

No. 62: November 2019

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LG

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

WATER/WAYS. . . The Smithsonian Exhibit, Water/Ways, will be available for viewing through Dec. 7. Shown at right is one of the free-standing displays.



Historical characters to visit on Nov. 22

Chautauqua is living history

A Chautauqua of voices from the local area will be heard from 6-7:30 p.m., Nov. 22, at Wonder City Coffee.

The public is invited to come hear the stories from 1912 when Locust Grove was first founded.

Locust Grove was called the Wonder City, and the voices of the past will relate what life was like then.

Many of the voices will also recall how the different water ways have been important to the people of Locust Grove in conjunction with the Smithsonian exhibit currently

at the VFW Hall called "Water/Ways."

Participants are Bill McCloud, master of ceremonies; Jerry Yates as town founder, O.W. Killam; Choogie Kingfisher as a survivor of the Cherokee Trail of Tears march.

Alysha Little will portray Emily Murrell, a relative of the builder of the Murrell Home in Tahlequah.

Stephen Bell will be town leader Steve Foreman. Bell is Foreman's great-grandson.

Tammi Bell will be business owner Euletta Foreman, who owned a clothing store and realty business on Main Street during the fifties.

Emily Beckton will tell a story through the guise of Grace Leake, who owned the Leake Hotel just off Main Street in the location of today's fire station.

Kaden Parker will be a boy who is skipping school.

Music from the 1910's will be provided by Canton Little, photographer will be Marea Breedlove, and the event coordinator is Roxann Yates.



STORYTELLER . . . Choogie Kingfisher will be one of nine voices to be heard in the Chautauqua planned Nov. 22 at Wonder City Coffee. The storytelling event will feature early day residents of Locust Grove who will tell their stories, especially ones related to water in conjunction with the Smithsonian exhibit "Water/Ways" current at the VFW Hall, brought to town by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance. Kingfisher will tell the story of a Trail of Tears survivor.



Chamber to sponsor window decorating contest again

The LGAA is once again sponsoring a town Christmas Business Decor Contest.

Businesses in town can participate by decorating their storefront for the holidays.

Organizations or individuals are encouraged to paint a business window and beautify the town for the season. The decor can be both

in the store window and outside it.

Prizes include \$100 and a trophy for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place.

In addition, people will be able to choose a People's Choice winner by donating any monetary amount in the favorite window decoration/painting's name.

The winner will receive half of the money donated. The other half will go to the LGAA to fund future projects.

People's Choice voting will take place in person Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. and from 7-8 p.m. on Dec. 10, at Wonder City Coffee.

Online voting will also be
(Continues on Page5)

Adele discusses upcoming events in town

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

Happy November! We are now officially in the Holiday Season. Those blood sucking bugs are gone!! It has arrived so quickly and how many of you are prepared? How many of you are already decorating for Christmas? I have not started decorating yet, but it won't be long.

Are your minds on Thanksgiving, the turkey, ham and all the sides and desserts? Oh mine is, I can not wait. We just wait until November, go to the store and buy all the food we need, cook for hours and then eat leftovers for days. The very first Thanksgiving, also known as a Harvest Celebration in 1621 was not that

Does sweet persimmon predict winter?

By Roxann Yates

A docile hail storm pelted me under the tree. Dad says it's a persimmon. When I looked up there were dozens of bees landing on the perfectly round moon-colored balls.

Taking then dropping, the storm continued. Buzzing and plopping, nature was busy and nature was perfect. Honey and mead will come from their diligence.

After years of work, talk-

Locust Grove



Chamber Chat by Adele Collette

easy. They worked the fields and waited for the harvest to celebrate. Thanksgiving was not declared an official holiday until November 26, 1863 by Abraham Lincoln, although it had been celebrated long before that. So who do we have to thank for all those extra pounds,,, the Pilgrims! All I have to say to that is Thank you Pilgrims.

Along with the Thanksgiving plans, is all the Christmas plans. The Chamber of Commerce is changing things around a little bit this year. We are trying to bring some added fun to the Christmas Celebration versus a one night event like it has been. How many of you watch the Hallmark channel Christmas movies? Do you catch yourself thinking I wish we had a Christmas like that here? I do, every time I watch one. Of course we do not get the snow like that, but we can still celebrate that way and have fun.

Our first event will be held 2 days after Thanksgiving, on November 30th. This is also the day for Small Business Saturday. We are encouraging area businesses to hold a sale or some kind

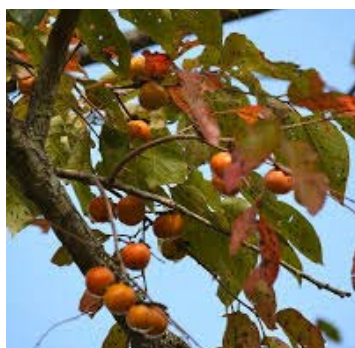
of holiday event at your business on this day from 10 am to at least 2 p.m, the day will end at 6 p.m. with the lighting of the Christmas tree. If you would like to keep your business open until 6, that would be great. Please email me a flyer or information on what your business will be doing so we can announce it and put it on the list, at JunkJustified@yahoo.com. And since this day is for Small Businesses, we will also have vendors set up in and around the Chamber/LGAA gallery. If you are interested in setting up a space to sell your products, let me know. All information and forms are on our website, www.locustgroveoklahoma.com. You can mail these in or email them to me. I would love to see some of our area Church Choirs come out and sing, If your Choir is interested in participating, Please contact

me or Shaun Perkins.

So gather up your family and hit Main Street on November 30th! Check out the sales, the vendors, enjoy the music and get your picture taken with Santa from 2 to 5:30. Then stick around for the lighting of the Christmas Tree at 6pm! Please remember this holiday season to shop local. Support our small town businesses and lets help keep them in town.

We would also like to have all the decorative light poles decorated by November 22nd, if you are interested in decorating a pole, please let me know by email or text, 918-530-8132.

Other Christmas events to mark your calendar for are the Gingerbread House decorating contest on Saturday, December 7th and the Christmas Parade on Tuesday, December 10th. If you have any questions, please contact me. Let's get ready to have a good time!



MAGIC POWERS . . . Folk legends say the inside of a persimmon fruit can predict the upcoming winter. A spoon, knife or fork shape has different meanings.

trees can teach me.

Dad said the exposed center of the ripened fruit contains a spoon and knife and fork—aids for sustenance. I will now consume and learn from those that speak a language foreign, yet understood.

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.

News from the library . . .

This Halloween we held our first pumpkin decorating contest, no carve, of course.

We had 13 fantastic entries. All voting was done by the people who visited the library.

Awards were given in 3 categories, most adorable, scariest and most original.

The winner for most original was James Carter and his dino egg pumpkin.

Scariest went to Ople Stokes for her bug witch and the winner of most adorable went to Khalil and Makayla Spurrier for their sunflower pumpkin lady.



SCARIEST PUMPKIN went to Derek Kingfisher and his grandmother, Ople Stokes, above.

Thank you to those who entered. We plan on making this a yearly event.

Also, there's been a change in the time for story time.

Instead of 10:30 am, the time has moved up to 10 am. The day is still Thursday, unless it falls on a holiday.

We hope the new time

will be beneficial to those who would like to attend story time.

As always, our only reason for making changes and doing programs at the library is to better serve our community.

--Marea Breedlove, librarian



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BUNNIES, CATS and Bumble Bees turned up in costume at the Locust Grove Public Library's annual Halloween celebration, complete with decorated pumpkins, trick or treat, and lots of fun for those who took part.

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OPENING DAY . . . Nita Wilson, left, and her grandchildren, Riley and Reid Wilson, were some of the earliest visitors to the Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit at the VFW Hall in Locust Grove. The exhibit will be open Monday through Saturday through Dec. 7. This colorful array of umbrellas was prepared by arts students at Locust Grove Middle School.

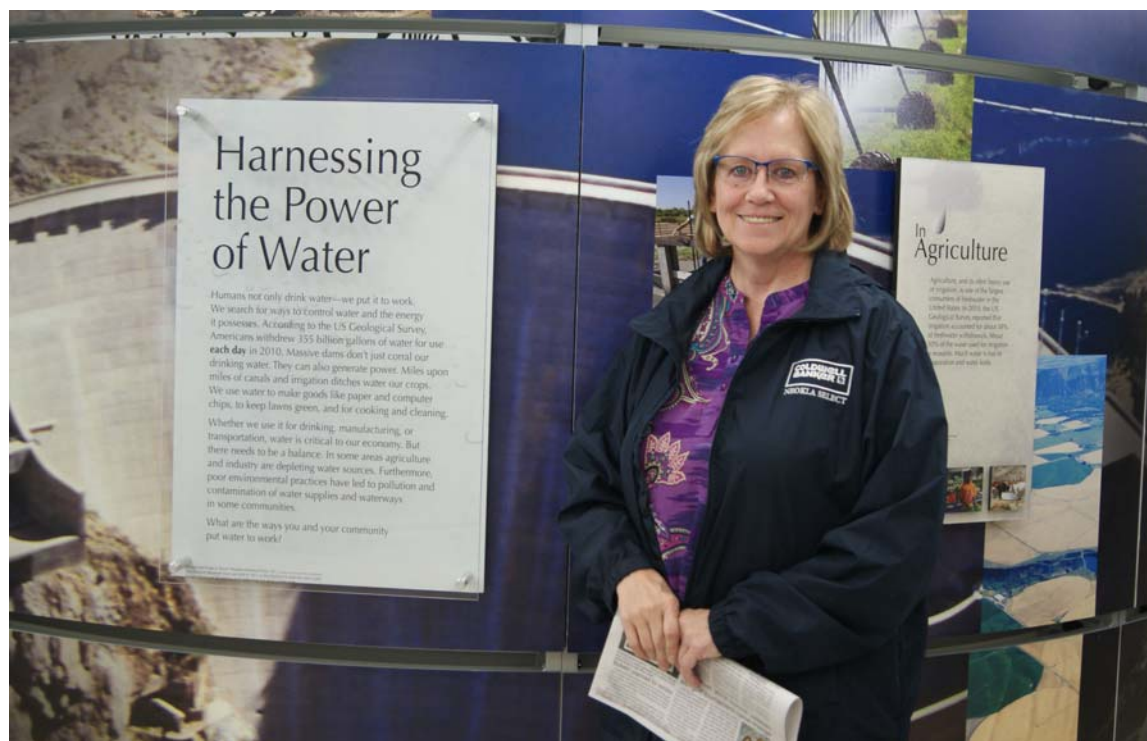


EXHIBIT VISITOR. . . Melody Ayres, Pryor, was one of the first visitors to the Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit on the first full day that was open to the public Oct. 22. The opening on the night before was attended by more than 175 people. The exhibit which features five full display areas with interactive devices on each display. It is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the VFW Hall on north Broadway Ave., just north of the midtown stoplight.



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LG Arts Alliance prepares for exhibit

Members of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance made plans for the opening and continued running of the Smithsonian Exhibit "Water/Ways," which is currently open and will run through Dec. 7.

Volunteers were arranged to man the exhibit for each of the seven weeks it will be at the VFW Hall. Those stepping up to host the exhibit each day include Shelley Horton, Emily Ward, Kaden Rhodes, Gwen Pool, Cara Schwichtenberg, Sarah Coday, Alysha Little, Ray Grass, Sandy Burford, Kelly Palmer, Roxann Yates, Michael Duck, Marea Breedlove, Jennifer Henson,

Linda Callery, Matt Foreman, Shaun Perkins and Betty Perkins.

Matt Foreman has completed the LGAA Ship which is located at the corner of Main and Broadway. Locals are invited to toss their No. 1 and 2 plastic bottles into the ship which will be recycled.

Foreman has also completed the mural which is a part of the Water/Ways exhibit. The mural features Pipe Springs, an early map of Mayes County, and the old Lindsey Mayes Bridge.

Sara Van Horn has taken over the task of selling ads for the LGAA newsletter, "What's Happening in LG." Members of the group expressed appreciation to her for taking on this task which makes the newsletter possible.

Those attending the meeting were Jennifer Henson, Shelley Horton, Betty Perkins, Marea Breedlove, Roxann Yates, Ray Grass, Sandy Burford, Sarah Coday, Stuart Horton, Jonetta Bostic and Matt Foreman.

—LG Chamber—

(Continued from Page 1)

available at LGArtsAlliance.com on Dec. 9 and 10. Vote on your favorite business decor with a monetary donation from a penny to ???

The deadline to have your business decorated and ready for judging is Dec. 8 by dusk. Please call or email Shaun at 864-9152 or okiestoryteller@gmail.com if you would like to decorate a business OR if you are a business owner who would like someone else to decorate your business.



POETRY BARN POST

"You notice, politicians don't speak poetry. There's a certain kind of political speech because it has a different end. At least my experience with poetry, it's about opening up to what you didn't know, opening up to hear what you couldn't hear otherwise. It has to do with the language, with rhythm, with metaphor. Metaphor makes everything possible."

—(Joy Harjo, via Washington Examiner)

Novel based on lives of children stolen from home

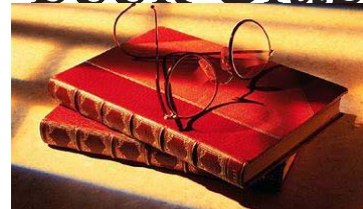
Before We Were Yours is a story of based on actual events during the late 1930s-1940s when children were taken from their parents by the Tennessee Children's Home Society and actually sold to people desiring children for whatever reason.

The story is told through the eyes of 12-year-old Rill

Foss who is kidnapped with her siblings when their mother and father were at a hospital for the birth of their sixth child.

They are taken from their shantyboat on the Mississippi River, and though they are assured they will be reunited with their parents, they soon realize a dark truth

Book Club



which terrifies Rill.

Even though Rill's family is fictitious, the events that happened to them are the truth for many of the children's which were snatched from loving families and traded to others.

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Sara Van Horn Owner

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Contest winners named at Water/Ways opening



FIRST in the creation of an item made of plastic were Nathan Brown and Gracie Sanford for their rendition of a green bottle turtle. Judge Linda Callery presented an award check of \$100 to the high school students.



PLASTIC BOTTLE CONTEST WINNERS were left. Winners, in back, included Adele Collette, Trevor Cruikshank, Nathan Brown, Gracie Sanford, Alexa Littlefield, and Doug Robertson; in front: Kylee Tugmon, Eleanor Yates (standing in for Adeline Yates, and Briana Griffin.

--Photos by Marea Breedlove



POETRY CONTEST WINNERS in front are Eleanor Yates, who accepted on behalf of her sister, Adeline, Silas Jackson, Hannah Coffelt, Harlee Lee, and Iris Craver. In back, from left: Jackson Barnes, Octavia McKenzie, Stephanie Jordan, and James Thomas Fletcher.



STANDING IN for their big sister, Adeline, were Eleanor and Isabel Yates. Adeline won the poetry division and a check for \$100. The grade school student also placed second in the plastic bottle contest and won another \$50.

Locust Grove native wins patriotism medal

Jerry Keener is one of three Cherokee Nation citizens to receive the Cherokee National Holiday Medal of Patriotism Award in 2019.

Growing up in a traditional Cherokee-speaking home, Keener was taught that you can do anything you want in life if you work hard and re-

spect others.

Through his award, Jerry Keener hopes that the younger generation can find the courage to take chances. In the

military, Keener's interest in the Office of Special Investigations was discouraged by recruiters and advisers.

Nonetheless, he took the initiative and earned his place as a Special Agent.

Keener's service includes recovering the Space Shuttle Challenger's wreckage and crew, preventing looting at the Oklahoma City bombing and assisting with the emergency response to the 9/11 terrorist attack at the Pentagon.



JERRY KEENER

Keener was honored at the recent 67th Annual Cherokee National Holiday Awards Banquet.



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Or visit the Christmas in the Barn Event via Facebook

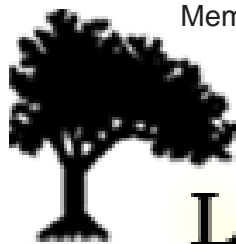


HOWABOUTA BURGER... Rita Weaver and Adele Collette greet customers to DJ's Diner. The food truck has popped up in different locations in town, but according to owner Marsha Weaver Payne, the food truck may have found a new home on the property recently bought by Ron Noble next to Ron's Auto on Main Street.



Halloween Shots

Halloween on Main Street was a busy time this year with a constant stream of trickier treaters out. At far left are Canton Little and Amber Lee in back, and the two youngsters got away without leaving their names. At near left the Aaron Pierce family is show in their fifties rock and roll outfits. Below, the bright yellow and orange ruffles almost hide Aynna Wallace, 5 years old.



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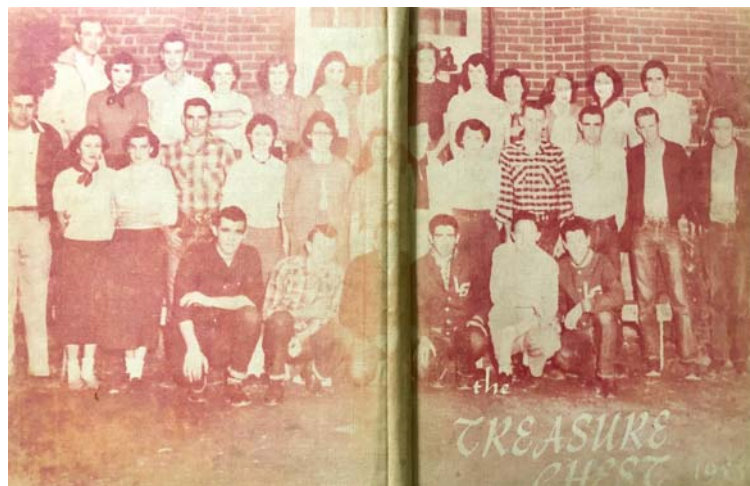
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ONCE UPON A TIME



THE COVER OF THE 1955 Pirate Yearbook featured the entire senior class. The images aren't too distinct, and those who landed in the middle of the book got a little creased, but this type of cover has only been used at Locust Grove this one time. The Treasure Chest cover's red images have also faded to pink since it was first published 64 years ago.

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNER . . . Amelia Ingram, second from left, wins a Rogers State University scholarship from Dr. Larry Rice, RSU president. They are flanked by Amelia's parents, Missy and Jerry Ingram.



DONATION GIFT. . . Shaney O'Dell, right, stands beside a trailer of donated cabinets for her art classroom at the high school. She was also given a kiln from Rand and Stephanie Phipps for her students to fire their pottery works of art.

How the Smithsonian Institute got its start

Gold from England shipped to USA for famous museum

By Roxann Yates

He felt that his great public service to this country included sailing with 11 boxes of British gold coins, weighing nearly 105,000 pounds from England to America to create the most famous museum in the country. My family appreciates his legacy and contributions to creating the Smithsonian Institute.

Richard Rush, paternal third cousin, five times removed, was instrumental in creating what the LGAA is exhibiting at this time—the traveling Smithsonian Institute's Water/Ways exhibit.

Rush, born in 1780, performed many diplomatic and civic duties. He was Secretary of the Treasury, Attorney General, and Minister to Great Britain and France.

Though James Smithson



RICHARD RUSH

never visited America, he was adamant about creating a place of art, science and educational materials for our citizens to enjoy. A place in Washington D.C. for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." In 1838 Rush traveled to Great Britain to try to make that happen.

His father and grandfather, Benjamin Rush and Richard Stockton, were both signers

of the Declaration of Independence.

After two years of negotiations, Rush brought the boxes of gold home. It was melted down and created gold worth more than \$500,000.

Negotiations were completed in 1840.

"Paper transactions were so unreliable in those days that Rush decided the best way of bringing the money home to America was in British gold sovereigns," according to an article at smithsonianmag.com.

Rush later became one of the first regents for the institution.

Check out the traveling Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit in town and know that water and family helped make this possible.

"Finding this tie to an ancestor was amazing, especially because the local arts alliance is currently sponsoring an exhibit from the Smithsonian Institute."
—Roxann Perkins Yates



Tis' the Seasonings

Finding the perfect useless gift is difficult

By Roxann Perkins Yates

As a treat, after leaving the doc's office, I went into a cavernous place -- something I don't like to do in my post-mall walking years.

I wanted to mingle among the shelves and pick out things I don't really like and surely don't need. But that's what shopping is usually.

Hobby Lobby has lots of glittery stuff. I was mesmerized by the fake flowers and glittery poinsettias.

"Who needs a 3-foot velvet flower? I really like it. Maybe Mom does."

I told myself this and a lot of other nonsense while I zig-zagged through the aisles of seasonings. I looked at black Santa and white Santa and scarecrows and metal letters.

Someone in my family needs one or more these. I think about who in the family needs a treasure. None of them do, but I think it when I get in this situation.

In the ginormous clock aisle, I saw a cloudy-eyed woman, tottering into my space. I'd seen her at the elevator in the clinic. She scared me a little. The elevator opened for me to get in, and no one was there, then her knobby hand wrapped

around the door. She got out. I got in.

As the door was closing, the hand grabbed it again, and the cloudy-eyed woman got back in with me. She stumbled toward me and touched my earrings while we climbed three stories.

Was she following me? Or, was she looking for a giant flower to brighten her day?

Tis the seasonings for people to wander through a deluge of decor.

The word "poem" was on a chocolate advent calendar. So I put it in my basket. Poems scare so many people, but Santa shares a line of verse and a piece of chocolate for the first 24 days of December. Somebody needs this. My grandson's 12, so I'm sure he won't like it, but poetess Sister Shaun will.

I also bought a dozen Christmasey Pez dispensers to give my grandson. He won't like them, and he'll get cavities for Pezzing, but he's going to get them anyway.

In the fabric section, I touched all the soft stuff. I don't sew, but I thought about making three blankets and started selecting the colors and patterns.

Everything was on sale, and I hated to pass up Thanksgiving to obsess on Christmas, so I looked down the fall-colored sections. A shiny silver acorn, the size of baseball, caught my eye. So did it's mate, a rose-colored one.

"Who needs these big ole acorns? Bill and Robb are cooking for us this weekend. They must have them."

For 30 minutes I turned over every ball cap trying to find "Made in the USA." No success. My husband won't wear any other.

The yellow of the clearance shelf beckoned me. A "Y" made of driftwood was pretty cool.

"I probably need that 'Y.' Why?"

I couldn't answer my thoughts, so I moved on.

"What can I get my adult sons?"

I couldn't find the "adult sons" section, so their gain.

Checkout was only \$29 for two acorns, 12 Pezzes, and a poet Santa.

On the way home, like a true consumer, I snagged a QT hotdog and Funyuns and consumed.

Still pondering about that poinsettia and a proper home for it. Tis the Seasonings.



Pryor Art Show Winners

Two members of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance won ribbons at the Pryor Arts Council Show recently. Sula Robertson won a second-place red ribbon for her photograph, and Roxann Yates won a third-place white ribbon for her sunset captured through a spider web.



ANOTHER WIN... Roxann Perkins Yates also received a fifth place green ribbon award for this reflective photo of a statue which she took in Hartford, Ct..

LG Police Department hires officer

By Kasey Shaver #501
Locust Grove Police Chief

I have some exciting news for the Locust Grove Police Department. LGPD is proud to announce the hiring of K9 Officer Billy Kammerzell and his partner Kron.

We are blessed to have them join our community.

I would also like to welcome David Hollis Jr. as one of our new dispatchers.

I would like everyone to know that we do hear you, and we are well aware of the situation at hand when it comes to the burglaries, late night walkers, and the overall narcotic issue that we are facing.

Please let us help, no matter what you might decide to post on social media.

Nothing will get accomplished if we aren't on the same page.

We are a whole new administration with new officers and dispatchers.

I have been transitioning the department to a brighter future, and I am looking forward to rebuilding our relationship with the community.

The City of Locust Grove has partnered with the Circle L Horse Ranch to help enforce the LGPD Animal Control.

We are going to start en-

All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.

Winston Churchill



Chief's Corner

forcing the current ordinances pertaining to Animal at Large and so on.

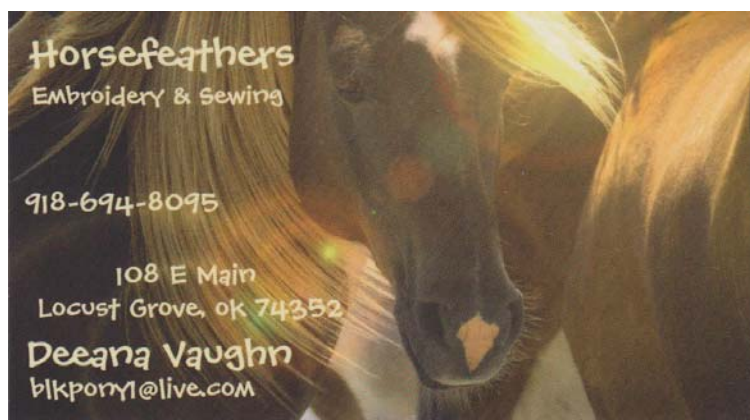
I plan on holding a city wide "Town Hall" sometime

in the beginning of December to discuss the idea of a Neighborhood Watch and discuss how my department can better serve the community.

The meeting will be at the community center. I look forward to sharing this journey with all of you.

Please feel free to reach out to me at 918-479-5253 or email me at lgpd501@outlook.com.

Let's look toward the future.



LG BOYS & GIRLS CLUB MEMBERS face the bright afternoon sun as they pose for a picture at the canoe water feature before visiting the Water/Ways exhibit inside the VFW Hall.

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