



No. 55: April 2019

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LG

*'What's Happening' is a Free Newsletter
Provided by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance*

BOOK DISCUSSIONS will continue on Monday afternoons and Tuesday evenings through the rest of this month. See story below.



FIRST BOOK MEETING . . . Six women made up the first of the April book discussion groups at Wonder City Coffee. Shown, from left to right: Marea Breedlove, Roxann Yates, Shaun Perkins, Sula Robertson, Betty Perkins and Stacy Bighorse.

First book discussion groups met last week

Every Monday at 2 p.m. in April, a book group will meet to talk about Joy Harjo's *How We Became Human*, the book the LGAA is reading for the Big Read program. Anyone can join the group. It will be informal and fun and inspiring. A person could attend one or all of the meetings. Each will be unique.

For details, contact Roxann Yates at the coffee shop or by emailing roxannperkins@gmail.com.

A second book group will meet Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at the public library. Contact Marea Breedlove for information on that group: mareab64@gmail.com.

At the first book meeting held at Wonder City Coffee, those in attendance were: Stacy Bighorse, Betty Perkins, Shaun Perkins, Marea Breedlove, Sula Robertson, and Roxann Yates.

An informal discussion of Joy Harjo, her poetry, and the

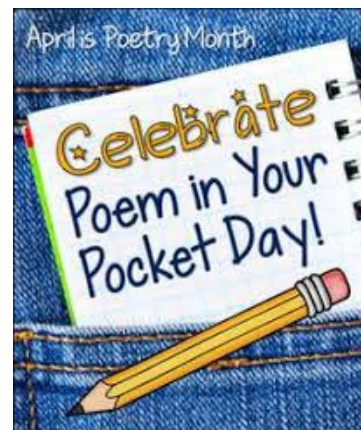
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Museum to celebrate 'Poem in Your Pocket Day!'

The Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry (ROMP) celebrates Poem in Your Pocket Day April 18

Celebrate Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 18 by carrying a poem in your pocket all day. If you take the poem out of your pocket and read it aloud at Wonder City Coffee on that day, ROMP will buy you one free drink of your choice or give you a \$5 gift card to ROMP Rummage Store.

Poem in Your Pocket Day is part of National Poetry Month. On this day, select a poem, carry it with you, and share it with others at



schools, bookstores, libraries, parks, workplaces, street corners, and on social media using the hashtag [#pocketpoem](#).

Poem in Your Pocket Day was initiated in April 2002 by the Office of the Mayor

in New York City, in partnership with the city's Departments of Cultural Affairs and Education. In 2008, the Academy of American Poets took the initiative to all fifty United States, encouraging individuals around the country to participate. In 2016, the League of Canadian Poets extended Poem in Your Pocket Day to Canada.

The Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry has celebrated Poem in Your Pocket Day every year since the museum has been in existence (and before that when ROMP Director Shaun Perkins was a teacher).

Main Street poetry readers needed

The LGAA may not get in the Guinness book for biggest mass poetry reading, but it will still be a big deal. As part of the Big Read celebration of Joy Harjo's book *How We Became Human*, the LGAA is staging a reading of all 85 poems in the book.

Eighty-five participants will line Main Street and read the poems in Harjo's book all at once. Each person will

have one of the 85 poems in the book to read and at 2:15, everyone will begin reading out loud the poem they have been assigned or chosen. Everyone else is invited to roam up and down the street listening. The poems will be read constantly until 3 p.m.

The author herself will be there to get to hear the town read her poems. You can bring a chair if you need to

sit while you are reading. Or, as some middle school students were told, wear a hat and sunglasses and you can be incognito while reading!

If you would like to read one of the poems, email or call Shaun Perkins, ROMPoetry@gmail.com or 864-9152. Free books are still available at the LGAA office, Wonder City Coffee or ROMP Rummage Store.

LGAA Gallery opens new exhibit on family history

By Roxann Perkins Yates

In honor of Locust Grove family members on Founder's Day, for this year's art show, the gallery will exhibit items from town family history. The Passed Down Heirloom Exhibit will run May 11-June 8.

The LGAA is currently soliciting items for this exhibit. See the details above and use the submission form

if you have items to include in the exhibit.

Most of the items need to be hung on the gallery hooks; however some tables will be available.

Consider displaying books, photos, badges, certificates, news articles, recipes. The list is endless. If you have shadow boxes of family items, those, too, are suitable for the show. All

entries must be brought to the LGAA office or Wonder City Coffee by May 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the show that opens on May at 11 p.m.

If you have questions or comments, contact show coordinators Roxann Yates at roxannperkins@gmail.com, phone: 918-530-5321 or Alysha Little at alysha.little227@gmail.com.

One exhibit item will be a 1920s Locust Grove newspaper exhibit of Yates's third great-grandfather.

William. H. McMullen, born in 1827, is the third great-grandfather on Yates's mother's branch.

He served in the Union Army as corporal during the Civil War for the Pa. 22nd Calvary in 1864; not long before his death in 1911, he returned to Mark.

Pieces of William's obituary were published in a Cassville, Mo., paper where he lived until his final days:

"William H. McMullen died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ora Goff, Mark, Okla., after an illness of many months and of general debility, age 81 years, 5 months and 26 days."

"The body was shipped to Cassville. In charge of the brothers of Masonic fratern-

nity, his body was conveyed to the Corinth Cemetery, where it was laid to rest with the honors of that order."

The family has little knowledge of W. H.

Marea Breedlove, Librarian, showed Yates a Locust Grove newspaper article from the 1920s that lists him as a watchmaker and jeweler. No living family members were aware of his skills. No stories have been passed down.

A Pythagoras Masonic Lodge book for 1872-1907 lists McMullen's membership.

The members met "Saturday nights on or before the full moons and two weeks thereafter."

The McMullen story is a sculpture in progress, being worked between the full moons.

Ivy Scott picks Zoo Safari for birthday fundraiser

For Ivy Scott's 8th birthday, she decided she wanted a fundraiser for Locust Grove's own Zoo Safari, instead of getting presents. The fundraiser will be Apr. 20, Sat., from 2-4 p.m. at the LG Community Center.

People are encouraged to come by and give any amount of donation that they can. Cupcakes and juice will be available. Zoo Safari will be on hand with some of their animals to see and experience.

LG Chamber meets April 18

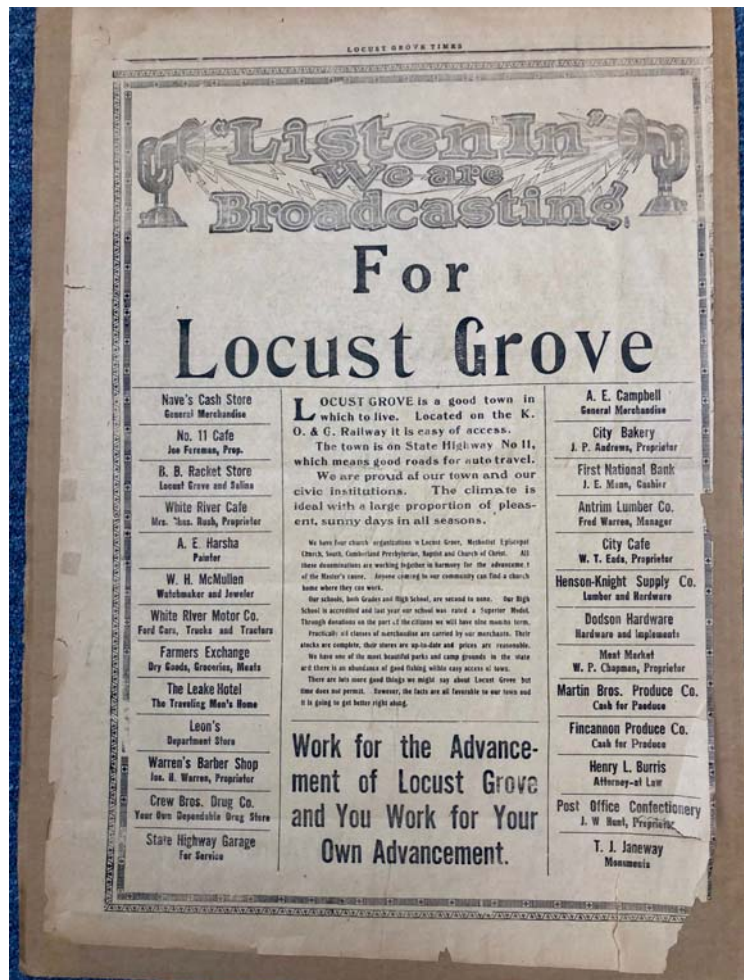
The Locust Grove OK Area Chamber of Commerce has its monthly meeting in April on the 18th at noon in the Chamber office at 114 E. Main. The public is always invited.

The agenda will include discussion of Founder's Day, promotion and logistics, among other things. The Chamber is always looking for people to get involved with its activities and help in promoting our town's businesses, organizations and general atmosphere.

The Chamber could use help from students and Cherokee Nation citizens looking for civic engagement and working hours and from anyone who would like to volunteer for any number of activities: event help, posting flyers, visiting businesses and schools, etc.

More business owners and organization leaders are encouraged to become members and attend meetings when possible to help with the Chamber's initiatives and to contribute to the growth of the town.

For more information, visit the Chamber website at LocustGroveOklahoma.com or LIKE the LG Chamber page. If you cannot attend meetings but would still like to be a member or to be involved in helping, call President Adele Collette at 918-530-8132.



PASSED DOWN HEIRLOOM EXHIBIT , , , This copy of a Locust Grove newspaper in the 1920s is an example of the type of display that is possible in the next exhibit at the LGAA Gallery on Main Street. The Times had a list of business ads on the page which is as interesting as the story about the glories of LG

County Sheriff wins LGAA rifle raffle



HE'S A WINNER . . . Brad Cowan, left, presents County Sheriff Mike Reed the rifle he won in the LGAA fundraiser. The rifle, a Beretta a350 strema simi-auto shotgun, was donated by Anchor Stone's Tom Snyder and provided the LGAA with \$1040 for its activities, most of which are presented free of charge to the people of this area.

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NEW: Main
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COFFEE BAG ART
CHALLENGE
SPECIAL GUESTS



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For schedule and details: ROMPoetry.com



RILEY GRACE WILSON stands beside her cardboard car which will be a major new addition to the Founder's Day May 11. Riley is the daughter of Jeff Wilson who graduated from LGHS in 1991, and she is the granddaughter of Nita Wilson of Locust Grove.

More information at ROMPoetry.com

COFFEE BAG ART CHALLENGE



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- Most Practical
- Most Creative
- Best Combination of Practical & Creative
- Best Use of the Words on the Bag
- Best Children's (12-years-old and under)



Entry Deadline: Apr. 25

Letitia Keene announces oil painting class

LG artist Letitia Keene is teaching a 2-day oil painting class on May 2 and May 9 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

The class costs \$20 per person, and Letitia will provide all of the materials you will need.

The class will take place at Wonder City Coffee and is limited to 10 people.

Sign up in advance is required. Call Letitia at 918-373-1685 or email her at lgmozart@sstelco.com for more information or to sign up for the class.

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NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

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918-530-1902
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
LGARTSALLIANCE.COM

Police Chief Kasey Shaver looks to build community for LG

Locust Grove's new police chief Kasey Shaver has a lot of plans for our town, and he has started putting them in action already, including stepped-up patrols, safety checks and more civic and community involvement.

Chief Shaver comes from a law enforcement background. His father retired after 25 years from the Department of Corrections, and his mother worked for ten years at the Oklahoma Juvenile Center.

"I come from a family that cares deeply about others," Shaver said.

Shaver grew up in the small southwestern Oklahoma town of Manitou but also spent a lot of time traveling.

"I grew up as a military brat and spent a lot of my childhood in Germany where my father was stationed," said Shaver.



He started his law enforcement career in Vici, a small town in the Panhandle in 2014.

"I see Locust Grove as a growing community with the Google data center being built and just the overall progress here," said Shaver.

"I'd like to be able to build the police department and get back to building our community relationship with the town businesses and the community. I'm a family oriented person and I want my guys to treat everyone like family. Our job is to protect and serve the community, and I want everyone to feel comfortable with talking to my officers

and me."

Direct and open communication is important to Shaver. "I have an open door policy and am able to be reached when people have concerns. I want to get more involved with the community."

"I've got a great group of men and women who love this town and are looking forward to working towards helping the community."

"I'm very proud to be here and can't wait to take our department into the future."

If you have not met Chief **LGMS to host fundraiser event**

The Locust Grove Middle School Outdoor Education program will have a fundraiser on Apr. 20, at the LG Upper Elementary, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. There will be a spaghetti dinner and silent auction. Anyone wanting to donate to the auction should contact Brad Cowan at 864-2454.



MONIES RAISED . . . An open mic poetry fundraiser for MS research, sponsored by the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry, brought in \$460 at Wonder City Coffee on April 4. The fundraiser was planned in part with the family of Emma Leigh Bailey, who has MS. Pictures are Jason Bailey, Emma Leigh Bailey, Jennifer Bailey and Alex Bailey.

LGAA meets April 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Members of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance will discuss the upcoming visit of poet Joy Harjo and their plans for the annual Founder's Day activities.

Local church plans Easter egg hunt

The First Baptist Church of Locust Grove is sponsoring a community-wide Easter egg hunt starting at 10 a.m. on April 20 at Gorda Park. The hunt will be for ages kindergarten through 6th grade. A prize egg will be given in each age category.

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National Library Week highlights importance of public libraries

During an average day in Oklahoma, almost 37,000 adults and children visit their local public library. They borrow more than 64,000 items, ask more than 5,000 reference questions, attend 124 library programs, book more than 9,000 internet sessions on library computers, and log almost 13,000 wireless internet sessions with their personal devices.

For an institution that had been placed on "deathwatch" during the dawn of the internet, National Library Week is an opportunity to highlight the continued vitality, popularity and importance of libraries. This year's celebration, April 7-13, features the theme "Libraries = Strong Communities."

The most recent published statistics from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) illustrate that important connection between communities and local public libraries with some upward trends from the previous year, according to State Librarian Melody Kellogg.

The statistics reflect activity at Oklahoma's more than 210 public library sites in 2017.

"Circulation, program attendance, visits, and use of electronic library resources are all up," Kellogg said. "Almost 2 million Oklahomans have a library card, and that's up about 100,000 from the previous year."

Kellogg said there are a number of reasons to explain the continued popularity of public libraries in Oklahoma.

"Historically, libraries have always been able to evolve with the times, integrating new media and technology along the way in order to serve the public," she said. "In smaller communities, libraries are often the first to bring these new technologies to the public. Last century, they may have had the first public fax machine in town. Today, they may have the fastest internet connection."

Kellogg said federal and statewide efforts have brought greater capabilities to local libraries, as well.

"ODL helps libraries use the federal E-rate program so they can improve and upgrade their internet and computer networks without breaking their budget."

"The Department of Libraries also uses federal funds to purchase a statewide license to a host of online information and reference sources for all libraries," she said. "Oklahoma library users now have access to millions of articles from magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, and professional journals. They can access these in the library or from home, school, or office."

The statewide resources also help local library budgets, Kellogg said. "Since the most recent reference resources are available online, this can free up local library funds to purchase materials and services to meet other needs in the community."

Meeting those local needs



BOOK DONATION . . . Books and other supplies for children was donated by PSO during "Week of the Young Child to the local library."
--Photo by Courtney Ritter

is another reason public libraries remain so popular according to Marea Breedlove, Director of Locust Grove Public Library.

"Most of our funding comes from local taxpayers," Marea Breedlove said, "so we have a connection to our fellow citizens and we're accountable to them. Our job is to know our community and provide the resources, and tools need to succeed."

An average day at the Lo-

cust Grove Public Library reflects the diversity of services offered, Marea Breedlove said.

"We are welcoming to all, and we do our best to serve the people who walk in the door. It may be an adult needing to access a job application online, a student seeking homework help, a patron researching a health condition, or parents looking for educational resources or entertain-

(Continues on Page 7)

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–Importance of public libraries–

(Continued from Page 6)
ment for their children,” Marea Breedlove said. “Even if you need a book we don’t have in the collection, we can borrow it for you from another library.”

Programming at the library also reflects the community’s interests and needs. Offerings include weekly storytime activities for pre-school children, summer reading programs, adult programs, access to free self-service scan-

ning and faxing, 6 public computers and access to open wi-fi.

Kellogg said the activity at the Locust Grove Public Library is an example of what’s happening at public libraries across the state.

“Occasionally we meet people who are visiting a library for the first time in years, and they’re amazed at the variety of services beyond books,” Kellogg said. “The children’s area is filled with activity, and the old card catalog is now online.”

Kellogg said it’s important to remind them that the mission of the public library re-

mains the same: to provide free and open access to services and information resources, and to foster lifelong learning. “That’s what we continue to do. It just may be accompanied with more bells and whistles today.”

To view statewide statistics on Oklahoma’s public libraries, visit: libraries.ok.gov/nlw2019.

For information on the Locust Grove Public Library, visit the library at 715 E. Main St., or online at www.locustgrovelibrary.okpls.org; or contact locustgrovelibrary@gmail.com or 918-479-6585.

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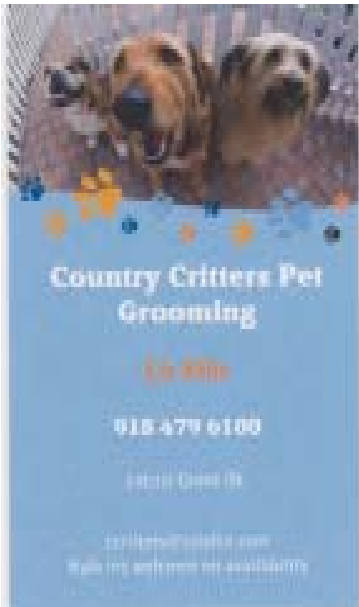
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CAMPING OUT... Children enjoy storytime while listening to a book read by the local librarian at Locust Grove Public Library last week during “Week of the Young Child.” Storytime is a weekly feature, but the addition of a tent gave the weekly story hour another layer of enjoyment, another step up in the make-believe experience.

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Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sunday: Closed



ARTWORK was everywhere to be found at the Locust Grove Public Schools "Night of the Arts" held at the high school March 28.



SHANEY O'DELL is pictured in front of just a small part of her students' work this year at the annual "Night of the Arts" at the high school March 28. O'Dell has also been named the LGHS Teacher of the Year.

Art students produce 'Night of the Arts'

Art, band, choir and drama students presented their annual "Night of the Arts" production for the community on March 28.

The cafeteria section was completely filled with the artwork of the students in Shaney O'Dell's three classes. A wide variety of art work was displayed in an impressive format and the different categories on show.

The middle school choir, directed by Eric Yoder opened the music portion of the evening with "Obwisana" by Victor C. Johnson.

The high school choir, also directed by Yoder, sang "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around" and "Homeward Bound"

The high school band performed next. Directed by Jason Marshall, the group played "Cimarron Fanfare," as well as Fanfare and Fireworks," and "The Tempest."

The high school drama class, directed by Sherry Mills, presented the play "The Ever After."

"You use a glass mirror to see your face; you use works of art to see your soul."

--George Bernard Shaw

GET CREATIVE

Founder's Day LG Poem CONTEST

DETAILS AT ROMPOETRY.COM

Poems due...
May 11, 2019
2:00 PM

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Write an original poem of 10-24 lines about LG--past, present or future!
Email or bring poem to ROMP Rummage Store

PosterMyWall.com

Big Read director to visit LG

The LGAA is excited to announce that the national program director of the NEA Big Read program will be coming to Locust Grove April 25-28. Joshua Feist, who works for Arts Midwest, which administers the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program, will be visiting with the LGAA and attending Big Read events during his stay.

Feist has worked for Arts Midwest since 2008. He



JOSHUA FEIST

works collaboratively with the National Endowment for the Arts as well as nonprofits

and libraries around the nation to deliver engaging one-book, one-community programs.

Feist's areas of expertise include art history, community-wide arts programming, emergency medicine, event planning, grants administration, photography/videography, project management, Salesforce database administration/setup/automation, stage management and all things Star Trek.

In his artistic life, Josh photographs events, performances, and people as a freelance photographer. Many of his works can be seen at his website JFeistPhotography.com.

To meet Feist, you can attend any Big Read event on Apr. 26 or 27. The schedule is at LGAartsAlliance.com.

The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

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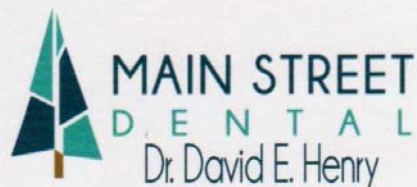
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Big Read art contest winners named

Students, grades 6th through 12th and adults celebrated Joy Harjo's poetry from *How We Became* *Human with the Locust* Grove Arts Alliance by creating art inspired by Harjo's poetry. There was also an

adult category.

Artwork is hanging in the LGAA gallery. Artists used a variety of media: painting, drawing, sculpture, mixed media, etc., in their projects to create art inspired by Harjo's poetry.

A Tulsa artist evaluated the works using this criteria: evidence of inspiration from Harjo's poetry; creativity; mastery/skill in particular art medium used; difficulty.

The artist and judge anonymously decided on two place winners each for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

First place went to Amy Clark for her inspired art of "Fire" and "I Give You Back." Second place winners were Karlie Kerns for art motivated by "I Am a Dangerous Woman," and Brianna Loffer's interpretation of "Four Horses Songs." Third place recipients included Jerah Bighorse with her art influenced by "Morning Prayers," and Lea Brown for

her art inspired from "I Am a Dangerous Woman."

In the adult category, Shaun Perkins won for her creation inspired by "The Song of the House in the House." Roxann Yates placed second with her representation of "This Land is a Poem." Alysha Little placed third with her painting inspired by "Remember."

The gallery is open to the public and a special celebration will occur April 10.

Join the LGAA in celebrating the Big Read in Locust Grove. This kick-off celebration will include the opening of the Big Read Visual Art Show, along with

cash awards given for the entries, a presentation by Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry Director Shaun Perkins, free refreshments, opportunity information about activities for the rest of the month and more.

Everyone is invited. Celebrate the arts in our small town. The artwork can be viewed starting at 5:00 p.m. The presentation of awards, etc., will begin at 5:30 p.m. The gallery will be open until 6:30 p.m. The art will then be on display the rest of the month.

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Town Clean-up Day April 27

The town of Locust Grove has set its "Community Clean-Up Day for April 27 from 8 a.m. until noon at the old high school parking lot, corner of Wyandotte and Joe Koelsch Drive.

This is a service for citizens of Locust Grove and Locust Grove Public Works Authority customers only. A PWA statement and an ID must be presented prior to disposal.

In conjunction with the clean-up day, the LGPWA will be accepting used car, truck and agricultural tires. The collection is not for tire dealers.

For more information, call 918-479-5354.



FIRST PLACE . . . Middle school student Amy Clark won her division with this illustration of one of Harjo's poems.



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Steal my Joy Harjo book

By Shaun Perkins

One of the first books of poetry I bought was *She Had Some Horses* by Joy Harjo. I got it in 1983 right after it came out. I was a student at OSU and probably bought it on the advice on my poetry mentor at the time, T.R. Hummer.

It was the first poetry by an Oklahoma poet that I owned. I wrote in it and turned it into a well-used and loved book. It went with me to graduate school, and then at my first teaching job at Bartlesville High School, it was in my classroom with all my other books of poetry.

Students (anyone really) is more likely to read poetry if it's in its own book, not a textbook.

When we did something with poetry and my little slim books were pulled off the shelves, hers was always the first to go. Along with Louise Erdrich and Robert Frost, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and Edgar Allan Poe.

That was the first time I lost the book. It didn't particularly bother me—it went to a student who obviously

"She Had Some Horses"
is a powerful exploration
of womanhood's
most intimate moments."

needed it more than I did. I bought another copy. It eventually disappeared, too. I taught at five more schools after that one and bought the book several more times.

The copy I have today is a Norton reissue from 2008. I don't teach anymore, so it has stayed in my possession.

Of this edition, Norton's editors said:

"First published in 1983 and now considered a classic, *"She Had Some Horses"* is a powerful exploration of womanhood's most intimate moments.

Joy Harjo's poems speak of women's despair, of their imprisonment and ruin at the hands of men and society, but also of their awakenings, power, and love."

Our Big Read book is a compilation of her poetry from 1975 to 2001 and shows how she expanded her subjects, themes and styles from

"She Had Some Horses."

She writes about community, family, love, bravery, loss, injustice and justice and all the things that make us human.

I love her books, but any of you are welcome to steal them from me, also.

Harjo, a Mvskoke/Creek Nation citizen, has written ten books of poetry, a memoir *Crazy Brave*, several other pieces of nonfiction and a play.

A critically acclaimed poet, her many honors include the Ruth Lilly Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Josephine Miles Poetry Award, the William Carlos Williams Award, and the American Indian Distinguished Achievement in the Arts Award.

She lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

A national initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

*"One of the first books
of poetry I bought was
She Had Some Horses
by Joy Harjo."*

—Shaun Perkins



POETRY FRIENDS . . . Joy Harjo and Shaun Perkins are shown at a poetry reading held in Northeastern State University in 2013.

—Book Discussion Groups—

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Big Read art contest occurred. Everyone read lines of poetry and some entire poems and talked about what they meant for themselves.

A drawing was held for a Wonder City Coffee gift card of \$25. Bighorse won. Each week a discussion member may enter for a gift card.

Joy Harjo will meet the book discussion groups on April 27 during Wordfest at Wonder City Coffee. Check out rompoetry.com for all the details of the day's events.

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.

If you have news on LG events, places, or people, or want to place an ad in the newsletter, please contact Betty Perkins at blperkins@sstelco.com or 918-479-5617 (leave a message if no answer). The newsletter can also be viewed at lgartsalliance.com.

Submit pictures and stories (which we might have to edit for space concerns) to the email address above.