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West Branch All-Stars win District 8 title



Courtesy photo
Congratulations to the West Branch 12U All-Stars on capturing the District 8 Little League Championship with a 13-7 victory over Traverse City in the finals on Wednesday, July 8, in West Branch. The team returned to action Friday, July 24, as pool play got underway. They opened the tournament against South Portage, but the results were not available at press time. Play continues Saturday, July 25, against Kingsford, before wrapping up pool play Sunday, July 26, against an opponent to be determined. The team's performance in pool play will determine whether it advances to the tournament's bracket round. For the latest scores and updates, visit the Ogemaw County Superior News Facebook page.

Ogemaw County Historical Society presents 'Heritage Award'

The Ogemaw County Genealogy and Historical Society recognized Cathy Snider for her dedication to preserving local history by presenting her with the organization's 2026 "Preserve Our Heritage Award" during West Branch's Fourth of July festivities.

The award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to protecting, sharing and celebrating the history and heritage of Ogemaw County.

Snider was recognized for her commitment to the community and her efforts to help ensure local stories, memories and traditions are not forgotten. The presentation was held as part of the Independence Day celebration, bringing together residents and visitors to honor both the nation's history and the county's own rich past.

Members of the Ogemaw County Genealogy and Historical Society said the award reflects the importance of community members who dedicate their time and talents to preserving the area's heritage for future generations.

The Fourth of July festivities provided a fitting backdrop for the recognition, celebrating not only independence but also the people who help keep Ogemaw County's history alive.



Photo by Lois Bergquist
The Ogemaw County Genealogy and Historical Society recently recognized Cathy Snider for her dedication to preserving local history by presenting her with the organization's 2026 "Preserve Our Heritage Award."

County Public Transit seeks millage renewal

BY LAURA BENDER
 If you suddenly lost your ability to drive because of illness, injury, aging or other issues, how would you access essential services?

For many Ogemaw County residents, the answer is the Ogemaw County Transit system.

On the Aug. 4 ballot, voters will be asked to consider a renewal of the transit millage that helps support transportation services throughout the county. The proposal is a renewal of an existing millage — not a new tax — and is intended to provide continued funding for the county's public transportation system.

Ogemaw County Transit, which has provided access to essential services for residents for 46 years, is seeking voter approval of a 0.47 mill renewal to continue operations for the next six years.

The proposed millage would cost property owners

approximately 47 cents for every \$1,000 of taxable value. For example, a property with a taxable value of \$100,000 would pay about \$47 per year, or less than \$4 per month, if the renewal is approved.

If the millage fails to pass, without proper funding, they will be forced to reduce services significantly, including operational hours and routing, pending a permanent closure in 2027.

Transit services are used by seniors, individuals with disabilities, veterans and residents who rely on transportation for medical appointments, employment, shopping and other essential trips. Millage revenues help offset operating costs that are not covered by fares or state and federal funding, allowing the service to continue meeting community transportation needs.

In 2025, the county transit **MILLAGE continues on page 8 »**

St. Joseph School welcomes new principal

BY LAURA BENDER
 A well-behaved second through eighth grader at St. Joseph's Catholic School, Peggy Zettle was never sent to the principal's office. As of July 1, 2026, she occupies it.

"I feel honored that others believe I'm qualified to be the principal," Peggy said. "I never expected to be asked to follow our recently retired principal, Greg Meiser. I'm still trying to convince myself this is real."

A respected and loved presence at St. Joseph's, Peggy has been part of the school since she began second grade in 1980. She has known every principal from then until now, an asset that will help her establish herself as their successor. Over the years, Peggy has fulfilled many roles at the school, from parent to educator, which will make her particularly able to understand the needs and concerns of all involved.

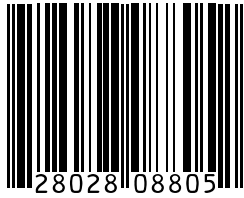
"My oldest son, Brady Zettle, attended from August 2007 through June 2016, and Bryce from August 2009 through June 2018. Both graduated from



PEGGY ZETTLE

Ogemaw Heights High School with high honors," Peggy said. "I worked for St. Joseph as a Title 1 Paraprofessional from September 2008 through October 2014. I then returned to St. Joseph as a mentor for the Spanish program for one year in August 2021, and then from August 2022 through June 2026 was the third/fourth grade combined classroom

PRINCIPAL continues on page 7 »



Irons Park, West Branch, Michigan

Sat. Aug. 8th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
& Sun. Aug. 9th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Minnow Races • Baby Contest • Sail Boat Races • Cherry Seed Spitting Contest
Ice Cream Licking Contest • Teddy Bear Picnic and more...

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 infrom 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@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 in-

formation.
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.

August 4
Prescott's Fourth Annual National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 4, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Washington St., Prescott.

August 6
West Branch First Ever National Night Out, Thursday, Aug. 6, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., located at West Branch Commons, 2460 S. M-76, West Branch.

August 8 - 9
Victorian Art Fair, Aug. 8 and 9, Irons Park, 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.cbcwb.org

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

Hale Methodist Church
Everyone Welcome! Pastor Chad Brandt
Sunday Worship - 10am
Online: www.youtube.com/@HaleMCVideo
Community Worship
Iosco County Fairgrounds
July 26th at 11 a.m.
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.

Celebrate art and community at the Victorian Art Fair



File Photo

Scenic Irons Park in West Branch will once again serve as the backdrop for the 46th Annual Victorian Art Fair, taking place Aug. 8 to 9.

BY LAURA BENDER
Join your friends and neighbors in Irons Park on Aug. 8 and 9 for the 46th annual Victorian Art Fair. This juried event, which features original handcrafted items shown by the artists, is not to be missed. Of the 175 exhibitors, 21 are new this year, providing a mixture of

old favorites and new opportunities for shoppers.
"Irons Park is a beautiful setting which allows visitors to not only enjoy the park, but the river that runs through it, and the children playing in the fort," said Marcia Young, chairperson of the Victorian Art Fair.

The Art Fair opens at 9 a.m. Saturday, kicking off a full schedule of family-friendly activities. The day's events include a Teddy Bear Picnic at 10 a.m., sponsored by the West Branch Public Library, followed by the Baby Contest at 11 a.m., sponsored by the

ART FAIR continues on page 11 »

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Celebrate ‘National Night Out’ in Prescott and West Branch

BY LAURA BENDER

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our communities safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out events occur in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and U.S. military bases worldwide during the first week in August. In Ogemaw County, two events are planned: one in Prescott on Aug. 4 and one in West Branch on Aug. 6. Both public events are free and will provide lots of fun activities and great resources for all ages. The best course of action? Attend both!

Prescott’s 4th Annual National Night Out and Resource Fair is Tuesday, Aug. 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. on Washington Street in the Village of Prescott. Since this year’s event will be twice as large as last year’s, the coordinators are grouping activities into four distinct areas.

The main vendor site on the west side of Washington Street will have over 40 booths representing a wide variety of organizations, goods, and services. Come learn about medical, outreach, emergency assistance, and educational resources available locally, including Toys for Tots, Ogemaw Hills Free Clinic, Ogemaw County Helping Hands, Heartland Hospice, and many more. You can also check out volunteer opportunities and

interest-based groups to join, like the Community Garden, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Ogemaw County 4-H program.

In the First Responder area, you can talk with a state trooper, run the siren on a Richland Logan Fire Truck, practice putting out house fires with the pumper truck from Whittemore Fire Department, look inside an ambulance and talk with the paramedics, and see the mobile command post for our Community Emergency Response Team. (Adults, please let the children play with the siren, too... LOL)

The petting zoo will feature a wide range of animals, including macaws, tortoises, a wallaby, reptiles, and a lot more provided by the rescue group High Flying Fillies, Inc. Woolbur the library lamb, and his Angora rabbit friends from A Touch of Bunny Fiber Farm and Duke the goat from Red Cabin Homestead can’t wait to see the children. Guess who’ll be there from Finerty’s Full Moon Alpacas?

On the east side of Washington Street, be sure to visit Dino Zone, where kids of all ages can have fun! Come get your face painted, make a dino craft, dig for dino eggs, and play dino games. Parents, you can also have your child fingerprinted in the Dino Zone.

Entertainment will include music by Lemon Frog and a Dinosaur Parade at 7 p.m. To participate, children should wear their

favorite dino costume or borrow one from the library to wear. Several food vendors will be on hand for those wanting to buy dinner or a snack. Parking will be on the streets of the Village of Prescott. Come early and plan to have a wonderful time.

The Ogemaw District Library and the Village of Prescott are excited to host their 4th National Night Out and Resource Fair and hope you will bring your friends and family. For more information, contact Colleen Boyd prescottlibrary200@gmail.com.

On Thursday, Aug. 6, West Branch Township, in partnership with the West Branch Police, will host its first National Night Out at the West Branch Commons, 2460 South M-76.

This fun and free family event will have something for everyone. While the DJ fills the evening air with music, children can check out fire trucks, police cars, and ambulances to see all the cool equipment used to keep the community safe. First responders from local fire and police departments, DNR, Forest Service, EMS, and more will be on hand to answer questions. Even K-9 Diego will attend.

In the resource area, local organizations and businesses will offer valuable community information and giveaways. Visit with representatives from West Branch schools, the Red Cross, River House, the Optimist Club, Home Depot, Walmart, the Ogemaw

County prosecutor’s office, Toys for Tots, the Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMCSA) and more.

Free safety items such as gun locks and child ID kits will be available, as well as information to protect you from scams and other concerns. There will be fun games for children, raffles for adults, and a dunk tank to help a first responder cool off!

Grab a free drink to stay hydrated while visiting with your neighbors. Food trucks will be on site for those wanting to buy dinner

instead of heading home to cook.

West Branch’s first National Night Out at The Commons, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. is an event you don’t want to miss.

“We are building a foundation with our first event,” Lieutenant Joseph Adams said, “and we hope to keep it going for years to come.” Lt. Adams is the event coordinator. For more information, or to schedule your organization to participate, email him at adamsj@westbranch.com or call 989-345-2627.

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Rayola makes a difference with the help of Ogemaw County United Way



BY KERI WITHERS

Rayola is a nonprofit organization based in Ogemaw County, dedicated to providing a sense of belonging and comfort to children in foster care and any child in need. At the heart of Rayola’s mission is the belief that every child deserves to feel safe, loved, remembered, and supported, especially during moments of

uncertainty, transition, and hardship.

When children enter foster care, they often arrive in a new home with very little that belongs to them. The bed, blankets, food, home, routines, and even the adults caring for them can feel unfamiliar. Many children enter care during confusing and painful circumstances caused by the actions of others. In those moments, something as simple as having a bag filled with personal items can make a meaningful difference.

Rayola was created to meet children in that uncertain moment with something comforting, practical, and entirely their own. A Rayola care package is not borrowed. It does not belong to the foster home, the agency, or anyone else. It belongs to the child. That ownership matters. It gives

children a sense of independence, dignity, and connection during a time when much of life may feel out of their control.

Through thoughtfully prepared care packages, Rayola reminds children that they are loved, seen, and supported by their community. Each package is designed to offer both practical support and emotional comfort. Depending on the child’s age and needs, care packages may include handmade quilts, pillowcases, toiletries, hygiene items, books, toys, journals, games, coloring supplies, stuffed animals, seasonal gifts, infant supplies, duffel bags, diaper bags, and other age-appropriate essentials.

At the heart of Rayola’s work is the handmade quilt included in each entry care package. A quilt is

RAYOLA continues on page 11 »

Old-time traditions shine at Pioneer Power

The 33rd Annual Pioneer Power Show opened on July 16, despite the smoke-filled skies. On display at the three-day event, were lovingly preserved vintage tractors, gas engines, historic farm and oilfield machinery and antique vehicles. Working exhibits included blacksmithing, a sawmill, wool spinning and other vintage arts. People lingered in Hodges Pavilion to enjoy friendly conversation over a cup of Leroy’s Famous Bean Soup and other delectables as familiar tunes from local musicians filled the air. Activities for children and a flea market rounded out the event.



Photo by Laura Bender

Village

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Bible teaching non-denominational church seeking a part-time pastor.
Country setting at
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Leave message at 989-327-7851.

Our View
The right choice for Ogemaw County:
vote yes on transit millage renewal

BY DEANNA SURBROOK

In a small-town newspaper, trust is built one story at a time. Readers rely on local journalists to report the facts fairly, accurately and without favoritism.

At the Ogemaw County Superior News, we take a different approach than many other local newspapers. Rather than focusing on crime, controversy or negativity, we've chosen to highlight the positive stories that make our community special. We celebrate local people, businesses, schools, organizations and events that bring Ogemaw County together. Our readers know they can count on us for uplifting, community-focused news that informs, inspires and showcases the very best of the place we call home.

That said, we still have a responsibility to carefully consider both what we publish and how we present it.

As publisher of the Superior News, I faced that responsibility this week while deciding how to cover the Ogemaw County Transit millage renewal, which will appear on the Aug. 4 ballot. My goal was to provide readers with factual, balanced information that explains the proposal without encouraging them to vote either for or against it.

A wise longhaired hippie, my friend, and my longtime editor and mentor, Bruce Bischoff, once shared a lesson that has stayed with me throughout my career:

when a newspaper begins telling people what to think rather than providing them with the information they need to think for themselves, it becomes a very dangerous tool.

A community newspaper should inform voters — not tell them how to vote. Our role is to present the issues, explain ballot proposals, report candidates' positions, and provide the information residents need to make their own decisions. The moment a newspaper attempts to influence an election through its news coverage, it risks losing the credibility it has worked so hard to earn.

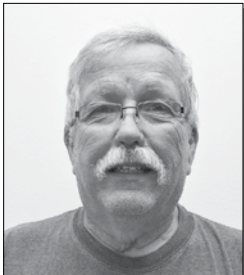
Ethical journalism also means treating every candidate and every side of an issue with fairness. It means verifying facts, seeking multiple perspectives, correcting mistakes when they occur, and clearly distinguishing news reporting from opinion. If a newspaper chooses to publish editorials or opinion columns, they should be clearly labeled so readers understand they reflect opinion rather than objective news.

In a small community, these standards can be even more challenging to uphold. Reporters often know the people they cover as neighbors, friends, business owners or fellow volunteers. Personal relationships, however, should never determine what is reported — or what is left out. The commitment must always be to the truth and to the public's right to know.



DEANNA SURBROOK

Kiwanis
CORNER



DENNY SHUMWAY

KIWANIS OF WEST BRANCH
The Kiwanis Club meets at noon on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at G's Pizzeria in West Branch. 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, email Denny at denelaine@hotmail.com. 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 email Denny at dene-laime@hotmail.com and make arrangements for pick up or drop off locations.

We sell water at Music in the Park on Thursday nights. On July 17 we had our annual garage sale; we want to thank all that came. The donations 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 in West Branch.

OGE MAW COUNTY FOOD PANTRY
We have around 12 people who come to help pack and distribute boxes of food to 50 to

75 families each week. I would like to thank them for their assistance. Donations of food or money to help us with the influx of families is always needed. You can add to your grocery bill at Meijer Store with card found at the checkouts or customer service. It is only \$10 added to your bill to help someone in need.

We will take donations every Wednesday of the month from 8:30 to 11 a.m. We are located in the outreach building behind the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave., PO Box 543, West Branch. We want to thank those that have donated. If bad weather, text ahead to 315-725-1199 to see if we are open. We are open every Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. or until we run out of food. Families can come once a month.

We want to thank those individual donors for their generosity at this special time. We also have several businesses to thank, 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 First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads on Aug. 14. Line up starts at 9 a.m. If you have a box bring it with you. See you there. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

On Saturday, Aug. 15, the Skidway Lake Beautification Committee Club is hosting a Chalk, Talk & Tailgate event. It will be held at Skidway Lake Beach Park and on Park Street. The road will be closed to traffic while the event takes place. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. kids one year old to 13 years old will have fun with chalk. Each child will have their own spot and use colored chalk to design their own art on the cement. All supplies will be provided. There will be volleyball in shallow water for children nine to 13. Lilly Pad Hopper for ages one to four.

Hot dogs and chips are provided free to start tailgating off right. You can bring your cooler, full of pop and food and tailgate with everyone to visit and make new friends. Life jackets are encouraged to be always worn by children eight and under. Bathing suits and cover-ups are

encouraged. Bringing your own lawn chairs would be a good idea. This is an event to have families gather at the park and enjoy the area.

Repairs have started on the Boardwalk. The ice and frost caused a pylon that supports the boardwalk to push up and caused the boardwalk to heave on the east end. Construction will take approximately seven weeks.

Plans are to get it done as soon as possible so it still can be used before summer is over. The east end of the boardwalk will be closed to public and blocked off. Please use caution driving around the boardwalk during the construction process.

The Ogemaw County Road Commission has done work on Eymer's hill again to fill in the erosion trenches that form after rain. This is a never-ending task and constant problem.

In the village of Prescott, the National Night Out will take

Readers deserve a newspaper that serves as a trusted source of information rather than an advocate for any political candidate or cause. By remaining independent, transparent and committed to ethical journalism, a community newspaper strengthens public confidence and helps preserve an informed citizenry.

A newspaper's greatest asset is not its presses or its website — it is the trust of the people it serves. Once that trust is lost, it is difficult to regain. Maintaining journalistic ethics, especially in a small community where everyone knows one another, ensures the newspaper remains a reliable public service dedicated to informing, not persuading.

Therefore, I'm not going to tell you how you should vote — that decision belongs to each individual voter. However, as a newspaper, we also believe in being transparent with our readers about our perspective.

The official position of the Ogemaw County Superior News is that public transportation is an essential service for many residents throughout our county. The transit system provides critical transportation options for those who rely on it to get to medical appointments, work, shopping and other necessary destinations.

For that reason, the Superior News supports the continuation of the Ogemaw County Transit millage and encourages voters to consider a "yes" vote to help keep this important service available for the residents who depend on it.



APRIL HARKEY-MASON

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, and Skidway Lake. It is available at newsstands for 75 cents per issue or annually for \$50.

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How many of you remember this picture?



BY SALLY A. REA
HISTORIAN AND
CURATOR

On Nov. 20, 1952, my cousin Peggy Finn and I decided to stop in my dad’s veterinarian’s office. Frank Asam of Clear Lake came into my dad’s office with his dog, Ace, a Boxer loaded with porcupine quills. He looked like Santa Claus. There is nothing comical about this.

The picture was sent out by the AP, and it was good enough for two national magazines, which proves that there are various ways by which a dog, be he ever so

humble, can get himself into print. I was 10 at the time and Peggy was 14. Ace had never been able to learn his lesson that porcupines are bad medicine when startled. As a result, this was his fourth trip that summer to Dr. Rea’s office to have the quills removed.

In the photo is my dad, Dr. Robert (Bob) Rea, assisted by his daughter, Sally Rea, and her cousin, Peggy Finn. Many quills were removed from Ace’s mouth and tongue. Scores of quills were also pulled from Ace’s head and body.



Ace was given an anesthetic before the job was started. My dad, who said the dog had the worst case of “Porcupine Disease” he had ever encountered, worked for more than an hour to remove all the quills. The dog, little the worse for his experience, was able to enjoy a hearty meal after the quills were all removed.

From the desk of the Ogemaw County Prosecuting Attorney

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ

Since communication builds the strongest bridge between law enforcement and the community we serve, I am incredibly proud to introduce this new bi-weekly column. Through this space, my office hopes to foster a transparent relationship with Ogemaw County residents by keeping you thoroughly informed on local criminal trends, updates to state laws, and practical crime prevention strategies.

The justice system works best when citizens are engaged and informed. The Prosecuting Attorney’s Office does not just operate inside a courtroom. Our office actively engages in community outreach in a variety of ways. Through speaking engagements, education programs, courthouse tours and sponsorship of community events, our goal is to directly reduce local crime rates and foster community trust in the justice system. By sharing insights directly from my desk, I aim to pull back the curtain on how local justice operates and give you the tools needed to keep your families safe.

In the coming weeks, this column will tackle pressing issues that affect our community directly. We will break down complex

legal updates coming out of Lansing, explain how new crime legislation changes local enforcement, and highlight emerging criminal trends — such as digital scams targeting our seniors or shifting patterns in property crimes. Furthermore, we will provide actionable crime prevention tips, empowering you to protect your property and your loved ones.

Most criminals choose targets based on convenience, low risk, and easy access. Safety is a shared responsibility and there are some practical approaches you can take to reduce criminal opportunities and protect your property. One suggestion is to increase the difficulty for criminals to target you; this includes installing quality deadbolts, utilizing smart locks or video doorbells, keeping first-floor windows locked, and ensuring clear lighting around exterior entrances.

Additionally, you can make yourself significantly less appealing to criminals by maintaining visible security cameras or alarm systems and trimming shrubbery to eliminate potential hiding spots.

When it comes to vehicle security, always lock your car doors and remove valuables from sight, as a large percentage of

automobile break-ins target completely unsecured vehicles.

On a broader scale, neighbors can effectively prevent crime in their neighborhoods by acting as extra eyes and ears for local law enforcement and creating an environment where criminals feel watched and unwelcome. A tight-knit community where we know and look out for our neighbors creates an extra layer of defense against suspicious activity.

Finally, prioritize personal safety by trusting your instincts. Leave a situation immediately if a person or place makes you feel uncomfortable. When jogging or walking, go with others whenever possible, especially during late-night hours or in unfamiliar locations. Choose well-lit, heavily trafficked routes rather than dark shortcut alleys, or deserted trails. If you are unable to exercise with a partner, tell a trusted friend or family member where you are going and when you expect to return. Stay alert by avoiding headphones that block out environmental awareness.

While my staff works tirelessly alongside local law enforcement to hold offenders accountable, proactive community awareness is our strongest defense against crime. I look forward to using this platform to answer your questions and address your safety concerns, as we work together toward a safer Ogemaw County.



LADONNA SCHULTZ

Spend a day in West Branch — You'll want to stay longer

BY PETER FABBRI

There are some places that simply make you feel welcome the moment you arrive. West Branch is one of those places. Whether you're visiting for an afternoon or planning a weekend getaway, you'll discover a community where friendly faces, locally owned businesses, and memorable events come together to create the perfect Up North experience.



PETER FABBRI

Summer is one of the best times to visit. On Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 8 to Aug. 9, beautiful Irons Park comes alive for the 46th Annual Victorian Art Fair. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, you'll find talented artists and craftsmen, live entertainment, delicious food, children's activities, and plenty of opportunities to stroll beneath the shade trees while discovering

something unique to take home. It's more than an art fair—it's a tradition that brings families and friends together year after year.

The fun continues Saturday, Aug. 29, from 5 to 8 p.m., when downtown fills with the sights and sounds of Jeep Jam. Whether you're a lifelong Jeep enthusiast or simply enjoy a lively summer evening, you'll love seeing many customized and trail-ready Jeeps lining the streets. As you browse the vehicles and chat with the owners, the band Zang, back again this year by popular



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Optimist Updates

The Optimist Club of West Branch 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!

This past Thursday member Barb Watson did a presentation about a program called the All Michigan Shop Hop. This group has shops all over the state who are members and promote quilting through their Facebook page, their magazine, and website. Participants have two months to visit these shops and present a passport that documents their visit and makes them eligible for prizes.



JOE BELL
VICE - PRESIDENT

Barb and seven of her family members love to travel, visiting these shops as they go! Networking with other quilting enthusiasts is always fun and helps nourish their creativity as they see what other quilters are making and designing. I would call many of these pieces art because of the intricacy and detail of some of these creations.

We close each meeting by reciting the Optimist Creed, part of which states: “Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind!” What a great way to approach your life. ‘Bye for now.

Culinary Arts Program at Ogemaw Heights HS

BY GAIL HUGHEY

At Ogemaw Heights High School, we are adding a culinary arts program to our list of Career and Technical Education offerings for the 2026-27 school year.

The new kitchen and serving area at Ogemaw Heights High School opened the possibility of using the old kitchen for a new purpose. Since our communities offer opportunities to work in the service industry, it made sense to offer a course in which students would gain hands-on experience, allowing them to live and work in our communities or around the world.

Early in the project planning stages, district leaders visited various culinary arts programs across Michigan for ideas. While the kitchen space was originally designed to serve student lunches, we are confident it will be a good fit for our new program.

We are excited to welcome Emil Rousseau to our district’s CTE (Career and Technical Education) department, where his mentorship will help shape the future leaders of the culinary

industry. With a career spanning prestigious kitchens and diverse culinary landscapes, Chef Rousseau brings a wealth of hands-on knowledge directly to the classroom.

Culinary Arts 1 will provide a foundation in professional food preparation, nutrition, and industry-standard safety. Michigan’s agricultural bounty will be emphasized. Students will earn their ServSafe Food Handler certification as part of the Pro Start curriculum.

After students master the basics, they will move on to professional techniques in the advanced course. The focus will switch from “cooking for fun” to “cooking for a career.” Students will also learn about the unique agricultural heritage of rural Michigan and large-scale catering.

Students are excited about this new course and have filled most of the slots. If you or someone you know is interested in joining us at OHHS for all the opportunities offered to students, please contact us at 989-343-2001. Become a Falcon today!



GAIL HUGHEY
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What makes West Branch special isn't just the events—it's the people. It's the shop owner who greets you with a smile, the restaurant that remembers your favorite meal, the music drifting through downtown on a summer evening, and the feeling that you've found a place where life slows down just enough to enjoy it.

This summer, come experience West Branch for yourself. We are sure you'll leave with a smile... and great memories!

demand, will provide live music that keeps the energy high and people dancing in the street!

After you've explored the events, take time to wander through downtown West Branch. Stop into one of the unique boutiques, enjoy a wine tasting or locally crafted beer, browse specialty shops, or sit down for a delicious meal at one of our locally owned restaurants. The Downtown Social District makes it easy to relax with friends as you enjoy an adult beverage while strolling through the heart of downtown.



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Principal

« Continued from page 1

teacher. During this time, I also returned to school through the # T.E.A.C.H. program to earn my Michigan Teaching Certification.”

To prepare for her position as principal, Peggy attended Loyola Marymount University, School of Education in Los Angeles, Calif., from June 2025 through June 2026 to earn her Catholic School Administrative Certificate. The class began with a short face-to-face period of instruction in California, followed by a full-year of online study.

“One thing highlighted during the program was that Catholic school administration is very hands-on,” Peggy said. “While public schools have many layers of administrative positions, Catholic schools have few. It is not unusual for our administrators to be called upon to do everything from budgets to toilet plunging.”

At St. Joseph, there are only two administrators.

“It’s just Rachel Brewer and me. Rachel is an amazing lady,” Peggy said. “Officially she’s the school’s secretary, but she functions more like an assistant principal. We have been working closely together over the summer to ensure that all programs, resources, and books are ready and that student registrations are complete.

Peggy is no stranger to hands-on endeavors.

“I was born and raised in Ogemaw County,” Peggy said. “Agriculture education is my passion. I was raised on a dairy farm

and worked as a herd manager in the county for many years. My bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University is in Animal Science. I’ve been an active member of the Ogemaw County Farm Bureau board of directors since 1997. I’ve also been involved in and served on the boards of many other local organizations over the years, too. And of course, I am an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church.”

The mission of St. Joseph Catholic School (SJCS) to educate a well-rounded student is best described by an acronym:

St. Joseph Catholic School provides a Catholic education with Jesus at the center, where we are called to grow in excellence, spiritually, socially, physically, and academically.

St. Joseph School has individual classrooms for preschool three-year-olds, preschool four-year-olds, kindergarten, first, and second grades. The third/fourth grade classes are combined, as are the fifth/sixth and seventh/eighth classes. The school employs eight full-time teachers, five part-time paraprofessionals, one part-time Title I paraprofessional, one part-time interventionist, one full-time secretary, one lunch server, one playground aide, and one custodian. They offer specials in Spanish, STEM, music, gym, and art and have three additional part-time teachers who teach those classes.

“One of my first tasks before school starts on Sept. 8 is to hire

three teachers,” Peggy said. “We are looking for credentialed candidates to teach the three-year-old preschool class, the third/fourth combined class, and a teacher for

math and science for the fifth/sixth combined and seventh/eighth combined classes.”

“I know my first year as principal will be a challenge,” Peggy

said. “But St. Joseph School has always had a special place in my heart. It is cool now to come full circle.”



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Thank you to all of the businesses who donated to the Rose City 2026 Fireworks.

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Obituary

V. Diane Grezeszak

Oct. 13, 1943 – July 7, 2026

V. Diane Grezeszak, 82, of West Branch, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at Hale Creek Manor in Hale, Mich.

Diane was born Oct. 13, 1943, in Livonia, Mich., to Archie and Velma (Stokes) Howell. She graduated from Rose City High School. She met and married Chum (Wayne Lawrence) Grezeszak on Aug. 26, 1961, and shared more than 61 wonderful years together before he passed away in March of 2023.

Diane and Chum owned and operated Hi Skore Lanes in West Branch from 1968 until their retirement in 2004. She loved bowling, dancing (especially polka dancing), playing dominos and marbles.

Diane and Chum have three children, Larry (Carla) Grezeszak of Whittemore, Rhonda (Andre) Charbonneau, and Cheryl Chizzini, both of Pompano Beach, Fla. They also have four grandchildren, Erin (Joshua) Blakely, Cody (Brianna) White,



Savanna (Cody) St. Germain, and Brayden Charbonneau, and great-grandson, Garrett Blakely, along with another great-grandchild on the way.

Diane is survived by her children and grandchildren as well as her siblings, sister Darlene (Thom) Jones and brother Gary (Eileen) Howell. Diane is also survived by many nieces and nephews who love to share memories.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband Chum; sister Patricia Clayton; brother-in-law Jack Clayto; grandson Tyler , and great-grandson Gunnar Blakely.

A memorial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family is asking to have donations sent in her honor to Hale Creek Manor, 3191 M-65 Hale, MI 48739.

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

Millage

« Continued from page 1

system provided 40,773 rides. This included 10,619 rides for senior residents, 6,412 rides for disabled residents and 4,952 rides for senior disabled residents. That equates to an average of over 160 rides per day.

Some riders have temporary needs for transportation, like a broken leg, a broken car, or a broken relationship with the person who usually gives them a ride. Others, including residents of senior housing like the Villa, have more enduring needs. Since every vehicle is equipped with a wheelchair lift, all residents can safely use transit services, no matter their mobility concerns.

Hear this testimony from one rider:

“I’m Debbie from Mills Township. When I moved here five years ago, my van wasn’t running, and I didn’t know anybody. There was no one I could call. The transit system saved me. There are a lot of people here that benefit from the system to get to work and to school. It’s very important to keep it running.”

To better understand why the millage is necessary, the Michigan Public Transit Association offers this:

A millage is a voter-approved property tax used by local governments and

authorities to fund specific services. Many Michigan transit agencies use millage revenue to support operating expenses such as bus routes, demand-response service, vehicle maintenance, driver wages, and technology systems. Local millage revenue may also be used to meet required local match amounts needed to access certain state and federal transit funds.

Transit systems receive funding from several sources — local, state, federal, and fare revenue. Some revenue sources are one-time or grant-based and cannot support ongoing operational needs. State and federal programs often require a local funding match to be accessed. Millage revenue provides a predictable and stable source that can be used to operate and maintain services on an ongoing basis.

For more information, visit the MPTA website <https://www.mptaonline.org/>, call 517-324-0858 or email info@MPTAonline.org.

As with any ballot proposal, voters are encouraged to review the information available, consider both the benefits and costs, and make their own informed decision.

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Ogemaw County EDC welcomes two outstanding students



BEAU WILES

The Ogemaw County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is proud to welcome two exceptional local college students this summer who are gaining valuable professional experience while contributing to projects that support business growth, workforce development, and community advancement throughout Ogemaw County.

Through the Michigan Works! Region 7B Work Experience Program, the EDC is pleased to host Beau Wiles as a Summer Youth Professional. The Work Experience Program provides young



CLAIRE JOHNSON

adults with meaningful, hands-on employment opportunities that help build workplace skills, explore career interests, and prepare them for future success.

A resident of West Branch, Beau attends Ferris State University, where they are pursuing a degree in Digital Animation and Game Design, with plans to add a minor in Economic Development. They anticipate graduating in 2029.

Throughout the summer, Beau is contributing to a variety of EDC initiatives while gaining firsthand experience in community and economic development. Their creativity, innovative perspective, and interest in helping shape the future of communities make them a valuable addition to the team.

Outside of work, Beau enjoys expressing their creativity through music, playing several

instruments including the guitar and synthesizer, as well as singing. They also enjoy gaming, reading, writing novels, and spending time in nature.

Also joining the EDC this summer is Claire Johnson, a West Branch resident and student at Saginaw Valley State University. Claire is completing a professional internship as part of her academic program while pursuing a double major in Marketing and Public Administration with a minor in Management. She is expected to graduate in May 2027.

As the EDC's Promotion, Marketing, and Fundraising Assistant, Claire is applying the knowledge gained in the classroom to real-world projects involving community outreach, marketing campaigns, fundraising initiatives, event planning, organizational communications, and economic development projects. Her internship provides valuable professional experience while supporting the EDC's mission of strengthening Ogemaw County through

business development and community partnerships. In her free time, Claire enjoys going for walks, reading, playing the piano, singing, and spending time with

friends. "Investing in young professionals is an investment in the future of Ogemaw County," said Penny

EDC continues on page 11 »

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Premier Tom Petty Tribute

- JULY 02 -
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Unique Mix of Rock, Pop & Country

- JULY 09 -
FAMILY TRADITION BAND
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\$5 and it runs for a maximum of 3 months!

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

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

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

You can submit your ad via email at kathy@superi-

or-news.com or U.S. mail at: P.O. Box 603, West Branch, MI 48661. If you have questions call (989) 450-6163.

Help Wanted

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

Public Hearings and Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

West Branch-Rose City Area Schools
“The School of Choice for Educational Excellence...
Your Future Begins Here”
Schools of Choice Openings
2026-2027 School Year

West Branch-Rose City Area Schools will accept applications for enrollment from non-resident students for the 2026-2027 school year. We anticipate space will be available in most grades K-12.

Applications for student enrollments are available and will be accepted now, however, **applications will not be reviewed outside the application period** which is from August 10, 2026, to September 3, 2026.

Students who are now currently ‘schools-of-choice’ in WBRC Schools need NOT reapply, as the original application remains active as long as they are enrolled.

For an application, please contact the superintendent’s office (343-2001) at any time, or contact the building offices after August 10th. The application is also available on our website at www.wbrc.k12.mi.us, under ‘Our District’ > ‘Schools of Choice’.

Ogemaw County Help Lines

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

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

Civil War comes to life in WB



Photos by Laura Bender



History came alive in West Branch as visitors of all ages stepped back in time during the Civil War Reenactment and Encampment held July 10 to 12 at Irons Park. Thanks to the joint efforts of the Ogemaw County Genealogical and Historical Society, the City of West Branch and the Michigan Living History Educational Association, visitors to the park had the chance to see what life was like during the Civil War. Throughout the weekend, reenactors recreated the sights, sounds and daily life of the Civil War era with authentic military camps, battlefield demonstrations, infantry drills, artillery fire and educational presentations. The event gave spectators a unique opportunity to experience history beyond the pages of a textbook. Plans are already underway to make next year's blast from the past even more exciting than a cannon shot at noon.

Rayola

« Continued from page 3

more than a blanket. It represents time, care, and love from someone in the community who wanted a child to feel safe and valued. Volunteers spend hours cutting fabric, sewing, quilting, and finishing each blanket. Even when the quilter and child never meet, that care is woven into every stitch. The quilt tells a child, "Someone thought of you. Someone made this just for you. You matter." For children entering foster care, that message can be powerful. A handmade quilt can bring warmth to a new bed, comfort during difficult nights, and a reminder that they are not forgotten.

Rayola receives support from donations, fundraising events, grants and business sponsorships. One of the first grants Rayola received was from the United Way in Ogemaw County. This grant allowed Rayola to jumpstart the care packages in Ogemaw, and it is a relationship that Rayola values. The United Way of Ogemaw County continues year after year to show up for Rayola and offer financial support to make sure Rayola has resources to fulfill its mission. Rayola could not function without our valued volunteers, successful fundraisers, business sponsors and the many grants we receive. The United Way of Ogemaw County offered that first vote of confidence for Rayola and we are thankful.

The packages are always personally delivered by each child's DHHS caseworker. This part of the process is an important piece of Rayola's mission. Caseworker visits can sometimes feel stressful or uncertain for children, especially when those visits are connected to difficult news,

transitions, or check-ins. A care package gives caseworkers an opportunity to bring joy, comfort, and connection. Instead of arriving only with paperwork or updates, they can arrive with something special that belongs entirely to the child.

These care packages can help build trust between children and the professionals supporting them. They can also help foster parents meet immediate needs when a child arrives with little notice. For infants, packages may include practical supplies like wipes, shampoo, lotion, diaper ointment, burp cloths, pacifiers, and other essentials. For older children and teenagers, packages may include personal care items, books, journals, games, and hygiene products that help them feel more prepared, confident, and independent.

In addition to entry quilts and care packages, Rayola also provides holiday and milestone packages throughout the year to every child in foster care in its 17 service counties. These gifts remind children that they are remembered not just when they first enter care, but throughout their time in foster care. Rayola wants children to know that they are still being thought of during ordinary days, special seasons, and important milestones.

Rayola exists because every child deserves to feel safe, loved, remembered, and supported. Through each care package, Rayola helps restore a sense of normalcy, dignity, and hope. Each quilt, book, toothbrush, toy, journal, stocking, and handmade bag carries the same message: you are not alone, you are cared for, and you belong.

EDC

« Continued from page 9

Payea, executive director of the Ogemaw County Economic Development Corporation. "Whether through Michigan Works! Work Experience Program or university internships, providing students with meaningful, hands-on experiences helps bridge the gap between the classroom and the workplace. Beau and Claire have already demonstrated professionalism, enthusiasm, creativity, and a willingness to learn. We are proud to be part of their educational journey and look forward to seeing the impact they will make in their future careers," said Payea.

The Ogemaw County EDC is committed to supporting workforce development by partnering with organizations such as Michigan Works! Region 7B and colleges and universities throughout Michigan to provide meaningful learning opportunities. These experiences not only help students develop valuable skills and professional confidence, but they also strengthen the local workforce by cultivating the next generation of leaders, innovators, and community builders.

The EDC is honored to play a role in preparing tomorrow's workforce while continuing to foster opportunities that contribute to the long-term success and prosperity of Ogemaw County.

Art Fair

« Continued from page 2

Child Protection Council.

The Shriners Clowns will provide face painting and balloon art from noon to 2 p.m. The Minnow Races, sponsored by West Branch Creative Arts, will begin at 1 p.m., followed by the Cherry Seed Spitting Contest at 2 p.m., sponsored by the Optimist Club. Also, at 2 p.m., the Northern Blend Chorus will perform on the stage.

Sunday's entertainment will feature a performance by Carol Ann's Dance Studio at 1 p.m., followed by the Ice Cream Licking Contest at 2 p.m., sponsored by the West Branch Creative Arts Association.

In addition to scheduled events, children can enjoy traditional fair activities, including the sailboat race, a favorite tradition that has been part of the fair for more than 40 years. A scavenger hunt, introduced several years ago, will also return. Children can pick up a list of items at the information booth, search throughout the park, and return completed hunts to receive a prize. Home Depot will once again provide free wooden kits for children to assemble.

Organizers continue to focus on creating fun, engaging experiences for children and families throughout the fair.

"We will have a park full of arts and crafts exhibitors offering everything from jewelry, leather

goods, yard art, woodwork items, furniture, soaps, scrubs, lotions, pottery, metal artwork, and lots more," Marcia said. "You will need to come and see the variety for yourself."

As always, local nonprofit organizations will provide a selection of great food. The Knights of Columbus will serve breakfast burritos on Saturday morning. The Little League will serve hot dogs and other goodies. My Michigan Volunteers will be selling their famous cream puffs.

Other vendors include Death Before Decaf, selling cold brew coffee; Almond Hut, selling roasted nuts; I Want That Kettle Corn, selling kettle corn, lemonade and Dirty Soda drinks; and Turner Thyme, selling BBQ items and ice cream.

Parking around Irons Park is limited. Local nonprofits will offer nearby paid parking at a variety of locations. Follow signs to find your spot, or take the free shuttle from downtown West Branch, or the Plaza East and McLaren parking lots.

The 46th annual Victorian Art Fair will be held Saturday, Aug. 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit <https://victorianartfair.com/> or email Marcia at victorianartfair@gmail.com.

In memory of James R. Nelander 12/10/1942-07/25/2007

Another year without the smartest man in the room,
out on the tractors, engineering ways to fix what was
broken, and always keeping our feet moving.

He was hard to love but impossible to forget the
memories of his wit, wisdom, and the Carhartt bibs.

Still loved, still missed, and still right about most things.

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