



No. 21: April 2016

What's Happening in LG

A Free Local Newsletter

Sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance

State storytellers visit LG



ROMPfest scheduled April 9

ROMPfest, an annual festival celebrating National Poetry Month will be held at the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry April 9, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

This year, the 3rd annual ROMPfest will be a celebration of the people's poetry—to inspire, to entertain, and to create community.

The theme is autograph book poetry, a type of poetry that thrived in the U.S. from the 1880's until the 1950's. We will bring this art form back to life. All visitors will receive a free autograph book, and everyone is encouraged to write poetry in each others' books.

Special guests include poets Leslie Hannah, Jessica Isaacs and Roxann Yates. Hannah is a Native American poet, scholar, and professor.

He is on the executive board of the Cherokee Historical Society and the Cherokee Heritage Center and National Museum. Isaacs, a poet and professor at Seminole State College, was the winner of a



Leslie Hannah

Yates is a poet, artist and retired professor who has written and co-written three books, including one book of poetry.

The museum's exhibits will focus on the autograph book poetry theme and will showcase its collection of more than 50 autograph books and the verses within them. Both Hannah and Isaacs will share some of their poetry and take questions from the audience.

Isaacs will have copies of her award-winning book for sale.

She is a poet and an English professor at Seminole State College in Oklahoma where she serves as the director of their annual Howlers and

2015 Oklahoma Book Award for her collection of poetry *Deep August*.

Yawpers Creativity Symposium in April.

Yates will give a short talk about



Roxann Yates

the history of the autograph book or "album amicorum" and will have a monograph about the historic development of autographs books for sale. The handcrafted books will feature wooden covers made by her husband Jerry.

Yates is a retired teacher from Chouteau High School and has taught several years at Rogers State University in the English department. She is a frequent presenter at poetry and educational forums.

The festivities will include refreshments, many chances to listen to, read, write and interact with one another with poetry, wordplay and rhymes.

The festival is fun for all ages.

All events take place outside, and families are encouraged to attend all or

part of the festival:

*2:00-2:30: Visit the museum

*2:30-3:00: Jessica Isaacs: Poetry reading

*3:00-3:30: Roxann Yates: Discussion on the history of autograph poetry

*3:30-4:00: Mingle, visit museum, and write autograph poems

*4:00-4:30: Leslie Hannah: Poetry reading

*4:30-4:45: Oklahoma Poem Awards Ceremony

*4:45-5:00: Sharing of autograph poems

For more information, including directions, visit ROMPoetry.com. The physical address of the museum is 6603 S. 438, Locust Grove.

Funding for this program is provided in part by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council (OHC) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this website and program do not necessarily represent those of OHC or NEH.

Senior dance planned April 2

The Locust Grove Coalition is hosting an April Fools dinner and dance from 5:30 to 9 p.m., Saturday, April 2, at the Killiam Community Building.

A rib dinner with baked beans, cole slaw and a roll will be held from 5:30 to 6:30. The Locust Ladies will again be serving their special desserts, and the cost is \$10, an increase because of the cost of obtaining ribs.

The dance will last from 6:30 to 9 p.m., with music provided by the Hole in the Wall Band. Everyone is invited to attend the meal and/or the dance.



MARQUEE SIGN GOES UP... Ben Quick (in the bucket) works to place the new sign for the Magic Theater to open soon in the old Cook's Cafe site. Quick is a designer for Premier Sign in Pryor who created the design. Owner Clark May explained that he gave Quick "the drawing of the rabbit in top hat, the fleur-de-lis, the letter font, and the colors, and Ben took those elements and put them together in a creative way."

Grand Gateway representative speaks to Chamber members

Tami McKeon, Economic Development Director of Grand Gateway, spoke with members of the Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce March 22 about ways to work together on community issues.

She helped those attending to focus on different types of economic development, such as, retail development that includes revitalization of Main Street. The group talked about ways to enhance the Main Street presence by adding trash cans, adding new plants to the planters, painting businesses and benches that already exist.

LGAA meets March 9 at VFW

The next meeting of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance will be at 5:47 p.m., April 13, at the VFW Hall. The group will be making plans for its annual art show during the town's Founder's Day event May 14.

In last month's meeting, Roxann Yates reported that 20 artists have signed up for the annual art show, and there is currently room for five more. Contact her immediately if you are interested in having a booth area during the annual event.

Tristin Brunner has volunteered to do face painting on that day, and Jerry Yates has volunteered to make two Adirondack chairs to raffle off. Tickets will go on sale for those items soon. Cost is \$1 a ticket or six for \$5. Estimated value of the chairs is \$250.

Shaun Perkins reported on a new exhibit at the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry, a selection of autograph books from the 1880's to the 1970's. She also reported on the opening of a rummage store that will benefit the museum and its programs.

April Stone talked about the Willard Stone Legacy event, and that a play about Stone would be held by the LGAA Children's Theater on Aug. 27.

The LGAA is actively seeking new members as it goes into its third year of helping to bring attention to the arts, and activities which support the arts. For the first time, the group has decided to attach a fee of \$20 to each membership application to help support the programs which the alliance is planning.

About *What's Happening in LG*

EDITOR'S NOTE: While this newsletter is produced by the LGAA and will contain our organization's news, we also want to publish information about any activities in Locust Grove that our community might be interested in.

Please contact Betty Perkins at bperk@sstelco.com or 918-479-5617 (leave a message if no answer), if you have news on LG events, places, or people for inclusion in future issues. For advertising, call Roxann Perkins Yates at 918-530-5321 or email at roxannperkins@gmail.com. As LGAA is a nonprofit organization, advertising must support the publication of this newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Local grocery club is based in Peggs

Many people frequent farmers' markets in an effort to get high quality, fresh produce that is grown locally. Mayes County's market is held on Saturday during the growing season in Pryor, and locally twice a month, a farmer's market has existed here.

But many people might be interested in a gardening and grocery buying club that is available year-round. And one such club is found quite close to home.

Cultured Kitchens is such a club based in Peggs and covering a 30-mile radius. Their website says, "Cultured Kitchens is a collection of local food and healthy living services.



Right now we are a group of 35 families, within a 30-mile radius, who share an interest in healthy food choices."

According to Dona Inman, a spokesperson for the local group, it has been in existence since 2006, and she says there are many reasons for joining such a group.

"Buying healthy groceries this way is convenient, especially when you live in a small town or out in the country," Inman said. "There is never any obligation to buy. We have a club minimum we have to meet each month, but no one person ever has to order."

Inman said the club is not just about quality foods. "You can order books, utensils, small appliances, and cotton clothes. They even sell soy-free livestock feed and live heirloom bedding plants and seeds for the garden."

While Cultured Kitchens has a good number of families involved, Inman wants to expand the group. "While most people are looking for cheaper food, I want to get this message out to people who are interested in healthy and/or bulk food," she said.

"It is difficult to compare prices. Most food items are not cheaper than local discount grocers, but most dis-

count grocers don't offer the variety of organics and/or bulk purchases our supplier has," Inman said.

She also says that quality is one of the reasons she orders from a grocery club. "The quality is generally VERY good to excellent," Inman said.

Azure Standard is a family-owned company which distributes more than 12,000 natural, organic and earth-friendly products across the country to buying clubs in communities just like Cultured Kitchens of Peggs.

According to the website, "Azure provides their members with the best prices anywhere on bulk and family friendly sizes in dried good, dairy, produce, frozen and nationally branded products."

Those interested in finding out more about the club or to join the club can go to www.azurestandard.com to create a personal account. Creating an account is absolutely free and never obligates a person to make any purchase. A transportation charge which is shared by the club, is charged, and a fee of \$5 is applied to any order under \$50.

The next order date for the club is April 6, and the food will be delivered on Wednesday, April 13 to Peggs where those who have ordered will meet the delivery truck and load right into their vehicles from there.

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Jacksons provide info plus friendly service

By Roxann Yates

Kevin and Debie Jackson know how to please customers by giving them as much information as possible about their products at K & D's Vapor Store.

"We understand that no one on this earth knows everything about vaping," Debie said. "We have had people come in and say, 'I have a stupid question,' but there are no stupid questions."

K & D's Vapor Store is stocked with a variety of e-cigs, e-juices, assorted tanks, coils, batteries, chargers, starter kits, and accessories.

The Jacksons know several people in the business and opened theirs at 202 West Main because they reside in Locust Grove. "I take care of almost everything in our store because Kevin is a truck driver for Chouteau Lime, but Kevin is my backbone and my muscle," she said.

(Continued on Page 5)

BUSINESS WITH A SMILE. . . Debie Smith and her husband Kevin opened the first vapor store in Locust Grove in an old service station on Main Street which once housed the Flower Station, owned by Vicky Herr.

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Jacksons open vapor store. . .

(Continued from Page 4)

"We love the small-town atmosphere and being able to help family and friends," she added.

Helping customers gives the couple joy.

"Kevin and I are both people pleasers," Debie said. "Kevin has a kind heart, and I always wanted to be a doctor or teacher."

Debie recently played a helping role for a customer.

"A guy walked in and said his doctor had sent him," Debie said. "The man told me the doctor gave him less

than a year to live, but he wanted to prolong his life."

Because the customer was a tobacco smoker, he wanted an alternative to his habit—one without the negative effects of tobacco.

"We talked for an hour. He is still vaping and coming into the store. I hope and pray for this man daily," Debie said. "Three years ago my doctor referred me to vaping, too. I have not had a single cigarette since I left my doctor's office that day."

The Jacksons have a blended family of five sons.

"In 2010 Kevin and I decided that I should stay at home for a while," Debie said. "I did for almost a year. Then one day I woke up and the house was clean and the kids were out doing their own things. I was bored, so I started my own transportation services with a friend."

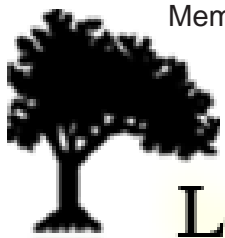
But being on the road, delivering school buses, kept Debie from spending time with family.

"I missed the birth of my granddaughter Ali," Debie said. "I whispered to her mother's belly before I went on the road and told her not to come until I got back, but she wanted out." After the new family arrival, Kevin joined Debie on the road, until they took a detour that brought them back home.

"Our parents got really sick, so we left that business and decided to open the vapor store to be close to family," Debie said.

The Jacksons' working philosophy is to take an interest in customers and their needs, even if they decide to shop somewhere else.

"I shop at all the stores to get the best prices. That's the American way, but I will do everything I can to make the customers' shopping experience great," Debie said.



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"I have had people say, 'You're too nice.' I just treat people the way I want to be treated," Debie said.

Chamber working on Founder's Day

The Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Founder's Day Committee members are working diligently to contact those interested in vendor spots and in parade participation.

Registration forms, including the costs for the vendors, and a release and indemnification form are to be completed by all participants in activities on Founder's Day, May 14.

Forms are published on the Chamber website, locustgroveoklahoma.com and on the Chamber Facebook page.

Committee members' contact information is listed on the parade form. The forms may be dropped off at Town Hall by the deadline, May 7. Or forms may be mailed to the Chamber, P. O. Box 525, Locust Grove.

A turtle race, dog show, musicians' performances, 3 p.m. parade, the Outlaw

Cruisers' car show, individual activities at several local businesses, the LGAA chalk art contest, and many more Founder's Day events are planned. A detailed agenda of the day's activities will be published in the May issue of the LGAA newsletter, at the Chamber website and on the Chamber Facebook page.

Twenty-five local artists will be displaying and selling art at the third annual LG Arts Alliance (LGAA) Founder's Day Art Show

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are a Locust Grove artist interested in participating, contact Roxann Perkins Yates at roxannperkins@gmail.com or 918-530-5321. The only cost is a donation of one of your creations to the silent auction, which raises money for future LGAA programs and events. Spaces are filling up fast! Call now!

Artists who have signed up so far include Stuart Horton, Ray Grass, Dean Wyatt, Jennifer Henson,

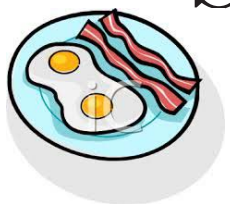
Roxann Yates, Jerry Yates, Marea Beedlove, Betty Perkins, Shaun Perkins, Jennifer Downing, Latasha Duncan, Georgia Rainbolt.

Also, Jess Dinsmore, Dean Majors, Marcia and Clark May, Kelly Palmer, Pam Quantie, Tristin Brunner, Angela Elliston, Deeana Vaughn, Shelley Horton, Amanda Smith, April Stone, and various works from high school art students.

Don't miss the return engagement of the very popular
(Continued on Page 7)

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--Founder's Day--

(Continued from Page 6)

lar Fishinghawk Karate Studio fire walk and fire breaks at 1 p.m. behind the studio as part of the LGAA Founder's Day Art Show.

"We have some new stuff for this year. Different exciting fire breaks, and possibly a 20 foot fire walk. Ten to twelve-feet is normal, so we are trying something different this year," said David Fishinghawk.

Also at the VFW, Jerry Yates will have on display the wooden furniture he has created to benefit the LGAA. Tickets are on sale now at \$1 or 6 for \$5.



ADIRONDACK RAFFLE. . . Two chairs similar to those pictured, along with two foot rests and a table will all be a part of a package raffle which will benefit the Locust Grove Arts Alliance. Handmade by Jerry Yates, the pieces will be made of cedar and not painted so that the beauty of the wood will shine through. Yates has donated his labor to the making of the furniture pieces. Tickets will be sold for \$1 each or 6 for \$5, and tickets are on sale now from any LGAA member. The winning ticket will be drawn after the parade on Founder's Day at the VFW.

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Main Street



PRIZE WINNER. . . Paris holds the prize she won for finding one of the special eggs. More than 200 youngsters were on hand for the egg roll that was held at the middle school.



EASTER EGG ROLL. . .

Six thousand eggs were dropped at the middle school for children to pick up at 10 a.m. on March 26. Prize eggs were among the others dropped. Sponsors of the hunt were: The Locust Grove Ministerial Alliance, The First United Methodist Church, and the Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce. Other contributors and volunteers included: The Bank of Locust Grove, Builders Wholesale and Hardware Supply, Locust Grove Animal Clinic, Rainbow House. Rural Electric Coop, Quantie Auto Supply, Salina-Spavinaw Telephone Company. At right, Kim Yates is shown with her daughters, one of whom, Eleanor, won a prize for finding one of the prize eggs.



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Lexi Johnson



Amelia Ingram

LG students shoot way to archery championships

Two Locust Grove students have recently won state championships in archery. Lexi Johnson won on the high school level, and Amelia Ingram won on the middle school level.

Lexi, the daughter of Johnny and Leslie Johnson, is coached by Ladney Keener, and is a member of the high school state championship team with a score of 3319, a LGHS record. Lexi scored 283 points of a possible 300 to take the championship. Lexi, a freshman, will be shooting at Nationals in Louisville, KY on May 14.

Amelia, the daughter of Jerry and Missy Ingram, is the junior high champion, scoring 284 points out of a possible 300. She is coached by Brad Cowan who also coached the state runner-up championship team which scored 3231 points, a LGMS record.

"My team and I have worked very hard to get to this point," said Amelia. "When I won state, I was so happy because I knew all the hard work of practicing three years had paid off."

Anna Kromhout placed third with a score of 283 to boost the team score. Both Amelia and Anna are eighth graders.

Autograph books to benefit ROMP

Autograph books, some of which are shown at right, will be on sale at the Founder's Day Art Show in the VFW. The books are handcrafted by Jerry and Roxann Yates and will sell for \$20. Roxann created the inside which will look at 100 years of autograph books, and Jerry hand-made the outside, using stained wood and unique hinges and decorations.



GETTING GOOGLED... Several local business people were on hand for a presentation by Google representatives. The workshop was given so businesses could make sure their location was correct on Google Maps. At right, Cate Bowerin from Cycle One Manufacturing, and below, Marsha and Clate Evans of Builders Wholesale and Hardware Supply attended.



Send news items to LGAA, 6620 S. 4382 Road, Locust Grove, OK 74352.
For advertising, contact Roxann Yates at 918-530-5321.

Taylor Fleming wins state championship

A Locust Grove eighth grader has won a state championship in wrestling, and has a long list of awards in the five years he has wrestled for LG youth.

Taylor Fleming is the son of Jackie and Joni Fleming and has been in the local program for two years at the middle school. The state championship qualifies him for the world wrestling event to be held in Reno April 7-10.

He is a two time regional champion and five times placer at that level. In middle school, he is a two time state placer, placed at the Amarillo National event and the Tulsa Nationals. Taylor only lost once during the middle school dual season.

He is currently doing



freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling.

"He has a passion for wrestling and plans to attend college through a wrestling scholarship," said his mother Joni. "He wants to be a plastic surgeon and has always maintained a better than 3.0 grade point average."

Goodbye to Nelle Harper Lee

To Kill a Mockingbird is one of my favorite books, and I've read a few. It was always a pleasure to teach the book in high school, and reading it every year for 30 years was not a problem.

When the author of that book, Nelle Harper Lee, died last month, I thought again about the book I hadn't read in 10 years since retiring.

I've missed the gentleness of Atticus Finch, who is the finest example of a father and a man in all of literature. In the movie version of the book, when Atticus is leaving the courtroom, dejected because he has lost his case defending a black man who everyone knows is innocent, he does not even notice that every black person in the courtroom has stood in honor of his passing.

And in honor of Nelle Harper Lee's passing, I've read the book again. It has stood up to time. Written more than 50 years ago (1960), the book holds truths that will be relevant 50 years from now. It addresses the problem of integration in a society which is today still trying to find a solution.

The characters are as alive as you and I. The children, Scout, Jem, and Dill, indulge in small town highjinks that most of us will recognize. Atticus is a perfect single parent to Jem and Scout.

If you haven't read the book, I recommend it. You won't be wasting your time.

--Betty L. Perkins



CREATIVE PEOPLE MEET

Citizens from eight towns in the state which were named Creative Communities are shown being creative (?) for the camera at a recent workshop. Local citizens in this picture include April Stone, row 1, sixth from left; Elaine Clark, second row, behind Stone in black; and Ray Grass, back row, red jacket. Other Locust Grove attendees, Shane and Angela Holman and Ken Lusk were in a separate picture.