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Vol. 1, Issue 3 Your source for positive community news! Feb. 24 - March 8, 2024

'Flocking together to End Cancer'



On Wednesday, Feb. 21, a Coaches vs. Cancer basketball game was held at the Ogemaw Heights High School. The games were played by both the Ogemaw Heights and Whittemore-Prescott boys and girls. Both teams wore special jerseys with names on back that represented family members or a person they know who passed away from cancer or are currently fighting cancer. Organizers of the event were Korey Kripli, Jeff Erickson and Don Freeman. Coaches vs. Cancer is a nationwide collaboration between the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches. Donations were collected to give to the American Cancer Society. -Photo by Wendy Brindley

MyMichigan West Branch Medical Center celebrates 25th Anniversary

BY MICHAEL BUSCH

Employees, friends, and family came together to celebrate the 25th anniversary of MyMichigan West Branch Medical Center on Jan. 30. Long-time employees who attended reminisced about their experience working at the hospital and how it has grown over time.

Jan. 30 marked the same day in 1999 when patients from the older Tolfree Hospital were transferred to the newly constructed West Branch Regional Medical Center.

Over the years, the facility has experienced many changes. In 2014 the Tolfree Wellness Park opened with a walking trail and pavilion. In 2019 a 17,000 square foot emergency department was added with 20 private patient and trauma rooms.

According to a 2022 statistical survey by the American Hospital Association, the MyMichigan West Branch facility has 88



beds, admitted 1,288 patients, had 57,507 outpatient visits, and employed 292 people with a payroll of \$20.2 million. The health and economic impact of the hospital on Ogemaw County cannot be underestimated.

Ray Stover, regional president

of MyMichigan West Branch, noted that the hospital tries hard to attract and retain employees during a time of labor shortages, particularly in the medical field. MyMichigan Health was recently recognized, for the second year in a row, in Forbes Magazine's "America's Best Employers by State" list. Of the 72 Michigan organizations listed, MyMichigan ranked 42nd and was sixth on the list of Michigan healthcare systems under the Healthcare & Social Care industry category.

Stover observed potential employees are drawn to living in northern Michigan with its range of outdoor activities. Older employees in particular want to move to Ogemaw County because it offers a different pace. "As employees move into midlife, they'd rather be out of the crowd. They love it up here."

Looking to the future, four

MYMICHIGAN continues on page 3 »

Keeping the passion alive



Matt Sochocki, OHHS boys' coach; Mark Pacella, OHHS girls' coach; Dennis Jameson; Vicki Barnes, W-P girls' coach; Allen Ragels, W-P boys' coach.

BY LAURA BENDER

You could hear a pin drop amid the laughter and good-natured chatter as the men's and women's bowling teams from Whittemore-Prescott and Ogemaw Heights High Schools practiced. In some lanes, you could hear ten pins drop when a well-aimed ball hit the sweet spot. No matter the skill level, these high school bowlers

looked happy to be working on their game, and to be doing it together.

JAMESON continued on page 3 »



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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 and Auxiliary 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 postvention. Call 989-345-5571.

Monday – (Third of each month) 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 China Inn, 601 W. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call 989-345-0978.

Tuesdays – Rose City Area Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., April through November, except August. Meet at the Rose City Lions Club Cabin. Call Cathy 989-345-5659.

Tuesdays – T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) weigh in at

12:40-1:20 p.m., meeting starts at 1:30-2 p.m. Ogemaw Hills Free Clinic, 2106 S. Gray Rd. in West Branch. Call Robin 989-387-7883.

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 989-345-7206.

Tuesdays – (First and third of each month) Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake. First Tuesday 6 p.m. at the St.

Stephens Catholic Church Hall, 2811 E. Greenwood Rd. in Skidway Lake. Third Tuesday 6 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 meeting 5 p.m. at Buccilli's Pizza in downtown West Branch. Call Ken 989-345-1066.

Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) Ogemaw County Republican Party meeting 5:30 p.m. at G's Pizzeria in downtown West Branch. Call Kristine 989-343-5120.

Tuesday – (Last of each month) Diabetes Support Group 1-2 p.m. Medical Arts Center, diabetes education conference room. Call 989-343-3276.

Wednesdays – West Branch Area Business and Professional Women's Organization meets the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Different locations each month. Call 989-745-4067 for information.

Wednesdays – (First of each month) Veterans coffee hour 9-10 a.m. Held at the Ogemaw County Commission on Aging, 1528 S. M-33 in West Branch. Call 989-345-3010.

Wednesdays – (First and third) Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. Faith Alive Church, 2945 Hansen Rd. in West Branch. Open to the entire community. Call 989-345-5440.

Thursdays-GriefShare Support Group. 2-4 p.m. Fresh Start Community Church, 690 Campbell Rd., West Branch. March 7 through May 30. \$20 for workbook. Scholarships available. Call Brenda 989-312-0105 for registration or info.

Thursdays – (First and third of each month) Newborn Parent Support Group 6-7:30 p.m. MyMichigan Health - West Branch in the executive dining room. Call 800-999-3199.

Thursdays – Northern Blend Sweet Adelines meets every week 7 p.m. at Logan Township Hall, 4507 E. M-55, Prescott. Call Ellen 989-345-0978.

Thursdays – (Second and fourth) Sit & Knit, 1 p.m. Knitting, needlework, and friendship. Whatever you craft. Ogemaw Commission on Aging, 1528 S. M-33 in West Branch. Call Alicia 989-345-3010, ext. 201.

Thursdays – (Third of each month) Rose City/Lupton Chamber of Commerce meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Rose City Council Chambers. Call Carl 989-473-3268.

Thursdays – Optimist Club of West Branch meets at 7 a.m. at the Loggers Depot in West Branch. Call 989-942-6608.

Thursdays - The Ogemaw County Fair board meets the first Thursday of each month in the main building at the fairgrounds. Call 989-345-5393.

March

16 - West Branch Optimist 15th Annual Camel Races. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Post time 6:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, desserts and set-ups - BYOB. For more information contact Chuck at 989-942-6608.

April

13 - Art Walk & Wine Tasting. 5-8 p.m. Downtown West Branch. Sponsored by West Branch Area Merchants. Call 989-345-5226.

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

Meet Your Superior News Family



Nikki Szymkowski



Kathy Collins



Laura Bender



Michael Busch



DeeDee Brinkman



Sally Rea



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Jamie Stout-Shirkey



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FAITH & WORSHIP

The Enduring Frog

"...for He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,' so that we confidently say, 'the lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. what will man do to me?'"
- Hebrews 13:5-6

We can flourish and develop in new ways or we can drown in despair.

Story from India: One night two frogs found themselves in a dairy. Hopping and jumping around as frogs do they both jumped into a milk pail half full of milk.

After swimming around for some time they tried to get out. But the inside of the pail was too slippery and there was nothing on which they could rest so that they could jump out. One frog thought it was useless trying to swim on and just gave up hope and sunk and was drowned.

The other carried on swimming, hoping against hope that something would turn up. He swam and he swam until he began to feel tired. But by this time the milk, which was full of cream, had become thick. When the frog had swum some more the cream had been stirred so much that it became a solid lump of butter. On this the frog could scramble and rest. And from it he could easily jump out of the pail into safety.

- Ed Vasicek

First United Methodist Church
2490 W. State Rd., West Branch, MI 48661
989-345-0210
Rev. Michelle Forsyth
reverendmichelleforsyth@gmail.com
Organist: Carol Lockhart
www.westbranchfumc.org
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: 8:30 a.m.

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 Tom Teall • Youth Pastor Josh Pierce
www.cbcbw.org

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

Jameson

« Continued from page 1

For the last eighteen years, the Kurt Jameson Memorial Tournament has sponsored the teams from both schools. This philanthropic organization pays for the teams' sanction fees and for any tournaments for which they qualify. Dennis Jameson established the organization in honor of his son Kurtis Jameson, who lost his life in a motorcycle accident in 2005. Since Kurt loved to bowl, Dennis helps to foster that passion in other young people.

On February 14th, Dennis

presented the coaches from both Ogemaw Heights and Whittemore-Prescott with checks to cover expenses for the teams. Besides sponsoring the high schoolers at Hi-Skore Lanes, the organization also sponsors a free Youth Tournament for Ogemaw County youth and a Family Twosome Tournament at Ogemaw Lanes.

Generous donations from across the community fund the Kurt Jameson Memorial Tournament. Last year, 125 businesses and individuals took part.

MyMichigan

« Continued from page 1

initiatives for the hospital include hiring a sports medicine physician and pulmonologist and expanding maternal care and the cardiology unit.

Stover said a sports medicine practice is needed in the area to provide care to sports teams and for those who use the local gyms and sports facilities.



Robert McGrail, former president of MyMichigan West Branch

In 2010, the maternity unit was closed due to revenue shortfalls, but it was reopened in 2021. Stover said, "We will continue to grow our OB program as we expect to eventually deliver 350 babies per year here in West Branch. In fact, we were recently granted a new designation as a "Maternity Care Access Hospital" from U.S. News & World Report. The medical center was one of eight in Michigan and one of 73 in the U.S. to receive the

designation. This is a special recognition to those hospitals that



Cathy Cleland, Executive Assistant, Lanelle Brown, Vice-President of Nursing and Chris Engelhardt, Director of Finance

provide access to vital maternity care services in their community. MyMichigan Medical Center Alma also received the honor.

"Our top priority is to offer quality care close to home," said Stover. "I think it's important for the community to know. That's our goal. We don't want to have them drive to other medical facilities. We want to offer them as many services as possible right here in West Branch."

One West Branch resident who was recently admitted as a patient and asked to be anonymous, summed up what many locals feel

about having a large hospital with a small town feel close by. "When I go to the ER, everyone knows my name, and then I go to the third floor and everyone knows my name."



Cathy Cleland and Kelsey Killinger, Community Health Supervisor



Sandy Norton, Kim Klann, Rick Bowen and Chis Engelhardt

GriefShare Support Group

Starting Thursday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 PM beginning March 7th through May 30, 2024 at

Fresh Start Community Church
690 Campbell Rd.
West Branch, MI 48661

The only cost is \$20.00 for the workbook that is used for the course. Scholarships are available if needed.

Call Brenda at 989.312.0105 for more information and registration.

313 Designs celebrate new business opening with ribbon cutting



Rob and Kelsey DeGentenaar of West Branch recently celebrated the opening of their new business, 313 Designs, located at 313 Houghton Ave., West Branch, with a ribbon cutting and open house. The business offers personalization of glassware, mugs, tumblers, coasters, keychains, koozies and more. Pictured are Rob, Kelsey and their daughter, Madison, surrounded by West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce representatives.

-Photo by Chuck Snyder

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• Fuel Injection
• Starters & Alternators
• Minor Engine
• Motor Tune-up
• Shocks-Struts
• ATF Automatic Transmission Fluid
• Exchanger
• Check Engine Light
• Engine Repair
Auto Repair 7:30-5 M-F • Oil Change 8:30-5 M-F
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1962

Tidbits from Yesterdays

BY SALLY A. REA

In August of 1932 West Branch viewed an eclipse through dark glasses and there was a great interest here as the shadow covered all but the crescent sun; visible for over two hours.

On Friday, Oct. 31, 1935, 17 states were shaken by a quake. West Branch felt the earthquake early Friday morning that rocked cities and villages in 17 northeastern states and parts of Canada, but so many persons had already retired after a strenuous Hallow that few felt the tremors.



SALLY REA
CURATOR, OGEAW COUNTY MUSEUM

On Dec. 3, 1925, Leo Schmaltz shot a doe with horns. During every deer hunting season many stories are told of freak deer shots.

A story that is often told is the one where does grow horns occasionally, but seldom believed by the older hunters. The story was actually proven to be true this year, when Schmaltz, hunting in Ontonagon County, shot and killed a deer with eight-inch antlers which proved to be a doe.

Nov. 24, 1927: What may be regarded as a birth certificate of the state of Michigan has just been discovered in the

musty archives of the state of Virginia at Richmond, according to an announcement by Col. J.W. Williams, clerk of the Virginia House of delegates. The document is the deed by which Virginia conveyed to great Northwest Territory to the United States and is signed by two former presidents, Jefferson and Monroe, and by Samuel Hardy and Arthur Lee, all of whom were then members of Congress from Virginia. The instrument is handwritten and yellow with age.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature is the stipulation that the states formed from the territory should be "distinctly Republican State," and limited in size to not less than 100 and not more than

150 miles square. Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois were carved out of the territory. The deed reserved George Rogers Clark, commander of the Virginia forces in the revolution, a tract of 150,000 acres as a reward for himself and his army. It was Clark who led various reprisal raids against Gov. Henry Hamilton, of Detroit, the notorious "scalp buyer." These raids were principally responsible for British action in ceding the Northwest Territory to victorious Americans in the Treaty of 1783.

Oct. 15, 1925: R.C. McKay purchased \$17,000 in road bonds on Ogemaw County at a meeting of the Ogemaw County Road Commission last Friday.

This money will be used for the improvement of the roads between Rose City and Iosco county lines.

Ange Lorenzo was up from Detroit over the weekend. He was accompanied by his mother on his return.

Vern Mier stopped at the museum to tell me a tidbit about his dad, Leo Mier, and a Mr. Cecil Barrett, who cleared the property in Irons Park after Archie Irons gave the rest of his property to the city of West Branch (in the mid 1950s). They used Leo's big team of horses and they left the big team of horses there overnight. Vern still remembers the horses' names, Silver and Lady.

From the desk of Gail Hughey Superintendent West Branch-Rose City Schools Preschool and Kindergarten Round-Up

The brain undergoes a period of rapid growth and development during the early years of life, with the majority of neural connections forming before the age of five. During this period children are particularly receptive to learning and environmental influences. The neural pathways formed are the foundation for all future learning and behavior.

Children's brains are highly responsive to language input during this time, allowing them to acquire vocabulary, grammar, and language rapidly. Children benefit from exposure to rich language environments which promotes strong language skills, essential for communication, literacy, and academic success.

Structured and unstructured experiences found in our early childhood classrooms support the development of cognitive skills such as attention, memory, and problem solving, as well as pre-reading and pre-math skills.

The early years are fundamental for the development of social and emotional skills. Children learn to regulate their emotions, understand others' perspectives,

and form relationships through interactions with teachers, other children, and their environment. Positive early experiences contribute to the development of secure attachments, emotional resilience, and social competence. For more information on early

childhood development, check out www.michigan.gov/mikidsmatter

Now is the time to begin thinking about enrolling your child for kindergarten or preschool for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. To enroll in preschool, your child should turn four by Sept. 1 or as late as Dec. 1. To enroll in kindergarten, your child should turn five by Sept. 1 or as late as Dec. 1. The West Branch-Rose City Area Schools are accepting appointments for enrollment into both kindergarten and preschool. Please call our elementary school offices to make an appointment during the week of April 15, 2024. You can reach the Surline Elementary School office at 989.343.2190 or the Rose City School office at 989.343.2250.



GAIL HUGHEY

News from Ogemaw County Fair

BY MICHELLE PARLAMENT

What a crazy winter we have been having! We have been taking advantage of the weather offers of help from some timber companies to some more of the dead trees around the grounds. Thank you to Fresh Coast Tree and TR Timber and all volunteers who have been coming out for all your help. We have a great head start on the spring clean-up!



MICHELLE PARLIAMENT

Planning is underway for this year's fair and we are very excited to welcome "Confederate Railroad" as this year's concert in the grandstands. Local favorites, The Godfrey's, will be opening for them. We have some new things planned as well as some of the staples returning such as the motocross and the bump and run. The tractor pull will feature two sleds and we are pleased to welcome Western Days Ministries rodeo this year. We will also be bringing

back the horse pulls to the grandstands.

Tickets are available online at www.ogemawcountyfair.org for the concert, Bike Bash and the mega wristband for Arnold Amusements. The mega band is good for all ride sessions for the entire week and is a great value.

Planning for this year's Bike Bash is in the planning stages and you can check out their Facebook page for up-to-date details. We are also combining our Christmas in July and fireworks events this year in one weekend that has been dubbed July Jubilee. We will still have all the events we usually have with Christmas in July weekend but have added a bump and run and fireworks. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for all the details about the weekend.

As always, we send a very sincere thank you to everyone in the community for supporting us. We cannot continue to do what we do without the help that we receive from our volunteers. We continue to be grateful for the relationships with all of our partners.



KIWANI'S CORNER



DENNY SHUMWAY

BY DENNY SHUMWAY

The Kiwanis Club meets at noon on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the China Inn. 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, call Jolin at 989-873-4532.

AKTION CLUB OF WEST BRANCH

The Aktion Club continues to collect bottles and cans. You can call 315-725-1199 and make arrangements for pick up or drop off locations.

Our bake sale, greeting card sale and candle sale was a success again this year. Thank you to all that supplied stuff for it. We will be having more this year. We also collected canned goods and dry goods for the

Ogemaw Food Pantry as well.

We support numerous organizations in Ogemaw County. Those with special needs interested in joining our club, come on the second Wednesday of the month at noon to the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State Streets.

We are looking forward to continuing to help others in 2024. OGEAW COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

Looking for donations of food or money to help us with the influx of families. We had over 117 families so far this month, which continues to take a toll on our finances. We will take donations every Wednesday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Thank you for your assistance. We

are located in the garage behind the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave., PO Box 543, West Branch. We want to thank those that have donated. If bad weather, call ahead at 315-725-1199 to see if we are open. Meijer has donation cards available at the self Checkout wall and customer service deck. You can donate increments of \$10 to help us. They are available until the end of March for our pantry.

FOOD TRUCK OF WEST BRANCH

The monthly Food Truck held once a month also Needs your help. Our next truck is coming on March 15, 2024. They need to raise money now to keep the trucks coming. Please Sponsor a truck, contact Lisa Curnow at 989-345-0381

Superior News

The *Superior News* is published the second and fourth Saturdays of the month and distributed in West Branch, Rose City, Prescott, Lupton, Alger, Skidway Lake and Hale. It is available at newsstands for 75 cents per issue or annually for \$45.

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Letter to the editor policy

The *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 news@superior-news.com or by traditional mail to P.O. Box 603, West Branch, MI 48661.

Max-Well Therapy Ribbon Cutting



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held, in conjunction with the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce, on Jan. 31 at Max-Well Therapy located at 1795 Peach Lake Rd., West Branch. Max-Well's goal is to enhance the lives of kids through the use of animal assisted activities. Pictured are (L-R) Marie Marshall, board member; Ann Stanfill, board member; Randee Morris, board member; Ethan Hock, Robert Hock, Shane Hock, Julie Hock, owner and Shelby Hock.
-Photo by Kathy Collins

WEST BRANCH OPTIMIST NEWS

BY CHUCK SNYDER AND ALAN DOSS

The camels are coming soon

The West Branch Optimist Club will host its 15th annual camel races. Come watch the races, enjoy our many appetizers and desserts, 50/50s, Prize opportunities and, best of all, helping us help the youth of our community.

Enjoy the races will be at the Columbus Hall (formerly K of C Hall) of West Branch. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the first race is at 6:30 p.m.; NOTE: This is an hour earlier than previous years. The ticket price is still \$20. They may be purchased at Morse Clark Furniture and Culligan Water or from an Optimist member you may know.

Please call Chuck at 989-942-6608 if you have questions or wish to reserve a table or tickets. or

The club will be reserving tickets for a local group (last year was teachers) for a special offer. This year it is First Responders. The first 10 to sign up will receive one free ticket for the responder (second ticket for the standard \$20) and a reserved table will be set for this up group and their guests.

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Based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film, by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures, Inc.

(Original Movie Chorography by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen)
Produced by Arrangement With Maurice Rosenfield, Lois F. Rosenfield and Cindy Pritzker, Inc.

March 13-16, 2024
7 p.m. in the OHHS Auditorium
Tickets are \$12 and available in advance at:
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The OHHS Theatrical Troupe is Sponsored in Part By
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SINGIN' IN THE RAIN is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com



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Ogemaw County EMS Authority hosts Chili Cook Off

BY MICHAEL BUSCH

The Ogemaw County EMS Authority hosted their 1st Annual Chili Cook Off on February 17, 2024. The event was well

attended with 75 people voting for their favorite chili among eight contest entries.

The purpose of the event was to increase public awareness of the

service that the EMS Authority provides to Ogemaw County. It is the only ambulance provider in the county, operating four ambulances on a full-time basis

over a 450 square mile area. Call volume averages 5,800 calls a year. While its primary purpose is answering 911 emergency calls, EMS also handles patient

transfers to other hospitals, standby assistance at public events, and regular emergency medical training to staff and the public.



Kristi Giliam, first place winner of the Ogemaw County EMS Authority Cook Off with EMS Director Justin Rogers.



Jen Bruning, Spiciest Chili.



Amanda Vaughn, Kid's Choice.

Ready, Lent, Go!

Alaskan Fish & Chips
Bering Sea Cod, Hand Cut, Beer Batter Dipped and Fried Extra Crispy w/ Skin On French Fries!





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Hale Area SUPERIOR NEWS

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HALE EAGLES SUPERIOR NEWS

These articles and pictures were written and submitted by students at Hale High School.

Hale Area Schools tribute to Mr. Kimmerer



Joseph Kimmerer

BY ERICA BERNARD

Joseph (Joe) Kimmerer has been a vital part of Hale Area Schools for as long as anyone can remember. Mr. Kimmerer served as a member of the board of education, coached both basketball and baseball, and was also the Plainfield Township Supervisor from 1993 - 2000.

Alongside these commitments, Mr. Kimmerer and his wife, Ethel Kimmerer, built a successful restaurant in the 1980s. Before they built their family restaurant though, Mr. Kimmerer started Kimmerer Construction in 1973. Kimmerer Construction is still running today through his son, Joe Kimmerer. As the devoted man that Mr. Kimmerer was, he worked until just weeks before his death.

On top of all these commitments, Mr. Kimmerer was a father and a grandfather. Because of his children and grandchildren, Mr. Kimmerer became a regular at every Hale Middle School and High School games. Mr. Kimmerer supported both his sons growing up, and more recently his five grandchildren. Mr. Kimmerer's children and grandchildren have led on the Kimmerer legacy of being strong, dedicated athletes.

His two sons, Joe Kimmerer and Jerud Kimmerer, have both led on Mr. Kimmerer's legacy of coaching. Joe Kimmerer has collected 20 plus years of coaching girls and boys basketball as well as baseball. His other son, Jerud Kimmerer, has coached middle school football and basketball, and varsity baseball.

If there is anything that we could have learned from Mr. Kimmerer is to be dedicated and passionate about what you love. As a result of this legacy and invaluable contributions that Mr. Kimmerer has left Hale Area Schools, the Hale Area School Board of Education honors him by forever naming the Hale basketball court "Kimmerer Court." The name will officially be recognized during halftime of the last home game for the varsity girls and boys versus Mio on Feb. 23, 2024.

Celebrating School Board Recognition Month

BY REESE SPAW

Hale Area Schools is proud to celebrate school board recognition month in January. Recognizing our school board is one way we can express our appreciation for all they do as the efforts of the school board members usually go unrecognized. We appreciate the countless hours they devote to making tough decisions and being the driving force that keeps our school system going and ensures that our school provides the best education possible for the children of our community.

The students at Hale Area Schools would like to take the opportunity to express our gratitude and support for our school board members. They deserve our appreciation, not only in January but throughout the year for their countless hours to make our school and community a better place. At this time, we would also like to thank Joe Kimmerer for the many years serving on our school board.

We would also like to welcome the newest board member, Paul Olmstead. Thank you, Hale Area School Board, for your dedication, vision, and leadership to our students, staff, and community.

Mission: *Our mission is to empower all students to be:*

- successful, lifelong learners in an ever-changing society
- confident and respectful individuals who are able to live safe, happy, and active lives,
- responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to their community

Vision: *Hale Area Schools will work as a community to prepare "every student, every day" academically, socially, and emotionally to achieve success for the future.*

Belief: *All students will learn.*

8th Grade Mackinac Island trip fundraiser

The Hale Area Schools eighth grade is holding a fundraiser to help pay expenses for a class trip to Mackinac Island. Cottage Vision Designs is hosting the event on April 10 at 6 p.m. at the Hale High School cafeteria. Cost of the craft project is \$40 with all supplies included. You will be able to choose from a variety of colors. Fifty percent

of the money made goes back to the class.

Register by April 3 with Mrs. Nieman, 989-728-3551, ext. 225 (leave a message) or email tnieman@haleschools.net. Register quickly! There are only 50 spots available.



Elks Hoop Shoot

BY ARIANNA KOEPKE

On Jan. 20, Hale Area Schools held the Elks Regional Hoop Shoot. Bay City, Tawas, Flint, and Alma were the four lodges that were represented out of the six possible lodges. The three different age groups ranged from 8-13 years old. Hale Area Schools won all six divisions at district level. The winners at the regional level from Hale were

Ellie Bernard (10-11) and Aleese Kimmerer (12-13). Both winners advanced onto the Elks State Hoop Shoot shot at Ferris State University. Both Ellie and Aleese successfully came in fifth place.

Pictured right: Aleese Kimmerer and Ellie Bernard with Hale Schools Principal and Elk First Vice President, Mr. Bowman.



School board members pictured from left to right: Karol Shellenbarger - treasurer, Cindy Sheldon - secretary, Valerie Cryderman - vice president, Jeremy Spaw - president, Micheal Riley - trustee, and Tara Lynch - trustee.

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Hale Schools Students of the Month

JANUARY



Back Row (L-R) Ellery Coleman, RB Stevens, Steven Chinchak, Carter Fournier, Lakelynn Dodridge, Aleese Kimmerer. Front Row (L-R) Braylee Prescott, Emerick Culton, Abel Mullen, Ashtyn Bassi, Grayson Marks. Not Pictured: Kolton Blake.

FEBRUARY



Back Row: Antonio Jimenez, Adrain Walton, Eli Chrivia, Rayven Phegley, Reece Ready. Front Row: Ashlynn Hewitt, Everett Kesler, Willow Charles, Brayden Farrand, Ella Link.

Volunteers Needed!

Hale Area Citizens Patrol

Call Connie Loomis at 728-4796
or Greg Urbanczyk at
586-224-1491 for more
information.

Hale Senior Center Menu

February

23 - Lemon pepper fish, macaroni & cheese, cauliflower and fruit parfait.

26 - Orange chicken, mashed potatoes or brown rice, Normandy vegetable blend and peach fluff.

27 - Hamburger, homemade fries, wax beans and tropical fruit salad.

28 - Roast pork, mashed potatoes, carrots and an apple.

29 - Liver & onions, mashed potatoes, cauliflower and peaches.

All meals include coffee, tea or milk and, served at noon. Suggested donation, 60 plus is \$3, under 60 is \$7.50. Call before 10:30 a.m. to make reservations. Hale 989-728-4251 or Sand Lake 989-469-9361.

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Hale Little Eagles



The third and fourth grade Little Eagles girls after beating Au Gres-Sims in a scrimmage.

BY ISABELLA BARKHOLZ

On Jan. 21, 2024, the Little Eagles program started for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade. It is an annual group of events that take place during winter every year. Running Little Eagles this year are Coach Andy Katterman and Coach Joe Kimmerer. Coaching the second-third girls and boys, and the fourth-fifth girls and boys are

members of our varsity basketball teams. Connor Runyan, an eighth grader, was helping and said that the whole day went well and saw improvement in all of the kids.

When asking some of the high school students how they like coaching these big groups of kids, there was a mix of answers. Senior Reece Ready, who coaches the second and third grade boys, said, "I enjoy watching them

learn and grow from such a young age." Senior Felicity Hicks, who coaches the third and fourth grade girls, said, "I like being able to be in the perspective of a coach, so I know how my coach feels every day at practice and during games."

This program will help young athletes grow and develop early on and will help our future and current basketball program grow.

Knights of Columbus Hoop Shoot

BY NOELLE KELLAR

On Jan. 27, Tawas held the Knights of Columbus free throw competition. Children ages 9-14 attended the shoot. Winners of each age group had the opportunity to compete in Tawas for the district championship. Hale Schools students that competed were Aubree Farrand (9 years), Elaina McCadie (10

years), Bentley Dodridge (10 years), Sophie Cole (12 years), Trinity Shick (13 years), Jason Kimmerer (13 years), and Isabella Barkholz (14 years). The students who won districts and will be competing in the regional competition with a chance to go to states.



Hale School students L-R: J. Kimmerer, A. Farrand, B. Dodridge, S. Cole, B. Barkholz, T. Shick, and E. McCadie

FAITH & WORSHIP

Opie's Newspaper

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?" This is a lie. Bones broken by sticks and stones usually mend. But wounds inflicted by words may never heal. But it works the other way too. Our words have an awesome power to do good, to impart grace and therefore bring joy.

The gospel makes it clear that when God sends out his word, it is God himself who goes. His ultimate word is Jesus Christ. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:1, 3, 14, NIV.

When God spoke his heart to us, he spoke Jesus, full of grace and truth. He used the power of his word to bless, not to curse; to create, not to destroy.

—www.SermonCentral.com



Hale Baptist Church

Pastor Todd Vossen

SERVICES

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.,
Church Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Recharge - 6:30 p.m.

Contact the Church for More Information
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Hale Methodist Church

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Hale High School Snowcoming Dance

BY SAVANNAH JONES

As we continue on into the school year, Hale High School has been able to yet again, put on another fun-filled formal. This year the dance was themed “Seasons” and was decorated with items from winter, fall, spring, and summer. The high school student council was able to put together a great experience. From planning to decorating, it wouldn’t have been possible without the help from the members who participated on the Snowcoming committee.

The dance was DJ’d by two former Hale Schools’ students who brought the dance to life! I interviewed two students who attended the dance, and this is what they had to say. Senior Felicity Hicks said, “The dance was really fun! Being my senior year, it was really nice to be able to spend time with my class and bond for the last time with the whole high school.” Freshman Blake Chrivia said, “It was awesome! I personally had fun for my first Snowcoming. Next year is going to be the best yet!”



Hale High School 2024 Snowcoming Court at the dance.
Back Row: B. Jaremba, L. Mullins, J. Vanluven, S. Patten, D. Nichols.
Middle Row: E. Wolanin, K. Wolanin, G. Schulz, B. Sunde, H. Carpenter.
Front Row: B. McCadie, E. Bain.

The dance concluded with the Snowcoming royalty dance. Emily Bain was crowned queen and Brady McCadie was crowned king during the halftime of the Hillman vs. Hale game on Friday,

Jan. 26. The dance followed the game on Jan. 27. The next formal that Hale High School will be putting together is the 2004 Junior/Senior prom which will be followed by Project Prom.

SUPERVISOR’S CORNER

BY FRED LEWIS - SUPERVISOR, PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP

As it is in February, you will all be receiving a Notice of Assessment in the mail within the next few days. You do not have to do anything with this notice. It is for informational purposes only and is required by law to be sent to you every year. The information on this notice is about your property. Every year the Assessor has to look at the property values in our community and determine, based on current and past real estate market conditions, whether the value of our properties should change. Should they increase, if markets have gone up and stayed up, or should they decrease if those same markets have decreased. Once they determine the market impacts they will apply any changes to our property values and notify each of us of the change. We then have the right to question these changes and, if we can show proof that they are unreasonable, possibly have them reduced. In our Township the assessor sends out a newsletter that spells out the process for disputing any change and what the changes are and their impact on your taxes. Some changes may not affect your taxes, while others can have large impacts. As always, if you have any questions please call myself or the assessor.

One of the issues that keep coming across my desk is property line disputes. Many of these issues result from buildings located many years ago when either one or both owners were either relatives or close friends and they “agreed” on where they believed the property lines were. However neither actually surveyed nor in some cases they never even measured to check the assumed line locations. This has led to numerous cases where buildings either encroached on the lines or just flat ran over them. An encroachment is when a building is too close to the line and does not meet the legal setback requirements. In our community on most residential lots those dimensions are 25’ from the back property line and 25’ from the front property line or usually the road right-of-way. The side yard setback is 10’ on one side and 6’ on the opposite side. You can only chose which side is the short side if no buildings exist on the lot or if all current buildings are at least 10’ from all side property lines. If building(s) already exist and one side is less than 10’ then all buildings on that lot need to use the side less than 10’ as the short side yard even though it may be greater than 6’. The second problem and by far the worse one is when a building is

constructed over a property line and is located on your neighbors, either by a little or a lot, and is a legal hassle to solve. I will tell you that if you find yourself in this situation, get a lawyer to work the issue out. I do not recommend to try and GOOGLE your way through this. Every situation is different and no one size fits all solution is usable. Also, be patient. These issues’s take time to resolve and are not necessarily a high priority in court scheduling if you find you have to go before a judge. If you and your neighbor can work out an agreeable solution then the costs can be minimized and court can be avoided. Talk with your local Zoning people if you think you can work out a solution with the neighbor. Otherwise it’s off to court you go. These are also the reason that your local Zoning Officials will ask for a survey or some document showing the property lines. Surveys are kept at the surveyor or the Registrar of Deeds. They may be with your assessment record if they were recorded, but most surveys are not recorded and either are the property of the owner or the bank and the surveyor. Try and find copies before you come in for a permit. It might save you a trip and some frustration. The Zoning Administrators are just trying to do their job right and avoid building errors that may cost you or your heirs in the future.

Consider a membership at the Community Center and Eagle Point Plaza. You can come and enjoy pickleball at any time, yoga, cardio drumming, fitness training, walking or some more intense TOWANDA. Whatever your need we probably have some form of activity to assist you. So stop in and see Roma about a membership. We have family rates and business/group rates also. We would love to see you. When you’re here stop in on Tuesdays to the Plainfield Township Historical Museum. They have great displays of our community throughout history and how our members lived long ago. The members do a great job preserving and showcasing our heritage. They also have genealogical workshops, so stop and ask about the next event.

As always if you ever have any questions, comments or concerns regarding our community please contact me. I am in the office Monday – Friday 7:30 – 4:00 at 989-728-2811 or my cell at 989-984-7073 or by email supervisor@plainfieldtpmi.com.

Snowcoming Spirit Week

BY LARKIN SPAW

This year Spirit Week was Jan. 22 – Jan. 26. Monday’s theme was Snow Day, so you were able to wear what you would wear on a snow day. Tuesday’s theme was Seasons Mismatch. Students wore winter clothes, but with shorts and sandals or some students wore summer shirts with snowpants. Wednesday was Mathlete vs. Athlete Day. Students could either wear a jersey so they’re an athlete, or wear glasses to show they really love school. Wednesday night some of the high school boys came out and played macho volleyball to show off their volleyball skills. Thursday was Theme Day; each class had a different season to dress up for. The freshmen were spring, the sophomores were fall, the juniors were winter, and the seniors were summer. Each class dressed up with what they would wear for their season.

Friday was Blue and White, show your school spirit! Friday at 1:30 p.m., we had our pep assembly. There were fun games and competitive players for the games. With a fun-filled week in the books, the seniors came in first, second place were the freshmen, third were the sophomores, and then fourth were the juniors.



High school students dressed up in their Blue and White to show their school spirit!

HALE HAPPENINGS

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

Ongoing

First Friday - Bingo 12:30 p.m. Hale Resource Center. Call 728-4251.

Wednesdays – X-live, Hale Baptist Church Youth Group 6 p.m. Faith, food and fun. Sixth through 12th graders. Call 728-3821.

Wednesdays – (Second of each month) Sunrise Side Beekeepers, 7 p.m. at Eagle Pointe Plaza in Hale. Anyone interested in honeybees is

welcome. Call Gail 734-775-3703.

Saturdays – (May 27 through September) Plainfield Township Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Locally grown and produced items. Always looking for new vendors. Located between the firehall and the library in Hale on M-65. Call Cheryl 586-747-8767.

Sundays – (Last of each month) Hale Area Citizens Patrol 1 p.m. at the Eagle Pointe Plaza. Call Connie 989-728-4796.



Cousins sign with Alpena Community College

Three cousins from Ogemaw Heights High School have recently signed to attend Alpena Community College to play softball and/or volleyball. The girls have been playing ball together since elementary school through Little League, Ogemaw Outlaws travel ball, Jr. High club ball and High School ball. L-R are Alaina Neubecker, softball; Kirstin Neubecker, who will play both softball and volleyball, and Dakota Rachow, softball.

-Photo by Kathy Collins



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Beef Management Meeting - FREE

BY MSU EXTENSION

Dr. Dan Buskirk will join with Phil Durst to talk about management to capture more of the market opportunities and avoid pitfalls in beef production. Buskirk will focus on Selling more pounds of beef in the fall. Durst will provide a market outlook and updates on PFAS and BLV research.

Ogemaw County Extension Office, 205 S. Eighth Street, West Branch. This meeting is open to all who want to fine-tune

your production practices to reap more of the benefits of the current tight feeder calf supply. Not only is the meeting free, but we'll have pizzas on the table. If you want to contribute to the meal with something additional, please bring it. If you want to contribute a few bucks, that too is welcome. Come and enjoy the time with fellow beef producers. Contact Phil to say you are coming and how many you are bringing. Phil Durst, durstp@msu.edu, 989-387-5346

Skidway Lake Area Chamber of Commerce—Here to Serve You!

BY LAURA BENDER

The Skidway Lake Area Chamber of Commerce meets monthly on the third Thursday at 6:30 pm to discuss and promote commercial, industrial, civic, and tourist activities in the community. The board

members are excited to support all community endeavors. To see what they are currently doing, visit their webpage <https://www.skloc.org/> or check them out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081199609700>.

For more information, email skidwaylakeareacofc@yahoo.com or call (989) 873-4150. All are welcome to attend the Thursday meetings at the Chamber Hall, 2777 Greenwood Road; P.O. Box 4041; Prescott, MI 48756.

National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888.

You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.
- Mae West

Food for neighbors in need

BY LAURA BENDER

For the last ten years, Lisa Curnow has been Ogemaw County's coordinator for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, a volunteer job she inherited from her brother, Howie Hanft, who had done the job for the previous ten years.

Lisa manages a monthly food distribution, which supplies an average of 320 families with \$75 worth of groceries. Each box, packed by volunteers, includes dairy, produce, meat, canned goods, beverages, snacks, bread and bakery items.

The donated food comes from area groceries, manufacturers and farmers including Meijer, Walmart and Kroger. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in Flint inspects, sorts and packages all items received, then makes them available for distribution in 22



Photos by Laura Bender

counties. Although there is no cost for the food, sites like the one Lisa manages must pay \$1,200 for the tractor trailer delivery of 20,000 pounds of food. That breaks down to six cents a pound, which is quite a bargain!

At the January 19 distribution, 35 volunteers braved the five-degree weather to assist families waiting in their vehicles. Although distribution usually starts at 10 a.m., some recipients arrived as early as 5 a.m. to get in line. Many were from Ogemaw County, but some came from as far away as Oscoda,

Mio, Fairview, Roscommon, Grayling and Sterling. Everyone is welcome. There is no residency requirement. The honor system is used to determine need.

Lisa said, "As we all know, life can change quickly and there are many surprise expenses that can affect your budget. Food isn't optional. It really humbles us when we realize how many households are experiencing food instability."

The monthly event has been held at First United Methodist Church in West Branch for over five years.

"This venue has the perfect parking lot as well as a large hall for sorting and packing. We are blessed by the support of Pastor Michelle and this congregation," Lisa said.

It takes five hours from set up to clean up for volunteers to complete the distribution. Their work, each month, is always followed by hot pizza and warm fellowship.

Taking care of neighbors in need requires commitment of both time and money.

Lisa said, "My home church is St. John Lutheran. We have an annual garage sale and through the generosity of our members, we're able to purchase two food trucks every year. Many local groups, individuals and businesses have helped sponsor a truck, including Doctor Baker at the dental office where I work."

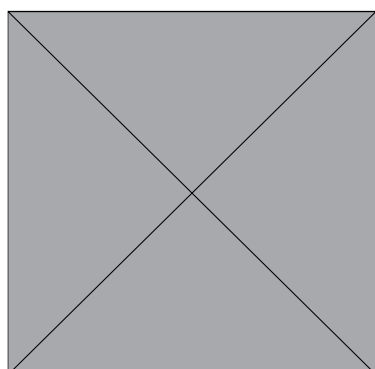
A local couple sponsored the January truck. Individuals or

organizations who would like to provide the delivery fee in full or in part, volunteer, or have other questions, may contact Lisa Curnow at 989-345-0381.

If you are experiencing food instability and would like to receive a free box of groceries, the next Friday giveaway is March 15 at 10 a.m. First United Methodist Church in West Branch is at the corner of Fairview Road and State Road.




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Caring Pregnancy Center	989-345-3909
Dept. Health and Human Services	989-345-5135
Emergency Assistance Program	989-345-8312
Ogemaw County Clerk	989-345-0215
Probate/Family Court	989-345-0145
Emergency Shelter	989-217-0973
Friend of the Court	989-345-5520
Ihealthaccess	989-343-3608
Ogemaw Commission on Aging	989-345-3010
Options Resource Clinic	989-345-7398
Ogemaw Public Transit	989-345-5790
Children's Assmt. Center	989-275-7145
Salvation Army	989-345-4690
Community Food Pantry	989-345-0493
MSU Extension/4-II	989-345-0692
Ogemaw County Prosecutor	989-345-5700

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