

# FOR THE BIRDS



KATHRYN FABRO/LODI MIDDLE SCHOOL



URJOT KOUR/LODI MIDDLE SCHOOL



CINTHIA CORTES/HERITAGE SCHOOL



RODRIGO ACOSTA/LODI MIDDLE SCHOOL



BRITTANY DELGADO LOPEZ/HERITAGE SCHOOL

## Season of the Sandhill Crane coming this fall

SPECIAL TO THE MOKELUMNE CURRENT

Art featuring a pair of cranes by Rodrigo Acosta, an eighth-grade student in art teacher Zachery Luchetti's class at Lodi Middle School, has been chosen for the 2020 Season of the Sandhill Crane.

The Season of the Sandhill Crane will shine the spotlight on the ancient, migratory birds that winter in the Lodi area this year.

Normally, this is the mission of the annual Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, held each November. However, the Lodi Sandhill Crane Association has announced it will not stage the festival this year.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the board decided that planning for a fall festival is impractical.

Though the LSCA has canceled the event, they remain committed to promoting awareness, appreciation and conservation of Sandhill cranes and are implementing alternate methods for sharing their messages.

"While the two-day festival has served as an exciting showcase for the wintering cranes, it has also concentrated considerable activity into a very short period," LSCA President Ken Nieland said. "Limited capacity puts pressure on

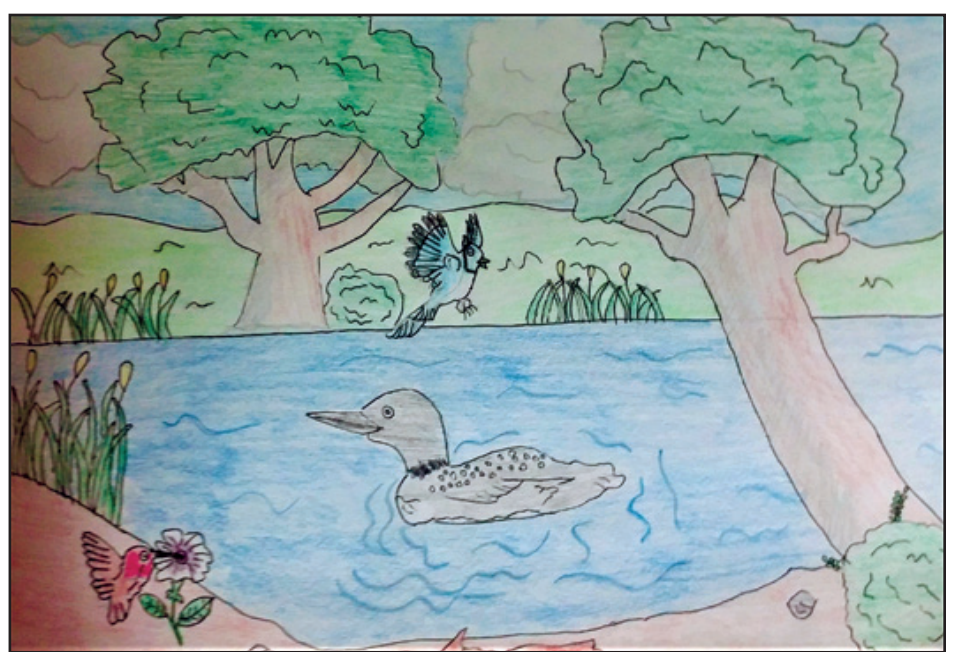
crane viewing sites ... something that could be alleviated by celebrating the cranes throughout the entire five months that they overwinter in the Lodi area."

LSCA leaders are developing new strategies for delivering information from conservation professionals, providing educational resources for students and teachers, encouraging wildlife artists and supporting opportunities for viewing the cranes.

For more information, visit [www.cranefestival.org](http://www.cranefestival.org) or follow the Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival on Facebook.



CALI RATHBURN/LODI MIDDLE SCHOOL



ANAHI PENAFLOR/LODI MIDDLE SCHOOL



CHRISTOPHER MENDOZA DE LA PAZ/LODI MIDDLE SCHOOL



SHANE SANCHEZ/LODI MIDDLE SCHOOL