

# *The Lumberton Campus Chronicle*

*February 2016*

## **Farewell to February**

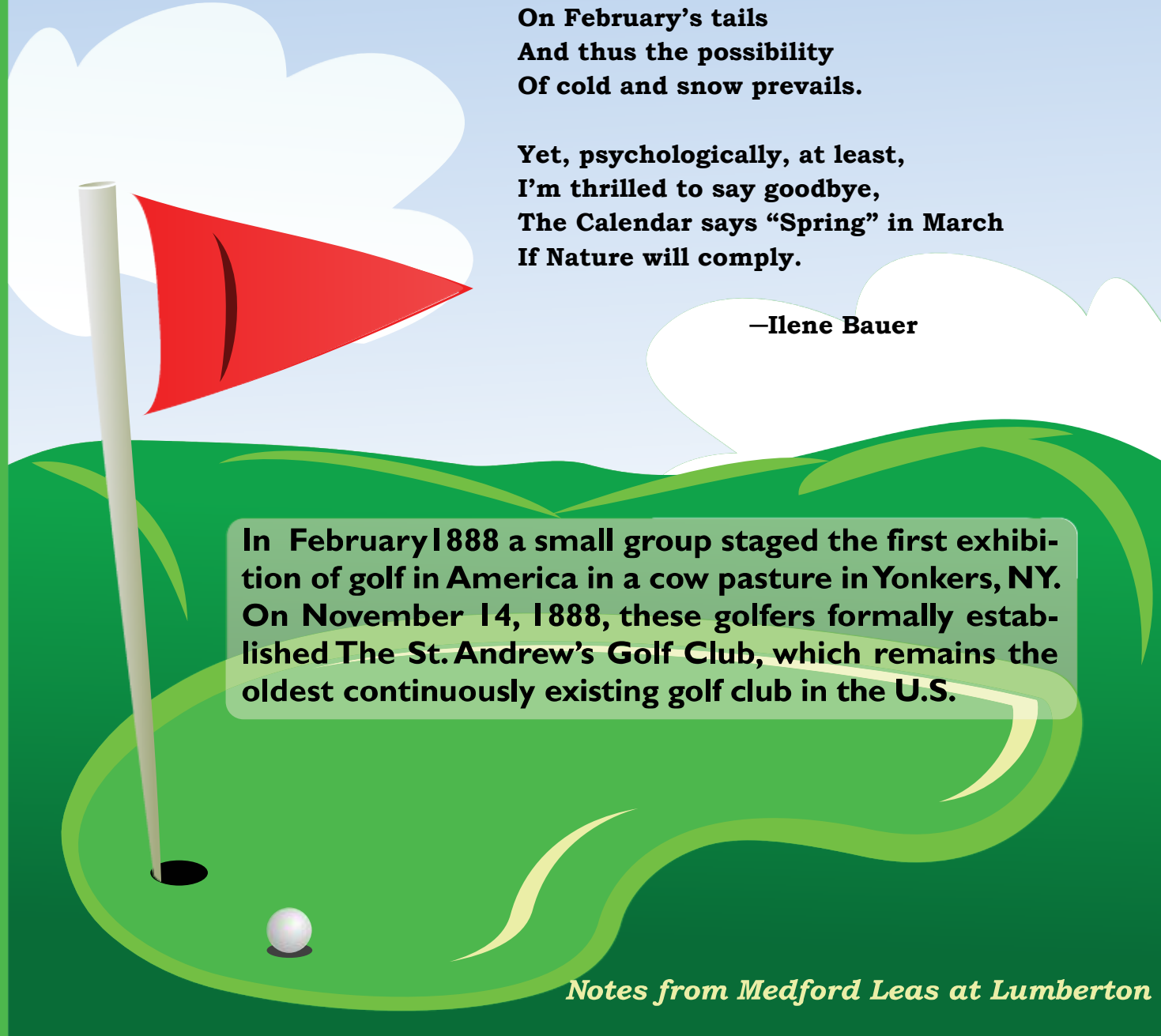
**I bid farewell to February  
Month of ice and snow  
No one living in the north  
Is sad to see it go.**

**Although it is the shortest month,  
It wasn't short enough,  
Sending us conditions  
Most uncomfortable and rough.**

**I'm well aware that March might hang  
On February's tails  
And thus the possibility  
Of cold and snow prevails.**

**Yet, psychologically, at least,  
I'm thrilled to say goodbye,  
The Calendar says "Spring" in March  
If Nature will comply.**

**—Ilene Bauer**



**In February 1888 a small group staged the first exhibition of golf in America in a cow pasture in Yonkers, NY. On November 14, 1888, these golfers formally established The St. Andrew's Golf Club, which remains the oldest continuously existing golf club in the U.S.**

*Notes from Medford Leas at Lumberton*

**COUNCIL REPORT**

**Dino Fiabane**

Council met on February 8. Council Treasurer Understudy, Phil Bodner, and Medford Leas Director of Resident Services, Tammy Gerhart, were welcomed.

The poor nighttime visibility of our house numbers was discussed. Council will send a PIW to MLRA to establish a policy regarding the nighttime visibility and placement of our unit numbers.

It has been observed that several carbon monoxide detectors in our homes have sent out squealing or chirping signals indicating their impending failure. A PIW to MLRA will formally request that Medford Leas Maintenance test residential carbon monoxide detectors annually.

The annual Community Services Fund Drive begins on February 15. Expect an announcement in your mailbox.

The approved updates to resident directory pages have been completed.

The move of the Community Center room reservation system to Medford Leas' computerized scheduling system has been completed. The Reservation Committee has been disbanded. Former committee chair, Bob Rosvold, continues to advise Council on room scheduling matters.

Council member Joanne Thomas presented a rationale and proposal to establish a way for Lumberton campus residents needing a ride to the Medford campus to communicate their needs to other residents who might be willing to offer rides. Weekly signup sheets will be posted in the vestibule of the Community Center on a trial basis. Follow-up phone calls or emails will be required to confirm arrangements.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 14.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR JANUARY**

Balance on December 31	\$4,723.09
Income	24.87
Expenses	200.31
Balance on January 31	4,547.65



**GOOD THINGS – SMALL PACKAGE**

**Helen L. Vukasin 1922-2016**

**Jane and Dave Bartram**

**Jane Weston, Barbara Zimmerman**

**Photo enhancement by Ralph Berglund**

Weighing little more than 100 pounds, Helen impacted many of us with her grace, charm and intellect. She was a loyal, supportive friend.

Helen moved to the Lumberton campus in 1999 from New Paltz, NY, and at the very beginning, she steered the Council, the Residents Handbook, the Art Gallery and the newsletter. Many of our Lumberton traditions and systems have been influenced by her touch. She represented part of the fabric of the Lumberton community.

With her background supporting environment and development in third world countries, authoring books and coordinating

workshops in Latin America, Asia and Africa, is it any wonder that she became involved at Medford Leas—MLRA, *Leas Lit*, *Medford Leas Life*, Leas Forum, art exhibits, presenter at Great Decisions and state organizations such as ORANJ??

Helen did not tolerate mediocrity; she expected the best from herself and from others. If you wanted her participation, you were guaranteed her opinion, which might or might not agree with yours!

She was fiercely tenacious in her attempts to master the computer. She would not be intimidated by a machine!

One friend remarked that a visit with Helen left her “a little more educated and a lot more centered.” Another friend dubbed her “a cool lady.”

Her leadership on the Mohonk Board of Consultations, New Paltz, NY, dramatically influenced the board’s philosophy of bringing together people of diverse perspectives to talk it over.

We wish we could talk it over with Helen—one more time.

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### **Pete’s Pick**

#### **SEARCHING FOR VICTIMHOOD**

So here I am at 79 WSD trying to figure out how I might become a “victim” of something. It’s not that I find life in these parts in any way boring, unhappy or displeasing, but “victimhood” in one form or another seems to have become respectably important in the greater scheme of life these days, and I find myself entirely lacking in this respect. On college campuses across our nation, students—aided by their institutional administrators—are spending inordinate amounts of time and resources figuring out ways to discover their own hidden victimhoods. They have even taken it down to the level of identifying each other’s “microaggressions” which, we are informed, are those tiny offensive

mannerisms that most of us don’t even realize we have but can apparently be isolated and purged through Maoist-style self-examination sessions in which everyone is expected to publicly confess their potentially offensive behaviors or else have them exposed by their peers. Halloween costumes or other clothing expressions that make someone else feel uncomfortable have become taboo on campus. Forgotten, I suppose, in all that has now become so important in our ivied halls of learning is the alternative of simply learning to look the other way.

At some point before last Christmas I was reminded of how powerful our nation’s newly empowered victims and their advocates have become when Target (the retailer) itself became targeted on TV by some academic psychologist who took the company to task for being insensitive to those who suffer from “festival-phobia” by selling gaily decorated sweaters of the kind that I saw many of our residents wear at our holiday party.

I must confess that I was totally ignorant of this festival-phobia syndrome and might well have had to undertake considerable research if I had ever been assigned the prosecution of some festival-phobia victim who took it upon himself to burn down his Community Center as an expression of his victimhood. The point is that there now seems to be an abundance of newly discovered victims of all sorts among us whose sufferings and right of expression we are told we must acknowledge in our daily interactions.

This is not to suggest that we should ever become insensitive to those who suffer from mental disease or truly have reason to believe in some sincerely held belief that might be at odds with societal norms—whatever normal may have become in our increasingly interactive and often bizarre society. Certainly a reasonably held belief must never become subject to insult or

ridicule. But when I read of a self-proclaimed “Pastafarian” in Massachusetts who battled the Department of Motor Vehicles through the courts for the right to wear a spaghetti strainer on her head in her driver’s license photo, it causes me to wonder how far we should go to accommodate the truly peculiar victims who dwell among us and are unwilling to conform to societal expectations.



Although I, too am quite fond of pasta and may offer a delicious version of my marinated artichokes and black olives served with a white wine sauce over rigatoni at our next potluck, I doubt that I will show up with the pasta strainer over my head. But if someone can find a more suitable form of victimization that the author of “Pete’s Pick” might assume, kindly advise me. I presently find myself suffering from a bit of New Year’s lethargy and am hoping to discover some new devotion to reenergize my juices, if not to simply replenish my liquor cabinet.

—Pete McCord

## COMMUNITY CENTER LIBRARY

Margaret Eysman

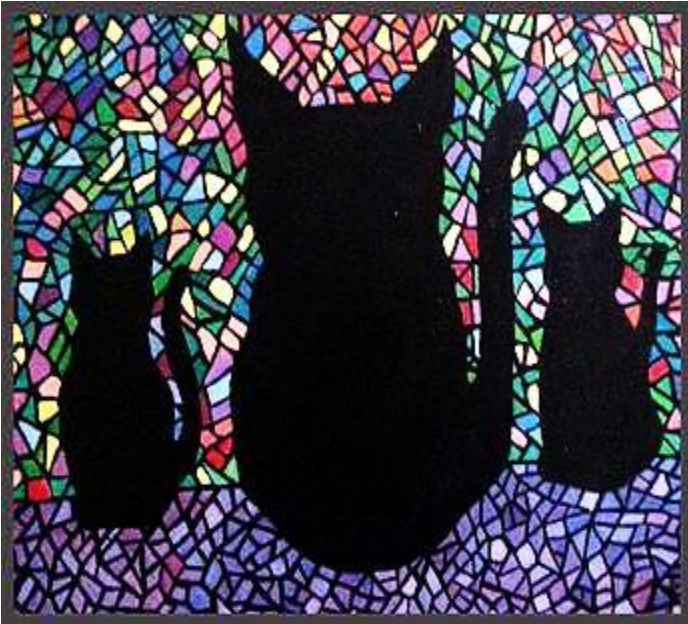
The online catalog of titles in our Community Center Library is complete and updated on a monthly basis. The books are classified as “Paperback” (on the white revolving shelves), “Fiction” (hardback, shelved to the right of the bulletin board along the wall) and “Nonfiction” (classified with the general Dewey call number label on the spine and shelved along the wall to the left of the bulletin board). A list of new titles added each month is posted on the bulletin board in the Library.

If you are interested in seeing what was added recently, go to the MLRA website (MLRA.org) and click on the “Library” tab just below the pictures. On the drop-down menu are two options: “User Guide” explains how to use the catalog and “Catalog” takes you to the online list of titles. To see titles in the Lumberton Library holdings, click the drop down menu (just above the “Author” column) and select “Lumberton Library.” From that point you can click on a column heading (Author, Title, etc.) to sort the list. To see the most recent additions, click the “Entry Date” heading. You may have to click it again if the list comes up sorting the first titles added in 2014. You can also search by words, subjects, etc. and this is explained in the “User Guide.”

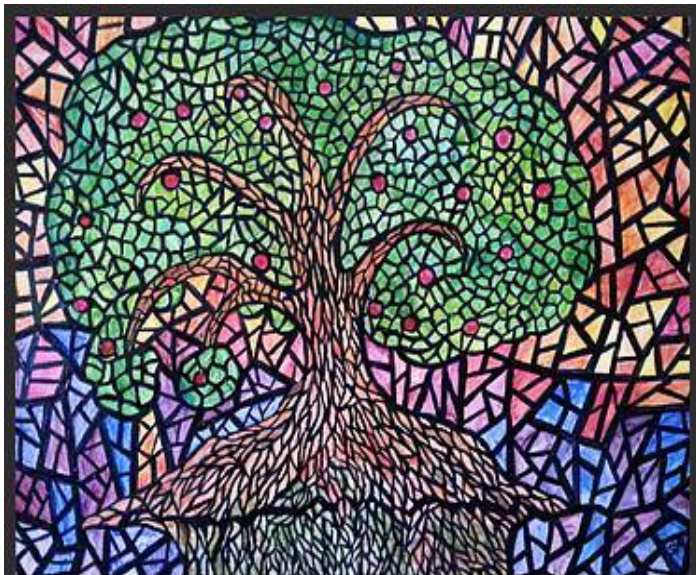
## BEWARE OF TAX SCAMMERS

Since it is tax time once again, phone scammers who represent themselves as being from the IRS are preying on unsuspecting people. (Some of our residents have received these calls.) Ignore these bogus calls. Legitimate communications from the IRS are in writing.

**ART GALLERY**  
**Joyce Linda Sichel**



*Mosaic Cat Trio*



*Tree of Life Mosaic*

Sherry Dellaria-McGrath, an experienced artist in many media, will be mounting a show in Medford Leas Main Gallery space outside the Theater for the months of March and April. Her work is seen in many New Jersey art shows and she is an active member of several arts organizations.

Ms. McGrath says that she gets her inspiration from nature. Much of her work is in the landscape genre, including acrylic paintings of lakes, oceans, trees and sky. She also focuses on animals, especially cats—drawing and painting them in many imaginative ways. (She and her husband also share their home with four living cats.) Her works in ink, scraperboard and water media again focus creatively on animals and scenes based on nature. Her colors are exciting and dramatic. Some are three-dimensional; many glow. You will surely want to see this exciting exhibit. The opening reception for Ms. McGrath will take place outside the Theater on Tuesday, March 1, at 3 p.m.

The Lumberton Gallery space continues to showcase Joe Costanza's arresting nature photography, and the Art Studio Gallery space is still running the winter show of resident art and photographs. Watch this column for news of the coming spring show by residents.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL**  
**Judy Atwood**

Lumberton campus residents started out 2016 with our first potluck on January 12—a birthday party to celebrate everyone's birthday on the campus. The 75 residents who attended the celebrations were welcomed by a colorful mantel wishing them a happy birthday, birthday balloons on each table, and party favors of marbles, antique noisemakers (donated by Trish Mori) and plastic jewelry. One resident was strongly encouraged to take one of the lovely large "diamonds" home to his special person. He declined the generous invitation. After sharing the bounties from the main course and dessert tables, a short talk was given about the different customs of celebrating birthdays around the world. Many were grateful that the U.S. did not follow the

custom in China where people were considered a year old on the day they were born. At least we were a year younger than our Chinese counterparts. In our festive room, there were a surprising five pairs of people who shared the same birthday. To help us celebrate, Larry van Meter from the Estaugh Board came with his wife, Mary Ellen, and his mother-in-law, Haddon resident Ruth Van de Water. Once again we owe the wonderful event to the resourceful and willing hands of all the Social Activities Committee members.

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## **HAIL AND FAREWELL TO THE LASSENS**

**Davis Henderson**

On January 25 residents of the Lumberton campus gathered in the Community Center to celebrate good and bad news with Chuck and Barbara Lassen. The good news was that while the Lassens would be moving, they would not be leaving the Lumberton campus. The bad news was all the pain associated with packing up and moving one's worldly possessions.

Chuck and Barbara had decided to move from 92 Woodside Drive in Cluster 4 to 136 Woodside Drive in Cluster 5. That news seemed to justify a party. And party is exactly what about 30 of the 4ers and 5ers did, joined by many friends from Barbara's art group.

Everyone brought finger food and sweets for the late afternoon event. As usual, the outpouring of goodies was delicious and excessive. Four tables were set up and covered with winter-themed snowman centerpieces. But few of the attendees sat down as the goodies were devoured and the vaulted ceiling echoed with laughter about the Cat-in-a-Hat Halloween costumes, stories from the "pioneer days" and tales of blizzard parties.

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## **AN ANNUAL TRADITION**

**John Speirs**

After the first snowfall of every year we have the storied "Blizzard Party." It was started 16 years ago by Pete and Judy Obbard, who had begun the practice years before in their Moorestown neighborhood.

Pete has made the phone call to invite folks to 139 Woodside Drive for 14 of their 16 years on campus. In the two missing years, no significant amount of snow had occurred. My first year was a non-snow year, so I was delighted to learn about this tradition and continue to enjoy it.

After this year's record late January snowfall, Pete called all the residents on Woodside Drive inviting them to come over Sunday at 4 p.m.

Neighbors were encouraged to bring whatever they had to munch on and drink. This year's event was co-hosted by Margaret Eysmans, and more than 70 neighbors enjoyed their hospitality in Pete's lovely home.

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## **LUMBERTON CAMPUS 17<sup>TH</sup> WINTER BIRD CENSUS**

**Robert Koch**

A cold (upper 20s) sunny but windless day greeted the Medford Leas Birders at the start of the count. We saw about a dozen deer scamper across the marsh by the Rancocas Creek and one trying to flee across the thin ice on the canoe outlet stream to the Rancocas. Fortunately, with a little struggle, it made it to safety. It was spotty for land birds early on, but we did see many Canada Geese, Mallard Ducks and Ring-billed Gulls on the Rancocas. A Red-Tailed Hawk and a Great Blue Heron were also seen in the marsh by the Kaydee Trail.

The Great Horned Owl that has been roosting by the Holly Trail in an Atlantic

Cedar was found, but not in its usual place. Keen spotting by one of us picked it out amidst the branches of a close-by cedar.

A Bald Eagle was spotted soaring high above the Rancocas from the Willow Trail and a second Bald Eagle was seen flying over the marsh by the Kaydee Trail in the afternoon. The Red-Bellied Woodpecker was seen and heard quite often and Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Robins, House Finches and Gold Finches were abundant. Overall, we totaled 34 species and counted 2,366 individuals. A beautiful red fox was a delightful coda to the day.

Compared to last year, the number of duck species seen was down with only the Mallard representing the waterfowl.

Participants were: Ethel Cebra, Dino Fiabane, Robert Koch, Al Migdal and Miriam Swartz. Ann Campbell and Joe Costanza added feeder data.

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### **LEAS FORUM** **Dorothy Cebula**

Enjoy spring with two programs reflecting history and recognizing renewal.

Both programs will be presented on Saturday in the Medford Leas Theater at 11:00 a.m. Funding for these programs is provided by residents' contributions to the MLRA Activities Fund.

#### March 12

##### *Overview of Historic Restoration*

What issues are critical to architects as they tackle the challenge of restoring historic structures? **Ted Nickles**, an architect who founded Nickles Contracting, Inc., specializes in restoration, solves problems with a goal of maintaining historic credibility and current standards. He will share stories of his experiences in restoring structures such as the Mt. Holly Quaker

Meeting House; Drumthwacket, the New Jersey Governor's Mansion in Princeton; the Sweeton House (1950) in Cherry Hill; and Lucy the Elephant in Margate.

#### March 26

##### *Garden of Quilts: Botanical Textiles*

**Karen Devers**, an award winning quilter, shows her love of quilting and gardening in this presentation of antique, vintage and contemporary botanical quilts. She has been involved with quilting for over 20 years and is a teacher, designer and an American Quilter's Society (AQS) certified quilt appraiser. She presently works and teaches at The Village Quilter quilt shop in Mt. Holly, NJ.

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### **GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM - 2016** **Dorothy Cebula**

Many residents look forward to attending the Great Decisions series. Ruth Podolin said "I look forward to it each year. This is one of my favorite activities here." It gives many people a chance to understand the underlying historic and policy foundations that drive political action at a time when brief sound bites from talking heads are a popular source of information.

Residents are encouraged to listen, learn and discuss these pressing issues while offering opinions to policymakers that could help shape U.S. foreign policy on these crucial issues. All programs start at 10:30 a.m. in the Medford Leas Theater. The series is supported through the Medford Leas Residents Association Activities Fund and presented through the efforts of residents acting as moderators, committee members and theater support services.

This year, the first four programs of the Great Decisions series focus on many of the complex problems that are generating strife in the Middle East. The second half of the

series addresses other critical issues affecting life around the world.

Starting on Thursdays in March at 10:30 a.m., programs will cover:

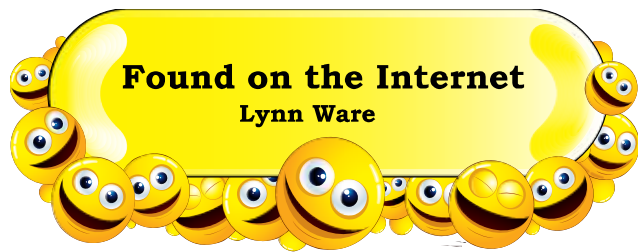
March 3: *“Shifting Alliances in the Middle East”*—with **Jay Wilder**

March 10: *“The Rise of ISIS”*—with **Len Cebula**

March 17: *“The Future of Kurdistan”*—with **Judy Atwood**

March 24: *“International Migration”*—with **Toby Riley**

March 31: *“Korean Choices”*—with **Bill Smith.**



**MURPHY'S 15 OTHER LAWS**

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

2. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

3. He who laughs last thinks slowest.

4. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

5. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

6. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

7. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

8. The 50-50-100 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 100% probability you'll get it wrong.

9. It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone from Saskatchewan would be stupid enough to try to pass them.

10. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

11. The things that come to those who wait may be the things left by those who got there first.

12. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.

13. Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.

14. God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.

15. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

**ODD FACTS**

1. It is possible to lead a cow upstairs but not downstairs.

2. Polar bears are left-handed.

3. In the Caribbean there are oysters that can climb trees.

4. They have square watermelons in Japan. They stack better.



# Thinker's Corner



## Cartoons

This month's cartoon:



Write your caption:

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Last month's cartoon:



Last month's captions:

*“This one gives you a nice, rich oaky hangover.”*

*“Here's a good recommendation, but since I forgot my glasses, I'm not sure which one this is.”*

*“How would I know if it's any good; I'm a teetotaler?”*

*“Are you sure you want this one? We have better, more expensive ones.”*

*“We recommend this prime vintage Ginger Ale—just in.”*

## Last Month's Rebus Puzzles



First Aid

1.  
2. blame  
3. blame

No one to blame

**NEAFRIENDED**

A friend in need

**VA DERS**

Space invaders

### *Quiz: Presidential Nicknames*

1. Which enigmatic president was often called the “Sphinx of the Potomac”?
2. Who was unfalteringly referred to by some opponents as “His Rotundity”?
3. Why was William Henry Harrison commonly known as “Tippecanoe”?
4. Who was called “His Accidency” after his succession to the presidency?
5. True or false: Herbert Hoover’s title the “Great Humanitarian” originated as an ironic reference to the Depression.

6. Theodore Roosevelt is sometimes referred to as the hero of what battle?

7. The “Gipper” came from the role Ronald Reagan played in what film?

8. Who was sometimes called “His Little Majesty” because he stood just 5 foot 4?

9. True or false: Dwight Eisenhower’s nickname, Ike, was coined in 1952 for use in his presidential campaign.

10. Who was called the “Gentleman Boss” because of his dapper wardrobe?

### *Great Truths*

*“A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have.”*

—Thomas Jefferson

*“If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it’s free!”*

—P. J. O’Rourke

*“If you don’t read the newspaper you are uninformed. If you do read the newspaper you are misinformed.”*

—Mark Twain

### **PICKUP DATES – MARCH**

Recycling: March 14, 28  
Trash March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

## *A Photo from Lynn's Friends*



*I think you need a pedicure.*

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President

***The Lumberton Campus Chronicle*** is a monthly publication featuring articles, poems, and other works by residents of Medford Leas at Lumberton and other writers. Subject matter is not limited to our community; it only needs to make good reading for our residents. The date of each issue is timed to include the report of the Council meeting, which is held on the second Monday of the month. Next submission deadline is Friday, March 18. All residents and other interested parties are encouraged to contribute.

**Email** your submission to [hsheineman@gmail.com](mailto:hsheineman@gmail.com), with copies to [ruthbgpersonal@comcast.net](mailto:ruthbgpersonal@comcast.net), [thomasjm@comcast.net](mailto:thomasjm@comcast.net), [hehahn1@verizon.net](mailto:hehahn1@verizon.net), and [vince267@gmail.com](mailto:vince267@gmail.com).

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