



No. 23: June 2016

What's Happening in LG

A Free Local Newsletter
Sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance

More Parade Pictures on Page 5



Founder's Day Parade Marshals



ALICE SAFFELL, a life-long resident of Locust Grove, and a local business woman who has had interests in flower shops, restaurants and more, was one of the Grand Marshals for the 2016 Founder's Day Parade.



JERRY HOLMAN, a life-long resident of Locust Grove, was also selected by the Locust Grove Area Chamber to serve as a Grand Marshal. Jerry visits most of the local businesses on a daily basis.

Joan Bennett from one of town's first families

By Roxann Yates

Born in an ambulance in 1943 on Presbyterian Hill outside Dr. Rutherford's home, (at the corner of Water and Harriet streets) Joan Markham Bennett came into this world as an addition to one of the families that first settled present-day Locust Grove.

Bennett lives in the home on Delaware Street that family members first purchased in 1920.

"I love my home, and two years ago my children upgraded it because they know I love it," Bennett said.

Bennett's parents, T. S. "Hooley" and Maxine McFarland Markham, were long-time residents of Locust Grove. Bennett's mom is 95 years old and lives in Broken Arrow, and her father is deceased.

For a time Hooley made a living operating a small garage in town.

"Mother and Dad were very active in local politics and government while we were growing up," Bennett

(Continued on Page 3)



SHADED LAWN. . . Joan Bennett stands in the east lawn of her home in the second block of Delaware Street south. The home was bought by her grandparents in 1920 and is one of the oldest homes in Locust Grove. Her family was also one of the frontier families in the area.



ORIGINAL DOODLE by Locust Grove's famed artist Willard Stone.

Free dance lessons set

A free dance workshop to learn Jitter Bug and Swing dancing of the 1920s and 30s jazz era will be held June 3-4 at the VFW Hall on north Broadway.

The workshop will be taught by Louise Siddons of the Scissortail Traditional Dance Society (www.scissortail.org).

On June 3, the workshop will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and on Saturday, June 4 the workshop will run from noon to 4 p.m.

Everyone who attends the workshop is invited to attend the monthly dance at the Community Building which the Senior Citizens sponsor.

The workshop is needed to help find dancers to perform in a play this fall about Willard Stone's younger years. Dancers are needed for the scene where

he meets the woman who would become his wife, Sophie Coger, at a honky-tonk in Oktaha in 1940.

Dancers needed for that scene can be high school and adult ages.

April Stone, who is in charge of the LGAA Children's Theater, encourages everyone to be a part of this community-wide celebration. Contact her at 918-729-0487 for more information.

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LGAA meets June 8 at VFW

The next meeting of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance will be at 5:30 p.m., June 8, at the VFW Hall. The group will be reviewing the Founder's Day Art Show which was held May 14.

A steady stream of visitors to the art show viewed local artists' work, bought rally tickets on an Adirondack set, and took part in a silent auction. In addition they were able to view and purchase DVDs of the town's history, compiled by Hugh J. Callery.

The fire show by David Fishinghawk and company was also well attended with fire walks and fire block breaks

April Stone talked about the Willard Stone Legacy event, and that a play about Stone would be held by the LGAA Children's Theater at a date to be determined. The Pipe Springs production is still scheduled for July 8. A dance workshop this weekend will allow those attending to learn to jitter bug and swing dance, and some may want to be a part of the play this fall about Willard Stone's early life. See story at left.

Chainsaw artist Mike Wheeler worked throughout the day on a lighthouse which emerged from a tree stump. The lighthouse will be a gift to LGAA when he has finished it.

Everyone is invited to attend the monthly meetings at the VFW



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 bperk@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. As LGAA is a nonprofit organization, advertising must support the publication of this newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Bennett recalls early days in Locust Grove

(Continued from Page 1)

said. "We were members of the Methodist church. I had an idyllic childhood. My best friends lived next door, Hugh J. Callery on one side and Rosemary Windle on the other."

Although Bennett suffered a four-month bout with rheumatic fever when she was five years old, she had an active childhood.

"I wandered all over town. We rode bicycles and horses and spent time just playing all over our hill and neighborhood," she said.

The Callerys were the first in the neighborhood to purchase a TV, and neigh-

borhood kids would gather in the Callery home to watch a kids' program everyday at 4 o'clock.

"Black and white TV was a wonder to us," Bennett said. "One day my parents were in the yard looking up at the roof and pointing. They were looking for the best place to put a TV antenna. I remember watching part of President Eisenhower's inauguration. Mother and Dad let us stay home from school to see it, and they were Democrats! I've always been interested in history and politics because my parents stressed the impor-

tance of being informed of local, state, national and world events."

This town has been a staple for many of Bennett's family.

"My dad, his father and grandfather were born in Locust Grove," said Bennett.

Bennett's mother was born in Murphy, and her parents Emmitt and Elzora Allen McFarland were originally from Missouri.

"They came to Indian Territory in 1904 in wagons with their parents and two brothers to settle near Broken Arrow," she said.

Maxine, Bennett's mom, worked the fields with her farmer dad. "She didn't learn household chores until she and Dad married," Bennett said.

"She went across the river to Inola to help Grandpa and her brothers with haying for hire using a 'go devil' in the haying process. She loved work-

ing outside, and she was also a good horsewoman," she said.

While growing up, Bennett didn't think much about what she would do as an adult.

"I suppose I would have been content to live in Locust Grove all my life. The only job I had while growing up was as a 'soda jerk'," she said. "I worked at Fleming Drug. It was an easy job and allowed me to buy my own school clothes. Dad didn't make much money running a garage, and it made me proud to help out by buying my own things."

Her school years were also enjoyable.

"I loved to play basketball but wasn't very good, so I only played until the ninth grade. My favorite subjects were always history of any kind," Bennett said.

An interest in the library and reading was kindled in school, even though, students weren't allowed to go to the book shelves.

"The library was located in the back of the study hall, and students weren't allowed to go into the 'stacks,'" she said. "Using the card catalog, the students wrote down information for their books and presented it to the library desk."

(Continues on Page 6)

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Fishinghawk's crew defies fire. . .



BRUTE STRENGTH. . . The students and associates of David Fishinghawk's Karate performed fire board breaks and a 20-foot firewalk for crowds during the Founder's Day celebration. At top left is Madison Fishinghawk seemingly engulfed in a wall of flame, but still had time to do her board breaks. In top center, Master Gary Thompson does a massive break even destroying the support blocks. At top right, Amber Mathis adds some voice to her fire break. At right, Master Steve Place walks down the bed of coals. Roxann and Jerry Yates guide him, and Michelle Fishinghawk stands at the end of the bed with a water hose in hand. --Photos by Marea Breedlove



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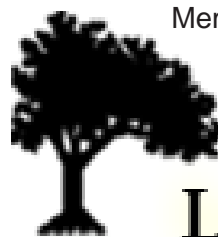
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Founder's Day Parade pix. . .



FOUNDER'S DAY PARADE. . . Many groups were on hand to make this year's parade a successful one. The largest of these was the cadets from the Thunderbird Youth Academy in Pryor, top left. Below left, the Pirate Marching Band is

always a welcome sight for any parade. At top right, Terry Way, train engineer, waves at the photographer from his colorful train, and at bottom right, the Girl Scouts of Troop 3199 march down Main Street. --Photos by Shaun Perkins



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For advertising,
contact Roxann
Yates
at 918-530-5321.

Bennett's first library class results in career

(Continued from Page 3)

The librarian or aide would then go into the stacks and retrieve the book. No one could look in the shelves."

However, Bennett left the library books and school her junior year to marry Ronald Bennett.

"I was 16, and by the time I was 18, we had three daughters," she said. Ronald was an ironworker and his job took the family to many different locations.

"We lived in Venezuela from 1974-78. Expatriate life was easy for us," Bennett said. "Our children went to small private school and made many friends for life. Our daughters, Joanie Sheril and Sandra were teenagers and learned the Spanish language.

"Our sons, Wesley, Wade and Michael had a life not unlike mine by growing up with a lot of freedom to play and make friends."

"...after taking a one-hour library class, I was hooked."

After Bennett resettled in Locust Grove, she and her oldest daughter, Joanie, began their university education. By this time Bennett had received her GED.

"I began college thinking to go into nursing, but, after taking a one-hour library class, I was hooked. I knew I wanted to be a librarian. I finished my Bachelor's of Arts Degree from Northeastern State University in three years," Bennett said. In 2004 she earned her Master's Degree in Library Science.

In 1982 Bennett began her teaching/librarian career at Locust Grove Elementary. Two years later "when the opportunity to move to the high school came along, I jumped at it.

I loved researching and wanted to teach that to high school kids. That is still what I love teaching," she said.

In 1994, Ronald and Joan were divorced, "but we still have close ties," Bennett said. They have six children and 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

"The best thing about being a parent and grandparent is seeing my kids grow in their lives and have successes," Bennett said. "I want them to remember that I've always been here for them through anything they have gone through, and they have always been here for me."

She feels the same about her community. "I can be myself here. I'm proud of

the people who strive to make Locust Grove a good place to live and to raise their families," she said. "I'm proud of the young people who have graduated and have come back to our county and town to make their lives here. I was proud to sit on the committee that built the library and equally proud to sit on the committee that produced the centennial book about Locust Grove. A lot of work went into both, and we had the backing of the community to do them."

Bennett would like to see the town back the building of a recreation center. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if our kids and their parents had a place to go in any weather and exercise for pleasure and for their health?" she said.

This educator of 35 years was born in a rescue vehicle, but she has perpetually supported her family and community.

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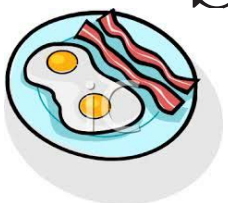
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Open: 5 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



PAAHC Artwalk set

The Pryor Area Arts & Humanities Council will hold its annual "Art Walks When Money Talks" fundraising event Thursday, June 23, at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Pryor.

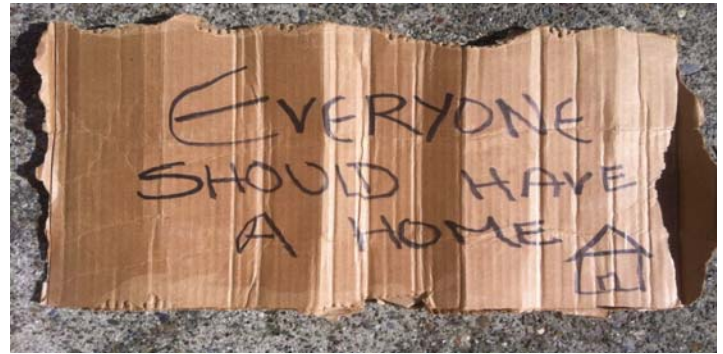
There will be an annual meeting for members or potential members at 6:00. The viewing of work will start at 6:30, drawing starts at 7:00.

The public is invited to participate and can buy as many auction tickets as they like (tickets are \$25, \$50, or \$75). The Master of Ceremony will begin drawing tickets from the \$75 pool first. Each time a ticket is drawn, the ticket-owner will have just thirty seconds to select an original work of art by an area artist.

After all of the tickets from the \$75 pool are drawn, the drawing will move to the \$50 pool, and then finally to the \$25 pool.

Admission is free with purchase of an auction ticket or \$5 to have hors d'oeuvres, a drink, and observe. All proceeds from this event help to fund other events brought to you by the PAAHC.

St. Mark's is located at 1507 S Vann St. For more information, contact Diana Reeves at 918-864-7224.



LGAA needs home

By Shaun Perkins

The Locust Grove Arts Alliance is actively searching for a downtown building for an office, meeting, and gallery space of its own. Since forming in 2014, the LGAA has met at various locations, usually the VFW Hall, but the nonprofit organization would like a home of its own, especially so local artwork can be displayed.

The LGAA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. If someone has a building or space to donate, the donation can be used as a tax write-off. Or if someone has an economical space for rent, please contact the LGAA's president Jennifer Henson at 918-530-1902.

A space, even in poor condition, could be used, as the LGAA can work to secure grant funds for the renovation and upkeep of the space.

Chalk art winners named

Forty-one young people entered the Founder's Day Chalk Art Contest sponsored by ROMP Rumage.

In the Pre-K and younger category, the winners were Eleanor Yates, first; Adeline Yates, second; and David Cooper, third.

In the K-5 Category: Zayne Yoder, first; Alexis Dish, second; Caelie Cummings, third; Kayla Cohan, fourth; Wade Cunningham fifth; Lali Kingfisher, sixth.

Ages 6-12: Brianna Larson, first; Raeanna Standingwater, second; Stormy Toler and Emma Thompson, third.

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Leaders sought in all areas of town life

Watch for VAN-Tage Treasures in town June 2

By Shaun Perkins

On June 2, Thursday, be on the lookout for the local VAN-tage Treasures mobile that will be touring the town in search of people to answer questions and win van-tage treasures.

Look for a white van with people hollering at you.

Van-tage Treasures is the work of the Locust Grove Creative Communities team.

In March, Locust Grove was selected as one of eight towns in Oklahoma to be a part of Creative Oklahoma's inaugural Creative Communities Project.

In this project, the non-profit organization, Oklahoma City-based Creative Oklahoma will work with



WIN A PRIZE. . . Look for this Treasure Trivia White Van on Thursday night for a chance to win a treasure.

each community for 20 months in creative problem solving to address economic development and quality of life issues.

On May 23, representatives from Creative Oklahoma, Oklahoma's A+ Schools and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority visited Locust Grove, met with some of the LG team and toured the town.

The information they

collected will be compiled and used to help facilitate some town meetings that will begin in August.

Tommy Yi, the CC chair, said that the LG team needed to get together as many "thought leaders" in the community as possible to start working on the initiative.

"Creativity is a way of problem-solving," said Yi, emphasizing that Creative

Communities is interested in all areas of a town's life.

The path that the LG Creative Communities team will take and the details involved in this project are still forming, and more people in Locust Grove are needed to help gather information, brainstorm, work on change, and explore possibilities. The team needs people of all ages and from all backgrounds.

To keep up to date on the local news with Creative Communities, like LG Creative Communities on Facebook.

More information about the project can be obtained from Angela Holman at anholman1977@gmail.com or (918) 906-3743.



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Here's how to wake up your creative spirit with art

By Roxann Yates

Have you ever made a junk store purchase and decided to rearrange an entire room? You know, "build a room around this." Sometimes one little idea or item sparks a bigger notion for a room, creation or goal.

My husband and I found a \$10 red metal 1940s lamp. It's weird looking, homemade and fitting for building a room around it. The entire living room was transformed for this centerpiece.

Generate a plan for an event, art piece, culinary dish or work practice. You can build a room and an atmosphere around a delect-



ONE RED LAMP (top of the China cabinet) was the inspiration for this do over.

table casserole. A wall is transformed with something colorful and new adorning it. An idea for a classroom activity can bloom over and over again from one classroom to the

next if you take the time to cultivate it and share it.

Do you have a creative spirit? You most certainly do. Your innovative resolve can feed a creative community. It's art—a three letter word—and it's what we all know how to produce. We don't have to curse it or deny it because we can help grow it.

This will happen when people get together. You

were wrapped in it on Founder's Day, at a family gathering, at church or in a meeting. We aren't "like-minded." We are faucets that become watershed moments. Rivers of ideas that join in a sea of activity. Let your thoughts flow. Contribute to something that pools many talents together. Buy into it for the looks. Buy into it for your life.



MUSEUM VISIT. . . Members of the Oklahoma Creative Communities were in Locust Grove recently and toured the town including a visit to the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry west of town.

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New cook hired at Community Center

By Betty L. Perkins

Most women (and some men) who cook meals on a regular basis (like every day!) probably would not seek a job in the outside world as a cook. But Shawna Brown is not like most people.

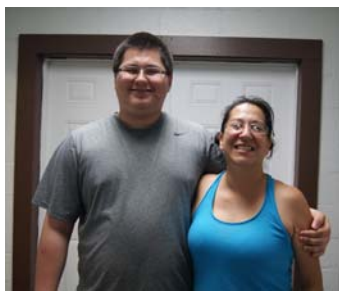
The new cook at the Locust Grove Community Center actively sought the job after working at the center as a volunteer.

"They were so nice, asking me to fill out an employment form and even giving me references to go along with the form," Brown said about the regulars at the center.

Brown, who cooked 10 years ago at The Avalon in Tulsa, a steakhouse that had a tremendous reputation for fine food, says she really enjoys cooking.

"I love cooking a variety of foods. It is almost therapeutic for me. It just makes me happy," she said.

Today she is standing in front of the range, sautéing a large skillet of boneless



NEW COOK. . . Shawna Brown and her son, Anthony, leave the lunch counter for a quick snap.

chicken breasts for lunch at the center.

Brown is busy, filling take-out orders and trays for those eating in the center, but she is quick to welcome everyone who comes in and offers a hug to many of them. She seems to have learned everyone's name in the two months she has been at the center.

Asked about the number of seniors in the lunch crowd today, she talks about a common misconception.

"A lot of people think that it is for seniors only, but that's not true," said Brown. "These meals are for anyone who is hungry."

A donation of \$3 is asked for the lunch, but anyone who cannot pay the \$3 can eat for free. "No one is turned away," Brown said.

Take-out orders should be in by 11 a.m., and lunch is served at 11:30 a.m.

Meals are planned week by week and posted on a board near the front door. Tomorrow's menu includes chicken-fried steak, potatoes, gravy and cabbage.

Brown and her 15-year-old son, Anthony, have lived in Locust Grove for about a year, and they have settled into the community comfortably.

In addition to cooking every week day at the community center, Brown can also be seen most afternoons working at the Pirates Git-n-Split at the 82/412 intersection.



Marvin and Shirley Kosbee attended the May 7 dance at the Killiam Community Center.

Senior dance set

The June 4 Dance will have a luau theme, and dinner will include pulled pork with potato salad.

Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and the dance will follow and continue until 9 p.m.

Cost of the meal and dance is \$6. The Hole in the Wall Band will play for the dance.

At the May 7 cinco de Mayo dance, 93-year-old Liz was honored with a birthday cake baked by Toni Turner.



Liz is honored on her 92nd birthday at the May dinner.

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