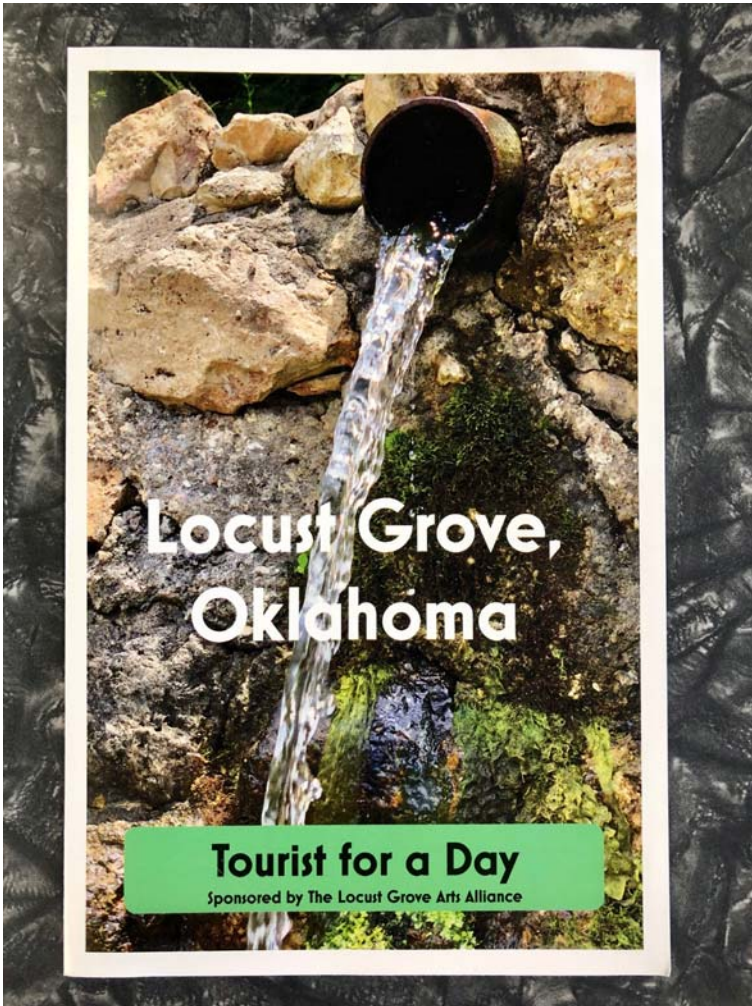


WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LG

No. 61: October 2019

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

*Feet First... More Halloween pictures
can be found on Page of this month's
issue. Photos are by Marea Breedlove,
vice president of LGAA.*



VISITING LOCUST GROVE . . . *The Locust Grove Arts Alliance (LGAA) is seeking information for a bulletin to be distributed during the Water/Ways exhibit.*

Bulletin planned for exhibit

Tourist information about Locust Grove is still being gathered to share with visitors during the Smithsonian Water/Ways Exhibit. In addition to art projects being on display, the LGAA would also like to share literature about attractions and businesses in LG.

A Tourist for a Day brochure has been published to showcase art, museums, thrift stores, unique gifts, parks, and other attractions for tourists to enjoy. Those who would like a

(Continues on Page 2)

Smithsonian Exhibit arrives

Water/Ways opening festivities are Oct 21 at VFW Hall

Celebrate the opening of the Smithsonian traveling exhibit Water/Ways at this event. Festivities include water-themed karaoke led by DJ DonGo, exhibit tours, awards ceremony for water-themed poetry and plastic bottle art winners, art show, a fun kids craft activity and more.

DJ's Diner food truck will be set up for outside dining. Free and open to the public.

For more information

about Water/Ways, including the poetry and art contests, visit <https://lgartsalliance.com/water-ways/>

Those who would like to get involved with this exhibit in any capacity, please contact LGAA President & Water/Ways project director Jennifer Henson, jenniferh@rae-corp.com, 918-530-1902, or Water/Ways site coordinator Shaun Perkins, oki storyteller@gmail.com,

918-864-9152.

Water/Ways has been made possible in Locust Grove, Oklahoma, by Oklahoma Humanities.

Water/Ways is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide.

Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

VFW Post 3573 honors veteran with golf tournament name change

VFW Post 3573 Sequoyah Downing has changed the name of its annual golf tournament to honor the late Danny Henson. The tournament will be held on November 2, 2019 at Pryor Creek Golf Course. The event was scheduled as close to Veterans Day as possible.

Danny was born in a tiny house in Rose, Oklahoma on February 4, 1946. His fam-

ily was so poor they couldn't afford to give most of the children middle names. But the family was filled with love and hard work. When they were young a few of the eight children would go to the creek to fill water jugs, because the house had no running water. They cut wood to heat the home. Danny grew into a strong and

(Continues on Page 5)



HENSON HONORED... *The late Danny Henson is shown with his wife, Sis.*

Adele discusses upcoming event in town

Editor's Note: This column by Locust Grove Chamber of Commerce's President Adele Collette is the third in a continuing series.

Happy Fall Y'all! Cooler days, crisp evenings, fire pits, hoodies and fall leaves are coming. I can not wait for it. It is my favorite time of year, with all the colors and smells.

With Fall comes all the awesome events that will be happening in town. The first one and it's a big one, is the Smithsonian Water Ways exhibit. This exhibit will run from October 21 to December 7. It will bring many people to our town. The Chamber has been working with the LGAA to help make

Locust Grove



Chamber Chat by Adele Collette

this a huge success.

The City of Locust Grove has also been doing their part to make our town look nice. It would be great for all the property owners along Scenic 412 to have their properties looking nice as well as

the businesses. We want people to have a good impression of our town.

The Chamber board has been planning the holiday events as well. We will split some events up into different nights instead of trying to have everything in one night.

Last year we had the Decorative Pole Decorating Contest. All the poles were decorated and they looked wonderful and festive. They really made Main Street look great, and the imagination that inspired these poles, Fantastic! We will be doing this again this year, and I am looking forward to seeing what everyone comes up with.

Contact me, Adele, to have a pole assigned to you. Anyone can participate in this. If you are a business owner and you want to decorate a pole by your business, contact me quickly to be sure

to get that pole. We will need to have all the poles decorated by November 22nd.

November 30th is Small Business Saturday and the kickoff to our holiday season. We will have Holiday Open Houses at businesses in town and we are urging all businesses to participate in this. The times are from 10am to 2pm or you can keep your business open until 6pm when the festivities end. Please contact the Chamber to add your business and closing time to the list. We will also have a Pop Up Show featuring crafty vendors from around our area from 10am to 6pm at the Chamber/LGAA gallery. Santa will also be available for pictures and visits from children from 2pm to a little before 6pm, then we will end the night with the lighting of the Christmas Tree at 6pm.

We are adding something new this year and it should be

loads of fun, and this can be done as a family. On Saturday, December 7th beginning at noon at the Chamber/LGAA gallery, we will have a Gingerbread Decorating Contest. There will be prizes for 1st place and ribbons for 2nd, 3rd and People's Choice.

Then on Tuesday, December 10th we will have our Christmas Parade. The past couple years we have had an amazing turnout for the parade and the number of floats increase each year. The creativity of these floats are amazing, you do not want to miss it. I am hoping for a great night.

All the information and entry forms for all the upcoming events will be posted to our website www.locustgroveoklahoma.com and our facebook page by the middle of October. If you have any questions or need additional information, Please contact me at 918-530-8132 or junkjustified@yahoo.com.

—Business Bulletin—

(Continued from Page 1)

copy, can pick one up at Wonder City Coffee or the LGAA office. It is not a complete list, and the LGAA is hoping to receive more information about this Wonder City to share its wonders with others.

In order to share information about LG businesses, feel free to bring in brochures and business cards to display during the exhibit. We will not be able to go business to business to collect this information. Bring your literature to Wonder City Coffee. For more information, email Roxann Yates—roxannperkins@gmail.com.

In order for exhibit visitors to have a list of eateries in LG and surrounding areas, please send a list of places, addresses, hours, and phone numbers so that we may create a flyer, or you may bring cards and brochures that you have. A list of cemeteries and, historic places, and other points of interest can be sent to Yates to create flyers for visitors. Please send information to the email address above as soon as possible.

Visit us at
rompoetry.com



Rural Oklahoma
Museum of Poetry
6603 S. 438 - Locust Grove

About What's Happening in LG

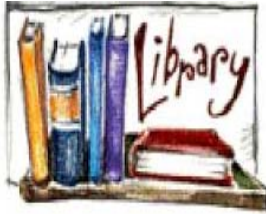
EDITOR'S NOTE: While this newsletter is produced by the LGAA and will contain that organization's news, we also want to publish information about any activities in Locust Grove that our community might be interested in.

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.

LG Public Library announces pumpkin decorating contest

Entries for the Pumpkin Decorating Contest sponsored by the Locust Grove Public Library are due Oct. 18, with the judging to take place during the week of Oct 22-31. Winners will be announced Oct. 31.



Pumpkins should not be carved. Categories include “Most Adorable,” “Most Original,” and “Scariest.”

Prizes will be awarded in each category.



ADD A LEAF . . . Abigail Ritter adds a leaf to the autumn tree during story time at the library. The tree was designed by librarian Courtney Ritter who is currently working on a Christmas tree for the little library visitors to trim.

--Photo by Librarian Marea Breedlove



Halloween-themed yard wins Chamber's monthly award



SPOOKY SCENE . . . The Locust Grove Chamber's Yard of the Month award went to Cheryl Crites, left, owner of the house at 605 Joe Koelsch Drive. She is shown with Jeana Cree, Crites niece, who was in charge of decorating.





SHAUN PERKINS



BILL McCLOUD



MORRIS McCOVEY



JEANNETTA CALHORN
MISH



ROXANN YATES

Water/Ways poetry contest has celebrated judges

Poetry and water have this in common: They are everywhere.

In conjunction with the Water/Ways exhibit in LG, the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry (ROMP) sponsored a poetry contest on the theme of water.

The winners of the contest will be announced and awarded certificates, medals and cash prizes at the Water/Ways Opening Celebration on Oct. 21, at 6 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 116 N. Broadway.

The judges for the contest were K-4th grade: Shaun

Perkins, 5th-8th grade: Bill McCloud, 9th-12th grade: Morris McCorvey, Adult: Jeanetta Calhoun Mish, and Professional: Roxann Yates.

Perkins, a longtime LG resident and ROMP director/founder, is a Teaching Artist with the Oklahoma Arts

Council and a published poet and storyteller.

McCloud, Pryor, a history professor and poet, is the author of two bestselling books, *What Should We Tell Our Children about Vietnam?* and *The Smell of the Light*.

M c C o r v e y ,

Bartlesville, is a longtime poet, actor, director and teacher, who managed the Westside Community Center for decades. He has a best-selling book of poems called *Bus Station Poems* and regularly conducts poetry readings in Dewey.

Mish, Oklahoma City, is the current Oklahoma Poet Laureate, an award-winning poet and professor who has published in many fields.

She is currently touring the state conducting poetry programs in schools and other locations.

Yates, LG, is a poet, teacher and photographer who manages the LG Arts Alliance office/gallery and writes book reviews and other articles for various outlets.

After the celebration, the contest winners will be posted on the ROMP website at ROMPoetry.com, where visitors can also find the details for other upcoming poetry contests.

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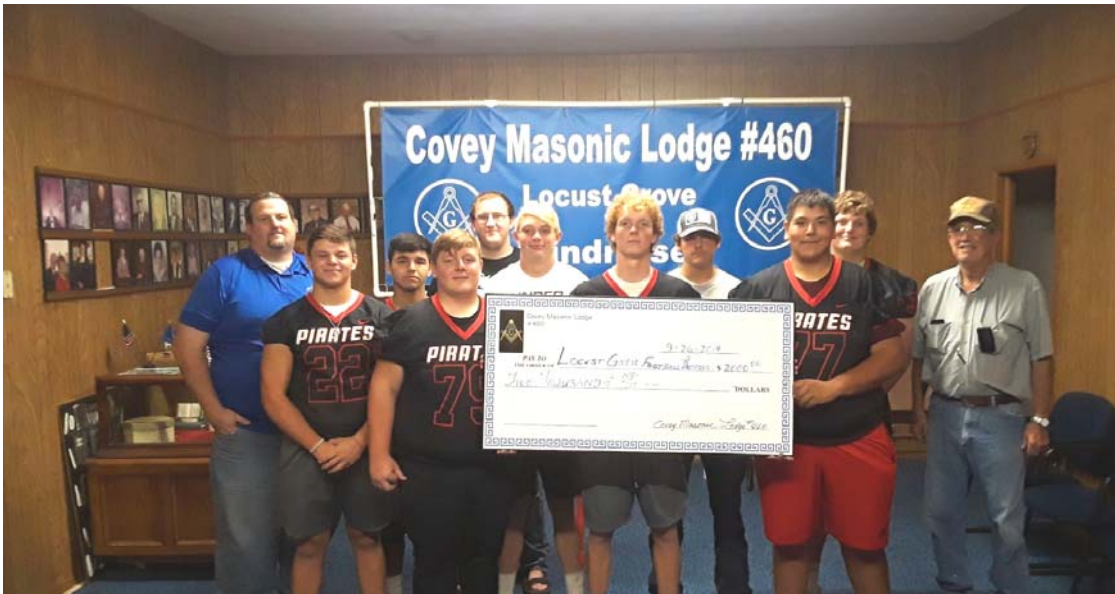
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FOOTBALL TEAM FUNDRAISER . . . Members of the Pirate football team hold a check for \$2,000 from the Covey Masonic Lodge, which represents a matching fund of \$1,000 from the lodge.

—Henson Golf Tournament—

determined athlete, and would go on to shine in several sports throughout his school days.

Aside from raising his own family, perhaps the most impactful period of Danny's life was the time he spent in the US Navy as a Hospital Corpsman with the Marines in Vietnam. It was a period that he didn't talk about often as a younger man.

As he grew older he embraced the experience and the relationships he had developed, both, with the men with whom he served and other Veterans.

After he retired from Georgia-Pacific, Veteran causes became, along with the church and bad golf, some of his greatest areas of interest. He worked to put together fundraisers for the

VFW, volunteered to assist when the traveling Vietnam War Memorial Wall came to Locust Grove, and helped to stage an annual Veteran's Day dinner held at his beloved church.

It's difficult to recall anything that Danny did that wasn't ultimately geared toward helping someone else. He didn't do these things to keep himself busy, he did them because that was just his nature.

On Friday, April 26, 2019, Danny went to his heavenly home

RAE Corporation has committed to sponsoring a One Million Dollar Shoot Out. The contest will take four qualifiers from the tournament and give them all a shot at winning \$1,000,000. The Bank of Locust

Grove, Brewer Construction, Williams Construction, and American Castings have committed to sponsoring the four Hole in One contests. Each contest will pay \$10,000 to the first player to score a hole in one on the four par 3 holes.

Entry fees are \$240 per 4 person team or \$65 per individual. Participants do not need to enter as a team. Individuals signing up will be randomly assigned to a team. Deadline for entry is October 26, 2019.

Sponsorships and donations are still being accepted. Sponsorships range from \$100 to \$300.

For more information contact Stephen Bell at (918) 824-0389 or the Pryor Creek Golf Course at (918) 825-3056

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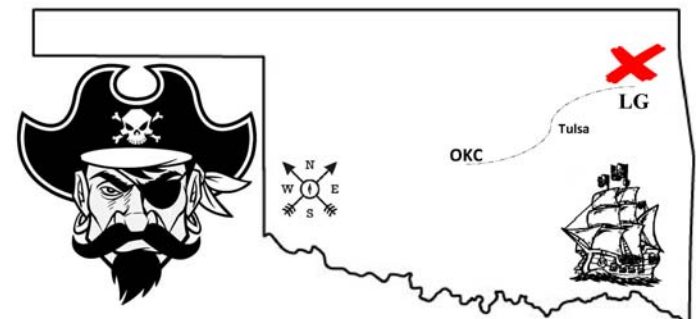
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Gear Up Grant was awarded to only 10 schools in state

LG Middle School receives federal grant

Locust Grove Middle School was recently chosen as one of 10 schools statewide to receive a significant grant allocation from the federally funded program, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, known as GEAR UP.

The grant is now in its fourth, seven-year commitment of partnering with school districts across the state to help increase the number of college-going students.

Locust Grove Middle School was chosen for the grant opportunity based on various criteria including community income statistics and past test scores.

The GEAR UP program is also affiliated with Oklahoma's Promise, which provides a 100-percent tuition payment for students in Oklahoma who meet certain income and curriculum criteria and attend a university in Oklahoma.

GEAR UP IV came with a guaranteed \$3,000 donation and a \$1,500 match donation opportunity for the middle school, which was achieved with donations from area businesses including Cowan Insurance Agency, Locust Grove Family Physicians, Locust Grove Animal Clinic, Cunningham

Cattle and Locust Grove's New Life Christian Church, as well as Joice Orthopaedics and Chili's restaurant in Pryor, Ok.

Their donations bring the grant funding total to just over \$6,000 so far.

Parent Leadership Academy (PLA) members were chosen for GEAR UP participating schools.

The middle school is represented by Lora Collier, Lyrecia Atkins and Tara Cook. The members participated in four days of training for the program and worked toward fulfillment of community donations.

"When we learned about the parental component of GEAR UP, I was anxious to get started," said Jamie Hall, Locust Grove Middle School Principal. "We are fortunate to have such supportive parents and community members. I was confident we could form a team, however; this has exceeded my expectations.

"My goal was simply obtaining the base amount of \$3,000 for a project. I never dreamed the team would secure the donations and exceed the matching funds."

The PLA members had several meetings with school administrators to determine needs for the school. Hall and middle school teachers



GEAR UP PARENT TEAM: Lyrecia Atkins, Tara Cook, Lora Collier (also a donor for Locust Grove Family Physicians), donors: Rachael Cunningham for Cunningham Cattle, Magen Willis for Cowan Insurance Agency, Locust Grove Middle School Principle Jamie Hall, middle school science teachers: Jennie Blair, Missy Ingram, Shelly Keener, and donor representative for Locust Grove Vet Clinic, Kristin McCuistion. Donors not pictured include: Jason Joice for Joice Orthopaedics and Jessica Hebb, manager for Chili's Pryor location.

worked with the parent group and ultimately established two primary needs that would benefit from the funding, including much-needed updates to the middle school science lab and re-establishment of the Accelerated Reader Program.

"The three ladies met with me, listened to the needs of our teachers, toured the school, attended a board meeting—the list goes on and on," Hall said. "Ultimately, they and the generous dona-

tions of our community, made it happen. They are responsible for fully funding a reading program which supports student learning. Our science lab has running water for the first time. Between this program and another grant our lab will be fully functioning for the school year.

"The word thankful does not even begin to express my level of appreciation."

The middle school science lab will receive a new labo-

ratory sink and equipment such as microscopes and a monitor for whole class viewing opportunities. Previous lab equipment was outdated or unusable and no sink was in place, limiting experimentation opportunities.

The Accelerated Reader Program has become a nationwide staple in many schools throughout the country and is available in most surrounding school districts but was eliminated in middle

(Continues on Page 7)

Blue Thumb training available for volunteers

Blue Thumb is having a training for new volunteers from 8:30am to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 2 and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 3 at Wonder City Coffee at 118 E. Main in Locust Grove.

The training on Saturday, November 2 will include an introduction to the Blue Thumb program and an overview of various ways you can participate as a Blue Thumb volunteer, with a focus on volunteer education opportunities.

You will also get to learn about water quality, watersheds, nonpoint source pollution and other topics through a series of educational activities which you can then use to educate members of your own community.

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) will be included and all participants will receive at



WET activity guide at the end of the day. The day will also include a visit to a local creek to discuss the creek's ecology and biology, including getting into the water and looking for bugs and fish.

For those interested in monitoring a local creek or stream, you will need to attend this training for the entire duration and also register for the Stream Monitoring Training, scheduled for the next day in the same location.

If you are not interested in monitoring but want to be a volunteer educator or learn

about other ways to volunteer or just learn about the Blue Thumb program in general, you will only need to attend this one-day training on the 3rd. Please contact bluethumb@conservation.ok.gov if you have any questions.

The training on Sunday, November 3 will cover all of the monthly chemical tests conducted by volunteers at their local creek or stream.

We will also discuss the test results, what they mean and what they reveal about water quality and nonpoint source pollution.

The day will include visiting a local creek to perform all of the required stream-side testing procedures and then returning to the indoor location to perform the chemical tests volunteers conduct every month. For

new volunteers who have only taken the one-day introduction to Blue Thumb Training, this monitoring training is mandatory before you can begin to monitor your creek.

All volunteers who have been trained in the past but would like a refresher course on their chemical tests are also welcome and encouraged to attend. Please email bluethumb@conservation.ok.gov if you have any questions or would to attend this day's training.

*Refunds will be available until October 26

*If you miss the sign up, and would still like to participate, tickets will be available for an extra \$5 charge until October 30 with no refund.

FAQs

What are my transportation/parking options for getting to and from the event?

Parking is free! There will be a short trip to a local creek, but carpooling is encouraged!

What can I bring into the event?

Please bring a lunch, shoes and clothes that can get wet and dirty, and a change of dry clothes and shoes. Waders can be borrowed if you would like to do so.

How can I contact the organizer with any questions?

Please email bluethumb@conservation.ok.gov

What's the refund policy?

Full refunds will be offered until October 26.

Veteran's Day salute will precede Water/Ways presentation

GRDA's Randy Alberty to give program at VFW on Nov. 11



Pre Pensacola Dam 1938

GRDA Communications Director Justin Alberty will present a history of the GRDA when he speaks at the VFW Hall from 6-6:30 p.m., Nov. 11.

"I plan to focus on hydro development and how it has impacted the region," Alberty said. "I will also touch on benefits and details of hydroelectricity of the past 60 years."

A Veteran's Day salute will also be held on that day with everyone invited. Veterans are also invited to bring service photos.

—Gear Up Grant—

(Continues from Page 6) school curriculum three years ago for lack of funding. It will be made available again this school year.

GEAR UP IV, which began in October 2017, will serve approximately 12,000 middle school and high school students yearly across Oklahoma. Donations are

still being accepted to contribute toward middle school improvement projects.

For more information, or to make additional donations, contact Locust Grove Superintendent's office at 918.479.5243. To take a look at information about the GEAR UP program, go to www.gearup.org.

Class of 1969 holds 50th-year reunion

Thirty members of Locust Grove High School's Class of 1969 attended their 50th reunion on Sept. 28, at Country Cottage. The class graduated 84, and has lost 23, so the 30 who attended represented 49 percent of the remaining class.

"It was an awesome reunion with good food and lots of reminiscing," said Theresa Stafford Gregory. "We want to thank Hugh Callery for a wonderful slide show, the Country Cottage for excellent service, Mike Callery for working to make this reunion happen, and Wonder City Coffee for allowing us to have our planning meetings there.

An "In Memory" poster was made for the classmates who have been lost, including Allen Anderson, Kathy Blackwell, Jim Buckskin, Nancy Buckskin, Bill Carlile, Don Fogleman, Kreg Hill, Tim Key, Bill Knott, Jimmy McFarland, Barbara Nutter, Roger Pelts, Steve Pierce, Roy Pilkington, Van Ross, Robert Sitsler, Lawana Summer, Sid Swimmer, and David Wilson.

Senior class officers included Mike Callery, president; Jimmy McFarland, vice president; Steve Gardner, secretary; Lyda Stone, reporter. Senior class sponsors were Gordonna Akers and Mr. Pelts. Superintendent was Leonard Yarborough, and principal was Jim Potts.

Gail Hanna and Jimmy McFarland were the top honor students. Yearbook queen and king were Lyda Stone and Mike Callery.

Football queen and captain were Teresa Stafford and Steve Gardner. Basketball queen and king were Brenda Rowland and Mike Callery.

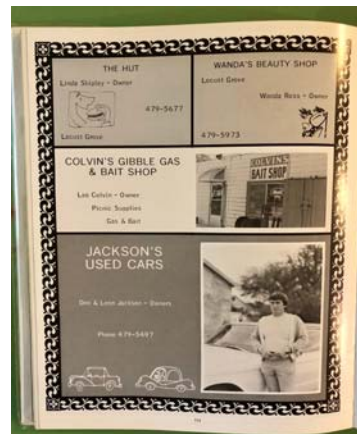
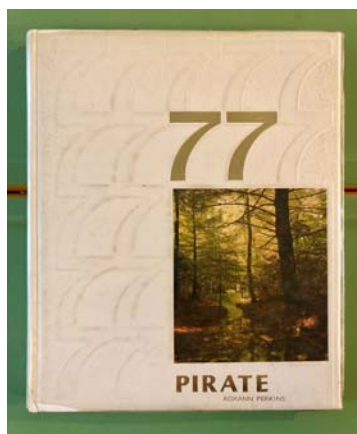
FFA sweetheart and beau were Gail Hanna and Freddy Bates. The senior top ten percent included Freddy Bates, Eddie Mozingo, Jimmy McFarland, Gail Hanna, Charlotte Crupper, Lorene Copeland and Annetta Lindsay.

The class of 1969 was the first class to have the pre-game bonfire, and a highlight of the year was the initiating of the freshmen.



FIFTY YEARS LATER . . . Members of the class of 1969 who attended the reunion were Mike Callery, Betty Harp Anderson, Robert Bynum, Stan Covey, Ronnie Armes, Eddie Mozingo, Bob Kern, Connie Grass Ingram, Rick Condit, H.C. "Skip" Franklin, Perry Simpson, Teresa Stafford Gregory, Charlotte Crupper Joice, Tom Carver, Glen Blackwell, Donna Downing Gwartney, Brenda Rowland, David Alley, Lorene Copeland Alley, Mike Clayton, Geraldine Robison, Linda Huckobey Henson, Shirley Rogers Troglin, Lyda Stone Henson, Sharon Sumner Parris, Gail Hanna Burton, Clifford Hurt, Willeen Fogleman Boswell, Larry Boswell, and Steve Blair.

ONCE UPON A TIME



THE 1977 YEARBOOK featured a white cover with gold letters and a picture of a wooded scene. One of the inside pages in the ad section featured ads from Jackson's Used Cars, The Hut, owned by Linda Shipley, Wanda's Beauty Shop, and Colvin's Gobble Gas and Bait Shop.

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Women's group plan vintage sale Oct. 25-26

The Locust Grove United Methodist Women will host a vintage sale to benefit the group's mission projects, both locally and worldwide.

The sale will be held at the church north Highway 82, on Oct. 25-26, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Items for sale will include vintage dishes and glassware, aprons, jewelry, as well as some vintage-style goods.

After touring the Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit at the VFW Hall, come by to shop before heading home.

The UMW will also have light refreshments for purchase while you browse.

FUMC hosts flu clinic, plans Blessing ceremony

The First United Methodist Church will host an AMO Health Flu Clinic from 10-11:30 a.m. at the church on north Highway 82 on Oct. 15.

All insurance is accepted, and there will be no out-of-pocket expense. Paperwork must be completed with forms available at the church.

The church is also hosting a Blessing of the Animals Service at 4 p.m., Oct. 13. All types of animals will be blessed, but they must be restrained by leash or cage.



BLESSED KITTY... *One of the animals blessed at last year's ceremony is shown nestled in its basket.*

Chautauqua event set Nov. 22

The Locust Grove Arts Alliance will hold a Wonder City Wonders Chautauqua event as part of the Smithsonian Water/Ways Exhibit coming to town this fall. It will be held on Nov. 22, at 6 p.m. at Wonder City Coffee. Refreshments will be served to those who participate and to the audience in this free event.

The event will coincide with The National Storytelling Network's Tellabration, an annual celebration of stories. Poetry, music, and stories will entertain everyone in this 90-minute show.

People will play characters from our past, from Indian Territory days, and our town beginnings. Some aspect of water's role will be in everyone's performance, and many will be dressed in authentic fashions.

Theodore Roosevelt said the Chautauqua was "the most American thing in America."

In 1874, John Heyl Vincent and Lewis Miller rented a Methodist camp meeting site to use in the post-camp meeting season as a summer school for Sunday school teachers; this became known as the Chautauqua Institution and reflected a nation-wide interest in the professionalization of teaching," according to Chautauqua.com.

The following people and the characters they will include: Jerry Yates, O. W. Killam—town founder; Choogie Kingfisher, Trail of Tears Native American; Alysha Little, Emily Murrell—Murrell Home relative; Stephen Bell, Steve Foreman—Stephen's great-grandfather; Tammi Bell, still researching for a character; Canton Little, musician during the 1910s; Emily Beckton, Grace Leake—Leake Hotel owner; Kaden Parker, student with a big fish

story. Bill McCloud will be the Master of Ceremonies. Marea Breedlove will photograph the event.

Characters will deliver a monologue, answer questions from the audience while in character, and then describe his/her performance and details. More information on the event will be posted at LGArtsAlliance.com as the celebration draws nearer.



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Veteran's Day Nov. 11

Soldier's life has included seeing action in 2 wars

Editor's Note: This article by Roxann Perkins Yates ran two years ago in this newsletter, but it is appropriate to run it again as Veteran's Day approaches. Mayes Key is not only a decorated soldier, but is testament to all local men who have served and enriched life in this town and country.

He was born in a store in the small town of Yonkers that is no more. He is a veteran of two wars. He is a humble man who turned 90 years old in March. He is Mayes Orlando Key, and he has been a resident of Locust Grove most of his life.

Mayes is the youngest of five children born to Leoma Estell (Stella) Holland Key and James Jobe Key.

Named after his Aunt May, Mayes said, "I've always had trouble with it."

But Trouble is something Mayes and his family have always known how to deal with.

"My parents had to cross Grand River to go to Wagoner to be married. The river was frozen and a group of men had to cut a channel through the ice so the covered wagon could be driven across it," wrote Wanda, Mayes' wife, in a story about his parents.

As a child, Mayes also lived in Hominy and Broken

Arrow and returned to Yonkers in 1938.

"In 1948 the Fort Gibson Dam was built, and Yonkers was in the flood plain, so the folks moved to Peggs," he said.

Mayes attended the first school built in Yonkers. It was replaced with a stone building whose remnants can be seen today.

"It was a one-teacher, one-building school that students attended from first grade through eighth," he said.

The ferry and train stop are some of Mayes' fondest memories.

"The ferry was four miles from Yonkers. It would take riders to Wagoner, 12 miles away for .25 cents," Mayes said.

Before World War II, people couldn't flag the train to make it stop.

"During the war everything was rationed. People couldn't get gas or tires, so they would flag the train down to go to Wagoner. The government said the KONG train had to stop if people needed transportation. The cost was .23 cents to go and .28 cents to buy a ticket to come back," said Mayes.

His parents and sibling are now deceased. He and Wanda have five children—the late Tim Key, Karen Key



VETERAN MAYES KEY

Rice, Andrea Key Rawdon, Marsha Key Vick and Mark Key—six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The Keys have been married 65 years.

"We have love and respect for each other, and we thank God everyday for his many blessings," Wanda said.

The couple were married in 1950, and in 1958 they bought "the only house we have ever owned," Mayes

said.

It rests on the foundation of "the old grocery store and post office of Mark, Oklahoma," Wanda said. Mark was two miles west of present day Locust Grove.

The Keys hope to have an historical marker placed sometime in the future.

But in the past, Mayes served in two wars—World War II and the Korean War.

"On my 18th birthday I

registered for the army," Mayes said.

After basic training at Camp Robison in Little Rock, Mayes left for Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and became a soldier of the 69th Infantry Division. In October he was sent to New Jersey, after which, he boarded a ship destined for England.

"On Christmas day, replacements were needed for the Battle of the Bulge. Eighty men from each company of the 69th Division were then sent to LaHavre, France," Mayes said.

Subsequently, Mayes became a soldier in the 83rd Infantry Division and he and other soldiers were put in box cars bound for Belgium.

"In my first combat at the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes forest, we couldn't have fires because it would signal the German forces.

"We didn't have good boots, and my overshoes were way too big. That was the coldest winter on record," Mayes said. "I got frostbite on my feet and legs. I wouldn't go to the hospital because when I came out, I would be put in a different unit."

Mayes, instead, was sent to an aid station and then to a clearance station to recover. Evidence of his frostbite can still be seen today.

(Continues on Page 11)

—Life of a local man of distinction—

(Continued from Page 10)

The division battled for three weeks. “All reserves were sent in,” said Mayes. Allied and German casualties were great, but the German losses were heavier.

This battle was the beginning of the end for German forces.

Involved in three campaigns—the Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland and Central Europe, Mayes, in the second campaign, became the first Oklahoman in the 9th Army, Company E to reach the Rhine River.

On their march to Berlin, Mayes’ division stopped in Badertz, Germany, where word of a counter attack of panzers was rumored. “The company put a line for a phone, then pulled back one and a half miles to set up a defense,” he said.

Mayes and three other men were picked for listening duty. “We were to listen for the armor and call the company,” said Mayes.

“I saw the phone line jerk the next morning,” he said. “A company of Germans overcame us and took us prisoner.”

Mayes and the three other soldiers were taken to a regular army camp. The men were commanded to empty their pockets.

“I had a new knife from Sears and Roebuck and wrapped it in a handkerchief to conceal it,” he said. Mayes carried the knife many years afterward. “I carried it too long,” and only part of it remains. “I also had a spoon and fork. I still have that fork.”

The prisoners continued to march to one barn and then another. They were given bread and cans of horse meat to eat.

“The meat got bigger and bigger the more I chewed it,” said Mayes.

Eventually, the prisoners ended their march southwest of Berlin at Stalag 11A prison camp. The prisoners were only fed dehydrated vegetable soup full of white worms.

“We just thought of the worms as protein,” said Mayes.

A telegram, read to a relative who had the only phone in Yonkers, related that Mayes was missing in action.



MARKS OF VALOR . . . Mayes Key stands beside a wall that displays the medals he was awarded for his service beneath the flag he fought to protect as all service men and women have done.

“My cousin wrote the message out and delivered it to my parents,” Mayes said.

After being in the POW camp for three weeks, an American lieutenant and German camp commander negotiated a truce, “and the 83rd Division came in with trucks and ambulances and liberated us,” said Mayes.

“General Eisenhower said all POWs will be sent home,”

said Mayes.

A second telegram home stated that Mayes had been returned to military control.

While being processed to go home from a “tent city” named for cigarette brands, Mayes was in the camp “Lucky Strike,” and he spotted his cousin from Yonkers, Sherman Sly.

“Sherman was a turret gunner on a B17. He was on a raid on a German ball bearing factory. Sixty Allied planes were shot down, and Sherman spent 19 months as a POW,” Mayes said.

From that time on, the two never separated. Both crossed the ocean on a liberty

ship “and we could eat anytime we wanted,” Mayes said.

In 1950 Mayes again served his county with the National Guard 45th Division during the Korean War.

While serving 14 months in the war, his first child, Tim, was born.

“I didn’t see Tim until he was nine months old,” Mayes said.

Later, Mayes became an electrician, worked at Oklahoma Cement as electrical supervisor and retired after 29 years of service. This small-town man has served his family and his country in a big way.

“We just thought of the worms as protein.”

--Mayes Orlando Key

said about the dehydrated vegetable soup with white worms in it which he and other soldiers ate as prisoners of war.

Jeri Fleming to give rain water program

As part of the Water/Ways exhibit in Locust Grove, the LGAA is sponsoring a discussion by Jeri Fleming, a native of the town who works for the Oklahoma Water Survey.

Fleming will talk about rain gardens and rain water harvesting.

The talk "Harvesting Rain" will provide listeners with information on how to best direct water that comes into their yards.



JERI FLEMING

Every time it rains, water falls on hard surfaces and begins to run off roofs, across driveways, roads and parking lots, picking up the oil, grease, fertilizer, animal waste and trash and carrying it directly into a nearby stream, river or lake.

"Capturing the water coming off your house, or redirecting it into a garden will help protect our water

quality," said Fleming.

Everyone is invited to join Fleming to learn about rain-water harvesting and rain gardens as a way to reduce runoff and provide habitat for birds and pollinators.

The workshop will be on Oct. 26, Saturday, from noon to 1:00 p.m., at Wonder City Coffee.

A tour of the Water/Ways exhibit at the VFW Hall will take place after the talk.

Water/Ways is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide.

Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

Water/Ways was adapted from an exhibition organized



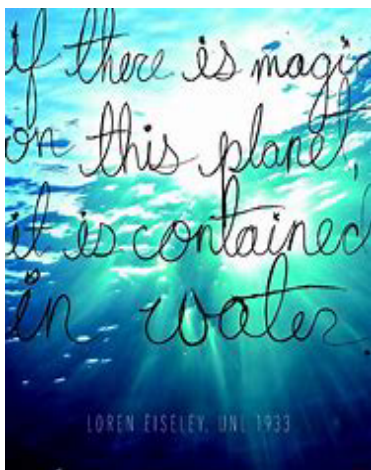
by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), and the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul (www.smm.org), in collaboration

with Great Lakes Science Center, Cleveland. Also the Field Museum, Chicago; Instituto Sangari, Sao Paulo, Brazil; National Museum of Australia, Canberra; Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada; San Diego Natural History; and Science centre Singapore with PUB Singapore.

The workshop will be on Oct. 26, Saturday, from noon to 1 p.m., at Wonder City Coffee.



LOCAL BEAUTY... This waterfall is located on private property on a farm in the Rose area, and is a wonderful example of the beauty of water.



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