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Ice, electrical outages and the people who got us through the storm



Photo by Emily Reed

It sure looks pretty, but the massive ice storm that began Saturday, March 14, left about 60 percent of Ogemaw County without power. In some places, including the Clear Lake area where this photo was taken, the storm left residents in the dark for four days.

BY LAURA BENDER

Residents of Ogemaw County are no strangers to wintery weather, but the storm that began on Saturday, March 14, provided us with a challenge beyond the usual. What made the difference in most areas of the county was the buildup of ice on trees,

which remained for several days without relief. Straining under extra weight in frigid temperatures caused limbs to break, blocking roads, damaging property, and downing power lines. By Monday morning, 11,467 homes in Ogemaw County were without power. That is almost 60 percent of the

county. By Wednesday, there were still 6,400 families struggling without heat or light.

Mike Bowers, the Ogemaw County Emergency Management Coordinator, began organizing an immediate response. Initially, that entailed consulting with local police, fire, EMS, the county road

ICE continues on page 10 »

Where the desert changes you: A winter in Death Valley



Courtesy photo

Peter and Samantha Fabbri escaped this year's brutal winter and headed west to Death Valley.

BY PETER FABBRI

At first light in Death Valley National Park, the desert awakens in quiet color. The rising sun spills across the rippled sands of Panamint Valley, painting the landscape in shades of amber and rose. In the distance, mountain peaks glow a deep crimson against the morning sky, as if the earth itself is slowly catching fire with the dawn.

It was in that spirit of anticipation - of warmth, space, and something almost timeless - that my wife, Samantha, and I made a decision. As Michigan braced for what would become an undeniably brutal winter, we packed the truck with camping gear and pointed it west. The desert was calling, and Death Valley, Calif.,

was waiting.

Spanning more than three million acres across California and Nevada, Death Valley is the largest national park in the contiguous United States and one of the most extreme environments on Earth. Here lies Badwater Basin, 282 feet below sea level - the lowest point in North America. Vast salt flats stretch toward the horizon, shimmering beneath some of the hottest temperatures ever recorded on the planet.

Yet even in this land of extremes, life endures.

Hardy desert plants push through cracked earth. Coyotes and bighorn sheep move quietly through rugged canyons. And when rare winter rains arrive, the valley erupts in color as

DEATH VALLEY continues on page 14 »

OHHS introduces 2026 Top 10 graduates



Mallorey Schleicher
Valedictorian

Mallorey is the daughter of Ted and Meredith Schleicher.

Mallorey is planning to attend the University of Michigan or North Michigan University to become a lawyer and eventually a judge.

Mallorey's activities and awards include - second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, Drum Major of Marching Band, Jazz Band, Team Captain of Mock Trail, National Honor Society, Bridge Crew Leader and Theater, Junior/Sophomore Academic Excellence, National recognition award for SAT, Tae Kwon Do Student of the Year 2024, Grand Champion in the Spring 2025 Tournament.



Abigayle Whisman
Salutatorian

Abigayle is the daughter of Kevin and Jaimie Whisman. Abigayle plans to attend Cornerstone University to become a psychologist, majoring in psychology and minoring in social work, centering her studies around her dream

to become a therapist for kids/teens.

Abigayle's activities and awards include - Soccer four years, Volleyball three years, Basketball two years, Golf one year, Wrestling Manager one year, Theatrical Troupe two years, National Honor Society three years, HOSA one year, Michigan Elite Volleyball one year, Academic Excellence three years, Kirtland Community College President's List, Conference Sportsmanship Award Basketball, Volleyball MVP, Basketball Coaches Award, Soccer MVP Defensive Award, All Conference 1st Award Soccer two years. Basketball Coaches Award, Soccer MVP Defensive Award, All Conference 1st Award Soccer two years.

TOP 10 continues on page 8 »

An Easter message: When hope walks in

BY PASTOR JIM WESTHEIM

There are moments in life when hope feels distant. A diagnosis arrives unexpectedly. A job disappears. Finances stretch farther than the month. A relationship fractures.

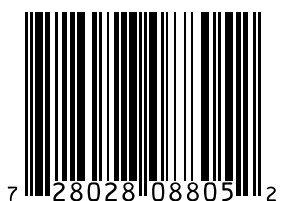


PASTOR JIM WESTHEIM

In seasons like these, it can feel as though hope quietly slipped out the back door. Yet throughout history - and especially in the pages of Scripture - we see a different pattern: hope has a way of walking in when we least expect it.

One of the most powerful pictures of hope in recent

HOPE continues on page 7 »



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE OGEMAW COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S

Aloha!

DINNER DANCE

Saturday, April 18th

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM
DINNER SERVED AT 6:30PM
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With everything changing daily, if not hourly, we would advise that you call ahead to be sure the event is still scheduled.

Ongoing
Mondays - Disabled American Veterans meet the third Monday, 5 p.m. at the VFW/American Legion Post 496 E. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call 989-473-3416.
Mondays - Rose City Lions Club meets the second and fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin in the Rose City Park. Call Ed 989-387-0609.
Mondays - (Second of each month) Coalition of Hope 9 a.m. Meeting virtually. Suicide prevention, intervention and post-vention. Call 989-345-5571.
Monday - (Third of each month, April-Dec.) Ogemaw County Genealogical and Historical Society 12:30 p.m. at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave., West Branch. Call 989-701-2525.
Tuesdays - Kiwanis Club of West Branch meets at noon at G's Pizzeria in downtown 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 517-304-6971. We do not meet in the month of December.
Tuesdays - (Third of each month) Cardinal Optimist Club of Skid-

way 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@coalition-ofhope.net for location. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255 or text 741741.
Tuesdays - (Fourth of each month) Ogemaw County Democratic Party 5pm at the Ogemaw County Annex Building in West Branch. Call Ken at 989-345-1066.
Tuesdays - (Fourth of each month) Ogemaw County Republican Party meeting 5:30 p.m. at G's Pizzeria in downtown West Branch. Call Kristine 989-343-5120.
Tuesday - (Last of each month) Diabetes Support Group 1-2 p.m. Medical Arts Center, diabetes education conference room. Call 989-343-3276.
Wednesdays - West Branch Area Business and Professional Women's Organization meets the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Different locations each month. Call 989-745-4067 for information.
Wednesdays - (First of each

month) Veterans coffee hour 9-10 a.m. Held at the Ogemaw County Commission on Aging, 1528 S. M-33 in West Branch. Call 989-345-3010.
Wednesdays - (First and third) Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. Faith Alive Church, 2945 Hansen Rd. in West Branch. Open to the entire community. Call 989-345-5440.
Thursdays - (First and third of each month) Newborn Parent Support Group 6-7:30 p.m. MyMichigan Health - West Branch in the executive dining room. Call 800-999-3199.
Thursdays - Northern Blend Sweet Adelines meets every week 7 p.m. at Logan Township Hall, 4507 E. M-55, Prescott. Call Ellen 989-345-0978.
Thursdays - (Second and fourth) Sit & Knit, 1 p.m. Knitting, needlework, and friendship. Whatever you craft. Ogemaw Commission on Aging, 1528 S. M-33 in West Branch. Call Alicia 989-345-3010, ext. 201.
Thursdays - (Third of each month) Rose City/Lupton Chamber of Commerce meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Rose City Council Chambers. Call Carl 989-473-3268.
Thursdays - Optimist Club of

West Branch meets at 7 a.m. at the Loggers Depot in West Branch. Call 989-942-6608.
Thursdays - The Ogemaw County Fair board meets the first Thursday of each month in the main building at the fairgrounds. Call 989-345-5393.

Apr 4

Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Optimist Club of West Branch, Saturday, April 4, noon sharp, Irons Park, on the basketball court.

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

Optimist Club of WB hosts Camel Races



Courtesy photo

Colorful and creative camels were on display at the annual Camel Races, hosted by the Optimist Club of West Branch.

The 17th Annual West Branch Optimist Cub Camel Race was held March 21, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in West Branch. This annual fundraiser was once again a great success with 36 competing camels and sponsors. These camels run on a tabletop track, six in each race and then the six winners race in the seventh and final race for the evening championship.

This year's overall winner was

Kirt the Camel from Kirtland Community College. There are also prizes for the best decorated camel and numerous other raffles and drawings. Attendees can bet on each race placing bets with "camel bucks" they purchase as they arrive at the hall.

All the money raised at the race is invested back into the children of our community in many ways. These include scholarship opportunities for Ogemaw

Heights High School seniors and through Optimist International Oratorical and Essay contests that take place locally, regionally, and nationally. Optimists also do the Small Fry Trout Derby in Irons Park, the Halloween Party at Surline Middle School, and the Respect for Law recognition event. They donate school materials each fall, and tissue supplies for our local schools during cold and flu season.

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Edward's Community Church

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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.

National milestones and Ogemaw County roots

BY LAURA BENDER

In honor of the 250th anniversary of our nation, the Ogemaw County Historical Society and the Rose City Area Historical Society are collaborating to create a display at the Ogemaw County Building in West Branch. The exhibit, when complete, will consist of two display cases: one commemorating some of the events and advances that have shaped our nation; the other will present those that have shaped Ogemaw County.

Grace Dooley, Pat Scotti, and Sally Rea are the design team tasked with gathering items, checking historical facts, and deciding what to include. Thanks to the gracious assistance of the custodial staff, whom Sally describes as “out of this world,” the team’s work was easily accomplished.

The first case is now ready for public viewing. Artifacts include a 13-star flag, items depicting the American Revolution, a Civil War cap, a plaque of the Bill of Rights, a model of the Statue of Liberty, and photos from Sept. 11, 2001. Other objects illustrate the development of the railway system and advances in communications, from the telegraph to the telephone and beyond. There are also items of a more personal nature, like an 1853 sewing machine and a (yum!) milkshake



Courtesy photo

Sally Rea (l), curator of the Ogemaw County Historical Museum and Jenny David, board chairman of the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners, unveiled the new display at the county building, celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

maker.

The second case is in the works and will feature more hometown items depicting the birth and growth of the county.

Next time you stop in the

Ogemaw County Building, be sure to visit the historical society’s cases to view their handiwork illustrating our national and hometown history.



West Branch First United Methodist Church celebrates 60 years

BY LAURA BENDER

The Methodist Church has had a presence in West Branch for almost as long as West Branch has existed. In 1966, the congregation moved from the original church building on West Houghton Avenue to their present location on the corner of Fairview and State roads. In April, they will celebrate the 60th anniversary of their church building.

“We’re excited to share that Bishop David Bard, who serves the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church, will be with us on Sunday, April 12, at 10 a.m.,” the Reverend Michelle Forsyth, pastor of West Branch First United Methodist Church said. “Bishop Bard will be bringing the message that morning, and we’re looking forward to the good news he will share with us. We’re also pleased to welcome District Superintendent Kristi Hintz of the Northern Skies District, who will be assisting Bishop Bard in worship. Having both leaders with us will make this service especially meaningful.”

In November 1881, local families, under the leadership of the Reverend George Huckle, began the process of establishing what became known as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of West Branch. The French family donated land on West Houghton Avenue, and the congregation raised the \$3,000 needed to erect the building. Shortly before the dedication ceremony on Nov. 21, 1886, they bought the first church organ at a cost of \$3.95.



Courtesy photo

Historical photo: The First Methodist Church in 1966 which became West Branch First United Methodist Church in 1968.

Among the original 30 church members were nine who served as the founding trustees: George J. Mallory, John Burlingame, Elijah Fulmer, A.S. Rose, S.V. Thomas, A.E. Sharp, W. Jay Kenworthy, J.S. Fraser, and O.F. Honeywell.

Over time, the congregation grew, and the building experienced several modifications. Electric lights were installed in 1895. In 1905, a building wing, kitchen, basement stairway, and rolling doors were added at a cost of \$725. Two years later, they installed a pipe organ. Following World War II, the building underwent extensive remodeling, which cost \$20,000. Part of that upgrade included the purchase of a Wurliitzer organ.

By 1962, there were 519 members. On July 25 of that year, under the leadership of the Reverend Dorraine Snogren, the congregation voted unanimously to build a larger church building. In October, Mr. and Mrs.

Rae Bachelder donated land on the corner of Fairview and State roads. The first Building Fund Crusade raised \$145,000 toward the \$257,000 needed for construction. A second financial campaign in 1966 raised another \$70,000.

The congregation broke ground for their new building on May 15, 1965. One year later, on Easter Sunday, May 15, 1966, the new building was consecrated to the Glory of God by Pastor Snogren, Bishop Dwight E. Loder, District Superintendent Dr. Herbert C Brubaker, Building Committee Chairman Edward Gould, Board of Trustees Chairman Edwin Bartlett, and 653 others in attendance.

In a letter to the congregation written on May 5, 1966, Pastor Dorraine Snogren wrote:

“Our new Church, regardless of its loveliness and functional design, can do absolutely nothing apart from what you and I do through it. Our new Church,

CHURCH continues on page 7 »

Easter Egg Hunt

Sponsored by the Optimist Club of West Branch

Where: Irons Park, West Branch (on the Basketball Courts)

When: Saturday, April 4th

Starting at: 12:00 Noon (Sharp)

Two Age Groups:

2 to 5: Will start first

6 to 12: Will start Next

Bring your easter candy baskets or bags!

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- Mini Golf

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History of the Old Water Tower

BY SALLY A. REA
CURATOR AND HISTORIAN

Did you know on June 11, 2010, the old water tower on N. Fifth Street was being torn down? I hadn't realized that the tower had been empty for about a year at this time.

About 12 years (1998) before, the city studied the performance of the old water tower. They suggested that the city should not put any more money into the water tower. The pumps had been removed in 2009. Up until it was shut down, the tower worked in conjunction with the "Smiley" tower. Since the "Smiley" tower had been built, the old tower was only filled to two-thirds capacity. The demolition of the old water tower was part of the recent water project which saw installation of the new water wells for our city water system. This water tower has given its services to our city for 102 years.

As a child, many of my friends climbed to the top of the tower many times - Lynn Bartlett Dunbar, Bill Lebzelter, Jim Carter and many others. I never made that climb. In the summer of 1967

two young men climbed to the water tower and painted a picture of batman. They had made stencils out of cardboard and used cans of spray paint to paint the tower. Now here is a story I am sure they have told their grandchildren.

The city water tower was built in 1908 by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works Company. I ran across an interesting article in the Ogemaw County Herald newspaper from March of 1946. It stated that the old water tower had caught on fire. Laz Schick, Burr Vincent, and Bud Meir, who were all from this area, were the unsung heroes.

The tank in the water tower had frozen on Thursday the week before the fire. Laz and Bud climbed the icy lattice and worked and worked their way up to the top of the tank a week ago on a Sunday and had to break the lock to get to the top of the tank. The following Monday they both

returned with an iron fork that they had rigged up. It was attached to a long piece of pipe. They fished through the ice and water to find the top of the five-foot pipe projecting up into the tank. To this they applied an electrode. The men were up in the tank from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Then Burr Vincent was contacted, and he drove the electrode into the wooden frost prevention pipe filled with insulation which encased the 10-inch pipe and went into the tank. Burr climbed the water tower several times that day and he got \$25 for every trip he made up the tower.

Once the electrodes were secured Consumers Power came in and shot the electricity to them. The charge was too heavy and unfortunately the wooden pipe and insulation caught on fire. A water tank is not just a tank that holds water and supplies the water, and it acts as a pressure tank for the

WATER TOWER continues on page 14 »



SALLY A. REA
HISTORIAN AND
CURATOR

News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

With all the power outages in the last storms the falling trees has been the main cause of the power outages. Who is responsible for the dead trees that are dangerous and could fall and cause all this damage? If it is on your property, it is your responsibility. Consumers Energy has a website to report hazardous trees. <https://www.consumersenergy.com/outages-and-safety/trees-and-power-lines/report-tree-issue>. Questions and answers on the website are as follows.

Will you trim or cut down a tree from the service drop to my home?

Trees and branches that are on or near wires on pole to building connections (service drops) are the responsibility of the property owner. We recommend hiring a qualified tree company to address your concern. If there is a need for the power line to be temporarily removed from your home, please call us at 800-477-5050. The phone agent will work with you to create Temporary

Disconnect and Reconnect orders to ensure that your tree contractor can safely to resolve your issue.

Will you cut down my dead tree?

We cut down dead trees along our primary voltage distribution lines that are accessible to aerial lift trucks and within distances specified in our easements or per our specifications filed with the MPSC. We do not cut down dead trees along service lines to homes or dead trees that do not threaten the primary voltage lines. If you have a dead tree on your property near your service line, you can schedule a temporary service disconnect by calling 800-477-5050 so that a tree removal company you hire can remove the tree. We will reconnect the service line when the tree work is complete.

How do I report a tree near a powerline I am concerned about?

If a tree branch (or an entire tree) has fallen on an electric line, call us immediately at 800-477-5050. Do not touch the branch or the electric line. If it is not an emergency, you can self-report through our Report a Tree Hazard form.

Hopefully this helps you to know what trees will be taken care of and what are your responsibilities. It is not an easy task for many due to the high cost of tree removal by private companies. I do know of a company that will allow payments to help with the cost. If you would like that information, contact me and I will be happy to share it.

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

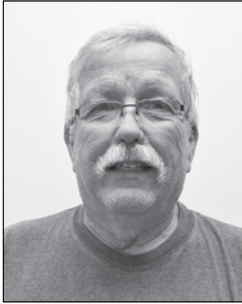


APRIL HARKEY-MASON

KIWANIS OF WEST BRANCH

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. You can add to your grocery bill at Meijer Store with a 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 text 315-725-1199 and make arrangements for pick up or drop off locations.

We will be at the Business Expo on March 31; text Denny at 315-725-1199 for more information. We are planning on many activities this year. On Facebook search for Aktion Club West Branch. On April 4, we will be holding a bake sale at the high rise on Valley Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Help us support organizations in West Branch

Those with special needs interested in joining our club, you have to be over 18 years of age 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.

Ogemaw County Superior News

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

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OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Optimist Updates

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

We recently had a visit from Mrs. Kelli Hinkson and



JOE BELL
VICE - PRESIDENT

several of her students to educate us about a program she is engaging her class in called Go Be Great! It is called a Social Contract Connection and involves 10 tenets that the students try to do every day. These are: Honesty,

Being Respectful, Hardworking, Fair, Best Effort, Courageous, Do Over/Do Better, Grace, Golden Rule and lastly, their favorite student/favorite teacher feeling.

When the students complete all these components, they can earn a "Go Be Great" tee shirt that they proudly wear. Each of the attending students then told us why they love this program and the tee shirts. It was a very inspiring presentation, and we could tell it really impacted these students and their teacher

We close each meeting by reciting the Optimist Creed part of which states: Promise yourself to greet every living creature you meet with a smile! What a great way to approach your life! 'Bye

Ogemaw Heights High School: The future is here

BY GAIL HUGHEY

Our small-town school offers big opportunities. Just because we are a small rural town in Michigan doesn't mean that our students suffer when it comes to being ready for the next step in life. Our graduates go on to work locally, across the state, and across the country. Whether your student is a future electrician, engineer, a gifted artist, or a scholar aiming for the Ivy League, our district offers a uniquely integrated curriculum that combines high-tech Career and Technical Education (CTE) with fine arts and core academics.

Our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are an important part of our district. These aren't the "shop classes" of 30 years ago. Today's CTE programs are high-tech, high-demand pathways that allow students to earn professional certifications and college credits before they even graduate. Some of our programs have been here for many years; others are brand new for the fall schedule.

Agriscience: Utilizing our

state-of-the-art greenhouse and livestock lab, students dive into animal biology and plant science. Students gain leadership and communication skills through FFA involvement and competitions.

Health Science: Students train in simulated medical environments, learning anatomy and medical terminology to prepare for careers as nurses, EMTs, or veterinarians. Students gain on-site clinical experience in our local hospital and nursing homes. Students can earn a CNA before leaving the program.

Building Trades: From blueprint reading to the construction of a house, students gain the mastery needed to enter Michigan's booming building and repair industry. They gain experience with electrical, plumbing, masonry, HVAC, drywall, and painting. Heavy equipment simulators are on-site.

Metals & CAD: These courses give students a taste of the manufacturing and engineering fields. Students produce parts with CNC programming and lathe work. Students are placed in local

industry for a hands-on experience.

Business and Accounting: Students learn accounting principles and applications. They will gain essential business and communication skills while gaining experience with marketing and sales.

Culinary Arts: Providing a foundation in professional food preparation, nutrition, and industry-standard safety. Students will earn their ServSafe Food Handler certification. This course emphasizes the rich Michigan agricultural bounty.

Other CTE courses are available through the partnership of our COOR Intermediate School District and include: automotive, welding, public safety, cosmetology, and teacher education.

We believe that a well-rounded student is a successful student. Our Fine Arts department isn't just an elective; it's an essential part of our identity. Research shows that students involved in the arts score higher on standardized tests and develop better problem-solving skills.

Visual Arts: From traditional

watercolor painting and ceramics to modern digital photography, students showcase their work in local exhibitions.

Theater and Performing Arts: Our award-winning music and theater programs teach discipline, teamwork, and the courage to stand in the spotlight.

The Applied Arts Credit: In Michigan, many of our CTE courses can actually satisfy the Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts graduation requirement, allowing students to blend creativity with technical skill.

While we pride ourselves on hands-on learning, we never compromise on our core curriculum. Our academic curriculum is designed to meet and exceed the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), ensuring every student is "college-ready" and "career-ready."

Advanced Mathematics: We offer a full suite of math through AP Calculus. For those who learn by doing, we offer math-related credits embedded within our CTE programs.

Science and STEM: Our science department offers everything from Integrated Biology to Physics. Many students utilize their CTE program to fulfill their third science credit, applying chemistry and physics in real-world scenarios.

Dual Enrollment: Through partnerships with local community colleges, our students can take actual college courses during the school day, often at no cost to the family.

Work-based Learning:

If you have any questions about our courses or how you can enroll your child in the West Branch-Rose City Area School District, please contact us at 989-343-2001. Anytime is a great time to be a Falcon!



GAIL HUGHEY
SUPERINTENDENT
WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY
SCHOOLS

Cardinal Optimists host craft show

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ

In March, the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake is busy fundraising to support the many programs we provide that bring out the best in kids. On Saturday, March 28, our club is hosting a craft show at the Whittemore/Prescott High School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no charge for admission. However, if you like, you may bring a box of Kleenex that will be donated to the school to use during the cold and flu season.

The show will feature 52 vendors from all over the state of Michigan. Some of the goods being sold include baked goods, soaps, porch signs, tote bags, crochet items, wood crafts, candy, cards, and fishing lures, just to name a few. The craft show comes just in time to buy unique and personal items from local

artisans that can be added to your family Easter baskets.

So be sure to stop in for a fun community-focused shopping experience that I'm sure you and your friends and family will enjoy. By supporting our vendors, who pay our club for a spot in the show, you are also supporting the COCOSL's efforts in bringing positive child-friendly programming to our community.

We are also holding a "Meat Raffle." The tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at the craft show or from any member of the COCOSL. Your donation will enter you into a drawing for a gift card from Klemmer's Meat Market. First prize is \$400, second

prize is \$200 and third prize is \$100. The drawing will take place

on March 28 at 3 p.m. at the Whittemore-Prescott High School. You do not have to be present to win, and all proceeds will go to the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake.

Our club is comprised of volunteers. No members are paid for their time. You can be assured that by supporting the COCOSL in their fundraising efforts, all donations will go directly to fund our programming and services rather than compensating paid organizers or workers. Every dollar counts towards helping us.... help kids.



LADONNA SCHULTZ

Payea selected for Statewide Rural Leadership cohort

BY PENNY PAYEA

I am honored to have been chosen to participate in the Leading Rural Michigan's first cohort, a statewide leadership program focused on strengthening rural communities through collaboration, innovation, and strategic leadership.

As director of the Ogemaw County Economic Development Corporation and a Business Services Professional with Michigan Works! Region 7B, I work every day with businesses, community leaders, and partners who are committed to growing our region. The Leading Rural Michigan program brings together leaders from across the state who are focused on many of the same goals: supporting strong communities, building economic opportunity, and ensuring rural Michigan continues to thrive.

I recently attended the cohort's first in-person session alongside leaders representing communities from across Michigan. It was an energizing experience filled with conversation, shared challenges, and the opportunity to learn from one another. Rural communities may be spread across the state, but many of the issues we face are similar, and programs like this create space for collaboration and new ideas.

What I am most excited about is bringing those ideas and connections back home to Ogemaw County. Whether we are talking about workforce development, housing opportunities, or supporting local businesses, having access to a network of rural leaders helps strengthen the work we are doing locally.

Ogemaw County is on an incredible new chapter, and I am



PENNY PAYEA
DIRECTOR
BUSINESS SERVICES
& ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

proud to represent our community as part of this cohort. The program will continue throughout the year with additional sessions held across Michigan, and I look forward to sharing what I learn along the way.

MSU Extension offers education for families

BY JULIE DARTON

Families in Ogemaw County have access to a wide range of free parenting and child development programs through the Michigan State University Extension Child and Family Development Team. These programs, based on research, seek to support parents, caregivers, and professionals as children grow from infancy through adolescence. All these opportunities, delivered online and free of charge, are convenient and accessible for many busy parents and caregivers.

MSU Extension offers interactive, research-based classes that focus on building strong relationships, improving communication, and supporting children's social and emotional development. Popular programs offered across a series of weeks include Guiding Principles for Parenting and the Parent Talk System, which help parents set boundaries, use respectful language, manage challenging behaviors, and encourage responsibility and empathy in children. These classes are available for parents of toddlers through teens.

For families with older children, the Building Strong

Adolescents series supports parents of youth ages 9 to 18, with a focus on emotional health, communication, and navigating the teenage years. MSU Extension also offers drop-in evening sessions on specific parenting topics, allowing parents to attend when a topic is most relevant to their family.

Several online, self-paced courses are available, including Positive Discipline, infant and toddler safety, and early emotional skill development. These options allow families to learn at their own pace and remove common barriers such as transportation and childcare. Certificates of completion are available and may be accepted for court-ordered or professional training requirements.

In addition to parenting classes, MSU Extension provides downloadable activity kits, early literacy resources, and educational videos to further support families at home. Together, these programs help strengthen families and communities across Michigan. Those interested in learning more about these programs should go to the MSU Extension website or follow MI Stronger Family on social media.



JULIE DARTON
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
MSU EXTENSION

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.



Terry Lee Benjamin

Dec. 13, 1947 – March 19, 2026

Terry Lee Benjamin was born on Saturday, Dec. 13, 1947, in Standish, Mich., to Wilson and Geraldine (Brindley) Benjamin. He passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at The Villa in Rose City, Mich., at the age of 78. Terry lived in West Branch, Mich., for most of his life.

Terry graduated from West Branch High School in 1966 and shortly thereafter began his career at TR Timber, where he worked under Charlie Rosebrugh. His work ethic also led him to roles at Franklin Septic and D. B. Hodgins Paving. Beyond his formal employment, Terry found joy and purpose in cutting firewood for sale, a task that connected him meaningfully to the woods he



loved. His passions extended beyond work. Terry deeply enjoyed fishing, hunting, and spending time in the woods. He cherished moments with his grandchildren, Zander and MaKenzie, and was a devoted companion to his dog, R.O. Bella. One of his long-standing treasures was his 1966 Chevelle, a car he owned since he was 18 years old.

Terry is survived by his loving spouse, Geraldine Newman; his son, Justin (Aarica) Benjamin; his grandchildren, Zander and MaKenzie; his loyal dog, R.O. Bella; his brother, Larry Benjamin, and his sister, LuAnn Zettle. He is also remembered by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by

his parents and his dog, Bodene.

A visitation to honor Terry's life will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2026, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 567 Parkway Dr, West Branch. The memorial service will take place at 4 p.m. Rich Casanova will officiate the service.

The family would like to thank The Care Team, The Villa at Rose City, and Marcie Coffell and Tiffany Klingler for their care. Also, thank you to Marie Marshall and Shelby Dougherty for making trips to his house for home care.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Rea Animal Shelter in West Branch.

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

Rose Marie Kisser

Aug. 4, 1931 – March 6, 2026

Rose Marie Kisser, age 94, passed away at her home in Lupton, surrounded by her loving family, after a battle with breast cancer, on Friday, March 6, 2026. She was born on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 1931, in Saginaw, Mich., to Louis and Elizabeth (Samek) Wilinski. Rose lived a life filled with love, laughter, and community, leaving a profound impact on those fortunate enough to know her.

In 1950, Rose graduated from Saginaw High School, a journey that would eventually lead her to work as a bank teller until she married the love of her life, Jerry V. Kisser, on Feb. 27, 1954. Together, they created a beautiful life, operating J. Kisser and Son Drywall for over 50 years and also owning Shady Shores Restaurant, where they gathered friends and family alike to share in the warmth of their hospitality. Together Rose and Jerry shared 49 wonderful years and many adventures together, including traveling with friends, dune buggy rides, ice racing, snowmobiling, dancing and camping trips to Canada.

Rose was a woman of many talents and passions. She relished making Christmas ornaments for her family and loved ones every year and shared her creative spirit through crafts shows at the Rose City Farmers Market, where she showcased her cherished handmade items. Memories of Rose are graced with her love for crafting, sewing, and baking, particularly her famous angel food cake which she made for countless Girl Scout trips. She also volunteered



her time as a Girl Scout assistant leader "Grandma Rose," and Rose City Lions Club helper with her daughter. Rose found joy in bowling, playing horseshoes and being a secretary of the Lupton horseshoe league for over 50 years. She also enjoyed bird watching and especially enjoyed her visits from her great-grandchildren.

Rose enjoyed her Hershey Kisses and her turtle candy that she received from her dear friend, Ms. Cindy every year. Her home was a safe haven, often filled with the cheerful sounds of country music, card games (Hand & Foot, and Golf), and the laughter of her loved ones. She treasured her time spent working with beads, creating night lights, and offering her assistance to her daughter, helping with tags for trophies, always eager to lend a hand to those she cared about.

She is survived by her loving son, Daniel V. Kisser (Kathy Raby), and her devoted daughter, Vickie M. Kisser. Rose's legacy lives on in her granddaughters, Amanda L. Kisser (Chris Rose), Rena (Dave) Boudrie and Krista (Luke) Albright, as well as her great-grandchildren, Jayden Williamson (James), Madisyn "Mady" Rose, Camdyn "Cam" Rose, and Daxtyn "Dax" Rose. Rose is also survived by her sister, Bev Bush of Saginaw; sisters-in-law, Agnes Wilinski of Birch Run and Joyce Kisser of Saginaw; and she held the title of Godmother to Debbie and Dennis Lenhart and Nancy Newton, along with numerous nieces, nephews, and other cherished family members and friends, including being a

grandma to many Girl Scouts and friends, especially Christopher and Annabelle Leathorn, and her special nephew, Butch, and Aaron Kisser, and niece Linda Mossner and Kaleb who was always there for Aunt Rose, and all that helped her at the Farmers Market.

Rose's journey was not without its sorrows. She is reunited in spirit with her parents, her beloved husband, Jerry Kisser in 2003; her infant son, Dale Kisser; her brothers, Marvin and Richard Wilinski; brother-in-law, Howard Kisser Sr.; as well as numerous brothers and sisters-in-law: Ella and Jack Roesler, Floyd and Donna Kisser, Bill and Joyce Carigan, and Gladys Lenhart (Meryl). Rose also fondly remembers her four-legged companions, Toby, Nickie, Zeb, and Patches "Fat Butt," who brought her immense joy.

A memorial service to celebrate Rose's remarkable life will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, at the Rose Township Hall in Lupton. Pastor Melvin Killinger will officiate. A luncheon will follow from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Compass Hospice of West Branch, Karmanos Cancer Institute of Ann Arbor, McLaren Cancer Center of Bay City, and many friends.

Though Rose Marie Kisser has left this world, her spirit will forever remain in the hearts of those who loved her.

Those wishing to make a memorial contribution please consider the Rose City Library or the Rose City Lions Club.

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

Rick D. Brabo

Dec. 11, 1953 – March 12, 2026

Rick D. Brabo, 72, passed away peacefully at home March 12, 2026, in West Branch, Mich. He was born in Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 11, 1953.

Rick graduated from Ogemaw Heights High School in 1972. In 1974, he married Karen Avram, and they had two daughters together. They celebrated 51 years of marriage on Aug. 24, 2025. Rick was a dedicated worker in the oil field, carpentry, truck and transit driver. He enjoyed woodworking, NASCAR,

and was a lifelong Lions fan.

Rick is survived by his wife, Karen; daughters Autum (Darrin) Hunter, Kerri (Ben) McBride; siblings Lydia (Ward) Kimball, Bill (Nex) Hill; grandchildren Hunter and Blake McBride; great-grandchildren, Easton, Ryder Rick, and Paisleigh McBride. He is preceded in death by his father, Edward Brabo, mother, Anne (Richard) Hill, and nephew, Evan Kimball. He will be loved and missed forever.



William "Bill" Artman

Aug. 16, 1946 – March 6, 2026

William "Bill" Artman, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, was born on Aug. 16, 1946, in West Branch, Mich., to Percy and Dorothy (Hennen) Artman. He passed away peacefully in Crosby, N.D., surrounded by his family, on Friday, March 6, 2026, leaving

behind a legacy of kindness, and a spirit that touched the lives of those who crossed his path.

Working on the family farm as a young man taught Bill the meaning of hard work and dedication - values that stayed with him throughout his life. He spent much of his career hauling crude oil for Total Petroleum, taking considerable pride in his work and in the life he provided for his family.

Bill married Lorrie, June 14, 2003, and spent the majority of his time with her enjoying life. Their greatest adventure came in 2021 when they moved from Bill's lifelong home of West Branch, to Crosby, N.D. They embraced their new life, building a cheerful home and forming cherished friendships. Together, they loved taking rides on Bill's Harley, following the open road wherever their spirits led them.

Bill didn't just spend time with his grandchildren, he collected those moments like treasures. Each grandchild had their own special adventure with him. With one, he braved a white-water rafting adventure; with another, he shared the freedom of the open road on his motorcycle, making sure his granddaughter had a Harley jacket. Some of their greatest memories were the simplest going out for french fries and hot chocolate at Mac's Place or wandering through Irons Park, enjoying the bridges, trails, play area and creek. He rarely missed a sporting

event and was always there in the stands, supporting them as their biggest fan. Those everyday adventures, big and small, became the memories they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Bill had a one-of-a-kind sense of humor - playful, spontaneous, and full of heart. He loved making

people laugh, whether through a perfectly timed joke, a light-hearted prank, or the quick wit that always seemed ready at just the right moment. Bill never took himself too seriously and had a rare ability to laugh just as hard when the joke was on him. His humor wasn't loud or showy; it was genuine, joyful, and rooted in his love for the people around him. He brought levity to ordinary moments and created memories filled with laughter, little things that those who knew him will carry with them forever.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife, Lorrie Artman; his children, April (Jim) Zettel and Brian (Juliet) Artman; stepchildren Stefanie (Nick) Rudat, Gordon (Sarah) Granger, Gerri (Gennesa) Granger, and Kody (Kelsey Killinger) Smith. Bill was the proud papa to Steven (Sara) Zettel, Sara (Mike) Deyarmond, Emily (Kyle) Wangler, Cain (Elizabeth) Edevane, Connor Artman, Cole Artman, Nate (Hope) McLain, Ryleigh Grix, Katlyn Sessions, Logan Granger, Avarie Granger, Christopher Kroon, Riley Kroon, and Boston Smith, along with 14 cherished great-grandchildren.

Bill is also survived by his sisters, Mary (Ford) Peffers, Margaret Roe, and Amy Artman, as well as nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Ann (Artman) Radke.



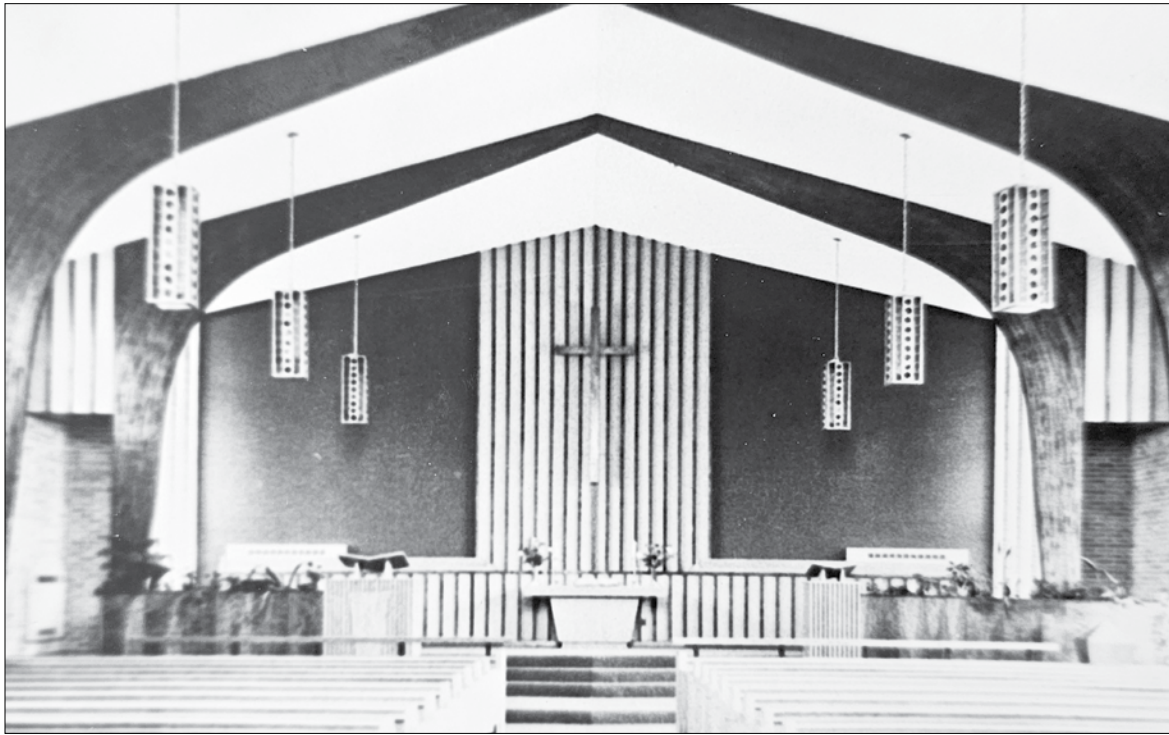
Honor your loved ones with a complementary obituary listing

Ogemaw County
SUPERIOR NEWS

Email obituary to: deanna@superior-news.com

Church

« Continued from page 3



Courtesy Photo

Historical photo: The inside of the sanctuary on the day the church was consecrated on Easter Sunday in 1966.

regardless of its imposing location in the Community, can say and mean nothing more than the accumulated witness of our personal lives. Our new Church, regardless of its empty cross, cannot be the living, saving, healing body of Christ if we are not committed to His will, filled with His Spirit, and instruments in His hands.”

For the last 60 years, First United Methodist Church has

Hope

« Continued from page 1

history came in 2010 when 33 miners were trapped nearly half a mile underground after the San José mine collapsed in Copiapó, Chile.

For 69 days they lived in darkness, uncertainty, and extreme conditions while the world watched rescuers drill desperately to reach them.

Finally, a drill broke through to the chamber where they were trapped.

The miners attached a small note and sent it back to the surface.

It read: “We are well in the shelter, the 33 of us.”

In that moment, hope broke through the darkness.

Many people today know that same feeling of being trapped - perhaps not in a mine, but in circumstances that feel just as confining. Stress, discouragement, financial pressure, grief, or broken relationships can make life feel heavy.

The Bible speaks directly to these moments.

One of the clearest promises of hope comes from the resurrection of Jesus. After His crucifixion, His followers believed the story was over. Their leader was gone and their expectations shattered. But on the third day everything changed. The empty tomb became the ultimate declaration that darkness does not get the final word.

The apostle Peter later wrote: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” [1 Peter 1:3]

Notice the phrase living hope. Biblical hope is not wishful thinking. It is confidence rooted in the

endeavored to fulfill Pastor Snogren’s challenge.

On Sunday, April 12, at 10 a.m., join the congregation as together they renew their commitment to Christ and their promise to be faithful witnesses in our community.

“This joyful gathering is part of our 60th anniversary celebration,” Pastor Forsyth said. “We would love to see familiar faces and new

friends alike. Everyone is welcome to worship with us as we give thanks for the past 60 years and celebrate what God is doing among us today.”

For more information, visit West Branch First United Methodist Church, 2490 West State Rd., or <https://www.facebook.com/WB1stUMC/>, call 989-345-0210, or email reverendmichelleforsyth@gmail.com.

reality that God is still at work.

Jesus also spoke about bringing light into dark places. In Luke 11:33 He said:

“No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house.”

Light changes a room the moment it enters. Hope does the same thing in our lives.

So how does hope begin to walk into everyday situations? Often it starts with simple steps we can take today.

Three simple ways to let hope walk in:

- Change your view before you change your situation.

Hope often begins when we lift our eyes beyond the immediate problem. Start your day with a short prayer or a hopeful thought that reminds you your story is not finished.

- Don’t carry what you were never meant to carry alone.

Hope often enters through another person’s encouragement. Call a friend, talk with a family member, or connect with a faith community rather than isolating yourself.

- Take the next right step, even if it’s a small one.

You do not need to solve everything at once. Begin with one positive step - start a conversation, extend forgiveness, or move toward a healthier habit. Small steps like these often open the door for something bigger to happen.

The message of Easter is not only about what happened 2,000 years ago. It reminds us that new life can break through places that seem buried. Peace can replace anxiety. Strength can emerge in the middle of weakness.

When Jesus walks in, hope rises

up. And when hope rises up, everything begins to change.

Jim Westheim is a local pastor, who serves at Faith Alive Church in West Branch and GraceValley Church in Saginaw.

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WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK
EVERYONE THAT PURCHASED AN
AD OR HELPED IN ANY WAY TO
MAKE THIS YEAR'S CAMEL RACE
A SUCCESS.

Top 10

« Continued from page 1

**No. 3
Nicholas
Joseph Wright**

Nicholas is the son of Joe and Crystal Wright. Nicholas is planning on attending Central Michigan University to become an engineer.

Nicholas's activities and awards include - Soccer, Student Council, National Honor Society, All Conference 2nd Team Offensive Award, Academic Excellence Award.



**No. 4
Morgan
Elizabeth Dunn**

Morgan is the daughter of Mike and Becky Dunn. Morgan will be attending the University of Michigan studying Biology/Premed. Morgan's activities and awards include - Theater, Golf, Track and Field, National Honor Society, Student Council, YAC, HOSA, Yearbook, Book Club, Academic Excellence, Varsity Award for Golf, Academic All-State 1st Team Golf, All-Conference Sportsmanship Award Golf, HOSA Regionals Finalist.



**No. 5
Nadia
Ann Hosted**

Nadia is the daughter of Donald and Lisa Hosted. Nadia's college is undecided but plans to study Publishing or Journalism. Nadia's activities and awards include - Theatre, Academic Excellence and second place Optimist Essay Contest.



**No. 6
Sadie
Ann Stephens**

Sadie is the daughter of Phil and Kerri Stephens. Sadie plans to attend Michigan State University to study Elementary Education. Sadie's activities and awards include - Varsity Swim and Dive 4 years, Basketball 3 years, National Honor Society 3 years, Academic Excellence, All Conference 1st Team Swim and Dive.



**No. 7
Wyatt
Andrew Vaughn**

Wyatt is the son of Tony and Jennifer Vaughn. Wyatt plans to attend college to study Business or Economics, maybe studying internally/globally. Wyatt's activities and awards include - Football 3 years, Track and Field 4 years, Academic Excellence, College Board National Rural and Small-Town Recognition, College Board National First-Generation Recognition, College Board National Top School Recognition.



**No. 8
Teagan
Trinity Agren**

Teagan is the daughter of Shawn and Ashlee Agren. Teagan plans to attend Delta College, then transferring to Central Michigan University to earn a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science and become a Physical Therapist. Teagan's activities and awards include - National Honor Society, HOSA, Student Council, JMG, Falcon Advisory Committee, Varsity Track and Field, Varsity Basketball, Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Softball, Wranglers Club Volleyball. Teagan has received many athletic and academic awards including MVCA All State Honorable Mention for Volleyball and Academic All States for various sports. Teagan also holds two school records in volleyball and one school record in basketball.



**No. 9
Andy
Kaijun Liang**

Andy is the son of Yaling Chen and Chihua Liang. Andy plans to attend Michigan State University and study Computer Engineering. Andy's activities and awards include - National Honor Society and Academic Excellence.



**No. 10
Naomi
Marie Hosted**

Naomi is the daughter of Donald and Lisa Hosted. Naomi plans to attend college to study Secondary Education. Naomi's activities and awards include - Theatre and Academic Excellence.



OHHS athletes commit to playing collegiate sports

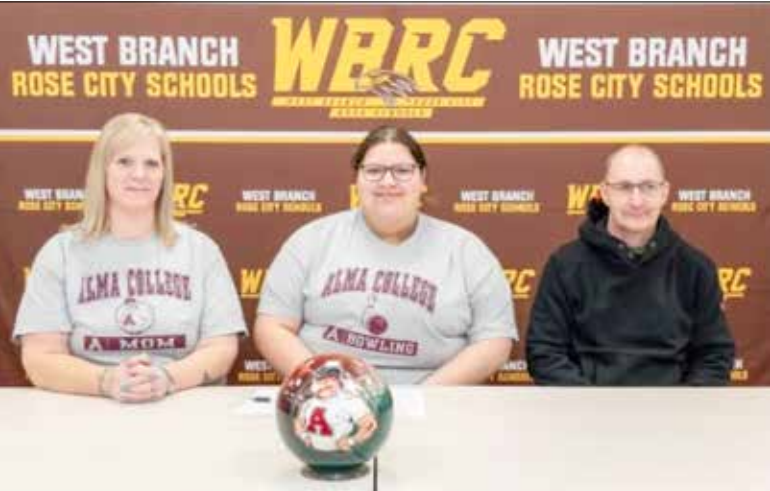
Four Ogemaw Heights High School recently committed with various colleges and universities to play on the colligate level. Congratulations and good luck to all of you in your future endeavors.



Teagan Agren committed to Delta College to play volleyball.



Taylor Illig signed with Alpena Community College for softball.



Elena Martinez signed with Alma College for bowling.



Eion Jones signed with University of Findlay to play football.



Downtown West Branch Presents
Spring Art Walk
& Wine Tasting
 Saturday, April 25, 2026
 5-8 PM


Downtown West Branch is partnering with local artists for the perfect spring evening.

Each shop will host an area artist and their work along with wine & Hors d'oeuvres

What a better way to welcome spring!

COMMEMORATIVE WINE GLASSES
 To be sold at Kit's the day of the event starting at 5 p.m. While supply last.

PRESALE WINE GLASSES
 at the Silver Lining from April 17 - April 24. Cash Only



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)
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Ice

« Continued from page 1



The storm left trees weighed down with inches of ice. Photo by Emily Reed

commission, and senior county leadership to focus on addressing emerging safety issues: Are trees blocking roads? Are power lines down? Are there life-threatening issues that need immediate attention? Are there emergency services or other resources that should be a priority if they lose power?

After the initial evaluation, the next step was to mitigate less dangerous, but still serious issues: Where can people without power go to get warm? Where can people find food and water? Are the main roads safe for driving? One of Mike's first tasks in response to these questions was to find places suitable for use as warming centers.

"We looked for any building that could house 10 to 15 people or more, such as a fire department, town hall, or banquet hall," Mike said. "The Rose City Community Center welcomed us to use their facility with round-the-clock access for several days. Usually, we expect warming centers to be open for shorter periods because as power is restored, they are no longer needed."

With power still out in large swaths of the county, and local resources stretched to meet needs, the State of Michigan stepped in on Tuesday with additional assistance, declaring a state of emergency in Ogemaw and six other counties.

"Our communities need help, and they need it quickly," State Representative Mike Hoadley said. "This declaration ensures a focused, rapid response so we can help residents return to normal daily life as soon as possible."

"Once a state of emergency is declared," Mike Bowers said, "It opens up resources for assistance at the state level. MDOT has permission to work with the county road commission to clear downed trees and remove debris from roadways. The Northeast Michigan Food Bank can supply pallets of snacks for shelters and volunteers. Pallets of water can be delivered to firehouses for distribution in the community. It also opens opportunities for monetary assistance, such as procuring necessary specialized equipment from other areas and

compensating local emergency services for overtime and the extra use of equipment. In addition, it allows the county to request additional funds, based on a FEMA formula, following a post-recovery damage assessment."

Although the storm has passed, its effects will remain for some time. Downed trees and debris will need to be cleared away, and damage to property from snow and especially ice will need to be addressed. But cleaning up from this last storm is not enough. We must be ready for the next time severe weather hits.

"Because we live in a rural area," Mike Bowers said, "we must be prepared to shelter in place for up to 72 hours. Our emergency services are sufficient for usual bad weather, but if the magnitude of a storm is great enough, it will take time for additional help to arrive. Everyone must remember that emergency management starts from the bottom up, not the top down. First, you must be able to help yourself, then perhaps be able to assist a neighbor."

Here are some ways you can prepare for the next storm:

Have enough canned food, bottled water, blankets, and warm clothing to sustain you and your family for 72 hours.

If your power is off, place perishable items in a cooler outside in winter.

Fill your bathtub with water for sanitation before you lose power.

Have a "bug-out bag" always packed with essentials so if you must leave in a hurry, you'll have what you need. Pack one for each child, too.

If you have a safe heat source, stay in one room, close off rooms you are not using, and bundle up to stay as warm as possible.

Keep multiple flashlights, extra batteries, a NOAA weather radio, power banks to charge phones, and a fully stocked first-aid kit in an easily accessible place.

Thank you to our Ogemaw County Emergency Management Coordinator, Mike Bowers, our local first responders, the county road commission, the utility company employees, and the many volunteers who worked together to restore safety, heat, light, and hope to our community.



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Talking about war: A framework for better conversations in turbulent times

**BY LAURA BENDER
RETIRED US NAVY CHAPLAIN**

For the last few weeks, most of our news sources and social media sites have focused on issues related to war. It's a difficult and frightening topic, certain to engage the emotions no matter your opinion. To make discussions with friends and family more fruitful, it helps to have a framework and common understanding of the way we as individuals and as a nation approach conflict.

When individuals and nations set parameters around issues of violence and war, their responses fall along a continuum from absolute pacifism, through non-violent intervention, to that which falls under Just War Theory.

**Absolute Pacifism
Non-Violence
Just War Theory**

As you read each description, think about your own position and see if you can identify where you stand in general or for one conflict in particular.

Absolute Pacifism

For those who hold this view, all forms of violence, war, and killing are unconditionally wrong. Absolute pacifists believe that all forms of social interaction should be completely non-violent and peaceful, and people should address conflict only through negotiation.

This absolute is difficult to uphold. I am reminded of a story told to me by a lawyer friend from Boston who was mugged on his walk home from a racquetball court. He said, "As I whacked the mugger with my racquet for the third time, it occurred to me that perhaps I was really not an absolute pacifist."

However, there are some people who really would not defend themselves. But what if the one requiring defense was a child, or someone rendered helpless? This is a difficult issue for absolute pacifists. They certainly could try to negotiate, but if that failed, they would be left with two choices: use whatever means necessary, including violence to stop the perpetrator or do nothing and allow harm to be done to an innocent, which would make them guilty by collusion.

This is why many people practice pacifism when they are able and hold to it as an ideal, but not as an absolute.

Non-violence

Two familiar names associated with the practice of non-violence are Mahatma Gandhi, a major political and spiritual leader of India during its struggle for independence from British rule, and

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who adopted nonviolence as a method for addressing issues of civil rights in the United States. Gandhi's methods relied on persuasion, non-cooperation, and sacrifice to bring about a just and peaceful society. He believed that if the perpetrator understood the harm they were doing, they would be morally persuaded to do the right thing. King did not agree that ethical appeals alone would bring justice. Instead, his "realistic pacifism" was passive physically, but strongly active spiritually, the goal being to convert rather than defeat an adversary. King described hate as spiritual violence, which he rejected. Today we see a lot of hate spilling onto our streets and across social media. Although people engaged in those battles might see them as non-violent, Dr. King would not agree.

The United States military often uses methods of non-violent intervention in relations with other countries, especially those with whom we have rocky relationships. Military units often hold COMRELS (community relations events) in counties they visit. They paint orphanages, play soccer with local teams, and restore damaged infrastructure. They provide food, supplies and medical aid to places ravaged by natural disasters. Instead of fighting a potential adversary, they use this method of diplomacy to try to turn them into friends.

Just War Theory

In a perfect world, we could all be pacifists who never intentionally harmed one another. We don't live in that world. Therefore, there must be parameters around our response to evil so that in trying to combat it, we do not become evil ourselves.

Over the centuries, military leaders, theologians, ethicists, and policymakers have developed a set of criteria by which to determine if a war, though regrettable, is justifiable. This framework evaluates when it is morally permissible to go to war and how to conduct war ethically.

According to Just War Theory, in order for a war to be considered legitimate, it must meet all the following criteria:

It must have a just cause. Many hold that the only just cause is a defensive response to an attack or an imminent attack. Other reasons to engage in war, such as a desire for vengeance, hatred of the enemy, or to acquire land, power, or natural resources, etc. do not meet this criterion.

The war must be declared by a legitimate authority, which

usually means the sovereign acting in protection of the common good, i.e. the president, prime minister, or ruler of a nation. Terrorist organizations do not meet this criterion because they represent an ideology, not a nation/state.

There must be a rightful intention, which means that the war must serve justice, have a reasonable chance of success, and lead to eventual peace. Before entering into a conflict, a nation must ensure it has the ability and resources to wage war, or it will be subjecting its citizens to great harm at the hands of its adversary. After the war, the goal must be to establish a peace that protects civil rights, upholds a rule of law that is fairly applied to all, and keeps the country safe.

The means used to conduct the war must be just, and non-combatants must have immunity. In 1949, a set of treaties known as the Geneva Conventions addressed this issue. They provide protection for wounded, sick, and shipwrecked military members and for the medical and religious personnel who tend them. The Geneva Conventions also call for the humane treatment of prisoners of war, which includes adequate food, shelter, medical care, and the right to correspond with their families. The Conventions also provide protection for civilians and define who may be considered a combatant and what constitutes a legitimate military target. For example, some adversaries will use a functioning hospital as a military headquarters. They do this to make their enemy appear unjust and cruel for targeting it. These breaches of ethical conduct in war are one reason military members from countries that follow the Conventions often sustain moral injuries that remain with them for life. To learn more about the Geneva Conventions, visit: <https://www.redcross.org/> and search for IHL_SummaryGeneva-Conv.pdf.

War is declared as a last resort, after all other alternatives have been exhausted.

The good achieved in victory will outweigh the evil produced during the conflict. We must always ask: Will the outcome be worth the cost?

As an ethical theory, Just War serves as a guideline for those who consider violence a legitimate, though regrettable, option.

It is my hope that these descriptions will give you food for thought and a better understanding of your own views as well as the positions of those with whom you disagree. Frank discussions don't need to lead to a war of words. If we cannot talk with each

other, how can we expect warring nations to find enough commonality to lay down their weapons?

Peace should be the object of your desire; war should be waged only as a necessity, and waged only that God may by it deliver men from the necessity and preserve them in peace. For peace is not sought in order to the kindling of war; but war is waged in order that peace may be obtained. Therefore, even in waging war, cherish the spirit of the peacemaker; that, by conquering those whom you attack, you may lead them back to the advantages of peace.

Saint Augustine 418 A.D.

STEM at St. Joseph School



Courtesy photo
The third and fourth grade classes at St. Joseph School worked on engineering designs for a catapult system that would shoot a cotton ball the furthest distance. The students were measuring distances to collect data, using the data to make computations and evaluated the information in order to improve their design. Pictured (l-r) are Madelyn Hawley and Adam Maleski.

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Michigan 4-H license plate helps support youth

Michigan residents have a new way to support youth development programs across the state, including those serving local families, by choosing the Michigan 4-H specialty license plate. This is a great way to raise visibility as an alumni member, current volunteer or family that is part of 4-H.

The Michigan 4-H license plate features the recognizable four-leaf clover and allows drivers to show their support for 4-H. A portion of every plate purchase and renewal directly benefits Michigan 4-H programs through the Michigan 4-H Foundation, helping fund

hands-on learning opportunities for young people statewide. Ogemaw County 4-H youth and volunteers receive support through the 4-H Foundation.

The specialty plate costs \$35, with \$25 from the initial purchase supporting Michigan 4-H youth programming. When the plate is renewed, \$10 of the renewal fee also goes back into 4-H programs. Funds raised are used to support current programs and address emerging needs of Michigan.

Michigan 4-H, part of Michigan State University Extension, serves youth ages 5 to 19 in every

county, including Ogemaw County, through clubs, schools, after-school programs, and community activities.

License plates can be ordered online at Michigan.gov/sos, by mail, or by visiting the Secretary of State office. Plates are typically delivered within two to three weeks.

By purchasing a Michigan 4-H license plate, Ogemaw County drivers help invest in programs that build leadership, life skills, and confidence in local youth.



Courtesy photo
Sample of the new 4-H specialty license plate option. A portion of plate sales helps support Michigan 4-H programs.

W-P Board of Education announces candidates for superintendent

The Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools Board of Education continues to move forward with the process of selecting a new Superintendent of Schools.

Eight educators submitted applications for the position. Applicants consisted of current superintendents, central office administrators, former superintendents and school level administrators.

The board completed a thorough review of the applications and has invited five educators to be interviewed.

The interviews will be held on April 20 and April 21 and will take place at the Whittemore-Prescott Administrative Building, located at 8970 Prescott Rd., Whittemore, Mich. The

public is welcome to attend.

The interview schedule is as follows:

- Monday, April 20, 6 p.m.
Dr. David Harwood, Superintendent
Vanderbilt Community Schools
- Monday, April 20, 7:15 p.m.
Matthew Lehman, Athletic Director and Former Principal
Concord Community Schools
- Monday, April 20, 8:30 p.m.
Naomi Clouse, Curriculum Director
Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools
- Tuesday, April 21, 6 p.m.
Hannah Wanks, Director of Special Education
Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools/Iosco RESA

Tuesday, April 21, 7:15 p.m.

Alexis Shaver, Upper Elementary/Middle School Principal
Carson City-Crystal Area Schools

The Board of Education is pleased with the quality of applicants that demonstrated an interest in the school district. They look forward to learning more about the candidates' leadership abilities and how their vision will lead the district to continued success. It is the intention of the board to have a new superintendent in place by July 1.

Mr. Bryan Crainer is serving as the interim superintendent this school year. The search is being facilitated by Mr. James Cain, Superintendent of Iosco RESA.

Urgent Needs Fund grants available to nonprofits

The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan (CFNEM) is accepting applications for Urgent Needs Fund grants. These grants are specifically for nonprofits that are supporting individuals and families with emergency needs in Alcona, Alpena, and Ogemaw counties – the three counties currently under a state of emergency due to the March 2026 ice storm.

Many in these communities are still without power, facing unsafe conditions, and restoration efforts may take several more days. As we learned from last year's storm, the impact to our neighbors will linger, and the need will continue in direct relation to the ice storm.

APPLYING FOR GRANTS

Grants from the Urgent Needs Fund will be directed to nonprofit organizations working to meet the emergency needs of residents in the impacted communities with essential services like food access, senior care, safety, and hygiene necessities. While CFNEM cannot provide aid directly to individuals, it supports the work of local nonprofit partners who are on the front lines of crisis response. To see the full list of eligibility requirements and eligible expenses, nonprofits may visit cfnem.org under Grants / Urgent Needs.

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Easter Bunny pays a visit to Clear Lake area



Photo by Emily Reed
The Foster Township Fire Department Auxiliary recently hosted an Easter Party at the fire hall. Pictured Eliana Reed with the Easter Bunny prior to the Easter egg hunt. The Auxiliary provided candy, prizes and raffles for area children.

- hot cross bun
- easter egg
- chocolate
- daffodil
- decorate
- sunshine
- sunday
- parade
- basket
- bonnet
- spring
- church
- chicks
- lambs
- bunny
- cross
- hop



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see answers on page 14

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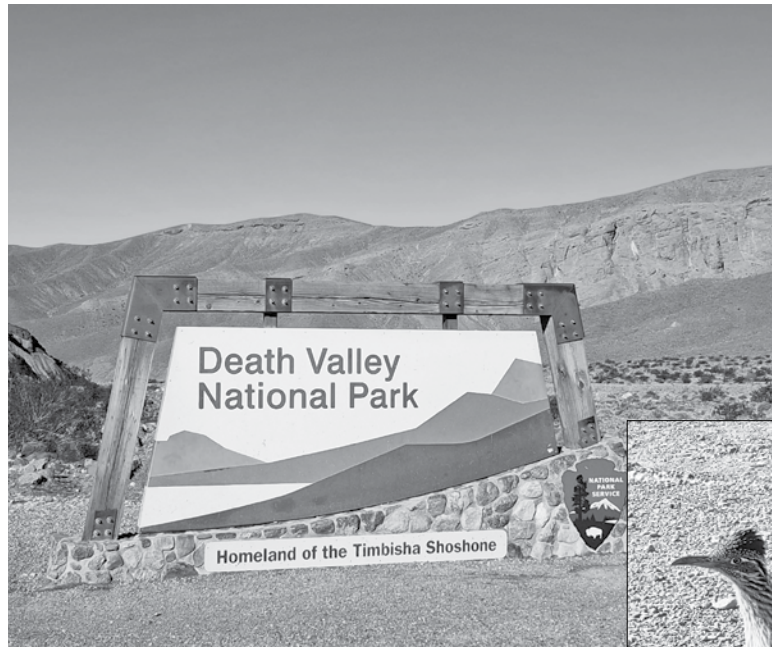
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Death Valley

« Continued from page 1



Courtesy photos

Your friendly neighborhood road runner dropped by the campground one day.

wildflowers blanket the desert floor in a fleeting, spectacular bloom. For the millions who visit each year, Death Valley is far more than a harsh landscape — it is a place of resilience, history, and breathtaking beauty.

the mid-forties or fifties at night — perfect weather for tent camping.

For 30 days we lived simply in our trusty

four-person tent near Furnace Creek, about 100 feet below sea level. Our setup was modest: cots, air mattresses, a small propane cook stove, and the simple tools needed for desert living.

But it was the camp chairs that became the centerpiece of our daily routine.

Each morning, they were positioned carefully toward the rising sun as we sipped coffee with a splash of Bailey's. As the sun climbed, the chairs slowly rotated in quiet ritual, following the warmth across the sky. By midday they became portable companions on hiking adventures, serving as desert tailgate seats for lunch before returning home to the campsite fire ring, where evening campfires flickered beneath vast desert stars.

My sense of adventure began long before this trip. As a child,

That was the draw for us.

Nearly 97 percent of the park is designated wilderness. Amenities are few, found mainly in Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells, where small inns, desert campgrounds, and general stores provide the basics — including gasoline that, in true California fashion, costs more than five dollars a gallon. Even a bag of ice for the cooler carries a desert premium.

Just a few paved two-lane road winds through the park, branching into gravel tracks that lead to trailheads, overlooks, and hidden corners of the vast desert. Cell phone service is spotty at best. Out here, the modern world fades quickly.

Winter, however, is the perfect season to visit. During our stay, daytime temperatures hovered comfortably in the upper seventies and low eighties, cooling to

my parent's loaded five children into a family station wagon - without air conditioning - and set out on camping road trips across the country. Those journeys carried us to mountains, deserts, and many of America's national parks. Even now I marvel at how they managed it all.

Those early trips planted something lasting in me: a lifelong determination to seek out wild places.

Over time that spirit of adventure has grown into something Samantha and I share deeply. Through our travels together she has discovered a love for hiking and exploration. Death Valley alone has drawn us back four times in the past six years, its endless canyons and backcountry trails always offering something new.

Samantha and our son, Trevor, an avid hiker, have been on many other hiking adventures together

to national parks across the country— Zion, Bryce Canyon, Acadia, the Badlands, Carlsbad Caverns, and most recently Kenai Fjords in Alaska. Each trip adds another chapter to a growing family story written in trails, mountains, and open skies.

But there is something uniquely transformative about spending extended time in a place like Death Valley.

Days unfold slowly under cloudless skies. The desert's warmth seeps into your bones. The silence stretches wide around you.

And somewhere along the way, it begins to change you.

In Samantha's words, shared in a recent reflection:

"It's hard to put into words what that kind of space does for your soul. I spent long days on the trails — climbing, scrambling, wandering through rock and desert that makes you feel small in the very best way. I've always loved hiking, but this trip gave me something more. Somewhere along those miles, I realized I'm far more physically capable than

I ever gave myself credit for. I had quietly underestimated myself. Discovering that in real time — feeling strength rise up when I needed it — was powerful and deeply personal."

Weeks in the desert offer something rare in modern life: the chance to truly slow down.

As Samantha later reflected:

"These weeks gave us time to decompress — to truly rest. No daily grind. No business to tend to. No rushing. Just sun on our faces, desert air in our lungs, and the simple joy of being present. It was satisfying in the purest sense of the word."

And perhaps that is the true magic of Death Valley.

Beneath its extremes of heat and silence lies something unexpected — a place that strips life down to its essentials and reminds you what matters most.

Space. Stillness. Adventure.

And the quiet realization that sometimes the most beautiful places on earth don't just take your breath away.

They give something back to your soul.

Water tower

« Continued from page 4

water mains throughout the city. Without any pressure in the water mains the firemen couldn't reach the fire in the tower with their hoses.

The water tank had much damage caused from the fire. The Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, who built the tank and tower, repaired the tank. The seams in the bottom of the water tank had opened. They had to do a lot of riveting and caulking to repair these damages. The water supply pipe, which was 10 inches in diameter, had broken off about a third of the way up from the fire. The break in the tank held for a few days and later broke off. If it wasn't for the upper section of the pipe being frozen so solid the upper section of the pipe would have slid off and out of the tank. It would never have stayed in place. It was frozen from the bottom of the water tank down at least five feet.

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

See puzzle on page 13

Ogemaw County SUPERIOR NEWS

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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.

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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

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- District Health Dept. No. 2 989-345-5020
- AuSable Valley CMH 989-345-5571
- Caring Pregnancy Center 989-345-3909
- Dept. Health and Human Services 989-345-5135
- Emergency Assistance Program 989-345-8312
- Ogemaw County Clerk 989-345-0215
- Probate/Family Court 989-345-0145
- Emergency Shelter 989-217-0973
- Friend of the Court 989-345-5520
- Healthaccess 989-343-3608
- Ogemaw Commission on Aging 989-345-3010
- Options Resource Clinic 989-345-7398
- Ogemaw Public Transit 989-345-5790
- Children's Assmt. Center 989-275-7145
- Salvation Army 989-345-4690
- Community Food Pantry 989-345-0493
- MSU Extension/4-H 989-345-0692
- Ogemaw County Prosecutor 989-345-5700

- Michigan State Police 989-345-0956
- Ogemaw County Sheriff 989-345-3111
- West Branch Police 989-345-2627
- Rose City Police 989-685-3051

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
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- American Red Cross 800-691-6059
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Cub Scouts race to success



Courtesy photo

The annual Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby race was recently held in West Branch. The top three finishers were (l-r) Lizzie Andres, Eli Andres and Zilda O'Farrell.

BY TRACY GOODSSELL

Cub Scouts from Pack 3971 and their families put their hard work on display during this year's race, held March 15, at the First United Methodist Church in West Branch. The annual event drew more than 30 racers, along with family members who filled the room with excitement.

In the month leading up to race day, Cub Scouts worked closely with their families to design and build their cars, each starting from the same simple pinewood kit. To support the Cub Scouts' efforts, a

pack-wide build event was held at Ogemaw Heights High School under the supervision of Russ Hall and Jason Sisko. The pack also received supplies from local businesses Fernelius Chevrolet, R&R Tire and Timmy Tire, which helped ensure each car met the five-ounce weight limit needed for optimal performance.

Races were run in four random heats per car, with some finishes so close they could only be measured by computer timing. Cheers echoed through the room as cars crossed the line with several races decided by mere thousandths

of a second. In addition to speed, Scouts were judged on design. Despite identical starting materials, the cars ranged from Mario-themed racers to a car designed as a Warbler. Judges from Troop 971 and the American Legion faced a difficult task selecting winners, but it was well worth it when the Cub's face lit up when their hard work was recognized.

The Pinewood Derby continues to be a highlight of the year for Pack 3971, celebrating hands-on learning, family involvement and the strong.

Annual blood drive: Troopers Bleed Blue

BY LAURA BENDER

The Michigan State Police West Branch Post is hosting a Troopers Bleed Blue blood drive on Monday, April 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Part of a statewide MSP program to help keep the blood supply stable in Michigan, the campaign seeks to save lives through blood donation.

The event will be held at the MSP Post conference room, 2021 Fox Run, West Branch. To participate, you must be age 17 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health, and not experiencing symptoms of a cold or flu. Donors who are 16 years old may donate but must have a parent or guardian's permission. There is no maximum age for donation.

Acceptable identification cards with a photo and birth date include a driver's license, a state-issued ID, a student ID, a passport, a visa, or a green card.

It's important for donors to get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy meal, and stay hydrated

before, during, and after they donate. The process takes about an hour, which includes registration, a brief medical screening, blood collection, and refreshments. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are always welcome. To make an appointment, call 866-642-5663 or scan the QR code below. For more information about blood donation, visit <https://versiti.org/ways-to-give/about-blood-donation/blood-donation-faqs>.

"Last year was a resounding success," F/Lt. Michael R. Brown said. "This year we'd like to beat our goal of 20 donations, which will impact over 60 lives in our local hospitals. We would also be happy to show members of the public around the post, should they wish, when they stop by to give blood."

On Monday, April 13, visit the MSP Post and roll up your sleeve. Do it for your neighbor. Do it for the community. Do it for the cookie! Just do it.

Ogemaw County
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2026 Ogemaw Heights Mock Trial Team



Mock Trial Team Roster:

Bryce Hinkley

Gabriella Ehinger

Elena Rodriguez

Mallorey Schleicher

Braden Rhine

Eric Liang

Dominic Trinidad

Zoey Pugh

Madison Kline-Pierce

Weston Grezeszak

Damien Kuhn

Caleb West

Cole Paten

Coach Breck Gildner

Coach Kacy Hinkley

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- Ogemaw County Prosecutor LaDonna Schultz

- Ogemaw County Referee Jennifer Izvorski

- William Engemann

- Duane Hadley

- Rancheros

- Norm Kline

- Hon. Scott Williams

- Hon. Robert Bennett

- G's Pizzeria