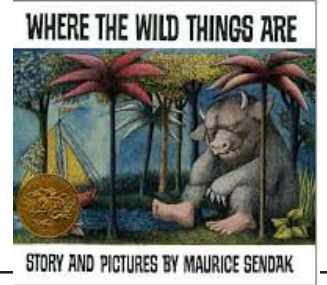


No. 67: JUNE 2020

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LG

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

NUMBER ONE.. . Time Magazine chose Where the Wild Things Are as the best children's book of 100 listed. Page 3



Zoo Safari operating for 21 years in LG

*By Maria Jinks
Zoo Director*

Even though we have been here 21 years in Locust Grove, I thought I would give you a little story on us. Here at Zoo Safari USA we rescue all types of animals.

That's if we have the proper enclosures and can provide the proper diets. Once we rescue them, we give them a permanent home and they stay with us for the remainder of their lives.

In turn they become animal ambassadors for their species. They get to "tour" to schools, churches, daycares, nursing homes and many other public events.

You get to learn where in the world they would originate from, diet, habitat and any unique feature about them.

The best part is after you get to hear about them, you get to touch! This gives everyone the opportunity to learn with all their senses.

The most popular question we get asked is why. To most people exotics, espe-



cially Reptiles are gross and not worth bothering with. For some animals, they are the latest "trend" to show off.

There are people that get it right and do the research before getting their 'pet'. Unfortunately, that is not the case for some animals. Some of them will get the wrong care and or when the "newness" wears off, just ignored.

That's when we get the call. Some of the animals in the past were so sick when we got them all we can do is keep them comfortable.

For the ones who do make it get to live the rest of their lives with proper care, diet and environment.

Don't get me wrong we have seen very responsible people to whom have given up their beloved pet, because they were aware enough to realize that they deserved a place to care for

(Continues on Page 4)



MURAL NEARS COMPLETION. . . *The town's history mural on the east side of the Foreman's Store nears completion with this section which depicts the Civil War Battle Of Locust Grove, which occurred just east of the town. Ray Grass is the artist who is working on this pictorial history to replace the original which was destroyed in a downtown fire that took three historic buildings down.*

-- Photo by Marea BreeLove

ROMP receives humanities grant

Oklahoma Humanities recently awarded the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry a \$3,450 grant to enable the museum and rummage store to continue to pay expenses while closed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This H.O.P.E. grant consists of federal funds made available by a national cultural stimulus package from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The funds are intended to



be used for emergency general operating support and staff retention in the humanities and cultural sectors. ROMP will use the funds to pay for rent, insurance, utilities, and upkeep of the museum, the poet's retreat, and

the rummage store.

ROMP Director Shaun Perkins wishes to thank everyone at the NEH and the OH for their continued support of our programs. OH has been particularly supportive of ROMP's work in developing arts outreach activities and events in our rural part of the state and also to enable us to continue offering free online classes, workshops and contests that reach people *(Story continues on Page 8)*

Pandemic has changed lives

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

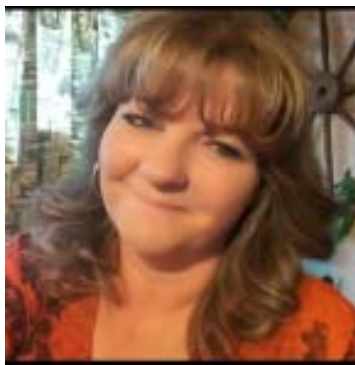
So much has changed in our lives since I did the Chamber Chat for March. There is so much on my mind to say, but we have all already heard it. This whole situation is completely out of our control.

All we can do is stay at home, disinfect, germ x and wash our hands very regularly. I don't know about y'all, but I am using just as much lotion on my hands as I am disinfectant.

This is a very hard time for everyone. People are going stir crazy at home, others are using the time at home to their advantage. Businesses are losing revenue and employees. Parents are now teachers.

We will all find out what teachers go through on a daily basis now and we will appreciate them even more

Locust Grove



Chamber Chat

by Adele Collette

than ever.

Due to the Covid 19, we have made the decision to cancel Founder's Day for 2020. I have had many people asking me about changing the date, however, we are not sure when life will get back to normal. So we will not move the date, we will celebrate Founder's Day in May of 2021.

Once this virus is over and we are all back to a normal life, we may plan some kind of fun for our community.

We do have fall events on

the schedule and these will be talked about in the coming months.

The Cruisers Car Club have cancelled the car show for May and Hugh Callery has cancelled the All School Reunion also.

We are all adjusting to a new and different lifestyle right now, and although it is hard, it is something we have to do to keep ourselves, our families and our community safe and healthy.

Take this time to enjoy your family, do some of those much needed repairs around the house, fix up those flower beds or whatever you have been wanting to do, just haven't had the time to do.

Let's use this time to our advantage and not dwell on the bad part of it.

Life will get back to normal soon and we can all enjoy the things we are missing out on.

So for now, be safe, be careful and God Bless all of you.

—Emily's Chicken Okie-lalas recipe continues—

(Continued from Page 5)
large saucepan; Using tongs, dip corn tortillas in warm enchilada sauce one at a time; As the corn tortillas are removed from the enchilada sauce, spoon chicken mixture into the corn tortilla, roll it up and place in casserole dish; Once all corn tortillas

have been filled and placed in casserole dish, pour remaining warmed enchilada sauce from sauce pan over the rolled chicken enchiladas; Spread Braum's shredded cheddar cheese over the chicken enchiladas and bake for 10 minutes or until cheese is melted; Remove from oven

and garnish as desired with Braum's sour cream, chopped lettuce, chopped tomatoes, and chopped green onions. NOTE: During summer months, I would use garden fresh vegetables, or you could visit your local Farmer's Market if you don't have a garden. Makes 8.

Arts Alliance resumes meetings in July

After a three-month hiatus because of the pandemic, the Locust Grove Arts Alliance will resume its meetings on the second Wednesday of July (the 10th) at its regular meeting time of 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

This meeting will not only be resuming the regular activities of the organization, but will also be a celebration of Ray Grass and his completion of the town's history mural on the east wall of Foreman's Auto.

While the mural is smaller in scale due to the space available, it includes all of the important elements found in the original which perished in a fire in August of 2018.

The Battle of Locust Grove is still there, as are the founder, O.W. Killam, the railroad which helped in the formation of the town, and the importance of water (Pipe's Springs) to the town.



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.



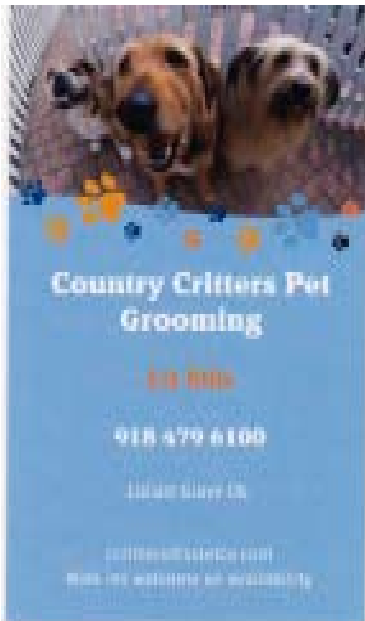
WOODSEY FELLOW... *This Little Brown Skink was uncovered beneath the bark of a downed Oak tree by Jax Overbey in the back yard of his grandparents, Dan and Marea Breedlove.*

--Photo by Marea Breedlove

Time Magazine compiles top 10 children's books

Time Magazine has gathered a list of 100 of the best ever of children's books. The complete list can be seen online, but the top 10 are listed here.

1. *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
2. *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats



3. *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
4. *Blueberries for Sale* by Robert McCloskey
5. *Little Bear* by Else Holmelund Minarik
6. *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen
7. *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
8. *The Three Little Pigs* by A. Wolf, told by Jon Scieszka
9. *Tuesday* by David Wiesner
10. *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein.

LG Public Library reopens

The Locust Grove library has gone back to normal operating hours. Tuesdays, noon until 7 pm and Wednesday thru Friday, 9 am until 5 pm. The toys and chairs are back out and there are now 2 computers in the juvenile area dedicated to ABC Mouse.

A come and go variety of

summer reading is planned with the button challenges again. The buttons were exceedingly popular last year so we put together a bunch of cool buttons to go with this year's *Imagine Your Story* theme.

If everything goes according to plan, Cherokee storyteller, Robert Lewis, will be

here on Thursday, June 25 at 10:30 am to entertain us with some Native American stories.

Bring the kids anytime the first week of June and get them signed up, grab a goodie bag, check out some books and pick up their first button.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone again!

Imagine Your Story

Locust Grove Public Library • 2020 Summer Reading Challenge

Button Challenge

June 2-5 - Come to the library and sing up for summer reading!

June 9 - 12 Create call art on the library sidewalk

June 15-19 Make a solar print at the library

June 23-26 - Attend the Native American storytelling

June 30-July 3 - Build a catapult and test its strength

July 7-10 - Complete the Fairy Tale Scavenger Hunt

July 14-17 - Do the mystery craft challenge

Summer Reading Events

Sign Up This Week" June 2-5

Tues. Noon - 7 p.m.

Wed/-Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Native American Storytelling

with Robert Lewis

Thursday, June 25 at 10:30 a.m.

Check out at least 2 books each week and complete the weekly challenge to earn your button. All those who complete at least 5 out of 7 of the weekly challenges will receive an invitation to the end of summer party.

Reading logs must be turned in on July 17.

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— Zoo Safari —

(Continued from Page 1)

them. Which I can imagine is a very hard thing to do.

We are U.S.D.A. registered and state registered. John is an animal care specialist for 32 years.

I myself, have a degree in Zoology, Herpetology, is a certified animal care specialist and a certified vet technician. I

have been doing this for ... wholly cow I just did the math, 40 years now!

As long as I'm breathing, the work will continue. It never gets old and I love seeing young people interact with animals they get to see.

We need to teach awareness fore our living planet. We need to teach conservation.

If we don't start getting the next generations prepared to take care of our wild planet, they're won't be any wild planet left to take care of!

It begins at home.

Before you want to get your next family member and yes, we consider them family members, do the homework first!

This is for any animal, dog, cat, birds, reptiles, fish, etc. I'm sure you get the picture.

Please don't ever impulse buy, just because someone else has one doesn't mean you need one too!

Also try to think ahead.



We have a pair of Emus, Chainy and Hershey, who have been with us for now going on 21 years!

We must remember that these mere animals are gods living creatures that sole depend on us for their everything.

Are you sure to also give your everything to them?

If not, don't do it. Remember this A.D.O.P.T. (Animals Depend On People Too).

I would like to conclude with this, for those who have supported us over the years a special thank you! With out that support we can't continue our work!

You can come out and see us, also you can follow us on Facebook and Instagram at zoosafariusa. Thank you for your interest and God Bless!

Maria Jinks, Director of Zoo Safari USA



CLASSROOM VISIT. . . One of the creatures from Zoo Safari visits a Locust Grove High School classroom. Maria did not have the name of this substitute teacher in this class who volunteered (when asked!) to hold the snake.



THIS METAL CROSS can be found just east of Highway 69 between Pryor and Adair..The 110-foot structure is a striking sight on the countryside, created, in part, by its sheer size. Trees in the distance are drawfed by its height. A small park is located at the base of the statue, as well as another piece of sculpture. Visited by Marea Breedlove and her grandkids in an effort to get out of the house.

--Photo by Marea Breedlove

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Emily Ward wins MIO baking contest

Mayes County 4-H Club member Emily Ward was won the 2020 MIO Coalition 4-H Recipe Contest.

Oklahoma 4-H members were challenged to use Made in Oklahoma Coalition items in a unique new recipe.

Emily won the senior division with her recipe for Chicken Okie-ladas.

She received a \$500 Visa card, a commemorative plaque and a MIO swag bag.

"Emily loves to cook pretty much anything," said her mother, Tammy Ward. "She is always looking for new things to cook on the Internet."

Emily makes her Chicken Okie-ladas often and she also likes to make chocolate/peanut butter cookies, according to her mother.

"She loves to try anything, but she doesn't like to clean up her mess," Tammy said.



Emily has also participated in food showdown competitions which are similar to the TV show Chopped, where contestants have limited ingredients.

She has been a part of the Junior Grand Champion Team and the Senior Grand Champion Team in Mayes County 4-H.

She has also tried her hand at Dutch oven cooking through 4-H last November at a leadership event.

Emily's winning recipe

The recipe is not a secret, and the Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Products Center shared the recipe on its page. She plans to attend OSU after she graduates to major in Food Science (and then go on to get her Doctor of Physical Therapy).. Here's the winning recipe:

RECIPE:

Ingredients:

3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
8 corn tortillas
8 oz package of Braum's shredded cheddar cheese
two 10 ounce cans of red enchilada sauce
16 oz jar of Ace in the Bowl salsa Or if you can't find the specific salsa, you can substitute your favorite store brand or even another can of red enchilada sauce
1 Pkg Daddy Hinkle's Southwest Wet/Dry Instant



EMILY with her winning Chicken Okie-lalas

Meat Marinade

2 Tbsp Cilantro
2 Tbsp chopped onion
1 Tbsp Daddy Hinkle's Onion & Garlic Seasoning
Braum's sour cream to garnish or serve on the side as desired
Garnishes: chopped lettuce, chopped tomato, chopped green onions
Cooking spray

Cooking/preparation directions:

Marinate the 3 boneless,

skinless chicken breasts in Daddy Hinkle's Southwest Wet/Dry Instant Meat Marinade as directed on the package and then cut chicken breasts into smaller pieces and cook chicken breasts in large skillet sprayed with cooking spray until done; Once chicken is done, remove from skillet and shred; TIP: I used my stand mixer with a paddle attachment to shred the chicken in one minute or less. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Use cooking spray in a large skillet to sauté 2 Tbsp Cilantro, 2 Tbsp chopped onion, and 1 Tbsp of Daddy Hinkle's Onion & Garlic Seasoning until tender; Then, add shredded chicken breast and 16 oz jar of Ace in the Bowl salsa to the pan and cook until heated through; Heat 2 cans of red enchilada sauce in a

(Continues on Page 2)

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Elmer McCurdy traveled much, buried in OK

By Roxann Perkins Yates

Elmer was a traveling man. Born in Maine in 1880, he later moved to Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Elmer made explosives, served in the military, worked mines, and did a bit of robbing—a bank and trains. Though he had bunions on his feet and dust in his lungs, he traversed the U.S. for 66 years after the robberies. He had no worries or pain because he moved about the country as a dead man.

“The dead advance as much as the living advance,” said Walt Whitman. I don’t think he meant this in the physical sense. Mark Svenvold, in his biography, Elmer McCurdy: *The Misadventures in Life and After-life of an American Outlaw*, reveals a history of the world McCurdy lived in and the details of his life and death. Whitman’s words are printed in the beginning of the book that includes research about McCurdy and his journey through this world, ending

with his long-delayed burial in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Much is chronicled about McCurdy in newspapers, magazines and in books.

“Elmer McCurdy was born in Washington, Maine, out-of-wedlock to 17-year-old Sadie McCurdy and an unknown father, possibly Sadie’s cousin,” Svenvold writes.

Because Sadie felt shame for the circumstances of Elmer’s birth, she sent him to her brother George and sister-in-law Helen to raise him. After George’s death, Sadie’s motherly responsibilities were returned to her. At that time she had to explain to Elmer that George and Helen were not his parents and that his father was actually a cousin. At this point in Elmer’s life, he became incorrigible and took to drinking away his confusion and sorrow, according to Svenvold.

McCurdy was a plumber in Kansas, a zinc ore shov-
(Continues on Page 7)



IMAGES FROM THE LIFE OF ELMER MCCURDY . . . Elmer at lower right as he looked at 31 when he was shot near Pawhuska by Sheriff Freas and others following a train robbery. The image at left is of Elmer in his coffin at a Pawhuska funeral parlor where his body went unclaimed, was put on display and became a photo op for local citizens. At top right is Elmer as he looked when found in a fun house in California, following several treks across the country as part of a side show. The stone in the center is the one placed on his final resting spot in Guthrie.





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—Curious tale of Elmer McCurdy—

(Continued from Page 6)

eler in Missouri, and a military man in Kansas before he began his criminal career.

First arrested for carrying burglary tools in Missouri, McCurdy somehow talked his way out of charges. He headed to Oklahoma.

With the help of some like-minded men, McCurdy robbed a train near Lenapah. Shots were fired, passengers were held captive, while McCurdy blew the safe to kingdom come. It took four tries to ravage the safe with the help of dynamite and nitroglycerin.

The blast melted the coins. “The bandits were staring at what would amount today to \$70,000. Yet no shovel or pick, no amount of banging or grunting or cursing, could pry it loose...” writes Svenvold.

After this fiasco that netted only \$450, McCurdy and his buddies parted ways. He met

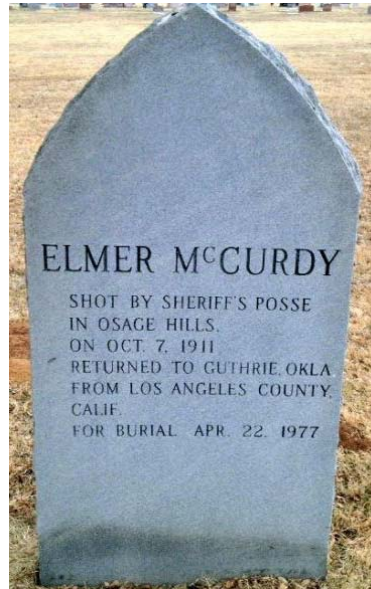
up with some other ne’er-do-wells to rob a bank in Chautauqua, Kansas. In McCurdy’s effort to blow the safe, he managed to destroy much of the interior—but not the safe. The booty total was \$150—money left outside the safe.

In Okesa, Oklahoma, McCurdy and fellow robbers, hoped to get a haul of \$40,000 off the Missouri, Kansas, Texas Line (M,K,&T). But, they had jumped the wrong train.

They stole some whiskey “a watch from the mail clerk, a pistol from the train auditor...and about \$46 in cash,” Svenvold writes.

On October 6, 1911, McCurdy was tracked to a hayshed and was killed after an hour-long shootout with Sheriff Freas, Fenton brothers—Robert and Stringer—and Richard Wallace.

Hauled to Pawhuska, the dead McCurdy began a lengthier career as a funeral home display, then as a carnival attraction, then as a low-budget film prop, and fi-



nally as a fun house hanging horror.

For five years, McCurdy was propped up in a funeral home. Full of embalming fluid and a great deal of arsenic, he looked well preserved. He was photographed, both in casual and formal attire. One photo shows him with a rifle between his legs.

“Visitors could view him for a nickel a peek,” states an article from RoadsideAmerica.com.

Since no family had claimed McCurdy while in the funeral home, he became a fix-

ture there. Eventually two people, seeing a curiosity to profit from, walked in professing to be relatives. So McCurdy began a new journey in carnival shows.

For more than a half century, McCurdy was an attraction, display, curiosity, freak in carnival shows, wax museums, and low-budget films. Svenvold said that McCurdy’s travels totaled a trip of one and one-half times around the world, according to an OETA “Centennial Stories” film segment.

Most people who saw McCurdy on display, didn’t question whether he was human or not.

One person (Don Crysedale) in possession of McCurdy made a coffin to place McCurdy in and secure the body to it to be used in a haunted house of wax.

“When I drilled a hole in the foot some yellow, almost gooey stuff came out on the drill and of course at that point I thought—my god what have we got here?”

writes Svenvold.

During the filming of a *Six Million Dollar Man* episode in 1976 at Nu-Pike Amusement Park in Long Beach, California, a hanging dummy was found in the Laff-in-the-Dark fun house.

It was naked. It was painted red. It was hanging from a noose.

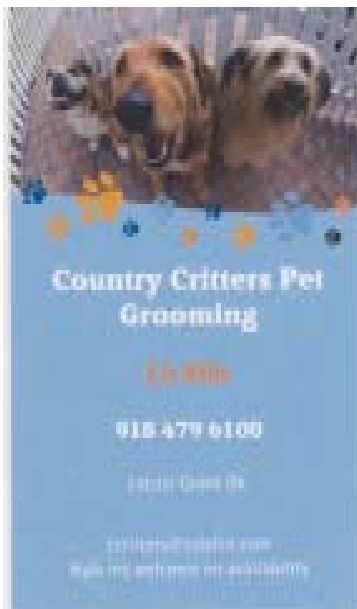
A crew member touched it, and it’s arm fell off.

Upon examination of the body, it was discovered—besides the bullet wound to the chest that killed him—that in life, McCurdy suffered from lung afflictions, trichinosis, and bunions on his feet.

After McCurdy was identified, Guthrie, Oklahomans offered a proper burial.

Sixty-six years after his demise, Elmer McCurdy, stopped traveling. He was buried on April 22, 1977, in Summit View Cemetery, next to outlaw Bill Doolin.

To make certain that he wandered no more, two cubic yards of concrete were poured over his coffin before covering with dirt.



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Kenneth Phillips



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VETERANS. . .
The three Phillips brothers are shown in their uniforms, along with a shadow box that commemorates the service of Dugie Phillips

Oklahoma's Abernathy brothers made history 100 year ago

By Roxann Perkins Yates

One hundred years ago everyone told stories of the blossoming Oklahoma boys' adventures. Today many are unfamiliar with the traveling feats of a 9-year-old and his 5-year-old brothers' equestrian journeys across the U.S.

Bud (Louie) and Temple Abernathy, Frederick and Guthrie natives, relished the outdoors and hunting with their dad Jack—the wolf catcher. At the age of 18 months, Temple and his dad engaged in a wolf chase.

Though the wolf got away, the spirit of the outdoors tacked itself firmly to Temple's heart.

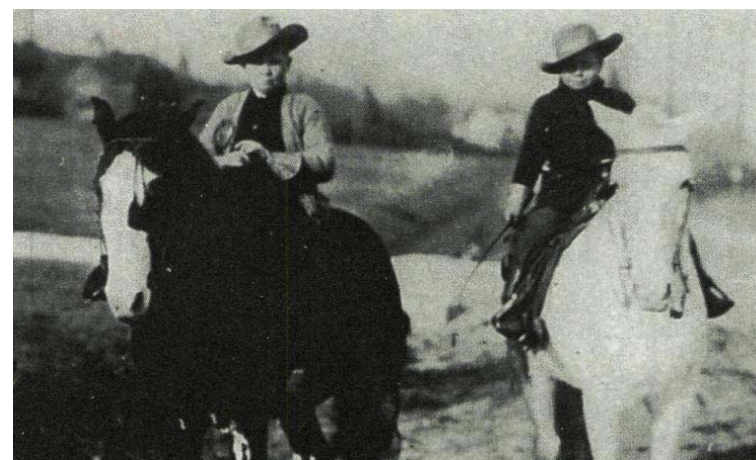
“Even among the rough-and-tumble characters of the Wild West, Jack Abernathy stood out. He worked as a saloon pianist in Sweetwater, Texas, at the age of 6, surviving a gun battle that left bullet holes in the piano; was a full-time range rider on the A-K-X ranch at age 9, patrolling the still-fenceless prairie with a .38 pistol because a .45 was too heavy,” according to M. J. Alexander's article “The Astounding Ad-

ventures of the Abernathy Boys.”

Teddy Roosevelt had heard of “Catch-'Em-Alive” Jack's live wolf captures by bare hands. He was so intrigued that in 1905 (his only visit to Oklahoma Territory during his presidency) he came to hunt with Jack. After a week of hunting with Jack watching him do what had become legend, the two men became lifelong friends.

Roosevelt made a promise to the people of the territory before he left.

“The President promised to make Oklahoma a state.



Bud and Temple Abernathy

That is a promise that he kept more than two years later on November 16, 1907, when Oklahoma became the 46th

state. Oklahoma was the only state admitted to the Union during Roosevelt's presidency. (Continues on Page 9)

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Sara Van Horn Owner

—Abernathy Brothers—

(Continued from Page 4)
dency,” according to the “Tillman County Chronicles.”

Shortly after Roosevelt’s visit, Abernathy was appointed as a U.S. marshal.

In 1909, on their initial journey, Jack’s boys rode 1,000 miles from Oklahoma to Santa Fe and back. No one accompanied them.

Bud reminded Temple of the rules set forth by their father.

“We are not to carry more than five dollars with us at any time. We are not to ride into muddy stream without some one to guide us. We are not ride over fifty miles a day... We are not to travel on Sunday,” according to Miles Abernathy’s book “Ride the Wind.”

They followed their dad’s instructions and wrote to him often. He met up with them along their travels.

The next year Bud and

“Temp” galloped to New York City. Along the way, Orville Wright offered them a plane ride. They met President William Taft and rode in a victory parade with Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders. More than one million people turned out for the celebration.

For the journey home, the boys bought and drove a Brush Runabout “Wildcat” automobile. Their horses rode home on the train.

In 1911, they returned to their saddles and made a 4,000 mile trek from New York to San Francisco in 62 days.

The skookum Abernathy brothers again returned to New York City in 1913 via an Indian motorcycle.

Bud grew up, attended the University of Oklahoma, and became a lawyer. Temple drove the Wildcat as a boy and later became an oil wildcatter.

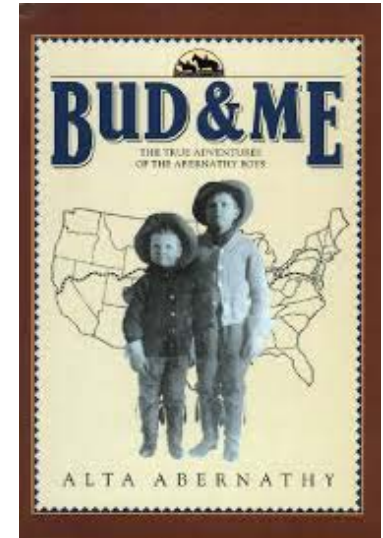
The shortest long riders of the country are commemorated with a bronze statue at the Tillman County Courthouse in Frederick. Every June townsfolk celebrate Abernathy Day.



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BUD & ME is the story of the Abernathy brothers, an exciting true story of courage and courage in an America vastly different from today. It follows the travels of Bud and Temple as they ride horseback across the country. Written by Alta Abernathy, Temple's wife.



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LG physicians scholarship goes to Amelia Ingram

Every year, Drs. Lora & Mitch Collier give a scholarship to a college-bound high school senior seeking or expressing interest in pursuing a career in the field of medicine. In the past, students interested in nursing, radiology, medicine, and pharmacy have been awarded. Locust Grove Family Physicians offers \$500 to one graduating senior in good academic standing that receives diploma from Locust Grove High School in that current graduating year.

This year, 2020, we are proud to announce the winner of our scholarship will be Amelia Ingram!

Make the most out of the knowledge you learned from school. As you graduate, keep working hard. Thrive to succeed. You'll soon reap the

LGAA scholarship applications still open for seniors

Local seniors are still eligible for the \$500 arts scholarship given annually by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance.

Those interested should write a paragraph indicating their interests, accomplishments and/or future plans in the arts, background in music, writing, photography, drawing, etc., and submit to the LGAA.



fruits of your efforts and hard work. Happy graduation!

Thank you to everyone who submitted an application for the scholarship!

A Look Back. . . coming in July

Coming in the July issue of "What's Happening" will be a look back at a couple of businesses which were important in early day Locust Grove.

One is Bill's Cafe, owned by Burl and Nola (Bill) Stevens in the building which later housed Cook's Cafe.

That building today is owned by Clark May of the magic shop, who also plans to reopen the cafe as a part of a dinner theater in the future.

The other business will be a look back at several businesses owned by the Sinor

brothers.

The story information and pictures are provided by Loretta Sinor Bertalot, the daughter of L.C. Sinor.

Anyone interested in early day Locust Grove will enjoy reading about these early days here.

Stories and pictures about happenings in Locust Grove are welcome and should be submitted to LGAA, 6620 S. 4382, Locust Grove. Pictures can be sent to blperkins@sstelco.com.



DINER HOLIDAY . . . Burl and "Bill" Stevens stand on either side of a Christmas tree at Bill's Cafe, later Cook's Cafe.



HUMANITIES GIVE HOPE . . . Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry curator Shaun Perkins acknowledges a recent grant to ROMP.

—ROMP Humanities Grant—

(Continued from Page 1)

around the world.

The ROMP Rummage Store is re-opening, after having been closed since March 14, on June 16, Tuesday. The store will be open Tuesday-Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to

4:00 p.m.

All of the Oklahoma nonprofits who received funding can be found at the OH website at this page: <https://www.okhumanities.org/page/ohpe-grants>

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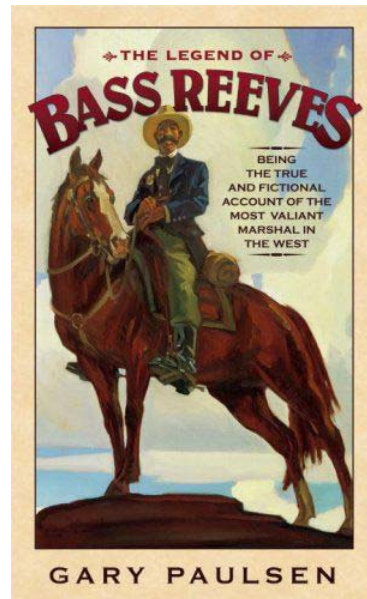
Book Review: Life of Bass Reeves intriguing

In the early 1800s when the expression “once in a blue moon” became popular, a rare and wonderful individual was born. He would become the most accomplished federal marshal in this country’s history. Bass Reeves, a black lawman who never shot first, hoofed his way through these parts, bringing men to justice without every suffering a wound himself.

Gary Paulsen, author of this true and fictional tale, *The Legend of Bass Reeves*, a young adult read, has also written other young

adult books, including: *Hatchet*, *The Winter Room*, *Dogsong*. Published in 2008 by Laurel Leaf, a 160-page paperback, this real and imagined story takes the reader from Reeves’s youth as he hunts rabbits and sage hens to his dramatic showdowns with horse thieves and bank robbers.

Raised by his mother (Mammy) and commanded by his white owner, George Reeves, known as “The Mister,” Reeves learns to follow the rules of a slave. One strict rule of The Mister is that he



forbids Reeves to have a gun, so he hunts with a Jesus stick, “two sharpened hard willow throwing sticks tied together in the middle with rawhide to make a cross.” He kills javelinas with a spear and must give all game to The Mister. No good meat goes to the slaves. They survive on the feet and necks of the chickens.

Action, impending danger, and compelling dialogue keep the reader involved. When word reaches them that Comanches are going to raid The Mister’s place, Reeves must make a “cross your fingers, spit on the ground promise” to his Mammy that he’ll run to freedom if he gets the chance.

No Comanche raid, no freedom run, but Reeves does get a gun to help protect the place. He soon gets older and stronger. Because The Mister is “too close to the jug,”

he brutalizes Bass when drunk. One night Bass fights Mammy to the Indian Territory—to freedom.

“The Indian Territory of that time had no roads, no settlements, no amenities of any kind...Hardened criminals looked on the Territory as their private sanctuary,” writes Paulsen. And this is where 17-year-old Bass Reeves comes to live.

He roams the entire territory, and because he cannot read, “his memory became truly phenomenal.” Paulsen writes. He becomes a cattle rancher and lives with the Creeks for more than 20 years.

The final fourth of the book is Paulsen’s rendition of the legendary Reeves who does not become famous until he lives more than half a century. Because Reeves is fluent in the Indian languages and is trusted by them, Isaac Parker, a federal judge based in Fort Smith, Arkansas, known as the Hanging Judge, comes calling on Bass.

For less than 100 dollars a month, Bass Reeves, hired by Isaac Parker as a deputy federal marshal, begins patrolling 20 thousands miles on horseback. He is the only black marshal who works along with 200 other marshals to arrest gangs of outlaws. He does this three thousands times without being wounded.

Paulsen tells the story of

Reeves dressing as an old woman and swishing the tail of his gingham dress as he walks into the camp of a gang of robbers. He pretends to be a friend of a gang member’s mother. He soon pulls his gun from under his dress and a fight ensues. “They shot holes in his dress, shot his bonnet brim off, cut his gun belt under his dress and shot a boot heel off before he gained control of the situation by killing two of them and wounding two others.”

Paulsen relates that Reeves’s last arrest is his most difficult. At the age of 81, Reeves arrests his son Bennie for the murder of his daughter-in-law. Bennie stands trial and is given a life sentence, but his dad stands by him throughout the trial.

In 1910 Reeves, while doing his duty as town constable of Muskogee, Oklahoma, dies of Bright’s disease. The rare and wonderful, once-in-a-blue-moon kind of guy lies in an unmarked grave. And his story lives on.

Thanks to the writers of the newspaper articles and records of Reeves’s arrests and to Gary Paulsen for blending the real and imagined.

Note: In 2012, sculptor Harold T. Holden’s bronze statue of Bass Reeves sitting on a horse, was erected in Fort Smith’s Ross Pendergraft Park.

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Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

LGHS teacher receives National Science Foundation Grant for Drone Research



Locust Grove High School teacher, Frances Millspaugh was recently awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation in conjunction with the University of Tulsa (TU) to participate in an extensive drone research experience.

The grant includes drones for classroom use and a \$2,000 classroom material budget, as well as an \$8,000 stipend for Millspaugh to attend a six-week program at the University of Tulsa.

Millspaugh is one of only 10 teachers in the surrounding Tulsa area to receive the grant.

She and other teachers attending the program will be guided by TU faculty and students on ways to best use science, math and engineering



Frances Millspaugh
LGHS teacher

concepts in the design, construction and application of unmanned aerial systems. This will be applied to the development of interactive, standards-based STEM curriculum focusing on exploration and discovery in the classroom.

By the end of the program, teachers are required to present a plan for integrating quadcopter-based activities into at least one course during the coming school year and collect assessment data on the activity.

The plan will include samples of instructional materials for student use, a list of equipment and supplies needed, and lesson plans for use by the teacher for the activity.

Millspaugh teaches trigonometry, geometry, statistics and robotics for grades 9-12th at Locust Grove High School and is excited to bring the drones and coordinating curriculum to her students.

“My initial interest in this program was due to the lack of experience I have with drones and my desire to change that,” Millspaugh said. “I see the endless connections

and possibilities in education using drones.”

Faculty and students from TU will visit Locust Grove High School to assist with classroom activity related to the drones.

Millspaugh says the faculty support is another great characteristic of this unique learning experience that will benefit students.

“I always strive to improve my skill set for my students and their futures,”

Millspaugh said. “The magnitude of this experience will impact my students and I in limitless ways. I am excited and I look forward to this opportunity.”

Teachers chosen for the grant must attend all sessions, which are tentatively set for June 1- July 10th, but may be rescheduled to a later date due to the coronavirus outbreak

“I see the endless connections and possibilities in education using drones.”-Frances Millspaugh

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