Perhaps this Nativity scene from Burnet’s wonderful “Main Street Bethlehem” best illustrates the spirit of the Christmas season, but there are pictures of many more celebrations on the inside pages of this “Christmas Card” edition of the Highland Lakes Weekly. The public is invited to a special Christmas Eve service at Main Street Bethlehem’s “manger” at 6 p.m. this Saturday, and most churches around the Highland Lakes will hold some kind of special service this weekend.
We’ll leave the lights on for you! (until New Year’s)

Above: The spectacular Walkway of Lights, at Lakehills Park, in Marble Falls

Right: Starry Nightlife, at Badu Park, in Llano

Right: Christmas by the Highway, on Hwy 1431 at Phillips Ranch Road in Granite Shoals

Below: Wallace, Ricks Park, on Hwy 29E in Burnet

Mora beautiful lighting displays can be seen all around the Highland Lakes, most notably on the courthouse squares in Burnet and Llano.
My Christmas was last weekend, when I traveled to the Dallas area to celebrate the wedding of my oldest son Robert (pictured here with his bride, Lindsay). All four of my kids were there (along with one of my sisters and lots of friends), so I had a great time. I wish all of my readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Scatterthought

If you are a regular reader of this newspaper, you may have noticed that things are a little different this week. That’s because I decided to make this issue into my “Christmas Card” edition, and fill it with pictures of Christmas around the Highland Lakes. Of course, there won’t be pictures from ALL the events, but I think I have a pretty good selection of photos to go along with my very sincere best wishes for a wonderful Christmas season to all of you.

One of the events that I plotted into my decision was my son’s wedding reception. Robby and Lindsay are both students at Texas Tech, but Lindsay’s family is from Lecanto, California. They decided to have the actual wedding there, and just held a reception here for their friends from Texas. I thought about going to California, but (for quite a few reasons) it didn’t seem feasible. We had a great afternoon just north of Dallas, one of the more memorable occasions when I got to see all four of my kids (and now two “kids-in-law”) all together. That was Christmas! For me.

Of course, I had to miss a few really good events here in the Highland Lakes area, but I was able to borrow some pictures, and I had plenty of pictures from the three previous weekends to fill these pages (and probably 55 more, too). In previous years, I have used a Native American scene from Main Street Bethel- ham on the front page in the issue immediately before Christmas, and I always put “Merry Christmas” in big letters above it. I would jokingly tell people (as I was delivering the papers) that the paper was their Christmas card.

This year, I decided to publish only Christmas pictures. I have to admit that part of the appeal (to me) is that it saves me so much time to just use pictures that I already had. I’ve been on a search for a new edition this week.

One “news item” in this paper (besides the picture of my son and daughter-in-law, above) is not directly related to Christmas, but I do think it exemplifies the Christmas spirit and the benefits of living in a small Texas town. J. Polanco is a popular barista at Fuel Coffee House in Llano, an entertaining actor with the Llano Community Theatre group, and a personal friend of mine. He was recently diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer, and the community came together in a wonderful way to show their love and support on Monday night (see page 10).

I didn’t include an “Upcoming Events” article in this week’s paper, partly because I wanted more space for pictures, and partly because there just aren’t that many events scheduled for Christmas weekend. These are, of course, many church services planned for Christmas Eve; two unique events will be the Christmas Eve service planned by Elevate Church at the Lakeside Pavilion in Marble Falls on Friday night (see ad on page 12) and the special Christmas Eve service in front of the manger scene at Main Street Bethelham (6 p.m. on Saturday).

There are a few music events surrounding the Highland Lakes next week, but I don’t have a good list. I do want to mention here that W.C. Jameson and Buddy Case, both accomplished musicians, have been making all kinds of appearances around the Highland Lakes. I have taken pictures of a couple of times they were part of the live entertainment at the J. Polanco benefit — also organizers and gentle supporter from what I hear — and I will put at least one in next week’s paper.

I’ll quit writing now, and go back to choosing pictures. Have a very Merry Christmas!
After more than 50 years as the most trusted insurance company in the area, Kingsland Insurance Agency is now in a new location, next door to Highland Lakes Title, at 106 Cottonwood in Kingsland.

Looking to make sure your business is insured correctly and at the best price? Contact us and get a quote from multiple top rated national carriers.

Come by for a free cup of coffee anytime!

Call Deborah or John today for a free quote or consultation on your insurance needs.

(325) 388-4934
A Christmas Open House at First State Bank of Central Texas in Kingsland served also as a retirement party for Jan Scoace (at center in photo above) last Thursday.

Above: The dining room at Legend Healthcare and Rehabilitation - Granite Mesa in Marble Falls was packed with celebrating residents and guests at a Christmas party last Friday.

At left: Highland Lakes Title employees held a Christmas Open House last Friday at the Kingsland office. From left: Rose Crabill, Carol Boyd, Tasha Comstock and Kim Johnson.

KINGSLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

GOD CARES! WE CARE!

COME JOIN US

for Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday
(Nursery provided from 1:00 to noon)

CHRISTMAS SEASON SPECIAL EVENTS
December 4th – Holy Communion – 10:45 a.m.
December 6th – Community Coffee – 9:30 a.m.
December 11th – Choir Cantata – 10:45 a.m.
December 13th – Men’s Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.
December 14th – Christmas Tea & Bazaar – 9:30 a.m.
December 25th – Lessons & Carols – 10:45 a.m.

EXCITING WORSHIP – Come, worship the Lord with us!

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Full Service Salon

“Se habla Español” (Feliz Navidad)

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M-F, 9:30-5:30
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Sure Cuts and More will be closed December 24-26 for CHRISTMAS

Walk-Ins Only • 2402 Hwy 1431 • Kingsland • 325-388-4492 • Affordable hair care for your family

December 23, 2016 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 5
Students from the Wildflower Dance Studio performed their version of "The Nutcracker" at the Llano High School auditorium last Friday and Saturday. They got top billing this week because they had not been covered in the previous week's papers. In the photo above, Gillian Fletchler plays the starring role of "Sugar Plum Fairy."
Nutcracker Ballets!

Three different takes on the classic two-act ballet, “The Nutcracker,” were performed on consecutive weekends this December. Dozens of young dancers from Studio 29 Dance Centre in Burnet (above), Harmony School of Creative Arts in Marble Falls (two photos below) and Wildflower Dance and Yoga Studio in Llano (on facing page) all delighted their audiences with unique and charming performances this Christmas season.

Highland Lakes CHURCH OF CHRIST

Serving others God’s way (Luke 6:46)

2310 W. Hwy 1431 - Kingsland, TX 78639

COME VISIT OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY!
Sunday: Bible Class (9 a.m.) and Worship (10 a.m. and 5 p.m.)
Wednesday: Bible Study (7 p.m.)

OTHER ACTIVITIES
Tuesday: Helping Hands Community Pantry (9:30-11:30 a.m.)
Wednesday: Ladies Bible Class (10 a.m.)
Men’s Prayer Fellowship - Second Saturday (4th Month) 9:30 a.m.
FREE World-Wide Bible Correspondence Program (Study the Bible at Home; free of charge; with no obligation)

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Enjoy the clean, pristine water that we used to have when Lake LBJ was new. No job too small. Our floating sediment removal system is proven and has already achieved results on Lake LBJ. Call or click to find out more.

Kingsland Florist is one of the most beautifully-decorated businesses, (inside and out) anywhere around the Highland Lakes.

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Day Hunts
• Deer & Pigs • Predator Control
• Two Thousand Acres in Llano County
• Six miles of Lake Buchanan frontage
• Transportation to and from stands
• We furnish MLD Buck and Doe lage

This unique Christmas village is part of the decoration at Lakeside Grocery (on Highway 29, just east of the Inks Lake bridge). Owner Karol Willard builds her charming “Connecticut” village each December to greet customers near the front door of her little store.

“Anything in Stone”
THE LIVING STONE COMPANY
201 East Young Street
Llano, Texas 78643
1-888-463-7625
Open Monday thru Saturday, 8:30-5
GRANITE, MARBLE, SLATE, ONYX, TRAVERTINE, QUARTZITES
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One of the best public lighting displays in the Highland Lakes area is around the Burnet County courthouse.
Charlotte Dilworth presents a check for $670 to volunteers for the "Sharing the Harvest" food bank in Kingsland last Thursday, from proceeds at this year's "After Turkey Turkey Trot 5K." Charlotte and her husband, Gary, own and operate Kingsland Health & Fitness Center.

Volunteers at Grace United Methodist Church "shop" through the mountains of toys collected by the Granite Shoals Christmas Outreach to put together an appropriate collection of gifts for one of the deserving children on the group's list.

NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND
Brady's Heart of Texas Event Center
FRIDAY
DECEMBER 30
Johnny Bush & Justin Trevino
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 31
Darrell McCall & Justin Trevino
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(Halfway between inks Lake State Park and Longhorn Cavern)

Full Service • Varied Menu
Something for Everyone! • Dine In or Take Out
Salads • Sandwiches • Seafood
Burgers • Chicken Fried Steak • Desserts

NIGHTLY SPECIALS 5-8 P.M.
Tuesday: Hamburger with Regular Fries $5.00
Wednesday: Free pie with meal
Thursday: New York Strip Steak, Baked Potato and Salad $10.99
Friday: All-you-can-eat Catfish $9.99

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Sunday and Monday, 11-3
Tuesday through Saturday, 11-8

Hoover's Valley Cafe
"Like eating at Nonna's house!"

Kingsland Health & Fitness Center
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December 23, 2016 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 9
J. Polanco addresses the crowd at Fuel Coffee House in Llano with a remarkably upbeat message at a benefit Monday evening to help him with expenses of his recently-diagnosed bone cancer. More than 100 attended the hastily-organized event, which raised over $5,000. J. was on his way to M.D. Anderson in Houston the next morning.

Part of the generous crowd at Fuel on Monday. Many more are praying for J., a well-known and much-loved personality in Llano.

Christmas Eve Candlelight

Share the warmth of comfort and joy!

Make Christmas meaningful for your loved ones by being part of our Candlelight Christmas Celebration.

Family-friendly, inspiring and sure to put you in the “Christmas Spirit.”

6:00pm, Saturday, Dec. 24th

CHAPEL OF THE HILLS
Highway 29 @ Buchanan Dam
512.793.2453
hillcountrychapel.com

Merry Christmas!
from Grace United Methodist Church

Please join us for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 24, at 4007 Valley View Lane in Granite Shoals 830-598-7794
The Hill Country’s Premier Senior Care Community
Specializing in Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care

The former Walden Court Assisted Living Center on Highway 29 East in Llano is now a part of the CelesteCare Family of Assisted Living and Memory Care communities in the Texas Hill Country.

WE PROVIDE: Top-quality, around-the-clock care by highly-trained staff members • State-of-the-art equipment to enhance monitoring and care • Delicious, chef-planned meals • Diverse activities and fun events • Exceptional support for family members.

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Giving families peace of mind.

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Everyone is Invited!

Join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior

at a CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Combined Worship Service at 11 a.m. on Christmas Day

Genesis Lutheran Church
15945 E. State Highway 29
Buchanan Dam

6 p.m. on Saturday, December 24

Carol and Daniel Adams were preparing for the Open House at their Fine Art Gallery in Buchanan Dam when this picture was taken last Saturday morning.
More than 175 people crowded into the Marble Falls Library last Thursday to hear Christmas music from the Hill Country Community Band at the annual Open House.

A variety of songs and singers were featured at the Hill Country Community Theatre’s “Hill Country Christmas on the Air” last Saturday and Sunday.

The Vocalibre musical troupe from Texas State University sang at several venues in Horseshoe Bay, beginning at the Yacht Club ballroom (pictured above), last Friday night.
FOR SALE
Lake LB1 Waterfront Property Sale – All with docks and swimming pools. 3300 SF New Home & 400 Ft Open Waterfront $1.3M
3300 SF Waterfront Home $1.3M
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2015 Heartland Bigfoot – Fifth wheel model 385RL - 10,500 lbs. 6 28’5” broad linning, electric fireplace, central vac, 4-door refrigerator with ice maker, and high gloss exterior. Call 918-538-1100
SCOOTERS, WHEEL CHAIRS – Large, medium and children’s, WALKERS - 4 wheels, seat and backs, LIFT CHAIRS, HEATING & WARMER, TV’s, BATTY & SEAT (by appointment), Call 918-537-0715
Christmas Shoppers – in MF, HBU, Bunnell, Llanal Visit the Crystal Pistol, located in downtown on courthouse Square in Broken Arrow, for beautiful jewelry, pottery, clothes, shoes, perfumes, etc. 55-75% off book, cookbooks, collectors, shoe, and other unique gifts everyone loves. Call 918-405-2232, “Save 50% or more off retail”.
LEGEND OAKS
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Affordable Housing for 55 and over
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W/D, Dishwasher, Microwave
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WATERFRONT – Masterland Estates $2,500.00 a month plus deposit. Call 918-336-1147
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Boat Housing Units – 11’ x 24’ and 11’ x 30’, with trailer doors and electricity. 24-hour access, great place to put boat in love and park in Sunrise Beach. Call 918-567-6855.

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LEGEND OAKS
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Affordable Housing for 55 and over
Hill Country Living
W/D, Dishwasher, Microwave
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$3 Classifieds!
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Cedar Allergies

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Cedar Serums Available Now
Start taking it today!
A number of Christmas programs around the Highland Lakes offered live dramatizations of the Gospel story, including the delightful presentation of “The Fear Not Factor” by Logos youngsters (above, right) at Lake Wทasket Memorial United Methodist Church in Llano. No other production approaches the scope of Burnet’s amazing “Main Street Bethlehem” production (above, below and on page 1).

Photos by John Hallowell

December 1 through January 1, 2017 Hill Country Humane Society is offering a special adoption rate for all shelter animals. Any dog, cat, puppy or kitten can be yours for half the regular adoption fee! We have a lot of wonderful animals looking for forever homes this holiday season. Our Christmas wish is for every animal in the shelter to find a permanent, loving home. We want to make it easier for you by cutting the adoption fee in half. Fees include vaccinations, microchip, and spay/neuter and rabies voucher. You can view all of our adoptable animals online at www.hillcountryhumane.org or come by and meet everyone in person. Located at 9150 RR 1431 W in Buchanan Dam, we are open daily from 11-4. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Call 512-793-5463.

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December 23, 2016 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 15
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ALL-STEEL Building – 3/12 pitch, Full Insulation • CUSTOM TRIM package w/12” eaves
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MANY COLORS TO CHOOSE FROM
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