



No. 28: November 2016

# What's Happening in LG

A Free Local Newsletter  
Sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance

*Chamber's first Yard of the Month chosen. See Page 7*



## Wonder City Coffee to host Tellabration

The Locust Grove Arts Alliance will host the Wonder City Tellabration with special guest Cherokee storyteller Sequoyah Guess on Nov. 19, at the Wonder City Coffee Shop.

Tellabration is an annual storytelling event that takes place the weekend before Thanksgiving. It was started in 1988 by the National Storytelling Network, which encourages people to host local storytelling events.



*Storyteller Sequoyah Guess*

Locust Grove has had a Tellabration every year since 2006. The Mayes County Storytellers started the event at the LG Community Center. In 2008, it moved to Ruby's Readery bookstore, and from 2012 to 2015, it was held at the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry.

In 2016, the storytelling event moves to the Wonder City Coffee Shop downtown and is sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance.

Wonder City Coffee is located at 118 E. Main. The event will be from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. and is free and family-friendly.



*2015 PARADE FLOAT. . . Shown above is a float from last year's parade. Prizes will be awarded for best floats in this year's parade which will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3.*

## LG Christmas Parade scheduled for Dec. 3

Santa's back! The Locust Grove OK Area Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for another successful Christmas Parade, with this year's Grand Marshal, News on 6's Tess Maune.

In addition to the parade, which will take place on Dec. 3, at 2:00 p.m., the festivities will include vendors, pictures with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus, children's treat bags, voting on the Christmas Window Art Contest, the First Christmas on Main Street Raffle and more.

The Chamber's 2017 town business directory will also be available during the day. The Chamber will be set up in the old tag office next to Elaine's Beauty Shop.

To be a vendor or participate in the parade, go to the Chamber website at [locustgroveoklahoma.com](http://locustgroveoklahoma.com) and click on Christmas Parade, where you can download forms and find more information.

Prizes will be awarded in various categories for the float entries.

**THANKS . . . Suzanne Hanna, lunch clerk at the high school, holds one of the fall potted plants presented to each school location and the superintendent's office by the LGAA.**



## Chamber makes plans: parade, Santa, goodie bags

Members of the LG Area Chamber of Commerce worked on a calendar of events for 2017 when they met Oct. 18.

The calendar will be included in the town directory which is currently in the works for a Dec. 3 distribution date during the Christmas parade.

Shaun Perkins reported that ads had been sold and stories are being written to be included in the directory which will be free to those who desire one.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus pictures will be taken at Rebecca

Mounce's studio on Main Street. Goodie bags for children will also be distributed at the studio.

Plans for the parade were made with five awards to be given for best floats. Parade and vendor forms are available on the chamber's website.

The nameplates on the downtown benches have been cleaned by Theresa Mennecke and are ready to be remounted.

The group hopes to set up a meeting with the Town Council on ways to best benefit the town and its businesses.

## LGAA meets Nov. 9 at VFW

The Locust Arts Alliance held its regular monthly meeting on Oct. 12 at the VFW Hall. Members ordered T-shirts at a cost of \$10.

The group voted to give a \$200 stipend to Rochelle Chancellor, art teacher at the middle school, and a \$150 award to Tina Van Brunt, academic team coach at the high school.

The alliance will have a booth at the Pryor Creek Comic Convention Jan. 21 when children and adults are invited to create a "superhero" using only newspapers and duct tape as the major components. The work can be a sculpture, a wall hanging, a costume, etc. More information will be available next month.

LaTasha Duncan, chairwoman of the Wonder City Arts Festival planned for next September, was provided with a stipend to cover lodging and registration fee to the OK Arts Conference in Stillwater. The festival will be held at the old sale barn with permission of Jerry Koelsch who owns the property. The name for the day will be the Locust Grove Outdoor Market.

The arts alliance meets the second Wednesday of each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the VFW.

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## 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 blperkins@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.



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# LGAA presents donation to academic team

Tina Van Brunt, high school Spanish and Academic Team teacher, enjoys the buzz of language and knowledge.

The buzzer system and teaching materials for the Academic Team's competitions are pricey. So the Lo-

cust Grove Arts Alliance presented a check for \$150 to help them with expenses. An anonymous LGAA member added a \$50 donation too.

"We plan on designing and buying team t-shirts so that we will be recogniz-

able at meets, and we want to get literature to prepare for meets too," said Van Brunt.

Although funding is essential for the team's success, enough time for practice is important too.

"We would like to have

a class devoted to the team. This would give us four hours of concentrated study each week," Van Brunt said.

For two years Van Brunt has been coaching the team.

"I love coaching the Academic Team because they are just great people. I love their pursuit of knowledge and their wittiness," she said.

This year's team consists of seniors: Cole Bryant, Alex Howe and Seth Moore, juniors: Wyatt Ables, James Richardson and Volare Sanders and freshmen: Josh Cole, Ashley Livingston and Jimmy Vich.

"These students are some of my favorites. They have a great work ethic and value their education. They are smart, witty, fun to be around, and they make me laugh all the time," Van Brunt said.

Locust Grove is Van Brunt's favorite place to be too.

"I'm thankful that I have been able to teach here. We have a wonderful school system, and I have the greatest respect for my co-workers and the administration."

I have seen the community rise to the occasion many times to support one of its own, and I am blessed  
(Continues on Page 5)



**ACADEMIC GIFT.** . . Locust Grove High School Academic Team Coach Tina Van Brunt, accepts two donation checks to help aid the team in their competitions this year. Roxann Yates, second from left in back row, a member of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance presented the check. Team members in the front row are James Richardson, Cole Bryant, Alex Howe and Jimmy Vich; in back, left, is Ashley Livingston, and back, right, is Josh Cole.



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# Local man publishes first novel

By Roxann Yates

"A strange set of circumstances has placed a good man in a bad situation. Caught flat-footed holding a smoking gun and a dead man at his feet with a bullet in his back, Ty Matthews is forced to leave town in a hurry with a lynch mob on his heels."

This is the beginning of the book description at Tate Publishing for first-time author, Aaron Doughty.

Doughty is busy promoting his book "Ty Matthews."

This month he'll be at the Heart of Broken Arrow Craft Show on Nov. 12, Will's Country Christmas in Claremore on Dec. 2 and 3 and at the Tahlequah Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 12.

He hopes to have local book signings too.

"Even though the process took over a year from beginning to end, it now seems like it all happened at once," said Doughty.

After struggling with



**JUST PUBLISHED...1986 LGHS graduate Aaron Doughty holds a copy of his first novel "Ty Matthews."**

how to expand his work into a book, Doughty "found a method that works."

"I started with the initial gunfight in the beginning of the book."

"I put myself into the situation and asked, 'What would I do next?'"

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the process of writing and watching the book change from a idea into a published work for all to enjoy," said Doughty.

Tate Publishing relays that Ty must rely on "strength and fortitude" to save his life.

"He didn't know how

many men were on his trail and how far their influence would reach, so Ty must avoid towns and well-traveled trails as he flees for his life.

While no stranger to living off the land, he is forced to endure the struggles of survival in harsh conditions."

Doughty is an avid fan of history, nature, and outdoor survival skills.

His family attends Crossroads Assembly of God church in Chouteau and he helps with a youth ministry group called the Royal Ranger program.

"I am a member of Frontiersman Camping Fellowship through the Royal Ranger program and enjoy taking trips into the historical past as we practice 1800's style camping while reliving our heritage," he said.

Doughty, a 1986 Locust Grove High School graduate, and his wife Darcy have been married 29 years and have three children and

three grandchildren.

"I can't express enough how much I appreciate my wife for all the support and love she has given me over the years."

"I can't think of a greater joy than to have my best friend as my wife," Doughty said.

For more information and details about purchasing the book, contact Doughty at:

AaronGDoughty@outlook.com or go to the publisher's website: tatepublishing.com.

Visit us at  
[rompoetry.com](http://rompoetry.com)



Rural Oklahoma  
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An advertisement for Mazzio's. It features the Mazzio's logo in a stylized font with a red pepper. Below the logo, it says "Dine in &amp; Carry Out 918-479-2900 102 Holiday Lane Locust Grove, OK". The background shows several pizzas, including a large pepperoni pizza in the foreground.

An advertisement for the Bank of Locust Grove. It features a silhouette of a tree on the left. To the right, it says "Member FDIC" and "Established 1949". Below that is the bank's name "Bank of Locust Grove" in a large, serif font. Underneath the name is the tagline "A Community Bank With Roots, Not Branches". At the bottom, it provides contact information: "Phone: 918-479-5225 Online Banking: www.banklg.com FAX: 918-479-8787 Voice Banking: 1-877-479-5225".





**ART DONATION.** . . Middle School art teacher Rochelle Chancellor, left, accepts a \$200 check from Shaun Perkins, representing the Locust Grove Arts Alliance. The money will be used to purchase art supplies. A box of art supplies was also donated by ROMP.

## LGMS art class receives check from arts alliance

Members of the Locust Grove Middle School seventh grade arts class explained the various projects they had completed when the class was awarded a \$200 check from LGAA.

Students explained favorite word art, mosaics created while listening to music, a color wheel project and profile art. Those who talked about their projects were Matt Jones, Cherokee Hibbs, Danielle Bates, Jett Chambers, Claire Bennett and Kaitlynn Scott. Kole Monroe took part with a photo bomb of the presentation.

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## --Academic Team--

*(Continued from Page 3)*

to be a part of that," she said.

The team and coach want to rise to the occasion and win the state tourna-

ment. Two years ago they won the Green Country Conference Tournament and competed in area play-offs.

"Whether we win or lose, these students are some of Locust Grove High School's finest scholars. I want them to see themselves as valuable contributors to our school and community," said Van Brunt.

Upcoming meets and tournaments include: at Adair on Nov. 1, Verdigris Tourney Nov. 5, home meet Nov. 10, and regional competition Nov. 12.

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# Comic convention coming to Pryor Creek

The Locust Grove Arts Alliance and the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry will both have booths at the Pryor Creek Convention Jan. 21 at the Graham Community Building in Pryor.

People wearing capes, masks and other super hero apparel will likely be on hand at this inaugural event.

Decades ago, comic conventions appealed primarily to lovers of comic books and science fiction.

Now, comic conventions are considered to be pop culture events because the focus has expanded to include TV, movies, toys, action figures, gaming and cosplaying (masquerading as a character from pop culture).

The evolution of cons is one reason why they have exploded in popularity. San Diego Comic-Con, the most well-known comic con, attracts a crowd of 130,000 every July, and tickets sell out immediately after becoming available.

Wizard World stages a series of pop culture conven-

tions around the country, and the first Wizard World Tulsa con in 2014 attracted an estimated 30,000 attendees over three days.

Another reason comic cons have become embraced is because comic fare has gone mainstream, thanks to the success of Marvel and DC movies and because of geek chick TV shows like "the Big Bang Theory" and "The Walking Dead."

Area comic book and merchandise dealers will be on site for the Pryor Creek Comic Convention. Tulsa World pop culture writer Jimmie Tramel, who bought some of his first comics in Mayes County, is helping to organize

the show.

Those interested in renting vendor booths or sponsoring prizes can contact Tramel at [jdtramel@hotmail.com](mailto:jdtramel@hotmail.com). Cost is \$25.

Like comic cons, cosplaying has boomed in popularity. Prizes will be awarded in different cosplay categories at the Pryor convention.



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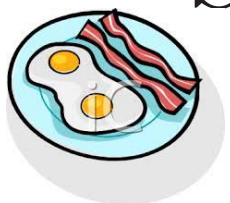
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**GIANT WEB.** . . Barbara Nichols is shown through a huge spider web in her front yard.



**YARD OF THE MONTH.** . . Barbara Nichols, right, is the recipient of the Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce's first Yard of the Month Award for her Halloween display at 506 East Ross.. She is shown with Missy Ingram, whose class, Life Launch, devised the criteria for the award and selected the winner.

**LIFE LAUNCH.** . .Members of the 7-8th graders' class are shown at right. In front: Ashlyn Gibson, Missy Ingram, Lil Daniels, Rylee Holman, Trenton Gardner, Cherokee Hibbs, Morgan Livingston, Cadence James and Barbara Nichols; middle row: Kylie Roach, Sarah Rutherford, Cyla Sutton, Dayton McGuirt, Dakota Monk, Wyatt Rogers, Hailey Witt, Ramsey Cooper and Kylee Blakey; back row: Kyla Labit, Allainah Milligan, Kathy Rowton, Colton Rhodes, Matthew Monroe, Jesse Remington, Noah Henson, James Britto and Autumn Thornton. The class is a combination of home economics, college prep and life skills needed for daily living.



### History book available

Hugh J. Callery, a member of the Centennial Committee which published a history of the town, says a few books are still available, along with several copies of the DVD.

They can be purchased at the LG Library, The book is \$30 and the DVD, \$20.

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*"The yard was whimsical and festive," said Morgan Livingston.*

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# Junior Chamber members attend Creative Communities meeting

Locust Grove Area Junior Chamber members Colin Adams and Bradley Fields participated in the brainstorming session held at the Creative Communities meeting Oct. 17.

Creative Communities is

a 20-month initiative/project from the nonprofit organization Creative Oklahoma. The Oklahoma City-based organization has been working with LG since March to improve quality of life by exploring creative

ways to make positive changes in business, culture, etc.

The next meeting of the group, and the third one with OKC facilitator Suzann Wade, will take place Nov. 28, at 1:00 p.m. at the Wonder City Coffee Shop.

The LG group continues to need more people involved in this planning group. You don't have to have any particular interest or expertise—just the desire to improve our community. Come join the group at the Nov. 28 meeting.

Please see the LG Creative Communities page on Facebook for more information or contact Shaun Perkins at [okiestoryteller@gmail.com](mailto:okiestoryteller@gmail.com) or call her at 918-864-9152.



## Nominate well-kept yards for chamber award

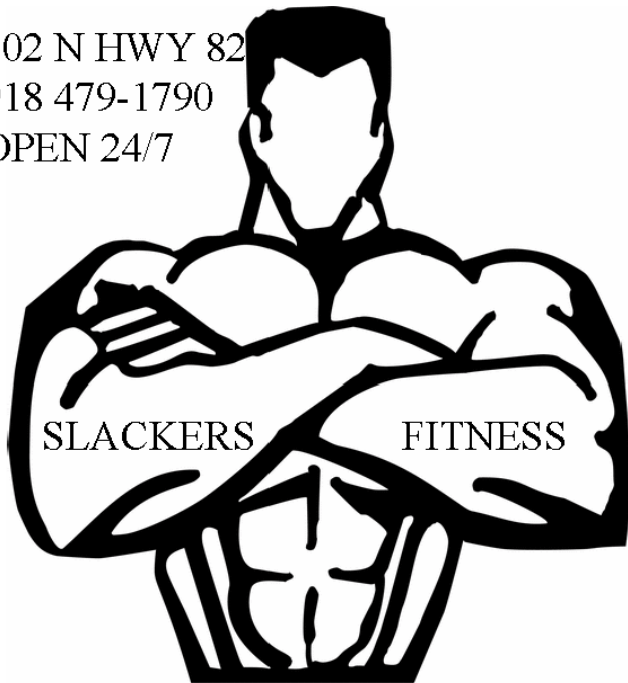
A new program of the Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce will recognize well-kept lawns for its Yard of the Month Award.

Working in conjunction with the Missy Ingram's Life Launch class at LGMS, the chamber will take nominations for each month's award.

The first recipient of the award was the Halloween ready yard of Barbara Nichols at 506 Ross.

To make nominations, contact Ingram at [mingram@lg.k12.ok.us](mailto:mingram@lg.k12.ok.us) or call/text at 918-638-2845. Send address and/or photo of nominated yard.

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