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Vol. 3, Issue 7

Your source for positive community news!

April 11 - April 24, 2026

Pancake fundraiser to help support West Branch family

BY LAURA BENDER

For many years, Rusty Showalter has served our community as a city of West Branch councilman and member of the city's Planning Commission. Rusty played a vital part in advancing local interests and helping wherever he could.

Now, he needs the community's help.

On Sunday, April 26, the community is invited to a Pancake Fundraiser in support of Rusty and his wife, Denise, following his devastating heart attack on Jan. 3. This fundraiser will help support the Showalter's during this challenging time as Rusty focuses on healing.

"That Rusty is still with us is a miracle," said Denise. "And our son, Shawn, is a hero."

Late in the evening on Jan. 3,



Rusty Showalter, pictured with his wife, Denise, needs financial help from the community after suffering a massive heart attack in January.

Rusty, who had had a previous double by-pass, began experiencing severe pain in his chest, jaw and shoulders. He and Denise decided he should go to the

emergency room to address the issue. As he passed through the kitchen on the way to the door, he collapsed, hitting his head on

FUNDRAISER continues on page 10 »

Farm Bureau names W-P teacher 'Educator of the Year'

BY LAURA BENDER

Since its founding in 1919, Michigan Farm Bureau has served as the voice of Michigan agriculture, whose mission is to represent, protect, and enhance the interests of its diverse members. Beyond providing insurance, the MFB advocates for the growth and sustainability of the agriculture industry, provides farmers and industry professionals with a network of resources, and supports initiatives that promote scholarship, sportsmanship, citizenship, health, and fitness.

In 2009, MFB established the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture, a non-profit with a singular purpose: to positively contribute to the future of Michigan agriculture through leadership and educational programming. Through their Foundation, the MFB selects one teacher each year whose

commitment to incorporating agriculture and natural resource concepts into classroom learning exceeds all others. Nominated by their county Farm Bureau, recipients demonstrate innovative ways to help students understand the vital role agriculture plays in their daily lives.

The MFB is pleased to announce that Kelli Rau, a fifth-grade teacher at Whittemore-Prescott Elementary School, has been named the Michigan Farm Bureau's Educator of the Year for 2026.

"Kelli Rau exemplifies the mission of the award through her creative and sustained efforts to integrate agriculture, environmental awareness, and real-world learning into her classroom and school community," said Michigan Farm Bureau's Katie Weber, county administrative manager of Ogemaw



KELLI RAU

County Farm Bureau. "She has gone beyond standard curriculum expectations to design and implement hands-on, agriculture-focused learning experiences that align with educational standards while encouraging curiosity, critical thinking, and environmental

EDUCATOR continues on page 10 »

W-P introduces 2026 Top 10 graduates



Jasmine Josephine Carr
Valedictorian

Jasmine, the daughter of Jessica and Nathan Carr, is graduating with a 4.0 GPA. Her high school activities were Drama, art club, book club, Knowledge Bowl, National Honor Society, Project Graduation, Student Council and Yearbook.

She plans on attending Saginaw Valley State University to study early childhood education.



Olivia Lynn Trevarrow
Salutatorian

Olivia, the daughter of Calvin and Nicole Trevarrow, is graduating with a 3.95 GPA. Her high school activities include volleyball, National Honor Society, Project Graduation and student council.

She plans on attending Central Michigan University to study cardiology.

TOP 10 continues on page 6 »

Ogemaw County Treasurer to retire - applicants sought

BY LAURA BENDER
AND DEANNA SURBROOK

With two years left in her four-year-term, Ogemaw County Treasurer Caren Piglowski is retiring at the end of May from an elected position she has held since January 2021.

She may have only served five years as treasurer, but Caren has been serving the county for 28 years, both in the treasurer's office and county clerk's office. She is also the chairperson of the Land Bank Authority.

"To enjoy all life has to offer and spend time with family," said Caren when asked why she was retiring. "Tomorrow is promised to no one."

"I am proud to have served our community as the Land Bank Authority chairperson, cleaning up blighted properties and creating safer more vibrant neighborhoods, and serving as the Ogemaw County Treasurer creating a more efficient, transparent, and accountable office while helping families with hardship struggles stay in their homes," she added. "I will miss serving the community in these roles."

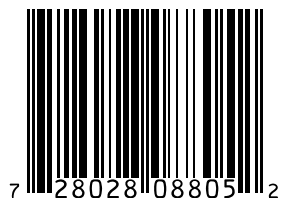


CAREN PIGLOWSKI

The search now begins to fulfill the remainder of her term.

"Whoever we choose to be the next treasurer will have big shoes to fill," said Ogemaw County Prosecutor LaDonna Schultz. "Mrs. Piglowski is a good steward of county funds. I've known her to have the highest ethical standards, ensuring accurate record-keeping and strict compliance with the law."

TREASURER continues on page 9 »



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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 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 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 13
 Troopers Bleed Blue blood drive, hosted by the Michigan State Police West Branch Post, Monday, April 13, 9:30 a.m. to noon, 2021 Fox Run, West Branch.
Apr 24
 GRAND OPENING, Rose City Area Community Center and Fitness Center, Friday, April 24. Ribbon cutting at 5:30, celebration right after until 8 p.m. Rose City Community Center, 204

Ward St., Rose City.
Apr 26
 Pancake fundraiser for Rusty Showalter, Sunday, April 26, Horton Township Hall, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or to donate, contact Howie Hanft at 989-312-0973 or Emily Keister at 989-745-8632. Venmo @Rusty-Showalter.
Jun 6
 Surline PTO Color Run 2026, Saturday, June 6, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Ogemaw County Fairgrounds, 2300 Rifle River Trail, West Branch. Tickets available at surlinecolorrun2026@eventbrite.com.
Jun 10
 West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, Wednesday, June 10, West Branch Country Club, 1905 Fairview Rd., West Branch. For more information, call 989-345-2821.
Jun 20
 2026 West Branch Community Airport Fly-In, Saturday, June 20, 8 a.m. to noon, West Branch Community Airport, 1519 Airport Rd., West Branch.
To place your event in the Community Happenings, email information to deanna@superior-news.com

FAITH & WORSHIP

God is love

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 —Romans 8:37-39 NIV

God is love. And He loves us all no matter where we are in life. God's love is unconditional. God's love is without limit. God loves us so much and his love is so deep that nothing can change his love or stop him from loving us.

God loves us in all seasons of life. God loves us every second of everyday. God loves us. God's love is permanent. God's love can never fade away.

God loves us and because of his love he cares for us. God Himself his love. God is full of love.

When I am waking up it's God loving me, God loves me in every situation and his love is always present in our lives. Even when I am not feeling well, his love is still there and yes I am not feeling well but that does not stop God from loving me, God does not want me to be in pain but his love is present to heal me of the pain. When I feel disappointed God loves me.

When I have failed God loves me. We need to start believing and accepting that God is love and he loves us deeply.
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 Gladwin, MI 48624
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 Morning Worship 10:30
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 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

Edward's Community Church
 4520 Greenwood Rd., West Branch
 989-345-4227
 Pastor Jon Scott
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 Worship Service 11 a.m.
 (Greenwood Rd. west of S. M-30)

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 FB & IG: Hale Methodist Church

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

Alger man hits big with lottery ticket



Photo by Deanna Surbrook

Patrick Jedrejczyyk, of Alger, recently won \$500,000 from a scratch-off ticket that he purchased at the Sunrise Marathon station just off the 212 exit. He is pictured with Sunrise Assistant Manager Ashley McCrory.

BY DEANNA SURBROOK
 While on the job for Wise Heating & Cooling, Patrick Jedrejczyyk, of Alger, stopped to get fuel at the Sunrise Marathon station, just off the I-75 and the 212 exit on Monday, March 30.
 As he has for the past 25 years, he purchased a scratch-off ticket. This time, it was an Electric 50's ticket costing only \$5.
 Imagine his surprise when he got back in his truck and scratched off the numbers and realized he had just won \$500,000. Yes, that's a half million dollars.
 "This can't be real (is the first

thing I thought of)," said Patrick. "I had never won more than \$500 in the past.
 "I guess you can say I made the "wise" decision, he added as a shout out to his employer, Ron Vittitow.
 On Thursday, April 2, he traveled to Lansing to pick up his winnings, albeit after the tax man came collecting.
 So, what would you do with that kind of money?
 "I'm not quitting my job," Patrick said. "I'm going to a pay a few bills off and put the rest in rainy day fund."

When prodded a little, he said that he may go on vacation.
 The very next day of winning his \$500,000, he wanted to show his appreciation to a co-worker, and he purchased another ticket. Low and behold, she was \$500 wealthier, just like that.
 Late that week, he returned to the gas station and left a little something to Amy McCullough, the cashier who sold him the ticket.
 Congratulations, Patrick, and way to pay it forward.

Sobering imagery on display at Ogemaw County Building

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) is being observed from April 19 to 25 across the United States to focus awareness on honoring victims, increasing accessibility to services, and advancing justice.

For the last 20 years, the Ogemaw County Prosecuting Attorney's office has joined this national campaign to encourage the community to be supportive of victims of crime and bridge the gap between victims and available resources. This year the OCPAO partnered with River House, a shelter for victims of domestic violence, to make a visual display. Domestic Violence survivors in the shelter decorated t-shirts with messages, stories and artwork to express their emotions and experiences.

"Each shirt on display represents a person who lives in our community" said Jesse Burgher, OCPAO Crime Victim Advocate. "We hope this heart wrenching exhibit not only educates the public on the prevalence of domestic violence but also serves as a special memorial to our victims."

The display also includes 107 purple ribbons. Each ribbon symbolizes a person who was murdered last year in the state of Michigan because of domestic violence. That is roughly 20 percent of all homicides committed in the state each year.

"Awareness is the first step in the fight to end domestic violence," Burgher said. "This year's theme for CVRW is 'Listen. Act. Advocate. Protect victims. Serve communities.' Our display is meant to help people recognize the signs of domestic abuse so



Courtesy photo
Each shirt on display at the Ogemaw County Building represents a domestic violence survivor.

they can ACT by reporting it to law enforcement if they feel someone is in danger."

The display is located outside of the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office, in the Ogemaw County Building in West Branch. It is scheduled to remain

all through the month of April. NCVRW is a good time to reach out to your local prosecutor for information concerning victim services in the area. You can contact the victim advocate directly at 989-345-3222.

Art Walk & Wine Tasting event welcomes spring



BY PETER FABBRI

What better way to welcome warmer weather than with the Spring Art Walk & Wine Tasting event? This year's event will take place on Saturday, April 25, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Organized by the Retail Merchants Association of West Branch, this highly anticipated event continues to draw both local residents and visitors from surrounding areas.

A big part of its appeal is the vibrant social atmosphere and the warm hospitality provided by participating businesses and artists. For merchants, it's a chance to show appreciation for their customers. For artists, it offers a valuable platform to showcase

- and often sell - their work. For attendees, it's the perfect opportunity to shake off the winter blues and enjoy an evening out with friends and family.

Twenty businesses will be participating, and many will be providing complimentary wine samples and hor d'oeuvres. Wine lovers are in for a treat as three outstanding local wineries come together to showcase an impressive selection of flavors and styles. Guests will have the opportunity to sample a wide variety of wines, from classic favorites to exciting new releases.

Rose Valley Winery will be on hand at Grand Illusions Spa, proudly pouring their cold, hardy, traditionally grown grape wines. They're especially excited to introduce a brand-new vintage of their semi-sweet Riesling - fresh, vibrant, and making its debut at the event.

Joining them, Modern Craft Winery and Country Corner Winery will offer an expansive lineup featuring both fruit-forward and traditional wines. Be sure not to miss Modern Craft's bold new "Freestyle Bold," a rich,

port-style red, crafted with brandy and a hint of espresso, finishing with a smooth and memorable aftertaste. This standout selection will be served in its tasting room inside The Silver Lining.

Country Corner Winery will tempt guests with its latest creation, "Northern Lights," a refined dry red Malbec that's sure to impress and will be available for tasting at Morse Clark Furniture.

Whether you're a seasoned wine enthusiast or simply looking to discover something new, this

ART WALK continues on page 10 »

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Update on the Ogemaw County Museum

BY SALLY A. REA

Even though our doors have been closed since Dec. 12, 2025, a lot of activities have been going on.

We are getting ready for the yearly Art Walk and Wine Tasting with Marcia and Alan Doss in charge of the wine tasting. I can hardly wait to see what they will be wearing. Sally Rea and Sylvia Sobo will be in charge of refreshments. It is being held Saturday, April 25, from 5 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

I have been working on changing the display cases because we will be having an "Alumni Open House on May 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. I have a display of West Branch High School and Rose City Area School already set up. Thanks to Grace Dooley for getting more items to display for

Rose City.

Another display will be on the top of the West Branch High School display and it is two saxophones. One is owned by Ron Goldy and the other owned by Clifford Gildner. I even ordered special stands so one can see the instruments better.

Laura Bender has agreed to come in and digitize all of the artifacts in the building and the garage. She came into the museum on March 26, and started in the Veterans Room plus the files in the file room. She is a retired chaplain from the United States Navy. We had a lot of good

help which included John Bennett, LuAnn Zettle, Lorie Finerty, Sally Rea, and of course, Laura Bender.



SALLY A. REA
HISTORIAN AND
CURATOR

The museum will reopen on May 2. We will be open on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call Sally Rea at 989-343-0177.

In church on March 29, I had a lady tell me how much she liked our display at the Court House, that made me very pleased, and also a comment on Dick Baraga, the man who plowed our city streets with horses and how she remembers them.

News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

Mills Township will be hosting the first annual Fourth of July Festival. They could not get the fireworks on Saturday, July 4, so it will be Friday, July 3. The parade will start at 11 a.m. at Rosati's and the Skunk Hollow area and travel to the Newman Park area. At noon the park will come alive with all kinds of activities to keep a family entertained until the fireworks start at dusk.

There will be two bands, several food trucks, a petting zoo, pony rides, the Optimist Fun in the sun, a tractor show and possible other attractions. They would love to have interesting demonstrations like chain saw carving, weaving, etc. for folks to watch. If you know of anyone that would like to participate have them call the Mills Township Hall and talk to Jackie who oversees the event, 989-873-4411. There will also be a two-day craft show at the Chamber of Commerce Hall, 2777 E. Greenwood Road. Vendors who are interested in setting up call April Mason at 989-578-8768.

The craft show will be July 3,

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and July 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$30 per sight for one day and \$50 for both days. It is inside the hall.

You will get an eight-foot table and two chairs. All proceeds from the craft show will go to the Skidway Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. They are looking for volunteers to help with some of the duties that will need to be provided. If you or your family or group would like to lend a hand call Jackie at the township hall 989-873-4411.

The Mills Township Board will have one last meeting in the old township hall on April 14, 2026, at 6 p.m. Then the move will start. They will be moving to 5095 Rifle River Trail to the newly remodeled building, the former doctor's office. Tentatively the plans are to have an open house on May 12, before the regular board meeting and people can do a walk through before the meeting starts.

More details to come.

Have you ever felt the need to make a difference? We have plenty of opportunities in our community. There is the Skidway Lake Area Chamber of Commerce that would love to have some new members. The Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake would love to have you join them. There are a lot of good things happening in Skidway Lake.



APRIL HARKEY-MASON

Soon our ordinance officer will be seeking volunteers to help clean up blighted areas that are owned by people who are unable to clean them up themselves. If you're a person who could help with this, call the Mills Township Hall and ask for Steve, 989-873-4411. The more the merrier and the work gets done faster.

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

'Go be Great' program new to Surline Middle School

BY JOE BELL

Every fall as the school year begins, many of the teachers set their behavior and performance expectations for their students in each class. This year, Mrs. Kelli Hinkson began a new program called Go be Great! This program has 10 different goals for each student to achieve as they go through the school year. Mrs. Hinkson must observe these behaviors being exhibited by the student and then they can check it off as being completed. The expectations are as follows: Honesty, Being Respectful, Hardworking, Fair, Best Effort, Courageous, Do Over/Do Better, Grace, Golden Rule, and favorite student/teacher interaction.

Kelli also bought tee shirts with the "Go be Great" logo on them to award to students who

exhibited all the desired behaviors. She was surprised at how much the students wanted to achieve their goals and how proud they were to wear the tee shirts when they had earned them. Kelli also found that the overall classroom behaviors were better and that the students supported each other in efforts to reach their goals.

In a recent presentation by Kelli and several students to the West Branch Optimist Club, each student talked about how the program had positively affected their school life and their success

in the classroom. Many of the students' parents also attended this meeting. Those in attendance could tell that the teacher and students had a very positive view of each other and this was due at



JOE BELL
VICE - PRESIDENT

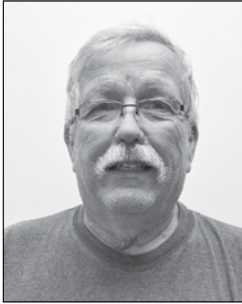
least in part to this program. In fact, the Optimists donated money to Kelli to help with the expenses of this program. Up until then Kelli, along with some family and friends, had borne most of the expenses.

Keep an eye out for students wearing the "Go be Great" shirts, and if you see one compliment them on earning this recognition, they have earned it.

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

Donations of food or money are always needed to help 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. Thank you to those individual donors for their generosity. We also have several businesses to thank, Starbucks, General Dollar stores of West Branch and St. Helen, and finally 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. The next Food Truck will be on May 5. See you there.

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 were at the Business Expo on March 31 and we made a lot of friends there. We are planning on many activities this year: selling water at Music in the Park starting in June. On the 4th of July we will be holding a cornhole tournament in Rose City Park starting at about 11a.m. Look for the adds. Help us support organizations in West Branch.

Those with special needs interested in joining our club, you have to be over 18 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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Kindergarten Roundup at WB-RC Schools

BY GAIL HUGHEY

As we prepare to celebrate the accomplishments of the 2026 graduating class in the coming months, we are equally excited to welcome our newest class of kindergarten students for the 2026-27 school year. We can't wait to have them join us in their adventure of learning.



GAIL HUGHEY
SUPERINTENDENT
WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY SCHOOLS

Signing up for Kindergarten Roundup allows us the time to schedule and prepare to greet your kindergarten student in the fall. Children should be turning five on or before Dec. 1. We also coordinate with District Health Department No. 2 to offer vision, hearing, and dental screenings during roundup as needed. You will also have the opportunity to speak to our transportation department to check on bus routes and group stops. This year's Kindergarten Roundup enrollments will be held

at Surline Elementary School on Monday, April 13, and Tuesday, April 14, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. both days. Appointments can be made by calling 989-343-2189.

Rose City Schools enrollment will be held on Tuesday, April 14, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 989-343-2248.

Enrollment packets can be filled out ahead of time by picking one up from the school office, or you may print them from our website, wbrc.k12.mi.us, under enrollment.

We are accepting applications for preschool at this time, as well. Your child should be turning four on or before Dec. 1 to be eligible for preschool. Please apply on our school website under enrollment. Our website is wbrc.k12.mi.us

Please call our offices at 989-343-2001, if you have any questions.

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.

Obituaries

Arlyne I. Kline

The following poem was written for Arlyne I. Kline who passed away on March 31, 2026.

WE CALL HER MA
By Rose White ~ June 25, 2024

what's for the treat.
She likes ice cream, chocolate and sour cream donuts.

Loves all sweets and wants everyone to know it.

She enjoys peacocks, motorcycles and beautiful lilies

Talking, laughing and acting silly.

She watches television more than she should,

Seeing too much of the news is never good.

She is class from her stylish clothes

Down to her beautifully painted toes.

She decorates her home with her memories and loves

Pictures of family, friends and heaven above.

She is sweet, loving and set in her ways.

We love her so much and thank God every day.



She was born on June 30, 1924. Her mother was Louise and her father was Erford.

She believes in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Praying the Good News that her friends will all hear it.

She's quick-witted, feisty and so darn cute.

Just ask her opinion, she'll give you the truth.

She is ready to celebrate anytime, there's no doubt.

Because her greatest fear is the fear of missing out.

She loves spending time with family and friends

With the greatest of hopes that this time will never end.

She goes out to eat and never misses a beat

While secretly wondering

Obituaries

Carol Jean (Keith) Kerby

March 7, 1936 - April 2, 2026

Carol Jean (Keith) Kerby, age 90, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Midland, Mich. She was born on March 7, 1936, at her grandparents' farmhouse in Eldorado, Mich., to Ben and Henrietta (Hartman) Keith.

Carol lived a short time in Weidman, Mich., before moving to West Branch in 1938 when her parents purchased the West Branch Greenhouse, later working there in her young adult life. After graduating from West Branch High School, she attended Central Michigan College and then moved to Ann Arbor to work for Bendix Aerospace and the University of Michigan. In 1964, Carol married Richard W. Kerby, and they moved to California for a few years before returning to West Branch to raise their family.

Carol was at the heart of every gathering and loved when she could use her gift of hospitality to welcome others into her beloved home. Nothing made her happier than sharing music, laughter, and the delicious meals she loved to cook for anyone who happened to stop by. She especially loved

spending time with her family whom she cherished above all else. Carol's lifelong passions included golfing at West Branch Country Club with Rick and the girls, playing piano/organ at numerous churches, assisted living homes, community events and musical productions; playing cards with special friends; camping and traveling with Brenda Simmons to Florida and England, and cheering U of M and the Detroit Lions and Tigers to victory (a tough job at times). Carol lived life to the fullest, making every day count.

She is survived by four daughters, Karrie (Kevon) Martis of Riga, Mich., Ketha (John) Knuth and children/grandchildren of Marysville, Mich., Karla (Dan) Davidson of Delton, Mich., Kelly (Phil) Hinkson of West Branch; grandchildren, Madelyn (Emily) Kerby, Noah Martis, Adam Martis, Conner Gough, Cooper Gough (fiancée Natasha Greer); foster son, David Likavec and sons, Zachary, Hunter, Trevor; brother, Wayne (Kathy) Keith; sister-in-law Jeanie Keith; nieces Kirsten

(Bob) Turner, Kimberlee Keith, Karyn (Paul) Carlson; nephews Eric (MaryAnn) Carlson, Kurt Carlson, Ben (Katie) Keith; several great-nieces and nephews; cousins and many close friends.



She is preceded in death by her husband, her parents, a brother, nephew and great-nephew.

The funeral service was held at First United Methodist Church in West Branch on Friday, April 10, 2026, with visitation the day before at Steurnol & McLaren Funeral Homes in West Branch.

Memorial contributions can be made to First United Methodist Church - Pipe Organ Resurrection.

Online condolences can be shared at www.steurnolmclaren.com

To order memorial trees or send flowers to the family in memory of Carol Jean Kerby, please visit our flower shop at the West Branch Outlet or call West Branch Greenhouse directly at 989-345-1133.

Michael Dee Van Wormer

Oct. 24, 1942 - April 4, 2026

Michael Dee Van Wormer, a devoted family man, dedicated community servant, and respected business owner, passed away peacefully on April 4, 2026, at The Brook of West Branch, Mich. Born on Oct. 24, 1942, in Flint, Mich., to Austin and Olive (Uren) Van Wormer, Michael's life was characterized by an unwavering commitment to hard work, family, and community.



Michael attended St. Agnes School in Flint for 11 years before graduating from Beecher High School in 1960. Early in his career, he worked for Hamady Brothers and Wonder Bread, gaining valuable experience that would serve him well in his later pursuits. He demonstrated strong leadership and dedication being a volunteer fireman for the Beecher Fire Department. As owner and president of MVW and Associates, he earned the respect of colleagues and clients alike.

In 1980, Michael and his family relocated to St. Helen, Mich., where he immersed himself in various civic roles. Michael served as Richfield Township Supervisor, took part in the police reserves and CERT, and contributed to the Roscommon

County Road Commission and the Roscommon County Planning Commission. Additionally, he was a founding member of the St. Helen Chamber of Commerce and served as chairman of the Republican Party in the area. These endeavors underscored his lifelong dedication to improving the communities he called home.

Michael was a man of strong character and a tireless work ethic, qualities evident to all who knew him. Outside of his professional and civic life, he found joy in fishing, hunting, and camping — passions that allowed him to connect with nature and spend cherished time with family and friends.

On a personal note, Michael's proudest accomplishment was marrying his beloved wife, Joyce Robinson, on Oct. 7, 1961. Their marriage spanned 64 years of partnership and love. Together they raised a large and loving family.

Michael is survived by Joyce and their children, Michael (Viola) Van Wormer, Jeffrey (Jill) Van Wormer, James (Rachel) Van Wormer, Julie (Paul) Tatro, and Tina (Jack) Vliet. He was a proud grandfather to Aaron (Jody),

Brandon (Pranjali), Gabe, Jenny (Joshua), Michon, Skylar, Erica, Zachary (Megan), Michaela, Amanda (the late Carman Bloss), Jack II (Cassidy), Kacie, and a great-grandfather to Aubrey, Atticus, Brinley, Colby Michael, Leila, Lauren, Jack, and Jonathan.

Michael also shared a very special relationship with his brother, Pat (Debbie) Van Wormer, and is survived by his sister, Kathy Fremd, and brother-in-law, Joe Slavens, along with several nieces and nephews who remember him fondly.

He was preceded in death by his father, Austin; mother Olive; brother Gerald; daughter Baby Kelly; son Baby Kenneth, and granddaughter Baby Sofia Rose — family members who remain forever in his heart.

Services to honor Michael's life and legacy were held on April 8 at Steurnol & McLaren Funeral Homes in West Branch, located at 109 E. Houghton Ave., with visitation and a rosary. On Thursday, April 9, visitation continued at St. Joseph Catholic Church, West Branch, until the time of the funeral service. Burial took place at Fairview Cemetery in Richfield Township.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Compassus Hospice, 3217 M-55 Suite B, West Branch, MI 48661.

Honor your loved ones with a complementary obituary listing

Ogemaw County
SUPERIOR NEWS

email obituaries to:
deanna@superior-news.com

Top 10

« Continued from page 1

**No. 3
Danycca
Shai Burns**

The daughter of Tiffany Burns and Kyle Tenney, is graduating with a 3.922 GPA. School activities include basketball, track and field, volleyball, National Honor Society, Project Graduation, student council and yearbook. She plans to attend University of Michigan to pursue a law degree.



**No. 4
Taylor
Kay Lomason**

The daughter of Ryan Lomason and Amanda Jenkins, is graduating with a 3.920 GPA. Activities include softball, volleyball, National Honor Society, Project Graduation, student council, and YAC. She plans to attend Delta College to become an OB ultrasound tech.



**No. 5
Silicia
Marie Goodman**

The daughter of James and Crystal Casey is graduating with a 3.815 GPA. Activities include softball, track and field, wrestling, band, drama, National Honor Society, Project Graduation, student council and yearbook. She plans to attend Ferris State University to become an ultrasound tech.



**No. 6
Austin
Micheal Hickcox**

The son of Stephen and Melissa Hickcox is graduating with a 3.786 GPA. Activities include bowling, football, track and field, drama, National Honor Society, Project Graduation, student council and yearbook. Austin plans to attend Michigan Technological University to study aerospace engineering.



**No. 7
Kamryn
Zilinsky**

The son of Kelly Kramp and Kevin Zilinsky, is graduating with a 3.784 GPA. Activities include baseball, FFA, National Honor Society, Project Graduation and yearbook. Kamryn plans on attending Alpena Community College to study utility arborist.



**No. 8
Cadence
Mitchell Smith**

The daughter of Jessica and Vern Smith, is graduating with a 3.761 GPA. Activities include bowling, softball, volleyball, band, National Honor Society, Project Graduation, student council and yearbook. Cadence plans to attend Kirtland Community College to study nursing.



**No. 9
Blake
Michael Miller**

The son of Curt and Jamie Miller, is graduating with a 3.703 GPA. Activities include baseball, basketball, football, National Honor Society, Project Graduation, student council, YAC and yearbook. Blake plans to attend Alpena Community College to study utility arborist.



**No. 10
Ella
Elizabeth Sue Green**

The daughter of Todd Green and Samantha Poskitt, is graduating with a 3.551 GPA. Activities include art club, track and field, wrestling, drama, theatre, Knowledge Bowl, National Honor Society, student council and yearbook. Ella plans to attend Central Michigan University to study theatre directing and acting.



2026 WBACC Business Expo draws large crowd



Photos by Deanna Surbrook
Sixty-eight businesses and service organizations were on hand for the 2026 West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce (WBACC) Community Expo and Job Fair on Tuesday, March 31. New this year, the annual event also included a Home Show featuring design and remodeling trends and resources. During the evening, there were speakers on stage providing valuable information, and lots of giveaways and promotional materials were available.



Kayla-Marie Dillon, Assistant Division Manager, represented Lumber Jack Lodge.



"Thanks to the business participation, speakers, volunteers and attendees with nonstop engagement, made this year's expo a true success for our entire community," said WBACC Executive Director Heather Neuhaus, (l) with assistant Alli VanGoethem, who organized the event.



West Branch Police Department Officer John Evans, with K-9 Officer Diego, gave a demonstration of Diego sniffing out an illegal substance.



Ogemaw Title & Escrow Agency was represented by Manager Jeff Erickson and his wife, Sandi, represented Erickson Family Insurance Agency in West Branch.



Phil Durst and Penny Payea represented the Ogemaw County Economic and Development Corporation.



Yvonne DeRoso and Greg Morris represented Morris Richardson Real Estate.

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.

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Ogemaw County SUPERIOR NEWS IS SEEKING A Graphic Designer

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

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

Mindfulness for better sleep

Michigan State University Extension will be offering a virtual series on sleep education on Wednesdays, April 22 through May 27. Each session will be from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This series includes Mindfulness and the Sleep Education for Everyone Program. Research has shown that practicing mindfulness is effective in reducing stress-related symptoms such as worry, depression, physical tension, and may be helpful in managing chronic conditions. This mindfulness program introduces participants to the experience and practice of mindfulness. Topics include mindfulness basics, mindful breath, body awareness, thoughts, emotions, and building a personal practice. Participants will also learn techniques to improve the quality and quantity of their sleep.

We will cover the relationship between pain and sleep, sleep basics, sleep hygiene, stimulus control therapy, mindfulness, physical activity, and sleep myths. You will be given a sleep challenge to try, so you can track the

effectiveness of changing your sleep behaviors.

Sessions include:

- Mindfulness lesson
- Mindfulness practice
- Sleep Education: the relationship between pain and sleep, sleep hygiene, and techniques to improve sleep.
- Goal Setting and Check-in

Format:

- Six sessions
- 90 minutes per session
- Zoom platform with cameras on and group discussion

Cost: FREE, thanks to a grant from the Rural Health and Safety Education program. Please watch this orientation video to learn about the class:

https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/Mindfulness+for+Better+SLEEP+Orientation+Video/1_6nlf0eyx

This work is supported by the Rural Health and Safety Education program, project award no. 2024-46100-42884, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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Treasurer

« Continued from page 1

“Caren had an open-door policy in her office,” Schultz added. “She always made time to present and explain complex financial data to commissioners and department heads. Her wealth of knowledge and guidance will be greatly missed.”

“Technical knowledge and common sense don't always go together,” Schultz continued. “Mrs. Piglowski had both. It was a pleasure working with her during her tenure.”

To ensure continuity, preparations are underway to appoint a new county treasurer to begin on June 1, 2026. In accordance with Michigan Election Law, a Statutory Appointment Committee is authorized to fill the vacancy.

The Ogemaw County committee is comprised of Schultz, Probate Court Judge Scott Williams and County Clerk Breck Gildner. The appointee would be expected to fill the unexpired term of office through Dec. 31, 2028. Then, to continue as county treasurer, he or she would need to file as a candidate in accordance with Michigan Election Law for the August primary and November General Elections in 2028 and if elected would have the opportunity for a full, four-year term of office.

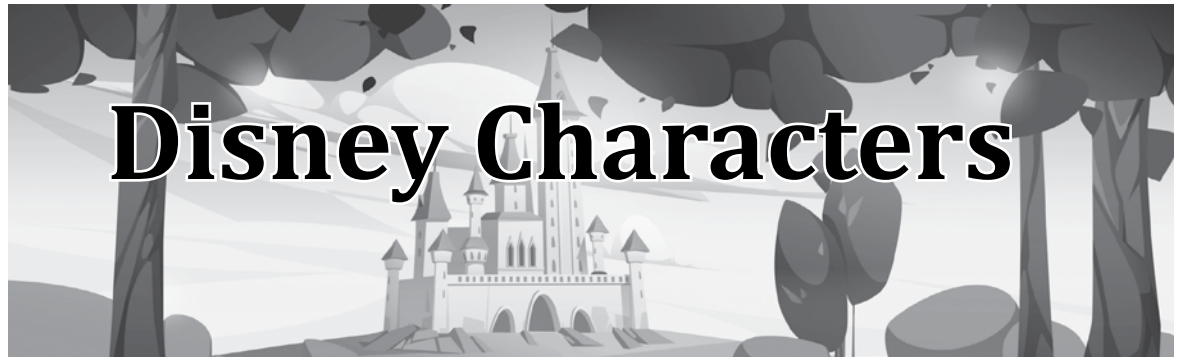
The primary duties of the treasurer are to act as the custodian and manager of all county funds and the collector of delinquent taxes. In addition, the treasurer also maintains accurate and complete financial records of the

county, prepares financial reports for the county board of commissioners and administrator, invests county funds to earn interest and maximize returns, ensures that county funds are used legally and wisely, coordinates with banks and other financial institutions, provides assistance and guidance to other county departments on financial matters, manages the county's debt and ensures timely payments, serves as the county landbank chair, oversees property tax settlement with local townships, and manages tax foreclosure proceedings as needed.

The annual salary is \$68,531.

Applicants must be 18 years of age, reside in Ogemaw County, Michigan, or be willing to establish residency in Ogemaw County by June 1, 2026. Background checks will be conducted in accordance with the Ogemaw County Personnel Policy. Interested individuals must complete an online application through the Ogemaw County website and upload a letter of interest and resume. https://ocmi.seamlessdocs.com/f/County_Treasurer_Partial_Appointment Alternatively, applicants may deliver the materials to the Ogemaw County Probate Judge's Office at 806 W. Houghton Ave., Room 203, West Branch, Michigan, or email them to swilliams@ocprobate.us.

Once selected, the candidate must be available to assume the role of Ogemaw County Treasurer on June 1, 2026.



Tweedle Dee Tweedle Dum	A K O O H N I A T P A C I N D E R E L L A S C W
Lightning McQueen	B Q S R W F G D Q V M X J T N I Q A W S D T R E
Princess Jasmine	M N D D N V U O D O M E N U M U R C N G V R U A
Cruella de Ville	I N F Q A I R N F U A U B O S F D O M U Y A E R
Sleeping Beauty	S X H D P O A A B G A W W R R P W I Y T M E L M
Prince Charming	S L E I R A T L Q Q J G C X A W K L U A T H L U
Fairy Godmother	V A K L E Y A D E D L K D U H E W A D F H F A D
Queen of Hearts	D P K L T G T D K I K F S I W V E H P U F O D E
Buzz Lightyear	R W N I E W O U S U U M T A Y B A R R S N N E L
Jiminy Cricket	Q I S G P Y U C W Z E E Z L G T I R I R F E V D
Mike Wazowski	J B S H W U I K T D J O K N T N O C N A A E I E
Mickey Mouse	Q I E T T A L P K P W L I E C B E E C E I U L E
Captain Hook	P U M N C X L W E S Y P R E M Y L R E Y R Q L W
Minnie Mouse	S N N I I H E U K S E T C U F G T T S T Y N E T
Mary Poppins	Z F P N N Y E I U E U H D C J A T Y S H G R S E
Cheshire Cat	V P I G B Y S S L E A O Z C S F U D J G O E U E
Ratatouille	R N N M B U C S H R Y J M A L Z C Q A I D D O D
Donald Duck	X I O C R U D R M I H M F Y K P S E S L M N M E
Snow White	Y F C Q Q J I I I E R U D F E E V G M Z O U E L
Pocahontas	K R C U O C N K L C M E J F P K X M I Z T O I D
Cinderella	O D H E M G K L K W K K C I D E C H N U H L N E
Mad Hatter	Y Q I E C U E Q W A V E Y A I V R I E B E F N E
Mowgli	E W O N I B B T B C R X T H T I M C M T R H I W
Ariel	P O C A H O N T A S S N I P P O P Y R A M C M T
Dumbo	
Simba	
Belle	
Nemo	

See answers on pg 11

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Educator

« Continued from page 1



Courtesy photo

Kelli Rau, a fifth grade teacher at Whittemore-Prescott Elementary, was recently named the Michigan Farm Bureau's 'Educator of the Year' for 2026.

stewardship among her students," added Weber, who nominated Rau.

At Whittemore-Prescott Elementary, Rau has helped transform her school into a living classroom where agriculture and natural resource concepts are part of everyday learning. In addition to using Michigan Ag in the Classroom Farm Crate lessons, she has established a school garden, implemented lunchroom waste composting, incorporated embryology and lake sturgeon education, and developed a month-long agricultural education program for elementary students.

Ms. Rau also created "Try Day Fridays," a school-wide initiative that develops Michigan agricultural commodity kits for 17 elementary classrooms. Each month, students learn about a different Michigan commodity through educational materials, agriculture-themed books, and taste-testing experiences paired

with student tasting journals. The program provides an engaging, hands-on way for students to explore where their food comes from and better understand the agricultural systems that produce it.

In recognition of her achievements, Rau will receive a grant to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference as well as a \$500 classroom grant from the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture, sponsored by AgroLiquiud.

Learning that Kelli had received this honor, the Ogemaw County 4-H Club announced, "We are proud to congratulate Kelli Rau on receiving the 2026 Michigan Farm Bureau Educator of the Year! Kelli is an outstanding teacher at Whittemore-Prescott Schools, where she inspires students every day. She shares her passion and knowledge of agriculture both in the classroom and as a dedicated 4-H volunteer. We are grateful for her commitment to

youth, agriculture, and hands-on learning. Congratulations, Kelli — this recognition is well-deserved!"

"I am so excited to share this moment with my students," Kelli said. "We have wonderful students and a classroom that thrives on these hands-on experiences. I love making lasting memories with them and watching them become excited to learn. My hope is that when others hear about what we are doing at Whittemore-Prescott, they will be encouraged to try new ways to incorporate fun and excitement into their classrooms."

Thank you, Kelli, for your commitment to your students and to strengthening the vital connection between farms and our community.

To learn more about the Michigan Farm Bureau, visit <https://www.michfb.com/>.

Art Walk

« Continued from page 3

tasting experience promises flavor, variety, and plenty of delightful surprises.

Collectible stemmed wine glasses, personalized with the event name, will be available for purchase for \$6 at Kit's Boutique while supplies last. A cash-only pre-sale will also be offered at The Silver Lining during the week leading up to the event.

Featuring local artists has been a cornerstone of the Art Walk since its inception in 2007. Now in its 19th year, the event continues to thrive, with the Retail Merchants Association hosting both a Spring and Holiday Art & Wine Walk each year.

Artists will showcase a wide range of mediums, including painting, sculpture, metalwork and more, highlighting the depth

of creative talent in the region.

Attendees can also participate in the People's Choice Award by voting for their favorite artist. Each artist will be assigned a number for easy voting on the event punch card. Completed punch cards also serve as entries into a drawing for a dinner and movie package for two. Simply have your card validated at participating businesses and turn it in at your final stop.

So, mark your calendar - what better way to welcome spring than at the Spring Art Walk & Wine Tasting event on April 25 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.? For more information and a list of participating businesses, visit www.WestBranchEvents.com.

Fundraiser

« Continued from page 1

the table as he fell. Denise made a quick call to their son, Shawn, a corrections officer and volunteer fireman in Midland, who was visiting nearby. Then she began CPR on Rusty, who had turned blue and had begun convulsing.

When Shawn arrived and saw the gravity of Rusty's condition, he ordered his mom to go outside and wait for the EMTs to arrive. Then he began CPR in a way he did not want her to see. When the EMTs arrived, they had to shock Rusty eight times with a defibrillator and intubate him to stabilize him enough for transport, first to the local emergency room, then to critical care in Midland. Shawn rode with him in the ambulance and stayed by his side for the next three weeks. Not only did Shawn's employer allow him the time to be with his father, they will soon present him with a life-saving award for his heroic intervention.

Rusty's first days in the hospital were difficult. He coded 11 times, and twice Denise was told to say goodbye, because his medical issues were not compatible with survival. Because he had had limited oxygen intake for two and a half hours, the doctor explained that if Rusty lived, he would suffer memory loss and other complications. Then the doctor asked who had done the "brutal CPR" that had required ribs to be broken to be effective.

"What you did saved your father's life," the doctor told Shawn.

When it seemed that Rusty, who had signed a "Do Not Resuscitate" order, was beyond saving, the family and medical staff decided that the best thing to do was to pull his vent. As they began the removal, Rusty reached up and grabbed the tube. This was the first time they knew he was still aware. A short time later, he opened his eyes. Then, 24 hours after that, he sat up in bed to eat applesauce.

"Rusty's recovery from the day he grabbed the tube has been a total miracle," Denise said.

But now that he is home, the family needs another miracle.

"Rusty is the glue that holds our family together," Denise said. "It

has been tough trying to figure out how to take care of all he did. For example, he paid our bills on his phone. I didn't know his password, and the phone company wouldn't tell me. It took a while to get that straightened out. People should think about those kinds of issues before something happens to their spouse."

Because of his current medications and memory loss, Rusty will be unable to drive or work for at least a year. Since Rusty has been the major financial support for his family, the loss of his income is having a significant impact.

He had worked as Property Operations Supervisor for GLD Management Company in Gladwin for many years. Although he is not receiving a salary, the company agreed to continue his medical coverage for a few months. This makes the Showalter's ineligible for disability, food stamps or other assistance from the Department of Health and Human Services.

"We have our regular bills to pay, plus all the medical copays and prescriptions. This is not a time for us to be shy about asking for help. We need it. I am so thankful for the friends who drop off food or help financially and in other ways. I don't know what we would do without them."

Denise's immediate concern is to have enough money to buy a generator. Rusty's heart is being monitored around the clock, and if the device detects an abnormality, it will provide a corrective impulse to stop the arrhythmia. If the Showalter's lose electricity, Rusty will be without that needed protection.

Organizers Howie Hanft and Emily Keister hope that the Pancake Fundraiser on Sunday, April 26, will at least allow Denise to purchase a generator and pay some immediate bills. The event will be held at Horton Township Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Whether you stop in for breakfast, share this information, or donate, every bit of support will help. For more information or to donate, contact Howie Hanft at 989-312-0973 or Emily Keister at 989-745-8632.

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Ogemaw County Help Lines

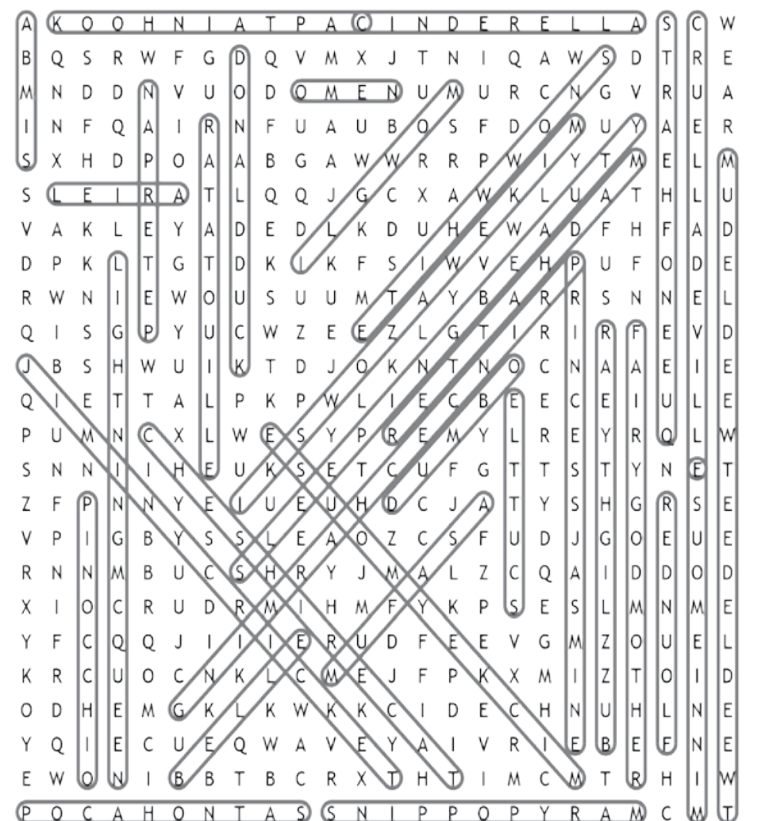
- District Health Dept. No. 2 989-345-5020
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Ogemaw County Clerk 989-345-0215
Probate/Family Court 989-345-0145
Emergency Shelter 989-217-0973
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Healthaccess 989-343-3608
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Options 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

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- Adult & Child Protective Services 855-444-3911
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Catholic Human Services 800-356-5755
National Suicide Prevention 800-273-8255
American Red Cross 800-691-6059
Poison Control 800-222-1222

Disney Characters



See puzzle on pg 9

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Area children enjoy an Egg-cellent Easter Hunt at Rose City Park



Photos by Laura Bender

McKenna and Anastasia Heckman-Smith, wearing matching Easter dresses, have their buckets ready to go.



The Holy Family Chapter of the Knights of Columbus No. 8948 prepared 134 baskets. At the end of the hunt, only one had not been claimed. That's egg-cellent planning!

BY LAURA BENDER

Faster than the Easter Bunny in a carrot race, more than 130 children sped off to search for the colorful Easter eggs hidden recently in Rose City Park. While toddlers checked the tennis courts, and younger children searched the playground, the older kids scoured the river's edge. In a flash, they returned to trade

four eggs for an Easter basket.

The Holy Family Chapter of the Knights of Columbus No. 8948 sponsored the annual event, which brought smiles to the faces of parents and children alike. Even after all the eggs were found, families lingered to play together in the sunshine, a welcome bonus after the recent harsh winter weather.

The Knights of Columbus No.

8948 takes their commitment to care for the community seriously. In addition to sponsoring two other events for children, a Snow Box Derby in February and a Fishing Derby in July, they also hold two food distributions

each month. In 2025, the Knight's Food Truck provided 122,256 pounds of food to local families in addition to the 87,408 pounds provided through their Senior Commodities program.



Rocky Mason patiently waits for the Easter Egg Hunt to begin.

Pancake Fundraiser for Rusty Showalter

Please help us raise money for Rusty & Denise while Rusty is healing after a massive heart attack. He is unable to drive or work for a year while on his current medication and weight restrictions.

Horton Township Hall

April 26, 2026

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

If you would like to make a donation,

call Howie Hanft: 989-312-0973 or Emily Keister: 989-745-8632

VENMO@Rusty-Showalter

