



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LG

No. 43: FEBRUARY 2018

A Free Local Newsletter
of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance



EMILY'S ROOM
Win a night at the
Poet's Retreat. P. 6

Valentine's Day biggest day of year

Their work begins in December for the busiest day of the year—Valentine's Day. Local flower shops, Locust Grove Flowers, Gifts and More and Madelyn's Flowers and Gifts ready themselves for the special day.

"I've worked many Valentine's days with several florists, and planning is the key for a good prosperous week," said Nita King, co-owner, with Erica Schmitt, and florist of Locust Grove Flowers, Gifts and More.

"A week before the special day we receive our roses, and that's when the work really starts," said Glenda Anderson, owner of Madelyn's Flowers. "We have to prep the roses and



VALENTINES GALORE. .
Rose Trundle and Glenda Anderson, owner, stock up for what is one of the busiest days of the year for a flower shop. Madelyn's Flowers is offering a special \$5 off for a dozen roses if ordered by Feb. 9.

start making arrangements."

Both flower shops offer many services.

"We will help you decide on flowers for any occasion. We offer fresh flowers, plants, silks, candy bouquets and other gift items. We have FTD and Teleflora wire services so that we can send orders to any part of the world," Anderson said.

"We do unique arrangements with flowers using boxes, ribbon cups, mugs, etc. We have gorgeous candy bouquets, snack boxes, Oreo boxes, blooming plants and chocolate covered strawberries," said King.

Though King's business has only been open for nine months, "I have dreamed about owning a flower shop all my adult life."

"I have help from family



READY FOR BIG DAY. .
Nita King of the Locust Grove Flowers, Gifts and More stands before just one of several valentines available this Feb. 14.

when needed. Not many people are fortunate enough to have their dream job," King said.

Anderson bought Madelyn's Flowers 11 years
(Continued on Page 6)

LGAA member has poems, art published

Dragon Poet Review has accepted Roxann Yates's trilogy of poems "Grounded: Trash Walk, Antaeus, and Halfway" as well as your photographs "Baked Goods," "Mushroom Path," and "Sundown" for publication in its Winter / Spring 2018 Issue

of *Dragon Poet Review*.

The literary journal is published twice annually. Rayshell E. Clapper and Jessica B. Isaacs are university professors and writers who edit the journal. In 2015 Isaacs won the Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry.

The journal's online release will be during the middle of February.

"Mushroom Path," one of Yates's photographs for the edition, represents winter and spring. In Oklahoma winds, rains, snow, heat are represented in colors of white, green and

brown. Even in winter, the rains come, grasses grow and mushrooms march into the seasons. This photograph was taken in her leafy, woodsy backyard.

Yates writes for the Locust Grove Arts Alliance newsletter and *The Paper*.
(Continued on Page 7)

LOOKING BACK Ozark Ramblers



THROW BACK FEBRUARY. . . This photo from the past is one of the original Ozark Ramblers Band. The group played on the radio station that was in Pryor at the time, during the early 1930s. Members standing are Howard Huston, Earl Smith, Hobart Smith, and in front, Hersal Wilkinson and Raymond Smith.

Photography exhibit now at LGAA office

“History & Habitat” is the current exhibit in the LGAA Office and Gallery at 114 E. Main. The photography exhibit highlights the work of LG photographers Marea Breedlove and Betty Perkins.

The photos in this exhibit feature various wildlife and local historical points of interest.

A special celebration with the two photographers will take place Feb. 9 at 5:30-6:30 p.m. Refreshments and door prizes will be a part of this open house. Each of the photographers will also provide one of her photographs to be given in a drawing. The public is invited to come view the exhibit, greet the photographers, and sign up for the various drawings planned during the evening.

The exhibit is on display now until Feb. 12. Come see the exhibit during office hours. The exhibit is open on Mondays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.; Tuesdays, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon to 4 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon; and Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon.



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About *What's Happening in LG*

EDITOR'S NOTE: While this newsletter is produced by the LGAA and will contain that 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, or want to place an ad in the newsletter. As LGAA is a nonprofit organization and the newsletter is provided free to everyone, advertising must support the publication of this newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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Library celebrates Black History Month

Black History Month has been celebrated each February since 1970. The 2018 theme commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and explores the roles of African Americans in every American war, from the Revolutionary War Era to that of the present "War against Terrorism," providing the framework for many stories related to African American soldiers and sailors, veterans, and civilians.

The library has a display of books for all reading levels on many impor-



tant figures and events in African American history. All of the books on display are available for check out, just ask a librarian for help.

Also, the library has recently added magazines to the list of items available for check out.

Current titles include:

The Sun, Food Network Magazine, Cooks Country, Cooks Illustrated, Do It Yourself, Consumer Reports, Smithsonian, Ameri-

can Spirit, Pioneer Woman and Oklahoma Today.

Periodicals coming soon include Mother Earth News, HGTV Magazine and Country Living.

We have room for a few more so if you have a recommendation, we would love to hear them. Our phone number is 918-479-6585 or you can email us at locustgrovelibrary@gmail.com.

--Marea Breedlove, librarian



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH. . . This display at the Locust Grove Public Library celebrates the contributions of Black writers and artists during Black History Month.

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Dorm life leads to stressful situations

By Sydney Schwichtenberg

The biggest taboo of dorm life is that living with a friend will always end in disaster. I like to think that I didn't dorm with my friend, instead, I decided to live with Baley, who outgrew the term years ago.

We share the tiny room with no mishaps. Our sleeping schedule is nearly identical. When we get tired of the mess, we dig ourselves out of our filth and clean in unspoken agreement while her Google Home tells us the daily news.

In our ten years of friendship, fights seldom broke out. We have a healthy one argument per year, but it never lasts longer than a few hours. It's always nearly a few minutes, and then we come back to each other with watery eyes and an apology.

Our arguments are always pointless, I think. The two of us are levelheaded

Freshman at OU

when it comes to fights. If it's a pressing matter, we talk it out like a normal conversation and only realize how serious it was after it's been solved.

For our freshman year at the University of Oklahoma, we have had two fights—which can hardly be described as fights. Squabbles is a better word.

Once, Baley visited her mother and came back at two in the morning. I, being the caring and loving friend, expressed my worry and reminded her that we are in fact, teenage girls who have the perfect dimensions for a car trunk. Baley replied with a "You're not my mother!" which immediately aged

me twenty years.

I stopped the conversation, tired and realizing it was going nowhere. I turned over in my own bed, quiet until her head popped over the railing.

"Are you seriously mad right now?"

Not really, no. I was half-asleep, though.

"Fine, I'm sorry. I know you worry. I'll try not to do that again."

After that we spoke well into the morning. Honestly, that was the closest we've come to each other's throats in our entire friend-

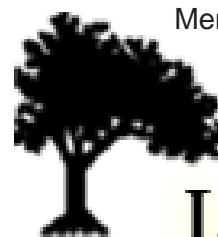
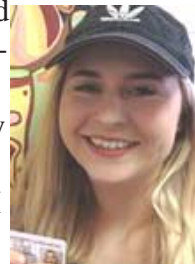
ship.

For our second fight, it happened just the other day in the cafeteria, which is literally the worst place on campus. It's good for the first two days of class, and then everything begins to taste like lipstick and salt.

Sometimes, we will decide we crave lipstick salt food and convince ourselves it's definitely a good idea to eat dinner there. This was one of those days.

Baley and I were talking

(Continues on Page 5)



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Freshman at OU continues . . .

(Continued from Page 4)
about our childhood.

Baley and I spent most of our youth in our fields, either riding horses or pretending to spot dragons over the treeline.

In this story, we were riding horses. Or, better put, attempting to ride singular horse.

Hardly eight, we snuck out on an early Saturday morning, before Baley's parents woke up, and caught Biscuit, a golden Shetland pony who I remember as mean. Baley claims she was sweet.

Baley only owned

saddles for horses bigger than a large dog, so we sufficed with just a bridle. We were going to ride her, because in our minds, that is exactly what we should do and absolutely nothing could go wrong.

In my memory, I sat on the pony, alone, while Baley tried to find a way to lift herself up. Baley helped me up with her knee, both of us too short to climb on the back of the tiny horse unaided.

We carefully studied the landscape around us. What could we use as stool? The sturdy logs a few steps

away from us? Maybe the literal step ladder across the yard?

We chose neither. Instead, I remember watching Baley's foot rest on barbed wire and thinking, "wow, we are geniuses. This could work." She used the fence as leverage to push her stomach onto Biscuit's back.

Baley was technically on. But, she couldn't get her legs up, so I grabbed her by the belt loops and began to drag her up. Abruptly, Biscuit when completely still from beneath us.

Suddenly, we exploded in motion.

The entire world was a blur as Biscuit ran with her midget legs kicking up, sending Baley tumbling away from. I held on for dear life, but inevitably, I was bucked off and sent into the gravel.

From where we landed, we both stared at each other before erupting in

tears. Not because we were hurt, but because we were scared and might have peed a little. Baley begged me not to tell her parents, and I didn't, even though my hands were raw from gravel pushing up into the skin and I needed a Band-Aid.

According to Baley, though, she never even touched the horse before it went forward and attempted murder. Faith apparently turned upside down, and somehow, clung to Biscuit's belly like a koala before letting go and rolling away to safety.

This debate became heated. Baley and I were becoming passive aggressive, making digs at each other. How dare she not remember one of the many times we nearly died? The air became awkward because we nearly screamed about miniature ponies in the middle of the cafeteria.

(Continues on Page 6)



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HEART OF STONE. . .
One of the entries in the "Love Is" contest is this heart-shaped stone found at Spring Creek and decorated by the anonymous entrant. There is still time to get your entry in by Feb. 9 for the LGAA-sponsored contest. Any art form may be used to express the "Love Is" theme. Details available at Wonder City Coffee or ROMP Rummage.



Freshman at OU

(Continued from Page 5)

"I think I know what I'm talking about!"

"I think I would remember almost dying, Sydney."

Instead of replying, I checked my phone and saw the time was getting late. I had a paper due in the morning. I left with saying a quick goodbye to everyone before running to my dorm and letting my fingers type at lightning speed.

An hour later, Baley entered the room, still bitter about our argument over the great pony escape.

"So, remind me why we decided to eat in a cafeteria that exclusively serves lip-stick as the main dish?"

She smiled, and literally the most pointless argument in our lives was forgotten about.

Chamber plans awards, prizes

The L.G. Chamber will present awards for the Business of the Year, New Business of the Year, Organization of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year at its annual banquet March 17.

The group is currently soliciting nominations for these categories, as well as prizes to be given away.

Send nominations and info on prizes to Marsha Evans at snaverns@gmail.com.

--Flower Shops--

(Continued from Page 1)

ago.

"I am ready to retire, though, if someone would like to buy the shop. Rose Trundle and Nita King (not the above mentioned Nita) work for me. They are wonderful trustworthy employees who take very good care of the shop," Anderson said.

Both florists enjoy having their businesses in Locust Grove.

"Locust Grove is my hometown, and I love providing a service to the community. Every day I ask God to help us prosper. I ask God to be in my shop and work through me with everything I create," King said.

"This is a great town. We know so many people by their first names, and they stop in to see how we're doing. The people here are so friendly and caring," Anderson said.

For those needing a Valentine's gift, these two local businesses have "got you covered."



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--Yates' work published--

(Continued from Page 1)

She is a lover of photography and F-words: food, family, fun, fiction, free verse, features, folk and fairy tales, etc.

Yates has self-published a poetry collection, *Devil's Cut*. She and her mother and sisters self-published two memoirs: *Girls on the Road: Are We There Yet?* and *Myopic Memories: Girls Who Wear Glasses*. For the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry she compiled a sampling of 100 years of autograph poetry, *True Friends Are Like Dia-*

monds. Three of her prose pieces and one photograph were published in *Dragon Poet Review* Winter 2016/17, and a photograph of hers was on display in the Individual Artists of Oklahoma gallery in 2017.

ONE OF THREE photographs chosen for entry into the online literary journal, *Dragon Poet Review*, is this one titled "Mushroom Path" by Roxann Perkins Yates. Yates also had a trilogy of poems chosen for publication in the journal.



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Spend night in Emily's room

Locust Grove's Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry (ROMP) is conducting a contest to win a 2-night stay in Emily's Room at the Poet's Retreat.

The room, a replica of Emily Dickinson's bed-

room, at the Poet's Retreat, which is next to ROMP, is being redone by Kelly Palmer and will soon be available for nightly rentals. But you can win a stay there now.

To enter, write a paragraph or two about a positive experience you have had with poetry at any time in your life. You do not have to be a poet to write this! We have all had some experience with poetry: What is a memorable one that you have had?

You must enter by filling out the form at the Emily's Room page at ROMPoetry.com. Deadline to enter is Feb. 28.



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CARD WORKSHOP. . . Sarah Coday leads a group of girls in a card-making workshop on Jan. 19. She and Dessie Rogers presented the free workshop, sponsored by the LGAA, at Wonder City Coffee. The Friday workshops are free and open to the public.

Chamber plans banquet

The Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce made tentative plans for its yearly banquet when it met Jan. 18 at the chamber office on Main Street.

The banquet is planned for March 17 at the Senior Citizens Center (Killiam Community Bldg.) from 6-9 p.m. and will feature a meal, music and dancing.

The meal will include chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes, salad and cobbler.

Tickets will be on sale at Junk Justified, Wonder City Coffee, the lumberyard and the chamber office.

People planning to attend can reserve an entire table. Prizes will be awarded for best-decorated table, and the chamber plans to give awards "of the year" for various things.

Everyone in the community is invited to attend, individuals, as well as police officers, firefighters, churches, city council, and other civic organizations.

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LGAA washes windows, sets 2018 budget

Members of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance voted to wash the windows of those businesses that volunteered to have their windows painted during the Christmas Window Contest sponsored by LGAA at its Jan. 10 meeting.

The group also approved a new budget for the year, at \$8,300, nearly doubling the budget from last year. Sarah Coday was named as a new board member of the LGAA.

"We've had a good year, sponsoring more free workshops, providing a \$500 scholarship for a senior who is involved in art in some way, had several contests, provided art exhibits in our new office facility on Main Street and promoted the annual Founder's Day Art Show," said Betty Perkins, treasurer.

"I, for one, was worried we had extended ourselves several times, but our advertisers and art patrons really stepped forward,



providing us with the means to do what we have been able to do in the last year," she added. "We are so grateful to them."

Ray Grass volunteered to work on Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon, which gives the group enough volunteers to have the office open each day Monday through Saturday for a limited number of hours.

Shaun Perkins presented a print out of a proposed grant application for the Big Read project. The school system asked the LGAA to take on the project. The book chosen is a book of poetry by Joy Harjo.

If the grant is awarded, events will be held at Locust Grove Schools, Rural

Oklahoma Museum of Poetry, Locust Grove Public Library, the LG Arts Alliance, as well as a public reading by Harjo.

A photography exhibit featuring the work of Marea Breedlove, Roxann Yates and Betty Perkins is currently on display in the office through Feb. 9.

The "Love Is" contest currently ongoing will feature entries beginning Feb. 14. The contest divisions are word art and visual art.

Entry forms can be picked up at the office, Wonder City Coffee, or the ROMP Rummage store. Entry fee is \$5 and entries should be no larger than 11 x 14 due to the weight the hanging system can bear. Free-standing entries will be placed on tables.

Another contest was announced by Shaun Perkins

to celebrate Word Fest April 14. The art challenge is to create "something" from a coffee bag which will be provided at the Wonder City Coffee.

Two categories exist: Visual Art and Word Art. Pick up the rules along with a bag and get creative.

Membership dues will not change, but a due date of the second Wednesday in January will be the official time to pay dues. Those who have paid in the last year will pay less during January.

For example: dues now work out to be \$1.66 a month or \$5 a quarter, so if someone joined the organization in July, that person would owe \$20, minus six months or half of the year \$10. And then the following January, they would owe the yearly dues of \$20.



Got News?

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1892 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR COFFEE

¶ It was a time when those in the coffee business did things a little differently.

¶ And so it was in 1892 that a Southern merchant had cause for celebration. His premiere blend of coffee (and some say his own personal labor of love) was about to be renamed after the famous hotel where it had already built a reputation as the special house blend. The hotel, of course, was Nashville's Maxwell House.



¶ Today, it is with great pride (and something of a feeling that there are still folks around with a taste for the way things used to be made) that The Maxwell House Coffee Company would like to acquaint you with 1892™ Slow-Roasted

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Joel Owsley Cheek, my great-great-grandfather (third from left)
Advertisement for 1892 Maxwell House Coffee
(Michigan Chronicle Publishing Co.)

Ancestor found in coffee brand Maxwell House

Editor's Note: Since writing this story a month ago, Roxann has found an ad with her ancestor, Joel Owsley Cheek, in the center of it. The ad tells the story that Roxann told you last month, but here it is again!

Roxann Yates has been doing research on her great-grandmother's Younger side of the family, and recently found a surprise. Or two.

It seems that her 6th great-uncle's son, Joel Owsley Cheek, a famous coffee man, is of interest because she works in a coffee shop owned by her sister, Kelly Palmer on Locust Grove's Main Street. Rather surprising.

Cheek developed his recipe for a blend of premium beans in 1892 and it led to his inventing the Maxwell House Coffee brand. The coffee was first introduced at a Maxwell Hotel, and the hotel gave (Story continues on Page 11)



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Chamber dues date changes

All Chamber dues are due in January of each year. Dues for individuals is \$20; businesses, \$50; Church/nonprofit, \$30; additional businesses, \$20; and high school junior chamber membership, free.

The members of the Chamber also discussed upcoming events at its Jan. 18 meeting, including acquiring a carnival for Founder's Day next year, and a circus for the fall.

The next meeting will be February 20 at 6 p.m. at the Wilma Cowan Building/Chamber office.

--Coffee ancestor--

(Continued from Page 10)

permission for Cheek to produce his coffee under its name. The surprise goes on.

Allegedly, the phrase "good to the last drop" was coined by President Theodore Roosevelt after he sipped the coffee at the hotel.

So it seems that Palmer's decision to open a coffee shop must be tied to her great-uncle's son's decision to make coffee and call it Maxwell House and to the fact that her father drank Maxwell House Coffee throughout all of her growing up years. Couldn't be anything else, could it?

Unrelated to coffee, Joel Cheek made a living as a first grade teacher at the age of 17. He taught until he was 19 in Burkesville and Salem, KY. Another tie to Roxann's family of teachers.

Cheek was a traveling salesman for a wholesale grocery when he turned 20.

He took a boat down the Cumberland River to Nashville to begin his work in the business world.

Later he would develop the coffee blend that made him famous.

Cheek was born in 1851 and died in 1935 at the age of 85.

Sam turns 4; celebrates with celery, grapes, more

Time goes by so fast. It doesn't seem possible that our pet skunk, Sam, is four years old. He weighs in at 15 pounds. For his birthday lunch, he had celery, apples, carrots and grapes. He loved every bite of it.

We had to get a bigger sleep house for him. Now we go through the same thing each birthday.

We send money to the state for his license, visit the Vet in Claremore. (I understand only two vets in Oklahoma take care of skunks.)

We are lucky to have one so near to us.)

He gets his check up and always a pedicure. He is living the good life.

The Game Warden will come to make sure he is in a good home. We look forward to his visit.

Sam has a favorite cushion. He is really too big for it. When he goes to sleep, he almost falls out of it.

We recently had new carpet installed, so Sam can only be in the kitchen and dining area. He seems to be slowing down a little. If I'm

standing at the sink or sitting down, he wants to be on my feet.

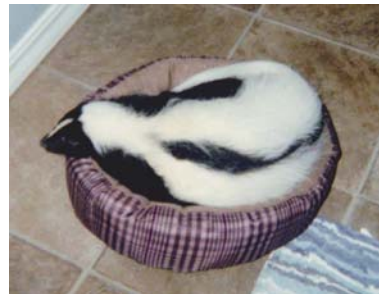
A skunk in the wild only lives

three or four years due to disease and predators. In a happy home, they can live 10-14 years.

Sam loves to have his fur combed; he is so soft. He doesn't have dander like cats or dogs, so he is hypoallergenic. I would be sad without Sam.

"Love is" . . . holding Sam and rubbing his little ears.

--By Wanda Key



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FEBRUARY-MARCH FRIDAY NIGHTS AT WONDER CITY COFFEE



Feb. 9: Pop-Up Shop

If you need some gift ideas for Valentine's Day, come to WCC's 1st Valentine's Day Pop-Up Gift Shop. Various local vendors, artists and crafters will have tables set up in the coffee shop from 5:00-7:30 p.m. so you can come and shop for that special gift. Vendor items include handmade soaps & lotions, Avon, handmade jewelry, fine art, wall hangings, cards and much more.

Feb. 16: Music by Tristan Cook

Come enjoy our first winner of the Wonder City Coffee Open Mic Contest, Tristan Cook. Tristan plays classic and alternative rock and country, or as he calls it "mellow, Jack-Johnson-type music." 6-7:30 p.m.

Feb. 23: Wonder City Storytelling

Storytelling is back, and two of our best tellers will start off this show, which will also include stories from RSU students. Jerry Yates and Tony Orr will tell comic stories that may or may not be true and may or may not include mayonnaise jars dropped from rooftops and adventures with bitter melon. 6:00-7:00 p.m.

March 2: What is Paranormal? A Talk by Ken Storch

Ken Storch, an investigator with MUFON and the Oklahoma Paranormal Team, returns to the WCC to talk about his problems with the word "paranormal." What is it really? Storch, a retired homicide detective and frequent guest on *Ancient Aliens*, will talk from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and answer questions afterwards.

March 9: Wonder City Open Mic

If you have a talent you want to share with the Wonder City, this is the time. Music, storytelling, comedy, etc. All are encouraged. Sign up by 5:50 p.m. to participate or just come to watch from 6-7 p.m.

March 16: St. Patrick's Day Foosball Tournament

We had a blast at our 1st foosball tournament, so we are doing it again. We will have 16 players in a single-elimination tournament. The entry fees will go to the winners. This will be another DYP (Draw Your Partner) event. Sign up and show up by 5:15 p.m. to participate. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

118 E. MAIN, 918-479-2885