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SUPERIOR NEWS

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Local Spotlight

Ogemaw County voters decide on millage proposals

BY DEANNA SURBROOK

Ogemaw County voters approved three of four millage proposals on the Aug. 4 ballot, securing continued funding for public transportation, youth programs, Michigan State University Extension services and animal shelter operations. However, voters rejected the West Branch-Rose City Area Schools Operating Millage Proposal.

The Ogemaw County Public Transit millage renewal passed with 3,195 votes in favor, or 54 percent, compared to 2,676 votes against, or 45.6 percent. The approved millage will allow the county's transit system to continue providing

MILLAGE continues on page 11 »

Prescott celebrates 'National Night Out'



Photos by Laura Bender

The Village of Prescott's 4th Annual National Night Out and Resource Fair on Tuesday, Aug. 4, had something for everyone. Music from the rock band Lemon Frog added to the festive atmosphere as families perused information booths and interacted with friendly critters in the petting zoo. Children lined up to get their faces painted, hopped around in the bounce house and played dinosaur themed games as they waited for the Dino Parade to begin. The event gave residents an opportunity to meet local police officers, firefighters and emergency personnel while promoting community partnerships and neighborhood safety. Thanks to the Ogemaw District Library and the Village of Prescott for a delightful and well-planned evening.

Ogemaw County Fair returns Aug. 16 to 22

BY DEANNA SURBROOK

One of Ogemaw County's most anticipated summer traditions is just around the corner as the Ogemaw County Fair returns to the fairgrounds, located at 2300 Rifle River Trail, West Branch, Aug. 16 to 22, promising seven days of agriculture, entertainment, competition and family fun.

For more than four decades, the fair has celebrated the area's agricultural heritage while bringing together residents and visitors for livestock exhibitions, carnival rides, grandstand events, 4-H competitions, food vendors and community exhibits. The annual event continues to provide an opportunity for local youth to showcase the animals and projects they have worked on throughout the year while offering activities for all ages.

Throughout fair week, visitors can expect a full midway featuring carnival rides and games, traditional fair food, commercial vendors, exhibits inside the



fair buildings, and plenty of opportunities to support local 4-H members. Livestock shows and judging competitions will highlight the dedication and hard work of area youth, culminating in the popular livestock auction later in the week.

The grandstands will once again host crowd-favorite events that have become staples of the fair, including motorsports, tractor pulls and other family entertainment. A complete schedule of events is available through the fair office and the fair's official website.

FAIR continues on page 11 »

Two women-owned West Branch businesses receive grants



Photo by Laura Bender



Courtesy Photo

The Dirty Mitten owner Ann Butler (left) and Olive Rose Boutique owner Kayla Swartz recently received "Match on Main" grants, a state-supported program that provides funding to help strengthen Michigan's downtown business districts.

BY LAURA BENDER

Two downtown West Branch businesses are receiving a boost for future growth after being awarded "Match on Main" grants, a state-supported program designed to help strengthen Michigan's downtown districts. The Dirty Mitten and Olive Rose

Boutique were among the businesses selected to receive funding for expansion and investment in their operations.

"I had never written a grant before, so when I found out Olive Rose Boutique had been selected, I was both shocked and incredibly grateful," said Kayla Swartz,

owner of the Olive Rose Boutique.

"I first learned that my business had been selected from an announcement in the news," Ann Butler, owner of the Dirty Mitten, said. "Surprised, I checked the MEDC website and found it was

GRANTS continues on page 7 »

Faith Alive Church prepares for Back-to-School Outreach

BY DEANNA SURBROOK

As summer winds down and the first day of school draws near, Faith Alive Church is once again preparing to welcome hundreds of local families for an evening dedicated to easing the transition back to the classroom while celebrating the community that surrounds them.

The second annual Back-to-School Community Outreach will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at the church, located at 2945 Hansen Rd., West Branch. The church will be offering free school supplies, gift cards, haircuts, food and family-friendly activities to children and their families. The event is open to everyone in the West Branch area, regardless of church affiliation.

OUTREACH continues on page 11 »



Courtesy photo

Lead Pastor Jordan Waage and his wife, Yari, are once again inviting the community to Faith Alive Church's annual Back-to-School Community Outreach event, set for Wednesday, Aug. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the church in West Branch.



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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 Women's Organization meets the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Different locations each month. Call 989-745-4067 for information.
Wednesdays – (First of each month) **Veterans coffee hour** 9-10 a.m. Held at the Ogemaw Coun-

ty 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-Michgan 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.
Greenwood Rd., Skidway Lake, Friday, July 3, noon to 2 p.m.

August 8 - 9
Victorian Art Fair, Aug. 8 and 9, Irons Park, West Branch.

August 11
Concert in the Park, Irons Park, West Branch make-up concert, Tuesday, Aug. 11, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., featuring Stone Street Revival.

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.
— www.SermonCentral.com

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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
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"He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock..."
Psalm 40:2

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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.



Ogemaw Youth Basketball Organization builds skills, confidence and community

The Ogemaw Youth Basketball Organization (OYBO) was created with a simple but meaningful goal: to give more young people in Ogemaw County the opportunity to learn and enjoy the game of basketball while building the skills needed to succeed both on and off the court.

A few years ago, a small group of dedicated community members recognized a need. As high school basketball coaches, they had seen firsthand that players who entered high school with even a little more basketball experience during their middle school years often had a significant advantage over students who did not. Rather than accepting that fact as reality, they decided to create a solution leveling the playfield for all.

That vision led to the formation of the Ogemaw Youth Basketball Organization.

"Ogemaw had strong opportunities for youth in many other sports," Josh Lucus explained. "Basketball was the missing piece. We wanted to create something with a solid foundation that would serve our community for years to come."

Today, OYBO provides organized basketball opportunities for students in grades four through six through participation in the Mid Michigan Youth Basketball

League. The league offers approximately a three-month season, giving young athletes valuable game experience while helping them develop fundamental basketball skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence.

One of the organization's guiding principles is investing in quality coaching. Every OYBO coach is required to complete USA Basketball certification before stepping onto the court. This certification ensures coaches receive consistent training and have access to proven teaching methods designed specifically for youth athletes.

"Our goal isn't just to have coaches," Lucas said. "We want coaches who are prepared to teach



Courtesy photo
Sixth grade players of the Ogemaw Youth Basketball Organization. Back row (l-r) Coach Mark Dodridge, Pierce Ahrens, Ben Dodridge and Coach Matt Myers. Front row (l-r) Graham Dzieszinski, Tayan Wangler, Dylan Doyle, McKale Whetstone, Aaven Peterson and Tiernan Warner.

the game the right way while creating a positive experience for every player."

OYBO has also developed a close partnership with the Ogemaw Heights basketball programs. By working together, the youth organization and the school athletic programs are able to provide consistent instruction, shared direction, and coordinated

BASKETBALL continues on page 11 »

Wound Treatment Centers recognized for exceptional care

The Wound Treatment Centers at MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma, Alpena, Clare and West Branch have received both the Center of Distinction and Robert A. Warriner III, M.D., Clinical Excellence awards from Healogics®, the nation's largest provider of advanced wound care services.

To earn the Center of Distinction award, each of the four Wound Treatment Centers achieved outstanding clinical outcomes for 12 consecutive months, including a patient satisfaction rate exceeding 92 percent. This recognition reflects the exceptional care and dedication demonstrated by the centers' physicians, leaders and clinicians.

In addition, all four centers received the prestigious Robert A. Warriner III, M.D., Clinical Excellence Award, placing them among the top 10 percent of eligible Healogics Wound Care Centers®. The designation is based on comprehensive wound healing

rates reported by more than 600 outpatient wound care centers nationwide. The award is named for Dr. Robert A. Warriner III, a pioneer in wound care and former chief medical officer for Healogics. The award recognizes centers that achieve a Wound Adjusted Comprehensive Healing Rate of at least 83 percent or higher for 12 consecutive months.

"Our wound care teams are proud to offer advanced wound care services and treatments to the communities we serve," said Thomas Kane, F.N.P.-C., M.B.A., M.S.N., R.R.T., W.C.C., system director of wound care for MyMichigan Health. "These achievements reinforce our mission, through our partnerships, to improve the health and quality of life for patients living with chronic wounds. We are honored to be recognized for the outstanding care our wound center staff provides and for making a difference in the lives of our patients."

The Wound Treatment Centers at MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma, Alpena, Clare, Gladwin, Midland, Saginaw*, Standish*, Tawas City* and West Branch provide highly specialized care for patients with diabetic foot ulcers, pressure ulcers, infections and other chronic wounds. Advanced treatment options include negative pressure wound therapy, total contact casting, bioengineered tissue therapies, biosynthetic dressings and growth factor therapies.

The Wound Treatment Centers in Alma, Alpena, Clare, Gladwin, Midland, Saginaw* and West Branch also offer hyperbaric oxygen therapy, which surrounds patients with 100 percent oxygen to help accelerate wound healing.

Those interested in more information on services provided at MyMichigan's Wound Treatment Centers may visit www.mymichigan.org/wound.

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Transportation of historical remains from Ogemaw Springs



BY SALLY A. REA
HISTORIAN AND
CURATOR

Denny Turow and I started researching the history of Ogemaw Springs a few years back and we were interested in the stories we had heard from people who were familiar with this historical history. After a trip to the courthouse and talking with Traci Turner, we finally got a document with the proof of the veterans that were buried at Ogemaw Springs.

Mr. U. Huff of Ogemaw Springs has also joined our museum with his knowledge, horses used during his re-enactments

portraying a Civil War Veteran in full-dress. With his war horse he was at Irons Park encampment for weekend in July. Vicki Seltz Barnes has also been researching more on Ogemaw Springs and is still looking for more history and I appreciate her interest and help.

Historical records show that transportation of deceased bodies through Ogemaw Springs in the late 19th century was strictly governed by the Michigan Central Railroad and the Michigan State Board of Health. Because Ogemaw Springs was a prominent early lumbering camp and a designated station on the Michigan Central Railroad's Mackinaw Division, any transit of human remains had to adhere to strict sanitation laws enforced directly at the baggage platform.

The Michigan Central Railroad was a vital element of Ogemaw Springs during its logging peak in the 1870s and 1880s. The National Association of General Baggage Agents worked together with

the railroad to turn the standard baggage cars into the primary vehicle for moving bodies back to family plots downstate or out of state.

A railway agent or the baggage master at Ogemaw Springs was legally forbidden from loading a body onto a train without a Removal and Shipping Permit. This document required signatures from the local health officer or township clerk in Ogemaw County. The attending physician, certifying the exact cause of death.

For deaths caused by diphtheria, scarlet fever, or typhoid, transport was permitted only if a licensed embalmer used specific arterial and cavity injections. The body had to be encased in a hermetically sealed zinc- or lead-lined coffin, then enclosed in a sturdy wooden shipping crate.

The current requirements, modern transit of human remains through Ogemaw County no longer involves commercial rail baggage masters.

Preparing for a new school year

BY GAIL HUGHEY

There is excitement in the air as we plan to welcome students and staff back for another amazing school year. Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of our vibrant West Branch-Rose City Area Schools community.

With the excitement of the school year, we have a few changes this August. We are welcoming Mrs. Nicol Timo to Rose City School as Principal and Director of Special Services. In our central office, we have a new Director of Finance, Sarah Hutter. We are excited to have both joining our West Branch-Rose

City Area Schools administrative team.

Currently, our Central and Ogemaw Heights offices are open 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. All other offices open on Aug. 11. Athletic practices begin on Aug. 10. Contact the athletic office at 989-343-2026 if you have any questions.

The high school will host orientation for students on Tuesday, Aug. 25, beginning at 12:30. There will be meetings in the evening for freshmen, parents, and new students. This year, we are hosting a senior parent meeting also. All meetings will be held in the OHHS auditorium. Please check our website or Facebook pages for more

information, including meeting times. You won't want to miss these important meetings.

Open house for the K-8 students in Rose City and at Surline will be on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Please see the website for suggested supply lists for all buildings.

School begins on Aug. 31 for our K-12 students. Our preschool will begin in September. There is still time to enroll in all grades. Call our central office at 989-343-2001 for more information. Schools of choice applicants are also being accepted and approved when our building offices reopen.

We would love a chance to meet with prospective families to show you our educational and athletic programs. Please check out our website and Facebook pages for highlights.

Together we can have a great school year. Go Falcons!



GAIL HUGHEY
SUPERINTENDENT
WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY
SCHOOLS

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

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 are selling water at Music in the Park on Tues., Aug. 11. This concert is added to make up for a previously cancelled concert. This is the last music in the park for the year. We hope to see you there.

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 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 welcomed. You can add to your grocery bill at Meijer Store with a card found at the checkouts or customer service. It is only \$10 added to your bill to help someone in

need. We will take donations every Wednesday of the month from 8:30 to 11 a.m. We are 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. Also thanks to 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 roadss on Aug. 14. 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

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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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.

I have enjoyed being part of this club for 35 years now. I personally feel like I was raised to be an optimistic person and so this club has really been a great fit for me. Many members of my family from the Hale area and I have always been actively



JOE BELL
VICE - PRESIDENT

supporting the people and families in our communities where we live and have raised our families to be community oriented. But over the past 10 to 15 years there has been a slow decline in the numbers of people wanting to be part of community service organizations and to volunteer by giving time and energy to these groups. I know that the West Branch Kiwanis Club has

struggled to keep its club going.

I tell you about this in the hope that maybe you might consider joining one of our local groups. We try to improve the lives of children and families here in West Branch and I feel that our events and activities are still promoting positive impacts on our children.

We hope that if you are living in the West Branch area you will consider joining a service club, especially the Optimist Club. It is a very rewarding feeling to have a positive impact on the children of our town.

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.

From the Desk of the Prosecutor:

Michigan election laws designed to protect voters and election officials

BY LADONNA A. SCHULTZ
OGEMAW COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

As Ogemaw County voters prepare for the 2026 elections, state law provides numerous safeguards intended to ensure elections are conducted safely, fairly, and without interference. These laws establish penalties for voter intimidation, election fraud, interference with election officials, and other conduct that could disrupt the voting process. While this article does not encompass all our voting laws, it will give you a general understanding of some of the more common questions and concerns my office receives around this time of year.

One of the provisions that is asked about the most involves restrictions on firearms near voting locations. With certain exceptions, Michigan law prohibits individuals from possessing a firearm inside a polling place or within 100 feet of the entrance while polls are open on Election Day. Similar restrictions apply at early voting sites during early voting, around absentee ballot drop boxes during



LADONNA SCHULTZ

the 40 days preceding an election, and at city or township clerk's offices where in-person absentee voting takes place. Also, firearms are generally prohibited inside absent voter counting locations while absentee ballots are being processed.

However, this law includes several exceptions. Peace officers acting within the scope of their duties are exempt, as are individuals lawfully possessing firearms on their own private property. Licensed concealed pistol holders and individuals lawfully transporting or possessing a firearm in a vehicle are also exempt under the statute. For all others, violating the firearm restrictions is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail, a fine of up to \$100, or both.

Michigan law also seeks to protect the integrity of election administration by making it a felony to intentionally misrepresent oneself as an election official inside a polling place on Election Day. Falsely claiming to be an election official, whether through words or actions, can create confusion and undermine voter confidence in the election process.

Our local election works are

essential to our democratic voting process and must be free to do their jobs without fear or intimidation. Our laws recognize this fact giving election workers additional legal protections. State law makes it a crime to intimidate an election official with the intent of interfering with the performance of election duties or to prevent an election official from carrying out those responsibilities. Election officials include clerks, election inspectors, canvassers, absent voter counting board members, and other public officials responsible for conducting elections.

The law broadly defines election duties to include registering voters, processing absentee ballots, assisting voters at polling places and early voting sites, maintaining order at voting locations, tabulating ballots, tallying votes, and certifying election results.

Penalties for interfering with election officials increase for repeat offenses. A first offense is punishable as a misdemeanor with up to 93 days in jail and a fine of up to \$500. A second offense carries penalties of up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. A third or subsequent offense is classified as a felony.

This same statute also makes clear that constitutionally protected activities are not prohibited.

Peaceful protesting, advocacy, lobbying, reporting, news gathering, and other protected forms of free speech remain lawful, even when related to elections.

To provide voters with an environment free from campaign pressure, state law prohibits soliciting votes inside a polling place or within 100 feet of the entrance while polls are open. This restriction helps ensure voters can cast their ballots without direct campaigning immediately outside voting locations.

Michigan also imposes serious criminal penalties for election fraud and voter intimidation. It is illegal for a person who is not a United States citizen to register to vote or cast a ballot in Michigan elections. Likewise, it is a felony to knowingly vote under another person's name, impersonate another voter, or provide false information to vote or register to vote. Other prohibited acts include voting more than once in the same election, submitting fraudulent voter registration information, or knowingly making false statements on election documents. These laws are intended to protect the integrity of Michigan's elections by ensuring that only eligible voters cast ballots and that every lawful vote is counted accurately. In addition, it is a felony to attempt to influence a voter

through bribery, threats, intimidation, or other corrupt means. Likewise, attempting to deter or interrupt someone from voting is prohibited.

The law further protects ballots and voting equipment by making it a felony to damage or destroy ballot boxes or voting machines, break election security seals, unlawfully possess election equipment, alter vote totals, conceal or destroy ballots, or assist another person in committing these acts.

Together, these statutes are intended to protect every stage of Michigan's election process — from voter registration and absentee voting through ballot counting and certification. By establishing clear rules and criminal penalties while preserving constitutional rights to free speech and peaceful assembly, Michigan law seeks to promote elections that are secure, orderly, and worthy of public confidence.

If you have any questions about Michigan election laws or how they apply to you, please contact my office at 989-345-5700. We are committed to helping voters understand the law and ensuring every election is conducted fairly, securely, and in accordance with Michigan law.

Jeep Jam returns to fill downtown with adventure, music and community spirit

BY PETER FABBRI

The unmistakable rumble of Jeep engines will once again echo through downtown West Branch as the community welcomes the annual Jeep Jam, a celebration of off-road adventure, hometown pride, and everything that makes northern Michigan a destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

For one exciting evening, the streets of downtown will become a showcase for Jeeps of every generation and style. Visitors can expect to see beautifully restored vintage military Jeeps



PETER FABBRI

that helped shape American history, classic CJs, rugged Wranglers, custom-built rock crawlers, lifted Gladiators, trail-ready overland rigs, and daily drivers outfitted with every imaginable accessory. Many owners enjoy sharing the stories behind their vehicles, making Jeep Jam a fascinating experience for longtime enthusiasts and families alike.

Adding even more excitement to the day will be live music from the popular band “Zang.” Formed by a group of talented northern Michigan musicians who share

a passion for classic and modern rock, “Zang” has built a loyal following by delivering energetic performances, outstanding musicianship, and a crowd-pleasing mix of familiar favorites that keep audiences singing and dancing throughout the evening.

Jeep owners are encouraged to bring their own vehicles and become part of the celebration. Registration is free, making it easy for anyone with a passion for Jeeps to participate. Owners can reserve their spot by calling 989-345-5226.

The event is a natural fit for West Branch. Surrounded by thousands of acres of public forest land and hundreds of miles of

designated ORV and Jeep trails, the area has become a favorite destination for outdoor recreation. Whether visitors prefer scenic forest roads or more challenging trail systems, there are countless opportunities to explore the beautiful woodlands that surround the community before or after the event.

Events like Jeep Jam do much more than provide a day of entertainment. They bring visitors from throughout Michigan into West Branch, supporting local restaurants, shops, wineries, breweries, and businesses while showcasing everything the community has to offer. Downtown's wide streets, welcoming atmosphere, and

walkable business district create the perfect stage for community events that continue to grow each year.

Whether you're a dedicated Jeoper, an admirer of military history, or simply looking for a fun family outing, Jeep Jam promises a full day of impressive vehicles, great music, friendly conversation, and small-town hospitality. It's another example of how downtown West Branch continues to transform its streets into gathering places where residents and visitors come together to celebrate the very best of northern Michigan.

The event is Saturday, Aug. 29, 5-8 p.m. See you there!

News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

If you graduated or attended Whittemore-Prescott area schools you will want to attend the All Class Reunion on Aug. 16, starting at noon. It is at the Whittemore Chamber of Commerce Hall in Whittemore. The event is catered, and a basket is passed to collect donations for the expenses. Class group photos are taken. It is fun to see everyone and visit.

Mills Township, Ogemaw County, will host a tire recycling for its residents. You must live



APRIL HARKEY-MASON

in Mills Township to participate in recycling. This is a grant the township applies for every year that pays for the trailers to come, and it helps get the old tires cleaned up from our area. This also helps to stop the mosquitos from breeding in water laying around in the old tires. The recycle will be Friday, Aug. 21 and 22, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No rims and no airplane, construction loader, forestry, earth mover, solid gel filled, golf cart, inner tubes or rubber tracks of any kind. Tires must be free of any dirt. Construction has started on

the boardwalk in Skidway Lake. The east end of the boardwalk is closed, and the repairs will take approximately seven weeks. The rest of the boardwalk is open for use.

The Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake will be having its annual All Free Teen Fun Day on Aug. 30, noon to 4 p.m. The Cole Canoe Base Boy Scout Camp at 1356 Greenwood Rd. will be our host again this year. Teens ages 13 to 18 or still in high school can participate. There are no competitions, just good ole fun. The kids can zip line, swim, kayak, canoe, climb the climbing wall, play GaGa ball, etc. Everyone will eat lunch when we get there and then go off to whatever group you want to do the activities with. If you would like to attend, call

or text April Mason at 989-578-8768 with your name and phone number and parents' name. Bring MODEST swimwear, towel and dry clothes to go home in. Every student that attends will have their name put into a drawing and will have the chance to win one of four \$100 bills.

The first day of school at W-P will be Aug. 24. It will be here

before you know it. You can go to the school website wpas.net and click on SCHOOLS then pick ELEMENTARY, then type in SUPPLIES in the search box and the lists will be by classes.

Remember, if you have anything to share or news to tell me contact April Mason at 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.

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West Branch High School alumni preserving the past



West Branch High School may have closed in 1968, but enthusiasm for the school and those who attended has not waned. On Friday, July 31, local alumni took part in a project to digitize graduation class photos dating as far back as 1890. Pictured (l-r) are Nancy Rea Griffin, class of 1958; Nancy Rabidue McCauley, 1968; Kris VanOosten Schgubert, 1967; Mike Ehinger, 1964; Diane Brindley Gray, 1962; Joyce Zettel Nelander, 1963; Joe Izworski, 1968; and Brian Gray, 1962. Digitalization preserves images for future generations. Pictured right (l-r) Nancy Griffin, Joyce Nelander, Brian Gray and Kris Schubert reframe digitized class photos.

Photos by Laura Bender

Grants

« Continued from page 1

true.”

The Match on Main program is a reimbursement grant program provided by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Its purpose is to support new or expanding place-based businesses as they launch and grow in core downtown areas and commercial districts by providing up to \$25,000 in funding awarded through a competitive application process. The FY26 Match on Main application window yielded 144 applicants from 83 communities—the highest participation rate in the program’s history.

“Michigan’s small businesses are the heart of our downtowns,” said Governor Whitmer. “Today’s Match on Main grants will provide 69 small businesses across the state with the support they need to grow, thrive, and create bustling, vibrant main streets. By investing in communities across our state, we will continue to make Michigan the best place to live, work, and thrive.”

Ann Butler has specific plans for her grant.

“We recently began using a commercial embroidery machine to create a variety of items,” she said. “They’ve been so popular; I plan to use some of the grant money to purchase two additional machines.

“I also plan to upgrade the store’s interior and have a permanent sign made for the outside of the building to replace the temporary one installed when I moved from our previous location,” Ann added. “I’ve also been working with Fozzy from Heritage Tattoo to design a mural for the side of our building around the theme ‘Meet Me In West Branch.’”

For Olive Rose Boutique, the grant comes at an important time and will provide much-needed support for the business's continued growth.

“During our downtown road construction in 2024, we experienced a significant loss in both sales and inventory,” Kayla Swartz said. “There were moments when I honestly wasn't sure the store would make it, and losing two valued employees during that time made the challenge even greater.

“This grant gives us the opportunity to rebuild what was lost, bring in the fresh inventory our customers have been asking for, and continue serving our community for years to come,” she

added. “We hope it not only helps us better serve our loyal customers but also introduces Olive Rose Boutique to new shoppers who will love it as much as we do.”

The Olive Rose Boutique opened in downtown West Branch in 2018.

“Prior to opening downtown, I worked out of my walk-out basement hosting pop-ups featuring leggings and coordinating apparel pieces,” Kayla said. “The name, Olive Rose Boutique, is a subtle play on words which sound a bit like ‘I love roses.’ The name is a tribute to my husband, whose first gift to me was a bouquet of roses. It’s a nod to the unwavering support he gave me when I first took the leap into entrepreneurship and still continues to this day. He is Olive Rose’s longest-serving unpaid employee, and I think that alone deserves a medal!”

The Dirty Mitten also began as a cottage industry.

“After working 20 years for Consumers Energy, I retired to travel with my husband, Ken, a lineman, whose work took him from New York to California,” Ann said. “Creating handmade items became my on-the-road job. For several years, I sold my crafts at shows around the country.”

The Dirty Mitten opened in 2024 in a space shared with Safe Haven Doula. In February 2025, the store moved to 300 West Houghton Avenue. The move more than doubled its footprint. It also allowed Ann to double the number of crafters who supply Michigan-made items for the shop.

“Currently, I feature curated crafts from 60 makers,” Ann said.

The Dirty Mitten carries unique and well-made items, many with a snarky bend sure to bring a smile to your face. Looking for an amusing gift? Checking out the selection of interesting sweats, tees, hats, drinkware, jewelry, candles, wall art, decorative home goods, handmade toys, and more could keep you delightfully occupied for longer than you planned.

At Olive Rose Boutique, you'll find thoughtfully curated women's clothing, accessories, gifts, and custom graphic apparel designed for everyday life.

“We're known for comfortable, versatile fashion, an extensive denim selection, and interactive experiences like our Custom Charm Bar and Custom Hat Bar, where you can create something

uniquely your own,” Kayla said. “One of our specialties is helping women find their perfect denim fit. We also create custom graphic apparel right here in the boutique. Our current bestsellers include jeans, cozy socks, our custom Falcons and West Branch Smiley Tower apparel, boho-style apparel and back to school styles.”

The owners of both the Olive Rose and the Dirty Mitten are members of the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce and take part in events like the spring and winter Art Walk & Wine Tasting event.

“We love bringing people together,” Kayla said, “and we participate in as many downtown events as possible. Since we are on the main strip, we are usually in the center of the action. Throughout the year, we also host a variety of fun in-store events, from gift-with-purchase promotions to Permanent Jewelry pop-ups, Dirty Soda Bars, Bloom Bars and other unique shopping

experiences. We love partnering with fellow small businesses, too. If you're interested in hosting a weekend pop-up in our front room, we'd love to hear from you.”

As the person behind the hilarious and well-attended Mrs. Roper Romp, Ann’s community participation provides fun for locals and visitors alike. If you want to get in on the next silly event, find a wiener dog costume so you, too, can take part in the Wiener Dog Race in this fall’s Oktoberfest. Also, check the store’s Facebook page for sing-along nights and other activities.

“We have an incredibly loyal customer base that has been a true champion of not only Olive Rose Boutique, but our entire small business community,” Kayla said. “Their support has meant everything to us, and we truly want them to know how grateful we are. I also feel incredibly fortunate to be part of our downtown district. It's exciting to see

more small businesses choosing downtown, creating a vibrant destination where people can spend the day shopping, dining, and exploring. Seeing people walk from shop to shop again is something I never take for granted. We're also welcoming more visitors from outside the area, which is wonderful for our entire community. Our downtown is filled with hard-working, collaborative business owners, and I'm proud to be one of them.”

For more information, visit The Dirty Mitten, located at 300 W. Houghton Ave., online at <https://www.facebook.com/dirty-mittenstore/>; www.dirtymittenstore.com; thedirtymittenstore@gmail.com; 989-312-5387.

Olive Rose Boutique: 214 W Houghton Ave.; <https://www.facebook.com/oliveroseboutique>; www.olive.rose.boutique; hello@oliveroseboutique.com; 989-701-2727.

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Ogemaw Economic Development Corporation hosts business workshop on cybersecurity

**BY PHIL DURST
OGE MAW EDC BOARD
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Cybersecurity was the focus of a workshop hosted in West Branch for businesspeople on July 27. During this free workshop an expert from the Michigan State Police (MSP) Cyber Command Center shared various ways that criminals gain entrance to a company and ways to reduce that possibility.

Ogemaw County EDC partnered with Northern Initiatives and Mary Bickel began the workshop with a presentation of A.I. and how that influences security. Northern Initiatives provides loans and business services to entrepreneurs and small business owners who create jobs and help communities thrive. Mary’s message was not to share any personal or specific business identity information with A.I. tools.

The MSP Dark Web Intelligence Analyst spoke about how criminals may use “social engineering” to achieve their devious goals. Social engineering is the psychological manipulation of people into performing actions or giving up confidential information, relying on human traits like trust and fear rather than technical hacking. Key examples include phishing, pretexting, and impersonation.

The resulting cost of an attack by such criminals can be from thousands to millions of dollars. One workshop participant related their experience with a scam using their company name, and even their home address, and made it appear that they were selling equipment. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were involved. Though this local company was not financially hurt, many people were hurt in the name of that

company as they wired money for the purchase of equipment that did not exist.

The MSP analyst said that crooks often target small players in less populated areas because their security system is less robust, and they get contacts through those and keep exploiting weaknesses. So even a small business is a potential target.

A cybercriminal may visit a business website and look around and see what they can learn that they can use to exploit people, such as information about the administration so they pose as someone that you might trust to get inside. They are also looking for security openings as a result of flaws in logic or lapses in security such as using the same password for various things. They exploit the proverbial low-hanging fruit.

Who does these things? There are various players including

those who sell information to others, those who directly steal funds, and even entrenched enemies of the country and free trade. The trouble is that there are many unscrupulous individuals and groups that want to attack.

Be aware of being pressured to make a quick decision about supplying information. Be suspicious of requests out of the ordinary. When prompted to update your computers, do it soon because vulnerabilities are exploited more quickly through A.I. Use pass phrases instead of passwords and have different passphrases for different websites or apps. Use a password manager to keep track of passphrases. A passkey, which is fingerprint or eye or face recognition is the safest.

If you feel a computer has been hacked, immediately disconnect from the internet, but leave it powered up. The computer

memory will provide clues for finding the source of the attack. The Cyber Command Center can be contacted at mc3@michigan.gov or 877-MI-CYBER.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed, but use common sense, protect your personal information and think things through. The analyst ended with a quote by Warren Buffet, the famous investor, “You don’t need extraordinary effort to achieve extraordinary results. You just need to do the ordinary everyday things exceptionally well.”

The Ogemaw EDC is about helping businesses succeed in Ogemaw County. The next EDC workshop will be Excel software training, October 6 & 13, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For questions or to register, or if you need business help, contact Penny Payea at ppayea@michworks4u.org.

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Christmas in July for Ogemaw Toys for Tots



Photo by Kathy Collins

Members of Ogemaw County Toys for Tots hosted their annual Christmas in July event on Wednesday, July 22, at the West Branch Walmart, collecting toys and donations to help provide holiday gifts for local children in need.

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Public Hearings and Notices

CITY OF ROSE CITY
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 16, 2026

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on June 16, 2026.
Present: Don Freeman, Robin Micklich, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Ashely Herrick, Brent Hinkley
Absent: Clerk Jennifer Hurley (excused)
Others present: Deputy Clerk Nicole Pennell, DPW Co-Supervisor Anthony Evans, County Commissioner Roger Mayhew, Theresa Erickson, Chase Wiltse, Dorthy Munn, Henry & Madeline Cojocar..
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the agenda. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mrs. Myers and seconded by Mr. Freeman to approve the Minutes for the April 21, 2026 Regular Rose City Council Meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to pay bills as presented, in the amounts of \$6,857.37 from the Common Cash Account and \$199.55 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Ms. Micklich, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Brent gave a Fireboard report
Brent gave a Personal report.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to accept the Personnel Rates for the 26/27 fiscal year. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Ms. Micklich, Mr. Freeman. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to accept the Personal Policy for the 26/27 fiscal year. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Ms. Micklich, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mrs. Myers and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to accept the compensation rates for the 26/27 fiscal year. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Ms. Micklich, Mr. Freeman. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Theresa gave an E.D.C report.
Chase Wiltse gave a DDA/Planning committee report.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to accept Say-je' Wilson as a member of the DDA Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion carried.
Roger Mayhew gave the County Commissioner's report.
Anthony Evans gave a DPW report.
Allen Muma gave a Police report.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve paid parking at the Farmer's Market for the 4th of July. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Ms. Micklich, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Mayor Michael Samples gave a report.
Allen Muma gave a campground update.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to purchase a camera up to \$1,400.00 from the police fund balance. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Ms. Micklich, Mr. Freeman. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to purchase an underground locator up to \$1,500.00. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Ms. Micklich, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the \$900 permit cost for the campground. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Ms. Micklich, Mr. Freeman. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve Al-len Muma as the Campground Manager. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Ms. Micklich, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve startup cost for campground up to \$15,000. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Ms. Micklich, Mr. Freeman. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the layout of the campground. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Ms. Micklich, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Freeman to sup-port STING in the amount of \$882.00 for the 26/27 fiscal year. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Ms. Micklich, Don Freeman. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Myers to accept the bid from Bolen for the road repairs. Ayes: Don Freeman, Ms. Micklich, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mr. Freeman to approve applying for the MDOT Category A Grant.
Dorthy Munn from the MSU Extension addressed the council.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CLASSIFIEDS

\$5 and it runs for a maximum of 3 months!

The Ogemaw County Su-perior 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@superior-](mailto:kathy@superior-news.com)

or-news.com or U.S. mail at: P.O. Box 603, West Branch, MI 48661. If you have ques-tions 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 Mel-ita 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’.

CITY OF ROSE CITY
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 3, 2026

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on June 3, 2026.
Present: Don Freeman, Robin Micklich, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley
Absent: none.
Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Police Chief Allen Muma, DPW Co-Supervisor Anthony Evans, and Brenda Butler.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the agenda. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Freeman to approve the Public Hearing Minutes for the May 19, 2026. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the Minutes for the May 19, 2026 Regular Rose City Council Meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mrs. Myers and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to pay bills as presented, in the amounts of \$6,909.72 from the Common Cash Account and \$0.00 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Ms. Micklich, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Mike Samples gave a Personnel committee report.
Scott Hamel gave a Memorial Day report.
Anthony Evans gave a DPW report.
Allen Muma gave a Police Report.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve tires from R & R in the amount of \$1,200.76. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Clerk gave a report
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Freeman adopt to accept the bid for tree removal from Timlick Tree Service. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Ms. Micklich, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to approve the 26/27 budget. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Ms. Micklich, Mr. Freeman. Nays: None. Motion carried. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the 2026 Tax Rate Request. Ayes: Mr. Freeman, Ms. Micklich, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.
A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to adjourn at 6:33 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Obituaries

JoAn Butler-Benjamin

June 17, 2026

JoAn Butler-Benjamin, age 71, of Rose City, Mich., passed away peacefully at her home on June 17, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

JoAn was born to Carol Lee Butler and Kenneth L. Butler. She was a proud 1972 graduate of Ogemaw Heights High School and lifelong resident of Rose City. She dedicated her career to serving her local community. Throughout

the years, she worked for several businesses and organizations, including Brunk's Flower Shop, the C.O.O.R. Intermediate School District, Osceola Refining Company, and Michigan Consolidated Gas Company. She concluded her professional career with the Ogemaw County Sheriff's Office, where she faithfully served for 20 years before retiring in 2020.

Retirement allowed JoAn to devote more time to the things she loved most. She enjoyed antiques and searching for hidden treasures at garage sales with her mother and husband — a pastime she approached with the tenacity of a seasoned treasure hunter coupled with the belief that the next great find was always just one

more stop away. She also shared a passion for interior decorating and home improvement projects, often envisioning projects faster than they could be completed by her husband.

JoAn found great joy in nature and spent peaceful hours observing wildlife while taking leisurely drives along country roads with her beloved husband and dogs. She never needed an elaborate vacation when there

were plenty of Michigan scenic sites and back roads to explore with animals to admire along the way. Animals held a special place in her heart throughout her life, especially dogs and horses. Her love for horses began at an early age through the influence of her parents and grandparents, Carl and Beatrice Bailer, who introduced her to farm life and horseback riding. Polly and Penny were her first horses, and she later received what would become her favorite horse, Queenie, as a gift from her grandfather — a treasured memory she carried throughout her life.

JoAn was a determined and compassionate woman who never hesitated to take on challenges,

especially when it meant helping others. Whether family, friends, or complete strangers, she was always willing to lend a hand. Known for her quick wit, strong character, and ability to tell you exactly what she thought — whether you asked or not — JoAn had a gift for making people laugh while keeping them on their toes. She was the kind of person who could solve a problem, offer advice, and make you smile all in the same conversation.

JoAn is survived by her loving husband, Tom Benjamin; her mother, Carol Lee Butler; her son, Joe (Mardie) Martonosi of Clio, Mich.; her grandson, Seph Martonosi; her brother, Jon (Mary) Butler of Dewey, Ariz., and nieces; her uncle, Bill (Phylliss) Bailer of Apache Junction, Ariz.; her step-daughters, Amy (Douglas) Gough of West Branch, Mich., and Angie Benjamin of Rockford, Mich.; her step-son, Tim Benjamin (Maggie) of Lebanon, Ohio; and cherished step-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her beloved father, Kenneth L. Butler.

Per her wishes, no funeral service will be held. A celebration of life will be continually held amongst her family. To sign the online guestbook, visit www.cremationsocietymidmi.com. Arrangements were made with the Cremation Society of Mid Michigan.



Leslie "Les" Kempfer, Jr.

Nov. 15, 1936 ~ July 20, 2026

Leslie "Les" Kempfer Jr., born on Nov. 15, 1936, in Detroit, Mich., passed away peacefully on Monday, July 20, 2026, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Mich., at the age of 89.

On May 1, 1965, he married Sherron Thurston in Troy, Mich., where they lived before moving their family to St. Helen, Mich., in 1973.

A true master of his craft, he began his journey in carpentry at the age of 16, working under E.C. Price Sr. in St. Clair Shores. He quickly earned a reputation for his meticulous attention to detail that would define his every project. For Les, carpentry was more than a trade; in 1989, he began his own construction business.

He served his country honorably in the Air Force National Guard from 1958 to 1961. He

dedicated 14 years as a firefighter in Troy. Through these roles, Les generously gave his time and care, earning the respect of those around him.

Les loved deer hunting with his sons and family at the farm in Engadine, Mich. He also enjoyed fishing, trapping, bowling, traveling, camping, and gardening. The time he spent outdoors

with family and friends created many lasting memories that will be cherished forever.

Les is survived by his wife, Sherrie Kempfer; they shared 61 years of marriage. Also surviving are his daughter, Jill (Chuck) McPherson; his son, Jason Kempfer, and his granddaughters, Madison and Molly McPherson. He is



also survived by his sister, Bonnie Roszak, and brother Richard Pershinske, as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leslie and Helen Kempfer and Fred and Elsie Pershinske; his son, Leslie T. Kempfer; his brother, Tom and sister-in-law, Fran Kempfer; his sister, Nancy Norberg; his brother-in-law, Ron Roszak and his sister-in-law, Jan Pershinske.

Cremation has taken place.

A memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026, at Steuermol & McLaren Funeral Home in St. Helen from 4-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, plants or gifts, please consider memorial contributions to the family for a charity of their choice.

Arrangements were handled by Steuermol & McLaren Funeral Home in St. Helen, Mich. www.steuernolmclaren.com

Outreach

« Continued from page 1

Last year, about 850 people attended the outreach, making it one of the church's largest community events. Organizers expect another strong turnout as families gather for an evening designed to help students begin the school year with confidence.

"We are so thankful to be able to host this event and give back to this community," said Director of FA Groups and Leadership Development Rich Casanova. "Faith Alive Church is humbled to be able to serve our community's greatest resource - children and their families."

The first 400 children through the doors will receive gift cards, the majority of which are from Old Navy. Families will also have access to free haircuts from local stylists and school supplies as children make their way through stations set up throughout the church.

In addition to the back-to-school essentials, organizers have planned a variety of activities, including carnival games, a photo

booth, free hot dogs and a live animal show, one of two new additions to this year's event.

"We want to live out our mission, which is to Love God, Love Others and Serve the World," Rich said. "Community outreach is an important aspect of building relationships in West Branch and the surrounding communities."

Church leaders say the annual outreach is about more than providing supplies. It is an opportunity to connect with families, encourage children as they begin a new school year and demonstrate the church's commitment to serving its neighbors.

Whether families come for a backpack full of supplies, a fresh haircut or simply an evening of fun together, organizers hope every visitor leaves feeling welcomed and supported.

The Back-to-School Community Outreach is free and open to the public. Families are encouraged to arrive early, as gift cards and supplies will be distributed while they last.

Fair

« Continued from page 1

Beyond the attractions and entertainment, organizers say the fair remains focused on preserving the county's agricultural traditions while creating lasting memories for families. From children experiencing farm animals up close for the first time to longtime exhibitors returning year after year, the fair continues to serve as one of the county's largest annual gatherings.

Additional information, schedules, admission details and entry information are available on the fair's official website www.ogemawcountyfair.com.

Be sure to check out the Ogemaw County Fair Guide, inserted in this week's edition of the Ogemaw County Superior News, so you don't miss a thing.

Millage

« Continued from page 1

transportation services to residents throughout the community.

Voters also approved the Ogemaw County 4-H Youth Programs and Michigan State University Extension Services millage. The proposal received 3,436 yes votes, representing 58.7 percent of the vote, while 2,413 voters, or 41.3 percent, voted no. The funding will continue to support educational programs, youth development opportunities, and extension services offered through the county.

The Ogemaw County Animal Shelter Services millage also passed, with 3,238 voters voting yes and 2,633 voting no. The approved funding will help support animal shelter services and operations in the county.

Voters rejected the West Branch-Rose City Area Schools Operating Millage Proposal Tuesday, turning down the measure by a margin of 301 votes. The final tally showed 2,334 votes in favor and 2,635 votes against the proposal.

The school district is expected to lose approximately \$540,000 in general fund revenue that would have supported day-to-day operations, including classroom supplies, transportation, staffing, utilities, facility maintenance and athletic programs.

These are unofficial results and will become official after certification by the county Board of Canvassers

Basketball

« Continued from page 3

fundraising efforts. This partnership helps create a seamless transition for young athletes as they progress through the basketball program.

Keeping youth sports affordable has also been a top priority.

Through grants provided by organizations such as United Way, OYBO has been able to keep registration fees relatively low, making basketball accessible to more families throughout the community. Those grants have also allowed the organization to invest

in high-quality equipment and uniforms that enhance the experience for every participant.

Players proudly wear some of the finest uniforms in the league, giving them a sense of pride every time they step onto the court.

"Our kids love the uniforms," Lucas said. "They feel confident wearing them, and that confidence carries over into how they play."

The organization has also invested in age-appropriate basketballs that are properly sized for developing athletes. While the

basketballs cost approximately \$80 each, organizers believe the investment is worthwhile because of their durability and their ability to help young players develop proper shooting and ball-handling techniques.

These improvements have only been possible because of strong community support.

United Way grants have played an important role in helping OYBO continue to grow while maintaining consistency from year to year. That stability has

helped build trust among parents and families while creating a sense of pride throughout the community.

Beyond wins and losses, OYBO's greatest success may be the opportunities it creates for young people. Every practice teaches discipline. Every game builds confidence. Every season strengthens friendships and encourages healthy, active lifestyles.

As the organization continues to grow, its mission remains the same: to provide every child who

wants to play basketball with the opportunity to learn the game, develop valuable life skills, and become part of a supportive team environment.

Thanks to the dedication of volunteer coaches, supportive parents, community partners, and organizations like United Way, the Ogemaw Youth Basketball Organization is making a lasting impact — one player, one team, and one season at a time.

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