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Vol. 3, Issue 19 | Your source for positive community news! | Oct 10 - Oct 23, 2026

October shines a light on breast cancer awareness

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time when communities across the country come together to raise awareness, encourage early detection and remind those affected by breast cancer that they are not alone.

Breast cancer remains one of the most common cancers affecting women. While a diagnosis can be frightening, advances in screening and treatment have improved outcomes for many patients, particularly when the disease is found early.

Early Detection Matters

One of the most important messages during Breast Cancer Awareness Month is the importance of regular breast cancer screening.

Mammograms can help detect breast cancer before symptoms appear, giving doctors an opportunity to diagnose and treat the disease at an earlier stage. Women should talk with their health care provider about when to begin mammograms and how often they should be screened based on their age, family history and individual risk factors.

Knowing what is normal for your own body is also important. Changes such as a new lump, swelling, skin changes, nipple changes or unusual discharge should be discussed with a health care provider.

Not every breast change is

AWARENESS continues on page 13 »



Ogemaw District Library celebrates 50 years of service to the community

BY LAURA BENDER

Library patrons gathered on Sept. 23, to celebrate the Ogemaw District Library's 50th Anniversary. The well-attended event, held at the Rose City Library, highlighted both the organization's history and its ongoing value to the community.

While people enjoyed hors d'oeuvres donated by Meijer, Debbi Thomas, board president for 50 years, spoke about the library's beginnings.

"At that time, we had a public library in Rose City," said Debbi. "But it was up in the school, so it ran on school hours. During the summer, it was closed.

"So, we found this run-down building," she added. "Then we got the Michigan State Library to approve us becoming a district library, which was a lot of steps. We worked really hard on this building, and in mid-January, we officially opened to the public.

"We had very few books, but it was our library," Debbi continued. "We hired Barb Sanback as

LIBRARY continues on page 10 »



Photo by Laura Bender

Pictured (l-r) are Debbi Thomas, the board president for 50 years; Barb Sanback, the first director, who served for 20 years; and Jeanette Leathorn, the current director, who has served for the past 30 years. The three share in the Ogemaw District Library's 50th anniversary celebration.

Falcons crown Homecoming royalty



Courtesy photo

It was a night of royalty, school spirit and a whole lot of scoring as Ogemaw Heights High School crowned Mason Chudy and Sage Brewer Homecoming King and Queen Friday, Oct. 2. The Falcons gave their homecoming crowd even more to celebrate, soaring past Standish with a dominating 60-0 victory.

Dolly's legacy lives on in Ogemaw County

BY LAURA BENDER

"You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children." Dolly Parton

While many of us mourn the death of singer and philanthropist Dolly Parton, her influence and legacy continue through her devotion to children's literacy.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library began in 1995 to foster a love of reading among preschool children and their families in Sevier County, Tenn., by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month. Over the years, the program expanded to include children across the United States, as well as in Australia, Canada,

DOLLY continues on page 12 »

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Community Happenings

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 G's Pizzeria in downtown West Branch. Call 989-345-0978.

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

Tuesdays – T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) **weigh in**from 9:40 a.m. to 10:20 a.m., meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.. Ogemaw Hills Free Clinic, 2106 S. Gray Rd. in West Branch. Call Robin 989-343-0592.

Tuesdays – (First of each month) **West Branch Creative Arts Association meeting,** 7 p.m. located at 124 N. Fourth St. in West Branch. Call 989-345-1451.

Tuesdays – (First of each month) **West Branch Area Retail Merchants Association meeting,** 6 p.m. Held at the West Branch City Police Department. Call 989-345-5226.

Tuesdays – (Second of each month) **Christian Motorcycle Association** 6 p.m. for food and fellowship, 7 p.m. business meeting at G's Pizzeria, 200 W. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call Gary 989-343-9876.

Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) **Rifle River Quilt Guild** 9:30 a.m. at the K of C Hall, 601 Columbus Dr. in West Branch. The meeting will be followed by a Show and Tell, mini-classes, quilting tips, demos and time to sew. Bring your sewing machine, a project and your lunch. Any level of quilter is welcome. Call Diane 517-304-6971. We do not meet in the month of December.

Tuesdays – (Third of each month) **Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake.** Third Tuesday 5:30 p.m. at Café International, 4761 Sage Lake Rd. in Prescott. Call Janet 989-387-2640.

Tuesdays – (Second of each month) **Survivors of Suicide Support Group** 6:30 p.m. Call Vicki 989-510-0911 or info@coalitionofhope.net for location. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255 or text 741741.

Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) **Ogemaw County Democratic Party** 5pm at the Ogemaw County Annex Building in West Branch. Call Ken at 989-345-1066.

Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) **Ogemaw County Republican Party** meeting 6 p.m. at G's Pizzeria in downtown West Branch. Call Kristine 989-329-3422.

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 – (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 Colonial Village Bakery, downtown 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.

October 31

Cardinal Optimist Club Craft Show, Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Whittemore-Prescott High School, 6001Mills Rd., Whittemore. For more information, contact April at 989-578-8768.

Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Halloween parade, Saturday, Oct. 31, 3 p.m., beginning at Rosati's Market. For more information, call 989-482-3051.

Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Trunk-or-Treat, Saturday, Oct. 31, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., St. Stephen Catholic Church parking lot, 2811 E. Greenwood Rd., Skidway Lake. For more information, contact April at 989-578-8768.

Halloween Spectacular, hosted by the Optimist Club of West Branch, in partnership with the Kiwanis Club, Saturday, Oct. 31, 6 p.m., Surline Middle School, 147 State St., West Branch.

Rose City's Trunk or Treat, Saturday, Oct. 31, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Rose City Park.

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

FAITH & WORSHIP

God is love

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

—Romans 8:37-39 NIV

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

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

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

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

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

— www.SermonCentral.com

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Morning Worship 10:30
www.gladwincornerstone.com
Pastor Scott Bradstreet

Churchill United Methodist Church
501 E. State Rd.
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989-685-2350
Worship & Children's Sunday School: 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Helen Alford

Calvary Baptist Church
235 Minzer Ct. • West Branch
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Edward's Community Church
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20 years of honor:

Veterans Museum preserves Ogemaw County's military history



Courtesy photo

The team behind Military Moments, Vol. 1. Front (l-r) Lauri Finerty, Sally Rea and John Bennett. Second row (l-r) Amy Winter, Luann Zettle and Laura Bender.

BY LAURA BENDER

The Ogemaw County Veterans Museum, a project of the Veterans Alliance, opened its doors at the Ogemaw County Fairgrounds in 2006.

For 20 years, it has housed items that document the experiences of Ogemaw County men and women who answered our nation's call to serve. On display are photos, uniforms, military gear, weapons, medals, flags, and other items that tell their stories.

When families entrust their veteran's military records to the museum, they hope those items will preserve their loved one's legacy, and they do. But volumes of letters, scrapbooks, military paperwork, and written awards are difficult to display, and appreciating them in their fullness is not in the mindset of the casual fairgoer. Our veterans deserve more. With service spanning from the Civil War to today, their duty to their country should not be forgotten.

In January 2025, three veterans began digitizing the museum's entire collection. John Bennett and Richard Ladd removed hundreds of photos from frames and pulled items out of display cases so Laura Bender could scan and

VETERANS continues on page 13 »

Remembering 'Millie the Chiseler' through her art



Photos by Laura Bender

Millie Miller's family gathered for the exhibit of her artwork at Churchill United Methodist Church. Pictured (l-r) Peggy Miller Zettle, Dava Benjamin, June Miller Lincoln, Kate Gildner, Sandy Miller Dantzer, and Pamela Fox Hilts.

BY LAURA BENDER

Have you seen the eight-foot-tall carving of Chief Ogemaw that graces the front lobby of the Ogemaw County Building, or the official county flag adopted in 1974? Then you've seen the work of Millie Miller, known as "Millie the Chiseler."

On Sept. 27, the Women in Faith Group sponsored an exhibit of Millie's art at Churchill United Methodist Church in West Branch. Among those in attendance were several family members who were delighted to see their relative's work remembered.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Millie received much acclaim for her unique carvings. From her sculpture of Gerald Ford, on display at the Ford Museum in

MILLIE continues on page 11 »



Millie's carvings of Chief Ogemaw.

Upcoming workshops at MSU Extension

MSU Extension has three workshops planned for the month of October.

The first is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 14, concerning "Christmas Tree Root Rot." Learn about root rot pathogens in Christmas tree production with this in-person, hands-on event. Root rot can be a major problem in Christmas tree production. This will provide an educational opportunity to learn how to find signs of root rot in the field, what diagnostic tests are available, and how to best manage these diseases.

The workshop is online via Zoom from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost is free, but registration is required. Register at *https://pears.io/events/msuext/10719/* or contact Bill Lindburg at *Lindbe35@msu.edu.*

The second workshop is "Chronic Pain PATH." It is virtual via Zoom on Thursday, Oct. 15, with a 30-minute introductory session at 1:30 p.m. The full program runs Thursdays, Oct. 29 through Dec. 10, 2026. The workshop meets for two hours, once a week for six weeks.

Please note: Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Oct. 15 to allow time for program materials and books to be mailed to participants. You must have an internet or data connection and a device with a camera and audio to attend this workshop.

Register at *https://pears.io/events/msuext10021/*. The program is free for Michigan residents. Family members, friends and caregivers are encouraged to attend with you. When you register, you agree to use your video and audio during the workshop and attend all six sessions. This is a live class and will not be recorded.

Contact information: Liz Williams, *josaitis@msu.edu* or 810-244-8511.

The third workshop is "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?" — Passing on Personal Possessions.

This free online class via Zoom is scheduled for Oct. 27 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Planning for the transfer of both titled and non-titled property is an important issue that can significantly impact family relations. "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?" will address six key decision-making factors.

The workshop will help you learn:

Strategies to jumpstart conversations about inheritance

About the powerful messages in who gets what

The importance of planning for both titled and non-titled property

How complex emotional and family relationships impact personal property decisions

Six key decision-making factors in non-titled property transfer

About resources, including a workbook, to help improve family decision-making

Preregistration is required. It is recommended that you have a microphone and webcam, but they are not necessary. A Zoom link will be sent prior to the webinar.

For questions about this event, please contact Dr. Erica Tobe at *tobe@msu.edu.*

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KIWANIS CORNER



DENNY SHUMWAY

KIWANIS OF WEST BRANCH

The Kiwanis Club meets at noon on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at G's Pizzeria. Anyone interested in learning about our organization is welcome to attend. If you would like to be a guest speaker to show us what you do, email Denny at *denelaine@hotmail.com*. If you want to help the children of West Branch and around the world, we are here.

Our next endeavor will be joining with the Optimist Club for the Halloween Activities at Surline Elementary. The fun starts at 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

AKTION CLUB

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

We also will be helping at the Halloween activities at Surline Elementary.

Those with special needs interested in joining our club must be over 18 years and completed school. Our members range in age from 20 to over 60. Come on the second Wednesday of the month at noon at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads. If you want to tell us about your organization, contact Denny to arrange at *denelaine@hotmail.com.*

OGEMAW COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

We distribute boxes of food to 50 to 75 families each week. Donations of food or money is needed to help us with the influx of families. You can add to your grocery bill at Meijer Store with a card found at the checkouts or customer service. It is only $10 added to your bill to help someone in need. We will take donations every Wednesday of the month from 8:30 to 11 a.m. We are in the outreach building behind the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave. (OCCF), PO Box 543, West Branch. If there is bad weather, text ahead to 315-725-1199 to see if we are open; we now have shelters to help us in the rain. We are open every Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. or until we run out of food. Families can come once a month. We want to thank those individual donors for their generosity at this special time. We also have several businesses to thank, Starbucks, Dollar General stores of West Branch and St. Helen, and finally KFC. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FOOD TRUCK

The monthly food truck will be at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads in West Branch on Oct. 16. Line up starts at 9 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you have a box, bring it with you.

Ogemaw County Superior News

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From "Add to Cart" to "Let's Go!"

BY DEANNA SURBROOK

There was a time when I thought giving my children everything they wanted was simply part of being a good mom.

Birthdays meant presents piled high. Christmas meant a living room overflowing with packages. If they wanted the latest toy, game or gadget, I wanted to make sure they had it.

After all, who doesn't love seeing the excitement on a child's face when they open a gift?

But last Christmas, as I looked around at the wrapping paper scattered across the floor and the mountain of presents that had been opened just hours earlier, something hit me.

It had gotten out of hand.

There was simply too much stuff.

For a moment, I felt a little like Cindy Lou Who, standing in the middle of all that Christmas chaos and wondering what Christmas was really supposed to be about.

For me, first and foremost, Christmas should be a celebration of Christ's birth. It's also about spending time with family, helping others and making memories that last long after the decorations are packed away.



DEANNA SURBROOK

And, of course, there's always the modern Christmas tradition of "Add to Cart."

But somewhere between the wish lists, shopping bags and endless packages, I began to wonder if we had gotten things backward.

Think about your own childhood.

What do you remember most?

The toy you got for Christmas in 1980? Probably not.

But chances are you remember the family trips, the vacations, the late nights, the crazy adventures and the moments when everyone was together.

That got me thinking.

Maybe our children don't need more things.

Maybe they need more experiences.

So, I decided to do something I probably should have done years ago.

I went back and figured out exactly how much I had spent on Christmas and birthdays for my children the previous year.

It was easy enough. I simply pulled up my purchase history on Amazon.

I almost fell over backward. The number made me physically sick.

I stared at it, thinking, "How

CART continues on page 11 »

News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

Our Mills Township Board held interviews with three applicants for the Mills Township Supervisor seat on Sept. 11. The board voted to appoint Peter L. Hennard V to the two years left for the supervisor's seat.

The boardwalk is now finished and re-opened. It will be coated with preservative in the future. It sure looks nice.

Halloween is approaching fast. Glenn Stillwagon, owner of 989 Raceway and The Local Guys LLC, is organizing the parade this year and in the future. We hope everyone will join in the fun and enter the parade. The lineup is at 2 p.m. at Rosati's parking lot. The parade will start at 3 p.m. and will travel east down Greenwood Road to the Catholic Church parking lot. Prizes for the best of show in several categories will be awarded.

The Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake's annual Trunk or Treat will begin after the parade is done around 4 p.m. and last until 6 p.m. If you would like to pass out your own candy and decorate your trunk, be set up by 4 p.m. We plan for 500 kids. Ribbons will be given to the top four best set-ups. Call or text April to set up for Trunk or Treat at 989-578-8768, Glenn for parade information and Scarecrow details at 989-482-3051.



APRIL HARKEY-MASON

The Skidway Lake Beautification Club and the 989 /Raceway are hosting a business decorating contest. No registration or sign-up required, just decorate your business. Judging will take place on Halloween, and a prize will be awarded to the best decorated. Show your Halloween spirit and let's have fun.

A Scarecrow making competition will also be sponsored by 989 Raceway and the Skidway Lake Beautification Club on Saturday Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot. Prizes will be given for the best scarecrow for age group 10 and under, as well as ages 11 and up. You can build your scarecrow at home and bring it with you or come build one with us. We will have limited supplies available for you to use. Once they are finished the scarecrows will be displayed around town for two weeks so everyone can enjoy them. After Halloween you are asked to take your scarecrow home.

Remember, if you have any events or news to share with me call or text April at 989-578-8768. Until next time. God Bless.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Optimist Updates

The Optimist Club of West Branch meets every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. As of Sept. 24, we will be meeting at the Colonial Village Bakery next door to the Harvest Garden restaurant on Houghton Avenue, downtown West Branch. We would love to have you come and join us for breakfast and let us show you what the Optimist Club is working on next to benefit the children of our community and the world!

We appreciate the owners of the Harvest Grill for allowing us to use this space for our club and our weekly meetings. They will be providing us a breakfast menu and food service during our meetings.



JOE BELL
VICE - PRESIDENT

Each year we typically do a paper and pencil drive to help supply local schools and their teachers with some of the things teachers need for their students. As we talked to the schools to begin this fund raiser, they told us that they actually have less need for actual paper and pencils but a growing demand for erasable markers and their erasers as their use of white boards increases. So, we will be doing our best to help fill that need and have raised over $1,000 to purchase the needed items.

I also want to remind everyone that we will again be hosting the Halloween Spectacular at Surline Middle School gym on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 6 p.m. Along with our Kiwanis Club partners, we hope to see you and your children there.

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

We close each meeting by reciting the Optimist Creed, part of which states:

"Promise yourself to be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble." What a great way to approach your life! 'Bye for now.

‘The Stitchin' at the Springs’ Quilt Group helps raise awareness of domestic violence

LADONNA SCHULTZ

Since 1989, Congress has officially designated October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As such, Ogemaw County is joining communities nationwide in using this month to focus on supporting survivors, honoring victims, and educating the public on ending intimate partner violence.

According to the latest Michigan State Police statistics, the baseline risk for individuals is staggeringly high. Roughly 36.1 percent of Michigan women and 25.8 percent of Michigan men experience intimate partner physical violence, rape, or stalking in their lifetimes.

Furthermore, official state statistics indicate that law enforcement agencies process a heavy caseload, with approximately 67,816 domestic violence incidents reported across the state in a single year. This is a drop over the last decade from more than 101,000 reported events. While that statistic seems encouraging, the same data shows that fatalities with a domestic component rose during the same timeframe. This seems to indicate that while minor incidents may be decreasing, the domestic violence cases that do occur are becoming increasingly lethal. Statistically, a Michigan woman is killed by a current or former partner every five days. Furthermore, advocates and healthcare workers have raised alarms over surging severe physical trauma. In my office, local cases involving strangulation, a major clinical indicator of future lethality, have drastically increased.

These numbers tell us that, as a community, we need to unite against abuse and end the silence. Every action, no matter how small, plays a vital role in dismantling the cycle of intimate partner violence. Whether you are educating a young person about healthy boundaries, speaking up when you see warning signs, or donating to a local shelter, any effort you can make to stop domestic violence is urgently needed and deeply impactful.



LADONNA SCHULTZ
OGEMAW COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Demonstrating the power of local solidarity, a beautiful community-led initiative is taking place right here in Ogemaw County. The talented members of the Stitchin' at the Springs Ladies have crafted a custom quilt explicitly themed around domestic violence awareness. Every detail of the quilt carries deep meaning: rich shades of purple symbolize the courage and resilience of survivors, the image of a home represents the safe haven that every individual deserves, and broken hearts visually capture the devastating toll that intimate partner violence takes on families.

The quilt will be proudly displayed at the Ogemaw County Prosecutor’s Office throughout the entire month of October, serving as a poignant visual reminder of the community's collective stand against abuse. Made with love and careful dedication, this artwork was donated to River House, our local domestic violence shelter serving the region. It will eventually be auctioned off to raise both public awareness and vital funding to directly support the shelter’s life-saving mission and community outreach programs.

Ending domestic violence is not an easy task. It requires a community-wide commitment to promoting healthy relationships, holding abusers accountable, and ensuring that vital resources remain accessible to those in need. The ladies from Stitchin’ at the Springs are showing us that by using our collective talents, together, we can end domestic violence and build a safer, more compassionate future for everyone.

If you or someone you know is experiencing intimate partner abuse, confidential help is available 24/7.

National Domestic Violence Hotline: Call 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or text “START” to 88788 for free, immediate, and confidential support.

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673.

Local Assistance: Victims can access emergency shelter, personalized safety planning, and legal advocacy through River House, a local county program, at *office@riverhouseinc.org* or *SAOffice@riverhouseinc.org*. Business Office: 989-348-1719 x9; Crisis Line: 989-348-3169; Text Line: 989-889-0545.

The back of the ballot

BY GAIL HUGHEY

The West Branch-Rose City Area Schools has a proposal on the Nov. 3, 2026, ballot. This proposal, which will have no effect on a homeowner’s primary residence, is to restore the millage to the maximum allowed by the state of 18 mills. It will be found on the back of the ballot.



GAIL HUGHEY
SUPERINTENDENT
WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY SCHOOLS

This millage is levied on properties not otherwise exempt by law, such as businesses, second homes, vacant properties, and rentals.

The school district is asking for approval of 5 mills to address the current rollback and the rollbacks over the next eight years of the operational millage. Only 18 mills can be levied, so the amount increased this year would be 1.0515 on non-homestead properties only.

In previous years, the rollback has been relatively small. During this school year, the loss will be just over $540,000. This affects our general funds, which are used for general operations of the school district, including classroom supplies, transportation, staffing, utilities, facility maintenance, and athletics.

The Michigan Headlee Amendment requires local governments to “roll back” property tax millage rates if the total assessed value of existing property in a community grows faster than the rate of inflation.

For more information about this proposal or about our school district, contact us at 989-343-2001. Check our website at wbrc.k12.mi.us or the district Facebook page.

Join us at Ogemaw Heights High School for a tour on Monday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. or by appointment. Let us show you how we have put your tax dollars to use, providing opportunities for our students to have a successful future.

Letter to the editor policy

The Ogemaw County Superior News encourages all readers to submit letters to the editor for possible publication. Please limit letters to 200 words or less.

The author must include a daytime phone number as they will be contacted prior to publication. Unsigned letters will not be published. We reserve the right to edit and/or reject any letter.

Letters can be submitted via email to deanna@superior-news.com or by traditional mail to P.O. Box 603, West Branch, MI 48661.

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Obituaries

Patsy Tyree

June 16, 1934 – Oct. 3, 2026

Patsy Tyree, age 92, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, at The Brook Assisted Living in West Branch, Mich.



Born on June 16, 1934, in Midland, Mich., she was the daughter of Edward C. and Olith E. (Scott) Stephens of West Branch.

Patsy graduated from West Branch High School in 1952 and attended Ferris State College, where she studied pharmacology.

On Sept. 29, 1956, Patsy married Gene G. Tyree in Bay City. Together they built a life centered on family and the joy of the outdoors. Patsy enjoyed camping, fishing, and hunting with her family. She, along with her husband Gene, were the proud owner/operators of the first Sears Catalog store in West Branch. She loved to crochet, was a gifted pianist and singer, and was a member of Job’s Daughters International and the Pleasant Hill Club for many years. During retirement, she enjoyed working summers on Mackinac Island and winters in Florida with her husband.

Patsy is survived by her children, son David Tyree of Cary, N. C.; her daughter, Janet Moore of Ankeny, Iowa, and her son, Bruce (Nancy) Tyree of West Branch.

She was also the proud grandmother to David Tyree II, Jeannette (Robert) Cawthorne, Kalie (Luke) Gascho, and Shannon Tyree. Her legacy continues through her great-grandchildren, Jackson, Tobias, William, Eliza, and Lenny.

Patsy was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Gene Tyree in 2024. She will be dearly missed by all who loved her and by those whose lives were brightened by her presence.

Visitation took place on Thursday., Oct. 8, at Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch. The funeral took place on Friday, Oct. 9, at the Ogemaw Hills Free Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Life Choices Resource Center in West Branch.

Online condolences can be shared at www.steuernolmclaren.com.

Beverly Anne Girardot

May 10, 1936 – Oct. 5, 2026

Beverly Ann Girardot passed away on Oct. 5, 2026, in Standish, Mich., at the age of 90. She was born on May 10, 1936, in Detroit, Mich., to Felix and Gertrude (Fisher) Wroubel.



Beverly was a wonderful and loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Her family was most important to her, and she always took loving care of all of us. She is remembered fondly for the wonderful food she made and the meals she served. No one ever went hungry when she was around.

Beverly is survived by her daughter, Karen Girardot of Grand Blanc, and her son, Larry and his wife, Nancy, of Lake City, as well as nine grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John, and her sons, John, Jim and David.

Family and friends are invited to Holy Family Catholic Church, 402 West Peters Road, West Branch, on Saturday, Oct. 10. Visitation begins at 10 a.m., with Mass at 11 a.m. Please join the family for a luncheon following Mass in the church hall.

Online condolences can be shared at *www.steuernolmclaren.com*

Honor your loved ones with a complementary obituary listing

Ogemaw County SUPERIOR NEWS

Email obituary to:
deanna@superior-news.com

Dog Breeds

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Pug

Shetland Sheepdog
Golden Retriever
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Herding Dogs
Hound Dogs
Dalmatian
Mastiff
Collie

See Answers on Page 11

Fueling hope and healing:

A day in the life of leader Kelsey Killinger-Smith



KELSEY KILLINGER-SMITH

For Kelsey Killinger-Smith, a standard 24-hour day rarely seems long enough. Kelsey's morning begins with a stack of files, a large cup of coffee, and a laser focus on local healthcare needs. As the Director of Fund Development for the MyMichigan Health Foundation, her primary job is identifying funding gaps and organizing major charitable initiatives centered entirely around community wellness and healthcare philanthropy.

Yet, when the clock strikes five, her commitment to her neighbors doesn't waver. Instead, she pivots seamlessly into her role as a dedicated board member for the Ogemaw County United Way, proving that for true community advocates, impact is a full-time calling.

Volunteering her time at the board level allows Kelsey to take a bird's-eye view of regional challenges. While her foundation work tackles physical health and medical infrastructure, her United Way lens focuses on the social determinants of health—such as housing security, literacy, financial stability, and youth development programs.

During the board meeting, Kelsey joins other local leaders in reviewing community grant applications, allocating emergency resource funds, and strategizing for out-of-the-box OCUW funding campaigns. Her dual perspective is invaluable: she understands exactly where medical needs overlap with economic hardships in the community, helping the board deploy resources where they will do the most good.

"In many ways, my role at the MyMichigan Health Foundation and my position on the United Way board are two sides of the same coin. At the foundation, we work to ensure our community has high-quality health care close to home. By volunteering with Ogemaw County United Way, I'm able to help address the root community issues that are a barrier to good health care, like financial strain, housing, and food insecurity that directly impact a person's well-being," says Kelsey. "It really is a natural extension of my day job; both roles are focused on healing and lifting up the community I was born and raised in."

Heading home at the end of a long day, Kelsey's schedule is proof of a simple truth: local leaders drive local change. By blending her professional expertise at the MyMichigan Health Foundation with her volunteer governance at the United Way, she bridges the gap between clinical medicine and community well-being.



Oktoberfest 2026: A celebration full of fun, family and festivities

BY LAURA BENDER

Oktoberfest 2026, sponsored by the West Branch Visitors Bureau, provided lots of enjoyment for locals and visitors alike. Craft vendors set up early, as did the farmers market. At noon, the first 100 adults in attendance received goodie bags full of cool stuff.

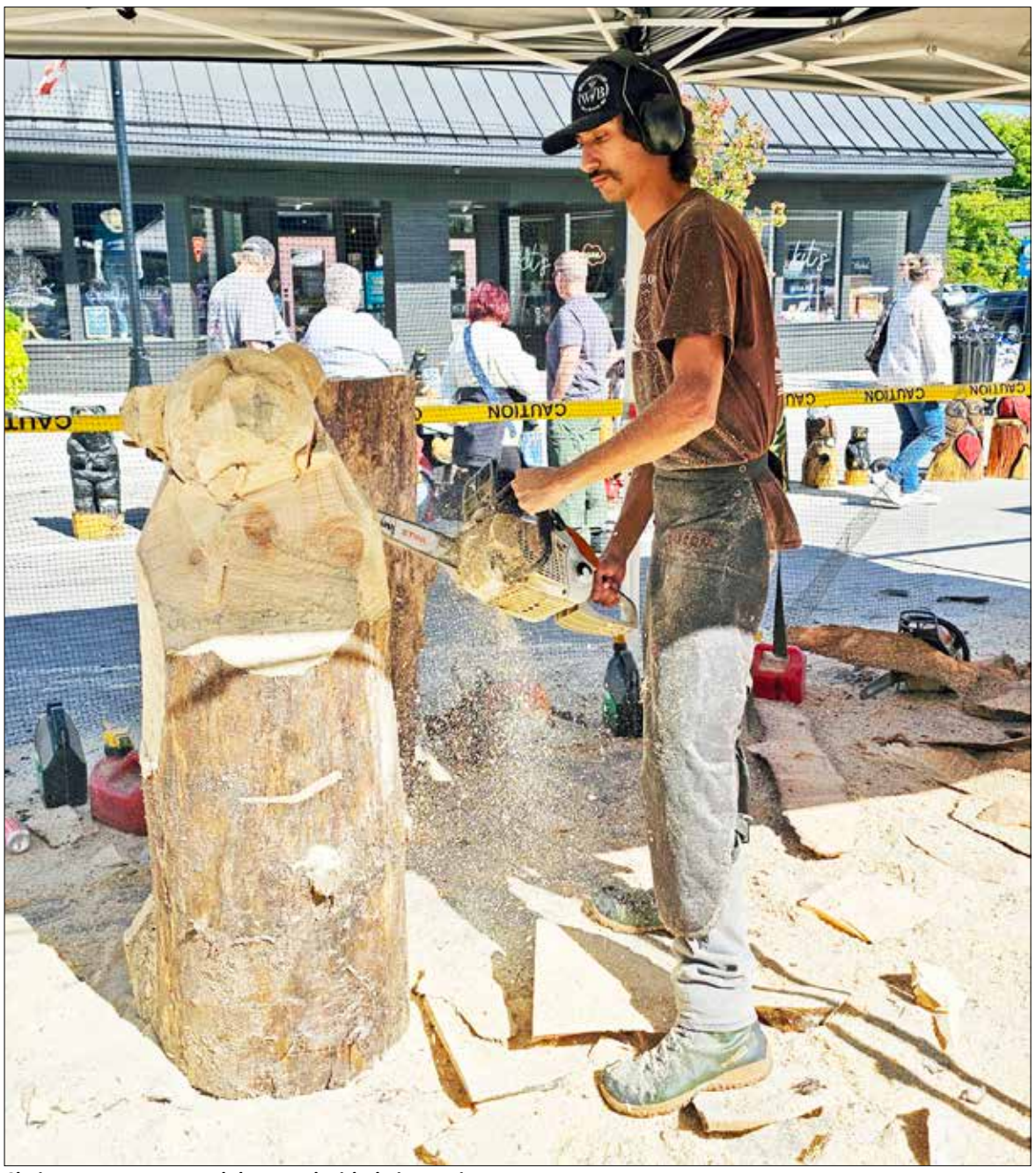
On one end of town, the Kowalski Brothers Polka Band filled the air with music to get your feet dancing. On the other end of town, talented chainsaw artists whirred and carved until they found the critter or fanciful creature waiting under all that excess wood.

The petting zoo delighted children with cute, soft animals just waiting for attention. In the middle of town, children (and brave adults) dared to take on the challenge of the inflatable obstacle course.

Onkel Hans was on hand to give an Oktoberfest welcome to all he met, and rumor has it that even Bigfoot made an appearance!

A new addition to this year's event was the car show and kids' crafts at Home Depot.

So, make sure to put September 25, 2027, on your calendar so you can catch all the fun next year!



Chainsaw carvers wowed the crowd with their creations. *Photos by Laura Bender*



Onkel Hans was on hand to give an Oktoberfest welcome to all he met.



Bigfoot greets visitors



Children took on the inflatable obstacle course.



West Branch Visitors Bureau handed out gift goodie bags to the first 100 visitors.

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2023 Ford F-150 XLT

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P4996



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U5239



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$56,402 | 12,418 Miles

U5131



2023 Ford F-150 XLT

$41,381 | 24,113 Miles

P5388



2023 Ford F-150 Tremor

$50,144 | 43,251 Miles

P5119



2023 Ford F-150 XLT

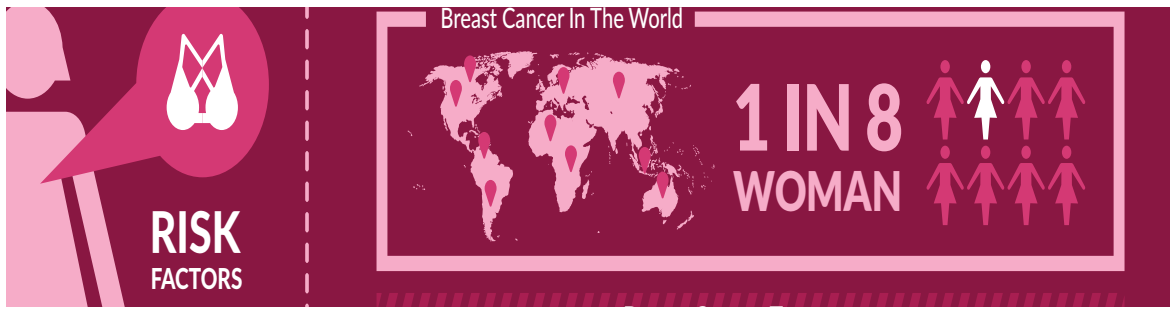
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Let It Roll!

Pumpkin Roll brings Halloween fun to Irons Park



Photo by Laura Bender

The annual Pumpkin Roll, sponsored by American Legion Post 103, is a fun event for kids ages 14 and under. This year the children arrived early at the top of the hill in Irons Park to select the pumpkin they hoped would be a winner. Then, by age groups, they lined up at the top of the hill, took aim at the target below, and pushed their pumpkins toward the goal. Those whose pumpkins stopped nearest the target received gift certificates for ice cream. All participants got to take their pumpkins home to carve or paint for Halloween. Thank you to all the veterans and friends who provided this delightful event for our community's children. Pictured Navy veteran Vivian Kralka giving the signal to "Let it roll."

West Branch Aktion Club members attend state convention

The Aktion Club of West Branch recently attended the annual Michigan Aktion Club Convention at Camp Henry in Newaygo, joining members from six Aktion Clubs across the state.

The convention provided members with an opportunity to make new friends, enjoy time together and participate in a special service project. The Michigan Key Club provided supplies for the project, allowing Aktion Club members to assemble backpacks filled with stickers, coloring books and reading books for children.

West Branch was well represented at the convention, with eight members and three chaperones making the trip to Newaygo.

The Aktion Club of West Branch is part of Aktion Club, a Kiwanis-sponsored service organization designed specifically for adults with disabilities. The organization promotes friendship, leadership, community service and inclusion, while giving members opportunities to make a positive difference in their communities. The local club welcomes adults over the age of 18 who have completed school. Members range in age from 20 to more than 60.

The West Branch club was founded March 19, 2019, and over the years, members have become a familiar and active part of the West Branch community. Their projects have included:

Building a float for the West Branch parade

Being named West Branch Parade Marshal

Holding community carnivals for children

Providing hot chocolate at the Santa Train

Holding bake sales

Selling water during Music in the Park

Collecting returnable bottles and cans

Supporting numerous organizations throughout Ogemaw County

The Aktion Club meets at noon on the second Wednesday of each month at First United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Fairview and State roads in West Branch. For more information about joining Aktion Club, email Denny at *denelaine@hotmail.com.*



Courtesy photo

Members of the Aktion Club of West Branch recently attended the annual state convention. Pictured front (l-r) Jordan, Bob, Morgan, Malori, Governor Violet and Kayla, the new governor. Back row (l-r) Catherine, Ronnie and Jake.

Library

« Continued from page 1

the first librarian/director. I was so glad when we selected Barb because she was the perfect one to get our library up and running. She worked here for 20 years and was such a great asset. I was very disappointed when she retired.

"But then we selected Jeanette Leathorn, who was, again, the perfect person for the position," Debbi said. "Jeanette has been here for 30 years now, and hopefully she sticks around for many more."

Looking around at the people gathered, Debbi said, "A lot of you were just little tykes or weren't even around yet when we first opened the building. I'm glad to see you're still here."

"I was so honored and fortunate I got into this," Barb Sanback said. "Everybody, the board, and many others worked together on this building. We just kept working and growing. We have a wonderful, supportive community."

After Debbi finished speaking, people stayed around to chat with one another and wander through the well-maintained stacks. Several flipped through photo albums of patrons and programs that were on display in the young adult area. The aroma of fresh popcorn filled the air, adding to the homey atmosphere of this beloved place.

For 50 years, under the continuity of good leadership from Debbi Thomas, Barb Sanback and Jeanette Leathorn - women whose passion for the mission is evidenced in the library and the community of readers they supported - the Ogemaw District Library has thrived. As the sign on the outside of the building announced, the library has been "Awesome Since 1976."

May it ever be so.



Photo By Laura Bender

Millie

« Continued from page 3

Grand Rapids, to her high relief of Chief Ogemaw on a carved wood arrowhead displayed in the Michigan Room at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C., Millie's work honored her Ogemaw roots.

Millie's art also graces many places within the county. In 1976, the City of Rose City accepted her designs for its official Coat of Arms and its city flag. Many local churches, including St. John's Lutheran and Churchill United Methodist, still display her religious carvings. Totem poles, some as tall as 50 feet, have also been displayed.

As Millie the Chiseler's fame grew, she became the subject of many media stories, some with humorous titles. From the Jackson Citizen Patriot's article entitled "Millie: Mallet-Wielding Grandmother" to the Saginaw News article "Chips on Her Shoulders and All Over the House," Michigan learned about her talents. In 1974, she was featured on ABC-TV's nationally seen "Reasoners Report." National publications featuring her work included The Christian Science Monitor, The National Woodcarvers Association Magazine, United Press International, California's Odyssey Magazine, and The Colorado Springs Sun. The November 24, 1981, issue of TV Guide, a staple in homes nationwide, carried her photo. A story about Millie even appeared in The Daily American, published in Rome, Italy.

In October 1979, Millie wrote in her journal, "The thrill of creating something from wood is only surpassed by the wonderful friends I acquire because of our common bond." An entry in 1980 said, "During my lifetime, I have known many rewards, but the greatest and most treasured have been the smiles which my wood carvings have brought to others… My talent was a gift from God. What I do with it is my gift to Him."

"Millie the Chiseler" Miller was born Mildred Fox in 1912 in Selkirk, Ogemaw County. She married Henry Miller and had two children. Millie died in 1998 in West Branch Township, leaving behind hundreds of carvings and other creative works, including this poem. In 2014, Michigan lawmakers introduced House Bill No. 5821 to adopt it as the official state poem, but it was never passed into law.

Hand of Michigan

God knitted a mitten of wood, rock and lime,

Made a foundation to last through all time.

He planted his palm with Hemlock and Pine,

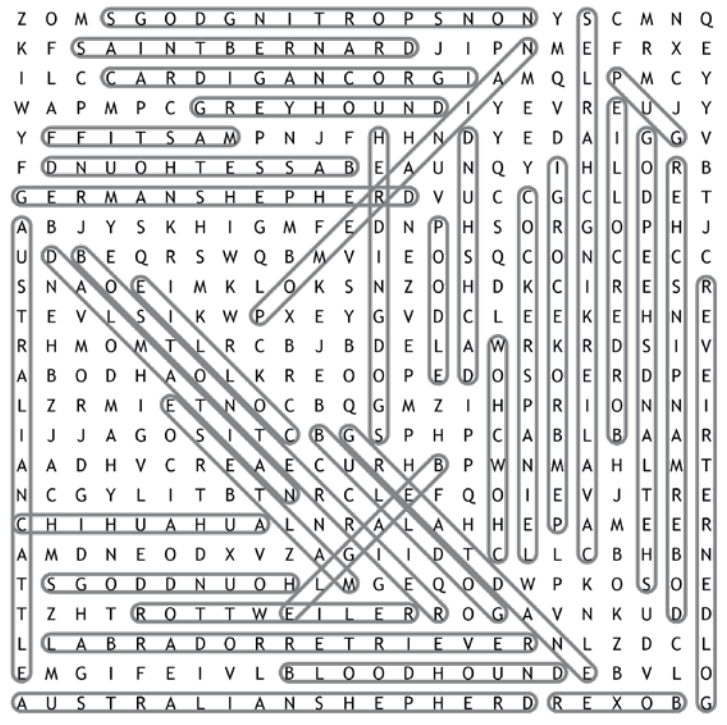
Then blessed it with rain and sunshine.

In all the world there's no other land

That God himself patterned from his own hand!

Michigan.

The friends and family who gathered at the exhibit of Millie's art stayed long, telling stories and sharing fond memories of the woman they knew as "Millie the Chiseler." All agreed she was a one-of-a-kind Renaissance woman who loved Ogemaw County and celebrated it through her art.



See Puzzle on Page 6

Cart

« Continued from page 4

in the world did I spend THAT much?"

And then I started thinking about where all that money had gone. Toys. Games. Clothes. Gadgets. Things they absolutely had to have at the time.

Things that are now sitting in a closet, shoved under a bed or completely forgotten.

That was my wake-up call. Something had to change, and it was going to start this year.

Instead of spending that same amount of money on toys and gifts for birthdays and Christmas, I decided we were going to take the money and spend it on something we could all enjoy together.

We were going to make memories.

Fortunately, choosing the destination didn't take long.

We are all huge Harry Potter fans, so the answer was practically staring us in the face.

Diagon Alley. Hogsmeade. Universal Studios Florida.

It was perfect.

Instead of wrapping presents, I was going to pack suitcases.

Instead of opening another toy that might be forgotten a few months later, we would walk through the magical world of Harry Potter together.

Instead of filling the house with more stuff, we would fill our phones with pictures and our heads with memories.

A real experience.

A family adventure.

A story we would still be telling years from now.

And perhaps, in the process, I was finally learning that being a good mom isn't about how much you can give your children.

Sometimes, the greatest gift we can give our children is simply our time. They may eventually forget the toys we bought them, but they are far more likely to remember the vacations, adventures, laughter and special moments we shared together as a family.

In the end, it's not the things we give them that create lasting memories—it's the time we spend making those memories together.

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Dolly

« Continued from page 1

the Republic of Ireland, and the United Kingdom. By the Imagination Library's 30th anniversary in 2025, it had provided more than 305 million books to preschoolers. Today, 15 percent of all children under the age of five in the United States receive a book in the mail each month.

Thanks to retired teacher Brenda Griffin and her fellow volunteers, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has been available to children living in Ogemaw County since July 1, 2024. Those who have partnered with Brenda to do this work are her daughter, Delani Hall; retired teacher Tami Clark; doula Rachele Macera; Dr. Nicole Zimmer; and Erica Ramus.

"We currently have over six hundred Ogemaw County children enrolled," Brenda said. "Since we began, we have retired another 200 who have aged out, which means that in only two years, eight hundred children in our county have received books. These books are free to all children from birth through five years old. If they are enrolled as soon as they are born, they will receive 60 books by the time they are ready for school. Each child in a family is eligible. The books are per child, not per family."

Brenda, who taught first and second grade and middle school math in West Branch for 32 years, knows the value of inspiring young minds and instilling a love of reading at an early age. Spearheading this program for our community is a natural extension of this professional commitment.

"This program is near and dear to my heart," Brenda said. "I hope it stays in our community for many years to come."

Since participating counties need to provide a portion of the cost, when the program was first introduced in Ogemaw, the Imagination Library partnered with the Kiwanis Club of West Branch. Then, needing 501(c)(3) status to apply for grants, the program partnered with Rayola. Recently, Ogemaw County's program received a $2,500 grant from the North Central Michigan Community Foundation as part of the Ogemaw County Community Endowment Fund. Other donations come from individuals, organizations, and local businesses like the Kartes family's Dairy Queen, which hosts "Dolly Day" each year on the first day of school, donating 10 percent of the day's earnings to the program.

If your business or organization would like to provide a grant or hold a fundraiser to support this effort, see Brenda Griffin or the other volunteers, or send a note to "Ogemaw County Imagination Library, P.O. Box 594, West Branch, MI 48661." Including postage, it costs $31 per year to provide each child with 12 books. Individual donations may also be sent to this address. Checks should be made payable to Rayola, with a note on the memo line indicating the money is for the Imagination Library.

To register a child under the age of five to receive a free book each month, visit *https://imaginationlibrary.com/*, click on "Check Availability," and enter your ZIP code. Then follow the registration instructions.

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Awareness

« Continued from page 1

cancer, but it is important not to ignore something that seems different.

More Than a Month of Pink

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is often recognized by pink ribbons, shirts, fundraisers and community events. Behind those symbols, however, are real people — mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, friends, co-workers and neighbors — whose lives have been touched by breast cancer.

For someone going through treatment, a simple phone call, meal, ride to an appointment or encouraging message can make a difference.

Family members and friends can also play an important role by offering support without judgment and allowing those facing cancer to express their fears, frustrations and hopes.

Remembering Those We Have Lost

October is also a time to remember those who have lost their battles with breast cancer.

Their stories are part of the reason awareness efforts continue. Every screening encouraged, every conversation started and every person who learns about breast health can contribute to the larger fight against the disease.

For survivors, Breast Cancer Awareness Month can be a celebration of strength and perseverance — while also recognizing that the emotional effects of cancer can continue long after treatment ends.

A Reminder for Everyone

Breast cancer awareness isn't just about wearing pink during October. It is about making health a priority throughout the year.

Schedule recommended screenings. Know your family history. Pay attention to changes in your body. Encourage loved ones to stay current with their health care.

Most importantly, don't be afraid to ask questions.

A mammogram or conversation with a health care provider may seem like a small step, but early detection can make a significant difference.

This October, the pink ribbon serves as more than a symbol. It is a reminder to check, talk, support and encourage — because early detection can save lives.

Veterans

« Continued from page 2

photograph them. Then, the guys reframed, rehung, and reorganized everything.

Laura took home tens of thousands of digital photos and scans, spending every evening cropping, restoring, and filing the items. By the time the Veterans Museum opened during Fair Week in 2025, the entire museum had been digitized. Since then, many other veterans and their family members have offered their photos and other items to be scanned or photographed, making this an ongoing project. To date, 4,465 individual Ogemaw County veterans have a file, some containing only one or two items, while others have dozens.

During the digitization project, it became clear that many Ogemaw veterans have stories that would interest the rest of our community. Some had already been written by Deanna Surbrook, publisher of the *Ogemaw County Superior News*, John Bennett, and writers from the *Ogemaw County Herald*. Others had yet to be researched and written.

Early in 2026, a group got together to brainstorm how to preserve and present these stories. At that meeting, it was decided that the Veterans Alliance should publish a series of books entitled "Military Moments" to honor our Ogemaw County veterans.

Under the leadership of Luann Zettle, local writers, researchers, and historians have worked diligently to prepare the first volume for publication. It includes information about neighbors, friends, local shopkeepers, doctors, farmers - people you know whose stories of wartime service you may never have heard. Since it is well-researched and documented, it will also be a good resource for family historians.

The book is in the pre-publication phase. Those who order between now and Christmas will receive a free companion book entitled "Letters Home." That book contains letters sent to family and friends from Ogemaw veterans serving in war-fighting units from the 1900 Boxer Rebellion in China to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Books ordered today will be available for pickup at the Ogemaw County Commission on Aging during the Veterans Coffee from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Nov. 4. On Sunday, Nov. 8, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., books will again be available for pickup during a gathering at the Veterans Museum. That event will include a book signing and refreshments. Pickup for books ordered after these dates will be arranged.

"Military Moments, Vol. 1" is a full-color book on premium paper. It costs $34 and comes with a free copy of the "Letters Home" book. Additional or stand-alone copies of that book are $10.

To order, please send your check made payable to the Veterans Alliance to: Ogemaw County Veterans Affairs, 496 E. Houghton Avenue, West Branch, MI. Please list the number of "Military Moments" books you are ordering and any additional "Letters Home" books. If you prefer to use an order form, request one by emailing Laura Bender, curator of the Veterans Museum, at laura.*bender@yahoo.com.* If you are a veteran or have veterans in your family and would like them to be included in "Military Moments, Volume Two," or the digital record, email the curator.

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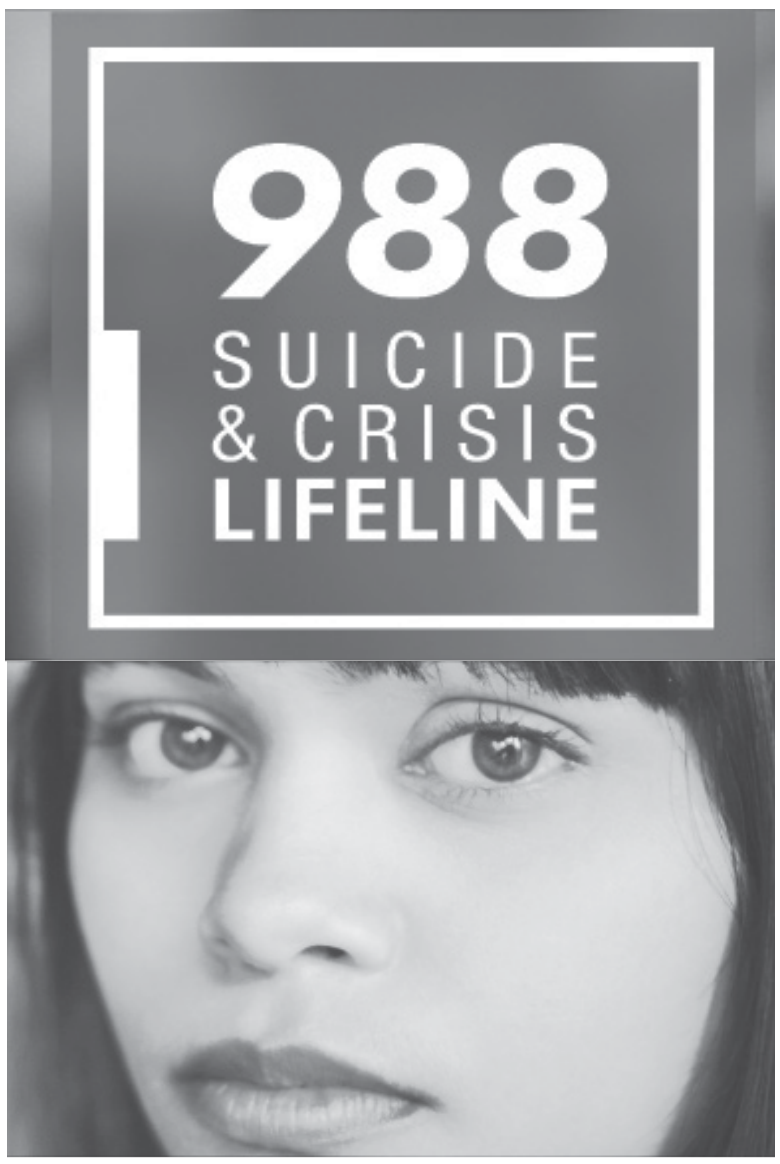
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Annual Meeting of the Ogemaw County Agricultural Society will be held on October 15, 2026 at 8 pm

Election of Officers, meeting to follow
Meeting location: Ogemaw County Fairgrounds,
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A taste of Fall: Five Michigan apple recipes

There's nothing quite like the arrival of apple season in Michigan. As summer begins to give way to cooler mornings and colorful autumn afternoons, orchards across the state start filling with baskets of crisp, flavorful apples.

Michigan's apple harvest begins in late summer and continues well into the fall, giving home cooks plenty of opportunities to bring fresh apples into the kitchen. Whether picked at a local orchard, purchased at a farmers market or found at the neighborhood grocery store, Michigan apples are a natural fit for some of fall's most comforting recipes.

From a traditional apple pie to a warm apple crisp, these five recipes are perfect for weekend baking, family gatherings or simply enjoying a taste of autumn at home.

Classic Michigan Apple Pie

Few desserts say "fall" quite like a homemade apple pie. This traditional version features tender cinnamon-spiced apples tucked inside a flaky double crust.

Ingredients:

For the crust:

2½ cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon sugar

1 cup cold unsalted butter, cut into small pieces

6 to 8 tablespoons ice water

For the filling:

6 to 7 Michigan apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced

¾ cup granulated sugar

¼ cup packed brown sugar

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

1 tablespoon lemon juice

2 tablespoons butter

For the top:

1 egg

1 tablespoon water

1 tablespoon coarse sugar, optional

Directions:

In a large bowl, combine flour, salt and sugar. Cut in the cold butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

Add ice water, one tablespoon at a time, mixing just until the dough comes together. Divide the dough in half, shape into disks, wrap and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 425 F.

In a large bowl, combine sliced apples, sugars, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and lemon juice.

Roll out one portion of dough and place it in a 9-inch pie plate. Fill with the apple mixture and dot with butter.

Roll out the second portion of dough and place over the filling. Trim and crimp the edges. Cut several small slits in the top crust.

Beat the egg with water and brush over the crust. Sprinkle with coarse sugar, if desired.

Bake for 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 375 F and bake another 35 to 45 minutes, or until the crust is golden brown and the filling is bubbling.

Cool for at least 2 hours before slicing.

Kitchen tip: Cortland, Ida Red, Jonagold and Rome apples are excellent choices for pies because they hold their shape while baking.

Old-Fashioned Apple Crisp

When the weather turns chilly, a bubbling pan of apple crisp is one of the easiest ways to fill the house with the smell of fall. A buttery oat topping gives this dessert a satisfying crunch.

Ingredients:

For the apples:

6 Michigan apples, peeled, cored and sliced

⅓ cup granulated sugar

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 teaspoon cinnamon

¼ teaspoon nutmeg

1 tablespoon all-purpose flour

For the topping:

1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats

¾ cup all-purpose flour

¾ cup packed brown sugar

½ teaspoon cinnamon

½ cup cold butter, cut into pieces

½ cup chopped pecans or walnuts, optional

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 F. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

Place apples in a large bowl. Add sugar, lemon juice, cinnamon, nutmeg and flour. Toss until evenly coated.

Spread the apples evenly in the prepared baking dish.

In another bowl, combine oats, flour, brown sugar and cinnamon.

Cut in the butter until coarse crumbs form. Stir in nuts if desired.

Sprinkle the topping evenly over the apples.

Bake for 35 to 45 minutes, until the apples are tender and the topping is golden brown.

Allow to cool for 10 to 15 minutes before serving.

Serve warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream or a spoonful of whipped cream.

Old-Fashioned Michigan Apple Cake

This moist apple cake is the kind of recipe that feels right at home on a family kitchen table. Packed with fresh apples and warm spices, it can be served as dessert or alongside a cup of coffee on a crisp fall morning.

Ingredients:

3 cups peeled, cored and chopped Michigan apples

2 cups all-purpose flour

1½ teaspoons baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon

½ teaspoon ground nutmeg

½ cup vegetable oil

1 cup granulated sugar

½ cup packed brown sugar

2 large eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Powdered sugar, for serving

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease and flour a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.

In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg.

In a large bowl, beat oil, granulated sugar and brown sugar until combined.

Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in vanilla.

Gradually add the dry ingredients and mix until just combined.

Fold in the chopped apples and nuts.

Spread batter evenly into the prepared pan.

Bake for 40 to 50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Cool before dusting with powdered sugar.

Kitchen tip: Don't worry if the batter seems thick before the apples are added. The apples release moisture as the cake bakes, creating a tender crumb.

Homemade Apple Dumplings

Individual apple dumplings make a charming dessert for a fall dinner. Apples are wrapped in pastry, covered with a buttery cinnamon sauce and baked until tender.

Ingredients:

4 medium Michigan apples

1 package refrigerated pie crusts or homemade pie dough

½ cup granulated sugar



1 teaspoon cinnamon

¼ teaspoon nutmeg

½ cup butter

1 cup packed brown sugar

1½ cups water

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 F. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

Peel and core the apples, leaving them whole.

Cut each pie crust into two large squares. Place one apple in the center of each piece of dough.

Mix granulated sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Sprinkle the mixture into the center of each apple.

Bring the corners of the dough up around each apple and pinch the edges together to seal.

Place the dumplings in the prepared baking dish.

In a saucepan, melt butter. Stir in brown sugar and water. Bring to a gentle boil, stirring until the sugar dissolves. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla.

Pour the sauce around the dumplings, being careful not to pour directly over the tops.

Bake for 40 to 50 minutes, until the pastry is golden brown and the apples are tender.

Serve warm with some of the caramel-like sauce spooned over each dumpling.

A scoop of vanilla ice cream makes this classic dessert even better.

Caramel Apple Streusel Bars

For those who love the combination of apples and caramel, these bars offer a little bit of everything — a buttery crust, cinnamon apples, crumbly streusel and a sweet caramel drizzle.

Ingredients:

For the crust and topping:

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats

¾ cup packed brown sugar

½ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

1 cup butter, melted

For the apple layer:

4 Michigan apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced

¼ cup granulated sugar

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 tablespoon all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon lemon juice

For finishing:

½ cup caramel sauce

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with parchment paper or lightly grease it.

In a large bowl, combine flour, oats, brown sugar, baking soda and salt.

Stir in melted butter until the mixture forms coarse crumbs.

Press about two-thirds of the mixture firmly into the bottom of the prepared pan.

In another bowl, toss apples with sugar, cinnamon, flour and lemon juice.

Spread the apple mixture evenly over the crust.

Sprinkle the remaining crumb mixture over the apples.

Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, until the apples are tender, and the topping is golden.

Cool completely before cutting into bars.

Drizzle with caramel sauce just before serving.

Baker's tip: For cleaner cuts, refrigerate the bars for 30 minutes after cooling. Warm the caramel slightly before drizzling.

Celebrate Michigan Apple Season

Whether you're heading to an orchard for a bag of freshly picked apples or simply bringing home a few from the grocery store, fall is the perfect time to bake. Keep a basket of Michigan apples on the kitchen counter, preheat the oven and enjoy one of the state's favorite autumn traditions — homemade apple desserts shared with family and friends.

KNOW YOUR MICHIGAN APPLES

Which apple belongs in your recipe?

Not every apple behaves the same way in the oven. Michigan offers a wide range of varieties, from sweet and crunchy eating apples to firm, tart varieties that are especially good for pies and baked desserts.

The Michigan Apple Committee notes that individual preferences vary, and nearly any apple can be used creatively in the kitchen. For baked recipes, however, firmer varieties that hold up to heat are generally preferred.

BAKER'S SECRET

Mix your apples.

Combining a tart apple such as Ida Red or Cortland with a sweeter variety such as Golden Delicious or Jonagold can give pies and crisps a more complex flavor. Michigan Apples specifically recommends experimenting with different varieties when baking.

Variety	Flavor & Texture	Best Uses
Cortland	Mildly tart, juicy	Pies, baking
Ida Red	Tart, firm, juicy	Pies, crisps, sauces
Jonagold	Sweet, firm, juicy	Pies, baking, sauces
Rome	Mildly tart, firm	Pies, crisps, baking
Empire	Sweet-tart, crisp	Baking, fresh eating
Golden Delicious	Sweet, firm	Baking, fresh eating
Jonathan	Sweet-spicy	Baking, fresh eating
McIntosh	Sweet-tart, juicy	Baking, sauces
Fuji	Sweet, crunchy	Baking, fresh eating
Gala	Sweet, crunchy	Baking, snacking

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