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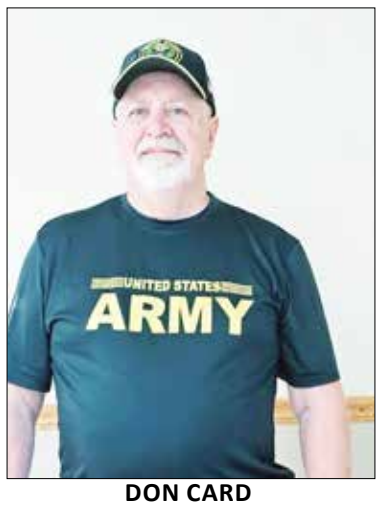
A lifetime of service:

Honoring Veteran of the Year Don Card



Photos by Laura Bender

2026 Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year Don Card will be honored on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. at the West Branch Country Club, located at 1905 S. Fairview Road in West Branch.



DON CARD

BY LAURA BENDER

The Veterans Alliance, through its member organizations, represents all veterans in Ogemaw County. Earlier this year, the Alliance named Donald B. Card as the 2026 Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year. This award is the highest honor the Alliance can bestow upon a fellow veteran.

Don is a native Michigander. Born at Tolfree Memorial Hospital in West Branch, he has lived much of his life in Rose City. After graduating from Ogemaw

VETERAN continues on page 11 »

Whittemore-Prescott celebrates homecoming victory



Courtesy photo

Whittemore-Prescott High School celebrated homecoming in winning fashion Saturday, Sept. 26, as the Cardinals defeated the Alcona Tigers, 78-18. Adding to the excitement of the evening, Andrew Butler was crowned homecoming king, while Dorothy Jarrell was named homecoming queen. The Cardinals' impressive performance on the field gave fans plenty to cheer about as students, families and alumni gathered to celebrate homecoming and show their school spirit. The evening combined football, school pride and homecoming traditions, making it a memorable celebration for the Whittemore-Prescott community.

A restaurant rooted in community:

Wanglers Wagon Wheel rides again

BY LAURA BENDER

When Wanglers Wagon Wheel restaurant opened in time for Labor Day weekend, owner Chad Wangler believed it would be a success.

"If you're on a good horse, just ride," Chad said.

A lot of sweat equity went into renovating the building, which had been closed following the death of a previous owner. The result is a handsomely appointed space and a welcoming atmosphere.

Built in 1946, Wanglers Wagon Wheel restaurant began as a block building housing Carl's Bar. Owner Carl Winter kept the beer cold in a trough behind the bar with water from an artesian well at the bar's northeast corner. The beer came from local distributor Howard Curtis, who also raised cattle on what is now West Branch Community Airport. A later addition to the building created space for a kitchen and dining area.

"We want to bring back the history," Chad's girlfriend, Lisa Cotton, said. "As soon as we placed the screens and lottery machines, we began filling in the spaces around them with local memorabilia."



Courtesy photo

Chad Wangler pictured with his girlfriend Lisa Cotton invite you to a grand opening celebration on Nov. 7 at 11 a.m. at the new Wanglers Wagon Wheel.

One wall displays a large 1903 Ogemaw County map that not only names the owner of each lot but also shows where the wagon trails were. A framed poster announces Bob Seger's 1973 concert at Skidway Lake.

"To be legal, it had to be considered a farm event," Lisa said. "So, somebody tied a pig and a cow to a post to meet the requirement."

In a corner hangs an old car door from Lehman Brothers. Displayed across the ceiling is the hayrail from Chad's grandfather Albert Wangler's barn.

WAGON WHEEL continues on page 10 »

A bed of their own:

Local volunteers ensure kids sleep better

BY LAURA BENDER

When Jason Broad joined West Branch VFW Post 3775 last year, one of the first questions he asked was, "Does this VFW have a chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace?" After explaining what it was, he volunteered to head the program for our community.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to the idea that every child deserves a safe, comfortable place to sleep. Concerned that too many children sleep on floors, couches, or air mattresses, share beds with parents or siblings, or sleep in other inadequate or unsafe conditions, Sleep in Heavenly Peace simply builds and delivers beds to children who do not have one.

A bed is more than a place to sleep; it is essential to a child's physical, emotional and mental well-being.

"If you give a child a bed, it shows them that they matter," Jason Broad said. "It gives them a sense of identity and is a step toward combating childhood depression."

"Having a bed gives a child

BED continues on page 6 »



The local "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" chapter serves children in need throughout Ogemaw County and portions of Roscommon, Gladwin, and Arenac counties closest to Ogemaw. The chapter's mission is to build and deliver beds to children who do not have a safe, comfortable place to sleep. Through community volunteers, donations, and fundraising efforts, the chapter works to ensure that every child in its service area has a bed of their own.

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

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

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

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

October 31

Ogemaw County is offering several **Trunk or Treat** events and other **Halloween activities** this year. *See page 3 for a list of local events and family-friendly Halloween fun.*

Halloween Grab-n-Go, Saturday, Oct. 31, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 2490 W. State Rd., West Branch. Drive-thru service. Free hot dog, chips and a drink for the kids.

November 5 - 7

On Thursday, Nov. 5, through Saturday, Nov. 7, the talented student performers of the Ogemaw Heights Theatrical Troupe will present **"All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten,"** OHHS auditorium. For more information, check out the group's Facebook page.

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.

Country Ramble, Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7, for a Fun Shop Hop around Rose City at several participating stores. For a complete list and more details, visit the group's Facebook page.

November 10

The Ogemaw County Commission on Aging, 1528 S. M-33, is hosting **a special event dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of veterans** in the area. Heartland Hospice and the Veterans Alliance Color Guard will provide a meaningful ceremony on Nov. 10, at 11 a.m. A luncheon will follow at noon. To register, please call Alicia at the Commission on Aging at 989-345-3010, extension 201.

November 14

Rose City Christmas Bazaar, Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rose City Area Community Center, located at 204 Ward St., Rose City.

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

Gladwin Cornerstone Baptist Church
3925 Round Lake Road, Gladwin, MI 48624
989-426-6897
Sunday School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:30
www.gladwincornerstone.com
Pastor Scott Bradstreet

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

Calvary Baptist Church
235 Minzer Ct. • West Branch
989-345-1651
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. all ages
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. • Youth Group - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service - 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Youth Group - 6:30 p.m. • Awana - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 7 p.m.
Pastor Emeritus Tom Teall
www.cbcwb.org

Edward's Community Church
4520 Greenwood Rd., West Branch
989-345-4227
Pastor Jon Scott
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship Service 11 a.m.
(Greenwood Rd. west of S. M-30)

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

Hale Methodist Church
Everyone Welcome! Pastor Chad Brandt
Sunday Worship - 10am; Sunday School - 11am
Online: www.youtube.com/@HaleMCVideo
Trunk or Treat
Saturday, Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m.
at Hale Methodist Church.
201 W Main/Esmond, Hale; 989-728-9522
FB & IG: Hale Methodist Church

Ogemaw Heights Theatrical Troupe brings childhood lessons to life on stage



Courtesy Photo

Ogemaw Heights Theatrical Troupe will present its fall play, "All I Really Need to know I Learned in Kindergarden" on Nov. 5-7. Pictured (l-r) Back Row: Brooklyn Smith, Taylor Vervoort, Caleb West, Hudson Swartz, and Jesse McNicholl. 2nd Row: Hanna O'Neil, Skylar Smith, Kieran Oliver, Addison Siemienski, and Rylie Baksa. 3rd Row: Riley Duell, Edna Asensio, Jana Jachinek, Hilda Potter, and Eliza Withers. Front: Charlotte Dowd. Not pictured: Madelyn Middleton, Kendra Temple and Ella Gale.

BY SKYLAR SMITH
SENIOR – OGEMAW HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

The Ogemaw Heights Theatrical Troupe is proud to present its fall performance of "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," Nov. 5-7. Based on the essays of Robert Fulghum and adapted for the stage by Ernest Zulia, with music and lyrics by David Caldwell, the play combines the innocence of childhood with the nostalgia that comes with growing up as the cast examines the profound meanings of everyday life through different lenses. When asked about the message of the show, senior Taylor Vervoort said, "I find it interesting that the show highlights how, as we grow, we overcomplicate things and lose the basic values we are all familiar with." She continued, "The play reminds us that the lessons we learn as children remain important throughout our lives."

The play follows a series of vignette scenes, and all newcomers to the Ogemaw Heights Theatrical Troupe are in for a surprise, as "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" incorporates music underscored by live piano accompaniment performed by the Troupe's music director, Kevin Salsbury, who has also taken on his first role as the narrator. Performing alongside him is first-time participant and junior Caleb West, who plays the drums. When asked about his involvement in the show thus far, Caleb explained, "I have been the drum

TROUPE continues on page 14 »

Celebrating Halloween in Ogemaw County:

A season of spooky fun, family traditions and community spirit

BY DEANNA SURBROOK

Looking for a spooktacular good time?

Ogemaw County is gearing up for a Halloween filled with costumes, candy and plenty of family-friendly fun.

From trunk-or-treat celebrations and costume contests to Halloween parades and traditional trick-or-treating, there are plenty of opportunities for little ghosts and goblins to enjoy the season. Grab those costumes and treat bags and mark your calendar for these frightfully fun local events.



Courtesy photo

Little ghosts, witches and superheroes will be out in force this Halloween as families across Ogemaw County enjoy fall festivities, trick-or-treating and community celebrations.

Halloween Festivities Leading Up to Oct. 31

Edwards Township: The Edwards Township Hall on Wickes Road in West Branch will host a Trunk or Treat Halloween Edition on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 5 to 8 p.m. The indoor celebration will feature treats, music and a costume contest at 6 p.m.

West Branch District Library: Children are invited to Halloween Storytime and Trick or Treat on Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 11 a.m. to noon. After enjoying a silly Halloween story, participants can create a craft, enjoy a snack and embark on a trick-or-treat adventure throughout the library. Costumes are encouraged. The library is located at 119 N. Fourth Street, West Branch.

Goodar Township Fire Department: The department will welcome visitors to a Haunted House and Trunk or Treat on Friday, Oct. 30, beginning at 6 p.m. The event will take place at the training center on Thompson Street in South Branch.

Irons Park and Fort Austin: West Branch Parks & Recreation will sponsor "Park in the Dark" on Friday, Oct. 30, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., transforming the park into a spooky Halloween destination.

Michigan Works! Region 7B: The Ogemaw County Service Center, located at 2389 S. M-76 in West Branch, will host a Trunk or Treat on Friday, Oct. 30, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The Something Different food truck will also be on-site, with food available for purchase.

Dean Arbour Ford: Families are invited to celebrate Halloween at Dean Arbour Ford, 3382 M-55 in West Branch, on Friday, Oct. 30, from 4 to 6 p.m. Visitors can dress in their favorite costumes and enjoy snow cones, cider, doughnuts, popcorn, plenty of candy and more.

Halloween Night — Saturday, Oct. 31

Halloween Day offers a full lineup of activities across the county, with opportunities for families to enjoy everything from community celebrations to traditional trick-or-treating.

Halloween at the Fire Hall: Enjoy Halloween festivities from 5 to 8 p.m. at 3185 Lupton Road in Lupton. Those interested in volunteering to hand out candy can call 586-295-9247 or visit *hillroseauxiliary.com.*

The Villa at Rose City: Located at 517 W. Page St. in Rose City, The Villa will host a Trunk & Treat from 2 to 4 p.m., featuring spooky fun, entertainment and family-friendly activities.

American Legion Post 370: The post, located at 805 E. Greenwood Road in Alger, will host a Trunk or Treat from 2 to 4 p.m.

Skidway Lake Halloween Parade: Costumed characters will take to the streets for the annual Halloween Parade at 3 p.m. The parade will travel from Skunk Hollow to Park Street, with lineup beginning at 2 p.m. at Rosati's Market. For more information, call Glenn at 989-482-3051.

McLaren Bay Region: The West Branch location at 2110 M-76 will host a community Trunk or Treat from 4 to 7 p.m.

HALLOWEEN continues on page 14 »

Local veterans keep Ogemaw County clean



Army veteran Richard Ladd, working alongside members of the Veterans Alliance, removes litter from the roadside along M-55.



Courtesy Photos

The Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance held its first roadside clean-up on Sept. 19. They spent the morning beautifying M-55 from Gillings Road to Clark Road in Prescott. Veterans participating in this MDOT event were (l-r) Tom Conley, Nick Poe and Veteran of the Year Don Card. Not pictured are Sue Boom and Richard Ladd.

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HALLOWEEN SPECTACULAR
Saturday, October 31, 2026
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Surline Middle School
Preschool to sixth grade
• No toy guns, swords, spears, knives etc!
• Game Room for Preschoolers
• Games, Candy and Fun
• Popcorn and Soda for everyone
• All school rules will be in effect.
Boo! Boo!
Sponsored by West Branch Optimist and Kiwanis Clubs

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.* We had two speakers on Oct 14, one from Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center and the other was from Prescott, looking for help on the city playground. If there is anyone that would like to help by donation contact Denny. 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 School. The fun starts at 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Oct. 31.

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

OGEMAW COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

We distribute boxes of food to 50 to 75 families each week. Donations of food or money to help us with the influx of families is always helpful. You can add to your grocery bill at Meijer Store with a card found at the checkouts or customer service. It is only $10 added to your bill to help someone in need. We will take donations every Wednesday of the month from 8:30 to 11 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 if it rains. 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. We also have several businesses to thank: Starbucks, Dollar General stores of West Branch and St. Helen, and KFC. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FOOD TRUCK

The monthly food truck will be at the First United Methodist on the corner of Fairview and State Streets on Nov. 20. Line up starts at 9 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you have a box, bring it with you. See you there.

Ogemaw County Superior News

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Sweet memories of a stubborn ballerina

BY DEANNA SURBROOK

There was a time when Halloween didn't require fancy decorations, elaborate costumes or a calendar full of organized events. All it took was a little imagination, a neighborhood full of porch lights and the promise of a pillowcase full of candy.

I can still remember all the costumes I wore as a child. Each one brings back a little piece of those Halloweens gone by, when getting dressed up and heading out into the October night was one of the most exciting evenings of the year.

One Halloween stands out more than the others. It was the year I broke my foot playing soccer. You might think that would have put an end to my trick-or-treating plans, but you would have been wrong. I simply became a crippled ballerina, as my dad called me, complete with a cast and crutches.



DEANNA SURBROOK

Looking back, I have to laugh. Most kids would have been content to stay home and hand out candy, but not me. A broken foot wasn't about to ruin Halloween. I had a costume to show off, candy to collect and a tradition to uphold. Those crutches and cast might have slowed me down.

That was the magic of Halloween back then. We didn't need perfect costumes or elaborate plans. We made do with what we had, used our imaginations and found a way to enjoy the evening. An old sheet could become a ghost costume, a little face paint could transform us into something spooky, and sometimes the best costumes were the ones we put together ourselves.

Of course, the real excitement came when it was time to head out the door. We bundled up against the October chill and made our way from house to house, calling out those familiar words, "trick or treat!" Every porch light meant another chance to add to our growing stash of candy.

We all knew which houses handed out the good stuff, and

MEMORIES continues on page 6 »

News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

God is showing off the colors now. It is always a beautiful show in Michigan during the fall. But, now what do we do with all those leaves. After you let the kids play in them for a while it is time to rake them up. Waste Management picks up leaves on Thursdays in Mills Township. Leaves can be put in 20–32-gallon cans clearly marked "YARD WASTE" or the yard waste paper bags you can purchase at the store. Bags can not weigh more than 50 pounds. Place the cans or bags at the curb before 6 a.m. on Thursday and no earlier than 4 p.m. on Wednesday. Place your leaf containers at least three feet from your regular trash or on the other side of your driveway. Make sure you mark it yard waste, so they know not to take your cans.

Mills Township is offering another curb-side cleanup day. You must register your address to be on the pickup list. Call the Mills Township Hall at 989-873-4411 to register. This is not a regular trash pick-up route. They will only go to the addresses that have been registered. Saturday, Nov. 7, you are allowed to put out three yards of trash, that equals to about one and a half pickup truck loads. Please make sure all items are either in trash bags or stacked in an orderly fashion.



APRIL HARKEY-MASON

Acceptable items include household trash like food waste, chip bags, paper towels, plastic bags and textiles, appliances, electronics, furniture. Carpeting must be bundled and tied into four-foot sections and less than 50 pounds. NOT ACCEPTABLE, construction waste, auto parts, tires, household hazardous waste, paint, oil, cleaners, medical waste, Christmas trees, cement, tree stumps, automotive parts, items containing batteries, manure, antifreeze, roofing shingles, gravel, dirt, sod, rock, bricks or stones, gas, pesticides, insecticides and similar substances, chemicals, propane tanks, batteries, and riding lawn mowers.

Thanks to the Mills Township board for voting to provide this new service that was held last spring and now again this fall. This gives everyone a chance to clean up your yard and make your property look nice without any cost to you.

Don't forget to enjoy the Halloween parade on Oct. 31. Line up at 2 p.m. at Rosati's and the parade starts at 3 p.m. The parade will travel down to the Catholic church parking lot, and the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake will start the Trunk or Treat after the parade arrives, approximately 4 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. A good time is 4-6 p.m. because it allows families to go to other activities in the area before it gets dark. Remember to wear bright colors so traffic can see you and be safe.

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



JOE BELL
VICE - PRESIDENT

At our last meeting our speaker was Rebecca Yuncker, executive director of the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center. Based in Roscommon, this agency serves Crawford, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Oscoda and Iosco counties with numerous support services for children-age victims of abuse, sexual abuse, and /or neglect. These services include Therapy/counseling, Victim Advocacy, Forensic Interviewing, Outreach and Prevention, and Medical Examination. They work closely with the legal system and law enforcement on behalf of our children.

This group lost their funding from the federal government and have a proposal on the November ballot requesting .05 mills for five years to keep their support of our community's children going. This would cost the average household in Ogemaw County less than $10 annually. It seems worth funding to many Optimist members including myself.

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 request your opportunity to speak to our club.

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

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!

Halloween safety:

A few precautions can make for a 'Spooktacular' night

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ

Halloween is one of the most exciting nights of the year for children and families. From creative costumes and carved pumpkins to trick-or-treating with friends, the evening is filled with fun and tradition.

However, from a law enforcement perspective, Halloween also brings unique safety concerns that require extra diligence. With more pedestrians on the streets, excited children moving from house to house, and reduced visibility after dark, law enforcement is reaching out to parents, motorists, and community members to help make this a Halloween fun and safe for children and adults alike.

Parents can do a lot in keeping children safe. They can make sure children trick-or-treat with a trusted adult whenever possible. Older children who are permitted to go out without an adult should travel in groups, follow a planned route, and establish a specific time to return home. It is also a good idea for parents to make sure their kids have a charged cell phone and know how to contact a parent or trusted adult if they need help.

Have your children use sidewalks whenever available. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and stay as far from the roadway as possible. Cross streets at corners or crosswalks, look both ways, and never assume a driver sees you.

Remind children to only visit homes with their porch lights on, and never enter a stranger's home or vehicle. Parents should know where their children are going and who they are with throughout the evening.



LADONNA SCHULTZ
OGEMAW COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Although Halloween candy tampering is uncommon, parents should inspect treats before children eat them. Discard anything that is unwrapped, has damaged packaging, appears suspicious, or comes from an unknown source. Be mindful of food allergies and choking hazards, especially for younger children.

Motorists also play an important role in Halloween safety. Children can be unpredictable and may dart into the street while excitedly heading toward the next house. Drivers should reduce their speed in residential neighborhoods, watch carefully for children crossing the road, and be especially cautious near parked vehicles, driveways, and intersections. Remember that children may not always cross at designated crosswalks or look both ways before entering the street. Staying alert and slowing down can help prevent a tragedy.

This time of year, the law enforcement community reminds motorists of the importance of avoiding distractions, including cell phones, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Community residents can help by turning on porch lights, keeping walkways clear, securing pets, and removing decorations or other obstacles that could cause someone to fall.

Law enforcement officers are there to help when families that need assistance. Whether responding to a call, addressing a safety concern, or helping a child who has become separated from family members, officers play an important role in keeping the community safe. We want everyone to enjoy Halloween, and a little preparation goes a long way toward keeping the evening safe especially when we partner with our local parents, motorists and community residents.

As always, if you see an immediate threat or emergency, call 911. For non-emergency concerns, contact your local law enforcement agency.

By working together, looking out for one another, and following a few basic safety guidelines, we can help make this Halloween a fun and safe experience for everyone.

From the Ogemaw County law enforcement community to your family, have a safe, happy and spooktacular Halloween!

Fall events at WB-RC Area Schools

BY GAIL HUGHEY

As autumn leaves fall from the trees across West Branch, the West Branch-Rose City Area School District is preparing for a season packed with community gatherings, artistic performances, and athletic kickoffs. Students and staff are gearing up for a busy series of events that showcase the talents and spirit of the Falcons.

The fall festivities begin on Wednesday, Oct. 21, with the choir concert held in the OHHS auditorium. This year's choir is under the direction of Ryan Downing.

On Thursday, Oct. 22, families gather across the district for parent-teacher conferences. This annual evening provides parents and teachers a vital opportunity to connect, discuss academic progress, and set goals for student success as the school year gets underway.

As we near the end of the month, watch for pre-K–8 family nights on the Facebook pages for each school.

November arrives with another fine arts performance. From Thursday, Nov. 5, through Saturday, Nov. 7, the talented student performers of the Ogemaw Heights Theatrical Troupe will present "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." Based on Robert Fulghum's popular books, the heartwarming production offers a humorous and uplifting look at life's most fundamental lessons, promising an entertaining evening for audience members of all ages. As a special treat, theatergoers can purchase dinner tickets for Saturday evening, featuring our new culinary arts program at Ogemaw Heights. Students will serve chicken parmesan and rosemary roasted pork loin, along with a variety of side dishes and dessert.



GAIL HUGHEY
SUPERINTENDENT
WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY
SCHOOLS

On Monday, Nov. 9, high school winter sports officially begin. Student-athletes will head to the courts, mats, and training facilities as practices and tryouts launch for basketball, wrestling, and other winter teams eager to represent the district in the upcoming season.

Ogemaw Heights High School will host its annual Veterans Day program on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Students and staff will come together for a moving patriotic assembly to honor local service members and veterans, featuring student speeches and musical tributes dedicated to those who have served in the armed forces. Veterans are invited to join us. Please contact our offices to reserve your seat.

West Branch-Rose City Area Schools offer plenty of reasons to gather and celebrate this fall. Community members and families are encouraged to attend and support local students throughout the season. For specific showtimes and details, contact our office at 989-343-2001 or check Facebook.

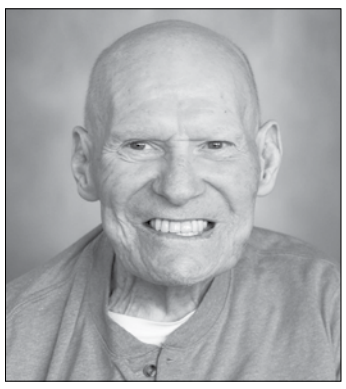
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Obituary

Ronald Roy Smith

Jan. 10, 1940 – Oct. 4, 2026

Ronald Roy Smith, 86, of West Branch, Mich., passed away at home on Oct. 4, 2026, with his family by his side.



Ronald was born on Jan. 10, 1940, in Flint, Mich., to Verling Floyd and Beulah Elizabeth (McLincha) Smith.

He was a member of the first graduating class of Kearsley High School, a distinction that remained part of his story, and he went on to serve his country in the United States Navy as a Seaman. A spirit of dedication, hard work, and skill continued throughout his working years in the security departments at General Motors and Kettering University, and in everything he undertook.

Ronald was a man who loved the simple things, a cold Cherry Coke, cheering on the Lions, Tigers, and Wolverines, watching westerns, and hunting. He never met a stranger he couldn't talk to, and those who knew Ronald will remember him through their conversations, his stories, and the genuine interest he took in their lives.

He took special pride in the things he built with his own hands. Among his proudest accomplishments was building a replica of the Herbie Volkswagen Beetle, fitted with a Merlin jet engine, which he showed across the state and for which he earned many trophies. In early retirement, Ron dedicated his time to planning and preparing the site where he and his wife, Louise, built their home, a gathering place where family and friends have spent countless hours making lasting memories.

Above all, Ronald will be remembered by the family who shared in his life and love. He is survived by his wife, Louise D. Smith; his son, Ty (Andrea) Smith; his daughter, Jenelle Smith, and his granddaughters, Gabrielle and Meghan. He is also survived by his step-daughters, Joyce (Garry), Sandie, JoAnn, and Marilyn (Bud); step-grandchildren Dennae, Buddy, Tracy, Ryan, Allen, Matt, Cliff, and Amanda; and brothers Verling (Shirley) Smith and Kim (Debbie) Allen, along with many nieces, nephews, and great-grandchildren, who will remember him with affection.

He was preceded in death by baby girl Smith; his parents, Verling Smith and Beulah Allen, and by his brother Tary Allen, and sister-in-law Julie Allen.

Ronald leaves behind the memories of a man who served his country, worked faithfully, loved getting to know people, and took pride in creating and building. He will be deeply missed and warmly remembered by all who knew and loved him.

A graveside service with military honors will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 1 p.m. at Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Road, Holly, Mich.

Arrangements were handled by Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home. *www.steuernolmclaren.com.*

Honor your loved ones with a complementary obituary listing

Ogemaw County SUPERIOR NEWS

Email obituary to:
deanna@superior-news.com

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.

A community investment in the children of Ogemaw County

REBECCA YUNCKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF NMCAC

Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center provides critical services to children and families affected by abuse and neglect.

When a child experiences abuse, neglect or sexual assault, the impact reaches far beyond the child. Families, schools, law enforcement, health-care providers and the entire community can be affected. In Northern Michigan, the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center (NMCAC) provides a coordinated place where children and families can receive the specialized services they need to begin healing.

NMCAC has served children and families in Ogemaw County and five surrounding counties since 2014. Today, the Center serves Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego and Roscommon counties from locations in Roscommon and Tawas City. All NMCAC services are provided free of charge to families. (NM Children's Assessment Center)

More Than an Interview

When NMCAC was founded, its primary focus was forensic interviewing. Over the years, the needs of children and families have grown—and so have the services provided by the Center.

Today, NMCAC provides:

Forensic interviews conducted by specially trained professionals in a child-friendly, non-suggestive environment.

Family advocacy to help parents and caregivers understand what is happening, navigate the investigative process and connect with resources.

Mental health services and therapy for children and non-offending family members to assist in the healing process.

Medical services provided by specially trained medical professionals in a trauma informed environment.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner services, including care for victims of sexual assault of all ages.

Prevention and outreach programs that educate children, parents, professionals and community members about child safety and preventing abuse. (NM Children's Assessment Center)

The Center works closely with law enforcement, Child Protective Services, prosecutors, medical professionals and other community partners, ensuring that all the needs of the family are being met. This multidisciplinary approach is important because it allows professionals to work together rather than requiring a child and family to navigate multiple disconnected systems on their own. For a child who has already experienced trauma, reducing the number of times that child has to tell his or her story can make an enormous difference.

NMCAC is a resource available to Ogemaw County children and families when they need it most. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, NMCAC is listed as the Children's Advocacy Center and victim-services provider for Ogemaw County. (Michigan.gov) The Center's services are designed to address the immediate needs of a child while also supporting long-term healing.

A forensic interview can help an investigation move forward. Medical care can address health and safety concerns. Advocacy can help a family understand what happens next. Therapy can help a child process trauma and develop healthy coping skills. Prevention programs can help reduce the likelihood of abuse occurring in the first place. Together, these services create a continuum of care.

Why Community Funding Matters

NMCAC services are provided at no cost to families, but they are not without cost to the organization. Providing highly trained forensic interviewers, therapists, advocates, nurses and medical professionals requires sustainable funding. The Center relies on a combination of government grants, county support, community donations, foundations and other funding sources. With ongoing federal funding cuts, the NMCAC has to rely on community partners for funding. United Way has been a strong supporter of the NMCAC since is inception and with their support we have been able to provide outreach programs and ensure that staff receive up to date evidence-based training to support our clients.

As demand for services has grown, NMCAC has also outgrown its existing facility.

A Proposed Investment in Ogemaw County

Ogemaw County voters will see a Children Assessment Services Millage Proposal on the Nov. 3, 2026 general election ballot. The proposal is listed among the county-wide millage proposals in the county's election notice. The proposed rate is 0.05 mill for children's assessment services. A millage is based on taxable value. At 0.05 mill, the tax is $0.05 for every $1,000 of taxable value. For example, a property with $200,000 in taxable value would pay approximately $10 per year under a 0.05-mill levy. The funding would support services for children and families affected by abuse and neglect, including forensic interviews, mental health services, medical care, family advocacy and prevention efforts.

What Does $10 Really Provide?

Last year 44 children from Ogemaw County were referred for services.

For many families, the value of these services cannot easily be measured in dollars.

It may be a child having a safe place to tell their story.

It may be a parent receiving guidance during one of the most frightening experiences of their life.

It may be a child receiving trauma-focused therapy instead of carrying the effects of abuse into adulthood.

It may be a medical examination performed by a professional trained to care for victims of abuse.

It may be an advocate helping a family understand the criminal justice process.

Or it may be prevention education that helps a child recognize an unsafe situation and know how to seek help.

The proposed millage represents one potential way for Ogemaw County to provide a dedicated local funding source for these services. The work of a Children's Advocacy Center does not end when a forensic interview is completed or an investigation is closed. Healing can take months or years.

NMCAC's mission is to foster healing and reduce the trauma of childhood abuse and neglect through prevention, intervention and advocacy. Its vision is to work with communities so children and families have access to essential services and can thrive in an environment free from abuse and neglect. (NM Children's Assessment Center)

For Ogemaw County, the conversation surrounding the proposed millage is ultimately a conversation about how the community wants to respond when one of its most vulnerable children needs help. The Nov. 3 ballot will give Ogemaw County voters the opportunity to consider whether to establish dedicated local funding for children's assessment services. Regardless of how individual residents vote, one thing remains clear: when a child experiences abuse, that child should not have to face the aftermath alone.

NMCAC exists to make sure they don't.

"When our child needed help, we didn't know where to turn or what to expect. The Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center walked beside our family every step of the way. They made our child feel safe, listened to us without judgment, and connected our child with the services needed to begin healing. What could have been an even more frightening experience became a place where our child felt heard, supported and cared for. We will always be grateful for the people at NMCAC who helped our family through one of the hardest times in our lives."

— Parent of a child who received services through the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center

Memories

« Continued from page 4

those were worth an extra stop. When we finally returned home, there was the important business of spreading our treasures across the floor, sorting everything into piles and deciding which treats were worth trading.

Back then, Halloween seemed to last forever. The streets were filled with children in costumes, neighbors greeted one another at their doors, and the simple excitement of the evening made even an ordinary neighborhood feel magical.

Today, Halloween has grown into something bigger. Trunk-or-treat events, costume contests, haunted attractions and elaborate decorations offer families all kinds of ways to celebrate. These activities bring communities together and create wonderful new memories for today's children.

But sometimes I wonder if those of us who grew up in a different era realize just how special those simple Halloweens really were.

We didn't know we were making memories. We were just having fun.

Now, when I see children dressed as superheroes, princesses, witches and ghosts, I can't help but think back to my own costumes and that determined little girl who refused to let a broken foot get in the way of Halloween.

I can almost picture that "crippled" ballerina making her way down the sidewalk on crutches, determined to make the most of every trick-or-treat stop.

Some things never change. Children still look forward to the costumes, the candy and the excitement of Halloween night. And parents still bundle them up, take pictures and try to make the evening special.

The costumes may change, the candy buckets may be fancier, and the celebrations may look a little different, but the joy remains the same.

And if there's one thing my childhood Halloween adventures taught me, it's this: Never underestimate a child's determination when there's candy involved.

Even a broken foot isn't enough to stop a girl from trick-or-treating!

Ogemaw County SUPERIOR NEWS

Got a story idea?? We'd love to hear from you.

Contact Deanna at:989-482-7695 or
deanna@superior-news.com

Bed

« Continued from page 1

a sense of worth," said Mike Thorne, VFW Post 3775 commander. "I want this project to be successful."

Powered by volunteer kindness and donor generosity, Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapters work nationwide to guarantee, as their motto says, that "no child sleeps on the floor in our town."

Our local chapter covers all of Ogemaw County and the portions of Roscommon, Gladwin, and Arenac counties closest to Ogemaw. Air Force veteran Jason Broad is the chapter president, and Steve Zdon, an active member of the West Branch Optimist Club, is the vice president. Currently, more than 260 beds have been requested in this service area, including 51 in Ogemaw County.

It costs $300 to provide a sturdy, wooden, handcrafted bed for a child. This includes the frame, headboard, mattress, and bedding. Beds are built from scratch and made to last a lifetime. Our local Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter is seeking donations, grants, and discounted lumber to build beds for children in our area. The chapter also welcomes donations of new twin-size sheets, pillows, blankets, and quilts.

On Nov. 7, the VFW will conduct a build day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2220 S. M-30. This will be a practice build to learn the assembly-line process used to make the beds. Organizers are looking for community volunteers to attend, see how the beds are put together, and prepare to volunteer for future building sessions. Ten beds will be built during the practice session, and volunteers will be asked to provide hands-on assistance. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Those ages 12 to 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Experience with wood construction is helpful.

Participating in a build day not only helps create beds for children in need but also provides a great team-building opportunity for your organization or business.

To apply to have a bed built for your child, visit *https://shpbeds.org/apply/.* Click on Chapter MI-WB and fill out the request form. For more information, visit *https://shpbeds.org/chapter/mi-west-branch/.* To volunteer or make a donation, contact VFW Post 3775 at 989-387-6855.

Quilt Walk showcases creativity and community spirit in Downtown WB

The weather was beautiful for the 2026 Quilt Walk in downtown West Branch. Guests and quilters from near and far came to admire the mostly locally made quilts. 115 quilts were on display in City Hall, The Fourth Street Artisans Gallery and many downtown stores. Proceeds from the Quilt Walk will benefit Rea Animal Shelter and other local charities.

The first place quilt "Jungle Magnolia," was created by Debra Wiertalla from Essexville, pictured top right.

The second place quilt, "My Happy Place," was created by Sherry Crawford from Gladwin, pictured middle right.

The third place quilt "Hook Line & Sinker," was created by Audrey Brys from Warren, pictured bottom right.



Jungle Magnolia *Courtesy Photos*



My Happy Place

Hook Line & Sinker





Rose City Fall Festival brings families and neighbors together



Bounce houses, pumpkin painting, face painting and plenty of candy kept children smiling during Rose City's annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 11, at Rose City Park. With temperatures soaring into the mid to upper '70s, the event offered fun for all ages, with balloon animals, games and a variety of activities for young festivalgoers. Adults enjoyed a soup and chili cook-off, while numerous vendors added to the festivities. With laughter filling the park and families enjoying a day of seasonal fun, the festival was a wonderful reminder of what makes a community special.

Courtesy photos













For Advertising information
or if you have an upcoming event
Contact Kathy at 989-450-6163
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Halloween Safety Tips

1. Younger children should never be sent to trick-or-treat without an adult. Older children should go in pairs and never be sent out by themselves. There is safety in pairs.
2. Make sure your children are wearing glowsticks, holding flashlights, or wearing reflective tape so cars can see them better and teach them road safety when crossing driveways.
3. Choose safe places to trick-or-treat such as shopping malls and public centers. They are well lit and off the streets, so children don't have to walk on the streets in the dark.
4. If your children will be trick-or-treating outside, teach them proper road safety ahead of time. They should cross only on crosswalks after looking and treat driveways as roads.
5. Teach your children to never enter a house and about the dangers of walking away with strangers. Inform them to never approach a vehicle, even if somone is calling them over.
6. Make sure your children know emergency procedures. They should know where to meet you if you get seperated, what your number is, and how to call 911.
7. Drive extra careful on Halloween. Drive slower than usual, take extra time before making a turn to look for children, and anticipate children running into the road unexpectedly.
8. Make sure that your childs costume is not too long they trip. If they are wearing a mask, ensure they can see clearly or have them take it off before crossing the road.
9. Inform your children never to eat candy until you have looked through their bag and inspected it. Check each piece and throw away open or tampered with wrappers.
10. Teach your kids about cavities and brushing their teeth after eating sweets. Prevent a tummy ache by limiting the amount of candy they eat at one sitting.



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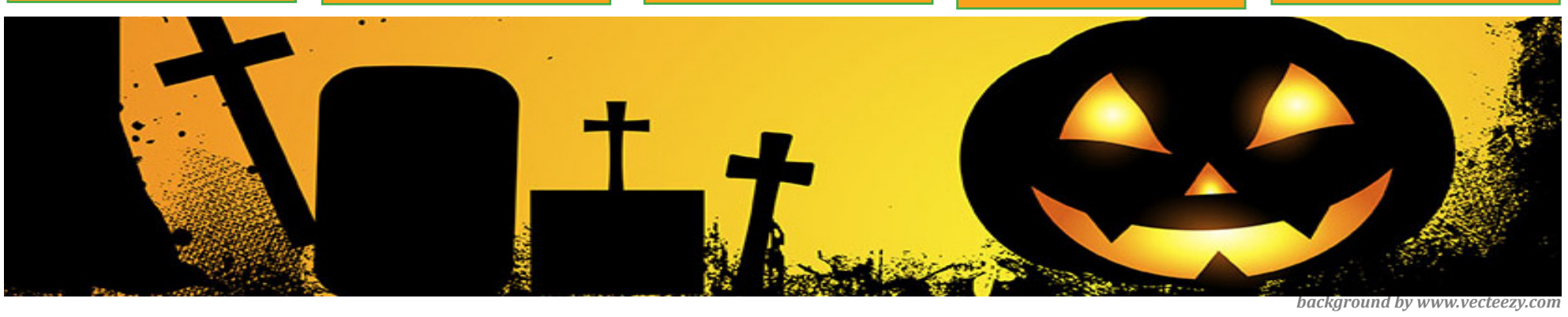
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background by www.vecteezy.com

Wagon Wheel

« Continued from page 1



Photo by Laura Bender:

Wanglers Wagon Wheel restaurant is a great place to enjoy good food and drinks with family and friends.

"Our family and this restaurant are deep in the history of our community," Chad said. "We want our restaurant to reflect that."

Not only does the owner of Wanglers Wagon Wheel honor the past, but he is also working to ensure future success for both his restaurant and the community. Currently, all his meat comes from local farms. Next growing season, he plans to increase the local sourcing of his menu items to make them truly farm-to-table.

Until last week, Wanglers Wagon Wheel was open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and stayed open until 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. On the restaurant's first Sunday of being open, almost every table was occupied. Conversations and laughter filled the air as people enjoyed delicious smash burgers, fries, wraps, salads, local apple cider, mixed drinks, beer and a great time with friends.

Chad and Lisa are excited about all the future will hold for Wanglers Wagon Wheel. Short-term goals include meal specials like Taco Tuesday and Fish Fry Friday. Longer-term goals include creating an outdoor venue with a fireplace, bar and brick pizza oven where guests can enjoy karaoke, live music and darts.

Wanglers Wagon Wheel restaurant, built on hard work and good food, has been a gathering place for locals and visitors in a variety of forms for the last 80 years. Stop in at 3480 Lehman Road, West Branch, to meet the new owners, Chad and Lisa. Have a meal, enjoy a drink, admire the history and find new friends. For more information, visit Wanglers Wagon Wheel on Facebook. To place a to-go order, call 989-701-2007.



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PIRATE
WITCH
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WICKED
BATS

See answers on page 14

Veteran

« Continued from page 3



Photo by Laura Bender

2026 Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year Don Card braves the cold during the 2025 Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony at Irons Park, demonstrating his continued dedication to honoring and serving his country and fellow veterans.

Heights High School in 1971, Don studied police administration at Kirtland Community College for a year. While a full-time student, he also worked as Ogemaw County's first animal control officer. Following a recruiter's visit to the Kirtland campus in 1972, Don joined the Army. He completed his basic training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Dix, N.J., before heading to the Combat Development and Experimentation Command at Fort Ord, Calif., which specialized in desert warfare.

"My wife Gail and I married in 1974. Gail was the first non-prior-service female Army Reservist for the state of Kentucky," Don said. "When I was sent to Fort Ord, she chased me all the way across the country to marry me … at least that's the way we joke about it."

Before leaving the Army, Don ran the out-processing office at 6th Army Headquarters for a year.

Returning to civilian life, Don finished his associate's degree in police administration. Over the next five years, he worked for three police departments in Greeley, Colo., completed an associate's degree in computer programming from Ames Community College, spent four years in the Colorado Air National Guard and one year in the Army Reserve, and ran his own business called Snack Time Foods.

"In 1981, Gail and I decided we had been the happiest when I was full-time in the Army," Don said. "So, I joined the Active Guard Reserve. I was assigned to the 477th Personnel Support Company at Fort Sheridan, Ill., for four years, followed by five years as the Detachment Sergeant for the Personnel Support Battalion in Marion, Ill.

"We then returned to Michigan, where I was assigned to the 300th Military Police Brigade in Inkster," he added. "I had planned to retire from there in 2003. Instead, the Army sent me to the Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as part of the Joint Task Force managing the detainee mission and promptly rescinded my retirement orders. I served as the JTF Senior Personnel Sergeant until my tour ended. They finally let me retire on Jan. 1, 2004.

"I am proud that my immediate family all served in the military," Don continued. "My son Douglas, born in 1976, served in the Army National Guard before joining the Navy. He served as an intelligence analyst for over 20 years before retiring as a Navy chief. My daughter Christine, born in 1980, was a Navy corpsman for eight years. She worked as a surgical tech at Bethesda Military Medical Center."

Now retired, Don continues his commitment to service through his active participation in Ogemaw County veterans' organizations and projects. As the senior vice commander of VFW Post 3775, Don manages the support services that provide emergency financial assistance to veterans in need. He also serves on the committee that manages the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, which is run by the state. Don is particularly proud of his participation in the revitalization of the Rose City Veterans Memorial. Currently, he serves on the committee to create a new Veterans Memorial Park in West Branch and as a member of the Veterans Alliance Honor Guard.

Because of his unwavering commitment to veterans, the Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance has named Master Sergeant Donald B. Card (retired) as the 2026 Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year. Traditionally, the selected veteran is honored as part of the Alliance's Veterans Day activities. On Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2026, the festivities at the West Branch Country Club will begin with a flag-raising ceremony at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon and program at Something Different Bar and Grill. The West Branch Country Club is located at 1905 S. Fairview Road in West Branch.

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



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MyMichigan locations offers lung cancer screenings

November is Lung Cancer Awareness month and MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma, Alpena, Midland, Saginaw, Standish, Tawas, Towne Centre and West Branch are offering lung cancer screenings on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon. The main purpose is to rise above the stigma and celebrate individuals who make the decision to get screened for lung cancer regardless of their smoking history or current smoking status.

"By extending hours, we are increasing access for this life saving screening to allow individuals to be screened without taking time off work during the week," said Galen Ohnmacht, M.D., fellowshiptrained, board certified thoracic surgeon, MyMichigan Health. "A low dose CT is the single most effective strategy for reducing mortality from lung cancer."

Lung cancer is one of the deadliest forms of cancer and is estimated to claim the lives of more than 124,000 Americans this year. Even though survival rates can be improved significantly by screening, only a small percentage of eligible individuals get screened for lung cancer.

"A lung cancer screening is for those who smoke, or have smoked in the past 15 year, but currently don't have symptoms such as pain, a persistent cough or an unexplained weight loss," added Dr. Ohnmacht. "This screening is designed to find lung cancer at an early stage when more successful treatments can be offered. Without a screening, most lung cancers are typically discovered at a late stage."

Those eligible and who could benefit from lung cancer screening include those age 50 to 80 years old and currently a smoker or have quit within the past 15 years. Also, those who have been exposure to cigarettes that add up to 20 pack years. For example, someone who smoked at least 10 cigarettes per day for 40 years or one pack for 20 years or two packs for 10 years. In addition, those who have met all the requirements and have no acute symptoms or have not had a CT low dose lung screening within the past year are a good candidate.

Those interested in scheduling a low dose CT at MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma, Alpena, Midland, Saginaw, Tawas, Towne Centre and West Branch may call the MyMichigan Access Center at 989-633-5252.

Those interested in more information on the comprehensive lung care program at MyMichigan Health may visit *www.mymichigan.org/lung.*

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Michigan State University Extension offers more online classes

The following online classes are available through the Michigan State University Extension office in West Branch.

Extension Extras for Parents: Oct. 27 – Dec. 22

This free parenting series will provide guidance for parents of young children as they navigate the joys, challenges and concerns of parenting. Participants may register for as few or as many workshops as they wish.

The workshops are as follows:

Oct. 27: Exploring Parenting Styles

Nov. 3: Setting the Stage – Promoting Social-Emotional Health in Young Children

Nov. 10: Talking With Kids About Differences

Nov. 17: Positive Discipline

Nov. 24: Together We Can: Co-Parenting

Dec. 1: Potty Training 101

Dec. 8: The Birds and the Bees: Talking with Kids About Sex

Dec. 15: Epilepsy 101

Dec. 22: Mindfulness for Children

For class questions, contact Courtney Aldrich at *aldric82@msu.edu.*

Fall Virtual Series: Oct. 26 – Nov. 30

Mindfulness for Better Sleep:

The Mindfulness for Better Sleep series is a free, six-week program open to the public. It combines mindfulness practices with sleep education to help participants improve both the quality and quantity of their sleep.

Program details:

Target audience: Michigan adult residents only

When: Mondays, Oct. 26 – Nov. 30, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Live online via Zoom, with cameras on and group discussion encouraged

Cost: Free

Instructor: Naomi Hyso, *hysonaom@msu.edu*

The registration deadline is Oct. 25 at 11:59 p.m. Register at *https://pears.io/events/msuext/10821/.*

Safe Food = Healthy Kids – Oct. 27

Safe Food = Healthy Kids is an interactive, virtual food safety workshop for childcare providers, delivered by MSU Extension educators. Topics include cleaning and sanitizing, cooking and storing food, common allergens, and personal hygiene.

This class counts toward annual training hours for licensed childcare providers. This workshop is an approved training of Great Start to Quality. Additional food safety resources are provided.

Upcoming classes are Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 16 and 17 (two-part class), at 1 p.m. Register now. Another class will be held Monday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. Register now. Registration is available at *https://pears.io/events/msuext/6992/.*

MSU Contacts:

Kara Lynch, *lyncha4@msu.edu*

Laurie Messing, l*messing@msu.edu*

Mary Morris-Donaldson, *morism4@msu.edu*

Shannon Stover, *edgewort@msu.edu*

Sophia Zoller, *zollers@msu.edu*

Tips to Build and Protect Your Credit – Oct. 28

There is a lot of consumer confusion around "credit," yet credit affects many aspects of daily life. This webinar will address credit myths, explain the importance of credit reports, demystify credit scores, and provide strategies to build and protect your credit.

The class will be held via Zoom from 11 a.m. to noon. It is recommended, but not required, that participants have a microphone and webcam. A Zoom link will be sent before the webinar. Preregistration is required. If others are interested in attending, please have them register individually.

Register at *https://pears.io/events/msuext/9798.*

The class is free. For questions about this event, contact Carrie Grishhaber at *grisgab1@msu.edu.*

Relax – Alternatives to Anger

Weekly classes: Nov. 6 at noon – Nov. 23 at 1 p.m.

Register at: *https://pears.io/events/msuext/10684*

Conflict can and does occur at personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural levels. RELAX: Alternatives to Anger provides people with information and skills to handle everyday conflict in ways that lead to better health and healthier relationships. This class can be a resource for those beginning to work on healing.

This virtual event consists of four sessions covering topics such as defining anger and discovering personal anger cues, learning to calm down, exploring ways to solve problems effectively during conflict, and learning the concepts of forgiveness.

The concepts of RELAX include:

R – Recognize your anger signals.

E – Empathize by seeing the other person's point of view.

L – Listen and really hear what the other person is saying.

A – Accept that the other person's anger is not about you.

X – X-out the past and keep it in the present.

Lesson 1 – What Is Anger?

Lesson 2 – Calming Down and De-Stressing

Lesson 3 – Six Principles of Problem-Solving

Lesson 4 – Forgiving and Letting Go of the Past

Facilitators are Miloni Rathod *(rathodmi@msu.edu*) and Abigail Cudney (*ajcudney@msu.edu*).

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Halloween

« Continued from page 3

West Branch Eagles: Located at 4627 M-76 in West Branch, the Eagles will host a Halloween event from 4 to 6 p.m. featuring a Trunk or Treat and costume contest.

First United Methodist Church: Families can stop at the church at the corner of Fairview and State roads in West Branch for a drive-through Halloween Grab-n-Go from 4:40 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Children will receive a free hot dog and drink.

Skidway Lake Trunk or Treat: The Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake, partnering with the Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce, will host a Trunk or Treat from 4 to 6 p.m. at 2777 Greenwood Road. Parents are asked to park at St. Stephen's Church. Anyone interested in handing out candy can call or text April at 989-578-8768.

City of Rose City: Rose City will host a Trunk or Treat at the city park from 5 to 7 p.m. Families are encouraged to stop by for an evening of Halloween fun.

West Branch Masonic Lodge: The lodge, located at 191 Page St. in West Branch, will welcome trick-or-treaters for a Trunk or Treat from 5 to 8 p.m.

Faith Alive Church: The church at 2945 Hansen Road, off M-30 in West Branch, will host its annual Trunk or Treat from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Halloween Spectacular: The West Branch Optimist and Kiwanis clubs will sponsor their annual Halloween Spectacular from 6 to 8 p.m. at Surline Middle School, 147 State St. in West Branch.

The free event will feature games, candy, drinks and popcorn for children in preschool through sixth grade. All school rules will apply. Toy guns, swords, spears, knives and similar costume accessories are prohibited.

Traditional Trick-or-Treating

After enjoying the trunk-or-treat festivities, families can head out for the Halloween tradition of going door to door in search of treats.

West Branch: Downtown businesses will welcome trick-or-treaters from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by residential trick-or-treating from 6 to 8 p.m.

Rose City: Traditional trick-or-treating will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Families are also encouraged to stop by the Rose City Fire Department, where firefighters will hand out goodies.

A Frightfully Fun Halloween

Whether children are dressed as superheroes, princesses, witches or monsters, Halloween offers a chance to make lasting memories with family, friends and neighbors.

As families head out for the festivities, remember to watch for pedestrians, carry flashlights or wear reflective clothing, and ensure children are accompanied by a responsible adult.

With activities happening throughout Ogemaw County, there are plenty of ways to celebrate the season, enjoy the community spirit and make Halloween 2026 one to remember!

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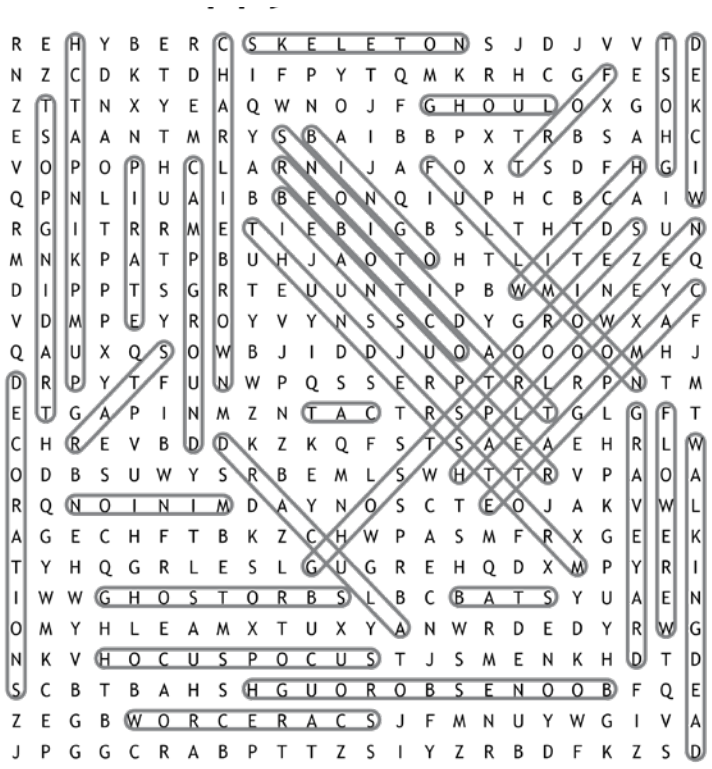
« Continued from page 2

major for about a year now, and I was very excited when I was offered the opportunity to play on stage."

This is director Toni Thomas' second year choosing a play for the fall performance. Last year, the stage underwent a drastic transformation, receiving a new floor, curtains, a new lighting setup, and an improved sound system. Concerned about how a musical would be staged amid the ongoing changes, Thomas chose to perform a play instead. Following the astounding success of Letters to Sala, this trend continues. Backstage, student crew members, as well as Thomas' Independent Study students, worked to bring the set to life. Using oversized foam blocks, licensed projections, and just a few essential props, they transformed the stage into a versatile space. The clever use of simple materials allows scenes to shift seamlessly, sparking the audience's imagination while evoking the feel of a fully developed stage.

The performance features a talented cast of students from various grade levels. This year, freshmen and sophomores stepped into larger roles than ever before, bringing fresh energy and new voices to the Troupe. The play is dialogue-heavy, and the cast has dedicated countless hours to memorizing lines and rehearsing their delivery. Freshman Ella Gale has a moderate part in the show. When asked about her participation, she said, "Memorizing lines was a blur. It was stressful because I memorized last minute, but I'm happy with my place in the show and my solos." She sweetly added, "I'm very comfortable where I'm at." Unique to this year's production, the script was carefully customized, with scenes thoughtfully selected and rearranged to fit audiences and highlight the performers' strengths. The flexibility of the script allowed the Troupe to put its own creative stamp on the show.

Tickets for the Ogemaw Heights Theatrical Troupe's production of "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergartenare" available in the OHHS main office, at Kit's in West Branch, or online at *ohhstt.ludus.com* for $12. An upgraded ticket for the Saturday showing costs $25 and includes an optional student-prepared dinner by the school's new Culinary Arts program. The show starts at 7 p.m. all three nights. The dinner on Saturday will be served at 5 p.m. Don't miss the opportunity to experience this heartwarming show!



See puzzle on page 10

Ogemaw County SUPERIOR NEWS

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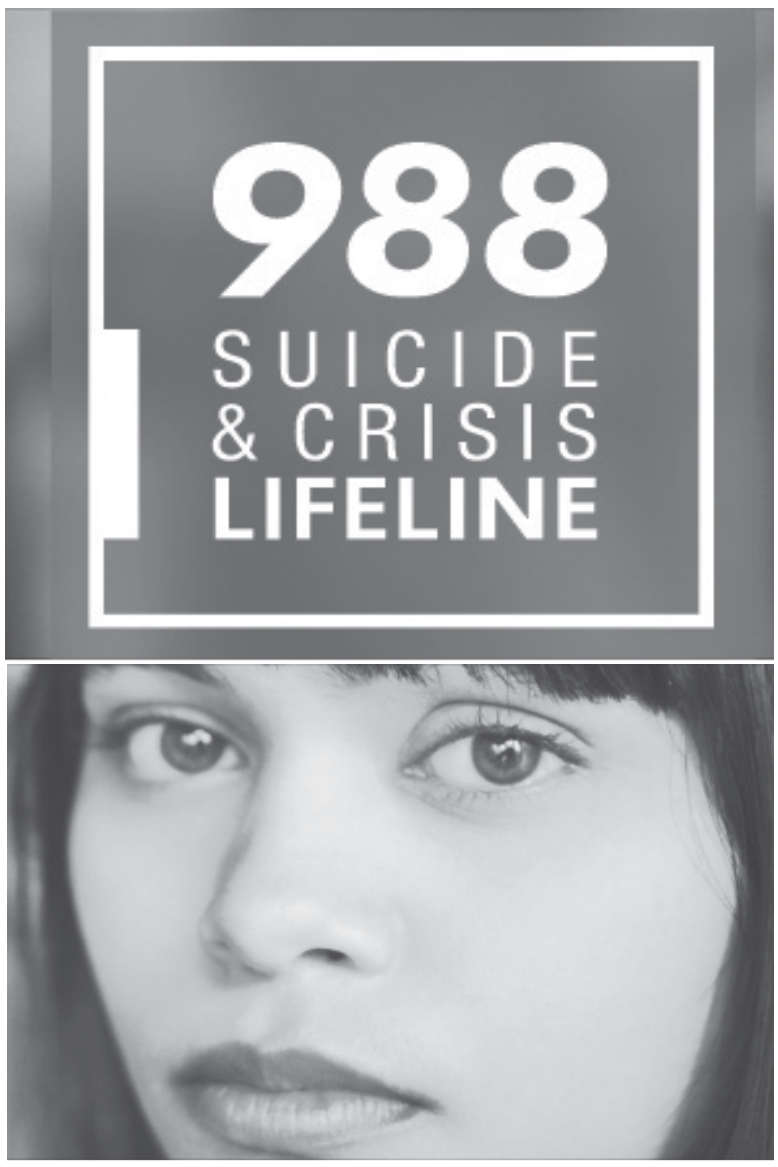
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