

KLEMMER'S
PROCESSING
 Your Home Town Butcher
 989-345-2869
 Hours: Mon-Sat 9-7
 2831 S. M-76
 West Branch

Ogemaw County
75¢
SUPERIOR NEWS

EVERGREEN CONTRACTING

- LANDSCAPING
- PAVER PATIOS
- RETAINING WALLS
- HYDROSEEDING

Call Toby: 989-709-6615

OHHS and W-P wrestlers compete in state competition



Courtesy photo
 Eight Ogemaw Heights High School wrestlers recently competed in state competition. Pictured (l-r) Coach Dylan Jensen, Gage David, Jackson Ziegler, Addison Wenkel, Calvin Marshall, Coach Eric Queener, Apollo Goulette, Coach Dominic Goulette and Roman Goulette.

Eight members of the Ogemaw Heights High School (OHHS) wrestling team competed in state competition at Ford Field on Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8.

While three Whittemore-Prescott members also wrestled on the state level.

Out of the eight qualifying wrestlers at OHHS, the following are the results:

Calvin Marshall, ranked #1 in his division, completed his season with a third-place finish in D3 at 215 pounds and achieved his 100th career win.

Addison Wenkel, the first girl to qualify for states at (OHHS) for girls wrestling placed third in the state at 105 pounds.

Roman Goulette finished third in D3 at 113 pounds.

Apollo Goulette finished third at 132 pounds.

Jason Ziegler placed fourth in the state at 150 pounds.

Gage Davis, at 138 pounds, placed sixth.

In a tough bracket, Landon Lauria didn't place, but he will be back next season.

At 190 pounds, Connor Lambert, also competed in a tough bracket, and didn't place. However, he racked up his 150th win.

The three qualifying wrestlers at



Courtesy photo
 Whittemore-Prescott High School wrestler Jayden Goupil placed eighth in D2 at 120 pounds.

Whittemore-Prescott High School were Jayden Goupil, Anthony Green and Lucas Schliep.

Jayden, competing at 120 pounds in D4, medaled in eighth place. Despite a valiant effort, Anthony and Lucas did not place.

Congratulations to all the OHHS and W-P wrestlers.

WBACC hosts Winter Ball and Business Awards

BY DEANNA SURBROOK

It was a sea of red, white and blue at the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce (WBACC) Winter Ball and Outstanding Business Awards on Saturday, Feb. 28, held at the Lumber Jack Lodge in West Branch.

The 22nd annual theme, Stars, Stripes and Sparkles, commemorated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence of our nation in July.

"It was a truly sparkling evening for our chamber and our business community," said WBACC Executive Director Heather Neuhaus. "Thank you to the Chamber Ball committee for the hours of planning and helping make this night memorable."

The ball is the largest fundraiser



Courtesy photo
 Months of planning goes into making the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce (WBACC) Winter Ball and Outstanding Business Awards a success. Led by WBACC Executive Director Heather Neuhaus, with assistance from the Chamber Ball committee, this year's event was no exception.

BALL continues on page 12 »

OH Theatrical Troupe to present HONK!



Courtesy photo
 The Ogemaw Heights Theatrical Troupe presents HONK! as its spring musical this year at 7 p.m. on March 19, 20, 21, with an additional matinee performance on March 21 at 2 p.m.

BY NAOMI HOSTED

The Ogemaw Heights Theatrical Troupe is proud to present HONK! as its spring musical this year at 7 p.m. on March 19, 20, 21, with an additional matinee performance on March 21 at 2 p.m.

HONK! is the story of the "Ugly Duckling" and the adventures he goes on as he searches for his home. The show is directed by Toni Thomas, with music direction by Kevin Salsbury, assisted by Mark Andersen, and set

HONK! continues on page 6 »



7 28028 08805 2



LEHNERS COLLISION

989-343-0577

Full Service Body Shop

We offer Glass Repair & Replacement

STATE CERTIFIED • FREE ESTIMATES

Fax: 989-343-0767
 Tim Lehner, Owner & Manager

2789 S. M-76, West Branch, MI 48661 www.lehnerscollision.com

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 Coun-

ty 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.

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 11

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

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 Teall
www.cbcbw.org

Hale Methodist Church

Everyone Welcome!
 Sunday Worship - 10am; Sunday School - 11am

Palm Sunday - **3/29** - 10am
 Children's Easter Party - 11am
 Last Supper Presentation - **4/2** - 7pm



Cross Walk - **4/3** - 10am
 at Hale Methodist
 Good Friday Service - **4/3** - Noon
 at Hale Assembly of God
 Easter Celebration - **4/5** - 10am

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

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)

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.

THANK YOU
 from
Taylor Entrance Systems

Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for honoring us with the Appreciation Award. We are truly grateful to have been included in the efforts to restore the train. Being able to give back to the community means so much to all of us at Wausau Supply Company-Taylor Entrance Systems. We look forward to continuing to support, contribute, and invest in our community in every way we can.

Got a story idea??
 We'd love to hear from you.

Contact Deanna at:
 989-482-7695 or
deanna@superior-news.com

OHSC hosts Open House and Vintage Snowmobile Show



During the playing of the National Anthem, attendees raised the 20-foot-by-40-foot American flag.



Over 350 vintage snowmobiles were on display at the show. Courtesy photos

The 2026 Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Club (OHSC) Open House and Vintage Snowmobile Show drew at least 1,000 attendees and over 350 show sleds on the grounds. The place was packed and a good time enjoyed by all. Many of the vintage sled owners came from out of state.

The grounds were proudly decorated with over 20 full-size

United States flags, and a big crowd helped with the 20-foot by 40-foot United States flag during our grand opening. The flags were brought by the Blain family. There were 50 large full-size flags that were displayed on sleds during the parade laps later in day. The vintage ride on trails was cancelled due to poor trail conditions.

The raffle sled was won by Ryan from Dewitt, Mich. He had purchased his winning ticket at the Novi Snow Show in November. He and his kids are excited to pick up the 2003 Arctic Cat Z120 soon. The crowds enjoyed hot coffee, cocoa, baked goods and fire roasted, world-famous rake dogs (over 800).

The crowd-judged Vintage Sled

clothing show was a blast with about 20 folks of all ages showing their finest, and shared stories of family legacy tied to most that were very cool. Many honored their parents, grandparents and other family in the stories.

On a side note, the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway, Mich., (UP) told us they needed youth-size snowmobile helmets for its elementary

student program. Our members brought in 12 helmets that President John Hurry and his wife, LouAnn, delivered on their way north after the show.

Thanks to all who came and enjoyed. Mark your calendars Feb. 27, 2027, for the 59th annual anniversary and 15th annual OHSC vintage show and ride.

Keeping our seniors safe from scams

Dispatcher: "911 - what is your emergency?"

Senior: "I think I've been scammed. I got a call from someone stating I had a bench warrant for my arrest because I missed jury duty. They said I had to give them \$12,000 or I'd be arrested."

Dispatcher: "Are you currently on the phone with them?"

Senior: "No. I just got back from the local drug store. They had me put \$12,000 for my bond in a bitcoin machine which I did. But they called me back and said they need an additional \$8,000. I don't have that much left in my account"

Dispatcher: "If they attempt to contact you again, hang up. Stay in your home. I have officers arriving shortly to take a report."

Calls like these are becoming more and more frequent as scammers develop new and inventive ways to target vulnerable populations to scam them out of their savings. Often these types of crimes are hard to investigate and prosecute because many of the scam artists are from foreign countries or using specialty software to disguise their identity from law enforcement.

"We find the best way to stop people from being victims of scams to prevent it from happening in the first place through education and awareness programming," said LaDonna Schultz, Ogemaw County Prosecutor. "Every June, I'm invited out by the Commission on Aging to present on the latest financial scams and how to avoid them. This presentation is always well attended by 40 to 50 people; however, that number

is just a small fraction of our local senior population."

To broaden community outreach, the Michigan State Police, Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office, and Meals on Wheels partnered up to help spread the word on both the signs of scams and how to avoid them. "Senior scams have been rising over the past several years and we want to do our best to keep seniors informed and make sure they don't lose their life savings," said Trooper Shane Noble from Michigan State Police.

Along with a hot nutritious meal, on Friday, Feb. 27, Meals on Wheels delivered to over 300 seniors an informational backpack filled with brochures, flyers, bookmarks, help cards, and a letter from the prosecutor compiled to assist seniors in handling common scammers attempting to take their hard-earned money.

Some helpful tips to spot a scam are:

1) Scammers pretend to be from an organization you know. They will use real names like FTC, Social Security, IRS, Medicare and others. They can even change the phone number that appears on your caller ID to reflect these organizations. Never trust an unsolicited call. Hang up and call the known number to verify the veracity of the caller.

2) Scammers say there's a problem or a prize. Common scam set ups are you're in trouble with the government; someone in your family has an emergency; or there is a virus on your computer. If this happens to you, hang up. Never give them any personal



Courtesy photo
In partnership with the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office and the Michigan State Police, Meals on Wheels delivered over 300 informational backpacks to help seniors avoid being scammed. Pictured Sally Reed In-Home Coordinator for the Ogemaw County Commission on Aging.

information or allow them remote access to your accounts.

3) Scammers pressure you to act immediately. They do not want to give you time to think. They want to keep you panicked by telling you not to hang up. Often, they threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's license. Their threats are endless. Stop them by saying, "I know all about this scam," and hanging up.

4) Scammers tell you to pay in a specific way. They will assist you use cryptocurrency, bitcoin, MoneyGram, Western Union,

SCAM continues on page 8 »

Celebrating 90 years of a remarkable life



Photo by Laura Bender

A crowd filled the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall to overflowing on Saturday, March 7, to celebrate Carol Kerby's 90th birthday. Around the room, family and friends shared stories of how Carol had touched their lives. For 50 years, Carol had been the organist at First United Methodist Church. She is still the organist at St. Joseph Catholic Church. She frequently visits residents at The Brook in West Branch to play oldies for them. As a young woman, she drove the community ambulance, learned to embalm and became the first female member of her school's marching band. For a few years, while working on military contracts at Bendyx, Carol lived in Ann Arbor. She's worked at her parent's greenhouse in West Branch and owned an ice cream shop and Kerby Kollision with her late husband Rick. Their four daughters, Ketha, Kelly, Karla and Karrie adore her. So also do the many friends she has made along the way. Happy 32,850 days of vibrant living, Carol. Here's to many, many more.

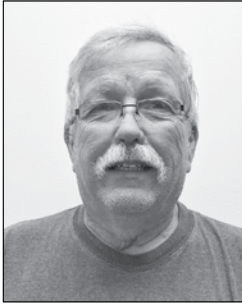
Visit Our Website At
www.superior-news.com

Ogemaw County
SUPERIOR NEWS

KIWANIS OF WEST BRANCH

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.

Kiwanis CORNER



DENNY SHUMWAY

OGEMAW COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

We are looking for donations of food or money to help us with the influx of families. We had over 250 families in February. You can add to your grocery bill at Meijer Store with card found at the checkouts or customer service. It is only \$10 added to your bill to help someone in need. We will take donations every Wednesday of the month from 8:30 to 11 a.m. We are located in the outreach building behind the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave., PO Box 543, West Branch. We want to thank those that have donated.

If bad weather, text ahead to 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 April 17. 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.

Our Red-Pin Bowling at the Ogemaw Lanes was fun for those that attended. Our next involvement will be at the Business Expo on Mar. 31; text Denny at 315-725-1199 for more information. We are planning on a variety of 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 on the second Wednesday of the month at noon at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads.

The big fire downtown WB July 4, 1907

BY SALLY A. REA

On Thursday, July 4, 1907, the city of West Branch had a \$35,000 fire. Nearly always in a case of a fire like this, it was the unexpected that would happen.

A fire has no choice of its direction. It had been known for some time that the wooden rows of business places on Main Street, and many more buildings in this area, would one day fall prey to the devouring raging flames. The old wooden rows of business blocks were entirely wiped off the city map.

The fire came at a time to embarrass our city to the fact we had a large crowd of people visiting our main thoroughfare for the Fourth of July's celebration, and was in a charred and ruined state.

Outside of the fire and the losses it brought the individual owners, they thought it was a lucky

fire.

The wooden row contained some of the oldest buildings in West Branch. The Mallo-ry block, owned and occupied by Frank Estey was a grocery store, and the Booth-Snodgrass store owned by Dr. T.S. Glenn.

All of these old wooden buildings had been seasoned for 20 or 30 years. There was a lot of careful watching that kept the buildings from being burned to the ground sooner.

The fire had removed some of the old landmarks that were once known only to a few pioneers of this section, and related to the

history the last remnant of West Branch's original business parts.



SALLY A. REA HISTORIAN AND CURATOR

Although it has worked hardship to some directly concerned, plans are already under way to rebuild the ruins with brick and cement and no longer wood, and make a beautiful city!

Not much insurance was held in this part of the city, the rates being so high (6-7-percent) many figured taking a chance.

The blaze started about 1:30 a.m. July the 4th, in the vicinity of Cooper's meat market, and was not spreading. The alarm was given and a general scramble to save the property began.

Cardinal Optimist Club participates in Whittemore - Prescott Career Night

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ

In keeping with our mission to bring out the best in kids, the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake will be attending the Career and College Night Out organized by the Whittemore-Prescott High School (WPHS) to be held on Wednesday, March 18, in the high school gym.

This event is jam-packed with important information for students heading into the workforce or college. Over 30 organizations are participating, including the COCSL.

Students who participate will have an opportunity to connect with employers to explore internships, career paths with local business, as well as meet

representatives from colleges, trade schools, and military recruiters. In addition, food and prizes for attendees will be given out.

We will also have a booth, giving away complimentary bags for students to store the valuable information they will be collecting at the various booths. At our table, students can also learn about opportunities within our club. After all, volunteering for an organization like Optimist International, who is focused on the betterment of the life of kids, looks great on any job or college application.

So, plan to stop by between the hours of 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on March 18 at the WPHS for this event.

Nothing beats face-to-face access to career and college recruiters. Even if you are a student who is not currently actively applying, you can still find value by building a network for future jobs and higher education opportunities. Not to mention at our booth you'll have an opportunity to join our team at the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake and help us make an even greater positive impact on our community.



LADONNA SCHULTZ

News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

As the snow melts and we all have spring fever, I for one can't wait to see my flowers all peek up through the ground. As I write this, we have 17 days left until the first day of spring on March 20. Mother Nature, please be kind - it has been a long, cold winter.

The Mills Township website will be introduced at the Mills Township monthly meeting on March 10 at 6 p.m. You will be able to pay your taxes online. You can fill out blight complaints online as well as many other great things to make life easier. You can see all the information you will need about the cemetery prices. In the future you will be able to search for loved ones that are buried there, but that will be in the second phase of the website

process.

You can see all your elected officials and township employees.

There are links to all our parks and what each of them has to offer. You can see the business and churches that are in our area. Policies will be added as they are updated. There will be a link shared on the Mills Township, Ogemaw County Facebook.

Wednesday, March 18, the Whittemore Prescott High School is holding a Career and College night. They will be hosting multiple organizations around

Michigan, including colleges/universities, trade schools, military branches, local business, etc.

Some are looking to hire, so if you have a resume, bring it with you.

Food is available for attendees, as well as raffle drawings throughout the night where you could win headphones, speakers or maybe even a TV or mini fridge. If you are a business and would like to join them, give them a call at 989-756-2501. This is a good way to show off your local business and let everyone know what your business is all about.

If you're Irish, your day to celebrate is upon us. St. Patrick's Day is March 17. You may have green beer and wear your lucky green clovers to make the day fun, but nothing says you must be true blooded Irish to have fun. Be sure to avoid getting a pinch by wearing some green.

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



APRIL HARKEY-MASON

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.

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, Corey Clark,
April Harkey-Mason, Shawn Petri,
Joe Bell, Gail Hughey
and LaDonna Schultz

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

Updates from West Branch Optimist Club



Courtesy photo
Ogemaw Heights High School FFA students recently performed a demonstration at an Optimist meeting to prepare them for state competition. Pictured (l-r) Katie Wangler, Briana Tierney, Weston Grezeszak, and Logan Wangler. They are coached by Vicki Rau (not pictured).

BY JOE BELL

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

At our last meeting, the Ogemaw Heights High School FFA Demonstration Leadership group performed their group demonstration for us. They do this to help prepare their team for state level competition, which was being held Mar. 6, at Michigan State University. The topic this year was Farm First Aid for Livestock. The students verbally presented

their prepared program as they demonstrated the actual safety items that are required for livestock. After this timed portion of the contest, they took questions from our audience as they would at the state competition. A very impressive presentation, and we wished them the best of luck in Lansing.

Every year in March the Optimist Club holds a Camel Race fundraiser at the West Branch Knights of Columbus Hall. This year's event will be on Mar. 21, and it is the highlight of our year. Thirty-six camels compete on the tabletop racetrack, and you bet on each race using camel bucks that are purchased

at the event. The camels are all decorated by their sponsors who compete to win the best-looking camel prize. It is a great way to support the kids in our community because all the money raised that night is invested back in our children through scholarships and all of the children-focused events that we put on each year. So, shake off those midwinter blues

and come join us for an exciting night of racing! We close each meeting by reciting the Optimist Creed, part of which states: *Promise yourself to greet every living you meet with a smile!* What a great way to approach your life. 'Bye for now.



BY JOE BELL
VICE-PRESIDENT

March is National Reading Month

BY SHAWN PETRI

Read on!

March isn't just the gateway to spring; it's also National Reading Month! Originally established to honor the birthday of author Dr. Seuss (on March 2), this month-long celebration has grown into a nationwide movement to inspire readers of all ages.

Whether you are a toddler just discovering picture books, a teenager obsessed with graphic novels, or an adult looking to rediscover a lost hobby, there are endless ways to make reading the highlight of your month.

Can you remember your favorite kids' book or who might have read it to you? When I was young, my mom used to read to me, and I would enjoy just imagining what that story looked like in real life or how it felt to be there. Reading is a fun pastime that many of us have lost touch with because we get sidetracked so easily with all of the noise around us. Many times, we are distracted by phones, videos, news feeds, and social media. I am guilty of the same busy behavior.

This month, I would like to emphasize taking time to pause and read something of interest. Maybe it's time to dust off the novel you started or finish that book you bought at a history museum. You were excited about reading it when you bought it, but it sat on the table and became a coaster for your coffee. We are always full of good intentions, but life happens.

So just like a New Year's resolution, wipe off the dust, look past the coffee stain, and take some time to just quietly read. Encourage your family to unplug and just enjoy quiet time with your imagination and adventure or knowledge-seeking mind.

Here are some good reasons to read:

Reading reduces stress: Just a short time reading can reduce stress levels.

Reading boosts Brain Power: reading helps to boost your

memory, problem-solving skills, and vocabulary.

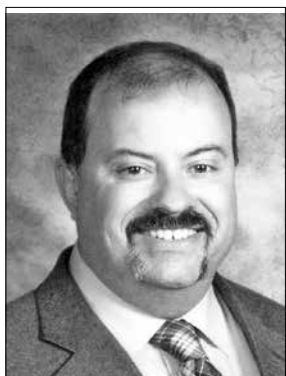
Reading enhances Focus and Imagination: Unlike fast-paced digital media, reading forces the brain to concentrate, improving focus and concentration skills. It also stimulates imagination.

Reading can just be fun!

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." — Dr. Seuss

I wish everyone a warm and enjoyable March. If you are like me, you are also glad our winter blanket is beginning to melt.

If you'd like to learn more about our programs, please visit our website at : www.COORISD.net or reach out to me by phone at 989-275-9520 or email at petris@coorisd.net. I sincerely welcome conversations or visits from community members.



SHAWN PETRI
SUPERINTENDENT,
COORISD

Academic achievement in our schools

BY GAIL HUGHEY

In the West Branch-Rose City Area Schools, we are committed to ensuring every student has the support they need to grow academically. As part of this work, we want to share important information about the role of state assessments and how we are using this data to support student learning.

Summative assessments, such as the M-STEP, PSAT, and SAT, measure what students know and are able to do at specific grade levels in specific subject areas. The knowledge and skills students need for a successful career continue to evolve as workplace expectations change, and Michigan's state assessments play an essential role in helping schools prepare students for these demands.

State assessments provide:

- A meaningful snapshot of student achievement at the state, district, and building levels
- Valuable information for parents and teachers about students' current academic performance
- Important data for schools and

districts to evaluate curriculum and program effectiveness

- Comparable performance and growth trends over time at the state, district, and building levels



GAIL HUGHEY
SUPERINTENDENT
WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY
SCHOOLS

You can find sample items on the Michigan Department of Education website for each grade level tested. Just Google: MDE state assessment questions. You may be surprised at the questions.

During the month of March, we celebrate reading month. All the extra reading helps students build reading stamina and prepares them for standardized testing coming up in April. You can help by encouraging children to read nightly. You can also read to them. Another way to build literacy skills is to simply have conversations with your children.

If you have any questions about your child's progress or state assessments, please contact your child's school or teacher. Our PreK-8 grades have parent-teacher conferences on Mar. 25 and 26. Please take the time to stop in. This is a great opportunity to set goals with your child to have a strong finish to the school year.

MSU Extension to host farm seminar in West Branch



Photo by iStock

The MSU Extension is offering a seminar on March 31, in West Branch.

BY COREY CLARK
MSU EXTENSION

Are you thinking about farm succession but unsure where to begin? Have you started planning but now find yourself stalled? Farm succession planning can feel complicated, emotional and overwhelming.

Michigan State University Extension is offering a one-day seminar, Getting Your Succession Plan on Track, on March 31, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ogemaw County Extension Office in West Branch. This program is designed to provide clarity and structure to the succession planning process and help farm families take practical next steps. Attendance is free and lunch will be provided.

Throughout the day, participants will gain a clear understanding of how the succession planning process fits together. Sessions will include:

- An overview of the succession planning process
- Common transfer tools, including business entities, trusts and

wills

- Approaches to fairness in family farm transitions
- Key decisions to address before drafting legal documents
- Legal strategies and long-term care considerations that may affect farm assets

The program will be led by Michigan State University Extension farm business management educators along with attorneys who regularly work with farm families on succession and estate planning. Together, they will provide educational perspective and practical legal insight grounded in agricultural operations.

Participants will leave with practical tools, a clearer understanding of the planning process, and greater confidence in how to move their succession plan forward.

Register for Getting Your Succession Plan on Track.

For additional information, contact Corey Clark at clarkcr@msu.edu or 517-420-2042.



JoAnn Greene

JoAnn Greene passed away peacefully at her home on Lake Ogemaw on March 5, 2026, with her husband of 30 years by her side.

The daughter of the late William Thomas and Emily Gwendolyn Neely Steele, JoAnn was born and raised in Clarksburg, W. VA, where she graduated from high school.

In 1989, while employed by Allied Chemical in Ironton, Ohio, JoAnn met Daniel Greene, then an associate chiropractor working across the river in Ashland, Ky. where they both lived.

JoAnn and Daniel married on March 24, 1996, in West Bloomfield. Together they created D.E. Greene Family Chiropractic in Prescott, Mich. For 25 years, JoAnn was the "office overseer" who not only managed the day-to-day business but also offered a listening ear to Daniel's patients. Energetic and personable, JoAnn loved to be around people.



Known for her kindness and concern, she was an integral part of the care team.

Outside of their time working together, JoAnn and Daniel loved traveling, especially to sunny locations. At home, they enjoyed boating on Lake Ogemaw and attending concerts together. JoAnn loved gardening and often spent hours tending her plants. A very giving person, JoAnn supported a variety of charities, both local and beyond.

When her health declined, Daniel and JoAnn managed the changes together at home. Recently, Deanna Coburn helped with JoAnn's day-to-day care. Daniel is grateful to Deanna, whose kindness made the last few weeks tolerable.

JoAnn is survived by her husband, Daniel E. Greene; son Jeffrey (Diana) White; grandchildren Joshua (Lisa) White, Sadie Loan, and Luke (Olivia) White; great-grandchildren Kolton

Gustin, Olive and Graham Loan, Malachi and Judah White; and her sister, Janet Bond of Evans, GA. JoAnn is also survived by brothers-in-law Steve (Meryl) Greene; Ken (Daryl) Greene; Eric Greene; as well as nieces and nephews: Gavriella Abraham and family, Ben Greene and family, Naomi Norman and family, Dovid Greene, Alexander (Shelby) Greene, Kara (Neil) Rodniel and daughter Jordy, Hannah (Alec) Moore.

JoAnn is preceded in death by her parents, William Thomas and Emily Gwendolyn Neely Steele, and her sisters, Phyllis Steele and Rachel Collins.

A celebration of JoAnn's life was held on Wednesday, March 11, at Buresh Funeral Home in Prescott. Burial followed at Mills Township Cemetery. The Reverend Laura J. Bender officiated.

"Those we hold most dear never truly leave us."

They live on in the kindness they showed, the comfort they shared, and the love they brought into our lives."

Eugene Irving West

Oct. 12, 1947 - Feb. 23, 2026

Eugene Irving West passed away on Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, at the age of 78, at McLaren Bay Region in Bay City, Mich. He was born on Oct. 12, 1947, in Garden City, Mich., to James and Zella (Mikula) West. He lived in West Branch since 2015, formerly of Troy, Mich.

Gene graduated from Redford High School and soon after honored his country as a proud Army veteran, serving overseas during the Vietnam War. His commitment to service extended beyond the battlefield, as he dedicated an impressive 33 years to his career at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, where he made a lasting impact in the Dynamometer department.

He married Eleanor Maldonado in Key West, Fla., on April 20, 1994. They lived in Troy, Mich., from 1983 to 2015, when he retired and moved to West Branch.

Gene was much more than his accomplishments; he was a man



of passion and zest. He cherished the moments spent in nature, and whether he was on a hunting excursion or casting lines in serene waters, he found joy in the great outdoors. His heart found adventure in travels, often exploring the country with his family in their fifth wheel, creating beautiful memories that will forever be cherished.

In his younger years, Gene embraced the thrill of the open road as a hotrodder, reliving those exhilarating days during the annual Woodward Dream Cruise, where he connected with fellow car enthusiasts, sharing in the joy of their shared passion.

Throughout his life he was always willing to help and give a helping hand to his family and friends.

Gene's greatest pride and joy came from his family. He leaves behind his devoted wife, Eleanor West, who was a constant source of love and support in his life. He is survived by his son, Jason

(Bonnie) West, and his daughters, Wendy (Pat) Huntley and Dawn Henry. Eugene's legacy continues to thrive through his grandchildren — Brooke, Carly, Alisala, Emmalynne, and Gavin Eugene.

Gene also shared a special bond with his sister, Maxine Alger, and cherished many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Gary West.

His legacy will forever be embedded within the hearts of his family and friends, reminding us of the joy of togetherness whose memories will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were lucky enough to know him.

Gene will be laid to rest with military honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Mich., on Monday, April 20, at 2 p.m.

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

County sponsors mural competition

Ogemaw County Prosecuting Attorney, LaDonna A. Schultz announces that the Ogemaw County Commissioners are sponsoring a mural competition for student artists to celebrate the semi-quincentennial (250th) anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence with the theme "Then and Now, the Power of Place."

To be eligible to enter, all participants must be currently enrolled, degree seeking students at the time of submission. Non-student submissions will not be considered. Participants may submit as a group if all group members are currently enrolled, degree seeking students. A maximum of five members per team is allowed.

The contest is open now and

will close on May 1, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. The winner will be selected on May 8, at 4:30 p.m. Winner selection on May 8, will be by ballot of Ogemaw County employees therefore, family members of OC employees are not eligible. The winner will be notified by email, mail or phone. The student selected for the winning design will receive \$250 dollars. If a group submission wins, then the allotted prize will be evenly distributed among participants.

The mural will be displayed on a wall in the county building. This is a great way for a student artist to display their art with county recognition.

For more information on how to sign-up and official rules, visit www.ocmi.us.

Honk!

« Continued from page 1

construction by Tommy Pavelek and Chris Powley.

HONK! is a musical comedy based on the story of the "Ugly Duckling" by Hans Christian Andersen. The music was written by George Styles, book and lyrics by Anthony Drewe. When we jump into the duck yard, we follow the story of the Ugly Duckling (Sam Curnow) who wanders away from his home, and goes on many adventures on his journey back to his family, running into many friends (and felines) along the way.

One of the main features of this show is using music to tell the story of the Ugly Duckling, and learning the music requires a lot of practice and hard work to perfect. Bailey Colvin, who plays the cat, takes vocal lessons and practices a few times a week to give her best performance. She likes to "go with the flow" when it comes to practicing and is diligent when it comes to getting things done right.

Skylar Smith, who plays both Maureen and Queenie, faces the difficulty of memorizing lines and songs for both characters. However, that aspect of memorization comes "somewhat easily" to her, but she still practices for at least half an hour after school each day. Smith also says that even though she is playing two different characters, who have very similar qualities, both characters are rather snobbish, so they share a similar inflection and tone in their voices, which would match each other. When it comes to differentiating between the two characters, it will come down to more "physical characterization and costuming." Skylar also says that no one should ever sing without properly "warming up" their voice; she sings along with a playlist before practicing her music for the show.

This show also contains a lot of dancing, and it takes a lot of practice to learn the choreography. Weston Schwartz, who plays one of the ducklings, is in many of the dances. Weston practices multiple times a week and attends dance class every week to get in

even more practice. His favorite dance is in the song, "Warts and All," featuring one of his favorite moves, "falling off the log."

Laney Revord, who plays Ida, is not in many dances but still practices multiple times a week for the scenes she dances in. She is in "Poultry Tale," which everyone has been practicing for months, and is one of her favorite dances. However, her favorite dance to watch is the "Wild Goose Chase" because it "blends together" and is "uniform." Both say that "practice makes perfect," and that it is necessary to create all of the fun dances featured in *HONK!*

HONK! takes place in a lovely little "patch behind the farmhouse," and our crew has worked hard to bring that farm to our stage. Molly Morrison, one of our new crew members, said that the best thing about being on crew is how "rewarding" seeing the finished product is. She has been working diligently to paint some of the featured pieces, such as eggs, the nest, and the platforms, to ensure they fit the "vision" for what the set is going to look like when finished.

Madisyn Lahar, another crew member who has helped out in previous shows, says that her favorite part of the crew is being there with all of her friends on crew, working together to create our set. Lahar has been working on creating parts of the set out of foam, such as all of the greenery to vegetate the farm. Sometimes, the "creativity doesn't strike," and trying to recreate the "vision" for what the set is going to look like becomes difficult, but they pull through and execute the director's vision.

Everyone has been dedicated to this show, so come on down to see the cast and crew of *HONK!* on March 19, 20, and 21 at 7 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on the 21 in the Ogemaw Heights Auditorium. Get your tickets now for \$12 each at ohhst.ludus.com, the OHHS office, or at Kit's in downtown West Branch.

Honor your loved ones with a complementary obituary listing

Ogemaw County
SUPERIOR NEWS

Email obituary to:
deanna@superior-news.com

Ogemaw Heights High School Honor Roll - High Honors

SENIORS HIGH HONORS 3.50 & ABOVE

Jenna Adams
Teagan Agren
Elizabeth Andrasik
Felecia Ball
Mikaela Bronson
Shelby Brown
Charles Bruder
Anthita Buvik
Ethan Carlson
Madison David
Grant David
Jasmyn Davidson
Lauren DeShano
Morgan Dunn
Michael Graves Perez
Kolby Grezeszak
Garret Guoan
Lucas Hall
Hadassah Heintz
Peter Hennard
Ethan Hock
Naomi Hosted
Nadia Hosted
Sophia Hugo
Monika Hupcik
Taylor Illig
Corie Kanitz
Lara Knoop
Tessa Kreiner
Jazmin Kujawa
Madilynn Kujawa
Madisyn Lahar
Conner Lambert
Brett Lee
Andy Liang
Chloe Lumley
Calvin Marshall

Addison McDaniel
Aubrey McDaniel
Molly Morrison
Macie Munson
Nathan Myslakowski
Chloe Nelson
Kadie Pavelek
Jace Peters
Laney Revord
Noah Rose-Buzzard
Lisa Rossdeutscher
Mallorey Schleicher
Sadie Stephens
Sadie Syerson
Briana Tierney
Collin Trout
Wyatt Vaughn
Keara Wangler
Conrad Weber
Abigayle Whisman
Nicholas Wright
Hunter Zettel

JUNIORS HIGH HONORS 3.50 & ABOVE

Kaydence Abbott
Peyton Andrews
Amelia Atherton
Trey Bedtelyon
Kaylee Biermann
Wyatt Biskup
Ashlyn Bolyard
Sage Brewer
Alexia Chavez
Mason Chudy
Tessa Collins
Carter Crawford
Olivia Cummings

Tony Curtis
Dawson Dack
Oryana Dings
Samantha Eedy
Gabriella Ehinger
Kole England
Aubrey Evans
Irelyn Flaherty
Michael Fritz
Emma Gilbert
Roman Goulette
Jayden Hall
Nataleigh Harrington
Molly Hewitt
Tanner Holton
Fallyn Hunt
Ethan Hurley
George Jex
Cleopatra Jones
Corbin Kanitz
Lindsey Kearns
Avarie Klein
Madison Kline-Pierce
Moses Kurtz
Gracie Lamoria
Lindsey Lee
Gage Martin
Meredith Moeggenborg
Colin Nelson
Alexis Nicholson
Rayleigh Ockerman
Aurora Older
Cole Paten
Celie Periard
Edgar Potter
Brynn Provoast
Dalton Quigley
Logan Raymond
Alaina Reetz

SOPHOMORES HIGH HONORS 3.50 & ABOVE

Nathan Andrasik
Nolan Beaver
Makenzie Benjamin
Carder Bennett
Chase Brewer
Tanner Brindley
Maddox Butler
Noah David
Lainey Ehinger
Kylee England
Payton Ferrell
Haley Fritz
Weston Grezeszak
Andrew Hall

Braden Rhine
Alexis Rock
Alexandra Rock
Marcellous Rogers
Jersey Schalm
Seth Schalm
Skylar Smith
Elijah Smith
Johnny Stahl
Dane Stratz
Trenton Sutherland
Noah Tomczak
Taylor Vervoort
Lucas Vetter
Tagel Wangler
Kyli Ward
Gavin Weiler
Ian Werner
Adrianna Williams
Ciarra Winter
Jackson Ziegler

Kaitlyn Hines
Bryce Hinkley
Marissa Huizar
Colton Kanitz
Brenson Keith
Ava Killinger
Ella Krask
Demian Kuhn
Landon Kups
Hailey Laier
Landon Lauria
Eric Liang
Ty May
Olivia McDaniel
Addison McQuinston
Jesse Melgoza
Aubrey Mendoza
Kendel Morris
Lauren Morse
Lara Moya Martin
Jacob Myslakowski
Hanna O'Neil
Ashlynn Ostrander
Hilda Potter
Kalena Pratt
Timothy Sanderson
Meagann Schleicher
Kendra Temple
Shaelyn Thorington
Rachel Tripp
Rebekah Warner
Averie Weiler
Abigail Wend
Caleb West
Liv Winter
Jeffrey Woelkers
Kenna Wren

FRESHMAN HIGH HONORS 3.50 & ABOVE

Easton Adams
Rylan Albin
Macy Banning
Tessa Bedtelyon
Hayden Brindley
Samuel Bruder
Gage David
Nolan Dowell
Roman Dziesinski
Ava Glover
Apollo Goulette
Abbi Green
Carly Hintz
Kirtlyn Izworski
Eloise Kammer
Rayleigh Karbowski
Loryn Kearns
Caroline Klein
Olivia Liebler
Vada Mason
Rylan Matthews
Sophie Morris
Nash Munson
Zoey Pugh
Luka Riegle
Violet Sales
Levi Secord
Shelby Short
Addison Siemienski
Skye Alexandra Starr
Hudson Swartz
Logan Tierney
Rylee Valley
Ashlynn Vest
Camdynn Wilson
Peyton Zettel

We'd like to say Thank You to our sponsors...

PLANTINUM SPONSORS

- * 313 Designs
- * 3D Printables by the Moose's
- * Aseptic Consulting LLC
- * ATM - American Thermoforming Machines
- * Aurora Mfg-Automated Parts Handling
- * Baker Dental
- * Black Bird Ice Cream
- * Buck's Big Tops
- * Burt Watson GMC
- * Clear Lake Resort
- * Dean Arbour Ford
- * Dematio Contracting
- * D & N Towing
- * Farm Bureau - Jeff Erickson
- * Fraternal Order of the Eagles - West Branch
- * Fresh Cut Lawn Care & Snow
- * Gary and Sons Swings and Woodworks
- * Great Lakes Loons
- * Heritage Tattoo
- * Hodgins Asphalt Paving, INC
- * Holly Rosebrugh Photography
- * Into the Woods - Airbnb
- * JRH Distributing Inc.
- * K & J Excavating, LLC
- * Kelly's Therapeutic Massage
- * Lehner's Collision
- * L.J.L Farms
- * Lucky Ducky Car Wash
- * Mammoth Surfaces
- * Moppin Mamas
- * Napa Auto Parts - West Branch Auto Truck & Trailer
- * Northstar Tattooz
- * Office Central
- * Ogemaw County Fair Grounds
- * Ogemaw County Superior News
- * Pepsi
- * Poppa Cap
- * Quality Garage Doors
- * Rancheros
- * Rose City Chiropractic Clinic, PC
- * Safe Haven Doula
- * St. Vincent DePaul
- * Taylor Travel Co. LLC
- * Team Hodges
- * The Dream
- * The Godbout Family
- * The Pacione Family
- * The Nightmare
- * TZ Excavating

GOLD SPONSORS

- * Bavarian Inn Lodge
- * Brindley Painting LLC
- * Buccilli's Pizza
- * Buck's Country Cookin'
- * Century 21 - Stephanie Adamson
- * China Inn
- * Classic Auto Body Shop
- * Clear Lake Bar
- * Cmorrfitness
- * Colvin's Heating and Cooling
- * Countryside Appliance
- * Dan Winter Poured Walls
- * DeMatio Sealcoating
- * Diebold Insurance Agency
- * Faith Alive Church
- * Ferrellgas
- * Finished Concrete
- * Foam Home Insulators
- * G's Pizzeria
- * G & S Machine
- * Grand Illusions Salon
- * Griffin Beverage Company
- * Heidi Brown
- * Hi-Skore Lanes
- * Hudson Inc.
- * Jack Morris/JMC
- * J. Raymond Electric, Inc.
- * Kaylene Walker Photography
- * Klemmers Processing
- * Legacy Handmade
- * Live Fast Performance and Fabrication
- * Megan's Makings
- * Mid Michigan Asphalt Paving
- * Modern Craft Wine
- * Morris Richardson Real Estate
- * Morse Clark Furniture
- * North of the Tracks Farm (NOTT Farms)
- * Northern Gems Therapy
- * Northern Michigan Window Cleaning & Services
- * O'Neil Brother Contracting
- * O'Reilly
- * Ogemaw Community Thrift
- * Ogemaw Veterinary Clinic
- * Rivertown Inn
- * Rose City RV
- * Saginaw Spirit
- * Schmitt Tire & Gas
- * Showroom Auto Detailing
- * Simply Love Photography
- * State Farm - Christi Neubecker
- * Sterling Excavation
- * Stylistic Hair Design
- * Sullivan Exteriors, LLC
- * Sunsational Smoothies
- * Sweet Briar Farm Products, LLC
- * Taylor Door
- * The Body Shop Chiropractic
- * The Bronson Family
- * The Hairitage Studio
- * The McPherson Family
- * The Noble Family
- * The Siemienski Family
- * Towne Club Party Store
- * USA Signs 50
- * Village Quik Lube
- * Wangler's Wagon Wheel
- * West Branch Chiropractic
- * West Branch Collision
- * West Branch Secret Campground
- * William A Short, D.D.S & Associates

SILVER SPONSORS

- * Amigo's of West Branch
- * Amy Izworski
- * Ann's Hair Affair
- * Big Boy of West Branch
- * Branham's Jewelry
- * Compass Nutrition
- * Country Hill Decor
- * Crazy Train Coffee Company, LLC
- * Crecline Agency
- * Deb's Custom Creations
- * Delaney's Wood Fired Maple Syrup
- * Dow Gardens
- * Family Fare - Rose City
- * Gildner's Harley Davidson
- * Great Lakes Golf
- * Heirloom by Legacy
- * Jacksonville Party Store
- * Jersey Mike's
- * John Ball Zoo
- * Jonathan Scott Berns DDS PLLC
- * JT Nails and Spa
- * Kimball Chiropractic
- * Logger's Depot
- * MyMichigan Health
- * Nails by Holland
- * Ogemaw Lanes and Lounge
- * Rifle River Recreation Area
- * Roy & Judi Neal
- * Schmitt's Pure Maple
- * Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Homes
- * Sun Spa Tanning
- * Tattoos by Cassey (Pink Ink)
- * The Daily Cup
- * The Glass Slipper
- * The Harvest Grill
- * The Selman Family
- * The Stover Family
- * Turner Thyme Hospitality
- * West Branch Dairy Queen
- * Willard's Equipment Co.

BRONZE SPONSORS

- * 2 Scoops & Holy Grounds
- * Ace Hardware - West Branch
- * Ann Johnson
- * Beef A Roo
- * CETERA Financial Specialists - Tom Kish
- * Country Corner Winery
- * Culligan of West Branch
- * Diane Moerland
- * E & D Excavating
- * First Fitness
- * Gordon's Food Service
- * Heartland Hospice
- * Home Depot
- * Kit's
- * Li'l Willies Inc.
- * Mid-Michigan Children's Museum
- * Ogemaw Heights Pool
- * Olive Rose Boutique
- * R & R Tire
- * Robin's Creations
- * Saginaw Children's Zoo
- * Starbucks
- * Steam Brite
- * Stone Mountain Coffee
- * West Branch Automotive

A Special Thank You

- Dave Mairose * Phil Stephens
- Alan Withers * Tiffany Rogers
- Frank Peterson * Kim Peterson
- Frank & Tina Siemienski * Stacy Alley
- Howie & Lynn Hanft
- Brandon Godbout * Gail Gildner
- Moonlight Productions



Scam

« Continued from page 3

and/or take payments by gift cards. These payment methods are red flags. No legitimate business is going to assist in being paid by only one method.

“This innovative partnership with meals on wheels helped us to reach a large number of seniors

in Ogemaw County that we might not have been able to connect with without their help,” said Schultz. “I’m grateful to Michigan State Police and Meals on Wheels. Working together, our aim is to keep our precious seniors healthy, wealthy, and wise.”

If you would like more information on common scams, contact the Ogemaw County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office at 989-345-5700 or stop by her office located in room 809 of the County Building to receive official publications on the topic



2025 Community Impact Award

KLEMMER'S PROCESSING
Your Home Town Butcher

A sincere Thank You to the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce for honoring us with the 2025 Community Impact Award.

We humbly accept this award and would like to thank our employees and customers for your support.

We are looking forward to exciting changes that will enable us to expand our services. We love and support this community and are proud to be involved with the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you,
*Mike & Sara Deyarmond
& everyone at Klemmer's Processing*



THANK YOU



Heartland 
HOSPICE

2026 Chamber Member of the Year Award

Heartland Hospice is honored to receive the 2026 Chamber Member of the Year Award from the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce. Thank you to Heather and her team for all the collaboration with the Lunch and Learn Program.

OHHS powerlifters medal at state level



Courtesy photo
Ogemaw Heights High School athletes Jake Fernelius (l) and Karson Keith recently competed in the MHSPLA Powerlifting State Finals. Both finished in the top ten of their weight class. Jake finished sixth, while Karson finished seventh. Congratulations to both.

Community Foundation announces youth grants

The North Central Michigan Community Foundation’s (NCMCF) Youth Advisory Councils, or YACs, awarded \$13,965 in new grants to Crawford, Ogemaw and Oscoda counties for programs benefiting their peers and their communities.

The NCMCF Board of Directors approved the YAC’s 12 grant recommendations in February 2026. Grants awarded include:

- \$2,265 to Ana’s Treasures through three grants for the “2026 Ana’s Essentials” project providing personal items like clothing, shoes, and hygiene products, and backpacks filled with school supplies for children in all three counties.
- \$2,500 to Max-Well Therapy Center for funds to support children to attend equine therapy and riding sessions at no cost to the participants.
- \$3,350 to Northern Michigan Children’s Assessment Center through three grants for their “Fuel for Healing” project to eliminate transportation costs as a barrier, ensuring uninterrupted access to victim services for clients and their families.
- \$2,850 to Rayola Inc. through three grants for the “2026 Care Packages” project to provide comforting packages to children entering foster care in Crawford, Ogemaw, and Oscoda counties.
- \$500 to River House for their “Adverse Childhood Experiences + Positive Childhood Experiences” project, which strives to create a positive childhood experience for children going through severe, adverse childhood experiences.
- \$2,500 to Whispering Hope Ranch Ministries to provide support for 16 children to attend summer day horseback riding camp, who otherwise could not attend due to financial hardship.

The NCMCF YAC is a group of young people ages 12 to 21 from Crawford, Ogemaw, and Oscoda counties. YAC connects youth to their communities through grant-making and teaches the impact philanthropy has on the present and future. Youth from these counties interested in joining YAC should contact Program Director Jennifer Dingman at the Community Foundation, 877-354-6881, to learn more.

The next deadline for grant opportunities through NCMCF is with the Community Impact Grant program. Applications are due June 30, 2026. Nonprofits, schools, and churches interested in applying for a Community Impact Grant can access the online application and criteria at ncmcf.org.

NCMCF serves Crawford, Ogemaw, and Oscoda counties, and is an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan (CFNEM). CFNEM serves as the administrative arm for its affiliate foundations. NCMCF is led by a volunteer board of local citizens committed to providing people who care about the future of the region and its communities with unique and effective ways of supporting their community now, and for generations to come. The foundation oversees a group of permanently endowed funds from a wide range of donors. Gifts of all sizes from individuals, families, businesses, and agencies are invested in a balanced, well-managed portfolio to build endowments, enabling support for local community nonprofits now and forever. To donate or learn more about how community foundations work, visit ncmcf.org or call 989-354-6881; toll-free: 877-354-6881.

Ogemaw County hires new Animal Control Officer

BY LAURA BENDER

“It’s gratifying to help animals in need,” Dakota Masters, the Ogemaw County Animal Control Officer, said. “Animals don’t have a voice.”

Officer Masters, who has been part of the sheriff’s posse since 2023, was hired at the end of 2025 to be the new Animal Control Officer.

Dakota, whose father had been a combat medic, grew up in an Army family. Born in Tennessee, Dakota also lived at Army bases in Fort Irwin, California, and in Baumholder, Germany. After the Army, his family settled in his mother’s hometown of Battle Creek, where Dakota attended high school. Interested in law enforcement even then, he signed up for two electives: Criminal Behavior and Introduction to Law Enforcement. Another high school interest was a young lady named Constance, whom he met in 11th grade. They married in 2020 and settled in this area to be near her family members in Whittemore and Hale.

“We’ve been together for 11 years,” Dakota said.

The role of Animal Control Officer in Ogemaw County is a part-time position. Officer Masters receives an average of 15 calls each day, which can take him anywhere across the county’s 575 square miles. He works Thursday through Monday from noon until 5 p.m. making sure stray and neglected animals receive care within the limits of the law.

“People sometimes get frustrated because I cannot always do what makes sense in the moment,” Dakota said. “In Michigan, state law declares that animals are property. Therefore, before I can seize an animal, I must prove ownership as well as neglect or abuse. Often that requires a search warrant or litigation. I can only remove an animal immediately if it is in imminent danger, like it will die that day without intervention. In Pennsylvania, the laws are different. There, pets are treated legally as members of the family, so when there is abuse, they can be removed from the home the same way a child is. We cannot do that in Michigan.”

To complicate matters even more, there are different layers of law that must be applied depending on the location. There are statewide laws, county laws, and also township and city laws, each delineating the type, breed, size, and safety restrictions that



ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER DAKOTA MASTERS

apply. For example, in the city of West Branch it is illegal to own a Pitbull, an unlicensed dog over six months old, or any livestock or exotic pet. To learn what is permitted in your township, visit your township or city hall to obtain a list of ordinances.

Officer Masters handles all types of situations. “I was called a few weeks ago to a fatal traffic accident on I-75. There were two dogs in the vehicle. I helped the one that survived be returned to family members. Sometimes I am called to a home where the owner has died, and during a welfare check, pets are discovered. I always try to return them to other family members, but if I cannot, they end up at the shelter where they will hopefully be adopted.

All intake for stray dogs must go through animal control, where I check them for a license or a chip so they may be returned to their owner. Cats, unfortunately, come under different laws. Cats may run free, but when I can, I will trap a feral cat and call TNR, the Trap, Neuter, and Release program, that tries to reduce the number of stray cats by ensuring they cannot produce kittens.”

“My most memorable animal was actually a kitten with an upper respiratory infection. I knew it would not live long without intervention, so I took it home and nursed it back to health until I could give it to TNR.”

“It’s important to support animal shelters and to look there first when searching for your next pet. Make sure you understand the pet’s breed, size at maturity, and limitations before making a decision. Get your pet vaccinated and licensed and keep them up-to-date. Spaying or neutering is also important. If your pet will be secured outdoors, make sure there is plenty of food and water as well as adequate shelter. If your dog will be tied out, the lead must be at least three times the length of the dog from nose to the tip of the tail.”

To contact Animal Control Officer Dakota Masters, call 989-345-5903 or visit 912 W. Houghton Ave., West Branch.

THANK YOU

to the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce for the honor and recognition of the 2026 Visionary Business Award. It makes us smile to think of all the positivity that is shared through the Chamber. We are happy to be Chamber members, were are honored to share this community with so many other positive businesses. Thank you so much Heather and the Chamber, we appreciate that they pay attention to the small details that might be overlooked. We plan to continue serving this community with great family fun.

In appreciation,

The Illig family & all of us at Ogemaw Lanes & Lounge



Ogemaw Lanes

Home of the Best Frame Tournament®

2026 Visionary Business Award

THANK YOU



Ogemaw County SUPERIOR NEWS

Most Dedicated Award for 2025

Thank you to the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce for honoring us with the Most Dedicated Award for 2025. Special thanks to our fellow business owners and our readers and advertisers of the Ogemaw County Superior News.

We love this community and are proud to be a part of it. We appreciate our relationship with Heather and the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce.

We look forward to continue bringing you the positive, community news in the area.

backgrounds by vecteezy.com

AGRICULTURE:


Stewards of a Healthy Planet

MARCH 24TH IS AG DAY

Thank You to all of our local farmers for all that you do.

NO FARMS NO FOOD

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) will host
National Agriculture Day



DA
DIEBOLD
 INSURANCE AGENCY

Eric Wangler, AFIS
 Farm Specialist
 (989) 345-0200
 eric@dieboldinsurance.com

Strength and Clarity, when you need it most



The Glass Slipper
 Your One Stop
 Bridal Shop

321 W. Houghton Ave.
 West Branch
 989-345-4125

Morse Clark Furniture Co.

**Proudly Serving the
 Community for 94 years.**

**219 W. Houghton Ave
 West Branch**

989-345-0355

www.MorseClark.com



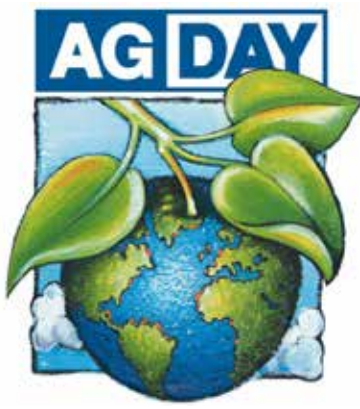
**KLEMMER'S
 PROCESSING**

Your Home Town Butcher
 989-345-2869

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

March 24, 2026

March 24, 2026 is National Ag Day, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture.



As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food, fiber and renewable resources produced in the United States.

The National Ag Day program believes that every American should:

- understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced.
- value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis, and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products. Each year, members of the agricultural industry gather together to promote American agriculture. This effort helps educate millions of consumers.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role you play in helping spread the word. A few generations ago, most Americans were directly involved in—or had relatives or friends involved in—agricultural-related endeavors. Today, that is no longer the case. That is why it is so important that we join together at the community level...our voices, in concert, become a shout that carries our message a great deal further than any one of us can do alone! We are pleased that you have joined this effort to promote American agriculture.

989-345-1753



FEED
 FERTILIZER
 SEED

MILLER FEED INC.
 3443 M-55, Prescott, MI 48756
 Travis & Lori



RICHARD STEPHENS
 Owner

**COUNTRYSIDE
 APPLIANCE**
 Domestic Refrigeration & Appliance Repair
 989-345-5602

354 W. Finerty Rd., West Branch, MI 48661

The Wise Choice for Promotional Products
M&I Graphics & Promotions
 Order your customized
 imprinted items today!

Call Kathy for details 989-450-6163
 or email kathy@mi-promoproducts.com

Pens • Coozies • Water Bottles • Frisbees • Tote Bags
 Presentation Folders • Sticky Notes
 Glassware & Much, Much, More!!!

Commercial & Agricultural
 Metal & Wood Buildings
 Licensed and Insured

**Miller
 Construction
 & Equipment, Inc.**

Gary Miller - President
 gary.miller@millerconstequip.com
 (989) 345-2499
 276 W. M55 • West Branch, MI 48661

GRASS HOPPER • NEW HOLLAND • KUBOTA • GEHL

WILLARD'S EQUIPMENT
 SIMPLICITY • HUSQVARNA
 PH. (989) 345-3128



JERRY WANGLER
 DAN WARNER

255 S. M-33
 WEST BRANCH, MI 48661

**313
 Designs**
 Custom Designed Gifts & More

Kelsey DeGentenaar
 Owner

989.343.5032
 313designswb@gmail.com

OGEAW COUNTY FAIR
AUGUST 16-22, 2026

**THANK YOU AREA
 FARMERS!**

www.OgemawCountyFair.com

WEST BRANCH COLLISION, INC.
 SERVING THE AREA FOR OVER 44 YEARS.

Your #1 Unibody Frame Specialist
 With Precision Collision Repair



We accept all
 insurance!

CHIEF **I-CAR**
PPG **GFS** **ASE**

Call Gary at 989-345-7230
www.westbranchcollision.com



Christi Lynn Neubecker, Agent
 305 Bennett Street, Rose City, MI 48654
 Bus: 989-685-3935
www.neubeckerkernsinsurance.com



StateFarm

EVERGREEN CONTRACTING

- LANDSCAPING
- PAVER PATIOS
- RETAINING WALLS
- HYDROSEEDING

Call Toby: 989-709-6615

Modern Craft Winery Tasting Room
 Inside at:
The Silver Lining
 Where taste meets style

MOONLIGHT GRAPHICS

NOW Offering Custom Embroidery!

* Signs Of All Kinds * Laser Engraving *
 * Programmable L.E.D. Signs *

989-345-3954
 Rich Heaulin West Branch, MI

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE



Erickson Family Agency
 (989) 345-0230

DINGS EXCAVATING & Trucking Services

West Branch • 989-345-9660

HEATMOR Outdoor Wood Stoves

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

ROB and BIG'S MOVING COMPANY Rob DeGentenaar
 989-387-6713

Like us on Facebook!


JMC DUMPSTERS

West Branch, MI

989-343-5023

Team Hodges

CHEVROLET CHRYSLER Jeep RAM



989-345-1022

- New Cars • Used Cars • Leasing
- Collision Center • Parts/Service

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 villa

at West Branch: 145 S. Valley Street, West Branch, MI 48654 | 989-343-3922 | www.villahc.com

at Rose City: 307 W. Page Street, Rose City, MI 48664 | 989-332-9400 | www.villahc.com

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

dean arbour 

3382 W. M-55 West Branch

989-345-1590

www.deanarbourford.com

Ogemaw County **SUPERIOR NEWS**

Thank You to All Area Farmers.

STEUERNOL & McLAREN
 Funeral Homes, Inc.

Over 100 years experience in helping others
 989-345-0112
www.stuernolmclaren.com
 West Branch • Rose City • St. Helen
 Markers, Monuments & Prearrangements

Village QUICK LUBE & AUTO SERVICE CENTER

3149 W. Houghton, West Branch
 (1/4 Mile West of M-30)

Bill Ballard

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1962

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

Auto Repair 8-5 M-F • Oil Change 8:30-5 M-F

RED'S PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

LET RED'S GET YOUR TOUGH PROJECTS DONE!

Customer Reviews

LET US DO YOUR EXCAVATING!

CALL FOR A QUOTE!
 (989)-343-5483
REDSWB.COM

LEHNERS COLLISION

Full Service Body Shop

We offer Glass Repair & Replacement

STATE CERTIFIED • FREE ESTIMATES

989-343-0577 2789 S. M-76, West Branch, MI 48661 www.lehnerscollision.com Fax: 989-343-0767
 Tim Lehner, Owner & Manager

OUTDOOR SPACES LANDSCAPING

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK @LANDSCAPEMYOUTDOORSPACE

OUTDOORSPACESLANDSCAPING.COM
 810-373-5296

ACE ELECTRIC

Plumbing & Heating

One Stop Shop

West Branch, MI

(989) 345-2965

WEST BRANCH GREENHOUSE

166 Fifth St • Downtown West Branch
 989-345-1133

Ogemaw Lanes

Home of the Best Frame Tournament®

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

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



Ball

« Continued from page 1



Courtesy photo

The Ogemaw Superior News team won the "Most Dedicated Member of the Year" award. Pictured (l-r) Writer Laura Bender, Copy Editor Nancy McLaughlin, Marketing and Sales Director Kathy Collins, Publisher/Owner Deanna Surbrook, Graphic Designer Emily Reed, Circulation Manager Lois Bergquist and Circulation Assistant Rich Heavlin. Not pictured: Nikki Szymkowski, Sally Rea and Jamie Stout-Shirkey.

for the chamber and funds many activities sponsored by the WBACC throughout the year.

The awards were as follows:

The Most Dedicated Member of the Year Award nominees were Ogemaw County Superior News, Moonlight Graphics, West Branch Greenhouse, and Branham's Jewelry.

The Ogemaw County Superior News won the award.

The Visionary Award nominees were the city of West Branch, West Branch Township, Ogemaw

Lanes and Diebold Insurance Agency.

Ogemaw Lanes received the award.

The Emerging Member of the Year nominees were Klemmer's Processing, Erickson Family Agency, Death Before Decaf, and For Rest Spa.

The winner was Klemmer's Processing.

Taylor Door-Wausau Supply Company received the Chamber Appreciation Award.

Kelli Jo Malone was celebrated as the Chamber Ambassador of the Year.

Business After Hours of the Year went to Ogemaw County Title & Escrow Agency.

Chamber Connections of the Year was awarded to MyMichigan Health.

Chamber Member of the Year was awarded to Heartland Hospice.

"Congratulations to the award recipients," Heather said. "It was a great evening filled with leaders, businesses, and partners that helped celebrate and make the evening a success."

"Thank you to our Board of Directors, Chamber Ambassadors and Chamber members that continue to support our mission," she added.

The next event for the WBACC is the 2026 Ogemaw County Business & Community Expo on March 31, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Surline Elementary School.

For more information about the WBACC and its events, visit www.wbacc.com.

Congratulations

to the winners of the

West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce

2025 Outstanding Business Award Winners

Chamber Member of the Year

Heartland Hospice

Chamber Appreciation Award

Taylor Entrance Systems

Most Dedicated Award

Ogemaw County Superior News

Visionary Award

Ogemaw Lanes & Lounge

Community Impact Award

Klemmer's Processing

Chamber Ambassador of the Year Award

Kelli Jo Malone

Chamber Business After Hours of the Year Award

Ogemaw County Abstract

Chamber Connections of the Year Award

MyMichigan Health

WEST BRANCH COLLISION, INC



989-345-7230

www.westbranchcollision.com



KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Enroll your child in West Branch-Rose City Area Schools

Surline Elementary School Monday, April 13, and Tuesday, April 14, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Appointments can be made by calling 343-2189

Rose City School Tuesday, April 14, 2026, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Appointments can be made by calling 343-2248

What you'll need:

1. Your child's LEGAL birth certificate
 - (certified copy with raised seal/signatures)
2. Your child's immunization record
3. Proof of Residency
 - Driver's License/State ID with current address, **AND**
 - **One** (1) of the following with your name and address: utility bill, lease, deed, voter registration card, bldg. permit



"The School of Choice for Educational Excellence...Your Future Begins Here"

Parents looking for PreK (preschool) opportunities must complete the intake form found at: www.coorpreschool.org or call 989-275-9514



Photo by Emily Reed

Kelli Jo Malone (center) was honored as the WBACC Ambassador of the Year. She is pictured with Emil Rousseau and Heather Neuhaus.

Plans

« Continued from page 1



Photo by Emily Reed

Accepting the Visionary Award for Ogemaw Lanes is Perry Illig, presented by Emil Rousseau and Heather Neuhaus.



Photo courtesy WBACC

Chamber Member of the Year was awarded to Heartland Hospice. Pictured (l-r) Emil Rousseau, Hospice Care Consultant Terra McMann, Volunteer Coordinator Dana Gray, Administrator Andrea Wade, Hospice Clinical Liaison Dawn Swartzmiller, Patient Care Manager Sara Hanes and Heather Neuhaus.



Photo courtesy WBACC

Melanie Nolan (third from the left), of Ogemaw County Title & Escrow Agency, accepted the award for Best Business After Hours. She is pictured with Emil Rousseau, Andrea Rose and Heather Neuhaus.



Photo by Emily Reed

Heather Neuhaus (far right) and Emil Rousseau presented the Chamber Appreciation Award to Taylor Door-Wausau Supply Company. The company was represented by (l-r) Kristin Gove, Molly Meir and Erin Delmotte.



Photo by Emily Reed

MyMichigan Health, represented by (l) Jamie Siple, human resource strategic partner, and Kelsey Killinger, MBA, director, MyMichigan Health Foundation won Chamber Connections of the Year award.



Photo by Emily Reed

Winning the award for "Emerging Member of the Year" was Klemmer's Processing, owned by Michael and Sara Deyarmond (center). Presenting the award was West Branch Visitor's Bureau President Emil Rousseau and WBACC Executive Director Heather Neuhaus.

Local partners bring hands-on financial literacy to OHHS

On Feb. 13, Michigan Works! Region 7B partnered with Huntington Bank to bring an immersive financial literacy experience to eleventh grade students at Ogemaw Heights High School through an event known as the Reality Store.

The Reality Store is designed to bridge classroom learning with real-world application, giving students a practical look at adult financial responsibilities before they leave high school. Throughout the day, students participated in guided career discussions and goal-setting activities, encouraging them to think about their interests, future education or training, and long-term career paths. From there, students "secured" a job aligned with their chosen career and were assigned an income to use during the simulation.

With a paycheck in hand, students moved through stations focused on budget essentials, including housing, transportation, food, utilities, insurance, and everyday living expenses. Volunteers from Huntington Bank and Michigan Works! Region 7B helped students understand how

to balance income against expenses, make informed choices, and adjust spending when budgets became tight.

Students also received instruction on banking fundamentals, such as checking and savings accounts, managing deposits and withdrawals, and the importance of saving. Additional stations focused on credit, explaining how credit works, how it is built, and how poor financial decisions can have long-lasting consequences. Discussions on how money grows over time introduced students to the concepts of saving, interest, and long-term financial planning.

The day culminated in a large-scale, reality-based simulation resembling an oversized version of the game Life, where students applied what they had learned in real time. Unexpected expenses and financial decisions challenged students to adapt, problem-solve, and think critically about their choices.

By combining classroom instruction with an interactive, hands-on experience, the Reality Store gave students a clearer understanding of the financial



Courtesy photo Michigan Works! Region 7B recently partnered with Huntington Bank brought the "Reality Store" to eleventh grade students at Ogemaw Heights High School.

decisions they will face as adults. The event reinforced the importance of planning, budgeting, and informed decision-making, while highlighting how local partners are working together to prepare Ogemaw County students for successful futures.

To continue building real-world skills beyond the

classroom, Ogemaw Heights High School and Michigan Works! Region 7B are planning a Spring Job Fair for students in April. The event will give students an opportunity to connect directly with local employers, learn about in-demand careers, and explore part-time, seasonal, and future full-time job opportunities. Any

business that is currently hiring and interested in participating is encouraged to reach out to Penny Payea at ppayea@michworks4u.org or 989-345-1090 to sign up. The job fair is another step in helping students link financial literacy lessons to real employment opportunities and informed career decision-making.

Scholarships available for West Branch area students, residents

MyMichigan Health Foundation is accepting applications for several scholarships for the 2026–2027 academic year, supporting students from the West Branch area and health care professionals pursuing education in the medical field.

Scholarship opportunities

include the Dr. George Schaiberger Sr., Dr. Howard VanOosten and Dr. Lloyd Wiegerink Memorial Scholarship, the Paul A. Poling Memorial Scholarship and the Tolfree Scholarship Fund. Each was established to support students and residents within the MyMichigan Medical Center

West Branch service area who are committed to pursuing careers in health care and strengthening the future health care workforce in the region.

The Dr. George Schaiberger Sr., Dr. Howard VanOosten and Dr. Lloyd Wiegerink Memorial Scholarship was established by

the medical staff at MyMichigan Medical Center West Branch in honor of three physicians who played an instrumental role in the early years of the medical center and were widely respected members of the West Branch community. The scholarship provides tuition awards of up to \$800 to local students pursuing education in a health care field.

The Paul A. Poling Memorial Scholarship was created through a generous estate gift from long-time West Branch resident, successful business owner and former MyMichigan Medical Center West Branch Board Trustee Paul A. Poling. His dedication to education and commitment to developing future health care professionals in the West Branch area led to the creation of this scholarship, which provides a minimum of two \$2,500 awards to support students and health care employees from the area continuing their education in a health-related field.

The Tolfree Scholarship Fund, established by the MyMichigan Health Foundation Board of Directors, supports residents within

the MyMichigan Medical Center West Branch service area who are pursuing education in health care. Tuition awards of up to \$500 are granted annually.

"These scholarships represent the generosity and vision of individuals and organizations who believe strongly in supporting the next generation of health care professionals right here in our communities," said Kelsey Killinger, director, MyMichigan Health Foundation. "By investing in local students and those advancing their education, we are helping ensure our West Branch area communities continue to have access to compassionate, high-quality care in the future."

Applications for these scholarships are due April 1. Information about scholarship opportunities offered through the MyMichigan Health Foundation can be found at www.mymichigan.org/scholarships.

Those interested in more information on these scholarship opportunities may contact Killinger at 989-343-3594.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
 @LANDSCAPEMYOUTDOORSPACE

OUTDOORSPACESLANDSCAPING.COM
810-373-5296

OUTDOOR SPACES LANDSCAPING

NOW HIRING
CALL FOR DETAILS

SPECIALIZING IN:
Retaining Walls, Patios,
Block Seawalls & More.

CARDINAL OPTIMIST CLUB OF SKIDWAY LAKE

CRAFT SHOW

MARCH 28, 2026

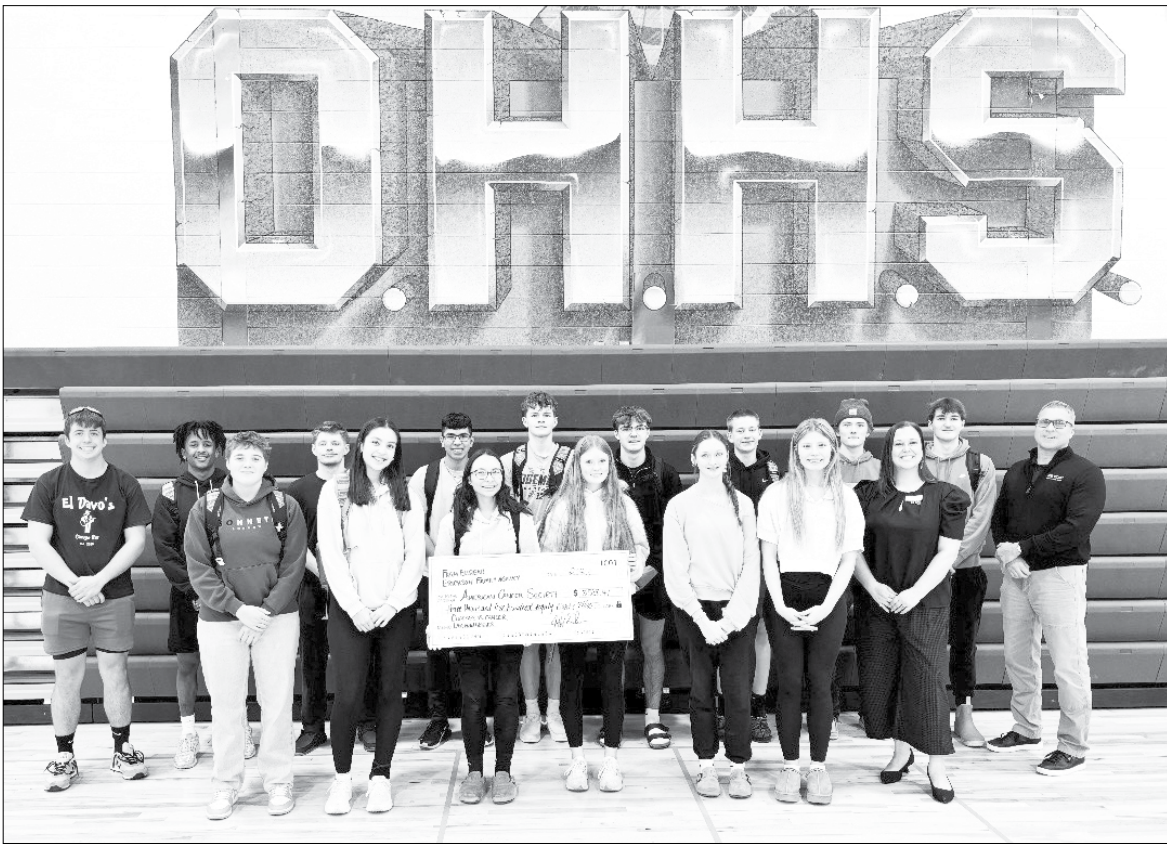
SAT 9-3

WHITTEMORE PRESCOTT HIGH SCHOOL
 6001 MILLS RD WHITTEMORE MI

FOR INFO. CALL OR TEXT 989-578-8768

KLEENEX DRIVE, RAFFLES, 50/50 TICKETS
 LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
 WALKER OR WHEELCHAIRS AVAILABLE

Supporting the American Cancer Society



Courtesy photo
Jeff Erickson (far right), owner of Erickson Insurance Agency in West Branch, along with girls and boys basketball players from Ogemaw Heights High School, recently presented a check for \$3,588.44 to the American Cancer Society. The money was raised during a recent charity game between the two – Coaches vs. Cancer.

Stovebolt donates to Ogemaw Food Pantry



Courtesy photo
Stovebolt.com is an online community of nearly 50,000 vintage Chevy/GMC truck hobbyists. Luke Stefanovsky, of West Branch, joined the group in 2009 shortly after he bought his 1948 Chevy ½ ton truck and began the restoration. He partnered with them to produce this aluminum license plate topper. The toppers were cast at a local foundry. He did all the finish work on them, assisted with the marketing, handling of sales, including all the shipping. Toppers were shipped across the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Profits were split between that organization and the Ogemaw Food Pantry here in West Branch.

Spring cleaning
sweet-smelling
thunderstorm
lucky clover
invigorating
baby animals
blossoming
butterfly
sunshine
chirping robin
daffodil chics
sapling bloom
harmony bunny
flowers bulbs
rainbow hatch
grassy eggs
pastel bees
joyful anew
Easter rain

WELCOME SPRING

X L L B K D B B Y L F R E T T U B O N E L L O P
J K N L T V T H U N D E R S T O R M K H N S C K
R S O O S A W V G X K K K R G G Q F R H A A H A
G R L F D R N C X O R W G M H T A N E W N A X K
N B Q L T F K R R Q L W Y K S F V Q Q D I S U F
I B M M Q L I K M O O L B E K X D A F F O D I L
N A S A P L I N G N V R E T S A E B Y L H D R A
A B X K X Y X O S I E L T R F S S Y E W C F B R
E Y R G P X E Z I A C R A D B R Z S F V A X G Y
L A X A O Z L J R R Y S K J Q E D S D Q B W N V
C N Y O E E L L A P H G I S W W L A H O U V I Q
G I T O L Z Q U I P C G H S H O X R R G L R L M
N M L Y E R X C N G T E C E H L C G R K B I L F
I A L L T B P K B T A V M E C F N H L J S A E N
R L W G S G P Y O U H S M B P C H I C S A T M I
P S O R A D J C W Z N F Z C L O N Q Z F X H S B
S P L D P L O L D Y N N U B L Y S M M G O M T O
A U E J N B W O K M T E J L H Y N O M R A H E R
H S Y X X L Z V Y N Q I P J U I S A K X T F E I
L U F Y O J Q E T H U R Y J V Z B B U B B Z W X
D G X S D A D R H U G N I T A R O G I V N I S H
B L O S S O M I N G A K N H A M O X Z A C J M L
E N O G X X O J C S U N S H I N E P E O Z Z K S
T E F V K H L M U C G N I P R I H C N I B N P Z

SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 16

Ogemaw County SUPERIOR NEWS

THE SUPERIOR NEWS OF OGEMAW COUNTY

IS LOOKING FOR A:

Graphic Designer

TO JOIN OUR BUSY TEAM



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.

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

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

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

Puzzle answer key

X L L B K D B B Y L F R E T T U B O N E L L O P
J K N L T V T H U N D E R S T O R M K H N S C K
R S O O S A W V G X K K K R G G Q F R H A A H A
G R L F D R N C X O R W G M H T A N E W N A X K
N B Q L T F K R R Q L W Y K S F V Q Q D I S U F
I B M M Q L I K M O O L B E K X D A F F O D I L
N A S A P L I N G N V R E T S A E B Y L H D R A
A B X K X Y X O S I E L T R F S S Y E W C F B R
E Y R G P X E Z I A C R A D B R Z S F V A X G Y
L A X A O Z L J R R Y S K J Q E D S D Q B W N V
C N Y O E E L L A P H G I S W W L A H O U V I Q
G I T O L Z Q U I P C G H S H O X R R G L R L M
N M L Y E R X C N G T E C E H L C G R K B I L F
I A L L T B P K B T A V M E C F N H L J S A E N
R L W G S G P Y O U H S M B P C H I C S A T M I
P S O R A D J C W Z N F Z C L O N Q Z F X H S B
S P L D P L O L D Y N N U B L Y S M M G O M T O
A U E J N B W O K M T E J L H Y N O M R A H E R
H S Y X X L Z V Y N Q I P J U I S A K X T F E I
L U F Y O J Q E T H U R Y J V Z B B U B B Z W X
D G X S D A D R H U G N I T A R O G I V N I S H
B L O S S O M I N G A K N H A M O X Z A C J M L
E N O G X X O J C S U N S H I N E P E O Z Z K S
T E F V K H L M U C G N I P R I H C N I B N P Z

See puzzle on page 15

National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888.

HERE'S MY BUSINESS CARD!

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

Support Good Tattoos

989-343-5022

@HERITAGETATTOOMI

CAN'T MOVE IN THE MORNING?
Feel like new again
and make your appointment today!
989-930-1001 or book online at thebodyshopwb.com

Dr. Angela Scarffe

- Chiropractic
- Massage Therapy
- Animal Chiropractic

We follow Michigan laws regarding 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

CLIFF ESMOND SPORTS

CASH FOR GUNS!

SILENCER SHOP

www.cliffesmondsports.com
Your New & Quality Used Firearms Headquarters!

Cliff Esmond Sports
Rose City, MI
(989) 280-2469
3546 Beechwood Rd.

MOONLIGHT GRAPHICS

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

www.moonlightgraphicswb.com
989-345-3954

The Ogemaw Heights Theatrical Troupe Presents...



Music by
George Stiles

Book and Lyrics by
Anthony Drewe

A Musical Tale of "The Ugly Duckling"

March 19, 20, 2026, at 7 p.m.

March 21, 2026, at 2 p.m and 7 p.m.

In the OHHS Auditorium

Tickets are \$12 and are available at

ohhstt.ludus.com

KIT'S in West Branch

The OHHS Office

The OHHS Theatrical Troupe is Sponsored in Part By:

Fritz-Crecine Agency

Pinnacle Rehabilitation

HONK is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

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

We aren't just
landscaping & lawn mowing!

1/2 Off
Your First Fertilization
Application*

*New Contracts Only

Fully Licensed



989-836-2150 • www.proscapemi.com

HERE'S MY BUSINESS CARD!

Call Today!
989-728-5955

130 East Ainsley
Hale, MI 48739

Colvins
HEATING & COOLING

24 HOUR EMERGENCY Service!

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC COOLING & HEATING PARTNER
PRO PARTNER
GENERAC AUTHORIZED DEALER

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.colvinsh heating.com

facebook

QUALITY HOMES & MAINTENANCE

Kitchens, Baths & More

www.AQHMS.com

30+ Years Experience

Rick Smith
989-836-3575

Electrician/Builder

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 Inc.

AXAITA 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 • Mobile Service

Insurance Work Welcome

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

Auto, Home, Commercial

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

Ogemaw County Title & Escrow Agency 2025 Business After Hours of the Year

Thank You

Thank you to the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce for the honor of receiving the Business After Hours of the Year award. We enjoyed showing off our newly restored building and visiting with our community.

We truly appreciate the efforts of Heather and her team at the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce for their efforts in providing networking opportunities.

Thank you again,

Melanie Nolan



Celebrating 100th day of school at St. Joseph School



Courtesy photos

St. Joseph School recently had the 100th day of school celebration. The first 100 days was expressed perfectly by Maverick Taylor, above. Shortly after the 100th day of school, the Lorax came to visit St. Joseph for March's Reading Month. Pictured below are front (l-r) Collins Linsenman, Denver Parish and Dorthy Eickholtz. Back row (l-r) Mylan Simmons, Ruby Cameron, Scarlett Ehinger and Theodore Sandula.

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR



KELLI JO MALONE

THANK YOU!

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce for honoring me as Ambassador of the Year. I am truly grateful for this recognition.

It is an honor to work alongside such an amazing group of ambassadors who are passionate about promoting our local businesses and strengthening our community. I am proud to be part of an organization that supports growth, connection, and collaboration, and I look forward to continuing to support the Chamber in any way I can.

Thank you again for this incredible honor.

Sincerely,

Kelli Jo Malone

backgrounds by vecteezy.com



WEST BRANCH COLLISION, INC.



Serving the area for over 44 years.
Your #1 Unibody Frame Specialist With Precision Collision Repair



We accept all insurance! Call Gary at 989-345-7230 • www.westbranchcollision.com

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.

Help Wanted

Help wanted, Active 86 year old female looking for friendly Homecare assistant 2 to 3 days a week for about 4 hours 11-3 p.m. Near Melita and Maple Ridge Roads. 989-836-2657

Public Hearings and Notices

**CITY OF ROSE CITY
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on February 4, 2026.

Present: Don Freeman, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Ashely Herrick
Absent: Brent Hinkley (Excused)

Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, DPW Co-Supervisor Anthony Evans, Brenda Butler, Madeline Cojocar and Chase Wiltse.

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

A Motion made by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Mrs. Myers to approve the Minutes for the January 20, 2026 Regular Rose City Council Meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to pay bills as presented, in the amounts of \$54,877.55 from the Common Cash Account and \$320.70 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Anthony Evans gave a DPW report.

Carol Lee Butler gave a Treasurers report.

A Motion made by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Mr. Hamel to appoint Monique Fontaine to BOR. Ayes: Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman. Nays: Non. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mrs. Herrick and seconded by Mr. Freeman to appoint Mary Florian to BOR as an alternate. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Mr. Hamel to apply for the MBF/Loons Baseball grant for up to \$5,000 for dugout rehab. Ayes: Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman. Nays: Non. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mrs. Herrick and seconded by Mr. Freeman to appoint Robin Micklich as a council person. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mr. Freeman to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**CITY OF ROSE CITY
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2026**

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:05 p.m. on January 20, 2026.

Present: Don Freeman, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Ashely Herrick, Brent Hinkley

Absent: none

Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, DPW Co-Supervisor Anthony Evans, Theresa Erickson and Chase Wiltse.

A Motion made by Mrs. Myers and seconded by Mr. Freeman 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 January 6, 2026 Regular Rose City Council Meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to pay bills as presented, in the amounts of \$4,256.32 from the Common Cash Account and \$0 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Claire Myers gave a Library Board report.

Brent Hinkley gave a Fireboard Meeting report.

Jennifer Hurley gave a Festival & Events report.

Michael Samples gave an EMS report.

Jennifer Hurley gave a RCACC report.

Anthony Evans gave a DPW report.

Mayor Michael Samples gave his comments.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to enter into a purchase agreement with a restrictive convenient with Rose City Restoration, LLC for lot 15 at Rose City Industrial Park pending covenant agreed upon terms. 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. Freeman to approve DDA's purchase and installation of an LED sign at the park entrance with a new electrical meter. 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 Don Freeman to apply as an alternative to the Ogemaw County Housing Commission. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman. Nays: Non. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Myers to approve the Nor'east'r banner for the closest 2 weeks to the festival ending 6/14/2026. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the parade dates for 2026. 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. Freeman to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

National Help Lines

- Adult & Child Protective Services..... 855-444-3911
- Domestic Violence 888-554-3169
- Food Assistance (WIC)..... 800-504-2650
- Catholic Human Services..... 800-356-5755
- National Suicide Prevention 800-273-8255
- American Red Cross 800-691-6059
- Poison Control 800-222-1222

Ogemaw County & Hale Area
SUPERIOR NEWS

Your source for positive community news.

Subscription Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Just **\$50** Annually
**Ogemaw County
Superior News**

PO Box 603

West Branch, MI 48661

Now accepting Credit/Debit Cards and Venmo
Call 989-482-7695

FUN IN THE PHOTO BOOTH

at the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce

22ND WINTER BALL

