



No. 24: July 2016

# What's Happening in LG

A Free Local Newsletter  
Sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance

"What's Happening in LG" is available at two new locations:  
Harps Grocery and the LG Post Office



## Battle of LG play scheduled July 8

The Locust Grove Summer Art Camps three-week speech camps are underway, with nearly 20 kids making up the cast with speaking roles in the next

play, and several more kids are joining in as extras to help make the show a success.

A performance is scheduled for 8 p.m., Friday, July

*The Circus is coming! The Circus is coming!*



## Chamber to bring big top to town Sept. 15

The Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a one-day circus on September 15.

Two performances of the circus will be held on that day by the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus. show times will be 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

More details about the location and circus acts will be coming in future issues. Check the August and September issues of "What's Happening. . ."



*PLAY REST. . . Savannah Meeks, left, and Dacie Ellis take a break from practice of "He Died at His Post." Meeks is a dying Confederate soldier, and Ellis is his friend. The play will be presented at 8 p.m. July 8, at Pipe Springs Park.*

8, at Pipe Springs Park. Camp and play director is April Stone; she is also director of the Locust Grove Children's Theater sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance.

"This is the third year we have asked everyone to bring their lawn chairs and come out to watch what we have to show them," said Stone.

"We will tell about the Battle of Locust Grove that took place in the Pipe Springs location during the Civil War on July 3, 1862," she said.

The play titled "He Died at His Post" gives the audience some background info about why the Civil War broke out, and celebrates the lives lost to the fallen soldiers.

"We try to honor these soldiers who came here and never saw another day; there were 103 who died that July day," said Stone. "Last year we used 103 glow sticks, cracked them shook them and hung them in the trees throughout the park before the audience arrived for the play. During our battle scene, when night has fallen, the glow sticks were appearing."

The cast is still trying to decide how they want to honor the fallen soldiers during this year's performance. Everyone is invited to come see what they decide upon.

In the event of rain, the performance will be postponed to July 15 at 8 p.m.



**DANCERS ENJOY LESSONS.** . . . Several couples took lessons and then joined the Go-Getters in their monthly dance the first Saturday in June.



## Battle of Locust Grove at Pipe Springs

At sunrise on July 3, 1862, a Union force of approximately 250 men under the command of Col. William Weer overwhelmed a Confederate unit of similar strength led by Col. James J. Clarkson.

Surprised by the Union attack, Clarkson's men fled and were pursued by Union troops. About 100 Confederates died, and 100, including Clarkson, were captured along with 60 wagons and 64 mule teams. Union casualties totaled three killed and six wounded.

The battle impacted Confederate morale in the Cherokee Nation. The Confederate soldiers who escaped retreated to Tahlequah, causing panic and large-scale desertions among

the pro-Confederate Cherokees.

--Jon D. May, Oklahoma Historical Society

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## LGAA meets July 13 at VFW

The next meeting of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance will be at 5:30 p.m. July 13, at the VFW Hall. The group will be reviewing the celebration of the Battle of Locust Grove which was held July 8 at the Pipe Springs where the original Civil War battle occurred. The play, under the direction of April Stone, is sponsored by the LGAA,

At the June meeting, April Stone talked about the Willard Stone Legacy event, and that a play about Stone would be held by the Children's Theater at a date to be determined. The Pipe Springs production of the Civil War battle is still scheduled for July 8 at 8 p.m.

In a decision made through the group email, the LGAA voted to purchase personal liability insurance from Cowan Insurance for April Stone, who is working with Locust Grove children in various camps this summer. The insurance cost \$354.

April Stone also reported by email on the dancing workshop which LGAA sponsored by providing payment for the instructor Louise Siddons.

"Four people from LG listened and danced with Siddons and her partner Spencer," Stone said. Dances included the one-step, triple-step, Lindy, Jitter Bug, Charleston and Swing Dancing. The dancers also attended the dance sponsored by the Go-Getters each month and was held later that night.



## About What's Happening in LG

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

Please contact Betty Perkins at [blperkins@sstelco.com](mailto:blperkins@sstelco.com) or 918-479-5617 (leave a message if no answer), if you have news on LG events, places, or people for inclusion in future issues. For advertising, call Roxann Perkins Yates at 918-530-5321 or email at [roxannperkins@gmail.com](mailto:roxannperkins@gmail.com). As LGAA is a nonprofit organization, advertising must support the publication of this newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated.



**EYE TO EYE.** . . Madison Mennecke threads a needle at Sewing Camp last summer. This year's camp will be held July 11-14. Contact April Stone for more information at 918-729-0487.

## Chamber elects officers

The June meeting of the LG Chamber of Commerce included election of new officers and board members, discussion of fundraisers and beautification efforts.

Officers elected were Shaun Perkins for vice-president, Jennifer Henson for treasurer and Marsha Evans for secretary. Members added to the Board of Directors were Kate Bowerin, Jeff Kerr and Jerry Yates. All of the candidates were unopposed.

A consideration to raise dues to \$10 for individuals and nonprofits and \$50 for businesses was discussed but not acted upon.

The Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Campaign has a program called Fresh Paint Days, which funds paint and painting supplies for one building in a community. The Chamber is currently looking for a building to paint with funding from this program.

Tami McKeon of Grand Gateway continued her work with the Chamber by exploring strengths and weaknesses in the town's quality of life and improvement efforts.

Having a marathon and the work that would entail was also discussed as a fundraiser for the Chamber. In conjunction with that event and others, a Swab the Deck Day was suggested, wherein local organizations and individuals would be asked to contribute their time and energy to spiffing up the town in a one-day effort.

The Chamber meets on the third Tuesday of each month and all citizens are invited. The next Chamber meeting will be July 19, at 6:00 p.m. at a location to be announced. Keep up to date on Chamber activities by liking the Locust Grove Chamber page on Facebook.

### **Texas Coffee School offers scholarship**

The Texas Coffee School is offering a scholarship to a just-graduated senior or to a senior of the 2017 class.

For those who love coffee and want to become a business owner, information about the scholarship and the application can be found at [texascoffeeschool.com](http://texascoffeeschool.com).

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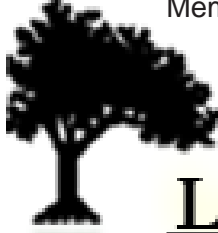
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# Dacie Ellis has winning shots from camp



**WINNING PHOTOGRAPHS.** . . The winning shots from the Locust Grove Children's Photo Camp, taught by April Stone, include the two shots above by Dacie Ellis, who attended the camp on an LGAA scholarship. Both are first place winners, with the one on the left in the portrait category, and the one on the right in the still life category. Prizes included cash, a Red Box movie rental, cheese fries and a drink from DJ's Diner, and picture frames. The winners were judged by Facebook viewers at the end of the photography camp week. Ellis had three first place winners including the two above and one in the Photo Booth. Other winners are Avery Parker, action photo; and Nikkia Bolin, water photo.

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# Ellis wins 3 firsts

Seven kids participated in the photography camp taught by April Stone, and three of the seven ended the week as award-winning photographers.

The camp was a part of Children's Theater, sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance, and taught by director April Stone.

After several lessons and hands-on exercises, the kids were challenged with taking the best photograph of the week in five categories, including Action, Still Life, Portrait, Photo Booth, and a category chosen by the group, Water. The water photos could be of anything, but water needed to be in the photo itself.

The photos entered by the kids had to be taken during the week of photography week, and were

posted on Stone's Facebook page on Friday. Facebook winners were asked to "like" their favorite in the five categories to choose the contest winners.

Dacie Ellis, 13, won three of the five photo contests with her photos Still Life, Portrait and in the Photo Booth.

Winners also included Avery Parker, 8, with her Action photo, and Kikkia Bolin, 17, with her photograph of water at Pipe Springs Park

Other kids participating in the camp included Savannah Meeks, Kaden Parker, Danny Stone and Jocelyn Willis.

Two students received scholarship grants from the LG Arts Alliance for this camp.

*"I think this art camp could help me express myself and do something productive over my summer break." -- Dacie Ellis*

# Sewing Camp July 11-14

Kids can sew, too! Just ask any of the dozen or so who have been to Sewing Camp in Locust Grove the past two summers.

LG Summer Art Camps are in their third year, under the direction of April Stone. Sewing ends the summer camps, and is scheduled for July 11-14. The camp is for ages 8 to 18 and meets from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the north side of grade school hill. Cost is \$60 per participant. Two scholarships are available. See [lgartsalliance.com](http://lgartsalliance.com) to apply.

The kids will learn how to sew by hand, how to take measurements, how patterns are used, and they will learn the basics of the sewing machine. Stone said the past two sewing camps have produced some fine finished products.

"The first sewing camp, all of the kids made pillowcases using a pattern they pinned to material and cut out, and used the sewing machine to put the case together," said Stone. "They were donated to a homeless shelter, and that was probably our favorite part about making them."

Last summer, the kids did a lot of hand sewing, as a group, sitting around sewing and talking. They finished enough squares to make a baby quilt top.

"We had a baby in mind for that quilt to go to," said Stone. "We even had a piece of material from the baby's late grandmother that we used for the back of the quilt. We see the baby using that quilt now, and it's special to all of us."

For more information about the camp or to sign up, contact Stone at 918-729-0487.



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# First VAN-tage Treasure Tour a success

The Locust Grove Creative Communities group recently did a VAN-tage Treasures LG Trivia Tour in town and some lucky (seemingly!) folks won some great (seemingly!) prizes. The group rode around town on June 2, randomly hopping out of the van to ask citizens LG trivia.

The game took place at Harp's, La Mansion Restaurant, Wal-Mart, the Sno-Cone Stand, Joan Bennett's house and a random alley off Delaware Street.

Game show host Angela Holman led the group and was great at asking folks if they wanted "to risk it all" by continuing to answer questions and win more prizes.

Question leader Jennifer Henson came up with the questions, many of which stumped local citizens. Come on people: Brush up on your LG trivia. Know the town founder and the year we were founded!

One question that everyone seemed to know was, Which day during the week is the chiropractor's office closed?

Photographer on the trip was Marea Breedlove, who took more pictures than we could print. Maybe more next time.

This event, which will be repeated, was a fun way to get people interested in Creative Communities, a 20-month initiative that Locust Grove is participating in.

The project is led by an Oklahoma City based non-profit called Creative Oklahoma, which is working with eight towns in the state to explore creative ways to make positive changes in business, culture and education.

To keep up-to-date on LG Creative Communities, like the group on Facebook or contact Angela Holman at angholman1977@gmail.com or (918) 906-3743.



*TRIVIA PLAYERS. . . Ellie and Dallas Miller answered a question when the VAN-tage Treasure Tour stopped at La Mansion Mexican Restaurant. Photo by Marea Breedlove. And, below, the "Vannies" piled out of the van and lined up to "accost." . .hmm , that is, "interview" another unsuspecting person, Pam Glass, second from right, by asking her a bit of trivia related to the town and its history.*

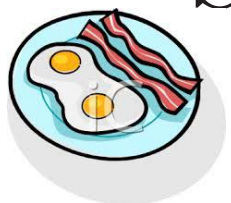


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# Family, friends benefit from Doris' big heart

By Roxann Yates

The home on Wyandotte Street is small. Inside lives a woman with a big heart. She's lived in this home for more than 40 years. Doris (Wilkinson) Rable is my aunt, and her heart abounds with love for life, family and friends.

"The minute I walked in the back door in 1973, I fell in love with this house. I wanted this house," she said.

When she was growing up, she dreamed about being a nurse and raising a lot of kids.

"I like taking care of people," she said. In Tulsa she worked for Blue Cross Blue Shield on medicare claims from 1970-'78. When she moved to Locust Grove, she worked two jobs—Synergy Gas as a bookkeeper and Circle J as a clerk.

In 1984 she retired.

"I'm not sure I was ready for it, but I liked not

having a rigid schedule," she said.

In keeping with her desire to help others, Doris served as a town council member from 1986 to 1998. The last six of those years she served as the mayor.

"I'm glad for the experience. I enjoyed getting to know so many people. I had never been involved in community service and learned a lot about town business. My friend, Kathy (Goforth) Carson, was town clerk, and she helped me to understand the business."

As a child she moved with her parents, Ruby (Brantley) Wilkinson and Hersal Wilkinson, and her siblings, Betty Perkins, Johnny Wilkinson and Hersal Wilkinson, to California, Texas and Colorado.

"Dad always took us on his little adventures. He was a rolling stone."



**TRIPLE GRIN. . .** Doris Rable does what she does best -- creating smiles in everyone she meets. Catching her smile are her daughter, Carla McClure, and great-granddaughter Saphire McClure.

When the family wasn't traveling they spent much of their time west of Locust Grove on what is now called by the family Perkins Compound.

"Mother and Dad had a house on the same property where the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry sits. We were country kids. I followed Pa (grandpa) around. I played with the dogs and pushed toy cars around the tree roots. I was always dirty."

From fourth through tenth grades, she attended Locust Grove schools.

"In 1955 we were the first fifth grade class in the new grade school hill building. Every day at lunch we would run to Nunley's store and get a hotdog, chips and a drink for .26 cents."

Sometimes Doris and her friends didn't walk back to school.

"Margie Turner always had money. She would pay for a taxi driven by Shady Wright to take us back to school."

At home, Doris and her siblings were often entertained by their paternal grandfather (Pa) John Wilkinson.

"Pa didn't have a bad bone in his body. He loved us kids. He had a beautiful voice. When we kids  
*(Continues on Page 8)*

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## Aunt, uncle visit was highlight of summer

*(Continued from Page 7)*  
would pick cotton or corn, at the end of every row, he would sing 'Rock of Ages' or some other hymn."

Doris's mother worked hard to maintain the home.

"Mother was always washing, ironing or sewing. She wanted to get her jobs done and do it fast."

But when her Aunt Elsie (her dad's sister) and Uncle Ed would visit, the family was entertained.

"Aunt Elsie was always laughing, telling jokes. She would sing and sway while making gravy for dinner. Uncle Ed was fun too. They both brought us kids pop to drink, and we would until our parents told us we'd had enough."

Doris's father was the playful parent.

"He was outgoing and he always wanted me to sit

on his lap so he could tickle me."

Being the youngest of the four siblings, she often played by herself unless she had friends over.

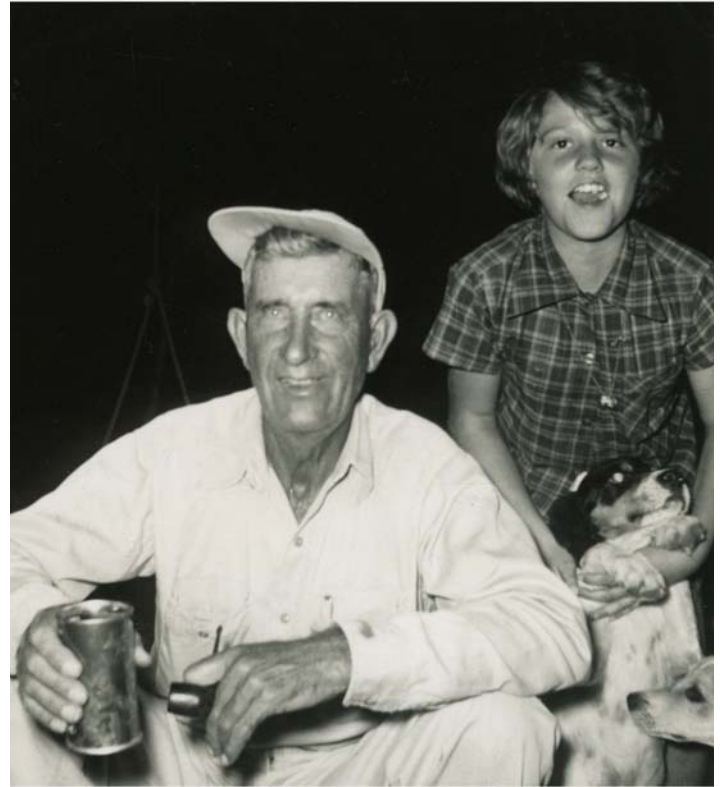
"I was 10 and was having a slumber party. I cut a walnut tree down the middle to make a bow, and Dad spanked me in front of my friends. That was the last time I got in trouble as a kid."

Her last two years of schooling were at Hobart High School in Hobart.

"I became friends with Carole Light and Judy Ard. Carole and I were both outsiders. Judy took us in. We have remained friends, but Judy died of breast cancer in 1988. Carole and I see each other often."

She also met her future husband there.

*(Continues on Page 9)*



**UNCLE ED VISITS! . . .** *When Uncle Ed and Aunt Elsie visited from Missouri each summer, for Doris and her sister Betty, it meant soda pop, candy bars and chewing gum in endless quantities until Mother found out. Doris is making sure that her dog, Jerry, is in the picture too, and if you look closely, you'll see a good sized piece of gum in her mouth.*



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# Doris raised kind, caring children, blended family

(Continued from Page 8)

"I was going out with Judy's brother Bill. When they introduced me to Carl McClure, that was the end of Bill. I thought he was so pretty. He had dark hair, blue eyes, and really white teeth."

The couple married in 1962 after Doris graduated from high school.

"We were married 10 months and 10 days when Carla was born. In 1965 Carl Kent was born."

Doris and McClure divorced when their kids were one and three years old.

"I worried about what would happen to my kids if I were gone."

Fortunately, Doris has been a constant in her kids' lives, and she is proud that both of them graduated from Locust Grove High School and earned associate degrees at Okmulgee Tech.

"I want my kids to continue to be happy, kind people. Carla has said that she will take care of me

***"I like everything about this town, this home, my family and friends. . . My heart is full." --Doris Ann Rable***

when I can't do for myself. Carl Kent is currently making room for his dad to move in with him to help care for him."

In 1981 she met a caring man, Richard Rable, who would become her husband of 23 years.

"I was at Turner's Laundry ironing jeans. He kept looking at me while he did his laundry.

Doris said he asked, "What do you do in this town for fun?"

"Nothing."

"Do you dance?"

"No."

"Well, what do you do for entertainment?"

"It's none of your damn business."

Doris's statement didn't deter him from coming back to the laundry. He also visited her when she worked at Circle J.

"Our first date was supposed to be on Mother's

Day, but I just wasn't ready. I told my kids to tell Richard I was helping my niece move. Then I sat across the street at my neighbor's house to watch him leave."

Coaxed into going to a movie on Memorial Day, she waited for him to pick her up.

"He pulled up on a motorcycle. I was petrified, but he told me, 'Don't move, don't lean, just sit like you're sitting in a chair.'"

They married in 1984, and she grew to love the motorcycle rides.

"I liked them because you would run through so many smells and temperatures on the ride."

Richard died in 2007, and his presence is still missed.

"He listened to me, even when he didn't agree with me. He understood me. He didn't hold anything against me, and I could let my

guard down and share my feelings."

She has a blended family. In addition to her two kids, there are Richard's two Randy and Denise Rable and Karen and Paul Downing who have five children between them. Carla has one son, Kacey, and Carl Kent has a son and daughter, Bailey and Wesley. Rable's great granddaughter, Sapphire, is the daughter of Kacey.


"Kacey and Sapphire spend a lot of time with me and the times have been good."

This little dot on an Oklahoma map is brimming with memorable experiences. Doris cooks for family, buys treasures at garage sales for family and friends, honors birthdays, travels with Betty (my mom, her sister), and celebrates our lives.

"I like everything about this town, this home, my family and friends. Nothing bad results out of helping somebody. My heart is full."

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