

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 from 9:40 a.m. to 10:20 a.m., meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.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@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.

May 23
Memorial Day Craft Show, Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., located at Rose City Area Community Center, 204 Ward St., Rose City. For more information, call Jody at 989-329-2513.

June 6
West Branch Optimist Club Trout Derby, Saturday, June 6, Irons Park in West Branch. Registration at 8 a.m., fishing 9 a.m. to 10:30.

June 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.

June 13
Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake hosts **10th annual Free Fishing Derby**, Saturday, June 13, ages up to 16. Registration begins at 9:30, with derby running from 10 a.m. to noon. It is held on the boardwalk in Skidway Lake. Bring your own pole, worms will be provided.

June 14
Flag Retirement Ceremony, hosted by the Arenac Veterans Club, located at 3221 N. M-76, Sunday, June 14, 6 p.m. Old flags may be brought to the ceremony. For more information, contact Ken Chapman, 989-345-5463.

June 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.

July 4
West Branch Independence Day Parade, Saturday, July 4, 6 p.m., downtown 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.

— 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

Edward's Community Church
4520 Greenwood Rd., West Branch
989-345-4227
Pastor Jon Scott
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship Service 11 a.m.
(Greenwood Rd. west of S. M-30)

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

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

Mills Township hosts grand opening of new hall



Photo by Laura Bender

The community was invited to the grand opening of the new Mills Township Hall on Tuesday, May 12. Visitors were able to tour the hall and were treated with refreshments. The hall is located at 5170 Rifle River Trail in Alger. Pictured is the township board (l-r) Trustee April Harkey-Mason, Treasurer Mary Moore, Supervisor Bruce Beach, Clerk Jackie Allen and Trustee Brenda Eymmer.

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Local teen shares ideas for healthier youth at National 4-H Conference

BY LAURA BENDER

Whittemore-Prescott freshman Logan Bur recently attended the National 4-H Conference held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Va.

This annual six-day event, hosted by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) offers unparalleled discovery, learning, professional development, and networking for 4-H'ers from around the world. During the conference, young people between the ages of 15 and 19 share their voices with federal agencies and congressional committees with the goal of impacting change in America.



Courtesy Photo
Logan Bur presenting at National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C.

To prepare for the event, teens choose a topic, research the issue, and work with their peers to develop a 45-minute briefing to present to their federal partner. Logan's group focused on answering the question, "How do we help youth with healthy eating?" His team's recommendations included encouraging teens to read package labels to check sodium, fat, and calorie content in their food and to be cautious in their consumption of energy drinks.

"Throughout the conference experience, youth participants learn, practice, and apply new skills while sharing their voices, talents, and ideas," Stephanie Stephens, the Ogemaw County 4-H Program

Coordinator, said. "The program empowers youth to take what they learn and use it to make an impact in their own communities through leadership and service."

Besides presenting on the topic of healthy eating for teens, Logan took part in many fun activities. His favorite was an escape room game called a "paint bomb."

"It was nice seeing people from other states," Logan said. "I am interested in history, so I was happy to see the war memorials, the Lincoln Memorial, and other statues. We got to explore the Capitol building, but we only saw the White House from the outside."

Logan recently joined 4-H, but he plans to continue participating. "I think 4-H will help you a

lot," he said.

At Whittemore-Prescott, Logan is an all-season athlete. This spring, he is on the baseball and track teams, but he also plays football and basketball. Outside of school, Logan enjoys riding his four-wheeler and listening to music.

"The National 4-H Conference is one of several opportunities through 4-H designed to help youth grow as leaders while preparing them to contribute positively to their communities," Stephens said. To learn more, contact Stephanie at the Ogemaw County MSU Extension office at 989-345-0692. For more information about the National 4-H Conference, visit <https://4-h.org>

The power of local insight: How United Way redefines community investment

When addressing local social challenges like poverty, food insecurity, and substance abuse, national charities frequently stumble into the same trap: the illusion of a centralized solution. However, we know that no community is the same. The needs of individuals in urban areas often differ from those people located in a more rural setting. One rural community may have hardships that a similar neighboring municipal may not.

United Way is one of the few

charities that can rectify this systemic flaw by operating through a regionalized network of over 1,100 autonomous local chapters. United Way's emphasis on local control of dollars allows us to reject rigid, "one-size-fits-all" mandates. Instead, it empowers communities to self-govern, accurately diagnose their own deficits, and deliberately funnel capital to underfunded grassroots organizations. In other words, governance by the community for the community.

Perhaps the most critical aspect of United Way's local approach is that it is steered entirely by an independent, local board of directors. These boards are not populated by distant corporate executives, but by a deliberate coalition of three vital local groups: area residents who live directly in the affected neighborhoods who possess lived experience and first-hand knowledge of community hardships; business leaders and

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Aktion Club donates 'Buddy Benches'



Courtesy photo
The Aktion Club of West Branch recently donated "Buddy Benches" to Surline Elementary School (SES), St. Joseph School and Rose City Elementary School. The benches are located near the playgrounds so that a student can sit on and maybe meet a new friend. Pictured on the bench is Violet and Catherine. Middle row SES Principal Stacy Gildner, Ronnie, Malori, Heather, Jessica and Advisor Denny Shumway. In back is Jake.

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Enjoy the opportunity to buy fresh, nutritious farm products directly from our local farmers. You may also find fresh baked goods, handmade crafts and local artists with their own hand made items.

Questions call City Hall
989-345-0500
www.westbranch.com

My memories of the old Mill Pond

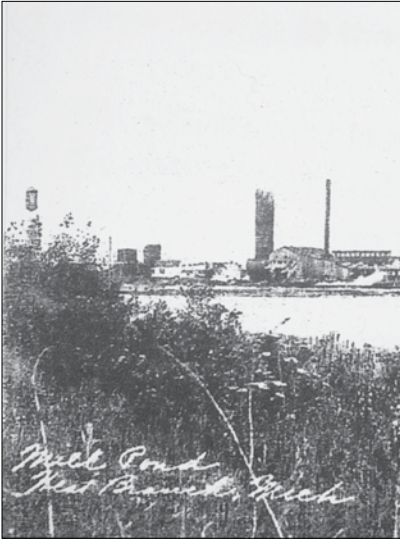


BY SALLY A. REA
HISTORIAN AND
CURATOR

It's so exciting for me to be able to share with you readers and relive one of my childhood memories and a part of some of the history of West Branch. My mom, Doris Rea, my sister Nancy (Rea) Griffin, and I would start our journey on horseback from my dad and grandfather's veterinarian office and stable on South Fourth St. to ride to the Old Mill Pond located off N. Seventh St.

We would cross Houghton Avenue at South Seventh to North Seventh Street and end up at the old flour mill. The Mill Pond was directly behind the West Branch Flour Mill. We had permission from Walt Gussman to ride our horses behind the Mill Pond and permission from Ernie Husted to ride on his property that adjoined to Mr. Gussman's.

As we entered the trail on the north side of the Mill Pond, the first thing I remember is the old oil well back there pumping oil. As we passed it, our horses would be nervous and jumpy. It was a beautiful ride, especially in the fall. The next place of interest was an old one-room shack where I am told lived a man called Old John. It was on the Husted property and Mr. Husted let him live there. Mr. Husted's grandson, John Husted, told me that the old



Courtesy photos

man's name was John Craft.

Further down the trail we would come to a two-story house and a family lived there. Their children would always rush out to greet us and pet our horses. They were a poor family, but the children were very happy. I can still hear the giggles of the children. The only thing left of that old house is the foundation and the old wooden door.

Continuing our journey, we saw the remains of what once was a train track. The brush has grown over and someone has removed the track and the railroad ties. Mr. Husted has mowed a trail out to Gray Road.

We are getting close now to the location called Crow's Island. It is still owned by the Husted family. It was our stopping off place to rest the horses and give them a drink of water from the river. There was a log cabin back there, two flowing wells, and an old wooden bridge. The cabin was on an island that the Rifle River ran around. The old wooden bridge was the only way to get off the island unless you crossed through



Sally Rea on Pecos

the river.

We'd let the horses get a cool drink of water from the flowing wells. Brrrr...it was cold, and I can still feel the goose bumps from drinking that cold water. The only thing left now is the foundation of the old cabin and crumbled-down fireplace that was made of stones.

The old flow by the house isn't working any longer but Mr. Husted said he plans on fixing it one day. The second flow runs into the river.

I can still hear the horse's hooves as they crossed over the old wooden bridge. What a neat sound that was. As we came out of the woods and to the edge of Mr. Husted's property, we would pass a once favorite eating place on the north side of M-76. It was called Crows Island Restaurant. John Husted remembers his grandmother, Margaret Husted cooking there. I don't know for

MEMORIES continues on page 5 »

News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

Things are starting to look like summer finally. I was able to put my hanging baskets of flowers out all night for the first time. They had been spending the night inside since I bought them to keep them from freezing.

The Skidway Lake Beautification Committee had 14 volunteers to help pick up trash through the town. You may have seen them in yellow vests and all the white trash bags on the side of the road. This adopt a highway program is a much-needed service. Please join our Beautification Committee; they meet at the Skidway Lake Library. The next meeting is May 20, at 7 p.m. If you have ever thought about wanting to have your own section of road, please contact the Ogemaw County Road Commission and they will set you up with the program.

The Mills Township Board held its first meeting in the new hall. The walls are adorned with canvas photos of the early days of logging times in Skidway Lake. There is a lot of history on our walls. If you stop into the new hall, you can get a brochure that tells you all about the photos on the wall. You can go to Mills Township, Ogemaw County

on Facebook and see the walk-through video tour done by me, April Mason, as I tell the stories behind each of them.

The board voted to sell the old hall, and it will be listed with Thompson Real Estate for two months. With the proceeds from selling the old hall they hope to build a pole barn type storage building to replace the garage storage they had at the old hall.

That new storage building would be situated between the new hall and the fire department on Rifle River Trail. Both the parks and rec department and the fire department need more storage, and this building would be used by all.

The repairs on the west end of the boardwalk have begun and look nice.

The plans for the Independence Day festival are going strong. If you are an organization that would like to set up a display or booth that day, call Jackie at the township hall and get the details, 989-873-4411.

The plans for the two-day craft

show are taking off. We have 10 vendors so far and would love to have more. The cost is \$30 for

Friday and \$50 for Friday and Saturday. Table and chairs are provided, and it is inside the Skidway Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. Call April Mason to book your spots, 989-578-8768.

The Skidway Lake Library will be hosting an Adult

Speaker Series for adults 55 and older on most Mondays, June 1 to Sept. 28, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch and drinks will be provided. Registration is required by May 30 for June dates. Register in person or signupolds@gmail.com confirmation will be set to you. Stop in or call the library to get a list of topics they will be covering, 989-873-5086.

Remember to keep me informed about anything you have going on in our area that I can share with everyone. Call or text April Mason at 989-578-8768. Until next time, God Bless.



APRIL HARKEY-MASON

Ogemaw County Superior News

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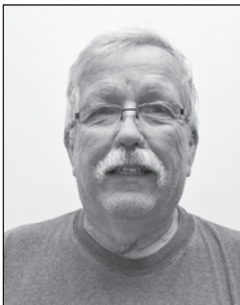
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Kiwanis
CORNER



DENNY SHUMWAY

KIWANIS OF WEST
BRANCH

We are in final preparations for Memorial Day Weekend, still signing stores and residents up for displaying flags. There is still time to get your flag, contact Denny. 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.

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.

Our next event is coming up fast. We have donated Buddy Benches to three of our local elementary schools. We are planning on a bunch of things this year: selling water at Music in the Park starting June 25. On the 4th of July we will be holding a corn-hole tournament in Rose City Park starting at about 11 a.m. Look for the ads. 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. Our members range in age from 20 to over 60. 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
FOOD PANTRY

We have around 12 people who come to help pack and distribute boxes of food to 55 to 65 families each week. I would like to thank them for their assistance. We are in need of donations of food or money to help us with the influx of families. We had over 220 families in April. 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. If bad weather, text ahead to 315-725-1199 to see if we are open. We are open every Wednesday from 9 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, Starbucks, 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 May 29. Line-up at 9 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. See you there.

W-P students enjoy ‘Optimist Fun Day’



Courtesy photo
The Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake recently hosted “Optimist Fun Day” for students at Whittemore-Prescott Jr./Sr. High School. Pictured are Optimist members Janet Smith (l) and Toni Parent at the event.

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ

On May 8, the afternoon air at Whittemore-Prescott Jr./Sr. High School filled with laughter, cheers, and friendly competition during the school's annual Optimist Fun Day. Sponsored entirely by the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake, the special event rewarded students with a full afternoon of outdoor recreation, sweet treats, and exciting prize giveaways.

The Cardinal Optimist Club ensured every student stayed energized and hydrated throughout the day's activities. Volunteers set up stations offering free bottled water to keep participants cool under the afternoon sun, a wide selection of zero-sugar pop options and classic movie-theater box candy distributed to every single student.

After regular classes were wrapped up, students headed outside to the school fields to enjoy the fresh air. The afternoon featured two main athletic events:



LADONNA SCHULTZ

hard fought volleyball matches and kickball games where students and teachers joined forces to win bragging rights for the next school year. Non-competing students gathered along the sidelines to cheer on classmates in a grand showing of school spirit.

The excitement peaked at the end of the event with a free raffle. Every attending student received an automatic entry into a drawing for gift cards to popular local eateries. Lucky winners took home gift cards to Dee's Pizza, Wendy's, and McDonald's, which graciously donated their fare for this event.

Through events like Fun Day, the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake continues its mission of bringing out the best in local youth and fostering a positive, supportive community spirit at Whittemore-Prescott Schools.

Memories

« Continued from page 4

sure how long it was open, (it wasn't when we rode by) but I heard they had great food there. The property has changed hands many times, but it is currently owned by the Hughey's. As we rode by, I could just imagine the good smells coming from the restaurant and hear the dishes clattering as the tables are cleared.

We'd cross old M-76 to Minzers Subdivision and cross M-30 to Wright Street and return to the stable and cooled the horses down before putting them in their stalls. What fun we had and what memories we have going back in time and also doing a walk around the Mill Pond.

MSP hosts safe driving course for teens

Michigan State Police is hosting a FREE Teen Defensive Driving Court at Standish-Sterling Central High School on May 31. Available sessions are 8 a.m. to noon or 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All participants must have completed Level 1 driver's education and be between the ages 14 to 19. Spaces are limited. Email Trooper Shane Noble at nobles3@michigan.gov to register.



Optimist Updates

BY JOE BELL

Recently the West Branch Optimist Club was visited by Mrs. Michelle Tennant and a group of her Surline Middle School fifth grade social studies students. These students have completed eight tasks as part of her All-American Award program. The eight tasks are: write the Pledge of Allegiance from memory with no errors, sing the National Anthem, recite the preamble to the Constitution, do three



JOE BELL
VICE - PRESIDENT

hours of community service, attend a local government meeting and take notes, write a one page essay on why they are proud to be an American, interview a veteran, and had to locate all 50 states and their capitals. They had eight weeks to accomplish

these tasks, and 15 students did complete them all!

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

We close each meeting by reciting the Optimist Creed, part of which states: "Promise yourself to talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet." What a great way to approach your life! 'Bye for now.

OHHS Class of 2026's future looks bright

BY GAIL HUGHEY

On Thursday night, May 21, we officially celebrated the Class of 2026, a group of young leaders who are ready to begin the next chapter in their young lives. These graduates grew up in our communities, balancing the traditions of small-town life with the fast-paced technology of today. They are now set to make their mark on the world.

Behind every graduate is a village that fueled the journey. To the parents who survived the years of increased independence and late-night study sessions, the coaches who preached resilience, and the teachers who worked alongside their students, this milestone belongs to you, too. Your steady hand prepared these seniors to navigate a world that looks very different from the one

when they started kindergarten. As our graduates stand on the precipice of their adult life, I sincerely wish that they take every opportunity to enjoy their journey. As young adults, they will define their own success and make decisions that will shape their future outside of the structured classroom. Embrace the excitement and uncertainty that lie ahead. Make the most of your time!

Shortly after graduation, the former graduates of West Branch High School will be coming back to town for a reunion and tour of their school, now Surline Middle

School. The last class graduated almost 60 years ago, and I cannot wait to hear stories of the school, friends, and how their education impacted our world. Time goes quickly, but the memories can last a lifetime.

As you head off to trade schools, universities, gap years, and the workforce, remember that you are entering a 2026 landscape that craves your unique perspective. When you pair your curiosity with perseverance, kindness, and integrity, you will go far.

Congratulations, Class of 2026! We can't wait to see the impact you make.



GAIL HUGHEY
SUPERINTENDENT
WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY
SCHOOLS

Downtown WB comes to life this summer

BY PETER FABBRI

The summer season is shaping up to be one of the most exciting in recent memories for our small town, with a full calendar of events designed to bring neighbors together and celebrate everything that makes this community special.

Kicking things off in early June is the return of the West Branch Farmers Market, opening June 6, on S. Third St. in downtown. This weekly favorite brings fresh produce, baked goods, handmade crafts, and a lively atmosphere that has become a staple of the summer season. It's the perfect place to support local vendors while catching up with friends and neighbors.

Adding to the excitement this year is the introduction of the town's new social district, along with a newly remodeled, fully walkable downtown. Expanded sidewalks and increased outdoor restaurant seating make it easier than ever for residents and visitors to stroll, shop, and dine while enjoying the summer air. The improvements are expected

to enhance every event, creating a more vibrant and welcoming experience throughout the season.

Downtown will stay busy throughout June with a pair of highly anticipated events. On Friday, June 19, the Bike Bash Motorcycle Show will roar into town, drawing riders and spectators alike for an evening of impressive bikes and community fun. The following week, on June 26, the Classy Chassis Car Show will take over the streets, showcasing classic cars, unique builds, and plenty of hometown pride.

As summer continues, local organizations will keep the momentum going with a variety of beloved traditions. Families can look forward to the Optimist Fishing Derby, a longtime favorite for young anglers, as well as the Chamber Golf Outing, which brings together community members for a day on the course.

Music in the Park will once again provide a soundtrack for warm summer evenings, offering live entertainment in a relaxed outdoor setting.

The Fourth of July Celebration remains a highlight of the season, featuring the Independence Day parade and festivities that bring the entire community together in celebration.

August rounds out the summer with even more excitement, including the Jeep Jam on Saturday, August 29. This crowd-favorite event fills downtown with Jeep enthusiasts, showcasing vehicles of all kinds and creating a lively, energetic atmosphere.

With so many events planned in and around downtown, this summer promises fun, connection, and lasting memories for residents and visitors alike. Be sure to mark your calendars and take part in everything our community has to offer. Go to <http://www.west-branchevents.com> for more info.



PETER FABBRI

Visit Our Website At
www.superior-news.com

Family Day

« Continued from page 1

Schwartz said in Mitch Albom’s book Tuesdays with Morrie, “Death ends a life, not a relationship. All the love you created is still there. All the memories are still there.” We have to find a way to connect with them well so that we can continue to live a good life.

On Saturday, May 9, the day before Mother’s Day, the Care Team Hospice Bereavement Department hosted its first Family Day at Whispering Hope Ranch in Rose City.

“Thirty-eight individuals - children, parents, and grandparents - gathered in a gentle space where

grief could be shared and hearts could begin to heal together,” Stacey Peak, the Senior Bereavement Coordinator, said. “During our grief-and-healing service, families bravely shared stories and spoke the names of loved ones they miss. Together, we held space for memories, tears, and

gratitude - reminding one another that no one has to walk this journey alone.”

Following the service, children jumped around in the bounce house, and everyone enjoyed hot dogs, horseback riding lessons, and as Stacey said, “the kind of togetherness that meets people wherever they are - smiling, laughing, and crying side by side.”

The philosophy of Care Team Hospice is that grief has no expiration date. Staff intentionally maintain relationships with families for at least a year and a half after their loss. The company believes its job is to provide not only patient care, but holistic family care.

The purpose of hospice is to care for people suffering from life-limiting illnesses by treating the person rather than the disease. Most often this care occurs at home to help patients and families make the most of their time together. After losing a loved one, Care Team Hospice offers much-needed services like grief counseling, help with memorial preparations, referrals to community agencies, and timely messages of support and positivity. Their professionals manage pain and personal care to make your loved one as comfortable as possible and to help you understand what to expect and how to adjust to change. The Care Team provides high-quality care to patients and families across five states,

including in Ogemaw County.

“Being one of the bereavement coordinators for the Care Team Hospice, it’s an honor to come alongside families who need empathetic support, sometimes before but always after the loss of their loved one,” Alysia Berthiaume said. “This annual Family Day will continue because, like my late mother, who passed on hospice, told me: ‘Go live.’ That’s just what we did on Saturday. Time, connection, and joy assist with healing.”

If you have questions about hospice care, visit <https://www.tct-cares.com/michigan/hospice> or call 833-483-2273 any time, day or night.

Whispering Hope Ranch Ministries offers a variety of activities for horse lovers, young and old, in a safe, nurturing environment. Among these are age-specific summer camps, free outreach activities for the community and for foster families. On Saturdays at 5:30 p.m., the ranch welcomes the community to Cowboy Fellowship. This gathering for all ages includes fellowship, food, and encouragement from God’s word. Information about these and other activities is available at <https://www.facebook.com/WhisperingHopeRanch> and <https://www.whrm.org>. To contact Whispering Hope Ranch, 5407 Arntz Rd., Rose City, MI 48654, call 989-685-3525 or email office@whrm.org.



City Wide

GARAGE SALE

JUNE 27, 2026

8AM - 5PM

Plan your garage sale during the City-Wide Garage Sale!

The City provides a map showing where each garage sale participant has items for sale.

Any City resident and/or business that would like to be included on the map, please drop off your name, address and phone number - in writing to City Hall before June 1st.



St. Joseph School students compete in ‘Penny War’



Courtesy photos

St. Joseph School students recently competed in the “Penny War.” During the competition, pennies count as positive and the silver counts as negative. Each of the grades had a jug and the class with the biggest number at the end got to put sundae toppings on Principal Joe Meiser. The preschool students were the winners.





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Local teacher receives MAEO Outstanding Teacher of the Year award

The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County is proud to announce that educator Alyssia Proulx has been named the Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Alternative Education Organization at its annual conference on April 30.

The statewide award recognizes exceptional educators in alternative education who demonstrate outstanding commitment, leadership, and impact on student success.

Proulx was nominated by colleagues, students, community partners, and college advisors who praised her for her compassion, leadership, and unwavering dedication to helping students overcome barriers and reach their full potential.

Known for creating a welcoming and inclusive learning environment, Proulx has built a reputation as a trusted mentor and advocate for students at the Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County. Supporters highlighted her ability to connect with students, foster confidence, and ensure each student feels valued and supported in their educational journey.

In addition to her classroom leadership, Proulx serves as advisor for the school's MAEO STARS program, coach for Running Club and Art Club, and contributes to numerous schoolwide initiatives including graduation planning, prom, and curriculum improvement efforts. Her leadership has expanded opportunities for student engagement, service learning, and extracurricular



ALYSSIA PROULX
involvement.

Community partners also commended Proulx for the confidence and growth she inspires in students through service projects and leadership development opportunities. Her mentorship has helped students step outside their comfort zones, build self-esteem, and develop meaningful connections within the community.

One student shared, "Mrs. Alyssia always brings positive energy to the room. She makes every student feel important and valued, and she always helps us believe in ourselves."

"Alyssia's impact on our students and school community is immeasurable," School Director Tina Williams said. "She represents the very best of alternative education, and we are thrilled to see her recognized at the state level for the extraordinary work she does each day."

The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County congratulates Proulx on this well-deserved honor and celebrates the profound difference she continues to make in the lives of students and families throughout the community.

Molina Healthcare awards grants to local libraries

The Ogemaw District Library received a grant of \$10,000 to provide a weekly Adult Speaker Program. This program will start on Monday, June 1, 2026, and will continue until Sept. 28, every Monday except for Monday after the 4th of July and Labor Day. Workshops begin at 10:30 a.m. with the program ending around 2 p.m. Each program will begin with a guest speaker, followed by a catered lunch and a social period where the participants will interact with their peers through games or crafts.

The Ogemaw District Library reached out to our community partners as our speakers. The topics include Advance Care Planning, Hospice 101, Senior Scam, Dementia Information for Everyone, Understanding Income Taxes, Healthy Fun Foods, Discover Your Digital Library Branch, Budget Strategies for Seniors, How to Prepare Before You Need to Call 911, Technology Help for Seniors, Next Chapter Careers and How to Navigate the Process,

Learning Adaptive Techniques to make your everyday living experience easier, Finding Local Resources, Understanding Medicare, End of Life Planning, and Understanding Senior Legal Forms.

In addition to the Adult Speaker Program, the Ogemaw District Library will host three caregiver support workshops. On Saturday, June 20 at noon, the topic will be Understanding Behavior Issues Within Our Population. On Tuesday, July 28 at 6 p.m., the topic will be Understanding Dementia and Caregiver Burn Out. On Tuesday, Aug. 18, at 6 p.m., the topic will be Supporting Aging Minds While Sustaining Your Own, a caregiver workshop.

All programs will take place at the Skidway Lake Branch Library, 2196 Greenwood Rd., Prescott.

Registrations are required for all programs, as we are limited to 20 people. You can register at signupolds@gmail.com or by stopping into either the Skidway Lake Branch or the Rose City Branch libraries.

Local farmer flies 'Old Glory'



Courtesy photo
Recently, an Ogemaw County farmer flew an American Flag while out working his land. What could be more patriotic than that?

NCMCF announces grant opportunities

The North Central Michigan Community Foundation (NCMCF) is accepting applications for the 2026 Community Impact Grant cycle. Nonprofit organizations with an IRS 501(c)(3) designation that serve Crawford, Ogemaw and/or Oscoda counties are welcome to apply. The Community Impact Grant application deadline is June 30.

Community Impact grants are awarded for a broad range of charitable projects and programs

in NCMCF's three-county service area. Special funding is also available during this grant cycle for projects that specifically address health for youth and senior citizens for each county, as well as programs for health care initiatives that serve residents of Ogemaw or Oscoda counties. This includes health and wellness programs, hygiene initiatives, mental health care, senior programs, substance abuse aid, and suicide prevention, among other areas.

The Community Foundation's grant application can be found at ncmcf.org under "Grants". Community Foundation staff are available for questions and help. Qualified applicants may request up to \$2,500 for projects and programs in the three-county NCMCF service area.

For more information, applicants may visit ncmcf.org or contact the NCMCF office at 877-354-6881.

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*In honor of Memorial Day
a little tribute, small and tender,
Just to say we still remember.*

Memorial Day

« Continued from page 1

graves, moments of silence are observed, and families gather to remember loved ones who served. At places such as Arlington National Cemetery, thousands gather to pay tribute to fallen heroes whose courage and sacrifice helped preserve the freedoms Americans enjoy every day.

Memorial Day also serves as a reminder of the human cost of war. Behind every military uniform is a son, daughter, parent, friend, or neighbor whose life touched many others. The holiday encourages Americans not only to honor those who died in service but also to support military families and veterans who continue to carry the legacy of their loved ones.

In communities across the country, including Ogemaw County, Memorial Day parades and ceremonies bring people together in a spirit of patriotism and reflection. Schools, veteran’s organizations, and local leaders often share stories of bravery and

service, helping younger generations understand the significance of the holiday.

As Americans enjoy time with family and friends during the holiday weekend, Memorial Day remains an opportunity to pause and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Their dedication and courage continue to inspire gratitude, unity, and respect throughout the nation.

Locally, the West Branch Memorial Day parade is Monday, May 25, at 11 a.m., in downtown West Branch, traveling from N. Second Street to the Ogemaw County Veterans Memorial for a post-parade ceremony.

In Rose City, veterans will assemble at 1:30 p.m. at the Veteran’s Memorial with a ceremony beginning at 2 p.m.

On Saturday, May 30, at 11 a.m., a Memorial Day ceremony will take place at the Mills Township Cemetery on Elbow Lake Road. It is hosted by the Skidway Lake American Legion Post 3775.

United Way

« Continued from page 3

local employers who understand the regional economic landscape, employment barriers, and workforce shortages, and grassroots advocates and organizers who are deeply familiar with the existing social problems and which local organizations are best suited to help rectify local issues in the most effective way.

In unique strength in Ogemaw County is that the UW board is made up solely by volunteers dedicated to the betterment of the community not paid employees who are motivated by personal gain. By relying on this volunteer coalition, our local chapter can strip away institutional bureaucracy. Decision-makers are on the ground floor, witnessing the community’s evolving challenges in real-time, ensuring that limited grant dollars can target immediate local needs.

A good example of this model

in action is the relationship between the Ogemaw County United Way and The Fresh Start Club of West Branch. This club is a vital, local non-profit, located at 236 S. First St., whose mission is to provide a space for critical peer-led meetings and fellowship events that follow the 12-step recovery model, specifically focusing on Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and at times Gamblers Anonymous (GA). By providing a local place to hold recovery meetings, residents can attend regularly so that individuals can share their hardships openly without fear of condemnation. Regular meeting attendance serves as a powerful indicator of long-erm recovery, by building participant’s self-efficiency, motivation, and coping skills. One current Fresh Start Club patron stated, "The Fresh Start Club of West Branch

Community Heroes

« Continued from page 1

the line of duty between May 15, 2025, and May 15, 2026.

The ceremony began with a warm welcome from Prosecuting Attorney LaDonna A. Schultz, who expressed deep gratitude for the attendees and the dedicated individuals who made the event possible. The Ogemaw County Law Enforcement Honor Guard formally posted the colors, followed by a stirring rendition of the National Anthem performed by Sara Eden, probate court register.

Retired Navy Chaplain Laura Bender provided the invocation and later the benediction, offering words of comfort and reflection for the families of the fallen and the active-duty officers in attendance.

Guest speaker Rebecca Yuncker from the Northern Michigan Children’s Assessment Center was the keynote speaker. She spoke on the bravery of the fallen officers and reminded guests that each officer

was more than just a badge. They were fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, neighbors and friends. She ended with a 114 second moment of silence, one second for each fallen officer. Yuncker asked that their memories live on and never forgotten.

The heart of the service focused on the "Reading of the Deceased Officers," a roll call of heroes led by representatives from local agencies:

- Undersheriff Paul Frechette (Ogemaw County Sheriff’s Office)
- Lt. Joe Adams (West Branch Police Department)
- Lt. Mike Brown (Michigan State Police)
- Lt. Steven Moore (Michigan State Police)
- Chief Allen Muma (Rose City Police Department)

Sadly, there were 114 names read.

Special recognition was given to Police Officer Kelvin Patrick

from the Detroit Police Department whose death was not reported until after last year’s service. His end of watch was Feb. 6, 2025. Officer Patrick died of complications from gunshot wounds he suffered at the hands of juveniles. The juveniles were never caught.

Another touching part of the ceremony involved Surline Elementary School students Macie Kavalunas and Kade Green, representing the community at large, who presented a memorial wreath at the foot of the memorial.

The ceremony concluded with the traditional "Rifle Salute" and the playing of "Taps" by the Ogemaw County Veterans, before the closing remarks by Prosecutor Schultz.

Following the service, attendees were invited to a luncheon at the Ogemaw County Commissioners Chambers to continue the fellowship and honor the memories of our local protectors.

has literally saved my life. Finding a local support group enabled me to work the program within a caring and supportive community."

Without a localized funding mechanism, small but lifesaving recovery centers like The Fresh Start Club of West Branch could easily fall through the cracks.

The impact of this targeted local funding is best expressed by FSC of WB’s vice president who stated, “The Ogemaw County United Way grant allows us to keep the club’s doors open. Without the United Way’s funding, we would be hard-pressed to continue operating."

The relationship between the Ogemaw County United Way and The Fresh Start Club illustrates a universal truth: the best solutions to community problems are born within the community itself. By rejecting top-down mandates,

United Way ensures that local dollars stay local, protecting the grassroots lifelines that standard charity models overlook. True community investment requires proximity, local autonomy, and lived experience. When we empower neighbors to care for neighbors, we create a resilient, self-governing safety net capable of healing from within. United Way is proud to help fund The Fresh Start Club of West Branch as they continue to provide a safe place for people to recover from addition.

For a schedule of The Fresh Start Club of West Branch’s meeting dates visit their Facebook page or email them at *fresh-startclubwb@yahoo.com*.

Fresh Start Club Meeting Schedule

236 S. 1st Street West Branch, MI
FreshStartClubWB@yahoo.com
Check us out on Facebook too!

Monday

NA Recovery Nation Group: Noon
12 Step Recovery Study: 1:30-3:30
AA New Life Group 12x12: 7 pm

Tuesday

AA New Life Meeting: Noon
NA Common Ground Group:7 p.m.

Wednesday

Women in Recovery:Noon
AA Open Decision Makers Group:7 p.m.

Thursday

NA Open Barefoot Group: Noon
AA New Life Big Book Study: 7 p.m.

Friday

NA Common Ground Group: Noon
AA 11th Step Spiritual Meeting:7 p.m.

Saturday

AA Sober Saturday Group:10 am
NA Recovery Nation Group: Noon

**No meetings on Sunday*

**Club Board Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm*

Veteran

« Continued from page 1

his wife Eileen live now.

"I’ve never wanted to live anywhere else," Dean said.

Born on Oct. 4, 1942, to Ethel and Del Mayhew, he grew up there with his sister and brother. Together they helped their folks on the farm to harvest hay and corn for the beef cows.

Dean worked on the farm until he graduated. In December 1964, he was drafted into the Army. After he passed his physical, he was sent to Fort Knox, Ky., for basic training.

"Farm kids generally didn't have that much trouble with the training," Dean said.

After basic, Dean was sent to Fort Gordon, Ga., for advanced training.

"I was sent to Military Police Training. In order to be eligible, you had to have a spotless record. After training, I had to report to the 208th Military Police 5th Group, located near Seoul, South Korea, in an area known as Yongsan."

Dean’s company lived in

Quonset huts that were 30 feet long and housed eight soldiers, with four on a side and a fuel heater in the center. The soldier’s primary duties were security, especially making sure there were no breaches in the restricted areas.

"Sometimes it would get a little scary, but we always managed to keep things peaceful," Dean said.

In Korea, you could never let your guard down because the North Koreans were often trying to infiltrate access to the 38th parallel Demilitarized Zone. Over the years there have been several occasions where North Koreans have snuck over and killed U.S. and South Korean troops.

Dean was in Korea for 12 and a half months before he transferred to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to finish out his two-year enlistment. Then he came back home and went to work on the farm.

One day Orren Fox, a former Veteran of the Year and letter carrier for the post office in Rose City, told Dean that he was going to retire. He suggested Dean

should apply for the job as a substitute driver.

"I took the test and passed it," Dean said.

Dean enjoyed being a mail carrier. He especially liked the people he met. He enjoyed his job so much that he did it for 30 years.

"They had a big retirement party for me and I got a nice gold pocket watch," he said.

I asked Dean how he managed delivering mail in the winter when there is a lot of snow, especially in the hills north of Rose City. He quickly replied that he always had a Chevy S-10 4X4 pick up. "It got me out of a lot of tricky situations," Dean said.

When I asked Dean how he met his wife Eileen, a grin came over his face and he said he’d met her on a blind date in 1977. They enjoyed each other’s company and dated for a few years. When he finally got up the courage to ask her to marry him, she said yes. They got married in Rose City on Oct. 26, 1981, and honeymooned in Gatlinburg, Tenn. At that time,

it was called Silver City, and Hollywood didn't exist yet. When they returned from their honeymoon, they rented a house on Long Lake. After a while, they decided to build a house on their family farm, and that's where they live to this day.

Dean and Eileen grew strawberries to sell, which Eileen said was something they both enjoyed. Along with his job as a letter carrier, Dean and his brother Bill raised a 200-head Angus beef herd. In later years, they scaled back, reducing the herd even further after Dean’s brother Bill died of COVID. Along the way, Dean and Eileen raised two children. Today, Kevin is 39 and Kathleen is 34. Four months ago, Kathleen gave birth to identical twins, which made grandpa and grandma very proud.

Now that he's retired, Dean has more time to volunteer with the Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance Funeral Detachment. It's made up of veterans who volunteer their time to attend funerals

and perform a final pass-by. During those ceremonies, members of the detachment also play Taps and present an American flag to the closest family member.

"It's the least we can do as veterans to pay respect to our deceased veterans, honoring them for their service. It's often quite emotional because the one you are there to honor was your friend. You never know when the next funeral could be your own," Dean said.

In closing, one thing I noticed when I talked to Dean and Eileen is that their life has been "well-lived." As I was heading home that afternoon, reflecting on the time I had spent with them, a song by country singer Tim McGraw came on the radio, entitled "Always Be Humble and Kind." I realized at that moment that I had finished a story on someone who was indeed "humble and kind."

Thank you for your service, Dean.

Shirley Jean Emmons

July 22, 1934 – May 13, 2026

Shirley Jean Emmons, who was born on July 22, 1934, in Laona, Wisc., to James and Dorothy (Mullins) Jameson, passed away on May 13, 2026, in West Branch, Mich.

She spent her entire life working hard and caring for the people and animals she held dear. Her life was shaped by resilience, kindness, and a deep commitment to family, and those who knew her will remember her for her gentle spirit, her honest nature, and the comfort she brought to others simply by being present.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Harvey Emmons, in 2014. Their years together were filled with the shared joys and responsibilities of family life, and the bond they built remained an important part of Shirley's heart throughout her life. She carried his memory with love and grace, and those memories remained a source of strength and reflection in the years that followed.

Shirley is survived by her sons, Frank Emmons, Duane Emmons and his wife Jan, and Harvey Emmons II and his wife Cecilia. She is also survived by her sister, Virginia, along with nine grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Her family was one of the greatest blessings in her life, and she took great pride in each generation that followed her. The love she gave to her

family was steady and unconditional, and her presence will be cherished in the memories and stories they continue to share.

Throughout her life, Shirley worked hard and faced each day with determination. She believed in doing what needed to be done and never hesitated to give her best. Her strong work ethic was a reflection of the values she carried throughout her life, and it left a lasting impression on those around her. She was the kind of person who understood the value of perseverance, responsibility, and loyalty, and she lived those values every day.

Shirley found joy in the simple pleasures that made life meaningful. She enjoyed bowling and loved her dogs, both of which brought her happiness and companionship. Her affection for animals reflected the tenderness in her heart, and her love of bowling gave her a chance to enjoy time well spent and the company of others.

She leaves behind a legacy of strength and care that will continue to live on in her children, grandchildren, and all who were fortunate enough to know her. Though her absence will be deeply felt, her memory will remain a source of comfort and inspiration to those who loved her. Shirley Jean Emmons lived a full life, and her memory will be held close by her family and all who were blessed to share in her journey.



Edwin "Ozzie" Ostrander

Oct. 7, 1935 – May 2, 2026

Edwin "Ozzie" Ostrander, age 90, of West Branch, Mich., passed away peacefully on May 2, 2026, in the community he called home throughout his life.

Ozzie was born on Oct. 7, 1935, in West Branch, Mich., to Edgar and Mary Ostrander. He grew up in the West Branch area and was a proud graduate of West Branch High School, Class of 1954. He carried the values of hard work, loyalty, and kindness with him throughout his life, and those who knew him best will remember him as a loving, wise, and generous man.

After high school, Ozzie served his country honorably in the United States Army from 1958 to 1961. His service was an important part of his life, and it reflected the steady sense of duty and commitment that guided him in all that he did. Following his military service, he returned home and built a life centered on family, work, and community. He worked in construction, served as the Ogemaw County Clerk, and later worked as a ranger at the Nightmare golf course. In each role, he was respected for his dependable nature, strong work ethic, and the calm, capable way he carried himself.

Ozzie was involved with St. Joseph Catholic Church and was a member of the K of C Council 2022; his faith was a meaningful part of his life. He lived with a quiet strength and a deep appreciation for the simple blessings of family, friendship, and time spent with others. He enjoyed golf, bowling, fishing, watching sports, and mowing lawns, and he found satisfaction in staying active and keeping busy. Whether he was on the golf course, spending time outdoors, or following a game, he enjoyed life's everyday pleasures and shared that enjoyment with those around him.

Family was at the center of Ozzie's life. He is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Yvonne (Zettel) Ostrander; his daughters, Debra (Tom) Marshall and Janis (Greg) Phillips; and his son, Mark

(Mary) Ostrander. He also leaves behind his grandchildren, Eric (Liz) Marshall, Brian (Chelsey) Marshall, Lisa (Devin) Huber,

Josh (Tessa) Phillips, Stephanie Phillips, Jenafer Ostrander, and Keri Ostrander (Nick Riegle). He was blessed with 13 great-grandchildren, Thaddeus, Corinne, Adelaide, Eloise, Claire, Hazel, Olive Marshall, Madelynn and Connor Huber, Callum Phillips, Joel and Ellee Parliament, and Bentley Riegle, all of whom brought him great joy. He is also survived by his

brother, Dallas Ostrander, along with several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar and Mary Ostrander; his sister, C. June Schafer; his great-granddaughter, Paisley Riegle; infant brother, Milton and several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. Their memories remained close to his heart throughout his life.

Ozzie's life was one of steady devotion and lasting influence. He will be remembered for the love he gave so freely, the wisdom he shared so naturally, and the generosity that marked his days. His presence will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know him. Though he is no longer with us, the example he set and the memories he created will continue to live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

In lieu of flowers, those planning on an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the wishes of the family which will be donated locally.

A memorial visitation was held at Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, with a K of C rosary. The memorial mass was held on Wednesday, May 20, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in West Branch with visitation preceding. Fr. Al Pillarelli officiated. Burial of ashes will be at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Online condolences can be shared at www.steuernolmclaren.com



Manuel Soares

Oct. 22, 1948 – May 8, 2026

Manuel George Soares was born on Oct. 22, 1948, in the Azores (Pico Island) of Portugal. He passed away suddenly on Friday, May 8, 2026, in West Branch, Mich., peacefully in the arms of Jesus. He was 77 years old. Manuel was a friendly, loving, caring, and giving person who touched the lives of many.

Manuel first began working with his father at Sunbeam Bakery during summer breaks from school. He then began his main career in sales, selling furniture and flooring in northern California. Manuel graduated from Linden High School in 1967, in his hometown of Linden, Calif. He ran track and once took sixth place in the California State High School Track finals, by running the mile in 4:17, setting a school record. Manuel went on to spend two years studying at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, Calif.

Manuel was proud of becoming a naturalized United States citizen on Aug. 15, 1969, a significant milestone in his life after moving from the Azores when he was five years old. In 2012, Manuel moved to Michigan to live closer to his family, a moment he strived for after the first time hearing the words "grandpa" or "avô".

Manuel was well known in the community of West Branch, often recognized as a familiar face helping at Ana's Treasures. A devoted member of Faith Alive Church in West Branch, he found great joy in attending church, participating in Bible study and prayer groups, and cherishing the time spent watching his grandchildren in their sports, musicals, and other events.

Manuel is remembered for his warm greeting, often singing, "Come on in, you're blessed and highly favored," a statement that reflected his welcoming nature and faith.

He is survived by his loving wife,



Lucille M. Sievert-Soares of West Branch; his son, David Soares and Danielle of West Branch; and his cherished grandchildren Felicity, Audrey, and Ethan Soares. His siblings include Rosemary and Brian Peets, Norman and Lynn Soares, and Poldina and Eric Scherff. He is lovingly remembered by his nephews and nieces William and Alex Peets, Lanvin Peets, Ryan and Jemma Soares, Kevin Soares, and Matthew Scherff.

Extended family members who stand by with love are Kimberly and Carl Stieler, Robbie, Bella, Nichole, Jeremy, Josh, Christopher, Jake, Shawn and George Vargo, Ashley, Tanya, and Amber, Fred Sievert, Kris and Tim Strickland, Bernie and Bradley, with numerous great-grandchildren. Additional family include Nancine and Charles Rader, Angela Loomis-Jackson, and Raymond and Deanna Chabot. He also leaves behind his loving church family who he held close to his heart.

Manuel was preceded in death by his parents, Manuel M. and Barbara Da Rosa-Soares, and his grandson, Brent Sievert.

Visitation to honor Manuel took place on May 14, 2026, at Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Homes in West Branch. Additional visitation was held on May 15, at Faith Alive Church in West Branch, followed by the funeral service. Manuel's close friend and Pastor Chad Deerman officiated.

Those wishing to leave a condolence please consider the Faith Alive Missions, or Ana's Treasures in West Branch.

Manuel George Soares will be remembered for his kindness, his dedication to family and faith, and the warmth he shared with everyone around him. His legacy of love and faith will live on in all who knew him.

Cynthia Denise Lehman

Jan. 7, 1957 – May 10, 2026

Cynthia Denise Lehman, age 69, known warmly to all as Cindy, passed away suddenly on Sunday, May 10, 2026, in West Branch, Mich., with her beloved husband of 40 years, Mark, by her side.

Born on Jan. 7, 1957, in Newport, R.I., Cindy lived a full and cherished life marked by her fun spirit, caring nature, and a special devotion as the best grandma anyone could ask for.

Cindy graduated from Ogemaw Heights High School in 1975, and worked in various jobs throughout her life, including waitressing at local restaurants and housekeeping at the hospital. She also enjoyed her many years as a Brownie Girl Scout leader.

However, the role she treasured the most was being a caretaker, housekeeper, and special family friend to the Hobohm family. They held a special place in her heart, and that bond meant the world to her.

Her interests were simple joys - she loved gardening, baking cakes, traveling, and most importantly, attending family functions and events. Cindy would never miss a single one of her grandchildren's activities, always showing up with pride and love.

She is survived by her husband, Mark Lehman, of West Branch; her children, Carla (Brant) Gnagey of Bay Port, Marky (Whitney) Lehman of West Branch, and Kayla (Ryan) Rock of Merrill; and her ten grandchildren, Dakota (Rachel), Darrion

(Bela), Dawson, Devonee, Raegan, Kannon, Paxton, Austin, Jaxon, and Rhett. She also leaves behind a great-grandson,

Theodore; her sisters, Debby (Brad) Kartes, Teresa (Jerry) Wangler, and Kimberly (Paul Worden) Trevithick and her lifelong friend, Sherry. She was a special Aunt Cindy to many nieces and nephews and known affectionately as the "neighborhood Mom" to many others.

Cindy was preceded in death by her parents, William and Sharon (Smith) Harvey and her parents-in-law, Leo and Nedra Lehman.

Services to honor Cindy were held with a rosary on Sunday, May 17, at 4 p.m. Public visitation was from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. respectively at Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Homes in West Branch, located at 109 E. Houghton Ave. On Monday, May 18, there was another visitation from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 961 W. Houghton Ave., followed by a Mass at 11 a.m. Cindy was laid to rest at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, West Branch. Father Al Pillarelli officiated.

Cindy's gentle soul, her laughter, and the warmth she offered to everyone who knew her will be deeply missed. She leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and a family that meant everything to her.

Those wishing to leave a memorial please consider the Brownie Girl Scouts of West Branch.



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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
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