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Local
Spotlight

Lost, hurt, or stranded? Three words can bring help

BY LAURA BENDER

Ogemaw County is known for its many outdoor recreation opportunities. Locals and visitors alike are drawn to its lakes, trails, and campgrounds in all seasons. Spending a Saturday in a remote location can be a welcome respite from a busy workweek until something unexpected happens. A fall, a flat tire on an ATV, a boat engine that quits, a hike that gets you lost can quickly turn a fun afternoon into something really scary.

Before an emergency happens, Ogemaw County 911 Dispatch recommends that you download a new app to your phone, which will help them locate you and respond

THREE WORDS continues on page 11»

Ogemaw County Fair wraps up another week of summer fun



Will and Erin Dvorak, of Rose City, are proud of their son, Johnathan, 8, for winning first place with Sprinkles, an exotic breed ewe. Pictured is also little brother, Gunther, 3.



Ayris Templeton, 7, and Maverick Donaldson, 8, of West Branch are feeling exhilarated while riding a ride at the fair.

The Ogemaw County Fair officially kicked off Sunday, Aug. 16, at the Ogemaw County Fairgrounds with a flag-raising ceremony conducted by local veterans, marking the start of another week of summer fun, family activities and community tradition in the area.

Throughout the week, fairgoers enjoyed live-stock shows, 4-H competitions, carnival rides, entertainment and a variety of grandstand events.

Local youth took center stage as they showcased the animals and projects they had spent months preparing. Live-stock competitions and the annual auction highlighted the hard work, commitment and dedication of area 4-H

Courtesy Photo

COUNTY FAIRcontinues on page 13 »

Victorian Art Fair returns to West Branch



Courtesy photo
The youngest ballerinas, Emma Jarrell and MaKenna Sholes, from Carol Ann's Dance Studio in West Branch, performed during the art fair on Sunday.



Photo by Laura Bender
Alessia Munteanu and Christian Hodge coax their minnows to the finish line in the Great Minnow Race during the art fair.

The sights, sounds and creativity of the Victorian era once again filled Irons Park recently as the Victorian Art Fair returned for another year of art, entertainment and family fun.

Held Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 8 and 9, the annual event

brought artists, crafters, musicians, performers, food vendors and visitors together for two days in one of West Branch's most scenic settings. The fair featured a wide variety of juried, hand-crafted artwork, along with live entertainment and activities for

children.

Throughout the weekend, visitors had an opportunity to browse the booths of artists and crafters while enjoying the atmosphere of Irons Park along the river. From handmade artwork and home

ART FAIR continues on page 9 »

Ogemaw County Superior News writer retires

After more than a decade of sharing the stories, people and history that helped shape Ogemaw County, Sally Rea is retiring from her role as a historical writer for the *Ogemaw County Superior News*.

For readers of the *Superior News*, Sally's name has become synonymous with local history. Through her columns and features, she has taken readers back through the decades, uncovering stories from West Branch, Rose City, Prescott and communities throughout the county.

"Sally has been such an important part of the *Superior News* family," Publisher Deanna Surbrook said. "She has a wonderful ability to take a piece of local history and turn it into a story that makes people want to stop and read. Her passion for Ogemaw County and its people has always come through in her writing."

Sally's work has gone far beyond simply recording dates and names. Her stories have brought the past to life through

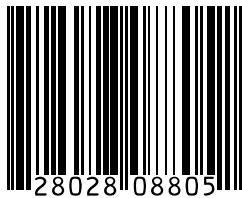


SALLY REA

photographs, personal memories, newspaper clippings, historical documents and the stories of the people who lived through Ogemaw County's changing times.

Her dedication to preserving that history has also been

WRITER continues on page 7 »



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With everything changing daily, if not hourly, we would advise that you call ahead to be sure the event is still scheduled.

Ongoing
Mondays – Disabled American Veterans meet the third Monday, 5 p.m. at the VFW/American Legion Post 496 E. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call 989-473-3416.
Mondays – Rose City Lions Club meets the second and fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin in the Rose City Park. Call Ed 989-387-0609.
Mondays – (Second of each month) **Coalition of Hope** 9 a.m. Meeting virtually. Suicide prevention, intervention and post-vention. Call 989-345-5571.
Monday – (Third of each month, April-Dec.) **Ogemaw County Genealogical and Historical Society** 12:30 p.m. at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave., West Branch. Call 989-701-2525.
Tuesdays – Kiwanis Club of West Branch meets at noon at G's Pizzeria in downtown West Branch. Call 989-345-0978.
Tuesdays – Rose City Area Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., April through November, except August. Meet at the Rose City Lions Club Cabin. Call Cathy 989-345-5659.

Tuesdays – T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) **weigh in** 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@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 Wom-

en'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. My-Michigan 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 29
Jeep Jam, Saturday, Aug. 29, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., downtown West Branch.

August 30
All Free Teen Fun Day, Sunday, Aug. 30, noon to 4 p.m., Cole Canoe Base Boy Scout Camp, 1356 E. Greenwood Rd., Skidway Lake. To sign up, call or text April at 989-578-8768.

To place your event in the Community Happenings, email information to deanna@superior-news.com

FAITH & WORSHIP

God is love

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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WB Ace Hardware competes in national competition for Children's Miracle Network



Courtesy photo
The West Branch Ace Hardware transformed the store into a castle as part of the National Ace Bucket Challenge to raise money for Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals.

West Branch Ace Hardware went all-in for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN) this summer, transforming the store into a castle as part of the National Ace Bucket Challenge. The creative display was designed to showcase the store's commitment to supporting children and families receiving care at local CMN hospitals throughout Michigan.

As part of the challenge, Ace Hardware stores across the country are competing to create the most creative bucket displays while raising money for CMN. If the store wins first place nationally, an additional \$7,500 will be

donated to local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, adding even more impact to the funds raised by the West Branch team and community.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the store was notified that it had made the Top Three in the national competition. Customers can now help the store advance by visiting the Ace Hardware Facebook page and you can also vote on Instagram by searching Ace Hardware and casting their vote. To vote, make sure you comment on the original post, or your vote won't count.

The winner will be announced

on Aug. 25. Last year, West Branch Ace took home first place nationally, and the store is hoping to repeat that success this year with the support of its customers and community.

The community also came together during a special fundraising event on Saturday, Aug. 8. The event featured food, baked goods and raffle items, with everything available through donations. Customers could also support CMN through the sale of Miracle Buckets throughout the weekend. All the money raised through the bucket sales and the

ACE continues on page 11»

Forgotten Eagles ride through Michigan



Photo by Laura Bender

The Forgotten Eagles motorcycle club rolled through Rose City and West Branch on Friday, Aug. 7, to a warm welcome by local veterans, police and other community members. In West Branch, the Veterans Alliance joined them for a brief ceremony at the Veterans Memorial. The Forgotten Eagles is a non-profit organization formed in 2002 by concerned veterans to press for the fullest possible accounting of America's POW/MIAs, assist disabled and needy veterans, and participate in community projects that benefit those veterans.

West Branch Creative Arts Association honors area artists



Courtesy Photos

Art Award Chairperson Rebecca Goulder (center) poses with Emma Beehler (l) and Elizabeth Andrasik, the 2026 recipients.

BY LAURA BENDER

The West Branch Creative Arts Association's 48th Fine Art Show culminated with a reception on Sunday, July 19, 2026. Twenty-four artists representing 16 towns offered a total of 71 pieces around this year's theme "Glass." The works were judged by Terry Dickinson, an accomplished artist and former director of AuSable Artisan Village Gallery in Grayling, Mich.

Chairperson Patricia K. Riegle and Master of Ceremonies Robert Fowler introduced the winners. Robert is the president of the West Branch Creative Arts Association.

The work selected as Best of Show was Karen Ann Jonker's "Magic Act."

The first-place Theme Exhibit award was given to Dorothy Kolhoff for "Fractured Glow." Jan Kellogg received second place for "Window into the Past," and Melinda Bylow was given third place for "Contemplating Reality."

Theme Honorable Mention went to Patricia K. Riegle for "The Beauty of Glass," Donn

Fine Art Show chairperson Patricia K. Riegle honors Best of Show award winner Karen Ann Jonker.



Angel Perez for "ENFP-D33," and Amie Parkinson for "Heavy Thoughts."

In the General Exhibit category, Jody Meyer's "I Will Fly Away" took first place, Carol Fink's "Bandit" took second, and Donn Angel Perez's "Onirica" took third.

In the General Honorable Mention category, five pieces were chosen: Chuck Schroeder's "River Guy," "RR Bridge Portland, MI" and "End of the Road," Brian Dennis' "Early Glass Working," and Mark Winslow's

HONORS continues on page 11»

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There is still time to discover summer in downtown West Branch

BY PETER FABBRI

There is something special about a Michigan summer day in downtown West Branch. Maybe it is the sound of people visiting with friends, the smell of something delicious coming from a local restaurant, or the sight of families strolling along the newly revitalized streetscape. Whatever brings you downtown, you quickly discover that West Branch is a place where you can slow down, look around and enjoy the best of Up North Michigan.

On Saturday mornings, the energy really picks up at the West Branch Farmers Market, located at the light in the heart of downtown. Local farmers, growers, bakers, makers and vendors bring the market to life, giving residents and visitors a great reason to start their weekend downtown. Grab something fresh for the cabin, pick up a special gift or simply enjoy the friendly atmosphere that makes a small-town farmers market so much fun.

From there, it is easy to explore

the walkable downtown and discover the variety of businesses that make West Branch unique. You will find locally owned boutiques, home décor and furniture, unique gifts, Michigan-made products, antiques, specialty foods, wine, cigars, saddlery and western-inspired merchandise. Looking for a little pampering? Downtown also offers spa services and places to grab a refreshing nutrition drink before continuing your shopping adventure. It is the kind of downtown where you can find something for just about everyone — and enjoy the personal service that comes with shopping local.

And when it is time to eat, downtown West Branch has plenty to tempt you. Whether you are craving a juicy burger, a hand-crafted sandwich, pizza, Mexican favorites, a hearty breakfast, something sweet or a refreshing glass of Michigan wine or hand-crafted beer, there is something for every appetite. Many downtown restaurants offer specialty dishes and unique menu

items that are worth making a stop for all by themselves.

The new Downtown Social District adds another reason to linger. Visitors can enjoy an adult beverage from participating establishments while strolling through designated areas of downtown, listening to music, visiting with friends and taking in the summer atmosphere.

For those who want to stretch their legs, the Riverwalk provides a beautiful connection from downtown into Irons Park, offering a chance to enjoy the scenery along the river and experience another piece of West Branch's natural beauty.

As Michigan celebrates the 250th anniversary of the United States, there is no better time to explore your own backyard. Whether you are visiting West Branch for a summer getaway or you call the area home, come downtown, shop local, enjoy a great meal, walk the river and make some Pure Michigan memories.

Summer is still here. Downtown West Branch is ready. Come enjoy it!



PETER FABBRI

News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

Mills Township, Ogemaw County, suffered a great loss when Supervisor Bruce Beach Jr. had to resign. Bruce was doing a great job as the supervisor of the township; he was the best supervisor we have had. Bruce received a letter from the Michigan Cannabis Licensing notifying him he had to resign because anyone with a Cannabis license could not hold a political office. There was not a dry eye in the hall when Bruce resigned at the Aug. 11, 2026, meeting. A few residents got up and spoke of how heart-broken they were; many more wanted to speak but were too choked up to do so. The



APRIL HARKEY-MASON

township board will have 45 days to appoint a new supervisor. Applications and resumes will be taken at the Mills Township Hall at 5170 Rifle River Trail. The deadline to apply is Sept. 4, 2026.

Bruce had accomplished so much and had our township headed in the right direction and everyone could see that progress was being made.

The Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake will be having the annual Free Teen Fun Day on Sunday, Aug. 30th. The Cole Canoe base in Skidway Lake will be our host again this year. The camp address is 1356 E. Greenwood Rd. Kids from 13-18 age or still in high school are welcome. They will start at noon

with lunch, then off to enjoy the zip lining, swimming, kayaking and canoeing. There is no competition, just good old fun. Every teen will have their name put in a drawing and win one of the four 100-dollar bills that will be given away. Bring modest swimwear, towels and dry clothes to go home in. To sign up call or text April Mason at 989-578-8768 with your teen's name and contact phone number.

Mills Township is having tire recycling Aug. 21 to 22 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be semi trailers at the new town hall, 5170 Rifle River Trail. You must be a Mills Township resident to participate. There is a limit of 10 tires on the first day. No rims, no tractor, ORV, loader, earth movers, airplane, golf cart, forestry, solid gel filled, inner tubes or rubber tracks of any kind, or heavy

SKIDWAY LAKE continues on page 5 »

KIWANIS OF WEST BRANCH

The Kiwanis Club meets at noon on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 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, email Denny at denelaine@hotmail.com. If you want to help the children of West Branch and around the world, we are here. We are selling Football Mania tickets which are available till the end of August. They are for the 18 weeks of NFL and are \$20 each. Please support the Club, so we can help local organizations.

AKTION CLUB

The Aktion Club continues to collect bottles and cans. You can email Denny at denelaine@hotmail.com and plan for pick up or drop off locations.

We again sold water at Music in the Park this year. We want to thank all of those that bought water from us. We are using the proceeds to buy school supplies for the schools in West Branch and Rose City.

Those with special needs interested in joining our club, you must 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. If you want to tell us about your organization, contact Denny to arrange at denelaine@hotmail.com.

OGE MAW COUN TY 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 helpful. 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 am. We are 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 there is 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 finally 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 Sept. 11. Line up starts at 9 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you have a box, bring it with you. See you there.

KIWANIS CORNER



DENNY SHUMWAY

Ogemaw County Superior News

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OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Optimist Updates

BY JOE BELL

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.

At each weekly meeting we like to have presentations to help educate our members. Once each month we have a board



JOE BELL
VICE - PRESIDENT

meeting. At the following general meeting the results of the board meeting are reviewed and discussed.

We have had programs presented by teachers, school students, healthcare providers, business owners, and local civic organizations. Our members have

also provided many programs, including one on how to clean fish, studies in how to research our genealogy, updates on the activities of the Kiwanis Club and even research and studies of Bigfoot by our late member, Phil Shaw.

If you have a business in this area or an organization or group that you are trying to promote, contact Terry at Culligan Water in West Branch 989-345-0372.

We close each meeting by reciting the Optimist Creed, part of which states "Promise yourself to give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others!" What a great way to approach your life. 'Bye for now.

County-wide baby shower returns Sept. 25

Community rallies to protect infants

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ
OGEMAW COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Years ago, while sitting on the Ogemaw County Child Death Review Team, I noticed a devastating trend: the number one cause of death for local infants under the age of one in our county was unsafe sleep practices. Determined to combat this heartbreaking statistic, the Prosecutor's Office conceived a proactive solution — a community-wide baby shower designed to deliver lifesaving safe sleep information directly to new and expectant parents. What began as a tragic observation in our office has blossomed into a vital, bian-nual community tradition.

Today, that idea has grown exponentially into a highly anticipated bi-annual event. The next County-Wide Baby Shower will return on Friday, Sept. 25 at 2 p.m. at the Ogemaw Hills Free Methodist Church, located at 3480 W. M-76 in West Branch. The event is free for registered local families and is co-hosted by a powerful coalition of local

advocates, including:

- Ogemaw County Child Protection Council
- Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office
- Ogemaw County Child Death Review Team

- Michigan State Police
- West Branch Meijer

The core mission of the shower remains focused on infant health and safe sleep practices. To keep your infant safe while sleeping, always place your baby flat on its back for every sleep, whether it is for a nap or at night. Use a firm, flat sleep surface such as a safety-approved crib or bassinet or pack-n-play with a tight-fitting sheet, and keep the area completely free of soft objects, toys, pillows, bumper pads, or loose blankets. Instead of blankets, use a wearable blanket or sleep sack to keep your baby warm, and share your room with the baby by placing their sleep area close to your bed — ideally for the first six months — without bedsharing on an adult mattress or couch. To ensure parents can put this knowledge into practice, the event provides families with free, safe

sleep sacks, which replace dangerous loose blankets in the crib as well as a pack-n-play for the child to sleep unobstructed. The Baby Shower has also evolved into a massive resource fair. Attendees can access baby pantry items, receive professional car seat safety checks, and win free raffle items from our participating vendors. A diverse group of community vendors will be on hand to offer guidance and resources. Historical participants include West Branch Meijer, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), District Health Department No. 2 (DHD2), Options Resource Clinic, Embrace Grace, MidMichigan Health, NEMSCA, and Children's Protective Services. The Rifle River Quilting Guild always generously prepares quilted diaper bags and blankets that are stuffed full of safety items and other gifts too. The event is open to all Ogemaw County residents who are pregnant or have an infant aged six months and under. In true baby shower fashion, parents will also be treated to cake and punch. Space is limited, and families are encouraged to secure their spot early. To RSVP or to learn more about safe sleep practices, contact the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office at 989-345-6222.



LADONNA SCHULTZ

211: When you need help, United Way is there

When life presents a challenge, knowing where to find help can make all the difference. You don't have to know exactly where to turn — that's what 211 is for. By connecting people with local health and human services, 211 helps make finding the right assistance easier when you need it most. That commitment to helping people in times of need is also at the heart of Ogemaw County United Way (OCUW). OCUW is proud to support 211 and its mission of connecting people with the resources they need. Through OCUW's annual dues, our local organization helps support this valuable service — one more way Ogemaw County United Way demonstrates its commitment to strengthening our community and being there when our neighbors need help. Across 99 percent of the United States and throughout Canada, 211 serves as an important connection between people facing real challenges and the health and human services available in their communities. In 2025, 211 fielded approximately 19 million requests for help in the United States, demonstrating just how many people rely on this service. Service 211 is free, confidential, and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in more than 180 languages. People can access 211 by dialing 211 by phone, by text, or by using the email option available through the official

Michigan 211 website, mi211.org. This makes it easier for people to reach out in whatever way works best for them. What can 211 help with? 211 serves as a shortcut through what can sometimes be a confusing network of health and human services. Instead of trying to determine which agency to contact, people can reach out to 211 and be connected with appropriate local resources. Depending on the situation, 211 can provide information and referrals for needs such as:

- Housing and shelter
- Food assistance and food pantries
- Utility and financial assistance
- Transportation
- Health care
- Mental health and crisis resources
- Childcare and family services
- Employment and job assistance
- Services for seniors and people with disabilities

Other local health and human services

The 211's goal is more than simply providing a list of phone numbers. It helps people navigate available resources and connect with the organizations that can provide the assistance they need. Because 211 is designed specifically to connect people with community resources, it is important to understand how it differs from other three-digit services. Don't confuse 211 with 911 or 311. Each number serves a very

different purpose. Knowing which number to call can help ensure you receive the right assistance when you need it most. Program 911 is for emergencies. Call 911 when immediate assistance is needed for situations such as a medical emergency, fire, crime in progress, or another situation requiring an immediate emergency response. Program 311 is generally used for non-emergency municipal services. Depending on the community, 311 may be used to report issues such as potholes, street problems, noise complaints, or other local government service concerns. Program 211 connects people with community resources and social services. If you need help finding food, housing, utility assistance, health services, mental health resources, transportation, or other community assistance, 211 can help you find the appropriate resource. When you or someone you know is facing a difficult situation, you don't have to face it alone or figure out where to turn. Help is available, and 211 can connect you with the local resources and services you need. So, remember 211. Help is closer than you think. Your Ogemaw County United Way is proud to support 211 and remains committed to being there when our community needs us most.

Obituaries

William Eugene White

Nov. 26, 1953 - Aug. 9, 2026

William Eugene "Bugs" White, age 72, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026. He was born on Nov. 26, 1953, in Detroit, Mich. He lived in West Branch, Mich., for the past six years, formerly of Oxford, Mich. William graduated from Royal Oak Dondero High School in 1971. He began his career in the rental business at Buttons Rental, later finding a place with the Royal Oak School District, where he served as maintenance supervisor until his retirement in 2011. His hard work and dedication left a lasting impression on his colleagues and community. Those who knew William knew of his enthusiasm for motorcycles. A lifetime member of the Harley Organization Group (HOG), he found joy in riding with Barbara and fellow enthusiasts. William's admiration for classic cars led him to countless car shows over the years, where he enjoyed the craftsmanship and shared stories. He also delighted in traveling in his RV, discovering the beauty of the open road. His love for family extended beyond the immediate household; William looked forward to and enjoyed family reunions in West Virginia, creating memories that will be treasured and retold for generations. William's devotion to his



family was a cornerstone of his life. He is survived by his beloved wife of 45 years, Barbara White, and his sons, Dwayne White and William (Kristie Toth) White II. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Britney, Ahrianna, Alexander, William III, and Christian; his sister, Tammy Kowalski; his daughter-in-law, Teresa Driscoll, and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, extended family and lifelong treasured friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Geraldine (Shirley) White; his son, Dennis White; and his sisters, Naomi and Nancy. A memorial visitation will be held at Steuermol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 1 p.m. William Eugene White's legacy is one of love for his family and friends, hard work, and a playful sense of humor. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew him and in the stories shared at gatherings for years to come. Online condolences can be shared at www.steuernolmclaren.com

Honor your loved ones with a complementary obituary listing

Ogemaw County
SUPERIOR NEWS

Email obituary to:
deanna@superior-news.com

Skidway Lake

« Continued from page 4

equipment tires. Please clean all dirt off tires. The Skidway Lake Beautification Committee will meet in the parking lot of the Chamber of Commerce building in Skidway Lake on Sept. 10. They are doing a perennial plant swap. Anyone who has perennial plants to thin out they would love for you to come with your plants and swap

with others or donate them to the committee to plant in our township flowerbeds. The time to meet is 3 p.m. If you have any questions, call Sue Boom at 989-387-4091 or Wendy Chesnut at 616-302-7807. Remember, if you have anything to share or news to tell call or text me, April Mason 989-578-8768. Until next time, God bless.

Letter to the editor policy

The Ogemaw County Superior News encourages all readers to submit letters to the editor for possible publication. Please limit letters to 200 words or less. The author must include a daytime phone number as they will be contacted prior to publication.

Unsigned letters will not be published. We reserve the right to edit and/or reject any letter. Letters can be submitted via email to deanna@superior-news.com or by traditional mail to P.O. Box 603, West Branch, MI 48661.

West Branch Township’s first National Night Out draws large crowd

BY LAURA BENDER

Close to 500 community members attended West Branch Township’s first National Night Out at the West Branch Commons on Aug. 6.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make communities safer, more caring places to live.

During the event, the West Branch Police Department handed out over 200 Child ID kits to parents, 150 locks, and numerous educational pamphlets on scam and fraud prevention.

Community helping organizations and first responders offered information and resources to

assist residents of all ages.

Children in attendance were all smiles as they donned turnout gear, checked out ambulances and firetrucks, and visited with local law enforcement, especially K-9 Diego.

Home Depot donated a grill, and Meijer donated a \$500 gift card, which was used to purchase bicycles and back-to-school kits for the free raffle.

Culligan and Walmart donated bottled water to keep everyone hydrated on the warm summer evening.

“I want to thank everyone who made this year’s Night Out a success,” said Event coordinator Lieutenant Joseph Adams. “See you next year.”



Photos by Laura Bender

Ronni Nash, Lila Brandon and Ayris Templeton learn about aviation from members of the West Branch Area Remote Control Plane Club.



West Branch-Rose City Area Schools Superintendent Gail Hughey greeted parents and children at West Branch Township’s first National Night Out.



Elijah Van Goethem, 3, cheered on by his dad, Cody, tries his luck at dunking a first responder.

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Violet Goodsell and Victor O’Ferrell don turnout gear in preparation for a visit to the Moffat Township Fire Department’s smoke house.

MSU Extension names new Interim Director

As MSU Extension continues an important leadership transition, the focus remains on ensuring northeastern Michigan communities receive trusted, research-based education and resources that help individuals, families, businesses, and communities thrive.

Michigan State University Extension has named Dorothy Munn as Interim District Director for District 4, serving communities across northeastern Michigan. Munn assumes the interim leadership role following the transition of Julie Darnton, who has served as District Director since 2020 and recently accepted the position of District Director for MSU Extension District 9. [canr.msu.edu]

Munn brings nearly three decades of experience with Michigan State University Extension and Michigan 4-H Youth Development to the position. Since July 2021, she has served as a Policy and Risk Management Educator for the MSU Extension Children and Youth Institute, where she has supported financial accountability, policy implementation, risk management practices, and staff and volunteer capacity building across the state. Prior to that role, she spent ten years supervising and supporting 4-H program coordinators throughout northeast and mid-Michigan and has extensive experience delivering youth development and STEM education programming. Overall, Munn has worked in 4-H Youth

Development for 28 years, including 13 years in county-based Extension roles. [canr.msu.edu]

“I am honored to serve in this interim leadership role and continue supporting the exceptional work of MSU Extension staff across District 4,” said Munn. “Our commitment remains focused on providing local communities with access to the latest research, education, and resources from Michigan State University.”

During Darnton’s tenure, District 4 strengthened partnerships with county governments, community organizations, volunteers, and residents while expanding educational programming across a wide range of areas, including youth development, health and nutrition, agriculture, natural resources, and community development.

As Interim District Director, Munn will work closely with Extension staff, local partners, and county leaders to ensure continuity of service and continued access to the research-based knowledge and educational opportunities that MSU Extension provides.

MSU Extension District 4 serves counties throughout northeastern Michigan and remains committed to helping residents improve their lives, businesses, and communities through practical, research-based education.



DOROTHY MUNN
INTERIM DISTRICT DIRECTOR
FOR MSU EXTENSION
DISTRICT 4

Writer

« Continued from page 1

recognized throughout the community. In 2025, the City of West Branch presented Sally with a special proclamation recognizing her dedication and hard work on behalf of the Ogemaw County Historical Society.

Over the years, her columns have covered everything from early businesses and historic buildings to longtime residents, family histories and forgotten pieces of Ogemaw County's past.

One of the things that has made Sally’s work especially meaningful is her ability to connect yesterday’s Ogemaw County with the community people know today.

Her research has helped answer questions from people searching for information about their families and the places where previous generations lived and worked. She has often dug through historical collections and old photographs to find answers that might otherwise have been lost.

That passion for research and preservation has been a defining part of Sally’s work.

The Ogemaw County Historical Society continues to recognize her as an important part of the effort

to preserve local history as their curator. The society's mission is centered on preserving the county's heritage and making its history available to current and future generations.

For *Superior News* readers, Sally's retirement marks the end of an era — but the stories she has shared will remain part of the newspaper's history and, more importantly, part of Ogemaw County's collective memory.

“We are going to miss seeing Sally's name on the page,” Deanna said. “But more than that, we're going to miss Sally herself — her knowledge, her enthusiasm and the pride she has in this community. She has given our readers something very special over the years.”

As Sally steps away from her regular writing duties, the *Ogemaw County Superior News* thanks her for her years of dedication, research and storytelling — and for reminding generations of readers that the history of Ogemaw County isn't just something that happened long ago.

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52nd Annual Best Frame Tournament® 2026 Results:

Winner's of this year's tournament:

Scores Combined : Gm 1- 304, Gm 2 -325 Gm 3- 274 = 903 TOTAL



Emily Braciszewski - From Riley - MI (Bowling Avg- 119)
Doug Switniak - From Macomb, MI - (Bowling Avg- 216)

Pictured with Chris Illig, owner of Ogemaw Lanes

1,201 **407** **\$30,932.30**
Entries Places Paid total prize money awarded

Best Frame 300 games

DONALD KENDRICK & JACOB FRITZ
MIKE PEPPER & JAMES GILSDORF
JENNIFER & DARRIN MEYER
DAWN & BRIAN WALTZ
CORRINE & CHAD BIRCHMEIER
MIKE REIMEL & TYLER RICE

RUSS LANKFORD & RYAN COLOMA
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Map it out. Plan out your child's walking route with them ahead of time. Review street names and landmarks to help orient them.



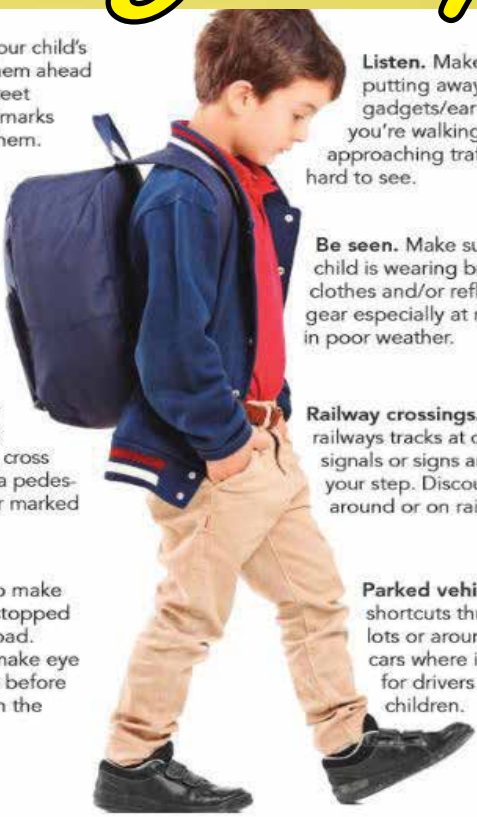
Road rules. Make a fun and interactive game out of guessing the correct traffic signs and meanings with your child.



Set a good example. Never jaywalk or run to cross the street. Where possible, cross at intersections with a pedestrian crossing light or marked crosswalk.



Look. Teach your child to make sure all vehicles have stopped before entering the road. Show them how to make eye contact with drivers before crossing, even when the walk signal is on.



Listen. Make a habit of putting away all electronic gadgets/ear buds etc. while you're walking, so you can hear approaching traffic that may be hard to see.



Be seen. Make sure your child is wearing bright clothes and/or reflective gear especially at night and in poor weather.



Railway crossings. Only cross railway tracks at designated signals or signs and watch your step. Discourage play around or on railways.



Parked vehicles. Avoid shortcuts through parking lots or around parked cars where it's harder for drivers to see small children.



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Aware of your
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Sheriff Brian Gilbert**

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Art Fair

« Continued from page 4

décor to jewelry, woodworking and other specialty creations, the fair offered shoppers an opportunity to meet the people behind the work and purchase one-of-a-kind items.

Live entertainment added to the festive atmosphere, with dancers, musicians and singing groups taking the stage throughout the weekend. Children also had their own activities and games, making the event a destination for families as well as art enthusiasts.

The Victorian Art Fair is organized by the West Branch Creative Arts Association, which has made promoting the arts and providing opportunities for artists a longtime part of its mission. The association traces the beginning of the Victorian Outdoor Fair at Irons Park to 1979 and continues to organize the event as part of its broader efforts to bring the arts to the area.



Carol Ann's Dance Studio in West Branch, performed during the art fair on Sunday. Courtesy photo



Families were able to try their hands at some arts and crafts.



The scenic Irons Park once again played host to the Victorian Art Fair. Photos by Laura Bender



Beverly Scott (l) and Jeri Orlando served up some ice cream during the event.



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County Fair

« Continued from page 1

members.

Visitors also enjoyed the carnival midway, food vendors, horse shows, agricultural exhibits and grandstand entertainment, including the fair's popular motorsports events.

For families throughout Ogemaw County, the fair once again provided an opportunity to celebrate local agriculture, support area youth and enjoy one of the county's longest-running summer traditions.



Bentley Weber, 14, of Hale (Ogemaw County), working with her steer prior to starting the show.



Bryson Dantzer, 5, enjoyed his evening at the fair with a traditional sweet treat.



Regan and Malorie both had an impressive showing at the fair. Malorie was named Grand Champion Senior Showman, while her lamb earned Reserve Champion Heavyweight honors. Regan was named Reserve Champion Intermediate Showman, and his lamb placed third in the Heavyweight class.



Leah Hart, 8, of Prescott getting ready to compete in the Supercross Race.



Cowgirl carries the American flag during the national anthem at the opening of the rodeo.



James and Deanna Shoemaker traveled from Tawas to the fair to meet up with their son and his family from Prescott.



Tucker Burton, 11, won Best of Show for his Hawaiian sunflower boot. Well done, Tucker.



Participants snuggle with goats from a farm based out of Gladwin (r), while Emma, 3, above snuggles MJ the goat to sleep.



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Courtesy Photo

Chloe Wilson, of West Branch, was the Grand Champion for her Pee-wee Showmanship class, fourth place for youth dairy and three blue ribbons.



Photo By Emily Reed

Blake Queener, (l-r) Eric Queener and Colton Lynch enjoy a fun-filled night at the rodeo.

County Fair

B	A	L	F	A	R	C	A	D	E	N	A	Q	V	U	C	J
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X	B	X	H	B	C	H	E	E	S	E	C	U	R	D	S	K

- mini doughnuts
- pick a duck
- lemonade
- cattle
- games
- entertainment
- ferriswheel
- displays
- rides
- food
- cheese curds
- grandstand
- rabbits
- music
- pigs
- cotton candy
- ring toss
- arcade
- bingo
- art

ACE

« Continued from page 2

Aug. 8 event will benefit local Michigan Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. The generosity of customers, community members, employees and local businesses has helped make the fundraiser a true community effort.

The West Branch fundraiser is also part of a much larger commitment to CMN within the Clouse family of businesses. One of the company’s owners, Ryan Clouse, recently completed his first AuSable River Canoe Marathon as part of a fundraising campaign he launched called 120 Miracle Miles. The campaign was created to raise money and awareness for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals through Ryan’s participation in the grueling 120-mile, nonstop canoe race from

Grayling to Oscoda.

After months of training, Ryan completed the race in approximately 17-and-a-half hours, turning 120 miles on the river into 120 miles of purpose. Through 120 Miracle Miles, Ryan set an ambitious goal of raising more than \$1 million for CMN Hospitals. He personally funded his race expenses so that sponsorships, donations and proceeds from campaign merchandise could go directly toward the cause.

The mission is especially meaningful to Ryan and his family. His daughter, Kinsley, received care at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, a Children’s Miracle Network hospital, where she underwent surgery to remove a benign tumor

from her hand—twice before the age of five. That experience left Ryan with a lasting gratitude for the doctors, nurses and staff who cared for his daughter and inspired him to find a way to give back.

From transforming a local hardware store into a castle to paddling 120 miles through the night, the Clouse family and West Branch Ace Hardware are continuing to find creative ways to support children and families in need. What started with a bucket challenge has become another opportunity for the community to come together, have fun and make a meaningful difference for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals right here in Michigan.

Honors

« Continued from page 3

“Abandoned.”

The West Branch Creative Arts Association also presented two Ogemaw Heights High School graduates with awards:

Emma Beehler, a Saginaw Valley State University student studying K through 12 Visual Arts Education, and Elizabeth Andrasik, studying Fashion Design at Central Michigan University.

The Gallery Committee, which hosted the event, included Patricia K. Riegler, Dorothy Kolhoff,

Carol Fink, Mark Winslow, Connie Maedel-Diehl, Rebecca Spohn and Judith DeBolt. If you are interested in entering a piece in next year’s show, the theme will be “Nature & Architecture.” For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/WB-CAA/> or <https://fourthstartists-gallery.com/> or stop by the Fourth Street Artists Gallery at 124 N. 4th Street in downtown West Branch.

Ogemaw County SUPERIOR NEWS

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Three Words

« Continued from page 1

quickly. The free app is called what3words.

what3words, which uses a GPS signal, offers a more flexible way to pass location information between people and devices, both online and offline. Instead of providing longitude and latitude coordinates, which may be more difficult to communicate accurately because they are a string of numbers, what3words uses easily recognizable words.

This worldwide app is currently being used in 193 countries

with words displayed in 60 corresponding languages. To communicate precise locations, what3words has assigned every 3-meter square in the world a unique address made of three random words. If you want someone to find you at the covered bridge in Irons Park, you tell them “coil.unruly.bank.” If you change your mind and want them to meet you at Fort Austin instead, tell them “fountain.collage.checkbone.”

It’s that simple. No long string of numbers to get in the right order.

No landmark descriptions they might not understand. Just three words, and emergency services will be directed to your precise location.

You can find more information, a worldwide map divided into 3-meter squares, and a link to download the app at <https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app>. Ogemaw County Dispatch uses this app and recommends that for safety and peace of mind, we use it, too.

Ogemaw County

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Ogemaw County United Way announces 2026 community grant recipients

The Ogemaw County United Way Board of Directors is proud to announce the distribution of \$10,000 in community grants to four vital local non-profit organizations for 2026. These funds will directly support community health, education, and youth safety initiatives across Ogemaw County and the Skidway Lake area.

As a 100-by-100 volunteer-driven organization, Ogemaw County United Way ensures that every dollar donated stays local. The strategic funding decisions were finalized by a local board of residents who live and work within the community, matching donor generosity with the areas of greatest need.

The 2026 grant recipients and

their awarded funding include:

Child Protection Council (\$4,000): Funding will support advocacy, education, and resources dedicated to preventing child abuse and ensuring the safety of local youth.

Fresh Start Club of Skidway Lake (\$3,000): Grant dollars will bolster community drug and alcohol recovery support services and essential resources for area residents.

Rayola (\$2,000): Resources will assist in expanding outreach programs focused on children in the foster care system and any other child in need.

Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake (\$1,000): Funds will directly aid youth-focused community projects designed to

bring out the best in local youth.

"We are incredibly grateful to our local donors whose contributions make these grants possible year after year," said the Ogemaw County United Way President, Kara Mularz. "By empowering these four outstanding organizations, we are investing directly in the safety, well-being, and future of Ogemaw County. This is what it means to Live United."

Organizations operating within Ogemaw County that focus on health, education, and financial stability are encouraged to apply for future grant cycles. For more information on how to donate, volunteer, or apply for funding, please visit the Ogemaw County United Way website: *Ogemaw-CountyUW.com*.

Got a story idea?? We'd love to hear from you.
Contact Deanna at: 989-482-7695 or deanna@superior-news.com

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Erickson Family Agency hosts community event at Lake Ogemaw



Courtesy photo

Recently, the Erickson Family Agency, Farm Bureau of West Branch, hosted a community social event at Lake Ogemaw Marina, bringing area families together for an evening of food, music, entertainment and conversation about insurance. Guests enjoyed free hot dogs and popcorn, along with creative beverages from Serendipity Sips Dirty Sodas. Live musical entertainment was provided by Jacob McLeod and special guests Garden Shed, creating a relaxed atmosphere for families and friends to gather and enjoy the evening. While the event was designed as a fun community gathering, it also provided an opportunity for residents to ask questions about insurance in a casual, comfortable setting. Pictured Sandi Erickson (l) and ShaLinda Trudel served up popcorn and smiles at the event.

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Public Hearings and Notices

CITY OF ROSE CITY
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 7, 2026

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on July 7, 2026.

Present: Don Freeman, Robin Micklich, Claire Myers (arrived at 6:10), Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley

Absent: Scott Hamel (excused)

Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Police Chief Allen Muma, DPW Co-Supervisor Anthony Evans, Theresa Erickson, Chase Wiltse and Amanda Vanaman from Huron Pines.

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

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the Public Hearing Minutes for the June 16, 2026. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the Minutes for the June 16, 2026 Regular Rose City Council Meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to pay bills as presented, in the amounts of \$68,832.42 from the Common Cash Account and \$1,836.47 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Ms. Micklich, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried. Chase Wiltse gave a DDA Planning report.

Theresa Erickson gave an EDC report.

Anthony Evans gave a DPW report.

Mayor gave his comments.

Claire gave a Library committee report.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the banner for Rose City Lupton Chamber, to be hung if repaired. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Amanda Vanaman with Huron Pines addressed the council about Commissioning Grant.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.



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