

# Alcona County Review

\$1.00

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1 Section

Serving Alcona County for 140 Years

Harrisville, Michigan 48740



Four snowy owls, two of which are above, have been seen hanging out at Harrisville Harbor since their arrival in mid-November. They migrate in irruptions from their summer grounds in the Arctic regions of northern Canada and Alaska. Unlike most owls, which are active and hunting at night, snowy owls work the day shift. The light doesn't bother them because sun shines 24-hours a day in the Arctic. Owls look for habitat here that reminds them of their Arctic home -- wide-open spaces with few trees; places like airports, large farm fields and shorelines. According to local bird enthusiast, Frank Apsey, there are 35 owls known to be in Michigan this winter. According to a recent bird count, Alcona has five, Tawas has three, and Oscoda has one. Muskegon leads the lower peninsula with eight and Chippewa County in the Upper Peninsula has 11 snowy owls. *Photo courtesy of Christine Brackett.*

## Teacher needs phones for virtual field trips

By Mary Weber  
Staff Writer

Imagine walking the streets of Paris as the Eiffel Tower is being built, being one of the first to stand on the Great Wall of China, visiting the Coliseum in Rome or listening as Abraham Lincoln discusses the emancipation proclamation -- all in the same afternoon.

That's what social studies students at are looking forward to with the use of virtual reality applications and a pair of inexpensive cardboard viewers.

The viewers cost \$8 each and the applications are free, however, to download the applications, Android cell phones are necessary. "A new Android phone could cost about \$200 and I need about

30 of them, which is an expense out of the question, unless we got some kind of huge grant," said Terry Terpstra, social studies teacher at Alcona Community Schools.

Instead, Terpstra is asking the public to help by donating older model Android phones. "A lot of people get new phones for Christmas. If they do and they still have their older model, we could use them," Terpstra said.

The phones will be collected by the school office and then given to the school's technical director, Mike Suitor, to be cleaned and make sure all data in the phones is erased. Phones should be in good condition with no cracked screens, have a battery and, hope-

fully, a charger with them.

Terpstra said he first used educational virtual technology with technical advisor of Alpena, Montmorency, Alcona Educational Service District (AMAESD), Ashley O'Connor.

His first experience with the cardboard viewers was a virtual trip to King Tut's Tomb and had Tut's head-dress floating in midair and turning so he could see every angle of it. "It was like I could just reach out and touch it. It's just a cheap piece of cardboard but with an Android phone and free educational apps (applications), it can take students on a journey around the world without ever leaving school.

"It's not like a film. This is

Continued on page 5

## Resignation leaves vacant county commissioner seat

By Mary Weber  
Staff Writer

Just prior to Christmas, the Alcona County Board of Commissioners was presented with an unexpected resignation, forcing the discussion to appoint a new commissioner.

The resignation, which was made effective December 14, came from Katherine Vichunas, (R), District 1 commissioner. District 1 encompasses residents in Alcona and Caledonia townships.

Vichunas, who has been on the Alcona County Board of Commissioners since 2009, resigned after being appointed as supervisor of Caledonia Township -- which became available after Ken Hubbard resigned from the supervisor position effective October 30.

The commissioners discussed the laws regarding Vichunas holding two elected seats and the logistics of selecting and appointing another commissioner with Alcona County Prosecuting Attorney Thomas Weichel.

Weichel explained that according to state law, holding both offices would be in violation of the incompatibility act for elected officials, "The attorney general's opinion expresses a county board commissioner and township supervisor are incompatible offices and a person cannot hold both offices simultaneously," Weichel said.

The commissioners have 30 days from Vichunas' resignation date to appoint a successor for the remainder of her two-year term which will end after the election in November of 2018.

The commissioners will be placing advertisements to fill the position and are optimistic in finding the right person before January 13.

Vichunas, who last ran for the commissioner's seat in 2016 and was voted in with an 871-vote victory over Joel Blohm, who received 266 votes, said the decision to take the supervisor position came at the right time for her.

"I had the opportunity to interview for the supervisor position and after interviewing two of us they offered it to me. It will mean new challenges, new issues and different things to do and maybe

a little bit more time for myself. I had an employer that told me years ago if a door opens you better walk through it because you don't know what kind of experiences you will have.

"This came up and I thought about it and decided to try for it. I'm really happy about it. I thought it would be a good time of year to do this because of the holidays. It will be nice to have time for myself," Vichunas said.

Vichunas didn't recall why the previous supervisor resigned but said there was some upheaval of the Caledonia Township board as the township treasurer, Gailen Thornton, and a trustee, Travis Swinson, also resigned effective November 30. Leaving just the township clerk, Kerry Scott, and one trustee, Jack Scott on the board.

According to Vichunas, the treasurer had a deputy treasurer, Rebecca Abend, who was appointed to fill the treasurer's position.

Vichunas said Swinson resigned due to other work and family demands and didn't feel he could devote enough time to the trustee position. The Caledonia Township board has yet to fill Swinson's vacated seat and Vichunas said she and the township board will be working on getting that filled as well as a vacancy on the Caledonia Township planning commission.

Alcona County Commissioner, Craig Johnston, said he was very surprised by Vichunas accepting the supervisor position with Caledonia Township. "I didn't even know she was considering it. She was a real asset for sure to the county and she will be missed," Johnston said.

Johnston said people seeking the appointment will need to apply by January 5 and the board will start interviewing after that. Johnston said, "My first thought for the seat would possibly be Joel Blohm, he was the second to get votes in that district, so perhaps he will apply. We've

Continued on page 2



 **Letter to the Editor**

To the Editor,  
I would like to thank the citizens of Alcona Township and Caledonia Township for their support and for allowing me to serve as the county commissioner for District 1 since January 2009. I appreciate your confidence and faith, which allowed me to work diligently for you, the residents of Alcona County. The opportunity to serve as the Caledonia Township supervisor arose and I was extremely delighted when the

township board appointed me to this trusted position. I look forward to serving as the Caledonia Township supervisor as well as working with the township board members and dealing with new challenges and new issues. Again, I would like to say that it has been an honor to serve the citizens of District 1 as your county commissioner.  
Kathleen E. Vichunas  
Hubbard Lake

**Resignation** Continued from page 1

asked Kathy (Vichunas) if she had any suggestions and will also be talking to Alcona Township supervisor, Marlena MacNeill, but whoever they suggest will still have to apply.  
Applicants must be a resi-

dent of either Caledonia or Alcona townships and be a registered voter. Letters of interest will be accepted until noon on January 5, 2018 at the Alcona County Clerk's office, Box 308, Harrisville, Mich. 48740.

 **Tips for snow removal**

- Remove heavy snowfall from plant beds. Some snow does offer protection and moisture, but too much weight can damage wintering plants and leave behind too much standing water as it melts.
- Avoid heaping roadside snow onto planting areas; it's most likely full of road salt, which is damaging to roots and foliage.
- When snow accumulates on trees and bushes, remove it gently. Don't bang on the branches, as they may snap and break. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.bhg.com, ag.umass.edu

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**Alcona County Review**

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** are always welcome. All letters **MUST** be signed. Freedom of speech includes the responsibility for what is said. Authors **MUST** include an address and telephone number for verification, not publication. Word limit is 300. Deadline is Monday at noon. All rights reserved to edit letters for style, length and libelous content. Letters express the opinion of the author, not the opinion of the newspaper or its employees.

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 **Obituaries** 

**Mary A. Ellis**

Mary Ann Ellis, 86, died on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 in Bay City, Mich.

She was born February 5, 1930 in Mansfield, Ohio, to Victor John and Mary Elverda (Moyer) Evers.

She was a member of the first graduating class of the Shrine of the Little Flower Catholic School in 1947. She graduated from Marygrove College in 1951 with a degree in biology. In 1976 she received her master's degree in molecular biology from the University of Detroit.

In 1962 she married Edgar Ellis. They enjoyed many years summering at their family cottage in Harrisville.

Mrs. Ellis Mary Ann worked for Parke-Davis on the Salk-Polio vaccine dur-

ing the 1950s; worked as a lab technician in endocrinology for Hutzel Hospital, Saginaw General, and Michigan IVF, and was an interim director in a lab at the University of Michigan.

She was also a talented artist and loved to sew. She was driven to constantly improve her knowledge.

Mrs. Ellis is survived by her husband, Edgar; two daughters, Ann (Mario) Casadei and Clare (Kevin) Light; one son, Garth Ellis; four grandchildren, Reese Light, Beth Light, Caitlin Casadei and Erin Casadei; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by four siblings three brothers, and one sister.

The funeral Mass was held



December 18 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Royal Oak, Mich. Memorial donations may be made to the Solanus Casey Center: <http://www.solanuscenter.org/about-us>. Arrangements were handled by A.J.Desmond & Sons Funeral Home.

**Christopher T. Cowdin**

Christopher Tanner Cowdin, 78, of Harrisville died on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017 at home.

He was born to Robert and Phyllis (Tanner) Cowdin in Detroit on October 1, 1939. He graduated from the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, Mich. in 1957.

On June 18, 1960 he married Margaret "Peggy" Ellison. Mr. Cowdin sold his 1946 Cessna 140A for a down payment to start his first business, Auto City Piggyback, in Dearborn, Mich.

The couple's love for Harrisville led them to buy a vacation home on Lake Huron in 1981. Two years later they moved to Harrisville full time. Mr. Cowdin opened another business, The Work Station and Star Staffing in Alpena in 1985. He ran this business until early 2016 to when he sold it to retire.

Mr. Cowdin continued to love flying until the day he died. He loved animals, sitting on the beach looking at

the lake and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He was an active member and past president of the Kiwanis Club in Royal Oak, Mich. and Alpena. He was a member of the Traffic Club of Detroit, Mich. and Alpena Toastmasters.

He co-founded The McGruff neighborhood watch program in Royal Oak, Mich., volunteered for the Royal Oak Auxiliary Police, was a Boy Scout leader and district commissioner, and 3rd Degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Cowdin is survived by his wife, Margaret "Peggy;" three daughters, Rita (Jim) Votta, Julie Cowdin and Kristy (Jeff) Zajac; one son, William "Bill" (Amanda) Cowdin; eight grandchildren, Emily Votta, Alex Votta, Garrett Stratton, Christopher Zajac, Jane Zajac, Amelia Cowdin, Adaline Cowdin, and Benjamin Cowdin; one sister, Nancy Seery; one brother,



Charles Cowdin; and his cat, Pollo.

The Mass of resurrection will be held at St. Anne Catholic Church, All Saints Parish, in Alpena on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 11 a.m. with Fr. Stan Bereda as celebrant. A luncheon will follow. Interment will be at the Mt. Joy Cemetery in Black River, following the luncheon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alcona Humane Society or Alpena Kiwanis. Arrangements were handled by at McWilliams Funeral Home, Alpena.

*They are only treasures if you have them...*

**Please pick up your photos from the Alcona County Review office at 111 N. Lake Street, Harrisville**

*Sorry, photos without paid postage will not be automatically returned*

**Harrisville Climatological Observations for 2017**

Date	Temperature (F°)		Water Content	Miles Per Hour		
	High	Low		Av. Wind Speed	High Speed	Dominant Direction
Dec. 17	31	18	0.00	6.8	20	NE
Dec. 18	34	27	0.00	2.9	15	SW
Dec. 19	42	29	0.02	4.2	29	WNW
Dec. 20	29	24	0.00	2.8	19	N
Dec. 21	30	22	0.12	2.1	12	N
Dec. 22	32	30	0.05	6.7	17	ESE
Dec. 23	30	18	0.00	1.7	14	ESE

**Precipitation Summary (Inches) for 2017-2018 Season**

	Water Content	Snow Fall	Normal Water Content
Weekly Total	0.19	2.6	0.40
December to Date	0.50	7.1	1.36
Year/Season to Date	33.05	7.5	27.93

Climatological Observations taken by Stanley L. Darmofal at the Harrisville National Weather Service Coop Station located 1.8 miles NNE of Harrisville Post Office. Observations for each day are from midnight through 11:59 p.m. T=Trace (less than 0.005" Water Content.)

# Calendar of Events

*(Editor's Note: Entries for Calendar are always welcome. They will be published in chronological order as space allows. Entries should be turned in at least two weeks prior to the date of the event. Events sponsored by businesses or individuals to make a profit or governmental units for meeting notification are not eligible for this free public service. Sorry, bingo, garage sales, raffle ticket sales, or political campaigning information is not eligible.)*

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

Sunrise Community Food Pantry will be open from 1 to 3 p.m. at Hubbard Lake Bible Church, 13508 Hubbard Lake Road, Hubbard Lake. Clients are asked to come only one time per month and must be present to receive food. The pantry accepts clients regardless of county of residence. Identification is required. For more information, call (989) 727-3606.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28**

Community Walking Club for everyone will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street.

Enjoy a newly released DVD and theater-style popcorn at the family movie matinee at 2 p.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

A blood drive will be held from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at St. Anne Catholic Church, 817 Sable Street in Alpena. Bring a Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive identification. For more information, visit [redcross-blood.org](http://redcross-blood.org) or call (800) 733-2767.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29**

Storytime and craft for children from 10:15 to 11 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

A blood drive will be held from noon to 5:45 p.m. at the Alpena Mall, 2380 US-23 South. Bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive identification. For more information, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call (800) 733-2767.

Reformers Unanimous, a faith-based addictions program, will meet at 7 p.m. at the Greenbush Community Baptist Church, 2480 South State Street. For more information, contact Wayne Whitten at (989) 335-0172.

**2018**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 2**

Play euchre at the 12:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3**

Family movie matinee at 2 p.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library,

312 West Main Street. Enjoy a newly released DVD and theater-style popcorn. For more information, call (989) 724-6796.

Northeast Michigan UAW Retired Workers Alpena Council will hold its membership meeting at 11 a.m. at the VFW Hall, 2900 Connon in Alpena. A representative from Blue Cross Blue Shield will be on hand to answer questions. Lunch will be served at noon. Bring a can of food for needy. Call (989) 356-4959 or (989) 727-4080 for details.

The Alcona County Baby Pantry will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Raphael Church, 2531 East F-30 in Mikado. Formula, diapers, toys, new and gently used shoes and clothing will be available to residents of Alcona County with newborns through age four. Layettees are available in the eighth month.

Needle crafters are making hats, scarves and more at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Bring necessary supplies. Items made will be donated to local organizations for distribution.

Alcona woodcarvers will meet from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in the upstairs hall at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street. All levels of woodcarvers including beginners are welcome.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 4**

Community Walking Club for everyone will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street.

Retirees will meet for a potluck lunch at noon at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street.

"Free Range Crafts" will meet from 10 a.m. to noon at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. Bring in your crafts in progress, ideas and questions to share with others. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 5**

Storytime and craft for children from 10:15 to 11 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

Coloring for Adults from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. Coloring pages from books designed especially for adults as well as colored pencils will be provided. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 8**

Senior commodities will be distributed from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street. Call (989) 736-8879 for details.

Get Crafty for Adults from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library, 312 West Main Street. The project for January is a community charity project involving the making of plarn (yarn from plastic bags). Bring your own scissors. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 9**

Play euchre at 12:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10**

Needle crafters are making hats, scarves and more at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Bring necessary supplies. Items made will be donated to local organizations for distribution.

Alcona woodcarvers will meet from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in the upstairs hall at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street. All levels of woodcarvers including beginners are welcome.

**top ten**  
AWAY IN A MANGER  
**Favorite Classic Christmas Carols**

1. Silent Night
2. White Christmas
3. Jingle Bells
4. O Come All Ye Faithful
5. Joy to the World
6. I'll Be Home for Christmas
7. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
8. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
9. The Little Drummer Boy
10. We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Source: St. Leo University poll

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**CryptoQuip**

answer  
Upon realizing it wanted to seize the day, a freshwater fish promptly got up and cried "Carp diem!"

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**MEDICAL CLINIC**

**LOCATIONS**

- Alpena
- Wildcat Ext. (Alpena School)
- Ossineke
- Lincoln
- Tiger Ext. (Alcona School)
- Oscoda
- Harrisville
- Harbor Springs
- Cheboygan
- Indian River
- Pickford
- Petoskey
- Pellston

**DENTAL CLINICS**

- ◇ Alpena
- ◇ Oscoda

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- Petoskey Schools

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Main: (989) 736-8157

Visit our website at [www.alconahealthcenters.org](http://www.alconahealthcenters.org)

**Family Movie Matinee**

Everyone is invited to watch this newly released movie about an orphan in Paris who dreams of becoming a dancer on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018 at 2 p.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. Free popcorn is available at this "school holiday" movie event, rated PG. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information.

**Library Survey**

To assess for future library services and programming, the Alcona County Library is conducting a customer service survey through January 31 for certification in the Library of Michigan's Quality Services Audit Checklist (QSAC) which helps libraries meet quality standards on a statewide basis. The same survey was conducted three

years ago, however, this is the first time the Alcona County Library is doing an online survey. Surveys are available at any Alcona County Library branch or online by visiting [survey-monkey.com/r/KFTPRFL](http://survey-monkey.com/r/KFTPRFL). For more information, call (989) 724-6796.

**Senior Menu**

The following meals will be served during the week at 4 p.m. in Glennie at Lott Baptist Church; at 4:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Senior Center; and at 4:30 p.m. at the Greenbush Township Hall. No reservations are required at the Lincoln Senior Center, however call (989) 736-8879 by 7 a.m. for meals served in Glennie or Greenbush. No membership is required. Suggested donation of \$3 per meal is welcome.

- Monday, Jan. 1, 2018 - All centers closed.
- Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018 - Bourbon pork chop, buttered rotini, Prince Charles blend vegetables, tossed salad, mixed fruit and corn bread.
- Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018 - Beef chop suey over brown rice, was beans, flavored apple sauce.
- Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018 - Meat loaf, baked potato, mixed vegetables and fruited Jello.
- Friday, Jan. 5, 2018 - Fish almandine, red bliss potatoes, cauliflower and peaches. (Friday meals are served in Lincoln only.)

**Super Crossword**

Answers

ANAS	EPTICS	THECW	TIME
TOUT	GENRE	MILLI	ASAN
IFRE	OWNED	IMEAN	KILT
LEAVE	DAB	VIGNETTE	
TELEVISION	ENTERTAINER		
CON	EER	FEIN	OSE
MCMAHON	HAD	BEEN	SPOTTED
ORIGIN	DDE	RNA	SBA
MODEL	COAF	CTS	OBAMA
LYING	RIGHT	TONT	POF
TADA	EMU	TEA	ESA
ABIGSWARM	OFMORAYS	OPEC	
NSYNG	CST	SET	AWASH
EIS	ESP	TRA	BROWNE
HOWWOULD	SOMEONE	LIKELY	
ACE	RBI	TISO	TSE
DESCRIBE	THAT	SITUATION	
RATE	EAT	TRIT	RANGE
ONED	ERNTE	EDOVER	REELS
NINE	MAURA	ALOES	BEEET
SADD	SLITER	TEHEE	ODDIS

and Sam Burckhardt will review the first Kirtland's Warbler Tours out of Oscoda in 2016-17. Larry VanWagoner will cover monitoring by the group ending with the new bat monitoring surveys started in 2017. Dawn Hooper and Carol Bohmier will give results of the recent Christmas Bird Counts in Tawas and Oscoda.

Ed Cole will be recognized for his longtime activities with the group. And there has been a 45-year history and annual report produced for the occasion. Everyone is invited to join the celebration.

**Smart Gardening Webinar**

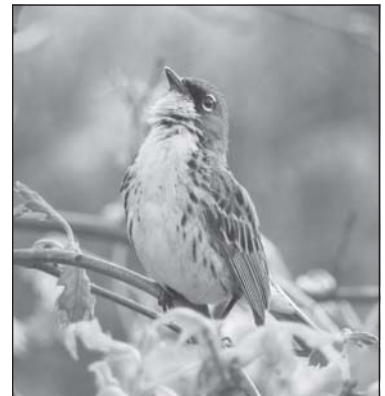
There is a convenient way to learn how to grow vegetables from your home or office computer. Michigan State University Extension will offer a series of six online classes on vegetable gardening. Classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 6 to 7 p.m. on January 16, 23, 30 and February 13, 20, and 27. Topics include what is needed to get started, types of gardening, planning and preparation, soil preparation, plants to select, starting and maintaining healthy plants, gardening maintenance, harvest and storage, pollinators and various gardening activities.

All resources will be available to download onto an individual's computer. Interested individuals may also purchase an optional CD for an additional \$37. This will contain all of the class materials except the live sessions. To register go to <https://events.anr.msu.edu/SGVEG101/>. Registration deadline is January 12, 2018. The early bird registration fee is \$30 if registered by January 5, 2018. The registration fee is \$40 for those registering between January 6 and through January 12. Participants need to register for the entire course. Anyone who is unable to attend one of the live sessions, will receive a class recording. Before the first class, participants will receive a "Zoom session link" via email on the Monday before the first class.

There is a group rate registration for organizations wishing to host this webinar series for a group. The group rate is \$70 by January 5 and \$80 from January 6 through the 12. Group coordinators are required to completed additional group information, gather survey responses from group members, and email this information to course instructors.

**45th Anniversary Celebration**

AuSable Valley Audubon is celebrating its 45th anniversary on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. at East Tawas Community Center with an emphasis on the last five years. The program features members talking about key events in the last five years starting with Ruth Golm on incorporation in 2012. Peggy Ridgway will talk about creating the Sunrise Coast Birding Trail



A Kirtland's warbler in its habitat. Photo courtesy of Samuel B. Burckhardt.

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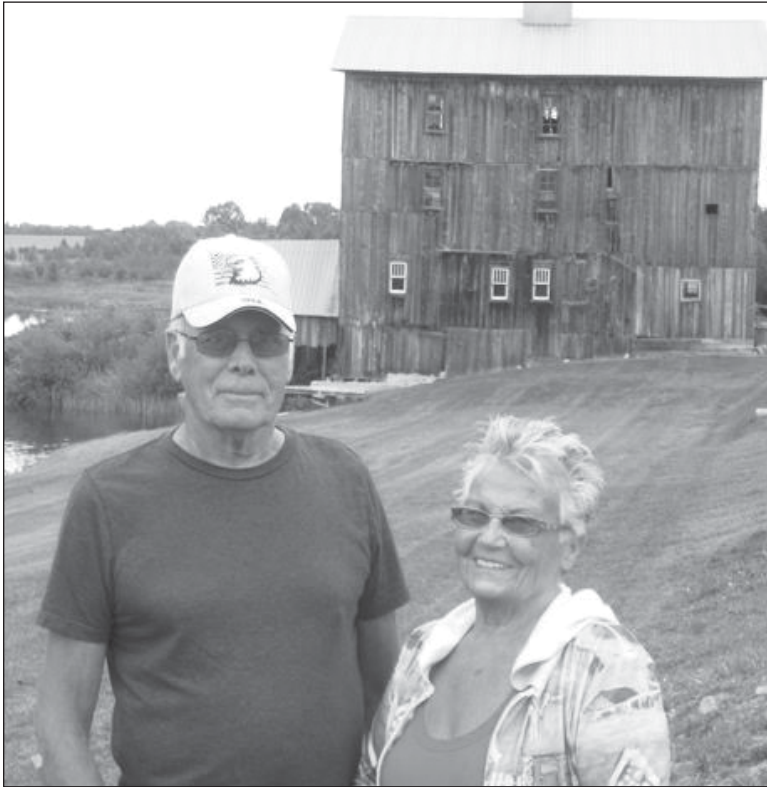
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# Stones celebrate 60th anniversary



Tom and Darlene Stone

Tom and Darlene Stone of Harrisville will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.

Darlene Elowsky and Tom Stone were married in Leer Michigan on January 1, 1958.

They have three children, Reta Engel of Niceville, Fla., Lee Ann Campbell of Harrisville and Ted Stone of Burton, Mich.; and three grandchildren, Michael Dupuis, Sydney (Kevin) Knafla and Marisa Stone.

Darlene is retired from the Harrisville State Park. She is also one of the original emergency medical technicians with Alcona EMS. She loves to walk and spend time on the beach. Tom is retired from the Alcona Community Schools and the U.S. Army National Guard. He is the Supervisor of Harrisville Township. They enjoy traveling to Florida together.

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## Alcona County Sheriff's Report

For the Week of December 18-24, 2017

101 complaints were handled resulting in the following: 1 Arrest; 1 Domestic; 6 Traffic Tickets Issued.

### Complaint Statistics

Car/Deer Accidents	14	Traffic/Traffic Stop	33
Medical	21	Property Damage Accident	4
Personal Injury Accident	3	Assist	2
Animal/Dog	6	Fraud	1
Miscellaneous	1	Patrol Check	2
911 Hang Up	1	Malicious Dest. of Property	1
Vehicle Identification Insp.	1	Unwanted Subject	1
Overdose	1	Alarm	1
Civil	2	Trespass	2
Vio. of Public Health Code	1	Assault	1
Domestic	1	Fire	1

### Complaints taken by City, Township or Village

Alcona	8	Caledonia	3	Curtis	12
Greenbush	10	Gustin	13	Harrisville	15
Hawes	7	Haynes	6	Mikado	4
Millen	9	Mitchell	0		
Harrisville City	7	Village of Lincoln	7		

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The Mikado American Legion Post 254, Sons of the Legion (SAL), and Ladies Auxillary presented cash donations totaling \$1,650 to local charities on December 21. State Representative Sue Allor was in attendance as checks were presented to St. Vincent dePaul in Mikado, Mikado Goodfellows, the Baby Pantry, CanPac and the Oscoda Veteran's Administration. (From left) Keith Furrow, second vice commander, American Legion; Mike Serafin, commander, American Legion; Carl Pierce, finance officer, SAL; Bruce David and Jen Lee, Oscoda VA.; Kay Lovelace, Goodfellows; State Rep. Sue Allor; Norma Tracy, auxillary president; Bill Miller, commander SAL; Richard Tracy, adjutant American Legion. *Courtesy photo.*

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### River Aux Sables Chapter

River Aux Sables Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution met at the Willow Tree Restaurant in West Branch for the Christmas party and to hear information about phone and email scams which are so prevalent at this time of year.

Richard Sacco from Attorney General Bill Schuette's Consumers Affairs office provided handouts and video presentation about what to look and listen for. If the caller asks, can you hear me? Hang up or you have just agreed to accept a load of product and an invoice to arrive on your porch, or charge on your card, if they get your number and pin.

Grandchildren do not call

from jail for you to wire money to them. Scammers want you to keep it secret. Ask them what their mother's name is. They will hang up fast. These folks are calling from overseas. If anyone asks you up front for money to be wired, hang up.

Never give out your check routing numbers unless you called the company yourself to make a payment. Never, never give out your Social Security number. Scams bilk the public to the tune of \$50 billion a year. Prisoners with your Social Security numbers can file your tax returns online. They take over \$50 million a year from the public.

Emails will look real, but

may have scrambled the letters. DAV might be Department of Veterans Association, which does not exist. Scammers do not make mistakes, they just don't know how to spell.

Another frequent scam involves firemen and police. Local departments do not solicit by phone. They are subsidized from community funds. Wal-Mart is not running surveys, and working from home but you have to send money first are other frequent scams.

If there is a question in your mind, call Michigan Department of Attorney General, Charitable Trust Section, (517) 373-1153, or Charity Navigator.org which will tell you how much of the money goes to the organization and what goes to administering the charity. There is also a presentation about bullying presented to schools for free.



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# SENIOR LIFESTYLES

## How to divvy up family belongings peacefully and sensibly

Dear Savvy Senior,  
What's the best way to distribute my personal possessions to my kids after I'm gone without causing hard feelings or conflict? I have a lot of jewelry, art, family heirlooms and antique furniture, and three grown kids that don't always see eye-to-eye on things.

### Planning Ahead

Dear Planning,  
Divvying up personal possessions among adult children or other loved ones can often be a difficult task. Deciding who should get what without showing favoritism, hurting someone's feeling or causing a feud can be difficult, even for close-knit families who enter the process with the best of intentions. Here are a few tips to consider that can help you divide your stuff with minimal conflict.

For starters, you need to be aware that it's usually the small, simple items of little

monetary value that cause the most conflicts. This is because the value we attach to the small personal possessions is usually sentimental or emotional, and because the simple items are the things that most families fail to talk about.

Family battles can also escalate over whether things are being divided fairly by monetary value. So for items of higher value like your jewelry, antiques and art, consider getting an appraisal to assure fair distribution. To locate an appraiser, see Appraisers.org or Appraisers-Association.org.

The best solution for passing along your personal possessions is for you to go through your house with your kids or other heirs either separately or all at once. Open up cabinets, drawers and closets, and go through boxes in the attic and/or basement to find out which items they would like to inherit and why. They may have

some emotional attachment to something you're not aware of. If more than one child wants the same thing, you will have the ultimate say.

Then you need to sit down and make a list of who gets what on paper, signed, dated and referenced in your will. You can revise it anytime you want. You may also want to consider writing an additional letter or create an audio or video recording that further explains your intentions.

You can also specify a strategy for divvying up the rest of your property. Here are some methods that are fair and reasonable:

- Take turns choosing: Use a round-robin process where your kids take turns choosing the items they would like to have. If who goes first becomes an issue, they can always flip a coin, draw straws or roll dice. Also, to help simplify things, break down the dividing process room-by-



Savvy Senior

room, versus tackling the entire house. To keep track of who gets what, either make a list or use adhesive dots with a color assigned to each person to tag the item.

- Have a family auction: Give each person involved the same amount of play money, or use virtual points or poker chips to bid on the items they want.

For more ideas, see "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?" at YellowPiePlate.umn.edu. This is a resource created by the University of Minnesota Extension Service that offers a detailed workbook or interactive CD for

\$12.50, and DVD for \$30 that gives pointers to help families discuss property distribution and lists important factors to keep in mind that can help avoid conflict.

It's also very important that you discuss your plans in advance with your kids so they can know ahead what to expect. Or, you may even want to start distributing some of your items now, while you are still alive.

(Send senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org.)

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# Students honor deceased classmates, teacher

**By Mary Weber**  
Staff Writer

Christmas is a time of great joy, love and laughter. It's a time to honor the birth of Christ and celebrate his love. For many it is also a time to remember their loved ones who have passed on and recall happy memories of them.

To celebrate happy memories of five lives cut too short, Alcona Elementary students placed decorative pine wreaths on memorial stones

in the school's butterfly garden.

This act was carried out by second-grade students in Christa Misiak's and Kelli Samps' classes. The suggestion came from student Myra Armstrong.

Armstrong witnessed and helped her grandmother and great-grandmother annually honor deceased loved ones at Christmas-time. She saw her grandmother, Sandy Karsen, obtain small items through-

rate the branches. Five wreaths were constructed, one for a teacher, the late Donna Smith, and one for each of the deceased students: Evan Glore, Katie Travis, and two sisters, Teresa and Amanda Bernard.

"Each student was given an ornament to put on a wreath. I didn't even realize it but a brother (Brett Travis) of one of memorialized students, Katie Travis, was in the second grade, which really meant

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Second grade students at Alcona Elementary remember a deceased teacher and students by making and placing decorative pine wreaths on memorial stones in the schools butterfly garden. (From left) Amelia Sommer, Joshua Perez, Myra Armstrong, Brett Travis, Taelyn MacNeill, Ethan Levlina, (in back) and Sandy Karsen, who purchased and brought all the supplies to make the wreaths and volunteered to teach both classrooms how to make and decorate the wreaths. *Courtesy photo.*

out the year to adorn the wreaths and grave blankets she would make.

"I collect things, little items I pick up at garage sales or St. Vincent de Paul that might be special on a certain wreath. I gather the boughs and my mother and I make the wreaths. This year Myra helped us place them at the gravesites," Karsen said.

Karsen drives her granddaughter to school every day and since the memorial butterfly garden is close to where they park the car, her granddaughter had a natural curiosity about it. After explaining the garden wasn't an actual gravesite, but a place to remember four children and a teacher who died, Myra asked just one question, "Why doesn't anyone place wreaths there at Christmas?" Karsen asked her if that was something she'd like to do and without hesitation Myra answered, "yes."

Karsen reached out to the teachers and told them she would gather all the necessary supplies together including boughs and pine cones along with things she collected throughout the year such as small teddy bears and ornaments to add decor to each wreath.

With students gathered in groups of 10, Karsen taught them how to bundle and deco-

a lot to the students and made it even more important.

"The students took a special interest in the project and it brought out a lot of questions the students had about death and remembering. It was quite a good learning experience. Most of them understood death but were not sure about what a memorial was. Brett was able to tell them about his sister and that she had brain cancer. He told them it was very sad she died and he missed her, but he was glad the rest of his class was remembering her this way. He was very proud to be a part of this class," Karsen said.

Both second grade classes were in attendance for the wreath placements at the memorial stones on December 18. Placement of the wreaths were carried out by students who achieved special recognition by their teachers that week. Brett Travis was able to place the wreath on his sister's memorial stone.

Karsen said, "It was a wonderful experience. All the children enjoyed working and being a part of it. We wanted to teach children that there is more than receiving gifts at Christmas, it's about giving and remembering and showed them a way of doing that."

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# Early season panfishing

Every December in northern Michigan deer hunters who haven't bagged a buck are torn -- should they wait in hopes that they'll get a crack at a trophy buck? Or do they shoot the first doe they see in order to get some meat so they can start ice fishing?

Anyone who doesn't ice fish, probably wonders what's the hurry? The lakes will be covered in ice for at least four months. Additionally, they don't understand why fishermen take such risks to get out on ice that's only a few inches thick.

Ask any ice fishermen and they'll answer with one statement -- big fish.

First ice consistently produces panfish bigger than a man's hand. One reason is fish always feed heavily at first ice. A second reason has to do with the amount of oxygen in the water. As winter progresses the ice and snow covering causes the aquatic plants to die due to lack of sunlight, this causes a reduction in the oxygen in the water. As this occurs, fish become less active. It's not unusual for angler's first ice to take home limit catches of bragging size fish.

A panfish is a general term that refers to species of fish that are normally no bigger than a frying pan. The term doesn't apply to just one species of fish, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, perch, and rock bass are all considered panfish.

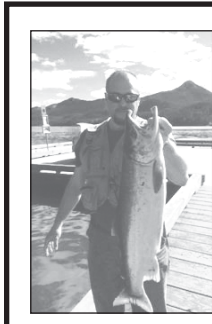
When I first started fishing we sat on a bucket and our rods were made from wood dowels and we pulled fish in hand over hand. Much has changed since then.

Staying warm these days has only gotten easier. Between technological advances in clothing and footwear, along with portable shanties and heaters, it's easy to fish in comfort. Anyone who has never fished in a shanty is really missing out. Fishing in a shanty is like fishing in an aquarium. This is because the sun shining through the ice illuminates everything below; being inside a dark shanty eliminates the glare and allows anglers to see everything below the ice clearly.

It's very cool to watch a teardrop below the ice, as the fish come swarming in racing to be the first to grab the bait suspended in front of them.

Fishing in a shanty allows the angler to literally keep the teardrop away from the smaller fish until they catch the attention of a keeper. Just like the fish, those who go ice fishing once with the latest gear and enjoy a good day fishing, they'll be hooked.

Anglers today have the advantage of GPS equipment with bottom contour mapping. Ice augers make quick



## Exploring the Outdoors

By Gregg Schefferly

work of cutting holes and a portable shanty can be quickly set up.

It is easy to fire up the heater, pull out fishing rods and start fishing. In this setting it's very nice to be protected from the elements -- it's so warm gloves are not even needed.

Some anglers use underwater cameras to further enhance the fishing experience and when fishing in deeper water a flasher helps let a fisherman know when fish are below them.

Those who have never ice fished probably wonder what would prompt someone to get out of bed early on a weekend, brave the cold, and stand out on the ice for most of the day.

It's hard to explain how much fun a day on the ice can be; just getting outdoors during the winter beats staying inside until spring. It's so exciting and addicting catching hand-sized bluegill or perch over nine inches or jigging and watching the slip bobber to twitch or, better yet, plunge out of sight as a big panfish inhales it.

Mousies, waxworms, spikes, minnows, or fish eyes are some of the baits used by ice anglers and it's amazing how quickly being cold is forgotten when the fish started biting.

In closing I'd like to stress to everyone, especially those who are considering trying ice fishing for the first time, to be very cautious fishing first ice. While first ice is generally the strongest, thin ice is dangerous as a result of the fact it can vary greatly due to springs or wave action. Ice forms first in the shallows and takes longer to freeze as the depth of water increases.

Seasoned ice anglers have four crucial pieces of equipment, that's an ice spud, ice cleats, a rope, and corded ice picks. The cleats provide traction which allows anglers to safely walk on it. The spud is constantly used to test the ice as while walking out. It's widely accepted that if the spud goes through the ice with one blow, back off and don't go any farther.

The ice spikes on cords are carried around an angler's neck or through their sleeves and used to pull himself up on the ice if they go through. If this happens, once back on

the ice, stay flat and roll toward safe ice. Always fish with someone and stay a ways apart in case one goes through the other doesn't and can provide assistance by throwing the rope to the person in the water.

Good luck and happy New Year!

*(After spending the last several years in Afghanistan, Alaska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin, Gregg Schefferly has recently returned to writing and Lincoln where he grew up hunting, fishing, and trapping. He welcomes success stories and pictures at NE Lower MI Tacklebox on Facebook, or contact him at northwriter@hotmail.com.)*

# Americanisms



“Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!”

—Theodor Seuss Geisel  
(Dr. Seuss)

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Applications for limited seats available for the 2017-2018 school year will be accepted from January 8th, 2018 to February 2nd, 2018. Applications received after February 2nd, 2018 cannot be accepted. Successful applicants will be notified of their acceptance and must be enrolled by February 5th, 2018. Contact the building offices for enrollment procedures. For further information or an application, contact Alcona Community Schools, 51, N. Barlow Rd., PO Box 249, Lincoln, MI 48742 or call (989) 736-6212 or visit [www.alconaschools.net](http://www.alconaschools.net).

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# Teacher Continued from page 1

three dimensional and feels like you are there. Many have 360-degree views so when one student is looking at a castle, another could be looking at the moat around it or the road leading up to it. Because it's 360 degrees,

each student could be looking at a different angle seeing what interests them," Terpstra said.

A Google Earth app takes students to any city around the world, while an app called Within, transfers students to

historical sites and discussions. It brings students inside rooms of heated political conversations with world leaders, seeing and hearing exactly what others in the room heard and saw, along with a better understanding of what they were feeling at the time.

"Your eyes and ears are telling you that you are there. You begin to feel the emotions in the room. That's something missing in social studies and history -- you don't feel the emotional attachment. With virtual reality you feel it and that charges kids up big time to learn," Terpstra said.

He explained technology is advancing rapidly, and it won't be long until students will be able to sit in a room watching and listening as General Lee directs his staff

about a battle and then have the scene switch where the student is shoulder to shoulder with a lowly private on the front line, executing Lee's orders.

"This is going to grow and grow. I wouldn't be surprised if in the future students will only need a pair of glasses and earbuds to see and feel just what it's like to be a part of a historical moments," Terpstra said.

When Terpstra first thought about becoming a teacher 16 years ago, he thought it would be awesome to teach in a room where all the walls were movie screens and in the center of the room was a hologram of a historical figure having interactive conversations with his students while scenes of the topic played out on the walls. He didn't realize at the time,

he was envisioning virtual reality.

"I'm a dinosaur. I'm 54 years old and things are changing rapidly. I'll go extinct if I don't adapt. We need to find out what turns these kids on educationally and figure out what will attract them to learning. Using technology like this is going to be the way to go. I'm learning as fast as I can. This is exciting and my inner child is screaming, 'Let's go!' If we don't adapt and learn new ways, how will we teach these kids to be lifelong learners? We have to be the example," he said.

Anyone who has an Android phone and would like to donate it, may bring it to the school office located on the corner of Barlow Road and M-72, call, (989) 736-8534 or email Terpstra at terpstrat@alconaschools.net.



A fun website to explore is Wild Flowers of Israel found at [www.wildflowers.co.il/english](http://www.wildflowers.co.il/english)

Within categories such as medicinal, herbal and Biblical, information is given on individual plants found in Israel, such as their common names, Hebrew names (with a pronunciation feature), scientific designations, physical attributes, along with flowering times, habitat, geographic distribution and color photographs.

Almond tree flower - Brenda Weaver

Source: <http://www.wildflowers.co.il/english>

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# Michigan DNR, Audubon Great Lakes work together for conservation

This holiday season tens of thousands of Americans will fan out across the country with one goal in mind: finding and counting as many species of birds as they can find.

These observations will add to a large data set going back 117 years to December 25, 1900, when the Christmas Bird Count, known then as the Christmas Bird Census, was first established.

The Christmas count remains one of the most important citizen science datasets today, helping scientists understand population declines and range shifts in North American birds.

"From beginning birdwatchers to experts, participants in Christmas counts gather to identify and census birds within 15-mile diameter count circles," said John Pepin, DNR deputy public information officer. "The Christmas counts are a great opportunity to learn more about the winter birdlife of a particular area, and for beginners to gain experience birding alongside experts. Some participants count for an hour or so, some birdwatch for the whole day, some count at their bird feeders at

home."

There are now more than 2,500 Christmas Bird Counts in the U.S., Canada, the Pacific Islands, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Michigan alone has 75 count circles, stretching from the Keweenaw Peninsula in the north, to Monroe and Berrien counties in the south.

To find the nearest count circle, the National Audubon Society maintains an informative map. Clicking on a count circle on the map shows where and when the bird counting team meets, and who the count compiler is.

Christmas Bird Counts are open to the public, family-friendly and a great way to meet local birders.

"Year after year, my wife and I participate in Christmas Bird Counts. We've counted birds in Grand Traverse County, Macomb County and Oakland County over the years," said Jeremy Joswick, a Macomb Audubon Society member. "We feel it is important to contribute to this citizen science project and are glad we can help."

Joswick said one of the most memorable Christmas Bird Count experiences he

and his wife had was in Grand Traverse County, very early in the morning, before the sun rose. "We were standing on the side of Hoosier Valley Road, listening for owls, when a great horned owl began to hoot," Joswick said. "It echoed in the quiet morning air - a really cool experience."

The Christmas Bird Count is spearheaded by Audubon, a nonprofit organization with over 700 employees in the U.S. The Michigan Depart-

ment of Natural Resources (DNR) shares an employee with Audubon out of its Great Lakes office in Chicago, Ill.

Michigan bird conservation coordinator Caleb Putnam oversees a communications program called MI Birds, which is focused on bridging gaps between the hunting and birding communities and increasing understanding of the value of public lands and the need for strong funding of conserva-

tion in Michigan.

MI Birds began about one year ago, with the formation of a steering committee consisting of a dozen partner organizations from game and non-game conservation organizations, including Ducks Unlimited, Ruffed Grouse Society, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Audubon,

Continued on page 16



Field trip participants enjoy birding on Belle Isle on a chilly December day. Photos courtesy of Michigan DNR.

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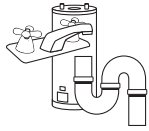
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# Imagine a Great Lakes weather forecast that's always right

**By Jacqueline Kelly**  
Capital News Service

Anyone who lives in the Great Lakes region knows that feeling when unexpected weather rolls in, especially in the winter.

Why can't they get the forecast right?

It is easy to recall a meteorologist saying that there would be only two to four inches of snow and when the 12 to 14 inches came, they were blamed on the deceptively friendly-sounding "lake-effect" snow.

That uncertainty could be a thing of the past, according to Lindsay Fitzpatrick, an atmospheric data analyst with the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Fitzpatrick and her team are looking for ways to more accurately predict that lake-effect snow and give more advanced warning of it be-

fore it hits. Lake-effect snow strikes many areas of the Great Lakes region, but it hits northern and western Michigan and western New York the hardest.

Working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, the researchers have been developing a network of weather measuring stations called flux towers.

Each tower has instruments that measure temperature, wind speed, wind direction, solar radiation and other meteorological variables. They also measure heat flux — the amount of energy transferred to and from a surface. That is useful in measuring evaporation. And that's important because the greater the evaporation from the lake, the more water goes into the air.

And the more water in the

air, the more likely it is to fall as snow.

The instruments are on top of five offshore lighthouses — two on Lake Superior and one each on lakes Michigan, Huron and Erie. There are none yet on Lake Ontario.

"Without their observations, we would have no way to gauge how well current models are actually working," Fitzpatrick said. "With more measurements, we can fine-tune current models to create more accurate predictions of lake-effect snow and ideally down the line, all weather that impacts the Great Lakes."

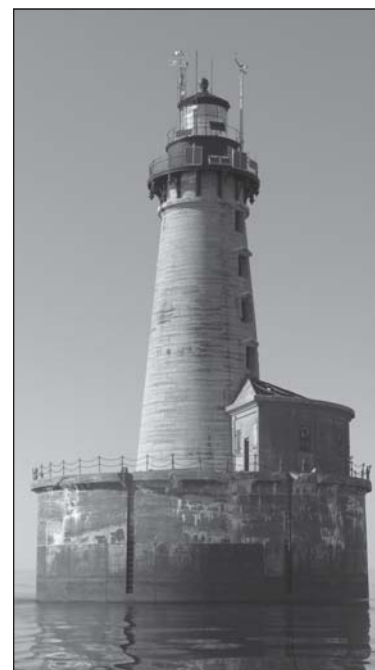
The trouble is that there aren't enough towers to fine-tune the models. Fitzpatrick figures two to three towers on each lake would give meteorologists the lake-wide measurements that they need.

But the towers are expensive to purchase, set up and

maintain, she said. Each costs roughly \$70,000 to \$80,000. Weather experts say the investment is worth it to develop computer models needed to better predict lake-effect snow.

"As we begin to incorporate these new observations to our current models, we will be much better prepared," said Jeff Andresen, the state climatologist at Michigan State University. "The towers provide single site observations, but these observations allow us to have a greater understanding of the entire lake since they should represent the entire lake climate."

It is difficult to predict lake-effect snow because the models haven't captured finely enough the elements that cause it, he said. Even so, understanding them has improved with the towers that exist now.



Stannard Rock Lighthouse with flux tower in Lake Superior. *Courtesy photo.*

"The flux towers are very important because they quantify the fluxes of energy and water taking place between the lakes and the atmosphere above something we really couldn't do very well until the towers went up," he said.

The U.S.-Canadian International Joint Commission funded a project to build the first flux towers in 2008. The others were supported by subsequent projects and grants.

"These towers require constant monitoring, which requires bigger teams, and if we want to be able to rely on these towers for predictions, we need to have more on every lake," Fitzpatrick said.

Her team recently published a study in an American Meteorological Society journal about the turbulent heat fluxes in Buffalo during a lake-effect snow event. They said they hope the study will help others see the importance of these towers.

The study measured latent heat fluxes, or the amount of energy (or heat) needed for evaporation. That helped the researchers estimate the amount of evaporation at the lake's surface and to study whether such measurements help forecast lake-effect snow.

The study shows that models now do a poor job of simulating latent heat flux, Fitzpatrick said. Better models created from more flux tower measurements can better predict snow, location and intensity.

And they may also give a glimpse of what's ahead as the climate's air and water temperatures rise, Andresen said.

"Collectively, they should help better determine what lake-effect precipitation patterns might be like in the distant future."

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# Buggy Rides

From the files of the Alcona County Review



## Terrible tragedy at local hotel

Harry A. George Wounds His Wife And Kills Self  
Divorce Case Outgrowth

Act Of A Desperate Husband Four Young Children Left Fatherless

**December 27, 1917** ~ After firing five shots at and severely wounding his wife, Mary, Harry George shot himself in the head just before noon Saturday and died 30 minutes later. The tragedy was the outgrowth of domestic trouble between the pair and came close on the close of hearing of an action for divorce brought by Mrs. George.

About 11:30 Saturday forenoon Harry George walked into the front door of the Cottage Hotel, where his wife and four children were staying, and went through the

house. At the swinging kitchen door he met his wife face to face, but passed on into the kitchen, where his wife's mother, Mrs. Sellers, was busy preparing for the noon meal. As he came into the kitchen Mrs. Sellers looked up from her work and greeted him. He returned the greeting, crossed the kitchen and sat or leaned against the sink. They had exchanged a few commonplace remarks when Mrs. George came into the kitchen from the dining room and cut some bread at a nearby table. She returned to the dining room with the



Looking east on Main Street in Harrisville -- Cottage Hotel, S. B. Kahn 1908 (Quinlans 1927), the MacDonald House and Davis Livery (before the fire). Review archive photo.

bread. Harry followed her and began to shoot, the first bullet striking her in the shoulder from behind. Mrs. George screamed and grappled with her husband and the revolver fell to the floor. Still struggling Mrs. George fell to the floor and Harry secured the gun and fired again, missing. Mrs. Sellers rushed in and grabbed the frenzied man but could do little. Mrs. George ran to the kitchen and as she passed thru the door her husband fired again, inflicting a severe flesh wound in the hip. She fled out the west door of the kitchen and as she did so another shot was fired but the bullet missed its mark. The terrified woman fled up the alley toward the front of the house and as she turned the corner of the building the man fired the fifth shot but missed again. Mrs. George ran into the front door of the hotel and hid behind a bedroom door. Her husband, after firing the fifth shot, walked back toward the rear of the building and when about ten feet from the kitchen door which he had just left, he placed the gun to his temple and fired the last shot it contained into his head. He fell to the ground and died thirty minutes later without regaining consciousness.

In the meantime Mrs. George, not knowing of her husband's last act, and fearing he was still hunting for her, ran out of the hotel and into Fuqua's drug store screaming for help. Holiday shoppers in the store fled panic stricken and Mr. Fuqua, expecting every minute to see the crazed husband rushing in, locked the door and led the wounded woman behind the prescription case. It was some minutes before the people in the store knew of Harry's death.

Harry did not speak a word, according to the witnesses, after he began to shoot, and during the conversation with Mrs. Sellers he did not indicate in any way the terrible thing he was about to do. The weapon was a six-shooter .32 caliber revolver.

Continued on page 15

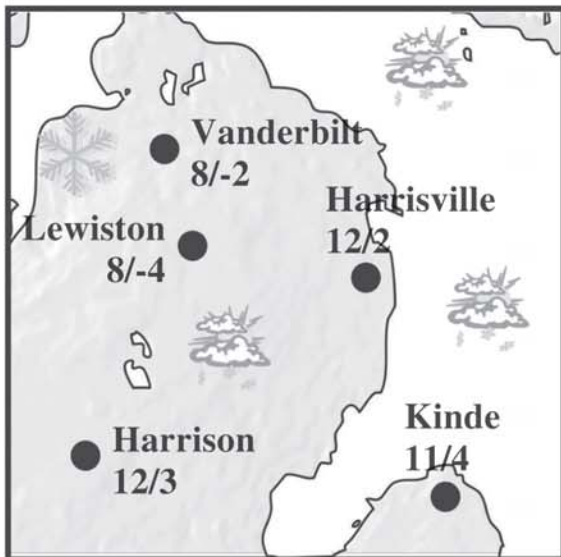
### Alcona Review Weather Report

Dec. 27, 2017

#### Seven Day Forecast

	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Few Snow Showers High: 12 Low: 2
	<b>THURSDAY</b> Mostly Cloudy High: 14 Low: 6
	<b>FRIDAY</b> Few Snow Showers High: 16 Low: 7
	<b>SATURDAY</b> Few Snow Showers High: 15 Low: 0
	<b>SUNDAY</b> Few Snow Showers High: 11 Low: 2
	<b>MONDAY</b> Few Snow Showers High: 12 Low: 3
	<b>TUESDAY</b> Cloudy High: 15 Low: 6

#### Today's Regional Map



#### In-Depth Local Forecast

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 30% chance of snow showers, high temperature of 12°, humidity of 63%. West northwest wind 7 to 10 mph. Snow accumulation of less than one inch possible. The record high temperature for today is 52° set in 1936. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 2°.

#### \*Last Week's Almanac

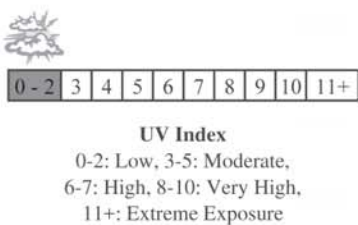
Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip
Tuesday	43	30	31/17	Trace
Wednesday	30	25	30/17	Trace
Thursday	29	21	30/17	0.15"
Friday	32	29	30/16	0.30"
Saturday	31	19	30/16	0.04"
Sunday	21	0	29/16	0.04"
Monday	20	6	29/15	0.08"

\*Data as reported from Alpena, MI

#### Local Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Phase
<b>Full</b> 1/1	Wednesday 8:12 a.m.	4:59 p.m.	1:23 p.m.	1:26 a.m.	
	Thursday 8:12 a.m.	4:59 p.m.	1:55 p.m.	2:35 a.m.	
	Friday 8:12 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:47 a.m.	
	Saturday 8:12 a.m.	5:01 p.m.	3:12 p.m.	5:00 a.m.	
<b>Last</b> 1/8	Sunday 8:12 a.m.	5:02 p.m.	4:02 p.m.	6:14 a.m.	
	Monday 8:12 a.m.	5:03 p.m.	5:01 p.m.	7:25 a.m.	
	Tuesday 8:12 a.m.	5:04 p.m.	6:08 p.m.	8:28 a.m.	

#### Local UV Index



#### National Weather Summary This Week

The Northeast will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies through Thursday with isolated snow, cloudy skies Friday with scattered snow showers, highest temperature of 38 in Salisbury, Md. The Southeast will experience partly to mostly cloudy skies through Friday with scattered showers, highest temperature of 81 in Hialeah, Fla. In the Northwest there will be partly to mostly cloudy skies through Friday with isolated rain and snow, highest temperature of 47 in Coos Bay, Ore. The Southwest will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies through Friday with the highest temperature of 72 in Yuma, Ariz.

#### Tonight's Planets

	Rise	Set
Mercury	6:22 a.m.	3:40 p.m.
Venus	8:00 a.m.	4:42 p.m.
Mars	3:40 a.m.	1:49 p.m.
Jupiter	4:05 a.m.	2:02 p.m.
Saturn	7:45 a.m.	4:37 p.m.
Uranus	1:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.

#### Weather History

**Dec. 27, 1982** - The worst Louisiana rainstorm in more than 100 years came to an end. More than 18 inches fell at Vinton, La. during the three-day storm. Damage was estimated at 100 to 200 million dollars. President Reagan declared ten parishes disaster areas.

#### Weather Trivia

Why does salt help keep snow from turning to ice?



Answer: Salt water needs to be much colder to freeze.

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

#### StarWatch By Gary Becker - Moravian Can Help Take Back the Night!

When I was eight years old, my interest in astronomy was fueled by a single event. Crossing my front yard on my way to a Cub Scout meeting, I casually glanced skyward and caught a bright meteor gliding amongst the stars. My next memory was a scared, out of breath kid banging on the front door of the meeting place. My mother at 91 still lives in that same home, but the story could never repeat itself. Over the intervening 60 years, a blight of light has crept outward from our cities, making the nighttime sky nearly inaccessible to urban dwellers. The shooting star that I saw in 1958 would be invisible to a 21st century child repeating the same scenario. Cities changed from incandescent to mercury and high pressure sodium vapor lighting, and now, because of even greater efficiency and a more natural illumination, LED lamps. From Moravian College's Sky Deck, the highest accessible location to students on campus, a good night means that 75 stars are visible to the unaided eye. Moravian's light pollution footprint is substantial, even though the campus has benefited greatly from LED technology. Still, more than half of the electricity that lights Main Campus is directed skyward where it helps to disrupt the nighttime ecology of our trees and plants and also hides the stars. Buildings like PPHAC have decorative ground lighting splashed upon their walls. The new soccer field lights are kept burning regardless of field usage. Yet I firmly believe that Moravian is still ahead of the game, and I'd like to propose three additional suggestions which would save the College even more money and improve lighting efficiency. Please turn off the decorative ground lighting of buildings such as PPHAC. Attach an internal sheet of tinfoil or use reflective paint on each of the four skyward pointing glass panes of main campus lamp posts to focus more light downward and augment ground illumination. Finally, continue to retrofit old lamps with new LED technology. We can do it right and help take back the night. Ad Astra! www.astronomy.org

# Trivia Test

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **MONEY:** What was the common currency in Portugal prior to the euro?
2. **MOVIES:** What 1990s horror movie featured Henry Winkler as the principal of Woodsboro High School?
3. **THEATER:** What musical included the characters of Maria Rainer and Captain Georg von Trapp?
4. **ANATOMY:** What are the names of the arteries that supply blood to the head and neck?
5. **MEASUREMENTS:** What does an isobar represent on a map?
6. **LANGUAGE:** What word represents the letter R in the NATO Phonetic Alphabet?
7. **GEOGRAPHY:** What is the significance of the 38th parallel north?
8. **FAMOUS QUOTES:** What 20th-century politician once said, "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts"?
9. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Where does the Oberammergau passion play take place every 10 years?
10. **ASTRONOMY:** What is the only constellation of the Zodiac representing an inanimate object?

**Answers:** 1. Escudo; 2. "Scream"; 3. "The Sound of Music"; 4. Carotid; 5. Atmospheric pressure; 6. Romeo; 7. It forms the border between North and South Korea.; 8. Daniel Patrick Moynihan; 9. Germany; 10. Libra (the scales) (c) 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Super Crossword BED OF FISH

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Santa — (desert winds)</p> <p>5 Heroic tales</p> <p>10 "iZombie" network</p> <p>15 Marathoner's statistic</p> <p>19 Promote</p> <p>20 Horror, e.g.</p> <p>21 Prefix with gram or liter</p> <p>22 Strong — ox</p> <p>23 Start of a riddle</p> <p>25 "That is to say ..."</p> <p>26 Piper's garb</p> <p>27 AWOL part</p> <p>28 Pat lightly</p> <p>30 Short literary sketch</p> <p>32 Riddle, part 2</p> <p>38 Jailbird</p> <p>39 Poet's "always"</p> <p>40 German's "one"</p> <p>41 Suffix with suc- or lact-</p> <p>42 Riddle, part 3</p> <p>51 Starting point</p> <p>52 Ike's inits.</p> <p>53 Cell stuff</p> <p>54 Government loan agcy.</p> <p>55 Runway user</p> <p>56 Clumsy sort</p> | <p>58 Dollar pts.</p> <p>60 He beat Romney</p> <p>64 Riddle, part 4</p> <p>70 "Look, I did it!"</p> <p>74 Ostrich kin</p> <p>75 Bohea, e.g.</p> <p>76 That, in Chile</p> <p>77 Oil gp.</p> <p>78 Riddle, part 5</p> <p>83 '90s-'00s boy band</p> <p>84 Thrice-spun-off TV show</p> <p>85 Wimbledon unit</p> <p>86 Swimming (in)</p> <p>91 Sue Grafton's "— for Evidence"</p> <p>93 Mind-reading ability</p> <p>95 Lilted syllable</p> <p>97 "Hägar the Horrible" creator Dik</p> <p>98 Riddle, part 6</p> <p>104 Pitching whiz</p> <p>105 Ballpark fig.</p> <p>106 Prefix meaning "equal"</p> <p>107 Syllable after "Mao"</p> | <p>108 End of the riddle</p> <p>118 Merit the best score, maybe</p> <p>119 Half of hexa-</p> <p>120 See 45-Down</p> <p>121 Lacking width and depth, for short</p> <p>122 Els of golf</p> <p>125 Riddle's answer</p> <p>129 Baseball team count</p> <p>130 Actress Tierney</p> <p>131 Plants used in first aid</p> <p>132 Borscht vegetable</p> <p>133 Anti-DUI org.</p> <p>134 More sneaky</p> <p>135 Flirty laugh</p> <p>136 Probability</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Slanting</p> <p>2 Like free banking</p> <p>3 Acoustic</p> <p>4 Rock's Perry</p> <p>5 "I" problem</p> <p>6 Chapel seat</p> <p>7 Hotel's kin</p> <p>8 Set of beliefs</p> <p>9 Roomy car</p> <p>10 "No need to share all that," in texts</p> | <p>11 That bloke</p> <p>12 School pupil, in France</p> <p>13 Actresses Bloom and Danes</p> <p>14 Fancy shoes</p> <p>15 George of "Star Trek"</p> <p>16 "... true statement, correct?"</p> <p>17 Dog or cat breed</p> <p>18 Went inside</p> <p>24 Ida, borderer</p> <p>29 British TV network, with "the"</p> <p>31 Tiny self-propelled machine</p> <p>33 Clicked-on graphic</p> <p>34 Bart Simpson, to Marge</p> <p>35 With a sharp image, briefly</p> <p>36 — -do-well</p> <p>37 Long ditch</p> <p>42 Marge Simpson, to Bart</p> <p>43 — -Magnon</p> <p>44 Prefix with day or week</p> <p>45 With 120-Across, 65 and older, e.g.</p> <p>46 Sledding site</p> <p>47 Work like —</p> <p>48 Cherished by</p> <p>49 Ramble on</p> <p>50 Verboten act</p> <p>57 Feudal lands</p> <p>59 Cubs hero Sammy</p> <p>61 Galaxy buy</p> <p>62 Pal of Larry and Curly</p> <p>63 Jets' gp.</p> <p>65 Conifer with toxic seeds</p> <p>66 Apple choice</p> <p>67 Sipped on</p> <p>68 Sex cell</p> <p>69 Down vote</p> <p>70 Earthy color</p> <p>71 Muscles below pecs</p> <p>72 Handyman's initialism</p> <p>73 Nixon's veep</p> <p>79 Actress Annabella</p> <p>80 Not make the event in time, say</p> <p>81 Other, in Chile</p> <p>82 Delhi wear</p> <p>87 Concave pan</p> <p>88 Stupefy</p> <p>89 NBC skit show since '75</p> <p>90 Kin of "Psst!"</p> <p>92 Secondary details</p> <p>94 Elegant</p> <p>96 Voting 69-Down</p> <p>97 Cordon — (chicken dish)</p> <p>98 Particles composed of quarks</p> <p>99 South Pacific region</p> <p>100 Soho locale</p> <p>101 Left-leaning</p> <p>102 Ring around a castle</p> <p>103 Pa. hours</p> <p>109 Surrendered</p> <p>110 Listless feeling</p> <p>111 Yummy morsel</p> <p>112 Edge shyly</p> <p>113 Abbr. at LAX</p> <p>114 1990s fitness fad</p> <p>115 "— a drink!"</p> <p>116 Looked at provocatively</p> <p>117 Swift homes</p> <p>123 Wrath</p> <p>124 Acoustic organ</p> <p>126 "So fancy!"</p> <p>127 Peace gesture</p> <p>128 Nationality suffix</p> |
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## Moments In Time

By The History Channel

- On Jan. 5, 1643, in the first record of a legal divorce in the American colonies, Anne Clarke of the Massachusetts Bay Colony is granted a divorce after being deserted by her husband, Denis Clarke.
  - On Jan. 2, 1811, Timothy Pickering, a Federalist from Massachusetts, becomes the first senator to be censured. Pickering was accused of violating congressional law by publicly revealing secret documents communicated by the president to the Senate.
  - On Jan. 1, 1863, a farmer named Daniel Freeman submits the first claim under the new Homestead Act for a property in Nebraska. The act legalized the long-standing practice of squatting on the vast federal landholdings in the West.
  - On Jan. 6, 1925, at New York's Madison Square Garden, Finnish long-distance runner Paavo Nurmi makes his first American appearance. He would run a total of 55 races before returning home, losing only his last race, a half-mile sprint. Some newspapers speculated that Nurmi had lost only out of politeness to his hosts.
  - On Jan. 7, 1947, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" becomes the No. 1 song on the U.S. pop charts. The story of Rudolph began in 1939, when retailer Montgomery Ward created a holiday book to give away to children. Johnny Marks later used the story to write the song, which sold more than 2 million units in its first year alone.
  - On Jan. 4, 1974, President Richard Nixon refuses to hand over tape recordings and documents that had been subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee. Nixon would resign from office in disgrace eight months later.
  - On Jan. 3, 1990, Panama's Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega surrenders to U.S. military troops to face charges of drug trafficking. In 1992, the former dictator was convicted of drug trafficking, money laundering and racketeering, and sentenced to 40 years in prison.
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## Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

- It was 20th-century American professor and noted author Isaac Asimov who made the following sage observation: "A poor idea well-written is more likely to be accepted than a good idea poorly written."
  - According to a Scandinavian tradition, Christmas gifts aren't delivered by Santa Claus or Saint Nicholas -- a little gnome called Julenisse puts gifts under the tree. And instead of cookies and milk, children put out a bowl of porridge for him.
  - It's commonly believed that misery sometimes can beget genius -- the stereotype of the tortured artist is ubiquitous. However, recent research suggests that there's not as much truth to the trope as many think. According to a study titled "Death, Bereavement and Creativity," recently published in the journal Management Science, works created by painters during the year following a loved one's death were worth about 35 percent less than other works by the same artist. Those paintings also are significantly less likely to be included in the collection of a major museum.
  - Those who enjoy making calculations have determined that Santa would have to visit nearly 900 homes every second to finish all his deliveries on Christmas Eve.
  - The first time a news event was shown in a motion-picture film reel was in 1896, and the subject was the coronation of Russian Czar Nicholas II.
  - Like many of us, those in the Netherlands celebrate Christmas on Dec. 25. However, the children there eagerly await the arrival of "Sinterklaas" on Dec. 5, when children receive their presents. The name Santa Claus supposedly derived from older Dutch "Sinte Klaas."
- \*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "We have to face the fact that either all of us are going to die together or we are going to learn to live together, and if we are to live together we have to talk."  
-- Eleanor Roosevelt  
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## CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Y equals I

PEWA OILKYGYAT YZ CLAZIR ZW

BIYGI ZSI RLF, L VOIBSCLZIO VYBS

EOWDEZKF TWZ PE LAR UOYIR

"ULOE RYID!"

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# Buggy Rides Continued from page 13

The woman's screams and the revolver shots were heard by many and a big crowd gathered quickly, but the only persons in the house at the time were Mrs. Sellers. Alida Rickel and the two principals, and possibly some of the George children. The dying man was carried into the house and Dr. Cowie was called, but he was beyond help, the bullet having pierced the brain.

Coroner Carle was on the scene when the man died and immediately had the body taken to his undertaking rooms. An inquest was held Saturday afternoon, and a verdict returned in accordance with the facts as above related.

Dr. Miller was called to care for Mrs. George and found a wound in the shoulder and a flesh wound about 12 inches long in the hip and thigh. Probing was necessary to remove the bullets. Several of the fingers on one hand were injured, either by one of the bullets or singed by the powder at close range. She is considered out of danger and her early recovery is expected.

So far as known the dead man left no message explaining his rash action.

The following was found written on the back of a receipt he held for \$25.00 for his wife's attorney fee and

\$10.00 expenses in the divorce case. The receipt was from the county clerk and dated Dec. 21st. It is presumed he did the writing sometime during Friday night.

"I am sorry to say I am such a brute to my family, but am not in a position to prove the facts. I hope some day the people will see where the truth is laying. There is people that know I have not been treated right—altho I don't think I am an angel like some people that can do most anything and make people think the moon is made of green cheese—and they must believe it."

News of the tragedy produced a profound shock throughout the community. Both of the principals are well known here, Mrs. George having been born in Harrisville and Mr. George having been for sixteen years a respected citizen of the town. He came to Harrisville in 1901 as assistant to the contractor who built the D. & M. depot here and on January 29, 1902, he married Mary Evans. Six children were born to them, four of whom survive ranging from 5 to 13 years. Their domestic trouble began some time back and reached the parting stage several months ago at Flint, where they moved in the

spring of 1916. Divorce proceedings were instituted by Mrs. George and the hearing was held last Thursday and Friday before Judge Widdis. Harry came to Harrisville to contest the case and was here several days before the trial. During this time he talked freely of the case and intimated he had some startling revelations to make on the stand. Shortly before going to court, however, he said he did not want to say anything that would reflect on his wife's character and intimated he hoped for a reconciliation. It is generally admitted he did not put in a strong case and his close acquaintances could see that his troubles bore heavily on his mind.

Harry George was born Dec. 16, 1872, at Muskegon and is survived by his father, six brothers and five sisters. Henry George of Spring Lake, Mich., Albert George of Muskegon. Mrs. Hardholt of Ludington and Miss Ruby George of Muskegon, brothers and sisters of the deceased, arrived in Harrisville Monday and remained for the funeral which was held Wednesday at 2 o'clock p. m., from Carle's undertaking parlors, Rev. F. A. Andrews being in charge. The interment was made in the West cemetery.

## Veteran's Post *By Freddy Groves*

### Whistleblowers have a duty to report

If you're in a position to do a little whistleblowing about things going on where you work at the Department of Veterans Affairs, your input might be more valuable than you realize.

Fact: In the past six months alone, the impact of investigations by the VA Office of the Inspector General was huge. OIG audits, investigations, inspections and evaluations identified \$9 billion in monetary benefits. That in-

cluded 162 arrests and 1,123 administrative sanctions.

The VAOIG webpage talks about "identifying the underlying causes of problems," and in my mind that involves, at least in part, whistleblowers who step forward.

That six-month period mentioned above included information sent by letters, calls, emails and web submissions to the Hotline Division, a total of 20,204 con-

tacts made by veterans, the public, employees and other agencies. Not all complaints were substantiated, of course, but enough were to make it worthwhile to speak up. There were 53 whistleblowers who claimed retaliation and sought protection.

Per the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989, whistleblower disclosures are protected against demotion, suspensions, terminations and poor performance reviews. In addition, there is a whistleblower ombudsman. Allegations of reprisals are sent to the Office of Special Counsel.

If you're hesitant to report wrongdoing, especially if it involves the health and wellbeing of veterans or stealing money in some way from the VA, remember why you're there. The veterans come first.

If you want to think about it before you take that first step, go online to [www.va.gov/oig/hotline](http://www.va.gov/oig/hotline) to learn more. You'll find a Submit a Complaint button to click. You also can call the Hotline at 1-800-488-8244 to talk about it.

While you're on the Hotline webpage, click on the Duty to Report graphic on the left. Federal law says you have a duty to report felonies happening at the VA.

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## Wishing Well®

6	3	5	6	8	4	8	4	5	4	5	6	3
F	E	B	E	D	T	O	I	E	M	A	E	V
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I	T	T	M	F	N	A	O	E	L	N	B	T
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E	L	A	W	E	M	M	E	E	N	A	A	E
8	6	2	3	5	2	3	8	4	3	4	3	3
I	P	R	E	R	D	T	L	G	I	E	N	G

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

# Alcona Review Classifieds

Ads may be brought in to our office at  
111 Lake St., Harrisville  
Cost per ad is \$4.50 for the first 10 words and  
15¢ for each word thereafter.  
Boxed ads are \$5 per column inch.  
Ads and payment must be received by 4 p.m. Monday.  
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### BINGO

Mikado Goodfellows Bingo every Monday 6:30 p.m. at Mikado Civic Center. Winner-takes-all game and cookie jar. All proceeds to charity.

### NOTICES

Notice: Alcona County Commissioners seek individuals interested in the position of County Commissioner for District 1 (Alcona and Caledonia Township). Applicants must be a resident of either township and be a registered voter. Letters of interest will be accepted until noon on January 5, 2018 at the Alcona County Clerk's office, Box 308, Harrisville, MI 48740.

Notice of abandoned property: Mr. David Cruson has abandoned property at his former residence in Greenbush. This is notice that if he does not contact the current occupants and remove said property in 30 days from this notice that the property will be disposed of.

### FOR RENT

Two bedroom apartment in Harrisville, \$595 includes utilities, no smoking, no pets. (989) 370-8361.

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Alterations  
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Monday - Friday  
Closed for lunch 1-2 p.m.

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## Estate Sportsman AUCTION!

**Sat. Dec. 30. 10 a.m. ~ Perry Creek & M-33 Mio.**  
Antiques; Collectibles; Art; Native American; Salesman Samples; Beryl in Quartz; Advertising; Railroad; Steam Whistles; Military; Sportsman; Fishing; Bear Trap; Bronze Bear Inkwell; Guns; Cypress 5<sup>th</sup>. Wheel & Jayco Travel Trailers; & More! View Online or call.

**LET'S TALK AUCTION**  
**(989) 848-5158 • WWW.LETSTALKAUCTION.COM**

# Conservation Continued from page 11

Detroit Audubon, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Michigan State University Extension and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Together, the members of this group help to develop messaging communicated by MI Birds and determine audiences to send the messages to. "In the beginning, we were just excited to assemble such a diverse and unique group," Putnam said. "We made important conversations happen just by getting all of these conservation groups to the same table, and it's some-

thing I haven't seen before." Others agreed.

"Creating an environment of collaboration between birding and hunting groups is something we've been pushing for years, and this program has really made it happen," said Audubon Great Lakes' Director of Conservation Nat Miller.

Russ Mason, DNR Wildlife Division chief, said it's been a long-term challenge of the agency to engage new user groups and begin to plan for declining hunter revenues for public-lands conservation.

"MI Birds is our first big attempt at leading discussions between all of these conservation-minded groups," Mason said.

MI Birds' biggest presence is online, on a Facebook page with over 4,000 followers. The page features real-time information about Michigan's birds and their migrations, presented in a fun and engaging way for the public.

Putnam posts videos and hosts Facebook live feeds from a variety of public-lands areas. For example, one video produced earlier this year from the Murphy Lake State Game Area in Tuscola County showed Putnam investigating the nesting habitat of the Louisiana waterthrush, a state special concern songbird that lives there.

Putnam is also working to publicize the DNR's important habitat work statewide. He is leading tours to key state game areas and other lands, engaging the public in a conversation with DNR biologists about the work being done, which species it benefits and how it is funded.

"Once non-consumptive users understand how non-game species benefit from primarily game-funded work, the light bulbs immediately go off," Putnam said. "We have people asking how they can donate to the work before the tours even begin."

By elevating these discus-



Pine grosbeaks, like this female photographed in Marquette County, are among the species found on Christmas Bird Counts in the northern part of the state.

sions statewide, MI Birds stands to engage new user groups and create a broader constituency for public-lands conservation in Michigan.

Christmas Bird Counts are one of many places members of the MI Birds groups could find common interest, fun and camaraderie, paving the way for greater understand-

ing and cooperation in the future.

The gatherings are also places new participants might find future best friends, while pursuing their personal interest in birds, nature and conservation. For more information on MI Birds, visit the MI Birds Facebook page.



Great-horned owls are found in many Christmas Bird Count circles in Michigan. Photo courtesy of Joe Brooks.



Christmas Bird Count participants in many areas will be scanning groups of gulls like this one in Marquette County.

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