Spring is Here!

There may be a cold snap or two still in store, but the rivers are flowing and bluebonnets are growing in Kingsland (these photos were taken on Tuesday, February 21 at Drace Vacation Camp and at the Kingsland Slab) and all around the Highland Lakes area! Spring is a wonderful time in the Highland Lakes area, and some great events are planned for the next two months. Some of those events are listed in the “Upcoming Events” article, beginning on page 2.
**Upcoming Events**

George and Cynthia Russell were honored at last year’s Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce Banquet with a Lifetime Achievement Award. This year’s banquet will be held this Saturday evening.

By JOHN HALLLOWELL

The Herman Brown Free Library will host an Afternoon of One-Act Plays, beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday, February 24. Both plays are adaptations by Raymond V. Whelan of other artists’ works. For more information, please call the library at 512-715-5225.

Merchants in downtown Llano will host their Fourth Friday Artwalk from 5 to 7 p.m. on February 24.

Archaeologist Chuck Hixson, of the Upper Highland Lakes Nature Center, will be at Attic Coffee Roasters (on Hwy 1431 in Marble Falls) for a free “Dig the Past” workshop from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday morning, February 25. The “Taste of Nature Series” will continue at Noonies on alternating Saturdays into the spring.

The Llano Foodie Market will be held at the JLK Event Center in Llano from 10 to 5 on Saturday, February 25. VFW Post 10376 in Marble Falls will host its 5th annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, February 25. First judging begins at 2 p.m.

Lakeside Library (on Hwy 261 in Buchanan Dam) will host a Poetry Jam, with authors and enthusiasts reading favorite writings to a supportive audience, beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 25.

The Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Awards Banquet on the evening of Saturday, February 25.

Students from Harmony School of Creative Arts will present a Musical Showcase Recital at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Marble Falls at 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 26.

Author/songwriter/singer W.C. Jameson will be the guest speaker at the February meeting of the Friends of Kingsland Library (to be held at the library at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28). The public is welcome; refreshments will be served.

The Llano Library will host a National Weather Service in a free Skyswarn Weather Spotter Training class from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28. No pre-registration is required; if you would like to learn more about severe weather and possibly help the NWS, you are invited!

The Lute Watkins Memorial United Methodist Church in Llano will host an AARP Smart Driver Course from 1 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 2. Call 325-247-4099 to enroll.

Bill Kirchen, a founding father of Americana rock and roll, will appear at the Spicewood Vineyards Event Center at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 3. A Grammy-nominated artist, Bill is well known for his hit, “Hot Red Lincoln” with Commander Cody and the Last Planet Airines. The show is presented by the Spicewood Arts Society.

The annual Walk-A-Dog-a-Thon will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Johnson Park in Marble Falls on Saturday, March 4. This year’s event will include a “Dingers for Dogs” co-ed softball tournament. Proceeds help local rescue dogs.

The new McDonald’s in Burnet (which is already open) will hold its Grand Re-Opening on Saturday, March 4. There will be a ribbon-cutting at 10 a.m., plus arcade games, face painting, balloons, magic shows, raffle drawings and more all day. Kids can even meet Ronald McDonald!

The “Let’s Talk Women’s 2 Women” Health Conference for the Women of the Highland Lakes will be

(Continued on page 10)
Scatterthought

By JOHN HALLOWELL

I had a great weekend, celebrating my 60th birthday with several family members, Marla. I have a bunch of “business” items that I want to mention, so I’ll try not to ramble.

The deadline for registration in Central Texas for the National Rifle Association’s (NRA) National Rifle Association’s (NR) annual meeting is Friday, February 28. If you’re an early bird, you can still register online at www.nra.org. The meeting will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, from March 29 to April 2. The main events include the NRA’s Annual Meetings and Exhibits, which will feature over 1,000 exhibitors and over 60,000 attendees. The meeting will also feature educational sessions, workshops, and seminars on a variety of topics related to firearms, shooting, and outdoor activities. If you’re a gun enthusiast, this is a must-attend event. The registration fee is $30 for the general public and $25 for NRA members. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to learn more about the gun rights movement and meet other like-minded individuals.

Also, the “KATTI” band from Bandera, which won top honors in the “Battle of the Bands” at the USO’s Friendship in Marble Falls, will be back to open for Cameron Nelson at the Uptown Sound Theater on Friday, March 10. A free Beer Spotter Training class will be conducted by the National Weather Service (NWS) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, at the Uptown Sound Theater. The class is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about weather spotting. If you’re interested in learning more about weather spotting, this is a great opportunity to get started.

We were looking forward to the Sunshine Festival in Marble Falls, which took place on Saturday, March 11. The festival featured live music, food, and fun for all ages. The festival was sponsored by the Marble Falls Chamber of Commerce and the City of Marble Falls. You can find more information about the Sunshine Festival on the Marble Falls Chamber of Commerce website. If you’re interested in learning more about the festival, be sure to check out the website.

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For those who prefer music over painting, Linco’s Fiddle Fest Weekend will be held March 21 - April 2.

A very special event, targeted for disabled veterans and their families, is planned for Friday and Saturday, April 7 & 8. “Warriors on the Beach” is a family fishing trip on Lake LBJ, based in Sunrise Beach, organizers are offering up to two nights of fishing, food, fishing, and fun, with a special focus on families who live outside of Texas. At this time, transportation is not provided to the event location. Boats and equipment are needed; contact Amy Lesesoo-Hall or Daniel Gower on Facebook for details. You can also help by donating to the event. The event is free to veterans and their families who live outside of Texas. For more information, contact Amy Lesesoo-Hall or Daniel Gower on Facebook. If you’d like to help, the event is being held on April 7 & 8 at Lake LBJ, based in Sunrise Beach.

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We welcome you!
County Commissioner Mike Sandoval held his February town hall meeting at the First Baptist Church in Kingsland on Tuesday evening, discussing issues and addressing concerns of citizens.

The Place Downtown now has a “Coffee Bar & Grill” open from 8:30 to 2, Monday through Friday, and 6:30 to 11 on Saturday. Besides coffee, they offer breakfast pastries, hot sandwiches, wraps, soups and more! Pictured above: Chris Desormeaux, Zane Lewis and Meredith Lewis.

Above: Gabrielle Sordolet and Erin Legier were two of the workers at the new “Real New Orleans Style” food trailer in Kingsland on Tuesday. The “branch office” of the popular Marble Falls restaurant, founded by members of Smoking for Jesus Ministry after they were displaced from their New Orleans homes by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, will be parked in front of the Sparkle Car Wash (across from H.E.B.) in Kingsland from 11 to 3, Monday through Saturday.

At right: Kingsland Lions Club members John Overstreet and J.P. Era Marion collected donations for White Cane Days at Buddies in Kingsland.
Puttin' on the Ritz! Guests at the “Waves Hair Styles” table practiced their waves during the Lambda Nu sorority’s annual tea party at the Kingsland Community Center last Thursday afternoon.

Winners of the Hat Contest at the “Puttin’ on the Ritz!” tea party were: Brenda Miller (Most Beautiful Hat), Robin Chiesa-Baros (Best Themed Hat) and Glenda Brumley (Most Original Hat).

One of the highlights of the Lambda Nu sorority’s annual tea party was a dancing demonstration by Taylor Grey and Sherry MacFarlane (sorry, no action shots!) The party was a big success once again, and the capacity crowd seemed to be having a wonderful time.

The Friends of Kingsland Library
Welcome the Public to our meeting
at 2 p.m. on
Tuesday, February 28

Program by
W. C. Jameson
Award-winning author/songwriter/singer

Refreshments will be served
This well-armed group was in Kingsland as part of the annual reunions held by the U.S. Navy Blue Dragons, who served together in the 1980s and '90s. One of the highlights of the weekend was a trip to a shooting range, where the veterans (and some family members) tested some exotic weapons. The group also held a memorial service for 27 comrades-in-arms who died in a horrific midair crash of two Navy airplanes off the California coast in 1991.

Navy veteran Dean Dauphinee, of Richmond Hill, Georgia, took a turn last Saturday shooting the Barrett M-107 50 Cal. Rifle at steel targets at a distance of 400 yards!

Above: Reunion guests danced to the music of Jamie Hanks and 2-Timin' Country last Saturday night at the Kingsland Community Center.

At right: the inflatable Blue Dragon mascot was featured prominently at the dance. Several of the Navy veterans stayed at the Antlers Hotel in Kingsland for the week-end reunion, hosted locally by Constable Bill Edwards.
The congregation at Chapel of the Hills (on Hwy 29 in Buchanan Dam) held a Winter Banquet last Friday evening to celebrate five years since the arrival of Pastor Steve Leftwich and his wife, Glenda. Entertainment and inspiration was provided by nationally-known singer/songwriter/comedian David Crain, of Grand Saline.

Youngsters from kindergarten to second grade enjoyed basketball and cheering at the Upward Sports program held Saturday morning in the gym at Grace United Methodist Church in Granite Shoals. Their game was followed by another, with athletes from 3rd to 5th grade.

Scholarship recipients displayed their art and addressed supporters at a fundraiser of the Spicewood Arts Society on Saturday evening at Spicewood Vineyards.
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The Dixie Swim Club

Actors from the Llano Community Theatre group presented three showings of “The Dixie Swim Club” last weekend at the Lantex Theater. In the photo above, Jeri Neal (played by Connie Turner), Sheree (Lisa Davis) and Vernadette (Cheryl Crabtree) hold one of their hilarious conversations. At left, Lexi (Karl Miller) and Dinah (Troy Johnson) greet each other at the as they arrive at the annual reunion of the five former college swim team members.
Rabbit Hole is a somber and gut-wrenching drama about the struggles of a couple whose four-year-old son runs into the street and is killed by an oncoming car. Howie (played by Cody Petty, below and at right) and Becca (Stephanie Ellis, at right) are not helped by Becca’s well-meaning mother (Mary Beth Madsen), her trashy sister Izzy (Laura Gisi) OR the guilt-ridden young driver, Jason (Charles McLean), writing a letter to them in the photo above.

At left: Howie struggles with the loss of his son, as well as the withdrawal of his grieving wife, Becca (above). The play continues at the Hill Country Community Theatre in Cottonwood Shores for the next two weekends, with 7:30 p.m. shows on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, plus a 2:15 matinee on Sundays.

Join Us as We Walk to Help Save Local Shelter Dogs!

5th Annual Marble Falls Walk-A-Dog-athon Saturday, March 4th 10am - 2pm
Johnson Park & Historic Downtown, Marble Falls
It’s just dogs helping dogs!

Come and enjoy a leisurely stroll through Marble Falls parks and Historic Downtown with your friends, family and your leashed canine companion!

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You can view all of our adoptable animals online at www.hillcountryhumanesociety.org or come by and meet everyone in person. Located at 9150 RR 1431W in Buchanan Dam, we are open daily from 11 to 4. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Call 512-793-5463.

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Two of the biggest attractions in coming weeks will be Llano’s Earth Art Fest, with its amazing rock-stacking competitions (one entry pictured above) on the weekend of March 10-13, and Burnet’s fabulous Bluebonnet Festival (above, right), scheduled for the weekend of April 7-9.

(EVENTS: Continued from page 2)

held at Hill Country Fellowship in Burnet from 9-3 on Saturday, March 4. Find more details on Facebook or email hello@w26igmail.com before February 24.

The Hermann Brown Free Library in Burnet is celebrating the birthday of beloved children’s author Dr. Seuss at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1. A highlight of the program will be special guest readers sharing some of Seuss’ most beloved classic stories.

The Marble Falls Area EMS Fish Fry will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, at the Bluebonnet Cafe. For take-out orders, please call 830-693-2444.

Debbie Sapp will present a program on “Gardening Tomatoes: From Germinating to Preserving” at a meeting of the Kingsland Garden Club, to be held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 3, at the Kingsland Library. Call (325) 388-8849 for details.

Bart Crow will be on stage at the Brass Hall in Marble Falls at 9 p.m. on Friday, March 3.

The Lake Buchanan/Inks Lake Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Las Vegas Night fundraiser at Hill Country Hall from 6 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, March 4.

The well-known Dierlovers band will make the featured performer at Ostriches’ Rose to Llano at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 4.

The monthly demo at the Llano Fine Art Guild will be presented by Sue Kean (oil on canvas) at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 6.

Stoney LaRue will perform at Brass Hall in Marble Falls at 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 9.

The Marble Falls Public Library will host freelance writer and author Jessica Dupuy (United Tastes of Texas) at its Lunch at the Library, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 10. Reservations are required, but there is no charge. RSVP at the library or call 830-693-3023.

The Llano Earth Art Fest, with its rock-stacking, live music and many other outdoor activities, will be held along the Llano River from March 10 to 13.

The YMCA in Burnet will host a free Sock Hop Dance, featuring the music of Big Ant and the Alley Cats, from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 11.

The third Winter Texas Dinner will be held at the Kingsland Community Center on Tuesday, March 14. Doors will open for a social hour beginning at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6.

The Shoot for Cooper Sporting Clay Event will be held at Hidden Falls Adventure Park (east of Marble Falls on Hwy 1431) on Saturday, March 18. Money raised for the event will go to the Cooper DeSpain Memorial Scholarship Fund, benefiting students from Marble Falls High School, Burnet High School and Faith Academy. Call 830.613.9330 for details.

The Buchanan VFD will hold its annual Fish Fry fundraiser from 11 to 2 on Saturday, March 18.

Kingsland area businesses will hold a “Shop Small” event in the parking lot of the First Baptist Church, at 4335 Hwy 1431 W, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 25.

The Hill Country Lawn & Garden Show will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, at the Burnet Community Center. This free Family event has a variety of native, exotic houseplants, herbs, flowers, vegetables and garden supplies for sale, plus demonstrations, children’s activities, raffle and food for purchase. For more information call Irene Dauphin 254-403-6009 or vendor information, Rosanne Duncan 512-756-6996.

The Sunrise Beach VFD Auxiliary will host a Bass Fishing Tournament on Saturday, March 25. Look for details at www.SBBDoggies.com.

The Llano Art Studio Tour (L.A.S.T.) is scheduled for Saturday, March 25 (also the last Sunday in March).

The annual Designer Purse Bingo fundraiser for the Hill Country Children’s Advocacy Center will be held at Horseshoe Bay Resort beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 25.

Marble Falls will host its annual Paint the Town event March 25 to April 1. Artists are invited to register for the Plein Air Competition and Exhibit, one of the five best events each month in Texas, at www.artsLlano.com.

Landmark Productions and the Globe Theatre (in Bertram) will host a special program with Jake Perrod, titled “The History of Country Music from Jimmie Rodgers to George Strait,” beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 31, at the theater.

The Texas Hills Quilters will host a Wildflowers in Bloom quilt show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 31 and April 1 at the Family Activity Center of Lake Watkins Memorial United Methodist Church in Llano.

Llano’s annual Fiddle Fest Weekend will be held from Friday, March 31 to Sunday, April 2.

The Living Love Charity Golf Classic will be held on Saturday, April 1 at Hidden Falls Golf Club (12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start).

“Warriors on the Beach” fishing trip will be held on April 7 and 8 at Sunrise Beach on Lake LBJ. The event is targeted for disabled veterans and their families.

Burnet’s fabulous Bluebonnet Festival will be held the second weekend of April.
Five Sunrise Beach Volunteer Fire Department First Responders and two paramedics from the Llano County EMS received awards last Thursday for their parts in saving the life of a Sunrise Beach resident who was found “without pulse or respiration” when they responded to a 911 call last November.

Pictured after Thursday’s ceremony (L-R): Mayor Tommy Martin, Llano County EMS Director Kristi Knapp, Fire Chief and Medical First Responder Steve Grove, Fire Fighter and First Responder Scott Olguin, Fire Fighter and First Responder Ruben Saucedo, Fire Fighter and First Responder Bill Long, Fire Fighter and First Responder Dan Gower and County Commissioner Peter Jones.

These vintage wedding dresses from the early days in Marble Falls history are just two of the exhibits in an interesting “Linens and Things” display at the Falls on the Colorado Museum, showing fabrics and creative methods of working with fabrics in Burnet County’s frontier days.

This colorful display is one of many at the new “Elena’s Gift Shop” on the grounds of Sam’s Nursery and Landscaping, at the corner of Hwys 29 and 1431 in Buchanan Dam.

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Executive Director Sarah Garret and the Phoenix Center’s “Canine Companion,” Mabel, were two of the stars at last Saturday's fundraiser for the highly-regarded mental health care center in Marble Falls. A large and generous crowd filled Quail Point Lodge in Horseshoe Bay for the event; with matching funds from other donors, the center raised more than $1,000,000 to help pay for construction of a new facility.

Left: Freelance writer and author Jessica Dupuy will be the speaker at the Marble Falls Library’s “Lunch at the Library” event (at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 10). She will discuss her latest book, United Tastes of Texas, which explores Texas cuisine through its history and unique regions. Jessica has written for several major publications and has also written three other cookbooks. United Tastes of Texas will be available for purchase at the program and for checkout in the library. The program is free, but reservations are required; RSVP in person at the Marble Falls Library or by calling 830-693-3023.

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BINGO

on Saturday March 4 11 am

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Look out for falling rock! A huge boulder fell from the cliff beside Hwy 1431 into the ditch on the east side of the scenic overlook on Lookout Mountain last weekend. The roadway was created by extensive blasting in 1967 and 1970 (when the road was widened to four lanes). Rocks have fallen occasionally ever since.

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Page 12 Highland Lakes Weekly February 24, 2017
This slide, on the wall above the stage at Smoking for Jesus Ministry's gymnasium, describes Wednesday evening's Black History Program. The celebration included singing and dancing by students from the ministry's Christian School, and described the achievements of two prominent pastors of the early 20th century.

The choir from Smoking for Jesus Ministry Christian School sang "Lift Every Voice & Sing" and "Everytime I Feel the Spirit" at the beginning of Wednesday evening's program.

Kindergarten through 2nd Grade boys, dressed as preachers, did an enthusiastic "Group Bible Speaking" from Romans 10.

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Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!
Inks Lake Hiking

One of the newest hiking trails at Inks Lake State Park is the 3/4-mile Valley Spring Trail, which meanders along a scenic ridge overlooking Spring Creek from the south (see photos above and at left), then loops back through the woods toward Devil's Water Hole. Another new trail crosses Spring Creek on the Park Road 4 bridge, and follows the north side of the creek along a peninsula which reaches into the lake just north of the main camping grounds. The older hiking trails provide a close-up look at several different landscapes, from the top of a granite hill to a densely-wooded valley floor.

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