



No. 10: May 2015

# What's Happening in LG

A Free Local Newsletter  
Sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance

Pecan vase by Jess Dinsmore



## Founder's Day Art Show May 9 at VFW

Last year, the Locust Grove Arts Alliance (LGAA) presented its first Art Show on Founder's Day, and with over 300 people attending, it was a great success. The group promises an even bigger, better show this year. It will include all of the following:

- Over 25 LG artists exhibiting their work in all areas: painting, jewelry, wood turned objects, poetry, memoir, furniture & decor, photography, sculpture, textile art and more
- Featured work by Master Artists Willard Stone and Jason Stone
- Chainsaw art demonstration by Mike Wheeler
- Firewalk demonstration by Grand Master David Fishinghawk
- Face painting by April Stone
- Special multimedia exhibit depicting local citizens by Roxann Perkins Yates
- Silent auction of artwork from all the presenters
- Many artists will be both displaying and selling their work.
- LGHS student artwork

The show takes place on Broadway, one block north of the traffic light, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

For the first time, the show will include a silent auction with each of the exhibitors donating a piece of their art for the auction. The silent auction bids end at 2:00, and winners can pick up their item after the parade.

Confirmed artists at the show include the works of photographers Marea Breedlove, Dean Majors, and Betty Perkins. Kelly Propst Cook and Donna Simpson will



**EXHIBITORS VISIT. . .** Wood turner Jess Dinsmore, left, visits with Mayes County Sheriff Mike Reed, who exhibited his photography during the art show in 2014, when more than 300 people came through the first art show.

present their handmade jewelry, and Cook will have other artwork as well.

Works in wood by Jess Dinsmore, wood turner, will be exhibited. Textile artist Fern McFarland will show her fabric creations.

Kelly Palmer will showcase her deconstruction and repurposed art, and Pam Quantie's landscapes in oil will be present.

High school art teacher Georgia Rainbolt's collection of her watercolors, and poetry information from curator Shaun Perkins of the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry will be available.

Stained glass art of Paul Wosika will be displayed as well as the works of Caleb and Sable Dollarhide and Mitzi Stone's wood sculptors.

Jerry Yates, LGAA parliamentarian, is the designer of the group's logo featured on the art show banner, as well as the logo for the multimedia exhibit by Roxann Yates.

***First time events will include a fire-walking demonstration and a silent auction of artwork donated by the participants.***



**THE BUNNY HOP.** . . Shirley and Marvin Cosby are shown with their bunny ears at the Locust Grove Senior Citizens April Bunny Hop. The next dance at the Killiam Community Center will be held June 6.

## Mayfest dance held

The Senior Citizens Maypole Dance was held May 2 at the Community Center, sponsored by the Locust Grove Chamber of Commerce.

Next month's dance and dinner will be held Saturday, June 6.

Music for the dances is provided by the Hole in the Wall Band. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., and the dance follows at 6:30 until 9 p.m.. The cost of dinner and the dance is \$6.

The seniors are also involved in raising funds for

a new floor for the Killiam Community Center. Donations are accepted at the center.



**KATHY BENCE** at the **Bunny Hop.**

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## Library Friends seeking books

The Friends of the Locust Grove Library is currently accepting donations of gently used books for its 2nd annual Fall Book Sale. Both hardback and softback books are welcome. Books should be dropped off at the library at 715 Harold Andrews Blvd.

## LGAA meets May 13 at VFW

Members of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance will meet at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, when they evaluate the art show and exhibit planned for Founder's Day.

The show will be May 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone who is interested in getting involved with the group is invited to attend the one-hour meeting.

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.

## Masonic Lodge flips pancakes

The Covey Masonic Lodge will host a pancake breakfast from 7-11 a.m., at the lodge on Founder's Day, May 9. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for students.

## HCE meets third Tuesday at FUMC

The Home and Community Education group meets at the First United Methodist Church on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Call the church at 479-6356 for more information.

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# Meet FUMC pastor Matt Franks

By Shaun Perkins

Last summer, the Locust Grove First United Methodist Church got a new pastor, Matt Franks, who had most recently been an associate pastor at the McFarlin Memorial FUMC in Norman. Before that he was the lead pastor at Calumet FUMC and Red Rock FUMC.

Franks, who grew up in Miami, Oklahoma, was glad to return to Northeastern Oklahoma. "I am so happy to be back in Green Country," Franks told the LGAA. "This is home to me. Most of my family are in the area and it is great to spend more time with

them."

After graduating from Miami High School in 2001, Franks attended Oklahoma City University and graduated with a BA in religion in 2005. During that time he said, "I heard my call to ordained ministry and began the process to become ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church."

Soon after graduating, Franks got married, and he and his wife Ashley now have two girls, Laura, 8, and Emily, 7. In 2009, Franks earned his Masters of Divinity degree from Phillips Theological Seminary.



**FUMC PASTOR.** . . Matt Franks moved with his family to Locust Grove last summer to take the reins of the Locust Grove church.

While serving at Calumet and Red Rock, Franks got involved in youth programs. "I found my calling to minister to young adults and to encourage the church to go out into the world and serve in mission in the name of Jesus," Franks said.

He also was the co-chair of the Oklahoma UMC Young Adult Council and, as he said, "worked diligently to help churches that are trying to figure out how to minis-

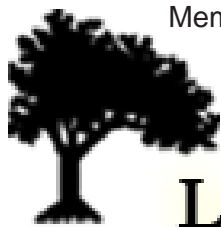
ter to young adults."

For Franks, Locust Grove brings back memories and will be the place for more. "Growing up in Miami," he said, "Locust was a place we traveled to for sporting events. Now being a Pastor to the Pirates is only challenging when they face the Wardogs."

He also said that he is looking forward to dealing with some challenges the area faces.

"The one challenge I see is that Mayes County ranks third in the state of children living in poverty. This is unbelievable and unacceptable. This is also a great opportunity for the church to help change that number."

Franks said, "My ultimate goal as a pastor is to walk with the congregation I am serving in their spiritual journey and encourage them to go out and deepen their faith."



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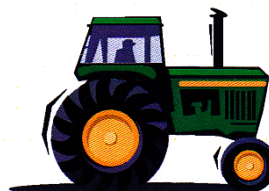
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"LGAA Kid  
Programs  
are great!"

## Fern McFarland creates art with needle

She's been designing, stitching, and piecing together fabric since she was a child who watched and learned from her seamstress mother and grandmother.

"Designing and stitching clothes for my dolls was a favorite activity. I soon graduated to sewing garments for myself," Fern McFarland said.

Surrounded by fabrics in her sewing studio, McFarland "gets tremendous enjoyment out of shopping for matching colors and patterns and then creating projects."

Educated in Locust Grove schools, McFarland, then earned degrees from Northeastern State University in Elementary Education and Home Economics. McFarland has been a long-time resident of this town and has helped many citizens stitch together projects, much of which have been donated to various clubs and people in need.

"Some of my studio time is spent doing volunteer work with my Home Community Education (HCE) Club. We make hats for cancer patients, tooth fairy pillows for county kindergarteners, pillow cases for the Ronald McDonald House, throws for veterans, and items for HCE scholarship fundraisers," McFarland said.

While living in Colorado for a time, McFarland shared her talents in teaching school and instructing others in her studio.

"Once a week a group of ladies would come out and take sewing lessons. One lady would sew on her project and leave it behind until the next meeting," McFarland said. "I would rip it out and re-stitch. My daughter said I was doing her a disservice." McFarland realized this and encouraged the woman to finish her project.

McFarland plans on finishes more projects of her own and hopes Locust Grove will someday "be a magnet drawing in artists of all types."

Through her involvement in the Locust Grove Arts



**CREATING ART. . .** During the LGAA Art Tour last month, Fern McFarland demonstrated how to make a rose pin in her sewing studio.

Alliance (LGAA), McFarland hopes "we can affect a change in the community with a positive view of the arts."

"I wish we had a theme that would attract visitors. I joined LGAA with that in mind," McFarland said.

Recently, McFarland gathered community members together at her sewing studio during the LGAA Spring Art Tour. In a 90-minute presentation, visitors saw several demonstrations, including: how to make a ten-minute table runner, a purse on a square, and a quick-as-a-wink pillow. Attendees also viewed hope chest items and entered the drawing to win. Proceeds will go to two HCE scholarship recipients.

Visitors kept dropping in throughout the day.

"We had 26 people attend and many said they had a

*(Continues on Page 5)*



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# Artist makes beautiful objects with fabric

(Continued from Page 4)

great time," said McFarland.

At the upcoming LGAA Founder's Day Art Show, May 9, McFarland will showcase her fabric as her canvas, with original and pattern textile art designs that mix various fabric prints and colors.

Creations from the sewing studio adorn her spacious lake home.

"Colors and decor in my home change frequently. Entertaining friends and family is something I thoroughly enjoy. My tables are always set up with dishes and linens in whatever colors currently being used for my decor. I love being surrounded by beauty in color, texture, and design," McFarland said.

Some of her greatest achievements have been through shared sewing experiences with community members and school classes.

"Any challenges I have faced are minor when compared to the success I have experienced," McFarland said about the works people create through her instruction.

However, her greatest success has been through raising her children and seeing them become accomplished, productive adults.

"My son, Tom is a builder in the Denver area. My daughter, Sandi, owns a sewing business and makes riding pants and vests for people that participate in horseback riding events. My four grandchildren are wonderful," said McFarland.

When she's not helping the community or instructing a class, McFarland loves to read.

"Sometimes I will read all night and into the next day. When I have new books, I neglect all chores and do non-stop reading," she said.

Her commitment to art, too, is nonstop.



**EXHIBIT DISPLAY.** . . Some of the items which Fern McFarland exhibited at the first LGAA Art Show are shown above, a wall hanging, a purse, a doll, and a table runner.

"My art is creating beautiful objects using fabric. Whether what I make graces my table, hangs on my wall, covers my bed, becomes a beautiful purse or garment, I am so thankful for the skill of sewing taught to me by my mom and grandmother."



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# Jerry Ingram has 16 years on Main

By Roxann Perkins Yates

"We can fix anything but a broken heart," Jerry Ingram said about his 16 years' experience as an automotive mechanic and expert.

Jerry's Automotive and Ingram's Custom Rods, decorated with customers' cars inside and out, is located at 201 East Main.

Ingram and his employees put their hands and eyes on the vehicles, make repairs, and put satisfied customers back on the road.

"I've always been good with my hands. I would tear apart my toys as a kid. Once I got under the coffee table to take apart a toy and fell asleep in the process. I was only six; Mom couldn't find me and called the police," Ingram said.

From then on, his mother knew he was working on something when he was nowhere to be found.

At age 12 Ingram was working as a roofer. By the time he was 14, he was behind the counter at the NAPA parts store across the street from his current place of business. Grease and motor hums are vivid in his memories.

"One of my best memories as a child was riding my bike down the hill to the Holman Company to gawk at Jimmy Holman's

'61 Corvette. I'd get and Icee and sit and stare at it. I still want the car, but Jimmy's got to come down on the price," Ingram said.

Pricing and doing his work since 1999, Ingram began his business in his in-laws shop—Quantie Sales and Service. In 2004 he bought Edgar Morrison's garage on Main Street.

"We do full restoration work. We'll fix anything on wheels. I've worked on boats, cars, and a 50-foot glider plane," Ingram said.

A wide range of services are offered because Ingram's staff are qualified and dedicated employees.

"I've been blessed with good employees—many are family. (One's got a weird beard.) The town's been really good to me. It's not everyday you get to do what you love," he said.

Bearded Matt Quantie, cousin to Jerry, specializes in alignment and tearing



**WORK IN PROGRESS.** . . Jerry Ingram works on customizing another classic car.

down the vehicles to be worked on. Chris Bayless does body work and Ingram paints, assembles, and restores classic and hot rod cars and works on whatever needs to be repaired.

Missy, Jerry's wife, and Connie Quantie, Jerry's mother-in-law, help with the business paperwork. And his girls Amelia and Jeralyn help him restore cars at home.

"It's a big team effort. We don't sub out work," Ingram said.

"We're a one-stop shop," Quantie said.

As vice-president of the Outlaw Cruisers Car Club and a members since 2004, Ingram is fulfilling a passion for classic cars.

"Old cars are stress relievers," he said.

Nearly 110 old and classic cars will be on display

*(Continued on Page 7)*

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# Ingram promotes car show May 9 at dome

(Continued from Page 6)  
at Founder's Day this year.

Set up will be at the high school arena dome parking lot; 100 trophies will be awarded in different classes, and J. P. Kross and the Kross Kutt Band will perform during the show.

Car lovers will see Ingram's '69 Camaro—his first hot rod creation.

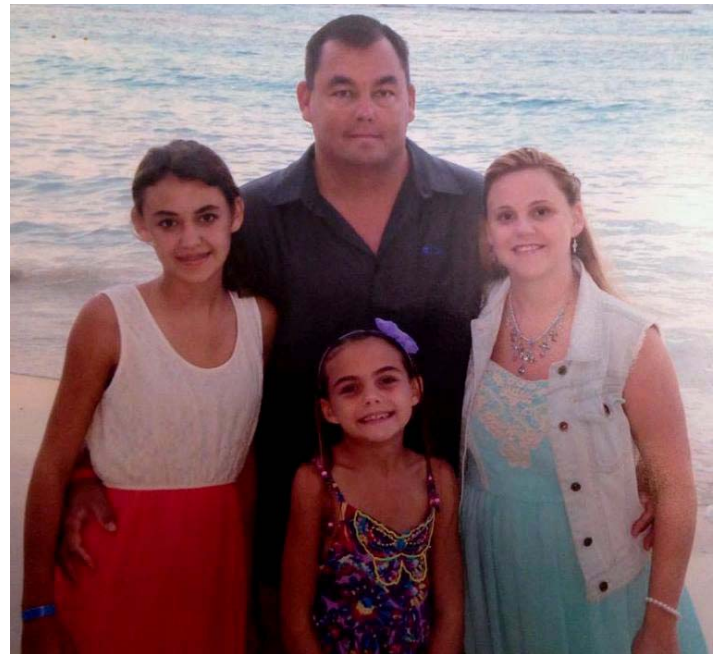
"I couldn't get the qual-

ity I wanted when restoring the Camaro, so I built it myself. It's what started my restoration business," he said.

Check out other classic, restored, spit-shined wonders.

"I'll have my '66 Chevelle at the show. I built it with my heart. That's my business card," Ingram said.

Though people see the



**JERRY INGRAM FAMILY.** . .Ingram is shown with his wife, Missy, at right, and daughters, Amelia and Jeralyn.



**SHOW CAR.** . . One of the cars which Ingram will show in the Outlaw Cruisers Car Club Show will be this 1967 Camaro.

beauty of his finished work, they may not see the struggles involved in maintaining a flourishing business.

"My greatest success has been keeping my doors open and making a living. When I first went into business, it was hard to make time for family.

"I learned the cars will

stay overnight. They'll be here in the morning," he said.

And on mornings when he's not working, he's playing golf.

"It takes my full concentration. I tell Missy I'm doing it for my health," Ingram said. "I take my girls fishing too—because it's good for my heart."

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## ROMP announces April Poetry Contest winners

More than 100 posters were entered in the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry (ROMP) annual poster contest to celebrate National Poetry Month during April.

Winners at the elementary level were Matthew Jones, first; Treylynn Wallen, second; and Kasey, third.

High school winners

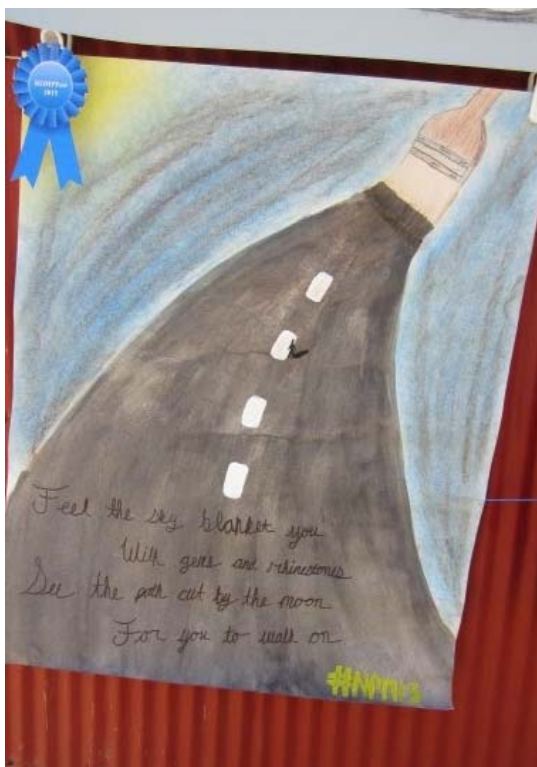
were Madison Dawson, first; Micah Moore, second; and Mikayla Campbell, third.

Winners at the college level were Amanda

Geisler, first; Kelsey Echelberger, second; and Reed Harris, third.

Each winner received a ROMP medal and a cash award.

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
winning poster was created by  
**Locust Grove High School** art student  
**Madison Dawson**, using the  
**Robert Frost** poem, **"The Road Not Taken."**



### Poetry Poster Winners

**FIRST PLACE WINNER...** Matthew Jones' winning entry in the elementary division used melted crayons.



**THE WINNING POSTER** at the college level also illustrated Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken," and was done by Amanda Giesler.

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