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**Ogemaw County**  
**SUPERIOR NEWS**

Vol. 2, Issue 21

Your source for positive community news!

Nov 8 - Nov 21, 2025

**Still serving:  
Ogemaw County 2025 Veteran of  
the Year - Randy Huyck**



*Photo by Laura Bender*



*Courtesy photo*

**2025 Veteran of the Year Randy Huyck, above, while serving in the United States Army and left, at last year's West Branch Memorial day Parade.**

**BY LAURA BENDER**

Earlier this year, the Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance named Mr. Randy Alan Huyck as the 2025 Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year. The Veterans Alliance, through its member organizations, represents all veterans in

Ogemaw County. This award is the highest honor the Alliance can bestow upon a fellow veteran.

"I think it's pretty cool," Randy said. "It gives me joy to know they think I deserve it."

Mr. Huyck joined the United States Army in 1972 and served

for 13 years.

"I was born in Genesee County in 1955 to Joyce and Edwin Huyck. We moved around a lot when I was growing up. My first memory of school was of the one-room schoolhouse I attended with my

**VETERAN continues on page 10 »**

**Celebrating Halloween in Ogemaw County**



*Photo by Laura Bender*

*West Branch, Rose City, Skidway Lake and the surrounding area made Halloween night a magical one for kids. From Trunk or Treats, school parties and good ole' fashioned trick or treating, there was an endless supply of candy, laughter and smiles. Pictured left, kids enjoyed getting candy at the Trunk or Treat in Rose City. Adults equally enjoyed themselves.*

*See more Halloween photos on Pages 8 and 9*

**Courageous Cait:  
Spreading hope while  
fighting leukemia**

**BY LAURA BENDER**

"It's on my heart, Mom. Did you remember the sticky notes?" 12-year-old Caitlynn Kanitz asked.

"Of course. Here they are," Nikki Craine-Kanitz said.

One by one, Caitlynn placed the notes on the tray in front of her. On each, she wrote a different message of encouragement. Some notes said "Don't give up." Others said, "You got this." "It's gonna get better." "Stay positive." "Be strong." "Smile."

Once she finished writing her uplifting messages, Caitlynn wandered down the hallway at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor to stick them where others would find them. She placed one on each patient's door, then headed to the family waiting room where anxious parents gathered at all hours. Caitlynn even stuck a few on the coffeemaker to offer a word of hope to family members enduring long, sleepless nights. When all her sticky notes had found a home, Caitlynn made her way back to her room and got in bed.

Like other children with serious



*Photo by Laura Bender*

**Caitlynn Kanitz, 12, is bravely battling leukemia, while her mother is undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Together, they fight.**

illnesses, Caitlynn had come to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital to receive treatment for her newly diagnosed leukemia.

"In July, I was really tired. I had bad headaches, and I didn't want to eat," Caitlynn said.

"We were worried. She looked so pale," her mother added. "Then she started with a fever and vomiting. We took her to the doctor,

**HOPE continues on page 6 »**

**Klemmer's partners with  
Sportsmen Against Hunger**

**BY LAURA BENDER**

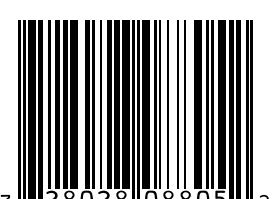
Do you like to hunt, but don't need all that venison? Donate it to help those in need in Ogemaw County. Klemmer's Processing, a licensed wild game processor, has partnered with Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger to provide meat to two local food banks.

Established in 1991, Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) is an all-volunteer, 501c3 nonprofit organization which coordinates participating licensed game processors throughout the state as drop-off locations for whitetail deer harvested by hunters and farmers during the hunting season and deer harvested through deer management practices. Since its beginning, the MSAH program has provided

about 1,038,207 pounds of venison to food banks, pantries and shelters throughout the state. That equates to 4,152,828 much appreciated hot nourishing meals.

MSAH used to depend on a budget allocated by the MDNR that was created from voluntary fund donations made when someone bought a hunting or fishing license. Since September 2024, MSAH must now depend solely on the generosity of

**HUNGER continues on page 6 »**



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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 postvention. 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 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 1:15 p.m., meeting starts at 1:30-2 p.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 989-345-7206.

**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](mailto: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 China Inn downtown West Branch. Call Ken at (989) 345-1066.

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

Kristine 989-343-5120.

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

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

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

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

**Thursdays-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. My Michigan Health - West Branch in the executive dining room. Call 800-999-3199.

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

**Thursdays - (Second and fourth)**

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

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

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

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

### Nov 8

**Third Annual Patriot Benefit Bash**, hosted by the Northern Michigan 700 Club, Saturday, Nov. 8, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., Ogemaw Lanes, 2357 S. M-76, West Branch. Live auction, 50/50 drawings, with all proceeds benefitting the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. The event is open to all bowlers with no age requirements. Entry forms are available online at [www.northmich700club.com](http://www.northmich700club.com) or call Barry Massey with questions or to sign up at 810-874-3444.

### Nov 29

**Customer Appreciation Day**, Lovewell's Corner Store, Saturday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 1005 Wiltse Rd., Lupton.

### Dec 4

**Rose City 7th Annual Christmas Parade**, "Christmas in Toyland," Thursday, Dec. 4, 6 p.m. Following the parade, head down to the Rose City Park for the tree lighting, fun activities and visit with Santa.

### Dec 6

**Fourth Annual Christmas Craft Show**, Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Logan Township Hall, 4507 E. M-55, Prescott.

**Christmas Bazaar**, Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ogemaw Heights High School, 960 S. M-33, West Branch.

### Dec 13

**Ugly Christmas Sweater 5K run**, sponsored by West Branch Candy Cane Lane, Saturday, Dec. 13., downtown West Branch on Houghton Avenue. Pre-register by messaging West Branch Candy Cane Lane.

**Blow-Up Costume Fashion Show**, sponsored by West Branch Candy Cane Lane, Saturday, Dec. 13., 2 p.m., downtown West Branch on Houghton Avenue.

*To place your event in the Community Happenings, email information to [deanna@superior-news.com](mailto: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](http://www.SermonCentral.com)

### Gladwin Cornerstone Baptist Church

3925 Round Lake Road, Gladwin, MI 48624  
989-426-6897

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
[www.gladwincornerstone.com](http://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 Tom Teall • Youth Pastor Josh Pierce  
[www.cbcwb.org](http://www.cbcwb.org)

### Edward's Community Church

4520 Greenwood Rd., West Branch

989-345-4227

Pastor Jon Scott

Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Worship Service 11 a.m.  
(Greenwood Rd. west of S. M-30)

### Hale Methodist Church

*Everyone Welcome!* Pastor: Mike Tullis

Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.; Sunday School - 11 a.m.

Check out our Facebook page for Information and Events!

201 W Main/Esmond, Hale; 989-728-9522

FB & IG: Hale Methodist Church

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## Obey crossing guards to keep kids safe

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ  
OGEWAH COUNTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

In recent weeks, law enforcement has noticed an increase in motorized vehicle crosswalk violations, putting both students and crossing guards in danger.

In response, police have been ticketing violators in an effort to keep kids safe. Crossing guards work with local police departments to ensure the safety of pedestrians, especially children, at high-risk intersections. This is an attempt to remind drivers of the "rules of the road" when confronted with a school crossing guard at or near one of those intersections.

Rule No. 1: All vehicles must

stop for a crossing guard who is holding a stop sign in an upright position.

Rule No. 2: A crossing guard's handheld stop sign has authority and takes precedence over any other traffic signal or device.

Rule No. 3: Once a crossing guard enters an intersection from any Leg, that intersection is closed to all moving traffic.

Rule No. 4: You may not make a right turn through an intersection from any Leg when a crossing guard is in a Leg of that intersection.

Rule No. 5: Vehicles must stop behind the crosswalk, not in it, to allow the guard to safely assist children across the street.

Rule No. 6: Traffic may not

proceed until the crossing guard has returned to the curb with his/her handheld stop sign lowered.

In Michigan, failing to stop for a school crossing guard who was in a school crossing and holding a stop sign in the upright position is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and/or a fine of \$100 MCL 257.901.

By keeping all the "rules of the road" in mind when approaching an intersection with a crossing guard, you will be helping law enforcement keep kids safe on their walks to and from school and, as an added bonus, you won't have to worry about seeing those dreaded flashing lights in your rear-view mirror.

## 'Mighty' Malikai - Deer slayer



Courtesy photo

*In the last issue of the Ogemaw County Superior News, we introduced you to Malikai (Kai) Petty, a second grader at Surline Elementary School, who has a form of bone cancer with only a few weeks to months to live. He really wanted to go hunting and thanks to the good folks at Legends Lodge in Bitely, Kai's wish came true. Not only did he get to go hunting, but he also harvested a 14-point buck to boot. Good job, Kai!*

## Celebrating Christmas with a 'Box of Joy'



*The staff and students at St. Joseph School in West Branch have been very generous in supplying items to spread the joy for the Box of Joy event. The school was able to fill 50 boxes to bring joy to children who would otherwise not share in the joy of celebrating the birth of Christ. The school is also blessed by Curt and Louise Bledsoe who contributed the balance of funding needed to pay for the shipping of the boxes. The staff and students are so grateful to everyone who participated.*

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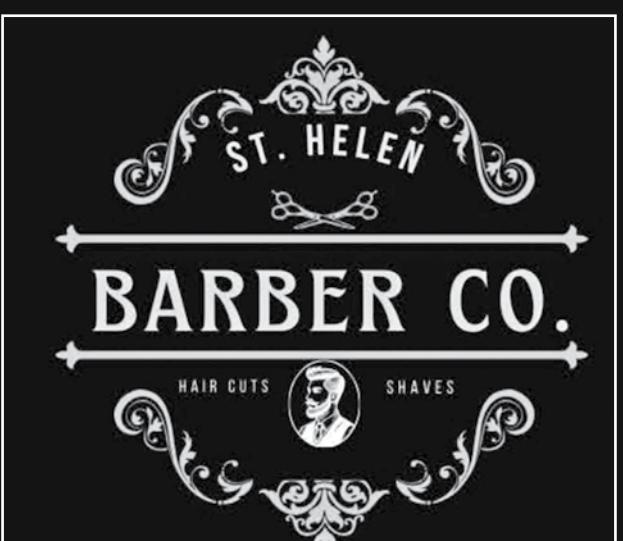
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Ogemaw County  
SUPERIOR NEWS

# Surline eighth graders visit historical museum

BY SALLY A. REA

On Thursday, Oct. 23, Mrs. Bree Noble Faulkner and her 24 eighth grade students from Surline Middle School attended the Ogemaw County Museum. The class has been studying photography. They brought their cameras and Mrs. Faulkner had given them sheets on clip boards to write down things of interest and when they got back to the classroom, they were going to do a treasure hunt on what they had seen. They didn't want a directed tour, they just wanted to look around the museum and record and take pictures of the museum.

The students were allowed to browse on their own so Lois Bergquist, Joyce Nelander and myself were available in case they had questions. I had put out a bunch of old cameras from Mickey Duggan's collection and they enjoyed the different styles of cameras. What a great group of students. They were very well behaved and this was my first time just letting the students roam on their own. It worked out very well.

On Friday, Oct. 24, we had the pleasure of visitors from Romania. Claudia Zaarie and his three boys, Watt, Oliver, and Micah, came into the museum and wanted to do a tour. Helen Peters was

my greeter and she and I showed them around. Claudia told us that he was a missionary and he was in West Branch visiting a cousin, Dan Grenier. They loved the museum and we enjoyed having them.

While the museum is closed, I plan to reorganize our attic. Lois and I will be available while the museum is closed if you need our help. Contact Sally Rea, 989-343-0177 or Lois Bergquist, 989-915-8597.

Our next big event at the museum will be the Art Walk and Wine Tasting on Dec. 6, starting at 5 p.m. and ending at 8 p.m. Marcia and Alan Doss will be our wine servers and Sally Rea and Sylvia Sobo will be serving the cheese and crackers. Then on Dec. 9, our membership is having its annual Christmas party from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Our members are encouraged to bring a guest. Ann Southworth and Sally Rea will sponsor this event.

Dec. 12 will be the last day that the museum will be open for the season. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will reopen on Thursday, May 21, and Friday, May 22, before Memorial Day.

Christmas isn't far away so check out our RADA Cutlery as we have a lot of gift sets, Prescott History, Driving Tours and Purple Gang Books.



SALLY A. REA  
HISTORIAN AND  
CURATOR



Eighth grade students from Surline Middle School recently visited the Ogemaw County Historical Museum.

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

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## News from the Skidway Lake area

### BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

A free community Thanksgiving dinner is being planned. Mr. Tom Angel has organized the dinner. The Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce has donated the use of the hall for dinner. Several locals have donated their time and food to help the cause. If you would like to help in any way call

Tom at 734-497-4056.

There are many of us alone or unable to cook a big Thanksgiving dinner and this is a great way to provide for them. There will be next to new clothing for free for those who may need clothes. We need volunteers to set up, serve, cook, and clean up. We hope to make this holiday a happy one for those in need.



APRIL  
HARKEY-MASON



### Optimist Updates

The Optimist Club of West Branch meets every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. Loggers Depot in downtown West Branch hosts our meeting and feeds us a great breakfast with many menu options to choose from. 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.

As of Oct. 1, local students were able to participate in the Optimist Essay Contest. Students were asked to write an essay on this year's topic: "How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand



JOE BELL  
VICE-PRESIDENT

What My Community Means to Me!" Local students can work with their teachers to develop their essay and submit them to our club. Local winners can win up to \$500 dollars and go on to compete at the state level. State competition pays \$2,500 for first place, \$1,500 for second and \$1,000 for third places. If you have a student who may be interested in competing, please reach out to our club at Loggers

Depot Thursdays or contact their teachers.

Many local residents have served the Optimist International organization at the state level. Past President Ben Lowery had served a term as the Optimist governor for Michigan. Chuck Snyder, Larry Watson, Mary Aubin, and Phil Losee all served at the state level as lieutenant governors. And the West Branch club at one time was the largest club in the state! We have been blessed with many very active members in my 35 years as a club member.

We close each meeting by reciting the Optimist Creed part of which states: "Promise yourself to talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet!"

"What a great way to approach your life!"

Bye for now.

# 'The most wonderful time of the year' - Fall-2025



BY CONSERVATION OFFICERS  
KYLE BADER AND  
ANDREW WERTH

"It's the most wonderful time of the year." For many, that lyric will evoke thoughts of candy canes and Christmas trees, but for the rest of us, it will bring on thoughts of changing leaves, cooler weather, and the opportunity to harvest some of Michigan's abundant game. As the most wonderful time of the year fast approaches, there are some rule changes to keep in mind when hitting the field. I'll highlight some here, but the best practice is to consult the latest Michigan hunting digest and check your local ordinances before heading out.

#### Deer hunting notes

The mandatory deer harvest reporting will continue this season. Harvest reports must be made within 72 hours or before transferring possession of the animal. Successful hunters can report their deer harvest online at Michigan.gov/DNRHarvestReport or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. Hunters that do not have access to the internet or a smartphone are encouraged to seek help from a friend or relative. If that is not an option, hunters can call 517-284-WILD (9453) or their local DNR customer service center (numbers are listed in the

current hunting digest). Please do your part in promoting a healthy deer herd by reporting your harvest this year. Failure to report a harvest may result in a civil infraction citation, but the purpose of this system is not law enforcement oriented, it is to maintain a healthy deer herd for Michiganers to hunt for generations to come.

During the muzzleloading deer season, hunters in zones 2 and 3 may use any legal firearm for the zone.

The early and late antlerless firearm seasons are open on public and private lands in open DMUs. Late antlerless firearm season is open in the Lower Peninsula excluding DMUs (115, 145, 174, 245) from Dec. 15 – Jan. 1, 2026.

There are new restrictions during early and late archery seasons in the Upper Peninsula.

The late antlerless firearm season has been extended to Jan. 11, 2026, in certain counties.

For some counties in the Lower Peninsula, archery seasons have been extended through Jan. 31.

Feeding and baiting deer remains ILLEGAL in the lower peninsula this year. Yes, we realize that many establishments in the lower peninsula sell items commonly used to bait deer. These agricultural items are legal to possess, and many have legal uses, but using bait to aid in the taking of deer is illegal and will be handled with appropriate law enforcement action. Food plots are a legal alternative for private land hunters.

A reminder for young hunters

and their parents, youth 10-16 years of age, and who are hunter safety certified, must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older to hunt, unless the youth is hunting on land upon which a parent or guardian is regularly domiciled, and the license is not an apprentice license.

#### Fall Turkey notes

There is no longer a drawing for fall turkey licenses.

A hunter can purchase one fall turkey license per year.

A fall turkey license is valid for one turkey (any sex) and is valid on public and private lands within the designated fall TMU.

If you purchase the license via the app, your kill tag (referred to as an eHarvest tag, i.e. electronic kill tag) is active immediately on your mobile device.

If you purchase your license online, but not through the app, your paper kill tag will be mailed to you (typically 7–10 business days) and you must have it in your possession before hunting.

Hunting units have been consolidated to two: TMU I (Lower Peninsula) and TMU M (Upper Peninsula).

#### Fur Harvester Notes

The combined bag limit for fisher and marten is two per resident fur harvester.

Centerfire firearms (of a certain caliber) may be used at night on public and private lands in the limited firearms deer zone.

Bobcat kill tags are only available through Oct. 31, 2025.

The second bobcat kill tag in Unit A is valid for public and private lands.

The bobcat trapping seasons in Units A and B are Nov. 1–14 and

Dec. 1 – Jan. 18, 2026.

Bobcat hunting season is during daylight hours only. Elevated-platform or tree-stand hunting for bobcats is explicitly allowed during the day only.

#### Waterfowl notes

Physical federal migratory bird stamps must be signed by the hunter.

Electronic federal migratory bird stamps are valid July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, and do not need to be signed by the hunter.

Hunters who purchase electronic federal duck stamps will receive their physical federal duck stamps by mail after March 10, 2026.

A special reminder to waterfowl hunters; check your marine equipment. Gordon Lightfoot (rest in peace) sang about the

gales of November, and we all know our Michigan weather can turn on a dime. Make sure your boat is seaworthy and make sure you have a personal floatation device (PFD, life jacket) for everyone on board. As a waterfowl hunter, I know in the pre-dawn scramble to get decoys, guns, dogs, coffee, shells, calls, and snacks around, often time PFDs are easily forgotten, but every bit as important as anything else on that list.

One more IMPORTANT reminder for waterfowlers this season is to be mindful of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Michigan is known for our lakes: they are big, clean, and we have a lot of them, but AIS is the number one threat to one of our most precious outdoor resources. Please make every effort to clean all aquatic vegetation off your boat, decoys,

and waders in between trips this hunting season so our reputation, and our lakes, will last for generations to come.

#### Other Happenings

Conservation Officers are equipped and required, by policy, to wear body cameras. All public contacts are recorded.

Senate bills have been introduced to raise the price of some hunting and fishing licenses for the first time in ten years. The fees have not changed this year. No one likes prices to go up. Think about all the things you spend money on and try to list a few that you pay the same price for you did ten years ago. The cost of everything it takes to manage our great resource has gone up, from fuel to seed, and everything in between.

Hunters can, and are encouraged to, report any poaching activity by calling 800-292-7800. Reports can also be sent to that number in a text message. Reports can be anonymous, but leaving a contact number is often helpful to the responding officer because there might be some follow up questions the officer needs to ask. Whether you leave your name or not, Conservation Officers are not in the habit of disclosing that information during or after an investigation.

If you have any questions about any of the information above or any other outdoor adventure this fall, consult the Michigan DNR's website or contact your local DNR Customer Service Center (phone numbers are on all hunting digests and the website). Enjoy your time outdoors this fall and have a safe and successful season!

## MSU Extension can help during the government shutdown

#### BY JULIE DARNTON

The federal government shutdown may pause food assistance resources in the form of SNAP which provides benefits to about 14 percent of Michigan residents. To assist Michigan residents, Michigan State University Extension is sharing resources from local agencies like the Food Bank Council of Michigan and 211. The information and education MSUE can provide includes practical help like managing food budgets. MSU Extension's website also has recipes for healthy and budget-friendly meals for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks!

**Practical Tips for Managing Food Budgets**

In response to this uncertainty,



**JULIE DARNTON**  
DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
MSU EXTENSION

Compare unit prices to find the best value.

Choose store brands over name brands to save money without sacrificing quality.

Cook at home using simple, nutritious recipes that stretch

Michigan State University Extension offers guidance to help families make the most of their food dollars. The article "Shopping to Save Money and Eat Healthy" by Caitlin Meyers provides actionable strategies, including:

- Plan meals ahead to avoid impulse purchases and reduce food waste.

- Shop with a list based on weekly sales and seasonal produce.

- Buy in bulk, when possible, especially for staples like rice, beans, and oats.

ingredients across multiple meals.

These tips are especially useful for families navigating reduced food budgets or seeking alternatives during the SNAP benefit pause.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and community partners recommend the following support options:

Dial 2-1-1 or visit [mi211.org](http://mi211.org) for local food assistance programs such as pantries or food truck distributions in communities.

For northeast Michigan, consult the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan ([fbem.org](http://fbem.org)) to find partner agencies and resources.

MSU Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of the university directly to individuals, communities and businesses. Nutrition education and resources around healthy food, contributes to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities and families strong.

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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](mailto:deanna@superior-news.com) or by traditional mail to P.O. Box 603, West Branch, MI 48661.

# Ogemaw Heights High School Falcons advance in the playoffs



Courtesy photos

After a stellar regular season with a record of 7-1, the Ogemaw Heights High School varsity football team played their first playoff game on Friday, Oct. 31, against Negaunee at home. The game was a real nail biter, but the Falcons pulled it off for the win, 29-28. They will go up against Kingsford on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 1 p.m., at home. Go Falcons!

## Hope

*« Continued from page 1*

and they tested her for all the usual illnesses like strep, mono, or viruses. Then they did a blood test."

"By then, I'd started school," Caitlynn said. "I was tired all the time and could barely make it from one class to the next. My friends and my teachers kept asking me what was wrong. I only made it through the first week at Surline."

Caitlynn spent 17 days in the hospital in September for her first round of strong chemo, designed to kill the leukemia cells. Besides the chemo, she needed blood transfusions, platelets, antibiotics, steroids, constant IV fluids and

other treatments. In between, she continued her mission to uplift others with her sticky notes.

"I was bored some of the time," Caitlynn said. "But it was nice to see people take my notes. Some even put them on the bulletin board in their rooms. The hospital tried to entertain us, too. One day, a magician stopped by. They also had a program called Child Life that gave us crafts and puzzles. I made a lamp and learned how to do diamond art. They even gave us lots of snacks."

A few weeks before Caitlynn's diagnosis, her mom Nikki received her own. Breast cancer.

Because of its aggressiveness, Nikki was told she must have surgery immediately. So, in the middle of Caitlynn's hospital stay, Nikki took a few days away from her 24-hour vigil at Caitlynn's side to undergo a double mastectomy.

"We are convalescing together," Nikki said. "We are both taking harsh treatments at home, but we are making it. We have to. We have to be very aggressive in our care. The future is the future. Right now, we are doing what needs to be done."

Nikki is the mother of nine adopted children. All but Caitlynn

are still attending school. To support their mom and sister, they make sure they wash well when they get home so they don't spread those pesky germs students often share.

"Caitlynn is living in a bubble right now," Nikki said.

"At least I can still go to school online," Caitlynn said. "On Mondays and Thursdays, I have classes in math and English Language Arts. Right now, we are reading 'White Fang.' In between is spinal tap Tuesdays. I take chemo at home and other medicine. Some make me feel sick, and I got an

allergic reaction to one, which itched and burned at the same time. But I am staying positive. This will end sometime. Then I can do the things I love, like hunting and fishing. Oh, and bowling. And one day I'd like to swim with dolphins."

Caitlynn, whose favorite animal is a koala, wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up. But right now, with her positive attitude, resilience in the face of difficulty and compassion for others, Caitlynn is a beacon of hope who is blazing a path of faith to inspire us all.

## Hunger

*« Continued from page 1*

hunters, general supporters and supporting grants.

To learn more about Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger, visit <https://www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org>. If you would like to make a donation to support the processing of deer, you may do so through the web page or by mailing a check to MSAH, 2101 Wood St., Lansing, MI 48912.

So far this season, Klemmer's Processing has provided over 1,100 pounds of venison split between two West Branch distribution centers. These are:

The Ogemaw County Christian Fellowship food pantry at Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave. They are open on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Ogemaw Hills Free Methodist Church Side Door Food Pantry, 3480 W. M-76/M-55. To arrange a time to visit the pantry, call 989-345-2260 or email [hmosley@ogemawhills.org](mailto:hmosley@ogemawhills.org).

Klemmer's expects to process a total of 6,000 pounds of venison this season. If you would like to donate a deer, please call 989-345-2869 before bringing it to their facility at 2831 S. M-76, West Branch, Mich. 48661.

### Free community Thanksgiving dinner.

Nov. 27th 1pm - 5pm

or until food is gone.

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& all the  
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Volunteers needed for set up, serving, cooking, clean up what ever you can do will definitely be appreciated. Organized by Tom Angel, Call Tom to volunteer, donate, or help at 734-497-4056

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Use of the hall is donated by the Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce.

## West Branch man receives 'Quilt of Valor'



*Courtesy photo*

Barry Wilkinson, of West Branch, recently was bestowed the "Quilt of Valor," for his service to his country. The "Quilt of Valor" is a national organization. The quilt is registered with the organization and is one-of-a-kind. It is not a gift, but rather recognition for all he does and had to be nominated to receive it. Barry is pictured with his wife, Jan (l), and Laurice Tanner, of Roscommon who pieced and bound the quilt. Lynn Lebeck, also of Roscommon, quilted it.



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*See Answers on page 13*

# ENTERTAINMENT

**Downtown West Branch Presents**  
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## Halloween

*« Continued from page 1*





## Veteran

*Continued from page 1*

sister in Colgate, Wis. After sixth grade, we moved to Hale, and then to Tawas. After tenth grade, I quit high school and joined the Army," Randy said.

Following basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., and Advanced Individual Training as a wheeled vehicle operator and mechanic at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Randy was sent to Fort Ord, Calif. In addition to his duties there, he also received his GED. Randy's next duty station was Fort Bragg, N.C. There he met his first wife, Diane, and they had two sons, Randy, Jr. and Douglas. Highlights of that tour included achieving a black belt in karate and a brief assignment with Civil Affairs.

Mr. Huyck's next duty was with the 590 Transportation Company in Mannheim, Germany. During that tour, he clocked over 29,000 accident-free miles driving a two and one-half ton truck, or a deuce-and-a-half in Army-speak.

"I hauled everything from apples to atomic bombs to zippers to people," Randy said. "I also learned to speak two German dialects."

While living in Germany, Randy took classes through Big Bend Community College, where he majored in political science and language.

His favorite memories from that time center on all the traveling he did.

"The only time I was homesick

was when I smelled cow manure," Randy said. "I was a farm kid, and that reminded me of home."

Randy was next assigned to Dugway Proving Ground in the Utah desert. This facility serves as the nation's leading center for testing and training against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. In 1980, Randy witnessed the first launch of a Gryphon ground-launched cruise missile. A variant of the Tomahawk cruise missile, it was designed to counter the Soviet medium-range ballistic missile force deployed in Eastern Europe.

"It blew open," Randy said. "They used the wrong bolt. Of course, they didn't put that in the paper."

Following his tour at Dugway Proving Ground, Randy headed back to Germany to serve with the 64th Ordnance Company. That unaccompanied tour proved too much for his marriage, and he and his first wife divorced.

"During that tour, I drove the truck that hauled the nukes," Randy said. "After doing that for a while, I decided not to reenlist."

Following his 13-year career in the Army, Randy settled back in Michigan, where he worked as both a local and a cross-country truck driver. One day, Heather, a friend of Randy's son, asked Randy if he would like to take her mom to the Whittemore Speedway. Karen and Randy hit it off so

well that have been married now for almost three decades.

Over time, the wear and tear of Randy's military service caught up with him. In 2004, the VA rated him as 100 percent service-connected disabled. Since then, he has used his time and talents to advocate for Ogemaw County veterans. Some of his activities include serving for 21 years as commander for Disabled American Veterans Chapter 73; 14 years as the chair of the Ogemaw County Veterans Museum committee; and ten years as a member of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund which provides emergency grants to Michigan

veterans in crisis. Mr. Huyck has also been a five-year member of American Legion Post 103 and a 15-year member of American Legion Post 370. Randy continues to be an active participant in many county veterans' functions and has distinguished himself throughout the community.

Because of his unwavering commitment to veterans, the



OGEMAW COUNTY 2025 VETERAN OF THE YEAR - RANDY HUYCK

Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance named Randy Alan Huyck the 2025 Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year. Traditionally, the selected veteran is honored as part of the Alliance's Veterans Day activities. On Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, the festivities at the Lumber Jack Lodge will begin with a flag-raising ceremony at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon and

program. The Lumber Jack Lodge is located at 2980 Cook Rd., West Branch.

The Veterans Alliance welcomes community groups who would like to make a presentation during the Veteran of the Year award ceremony to contact Jeffrey L. Nichols, director of Ogemaw County Veteran's Affairs, at 989-345-5170.

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## State Police recruiting locally for state trooper positions

The Michigan State Police (MSP) West Branch Post continues to seek area citizens who are looking to serve their communities as state troopers.

The MSP is now accepting applications from licensed law enforcement officers to join the 151st Trooper Recruit School, which is anticipated to begin in July 2026. The 12-week lateral entry recruit school, which is shorter than a traditional 20-22-week recruit school, recognizes the experience and value that

prior law enforcement service brings to an agency and offers applicants an accelerated training opportunity that rewards their experience. The school will run in tandem with the upcoming 152nd Trooper Recruit School, with lateral applicants graduating early. MSP is actively recruiting for both schools.

"Modernizing our recruiting and training processes continues to be a priority for us," stated Col. James F. Grady II, director of the MSP.

"Troopers here are fortunate to work in an area where others must travel to play," said F/Lt. Mike Brown, commander of the MSP West Branch Post. "Our post area offers an abundance of forests, lakes, and rivers for those who enjoy the outdoors, and provides a 'small town' quality of life for our troopers and their families." F/Lt. Brown added, "Our MSP facilities here consist of a newly constructed post on M-55 in West Branch, and a modern, renovated detachment in Hale. Each has an in-house fitness facility, and troopers are also provided the top-of-the-line training, equipment, and tools needed to do their jobs safely and effectively."

As of October 2025, troopers earn \$69,634 per year (\$33.35/hour) beginning on day one of the academy, which progresses to \$81,974 at the start of their second year; step increases raise a trooper's base wage to \$103,919 by their tenth year of service. The stated compensation does not include overtime, shift premiums, longevity awards, or daily emergency response pay. Troopers are provided with a pension as well as deferred retirement plans and paid holiday, vacation, and sick leave along with 12 weeks of paid parental leave and competitive insurance benefits. Compensation increases commensurate with promotions, with sergeants earning \$119,913 with 10 years of total service. In October 2026, pay before overtime rises to \$107,030 for a trooper and \$123,505 for a sergeant.

The MSP West Branch Post serves Arenac, Gladwin, Iosco and Ogemaw counties. For more information, please contact the MSP West Branch Post at 989-345-0956 and ask to speak with a recruiter. Interested persons are also encouraged to visit michigan.gov/mspjobs to learn more about the requirements and application process to become a state trooper.

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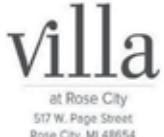
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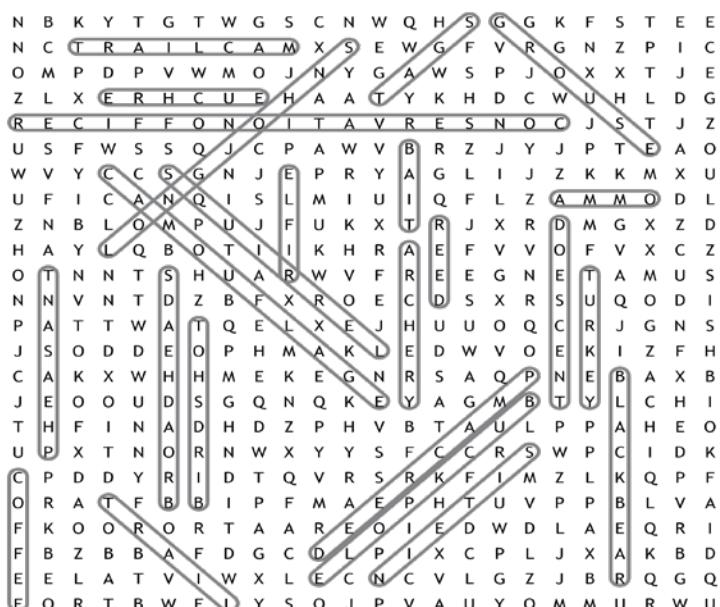
## Grant money available to benefit area youth

The North Central Michigan Community Foundation (NCMCF) Youth Advisory Councils (YACs) are accepting grant applications for the 2026 grant cycle. The deadline for YAC grant applications is Dec. 15. All nonprofit agencies with a 501(c)(3) IRS designation, schools, churches (for non-religious purposes), and local units of government serving the counties of Crawford, Ogemaw, and/or Oscoda are invited to apply for projects and programs benefiting area youth ages 18 and under.

NCMCF's YAC is particularly interested in funding programs

that address one or more of the ten issues indicated in their most recent Youth Needs Assessment, including programs that address mental health, substance abuse, vaping, and hygiene issues.

Applications are available at [ncmcf.org](http://ncmcf.org), where they may be completed online through the Foundation's grants portal. Applicants may request up to \$2,500 for projects serving Ogemaw County and \$1,000 for projects serving Crawford and Oscoda counties. Applicants may also call the Community Foundation office for more information at 877-354-6881.



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Ogemaw County Prosecutor .....	989-345-5700

Michigan State Police .....	989-345-0956
Ogemaw County Sheriff .....	989-345-3111
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## National Help Lines

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National Suicide Prevention .....	800-273-8255
American Red Cross .....	800-691-6059
Poison Control .....	800-222-1222

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## Ogemaw Browns win Jack Pine League championship



Courtesy photo

The seventh/eighth grade Ogemaw Browns football team finished their season 8-0 by clinching the Jack Pine League championship on Sat., Oct. 25, at the Harrison Sports Complex against the Houghton Lake Bobcats. It was a nail-biting game at times, but the Browns took the gold over Houghton Lake with a 16-8 win. The seventh/eighth grade Ogemaw Browns are coached by Todd Izworski, Frank Gerzetic, and Guy Thurston.



Photo by Jamie Stout-Shirkey

Hands and heads held high as the Ogemaw Browns celebrated their league championship victory over Houghton Lake on Oct. 25 following a hard-fought season.



Photo by Jamie Stout-Shirkey

Ogemaw Browns No. 93, Trent Nuebecker (l) helps anchor the offensive line with help from his teammates during the Jack Pine League championship game on Oct. 25 against the Houghton Lake Bobcats.

## OHHS girls' varsity volleyball team wins conference title



The Ogemaw Heights High School varsity girls' volleyball recently won the Jack Pine Conference Championship after shutting out Meridian 3 sets to 0. The team advanced to the District 34 playoffs going up against Sault Ste. Marie on Wednesday, Nov. 5, who they defeated in three straight sets. The team competed in the finals on Thursday, Nov. 6, against Cheboygan. At press time, results of that match were not available. Look for the results in the next issue of the Ogemaw County Superior News.

Courtesy photo

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