial listing all who had served. Over time, it was replaced with a granite monument which remains in front of the county building. It reads: "This shrine is gratefully dedicated to the living and the dead of Ogemaw County who, by the grace of God, their own valiant efforts, and personal sacrifice, have helped to preserve our freedom."

In 1992, through the shared efforts of many community members, a small memorial park suitable for ceremonies was erected across the street (Houghton Avenue) from the county building. It includes a stone structure made from stones gathered from foundations and fields across the

MEMORIAL PARK continues on page 7 »

Snowmobile Club to celebrate 58th anniversary

The Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Club will celebrate its 58th anniversary on Saturday, Feb. 28, with an open house and annual Vintage Snowmobile Show and Ride. OHSC is Michigan's oldest snowmobile club, which was founded in 1967.

Events will take place at the OHSC Clubhouse, Frank Alley Park Trailhead parking lot from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The clubhouse is located at 2846 N. Fairview Rd., at the corner of Fairview and Rose City roads, 10 miles north of West Branch, eight miles west of Rose City. Cost is free vintage snowmobile registration, free parking, free visitor entry and free refreshments.

This is a family focused event with non-judged static displays of over 300 antique and vintage snowmobiles from around Michigan and other states. It is one of the largest in Michigan.

The event includes:

- FREE parking, free entry, free sled registration (no preregistration needed) a heated club house, warming campfire, free coffee and cocoa, our world famous

"rake dogs," and desserts. Donations accepted.

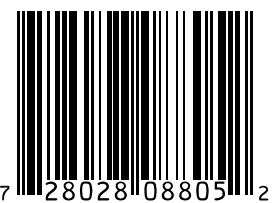
- The "I Want That Kettle Corn" stand from Rose City.

- 10 a.m. flag raising will honor our country's 250th anniversary by featuring the Blaine family's massive United States flag and a short memorial ceremony honoring club members who have passed away in the last year.

- A crowd-judged "Vintage Snowmobile Clothing Fashion Show"

- The drawing for the winner of our annual snowmobile raffle for a CHOICE OF ONE: a green 2003 Polaris Pro X 120cc youth snowmobile OR a yellow 1999 SkiDoo M 120 Z OR a Blue 2005 Yamaha Raptor 80cc OR a cash option instead. Raffle tickets are available until drawing. Attendance is not required.

SNOWMOBILE continues on page 3 »



JMC DUMPSTERS

5 - 10 - 20 - 30 yard dumpsters

Serving Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Oscoda and Arenac Counties

Call Jack Morris **989-343-5023**

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 - (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.

Feb 28
 Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Club Open House and Vintage Snowmobile Show and Ride, Saturday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Frank Alley Park Trailhead parking lot, 2846 N. Fairview Rd. event is free to attend.

Mar 21
 West Branch Optimist Club 17th Annual Camel Races, Saturday, March 21, Columbus Hall (formerly K of C), West Branch. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Chuck Snyder, 989-942-6608.

Apr 14
Fourth annual 'Nite at the Races,' hosted by Max-Well Therapy Center, Saturday, April 11, 5:30 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 601 Columbus Dr., West Branch. Max-Well's goal is to enhance the lives of kids through the use of animal assisted activities. For more information, visit www.maxwelltherapycenter.org.

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 Emeritus Tom Teal
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!
 Sunday Worship - 10am; Sunday School - 11am



Ash Wednesday

February 18th

7pm Worship Service

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 Daniel Jansen

989-836-6133

Sunday Service - 9 a.m.

Pajama Day at COA



Photo by Laura Bender

On snowy days, many of us would rather stay in our cozy jammies than get dressed in our heavy winter clothes. During February, the Ogemaw County Commission on Aging is offering a compromise. They've declared Tuesday to be Pajama Day. Join them for lunch at noon and show off your favorite comfy outfit.

LEADING THE WAY IN COMFORT



- Furnaces
- Air Conditioning
- Boilers • Humidifiers
- Purifiers • Generators
- Geothermal Services
- Ductless Heating and Cooling
- Maintenance Agreements



989-728-5955

877-879-8726

24-Hour Emergency Service

City of West Branch celebrates employees



City Manager John Dantzer (l) and Council Member Michael Jackson present award to Michelle Frechette.

At a recent meeting, the West Branch City Council presented years-of-service awards to two city employees and thanked them for being valued members of their team. Michelle Frechette was honored for reaching the

impressive milestone of 30 years of dedicated service. Michelle began her career in 1996 as an office assistant and secretary. Currently, she holds the position of City Treasurer. Officer Blake



Courtesy photos
City Manager John Dantzer and Council Member Michael Jackson present award to Officer Blake Beehler, center.

celebration of his tenth year with the city. Officer Beehler currently serves as the school resource officer for Surline Schools during the school year and works on the road patrol in the summer.

MyMichigan Breast Team shares guidance for life after breast surgery

As a trusted partner, guiding individuals through every phase of health from prevention and diagnosis to treatment and recovery, MyMichigan Health continues to create tools that help patients confidently navigate health challenges. When breast cancer is the diagnosis, MyMichigan's Breast Health team takes a multi-pronged approach to ensure patients feel supported every step of the way.

MyMichigan breast health specialists work closely with surgeons and medical and radiation oncology teams to develop personalized care plans that reflect each patient's unique needs, preferences and long-term health goals. One assistance tool is a newly developed video - "Healing After Breast Surgery" - designed to help educate patients and families about what to expect after breast surgery.

In the video, Melissa Hoag, R.N., O.C.N., C.N.-B.N., breast health navigator, Anna Most, M.S., R.D.N., registered dietician and Jennifer Root, P.T., D.P.T., C.L.T.-L.A.N.A., oncologic

physical therapist, all of MyMichigan Health, share valuable insights on recovery. Topics include what to expect following surgery, along with simple exercises that can help patients regain strength, mobility and confidence.

"Whether you've recently had surgery, are planning for it or are supporting a loved one through their experience, our video provides helpful tips and encouragement," said Hoag. "Our experienced team developed this resource based on common patient questions and concerns. Because every journey is unique, we encourage patients to consult with their health care provider before starting any new dietary changes or exercise program."

The video addresses common post-surgical concerns such as incision care, lymphedema (fluid buildup in the lymph nodes), numbness and potential bruising. It also demonstrates safe exercises that support healing and recovery. In addition, Most discusses how post-surgical nutrition can help rebuild strength and may even reduce the risk of

recurrence.

"At MyMichigan Health, we understand that every moment along a patient's journey matters," said Root. "Through education, expert care, proven treatments and compassion, we tailor care plans and provide support tools that meet the needs of both patients and their families. This is how we fulfill our purpose of Creating Healthy Communities - Together."

Those interested in viewing the "Healing After Breast Surgery" video may visit the MyMichigan Health website at www.mymichigan.org/breast.

MyMichigan Health offers a variety of breast health resources, including nurse navigators to guide patients through their journey, licensed dietitians for personalized nutrition counseling, exercise programs designed for individuals living with or beyond breast cancer, support groups and more. Those interested in learning more about MyMichigan's Breast Health Program may visit www.mymichigan.org/breast.

Happy 100th birthday Ginny Flinn



Courtesy photo

Genevieve "Ginny" Flinn recently celebrated her 100th birthday with family, friends and neighbors with a pizza party at her West Branch home. She was born on Jan. 30, 2026, in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Snowmobile

« Continued from page 1

• A guided trail ride for vintage sleds at 1:30 p.m. with an "old sled parade" around the grounds with riders carrying 50 full-size United States flags from the Blaine family.

• Club merchandise and club memberships will be on sale all day. Raffle tickets are available online at OHSCOnline.com.

This event is the club's yearly

fundraiser so they can continue to support our snowmobile and ORV trail system.

For other details contact Doug Lubahn, OHSC trustee and show host/organizer at 810-441-0530. More information on the club or the event (including video of past shows) is also available on our website: OHSCOnline.com.

GRASS HOPPER • NEW HOLLAND • KUBOTA

WILLARD'S EQUIPMENT

SIMPLICITY • HUSQVARNA
PH. (989) 345-3128

JERRY WANGLER
DAN WARNER
JIM JONES

255 S. M-33
WEST BRANCH, MI 48661

West Branch Collision, Inc.

Your #1 Unibody Frame Specialist
with precision collision repair

- Custom Painting
- Auto Collision Repair

CALL GARY 989-345-7230
www.westbranchcollision.com

ASE CERTIFIED I-CAR CHIEF PPG

Village LUBE & AUTO SERVICE CENTER

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR • COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE
"It costs no more to have a specialist do the work."
FOREIGN & DOMESTIC AUTOMOBILE REPAIR

CERTIFIED MECHANICS

AIR CONDITIONING • RADIATOR FLUSH • ALIGNMENT
BRAKES • MUFFLERS & EXHAUST SYSTEMS
COMPUTERIZED FRONT AND REAR ALIGNMENTS & TIRE BALANCING
TIRES • INTERSTATE BATTERIES • BELTS & HOSES • FUEL INJECTION
STARTERS & ALTERNATORS • MINOR ENGINE • MOTOR TUNE-UP
SHOCKS & STRUTS • CHECK ENGINE LIGHT

Bill Ballard FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1962 989-345-4410
3149 W. Houghton, West Branch
Auto Repair 7:30-5 M-F • Oil Change 8:30-5 M-F

FICK & SONS

PROpane SALES & SERVICE

Serving ALL of Northern Michigan Residential & Commercial

GRAYLING 989-348-7647 WEST BRANCH 989-345-7551 HOUGHTON LAKE 989-422-6647

800-292-9295 fickandsons.com

Locally owned & operated • Price Protection Plans Available

The first sidewalk snow plowers of West Branch

BY SALLY A. REA

After this last blast of cold and snow I thought I would write a little history of the first sidewalk snow plowers. While going through some old pictures at our museum, I ran across a picture of Richard (Dick) Baragar.

He was plowing snow with a single horse. He did have a team at one time, but unfortunately one dropped dead when he was out plowing. This picture was taken on S. Second Street. He kept his horses in a shed on Dow Road where he lived. I remember Dick plowing our street sidewalks at 201 S. Fourth Street where we lived. It was a sight to see and I have never forgotten it. You see, there are some perks of growing older because of the wonderful memories I have and the stories others told me.

Dick was born in Cheboygan, Mich., in 1898. How he ended up in West Branch I am not sure. I remember him smoking an old pipe. He had a haircut that looked like his wife used a bowl to cut it, and wore bib overalls. I loved to

go out and pet his horses.

Dick also worked with my dad, Dr. Robert C. Rea DVM, doing odd jobs around the office and I know this may sound gruesome, but he would bury the animals that had to be euthanized.

Dick was the first dog catcher in West Branch and the pound was located in the back my dad's veterinarian office that was once my grandfather's livery stable. (H.E. Rea DVM)

I remember Dick's wife, Bernice, who was almost blind. She would send loaves of homemade bread with Dick to my dad. It was a little darker than what he liked. She also made my sister, Nancy, and I hand-knitted mittens that were colorful and warm.

Dick and his wife had one daughter, whose name was Betty. She had moved to Sterling. Bernice died Nov. 11, 1969, and Dick

died Feb. 8, 1983, at the age of 84.



SALLY A. REA
HISTORIAN AND
CURATOR

Another person who worked for the city of West Branch was John Kartes. Before John passed away, I talked to him a lot. He too had told me that he plowed the sidewalks for the city. He had a team of horses that he used and they were kept in the barns behind West Branch High School (now Sur-

line) on the old fairground's property.

I talked to John's wife, Hazel, and she shared a few pictures that I copied of John with his team near Houghton Avenue and Valley Street. She said John started plowing the old sidewalks in the early 1960s. His horse was owned by Earl Kenyon and was named King. John ran the trucks for the city's department of public works

SNOW continues on page 7 »

News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

I must admit I have been hibernating for the winter. As I have gotten older the cold does not do my body any good. I am counting down the days until spring.

With spring in mind our Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake will be hosting its spring craft show at the Whittemore-Prescott High School on March 28. The doors will open for shoppers at 9 a.m. and the show will end at 3 p.m. There is no cost at the door but if you would like to bring a box of Kleenex for our Kleenex drive, that would be appreciated.

The club allows students of Whittemore-Prescott to do fundraisers for free at the show. The students serve homemade lunch from the cafeteria and bring it around on a cart. The gym is full of vendors selling their crafts and wares. Students and vendors fill the hallways also. If anyone is

interested in being a vendor, the spot fee is \$35 for a 10x10 spot in the gym or \$30 for a section in the halls. Each vendor donates an item to the vendor raffle table, and you can buy tickets to drop into a container next to the items you would like to win.

There will be meat raffle tickets for sale on site for first prize of \$300, second prize of \$200 and third prize of \$100. There will be meat certificates for Klemmer's Processing in West Branch, and you can use your certificate as you need to, so you don't have to own a big freezer and get it all at once. The meat tickets are \$5 each. There will be 50/50 tickets available all day. All drawings will be done at 3 p.m.

The gym holds 52 vendors, and we can fit many more in the halls.



APRIL HARKEY-MASON

The craft show will be a week before Easter so you will be able to go Easter shopping. There will be lots of cute spring crafts and Easter goodies for sale. All the proceeds go to the club to support community events for the area youth.

This is a great opportunity to support local vendors, our Optimist club, students and community. They always have a wheelchair and walker available to anyone who may need them to shop. The chairs are located at the front door. I hope to see you there.

Remember, if you have any news to share with me, call or text 989-578-8768. Until next time, God Bless.

4-H barn quilts spotlight Ogemaw County support and pride



BY STEPHANIE WILLIAMS
OGEMAW COUNTY 4-H
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

Last summer, during the West Branch 150th Sesquicentennial celebration, the community came together to create three beautiful 3' x 3' quilt board-style canvases. Each piece is a work of art that reflects the spirit and creativity of Ogemaw County, as well as the



Courtesy photo

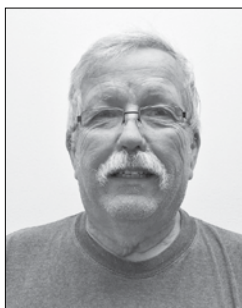
4-H philosophy of learning by doing.

Since October 2025, we have been circulating these canvases at three different local businesses each month. They've been featured in the schools, libraries, downtown, and more. Each participating business is highlighted on our Facebook page, helping showcase both the artwork and our local community partners.

We're excited to continue this project through August of this year. Displaying a canvas is easy, they come ready to hang hardware or can be displayed on a collapsible easel. Could your business be the next feature? Contact us to reserve your month and help keep this community art project traveling. Call 989-345-0692 or send an email to steph544@msu.edu to reserve your canvas.

KIWANIS OF WEST BRANCH

Gourmet Nuts are still available for \$25 per container. You can contact Denny at 315-725-1199. If you want to help, come be a part of our team. The Kiwanis Club meets at noon on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the G's Pizzeria. Anyone interested in learning about our organization is welcome to attend. If you would like to be a guest speaker to show us what you do, text Denny at 315-725-1199. If you want to help the children of West Branch and around the world, we are here.



DENNY SHUMWAY

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

OGEMAW COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

We are asking for donations of food or money to help us with the influx of families. We supported over 198 families in the month of January. You can add to your grocery bill at Meijer Store with cards found at the checkouts or customer service. We will take donations every Wednesdays of the month from 8:30 to 11 a.m. We are located in the outreach building behind the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave., PO Box 543, West Branch. If bad weather, call or text ahead at 315-725-1199 to see if we are open.

We are open every Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. or until we run out of food. Families can come once a month. We want to thank those individual donors for their generosity at this special time. We also have several businesses to thank, Star Bucks, General Dollar stores of West Branch and St. Helen, and last, but not least, KFC. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FOOD TRUCK

The monthly food truck will be at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads on Friday, March 13. Line-up at 9 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

AKTION CLUB

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

We are having a Valentine Dance on Feb. 13. This is for any high school aged students. It will be from 5-8 p.m. Admission is \$8 which includes hot dog, chips and a drink. There will be a disc jockey, picture screen and a lottery board. Watch for the flyers we have around town. Our next event is Red-Pin Bowling at the Ogemaw Lanes, noon-4 p.m. on March 8; text Denny at 315-725-1199 for more information. We are planning on many things this year. On Facebook, search for Aktion Club West Branch.

Those with special needs interested in joining our club, you have to be over 18 years and completed school. Come

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.

Publisher

Deanna Surbrook
deanna@superior-news.com

989-482-7695

Copy Editor

Nancy McLaughlin

Marketing & Sales Director

Kathryn Collins
kathy@superior-news.com
989-450-6163

Circulation

Lois Bergquist

Writer

Laura Bender
laura@superior-news.com

Historical Writer

Sally Rea
sallyrea2184@gmail.com

Special Contributors

Jamie Stout-Shirkey

Newspaper Pagination

Emily Reed

Contributors

Denny Shumway,
Julie Darnton, April Harkey-Mason,
Stephanie Williams and LaDonna
Schultz

P.O. Box 603
West Branch, MI 48661
Ph. 989-482-7695

Cardinal Optimist Club honors Mills Township firefighters

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ

On Feb. 7, the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake attended the Mills Township Fire Department's Ball to publicly recognize the accomplishments of the men at our local volunteer fire department, who give their time, energy, and talents to their fellow citizens without concern for monetary reward or public award.



LADONNA SCHULTZ

Township Fire Department, who prepare year-round to be dispatched at a moment's notice to fight what most of us fear, are some of the bravest and valiant men in our community.

Janet Smith, president of COCOSL, called the names of each firefighter and presented them with a certificate of appreciation given their individual years of service. And while individually our firefighters are special and strong, together as a team they are heroic. It is this brotherhood of firefighting that the COCOSL set out to honor.

Every great team needs good leadership. The men of the Mills Township Fire Department have chosen two of their own to be

named 2025 Firefighters of the Year, who stand out in this team of modern-day heroes, and who have by their hard work and grit displayed a special commitment to the department. Their actions motivate and inspire their fellow firefighters to bring out the best in themselves. This year firefighters of the year are Timothy Johnson and Kevin Yorton. Both men were presented with a trophy marking this great accomplishment.

Following the presentation of awards, the firefighters were given a much-deserved standing ovation by residents in attendance. And while this group of highly skilled volunteers rarely seek the spotlight, it was nice to see them receive the gratitude of the community they unselfishly serve.

I want to end with a quote from another great leader, Barack Obama. He said: "We



Courtesy Photo

The Mills Township Fire Department was recently recognized by the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake

are reminded that, in the fleeting time we have on this Earth, what matters is not wealth, or status, or power, or fame, but rather how well we have loved and what small part we have played in making the lives of other people

better." Thank you, Mills Township Fire Department, for making the lives of other people in your community better and safer through your sacrifice and service.

MSUE offers pesticide safety training and certification

BY JULIE DARNTON

Michigan State University Extension is offering several in-person Pesticide Applicator Core Review and certification testing sessions across Michigan in early 2026, giving farmers, land managers, and professional applicators opportunities to meet state pesticide certification requirements. Among these offerings, the March 17, 2026, session in West Branch provides a valuable local option for residents of Northeast Michigan.



JULIE DARNTON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
MSU EXTENSION

participants who request them during sign-up. MDARD does not charge on-site testing fees; individuals who pass will receive materials to mail in their certification fee separately. Registration remains open until March 9, 2026. Support with registration is available through Extension at 517-264-5315, with program content questions directed to educator Christina Curell at curellc@msu.edu.

Pesticide safety education plays a critical role in protecting human health, the environment, and agricultural productivity. Proper training ensures that applicators understand how to handle, mix, store, and apply pesticides responsibly, reducing the risk of accidental exposure, drift, and contamination of soil and water resources. It also helps participants stay current with state regulations and best practices, supporting compliance with certification requirements and promoting safer workplaces. By strengthening applicators' knowledge and decision-making skills, programs like MSU Extension's Pesticide Safety Education training help safeguard communities while supporting sustainable and effective pest management across Michigan.

The West Branch program will take place at the MSU Extension Ogemaw County Annex, 205 S. Eighth St., running from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with check-in beginning at 8 a.m. The day includes a four-hour review of the National Pesticide Applicators Certification Core Manual, followed by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) exams in the afternoon. Tests available at this site include Private Core, Commercial Core, Fumigation Standard, and Aerial Standard. Participation in the review session is required to sit for the exam.

The registration fee for the review is \$25, and 4 RUP recertification credits are available to

ENTERTAINMENT

**YOUR EVENT
COULD BE
ADVERTISED
HERE
CALL KATHY:
989-450-6163**

Ogemaw Lanes
Home of the Best Frame Tournament®
Jan. - May

- Full Menu
- Pizza • Bar
- Open Bowling
- Mini Golf

2357 W. I-75 Bus. Loop, West Branch
989-345-2200

17th Annual Camel Races

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

West Branch Optimist Club
Saturday, March 21, 2026
Columbus Hall (formerly K of C)
West Branch, MI
Opens: 5:30 PM Post Time: 6:30 PM
Hors d'oeuvres, Desserts and Set-Ups - BYOB
\$20 per person
Further information:
Call Chuck at 989-942-6608
Tickets Available at:
Culligan & Morse Clark Furniture
Proceeds go to youth programs and operational expenses

810-373-5296

OUTDOOR SPACES LANDSCAPING

Specializing in:
Retaining Walls, Patios,
Block Seawalls & More.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
@LANDSCAPEMYOUTDOORSPACE
OUTDOORSPACESLANDSCAPING.COM
local to West Branch, MI

Snow Box Derby

« Continued from page 1



Elizabeth Andres' rainbow box sled was named Most Colorful.

Photos by Laura Bender



Pictured are Lucas Klacking, age four, and his pit crew, Benjamin Klacking, Chelsea Silvers, and Elizabeth Klacking, age one. When asked his age, Lucas announced that when he was old, he would be 16.



Eli Andres' shark was voted Most Original.

Food pantry receives grant



The Ogemaw County Christian Fellowship Food Pantry received a grant in January from the Farm Bureau of Ogemaw and Iosco counties. The food pantry was thrilled to receive the grant to be able to provide the needed food for their patrons. The food pantry serves Ogemaw County weekly; each family can come in once a month to get food to help get through tough times. Pictured, is a representative from Erickson Family Agency and Denny Shumway from the food pantry.

Courtesy photo

St. Joseph School donates to Life Choices Resource Center



The St. Joseph School family was very gracious and generous showing their faith in the community by providing the Life Choices Resource Center with wipes and diapers. This is one of the greatest blessings that the school can provide to the baby and the families that are receiving a blessed gift from God. The school thanks the Life Choices Resource Center staff for their dedication to the sanctity of human life, especially the babies.

Courtesy photo

Mason's

« Continued from page 1

the best possible maple products produced in a clean, licensed facility. Last year we tapped 400 trees and made 145 gallons of syrup. This year we plan to tap an additional 200 to 300 trees. We are aiming for 200 gallons.”

Receiving MDARD certification means the Masons are licensed to sell their products both in and out of state. Locally, their maple products are sold at Standish Milling Company.

“We have pure maple syrup, infused syrups (cinnamon, vanilla, and coffee bean), and the fan favorite bourbon barrel-aged syrup,” Amy said. “We also have pure maple sugar available.”

One-third of Mason's Maple products are sold in Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. From September through November, Russell works for Bearpaw Outfitters in Idaho, where he leads hunts for elk, moose, and mule deer. That

connection has helped the Masons develop a western state market.

“Mason's Maple has a new logo on all our bottles,” Russell said. “It features elk antlers wrapping around a maple leaf to reflect our out-west connection.”

“We are anxiously awaiting warmer temps so we can start tapping our trees for the upcoming maple season,” Amy said. “We are hoping it will start sometime within the next month.”

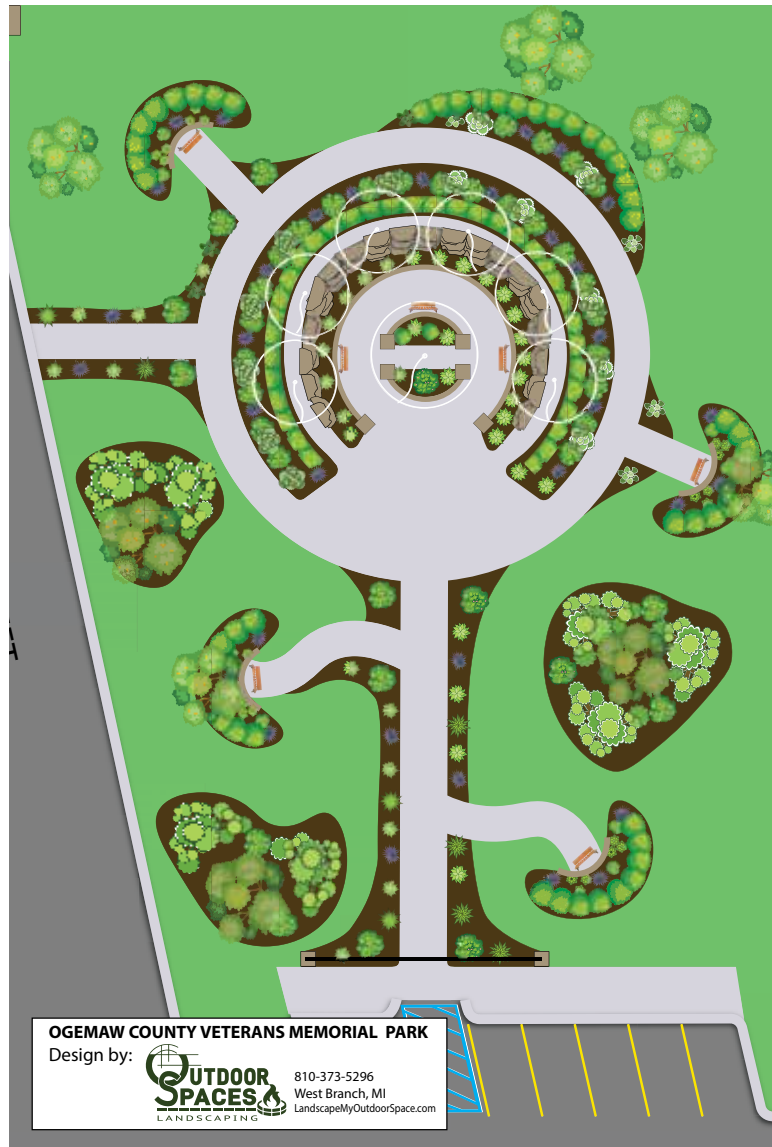
Besides Mason's Maple, from mid-July through Labor Day Russ and Amy operate Mason's Sweet Corn farm stand where they sell fresh-picked vegetables and fruit from farmers in Bay City. For a week each June, Russ heads out west to teach process-based hunting skills at a ranch that sponsors an elk hunting boot camp. Last year, Russ and several military veterans gathered for a one-day, 50-mile ruck from Irons Park in

West Branch to the Standish city limit and back. They didn't make the full 50 miles last year, so they plan to try again this year. Anyone interested in joining them on May 22 at Irons Park, Step-off time is 0600.

To learn more about Mason's Maple, visit <https://www.facebook.com/MasonsMaple>.

Memorial Park

« Continued from page 1



OGEMAW COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
Design by: **OUTDOOR SPACES LANDSCAPING**
810-373-5296
West Branch, MI
LandscapeMyOutdoorSpace.com
Photo by Emily Reed
The Veteran Memorial Park Subcommittee, with the help of Outdoor Spaces Landscaping, is exploring preliminary conceptual designs, like this one, for the new park.

county, plaques representing the military branches, and a marble memorial urn. In front are a flagpole and two benches. Due to wear, these were replaced in 2024.

As the county has grown, so has the traffic on Houghton Avenue. Loud vehicles overpower patriotic ceremonies and distract from their purpose. Parking is minimal, and safety for pedestrians is a concern.

In October 2025, under the expert guidance of LaDonna Schultz, the Veteran Memorial Park Subcommittee held its first meeting. According to its mission statement, the purpose of the committee is “to develop and implement the building of a veteran memorial park into a welcoming space where community members of all ages can gather for remembrance, displaying gratitude, and education on the sacrifices of United States Military Veterans and the freedoms they defend.”

The multidisciplinary committee represents business leaders, community government and military veterans. The first order of business was to tour proposed locations to select a site. On Oct. 23, 2025, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners designated county parcel number 65-052-117-004-00 as a public park

to house the Veterans Memorial. This site, currently a parking lot, is located on the corner of South Eighth Street and West Ripley Street.

In December, the committee surveyed members of the community to find out what they thought should be included in the new memorial. Flags, available parking, benches and paved walkways were the top four concerns. In addition, people want a well-maintained green area that includes shrubbery and trees and access to nearby restrooms.

Currently, the committee is working with Outdoor Spaces Landscaping to select a design for the new park and to obtain permits. They are also placing a request through the United States Army Donations Program for a piece of combat equipment to display.

Once the plan is in place, the committee will move to the budgeting phase, which will include a search for available grants as well as donations from the community.

The next meeting of the Veteran Memorial Park Subcommittee is scheduled for Feb. 19, at 3 p.m. at the Ogemaw County Building. Public comment is welcome.

Snow

« Continued from page 4

and the road grader.

Hazel told me on one of our visits that a man named Floyd Linam also plowed the sidewalks before Dick or John. He lived on Carpenter Street and had a little barn behind his house where he kept his team of horses. He lived kitty-corner from Vivian and Russell Decker.

Hazel and John were married on Sept. 27, 1947. Hazel had two daughters, Janith and Joyce. They later adopted a four-and-a-half-year-old boy named Steven. John always treated these children like they were his own. I went to school with Janith and she has passed away. Joyce was married to Charles Grezeszak. Charles has passed away.

John was born in West Branch and he and Bob Kartes were brothers. John lived here all of his life and died Feb. 9, 2013. He loved to play the guitar and entertained the residents at Bortz Health Care Center many times. He loved his grandchildren and took them for rides in the woods behind their home in a golf cart. He also loved gardening, fishing, and hunting.

Information was from John and Hazel Kartes to me many years ago.

Tax Reform impacts virtually everyone this year.

Let's see what it means for you.



Tax Prep Checklist

Bring these items to your tax appointment to help ensure you get every dollar you deserve.

Personal Information

- SSN or ITIN, full names and birth dates for everyone included on your return
- Amount of alimony paid and ex-spouse's Social Security number
- Childcare records (including the provider's ID number) if applicable

Income/Investments/Retirement

- All forms that say W-2, 1098, 1099, or Schedule K-1
- Purchase date and total investment in any stocks sold
- Closing statements for any real estate purchased or sold
- Expenses related to your investments
- Records of any contributions made to IRAs, other retirement plans, 529 plans or education savings accounts
- Records of other income and expenses (jury duty, gambling, alimony, etc.)
- Records of business income and expenses if you are an independent contractor, self-employed, or own rental real estate

Education

- Education scholarships and fellowships
- Records of tuition and other higher education expenses, and Form 1098-T
- Student loan interest paid (Form 1098-E)

Itemized Deductions

- Form 1098
- Mortgage interest, real estate tax (if not reported on a 1098) and personal property tax records
- Prior year state/local income tax paid (see hrblock.com if you have sales tax records for large purchases)
- Records of cash amounts donated to houses of worship, schools and other charitable organizations
- Records of non-cash charitable donations
- Records of miles driven for charitable purposes
- Records of any property lost or damaged due to natural disaster or theft

Healthcare

- Form 1095-A, if you enrolled in an insured plan through the Marketplace (Exchange)
- Marketplace exemption certificate if you applied for and received an exemption from the Marketplace (Exchange)
- Form 1095-B or Form 1095-C, if you have insurance through a private plan or employer plan
- HSA information (Forms 5498, 1099-SA) and receipts for medical expenses



306 Houghton Ave.
West Branch, MI 48661
989-345-2350

CUSTOMIZED CHECKLISTS ALSO AVAILABLE AT: HRBLOCK.COM



Obituaries

Thomas Edwin Bell

Feb. 5, 2026

Thomas Edwin Bell, 89, of West Branch, and formerly of Goodrich, Mich., passed away on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026, at his home, with his wife, Janet, and daughter, Kim by his side. He was born in Hillman, Mich., the son of William Preston Bell and Elsie (Oming) Bell.

He met and married Janet (Hubble) Bell on April 11, 1959.

They lived in Goodrich for 44 years before moving to Fresno, Calif., in 2003 where his daughter, Kim, and her husband, Mike, lived. After 11 years in California, traveling back and forth from Fresno to their summer home in Hillman, they moved to West Branch, followed by Kimberly and Mike. Tom lived in West Branch for 11 years before his passing.

Tom grew up in Hillman on a beef cattle farm. In 1953 he and a friend decided to hire in at the Buick Plant in Flint. He worked there for two years and at a print shop near the plant. He moved to Davison where he and Janet met through her sister. In 1962, he bought a truck and hauled gravel to help build a stretch of I-75 from Grayling to Gaylord. With that experience, he bought a tractor trailer and did cross country hauling of furniture from Mayflower Van Lines. Eventually he worked at Sunoco gas station in Goodrich, purchasing the old Ford dealership in Ortonville,



where he spent 22 years in the business. He retired in 2000.

Retirement wasn't for Tom, so he got a job at Walmart in the TLE Department for one and a half years before moving to Fresno, Calif. His final job was pressing shirts at a Korean dry cleaner in Fresno.

Tom is survived by his wife, Janet (Hubble) Bell; daughter, Kimberly (Michael) Toepfer of Whittemore; nieces, Ruth (Michael) Doyle of Tawas City, and Susan (Todd) Morrison of Youngstown, OH; nephews, Robert Gamage of New York, N.Y., and Michael (Bonnie) Bell of Carlisle, Penn.; and sisters-in-law, Barbara Pettitt, Bonnie Ferguson, Sue Brownson, and Dawn (Charles) Rasak.

He is preceded in death by his parents; son, Scott A. Bell; brothers, James (Lousie) Bell, John Bell, Allen (Nancy) Bell; sister, Betty (Mack) Gamage, and sister-in-law, Juanita (Eggleston) Pearman.

Visitation was held at Steuermol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch on Feb. 10. Visitation was also held at Village Funeral Home in Ortonville, on Feb. 12. Pastor Autumn Howard officiated and burial followed at Ortonville Cemetery.

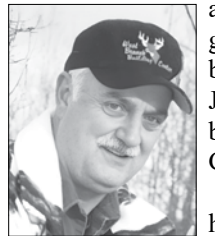
Memorial contributions can be made to Heartland Hospice.

Online condolences can be shared at www.steuernolmclaren.com

Darrell Hull

Sept. 30, 1946 – Jan. 23, 2026

On Jan. 23, 2026, we lost a great man, Darrell Hull (79). He passed away peacefully at his home, "Paradise on Dam Road," surrounded by his family. Born in West Branch on Sept. 30, 1946, Darrell was the firstborn son of the late Bill and June Hull. Darrell was a pillar in every community he lived



and Allie Dunaj, Amber (Nathan) Trout, and Gregg (Alicia) Wangler; great-grandchildren, Carson and Caleb Dettling, Raegan and Reid Berlin, Aubree and Abbie Trout, and Jayce Wangler, and his best buddy and grand-dog, Cooper.

He is also survived by his little sister, Gina (Bill) Loney; sisters-in-law Billie and Agnes Daniels; brother-in-law Russell Rinckey, and many very special nieces and nephews. He was regarded as a second dad by nephews John and Chris Hull, whom he loved like sons. Darrell is also survived by his best friend and golf partner, Greg Phillips, and long-time bowling buddy, Dallas Ostrander.

He was preceded in death by parents, Bill and June Hull; grandparents Fred "Pa" and Ethel "Mona" Webster, Percy and Sylvia Hull, and brothers Bill and Rod Hull.

Darrell was blessed by a liver transplant in 2018. If you would like to honor Darrell, please consider donating to The Gift of Life Michigan, which gave Darrell eight extra years on earth.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Darrell on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 2-6 p.m. at Merritt Auction House, aka "The Corner," 7467 E. Houghton Lake Rd., Merritt, Mich. 49667.

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

Darrell was a man of many hobbies and a walking example of "work hard, play hard." He was a bowler, golfer, avid hunter, fisherman, camper, snowmobiler, and traveler. He enjoyed owning harness-race horses and watching his uncle and grandfather race them. He also volunteered his time at the food bank. In recent years, he loved taking long golf cart rides on his property with the love of his life. His favorite roles, by far, were those of husband, dad, papa, and peepaw.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Kathleen Hull; beautiful daughters, Lesia (Mike) Loney, Laurie (Greg) Wangler, and Lynette (Paul) Dunaj; grandchildren, Jessica Loney, Alyssa (Bill) Berlin, Sam Zimmerman, Kassie

Marie Martha Howell

Feb. 28, 1938 – Jan. 23, 2026

Marie Martha Howell, age 87, passed away on Friday, Jan. 23, 2026. She was born in Frankenmuth, Mich., on Feb. 28, 1938, the daughter of the late Herbert and Margaret Schluckebier, their fifth daughter of six. She attended St. Lorenz Lutheran School, Frankenmuth High School (9th and 10th grade), and graduated from Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw. She also attended and graduated from MSU with a teaching degree. She married Richard (Dick) Howell, of Wabash, Ind., on July 20, 1963, in Frankenmuth, Mich. He preceded her in death in 2018. They were married for 55 plus years and were blessed with two children.

Marie is survived by her children, Terri (Mike) Durfee and Gary Howell; her grandsons, Brian Durfee and Matthew Durfee, and her sister, Barbara O'Neil, as well as numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Awaiting her in heaven are her parents, her sisters and brothers-in-law, Mike and Esther Ortner, Herbert and Margaret Grueber, Frank and Ruth Rittmueller, Dorothy Schmitzer and Dorothy's husbands, Bob Jorgensen, Floyd Schmitzer; Wayne Weston, and Bernie O'Neil.

After graduating from MSU, Marie taught kindergarten and first grade at Clarksville School, where she helped guide many students with her loving care. She taught for over 30 years and enjoyed all the joys that came with teaching our younger generations. After retirement, she enjoyed many trips around the country and purchasing her favorite home,

the cottage as it was affectionally known, where she eventually moved to full time after selling the house in Portland. She enjoyed going on trips to the casino with her son and grandsons, who called her the luckiest person ever.

Those who knew Marie will remember her for her infectious smile and overwhelming laughter, her deep-rooted faith in Jesus, and her unwavering commitment to spreading love and kindness to everyone she encountered. She had a rare gift for making others smile and laugh, leaving a lasting impact on all who crossed her path. Marie was affectionately known as a shining light in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her. She spread love, compassion, and her unwavering faith in God. Marie was a person, that no matter who you were, either friend or stranger, she would sit down and talk to you and make you feel good about yourself. You would always leave with a smile on your face. She had a gift to make everyone feel better just by being near her. She was the historian of the Schluckebier family. She would recall bits and pieces of history that nobody could remember. If you had a question about anything or anyone, mom would know. We all are going to miss talking with mom and the blessings that she would give when you did.

Although Marie may no longer grace our lives, her memory will

continue to inspire and uplift us. May her memory be a blessing, and may we carry forth her legacy of love and compassion in all that we do. As you continue to remember her, may her light forever shine brightly in our hearts. We ask that you remember her for the way she lived, and for the profound impact it had on the lives of those who had the pleasure of knowing her.

The family would like to express their gratitude for the wonderful help and care provided by the staff at Trish and Toni House in Auburn, Mich., and to Heartland Hospice of Michigan for the compassionate care that they both provided during the last few days of her incredible life. Everyone loved on her as if she was their own mother. It was such a blessing to our family.

The family will receive friends on Friday, Jan. 30, at the Ogemaw Hills Church, 3480 W. M-76, West Branch, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, when there will be a celebration of life. Marie will be buried next to her loving husband Richard at the Danby Township Cemetery, Sunfield, Mich., at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations to the Toni and Trish House or to the Bible Quizzers of Ogemaw Hills Church.

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



Alan Clifford Gildner

March 1, 1948 – Feb. 8, 2026

Alan Clifford Gildner passed away on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, at his home in West Branch, at the age of 77. He was born on March 1, 1948, in West Branch to Clifford and Doris (Cool) Gildner.

Alan's journey began in West Branch, where he graduated from West Branch High School as part of the Class of 1966. His upbringing instilled in him the values of hard work and camaraderie that would shine throughout his life. While attending college, he proudly enlisted and served his country as a Seabee in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War, a testament to his dedication and patriotism.

In his professional life, Alan worked diligently at West Branch Concrete, ultimately becoming a co-owner in the later years of his career. His contributions to the business were marked by integrity and loyalty, serving the community's needs. Beyond his work, he was a member of the Knights of Columbus No. 2022 in West Branch.

A passionate sports fan, Alan cherished attending University of Michigan football games with his best friend, the late Dale Wangler. He found joy not only in the excitement of the games but also in the bonds formed through shared experiences. He also enjoyed golfing and his weekly golf leagues in the summer.

Alan cherished his cottage on Higgins Lake, where countless memories were made with family

and friends, each visit filled with laughter and warmth. When he wasn't at the lake, he could be found back at deer camp at the Hillcrest Hunting Lodge where he enjoyed hunting and riding through the property.

His daily ritual included mornings spent at Mac's Place and Buck's Country Cookin', where he enjoyed coffee with the regulars. These moments were a reflection of his friendly nature and desire for connection with those around him.

Alan was devoted to his family, and his love for them was evident in everything he did. He leaves behind his significant other, Marianne Bartlett, and his cherished children, Amy (Dan) Fransee, Allison (Brian) Pugh, Terri (Greg) Habig, Jeff (Jenny) Bartlett, and Brian (Jessica) Bartlett. Alan was a proud grandfather to Marlee, Owen, Oliver, Alexa (Logan), Isabella, Andrew, Laken (Ryse), Nolan, Brett, Jacob, Grant, Breigan, Brenna (Hunter), Brock, and Branton, as well as a great-grandfather to Braylon, Sutton, Briar, Adeline, Lenleigh and Blaire.

Each grandchild and great-grandchild held a special place in his heart, and he took immense joy in attending their sporting events, cheering from the stands.

Alan is also survived by his brother, Roger (Linda) Gildner, along with many nieces, nephews,



Obituaries

William L. Smith

June 14, 1955 – Feb. 3, 2026

William L. Smith, known fondly as Bill, was born on June 14, 1955, in Flint, Mich. He passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, at Lakeview Manor in Tawas City, Mich., leaving behind a legacy of kindness and joy.



Bill worked at Well-vance, which many may know as AuSable Valley.

Bill had simple yet delightful interests. He enjoyed baby animals and found peace in going for walks. These activities brought him happiness.

Bill is survived by his brothers, Clifford and Danny; his sisters,

Betty, Dorothy, and Rose; his half-sisters, Betty and Shirley; as well as many nieces and nephews who cherished their uncle deeply.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Mary (Boone) Smith.

Bill will be remembered for his warm heart, his love for family, and his cheerful demeanor.

Cremation has taken place and no service is scheduled.

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

Savannah Nichole Oswald

Nov. 23, 2006 – Jan. 31, 2026

Our beautiful and talented Savannah Nichole Oswald, whose bright light shone upon each of us, especially those most close, passed away Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, age 19. Savannah was born on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, 2006, in Bay City, Mich., to her loving parents, Mandie Hall and James Oswald.



Growing up as a young girl, Savannah used her musical talents and played the bass clarinet in the school band at Surline and Ogemaw Heights. Savannah was a very gifted ballet and jazz dancer, and she enjoyed practicing and rehearsing her expressive talents at Carol Ann's Dance Studio in West Branch.

Savannah was an active member of Michigan 4-H, especially participating in raising and showing rabbits. She received the Outstanding Achievement Award twice, as well as earning the Champion Market Rabbit at the Ogemaw County Fair. Savannah had a true love for all animals, especially her cat, Smokey, and her chocolate lab, Ollie. All of her mom's dogs, which she considered to be like her own, held a warm place in her heart too.

Savannah's boisterous and proud spirit allowed her to excel at cheerleading for the Ogemaw Browns, Ogemaw Heights High School, and Corunna High School. Her favorite was cheering on Friday nights at the football game. When she wasn't cheerleading, Savannah participated in track and field, cross country and the high school musical.

Savannah had a heart full of love for everyone in her life. She was truly blessed beyond measure

with so many unique skills, talents, and traits. Another such beautiful talent was her artistic ability to paint scenes, animals, and people on canvas backdrops. She took great pride in creating these portraits and gifting them to family and friends who will cherish these precious gifts from Savannah for a lifetime. Savannah was a giver; a giver of hope, friendship, compassion, and

generosity. She was always a true supporter and an includer to all her friends and family.

Savannah's precious and beautiful legacy will forever remain with each of her family members and friends as she is led home to the arms of Jesus where she will have eternal peace.

Savannah is survived by her mother, and step-father, Mandie and Jeff Klatt; father, James Oswald; siblings, Jacob Geer and Mariah Hall; grandparents, Debra Cook and Joseph Cook and Patricia O'Rourke; close cousins Andrew Oswald, Alex Oswald, Bella, Chevella and Noah Cook; her most special feline friend, Smokey; numerous aunts, uncles and friends. Savannah was preceded in death by her Uncle Joey Cook; grandparents, Bill Richmond, Jerome and Jacqueline Oswald.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, at the Holy Family Catholic Church in West Branch with visitation preceding. Father Al Pillarelli officiated.

Memorial contributions can be made to www.save-a-turtle.org

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

Kathleen Carol Zettel

Dec. 3, 1944 – Jan. 20, 2026

Kathleen Carol Zettel, affectionately known as Kathy, was born on Dec. 3, 1944, in Selkirk, Mich., to Kenneth and Anne (Houston) Blum. She passed away peacefully at her home in West Branch, surrounded by her family, on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of warmth, kindness, and service to her community.

Kathy married Kenneth Zettel in Klacking Creek on April 20, 1963.

Kathy was a dedicated individual who wore many hats throughout her career. From an early age, she began working at Kenyon's Resort, assisting her mother in the kitchen, where her passion for cooking blossomed. Her journey continued as she became an integral part of the West Branch Library as an assistant librarian, instilling a love for reading in the hearts of many. Her creative talents were visible in numerous bulletin boards and craft projects at St. Joseph Catholic School. Kathy's career also spanned roles in clerical work at Hasty Clinic and in the kitchens at West Branch Country Club and the Harvest Grill. Most notably, she served for 25 years at Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home, where her compassionate nature brought comfort to grieving families.

Education was always important to Kathy. She attended Withey School and proudly graduated from West Branch High School in 1962. Her values of lifelong learning and community service were deeply rooted in her upbringing and continued to guide her throughout her life.

Kathy was an active member of both the Holy Family Klacking Creek Church and St. Joseph

Catholic Church, where her faith shone through her many contributions. As a Eucharistic minister and lecturer, Kathy shared her devotion and love for her faith with others. Her involvement extended to serving on the Edwards Township Election Board and dedicating countless hours volunteering for various committees at St. Joseph Catholic Church and School.

Her spirit of service reflected her deep-seated belief in supporting her community and nurturing the values of charity and kindness.

Beyond her professional commitments, Kathy was known for her nurturing personality, characterized by her kindness and care for others. She found joy in simple pleasures, such as gardening, making rag rugs and quilts, crocheting and knitting, and canning the fruits of her labor. Many will cherish the handwritten letters she crafted to stay connected with the people in her life. Kathy's hobbies were a reflection of her creativity and love for her family, and she made it a point to share that love through every stitch and hand-crafted gift.

Her generosity, active spirit, and genuine kindness created ripples of positivity in her community. While her physical presence may be gone, the memories she built and the love she spread will continue to live on in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known her.

Kathy is survived by her beloved husband, Kenneth; her children, James (April) Zettel, Susanna (Mark) Mier, Dominic (Terry) Zettel, Daniel (Melinda)

Zettel, Theodore (Melissa) Zettel, Eric (Angela) Zettel, Samuel (Laci) Zettel and Andrew (Sarah) Zettel; grandchildren, Steven (Sara) Zettel, Sara (Mike) Deyarmond, Emily (Kyle) Wangler, Seth Mier, Gabrielle (Evan) Alderton, Cameron Zettel, Dillon Zettel, Breanna (Jonathan) Moody, Adam Zettel, Aaron Zettel, Alec Zettel, Adrian Zettel, Alexis



(Jon) Nemchak, Jacob (Phoenix) Zettel, Allison Zettel, Rebecca Zettel, Thomas Pruner, Cassandra Marshall, Tessa Marshall, Daniel Marshall, Abigail Marshall, Peyton Zettel, Kenzie Zettel, Sophie Zettel, and Grant Zettel; great-grandchildren, Percy, Jerimiha, Annabelle, Faye, Jacob, Landyn, Emmerson, Kameryn, Lyla, Lillian, Lane, Atlas, Saphira, and Aurora.

She is also survived by her sisters, Vicky and Virginia, and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Kathy is preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Terry; her children, Susan, Steven, Baby Zettel, and Joseph, and great-grandson, Skyler Nemchak.

A visitation was held on Monday, Jan. 26, 2026, at Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch, with a rosary. The funeral service was held on Jan. 27, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in West Branch with visitation preceding the service. Fr. Al Pillarelli officiated and burial followed at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Online condolences can be shared at www.steuernolmclaren.com

Mark Leighton Lawnichak

Oct. 8, 1961 – Jan. 27, 2026

Mark Leighton Lawnichak, age 64, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Saginaw, Mich., surrounded by his loving family. He was born on Oct. 8, 1961, in Trenton, Mich., to Anthony and Donna Lawnichak. Mark's warm spirit and love for his family will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew him.

Mark graduated from Ogemaw Heights High School in 1979.

Mark is remembered fondly by his daughters, Heather (Aric) Basilius and Toni Wuolukka, and by his grandchildren, each of whom brought immense joy to his life: Hailey Wuolukka, Briann Basilius, Isabelle Basilius, Braylen Wuolukka, Zoey Basilius, and Stella Basilius. His passion for life was evident in his diverse interests, which included all types of hunting, fishing, working on cars, boating, and gun collecting. These hobbies not only

brought him pleasure but also served as means to bond with his family and friends in countless cherished moments.

He is also survived by his mother and step-father, Donna and Dave Broman; his brother, Brian (Marcy) Lawnichak, and sisters, Lori (Brian) Curley and Dawn (Dan) Bardo. Mark was a caring uncle to his nieces and nephews, Brandi (Jeremy) Jacobs, Courtney Curley, Zachary Bardo, Travis Bardo, Shantel (Carl) Roney, and Rebecca (Colt) Simrau, who will miss his guidance and affection. Mark is also leaving behind lifelong friendships with Randall Jennings, John Ballew, and John Davis.

Mark was preceded in death by his father, Anthony "Tony" Lawnichak, as well as his grandparents, Clyde and Edith Cannon and Anthony and Mary

Lawnichak, and his uncle, Bill Cannon.

The funeral service was held at Ogemaw Hills Free Methodist Church on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, with visitation preceding. Justin Bedtelyon officiated. Burial followed at Lane Heights Cemetery in Lupton, Mich.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the family.

Arrangements were handled by Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in Rose City. www.steuernolmclaren.com

As we remember Mark, we celebrate a life filled with love, laughter, and dedication. His legacy will live on through the memories he created, the lessons he imparted, and the lives he touched. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.



Honor your loved ones with a complementary obituary listing

Ogemaw County
SUPERIOR NEWS

email obituaries to:
deanna@superior-news.com

HERE'S MY BUSINESS CARD!

Call Today!
989-728-5955

130 East Ainsley
Hale, MI 48739



24 HOUR EMERGENCY Service!

Services We Provide

- Mitsubishi Ductless Heating/Cooling
- HVAC Furnaces/Air Conditioners/Heat Pumps
- Boilers New Install and Replacement
- HVAC Preventative Maintenance
- Generac WHOLE HOME Generator Install/Service
- Plumbing Services and Install
- Preferred Maintenance Agreements
- Electrical Services Commercial/Residential

Financing Options Available

synchrony

www.colvinsheating.com

QUALITY HOMES & MAINTENANCE

Kitchens, Baths & More

www.AQHMS.com

30+ Years Experience

Electrician/Builder

Rick Smith
989-836-3575

Rick@AQHMS.com

Road to Recovery Starts Here...

TOUR TODAY!

- 24 Hour Nursing Care
- Physical, Occupational, Speech Therapy
- Long Term Care
- Transportation to and from Appointments
- Laundry Service
- Complimentary Television/WIFI
- Daily Activities

villa at West Branch
445 S. Valley Street
West Branch, MI 48661
989.345.3600
villawestbranch.com

Please Contact
Cyndi Egan
for information
989-390-1761
cegan@villahc.com

villa at Rose City
517 W. Page Street
Rose City, MI 48654
989.685.9400
villarosecity.com

WEST SIDE STORAGE

State-of-the-art facility.
24-hour access to your belongings.

Storage units from:
10 ft. x 10 ft to 10 ft. x 40 ft units
100 sq. ft. - 1,052 sq. ft.

Heated Garage units available

1955 Ski Park Rd. • West Branch
989-345-0326

westsidestoragewb@gmail.com

West Branch CONCRETE PUMPING

38 Meter • 5 Section Z-Boom

Justin Benjamin, Scheduler
989.387.2134

Jake Wangler, Operator
989.312.3177

PO Box 679 • West Branch, MI 48661

lehnerscollision@yahoo.com **Tim Lehner**
Owner

Lehner's COLLISION

AXALTA Limited Lifetime Warranty

State Certified • FREE ESTIMATES

2789 S. M-76 West Branch

989-345-0577
Fax: 989-345-0767

Windows Fogged, Cracked or Steamed Up?
Give Us a Call, We Can Fix That!

Meier Glass Service Since 1957

Free Estimates Insurance Work Welcome

1660 Norwyn Drive, West Branch
(989) 345-0616
meierglass@charter.net

Mobile Service Stone Chip Repair Screens

"Our 66th Year in Business - 2nd Generation"

EVERGREEN CONTRACTING

Call Toby (989) 709-6615
481 Lucas Lane • West Branch

Landscape Contractor

- Brick Pavers • Retaining Walls • Walkways • Sprinkler Systems
- New Lawn Prep • Hydro Seed/Sod • Topsoil-Grading • Trees & Bushes

JMC DUMPSTERS

5 - 10 - 20 - 30 yard dumpsters

Serving Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Oscoda and Arenac Counties

989-343-5023
JACKMORRISCONSTRUCTION@YAHOO.COM

RED'S PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Stump Grinding - Sand and Gravel Delivery - Brush Hogging - Property Cleanup - AND MORE!

(989) 343-5483
redswb.com
lucas@redswb.com

Book Your Reservations Now!!

LIKE OUR OWN KENNEL

4513 Cook Rd. • West Branch
(989) 312-4320

DAYCARE • BOARDING

Visit us on our Facebook Page or email us at
like.our.own.kennel@gmail.com

KLEMMER'S PROCESSING

Your Home Town Butcher

989-345-2869

Hours: Mon-Sat 9-7
2831 S. M-76
West Branch

ACE ELECTRIC PLUMBING & HEATING

3222 W. Houghton Ave.
West Branch, MI 48661

(989) 345-2965

ONE STOP SHOP

302 W. Houghton Ave., Downtown West Branch

HERITAGE TATTOO

Support Good Tattoos

989-343-5022

@HERITAGETATTOO

CAN'T MOVE IN THE MORNING?
Feel like new again
and make your appointment today!

989-930-1001 or book online at thebodysshopwb.com

Dr. Angela Scarffe

THE BODY SHOP CHIROPRACTIC

- Chiropractic
- Massage Therapy
- Animal Chiropractic

2266 S. M76, West Branch, MI 48661 (Next to Towne Club)

West Branch Collision, Inc.

Your #1 Unibody Frame Specialist with precision collision repair

- Custom Painting
- Auto Collision Repair

CALL GARY 989-345-7230
www.westbranchcollision.com

ASE I-CAR CHIEF PPG

CLIFF ESMOND SPORTS

CASH FOR GUNS!

SILENCER SHOP

www.cliffesmondssports.com

Your New & Quality Used Firearms Headquarters!

3546 Beechwood Rd.

MOONLIGHT GRAPHICS

- * Signs Of All Kinds * Laser Engraving *
- * Commercial Embroidery *

www.moonlightgraphicswb.com

989-345-3954

Ogemaw County SUPERIOR NEWS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE GUIDE

Run a 1x1" Ad for only \$15 a month • 1 x 2" for only \$30 a month
• 1 x 3" for only \$45 a month

Real Estate

MrreHomes.com

MORRIS-RICHARDSON REAL ESTATE

3148 W M-55 WEST BRANCH, MI (989) 345-2828

Dumpster Rental

JMC DUMPSTERS

5 - 10 - 20 - 30 yard dumpsters

Serving Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Oscoda and Arenac Counties

Call Jack Morris
989-343-5023

Moving

Rob and Big's Moving Company
'Big or Small, We'll Move it All.'
Licensed and Insured
Based out of West Branch, Michigan
robandbigsmoving.com
Like us on Facebook!
Rob DeGentenaar
989-387-6713

Check us out on Facebook! @Superior News

CLASSIFIEDS

\$5 and it runs for a maximum of 3 months!

The Ogemaw County Superior News offers \$5 private party, 20 word classified ads and we will run the ad for a maximum of 3 months.

For help wanted, homes for sale/rent, commercial property for sale/rent or any other business type ad, we charge \$5 for 20 words for a one time run.

If you want to add a photo to the ad, it is an additional, one time charge of \$5.

You can submit your ad via email at kathy@superior-news.com or U.S. mail at: P.O. Box 603, West Branch, MI 48661. If you have questions call (989) 450-6163.

For Sale

King mattress, very clean. Good condition. \$100. 989-345-3477.

Electric rototiller. Powerful and really good condition. Located in West Branch. Call 989-701-9027.

Ogemaw County SUPERIOR NEWS

www.superior-news.com

Public Hearings and Notices

Ogemaw County Seeks County Administrator/Controller

The Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners is seeking an Administrator/Controller to work effectively with the Board to implement its priorities and policies.

Ogemaw County operates on a \$11.28 million general fund budget and has approximately 110 employees. The County is in good financial standing.

Located in Central Lower Michigan, Ogemaw County is a great place to work and live. There are recreational opportunities for all ages across the four seasons.

The Salary range is \$ 120,000 to \$ 140,000 plus benefits

For more detailed information, please call Consultant Chet Janik at 231-633-7680 or visit

<https://www.ocmi.us>

Deadline for application is February 20, 2026

Ogemaw County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Public Hearings and Notices

CITY OF ROSE CITY REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2025

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on December 16, 2025.

Present: Don Freeman, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Ashely Herrick, Brent Hinkley Absent: none

Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, DPW Co-Supervisor Anthony Evans, Amy Hensel and Roger Mayhew.

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

A Motion made by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the Minutes for the December 2, 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 \$22,264.42 from the Common Cash Account and \$1,006.44 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Brent Hinkley gave a Fireboard Meeting report.

Roger Mayhew gave a County Commissioners report.

Anthony Evans gave a DPW report.

Carol Lee Butler gave a Treasurer's report.

Michael Samples gave an EMS report.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to change the wording in the City Charter, page 4, Sec. 3., Elective Officers, remove clerk and treasurer. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman. Nays: Non. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to change the wording in the City Charter, page 4, Sec. 3.2 Appointive, to add clerk and treasurer. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to change the wording in the City Charter, page 5, Sec. 3.4 Ineligibility for office, to (b) ... unless deemed necessary by City Council with unanimous vote. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman. Nays: Non. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to change the wording in the City Charter, page 8, Sec. 4.4 Meeting of the council, to add text & email. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to change the wording in the City Charter, page 10, Sec. 5.5, Publication, to add or on website: rosceitymich.com. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman. Nays: Non. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to change the wording in the City Charter, page 13, Sec. 6.2, to remove clerk and treasurer. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to change the wording in the City Charter, page 14, Sec. 6.4, City Clerk, to (a) The clerk is appointed/hired. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman. Nays: Non. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to change the wording in the City Charter, page 15, Sec. 6.6, to (a) The treasurer is appointed/hired. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to change the wording in the City Charter, page 17, Sec. 6.17, to add council may be offered a 457 self contribution plan with no financial contribution from the city. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman. Nays: Non. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CITY OF ROSE CITY REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 6, 2026

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:05 p.m. on January 5, 2026.

Present: Don Freeman, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Ashely Herrick, Brent Hinkley Absent: none

Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, Police Chief Allen Muma, DPW Co-Supervisor Anthony Evans, Deputy Clerk Nicole Pennell, Theresa Erickson, Dorthy Ealy, Larry Ealy, Sassan Tarahomi, Jacob Myers, Amy Hensel and Chase Wiltse

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

A Motion made by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the Minutes for the December 16, 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 \$10,166.49 from the Common Cash Account and \$254.71 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Theresa Erickson gave a DDA committee report.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve Rick Benjamins term on the DDA. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve Mark Benjamin as DDA Treasurer, Chase Wiltse as DDA Secretary, Mark Berdan as Vice President and Rick Benjamin as President. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman. Nays: Non. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to approve the DDA 2026 meeting dates. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Anthony Evans gave a DPW report.

Chief Allen Muma gave a Police report.

Carol Lee Butler gave a Treasurer's report.

Chase Wiltse addressed the council.

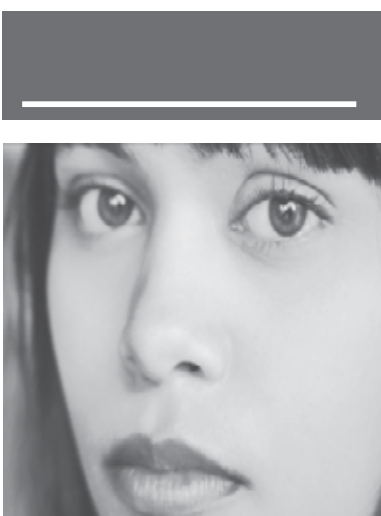
Dr. Sassan Tarahomi addressed the council regarding American PlayWorks.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Myers to remove Cody Curley from the DPW credit card and to approve Tony Evans to be added to the DPW credit card. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the Resolution to Designate Anthony Evans Street Administrator. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the purchase of LED lights for the Council Chambers. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

Don't Wait Until Summer
to grill a delicious
Burger or a juicy Steak
from

KLEMMER'S PROCESSING

Your Home Town Butcher



Hours: Mon-Sat 9-7

2831 S. M-76

West Branch

989-345-2869



- Homemade Breakfast Sausage
- Bacon • Roasts • & More