The Llano Earth Art Festival (L.E.A.F.), in and around the Llano River, was the first big outdoor event of the season around the Highland Lakes area. It attracted some of the most skilled rock-stackers in the world, plus spectators from all around Texas and several other states. These two stacks were put together by Tim Anderson, who has come from Pennsylvania to participate each of the three years that L.E.A.F. has been held. See more photos from the festival on pages 8 & 9. There were a few other events last weekend (see inside pages), and the next few weeks will be filled with Spring activities.
Scatterthought

In my frantic rush to put together a paper last week (after taking the long weekend off), I was reminded that the March/10 issue of the Highland Lakes Weekly was actually my 30th weekly paper (and I've never missed a deadline by more than a few minutes). At just over 5,000 copies per week, that comes to more than 15 MILLION Highland Lakes Weeklys that I have delivered over the past six years. It goes without saying (but I want to say it anyway) that I couldn't have done it without my readers and advertisers. I owe you all a tremendous debt of gratitude, and there is a week that goes by that I don’t travel a mile (also new for me) to me. Thank you all very much!

More than half of these 30 issues have had some kind of historical article in them, and that is mainly just because I really enjoy learning and sharing parts of the amazing Highland Lakes story. It’s also because writing history feels less risky than current “human interest” stories. I can do it on my own schedule, without bothering anyone else, and there’s a lot less chance of disapproval or embarrassment than who I truly admire when I’m just confessing or paraphrasing something else some years ago.

And lastly (but probably not leastly), there’s the matter of my “retirement” plan. I am still mobile enough to expect a few more years of doing my current job, but I seem to get more tired and more forgetful in less hours of “work” these days. Eventually (about seven more years, I’m guessing), I’ll have to turn the Highland Lakes Weekly over to somebody younger, and start writing (or actually, compiling) books of local history. As I was setting a friend last week, every one of those history articles (probably 200 by now) is part of a possible future book. I don’t expect any of my books to become a best-seller, but I hope to earn a little income from them, and I hope that they will help preserve the history of the region that has been so good to me!

John Hallowell

I have a bunch of “business” items that I need to mention:

As of Cedar Hills Clinic in Llano will be at the Tow Volunteer Fire Department from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday (March 18). All canine and feline vaccinations (rabies, in particular) will be available, as well as QUALITY flea prevention.

Marble Falls’ Market Day on Main, which was postponed due to rain, has been rescheduled for this Saturday, March 18.

The Lakeshore Library, in Buchanan Dam, will host a free-scratch chill-making program by Nancy Chown at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday (March 21). Participants will enjoy a bowl of chilli with all the fixings for lunch. Space is limited; call 253-3761 to register.

Commissioner Mike Sardello will hold a Town Hall from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday (March 20) at Parkside Fellowship in Kingsland. Topics will include: a possible Boys & Girls Club in Kingsland, possible expansion at the Kingsland Library and the financial ramifications of Texas Senate Bill 2 on property tax relief.

There will be a Financial Well-Being workshop titled “Making the Most of What You Earn” at 7:45 a.m. on Thursday (March 21) at First United Bank in Kingsland.

Golfers are needed to fill the cards at the Make-A-Wish tournament scheduled for Monday, March 27th at the beautiful Escadaso course in Horse- shoe Bay. Call Art Streck at 927-680-2139 if you can help out.

The Falls Republican Women’s Club will hear from new Burnet County Sheriff Caben Floyd, who will talk about the future of law enforcement and the Texas border at their March 28 meeting. The meeting will begin with a brief social at 11:30 a.m. at the Meadowlakes Restaurant. Lunch will be served at noon.

Email skietser101@gmail.com or call 830-693-3645 by March 21 to reserve your spot.

Also on March 28, the Friends of the Kingsland Library invite the public to hear from Ron Poole (owner of Clean Cliffside Dry-cleaning) and president of the Kingsland Chamber, who will discuss community issues with a focus on the area’s lakes.

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March 17, 2017 Highland Lakes Weekly
Page 3
Kingsland Car Enthusiast

Wesley Williams has always loved cars—especially Ford Mustangs. And he’s always loved the Highland Lakes area, where his family put down roots well over a century ago. Now that he’s semi-retired from a career full of adventures, he is living in the back of his Williams Automotive Specialties & Motorsports in Kingsland, surrounded by an assortment of unique vehicles.

Wesley’s great-great-grandfather arrived in Steer’s Valley in the 1860s, and Wesley’s parents lived on the family ranch when he was born at the old Sherriff Hospital in Burnet in 1947. Although they moved around a lot during his growing-up years, they eventually settled in Austin, where he spent most of his working years (except for his years in the U.S. Navy when he served in Vietnam and other locations). He always kept in touch with his Highland Lakes roots, and came “back home” in 1994.

In the meantime, he learned many useful skills, eventually turning his enthusiasm for cars into a fascinating career of fixing, restoring, and racing automobiles. In his spare time, he read everything he could find about the life and times of Henry Ford. In a concession to recent health problems, he recently built a totally-enclosed air-conditioned shop where he can work on his old Fords (and other cars) in comfort.

Because he works at a slower pace these days, most of the cars at Williams Automotive are sitting, waiting for restoration. Williams says that any of his cars is for sale. As long as he gets around to restoring them (although a friend has already spoken for the 1946 Ford panel truck in front of the shop). If you have been coveting one of the restorations he has parked out there, be sure to stop in and talk to him some day while he’s there at work.

These classic cars are in line for restoration at Williams Automotive Specialties in Kingsland. Wesley Williams has restored hundreds of cars in his career, but he is working at a more leisurely pace these days and would be willing to sell one of them if the offer is right.

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Woody Eastman’s provided dance music for the crowd of 115 at the Kingsland Chamber’s final Winter Texan Dinner of 2017. on Tuesday. Wisconsin led all the northern states with 24 in attendance. The dinner was sponsored by Longhorn Resort and Lighthouse Country Club.

Lisa Mattingly-Brantley described the mission and capability of the Kingsland Hills Care Center at the Kingsland Chamber’s Breakfast Club meeting on Wednesday morning at Protea Salon & Spa on Cottonwood Drive. Protea and KHCC were the sponsors of the well-attended event.

Nasario “Ness” Rodriguez was one of the singers at the Highland Lakes Baptist Church’s monthly Community Sing last Friday night. He gave an excellent rendition of Chuck Compton’s “I Can’t Buy, Steal or Borrow (One More Tomorrow).”
A well-attended “Gumbo Bunco Bash” at The Trails of Horseshoe Bay raised funds for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the Highland Lakes on Monday.

Volunteers from the Hill Country Humane Society held an impressive “Show and Shine” with several very-appealing adoptable dogs in front of the ACE Hardware in Horseshoe Bay last Saturday.

A cheerful crowd, many of whom were wearing 1950s-style attire, gathered at the YMCA in Burnet last Saturday evening for a Sock Hop Dance. Big Anton and the Alley Cats provided 50s-era music.

A Hodge Podge Market, with a wide variety of vendors, was held last weekend at the JLK Event Center in Llano. The next such event will be held on April 1 & 2.
Trusting God, fighting cancer

Huey O's, restaurant, just off Hwy 2147 in Cottonwood Shores in front of the On The Rocks restaurant, which looks out over the Wirtz Dam.

By JOHN HALLOWELL

Huey O's is a unique restaurant in a striking little building, festooned with music-related memorabilia, on Hwy 2147 in Cottonwood Shores. Inside, you'll be greeted by the aroma of the "world's best burgers" and by the welcoming words of the energetic and enthusiastic owner, Huey Sherrill.

Huey is a former "Army Brat" who has lived all over the world and a musician who honed his "people skills" by performing in a variety of music venues. He subsidized his music career by working in the restaurant business, eventually becoming a waitstaff trainer for the Chili's chain.

Huey Sherrill, at work last week

He arrived in the Highland Lakes area a few years ago, and helped the Gainer family start the Sportsman's Café, east of Marble Falls (it's no longer in business, but was known for its excellent hamburgers while it was open). In 2013, he opened the first "Huey O's" at the "yellow gas station" on Hwy 281 in Marble Falls; the successful business moved to Cottonwood Shores in 2015.

Huey was just starting his new location, with his new-famous hamburgers and his friendly greetings to all who entered, when he was diagnosed with malignant skin cancer. His life since then has been punctuated by doctor's appointments and chemotherapy treatment, but his upbeat personality and his faith in God have kept him going. The restaurant is still open and Huey is still there every day, cooking his trademark "World's Best Burgers" and joyfully welcoming every customer as he hurries from task to task at the little restaurant.

"There are a lot of people with cancer," he points out, "I want to be an inspiration to all of them. I'm on the prayer list of dozens of churches, and people are watching to see what happens." He has total confidence that God is working a miracle in his life, despite the ominous diagnosis, and his faith allows him to continue his ambitious work schedule without any indication (to a casual observer) of the dread disease that threatens his life. While survival rates for many types of cancers are reportedly increasing in recent years, and somehow continue to make advances in treatment, we need to pray for all of our friends who have been affected by this scourge.

For those who are looking for a way to help find a medical cure, the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" event for the Highland Lakes area will be held at Johnson Park in Marble Falls on May 20. A golf tournament to raise funds in conjunction with the relay will be held at Greensprings Golf Course in Burnet on April 8.

Words of Faith on the wall at Huey O's restaurant in Cottonwood Shores.

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Above: Rockstacker Barry Quinet, from New Windsor, New York, admires his work on Saturday morning.

At right: One of the remarkably artistic stacks, silhouetted against the sky to show its amazing details. Skilled professionals came from as far away as France and Italy to participate (with Llano natives) in the Rock Stacking World Championship.

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Stacking grains of sand: “Amazin’ Walter” McDonald, from South Padre Island, delighted passers-by with his intricately-detailed sand castles at the Llano Earth Art Festival last weekend.

These classic Volkswagens were part of a VW show, now to the festival this year. Tours of the Red Top Jail (in background) were also part of the event, as were facepainting, rock-climbing and other activities.
Despite cloudy skies and intermittent rain, a good crowd attended Llano’s Earth Art Festival (L.E.A.F.) at Brumwell Park and in the Llano River. In addition to the main “Rock-Stacking World Championship” event, there were dozens of amateur rock-stackers, lots of vendors, musicians, dancers, artists and unique slide shows as the festival continues to grow. This photo looks across the river and the park from the east side of the bridge.

This photo looks back up toward the bridge from next to the vendor area in the photo above. Spectators wandered around the park throughout the day to admire the dozens of rockstacks.

Cooper wants to meet you at the Hill Country Humane Society. He is a 6-year-old Schnoodle (Schnauzer/Poodle mix) weighing in at 22 pounds. Cooper is a very laid-back sweet boy looking for someone to spoil him rotten. You can adopt Cooper for only $125, and he will be your new best friend forever. If you would like more information on Cooper or any of our other wonderful animals looking for their very own homes, contact HCHS at 512-793-5463 or visit our website at www.hillcountryhumanesociety.org. The shelter is open Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
A bigger-and-better-than-ever Paint the Town event will be held downtown Marble Falls (with Lakeside Pavilion as headquarters) from March 28 to April 1. Artists are invited to register for the Plein Air Competition and Exhibit, rated one of the five best such events in Texas, at www.hiarts.com. One of the Judges will be Eric Rhodes, owner and Editor-in-Chief of Fine Art Connoisseur magazine.

Wildflowers in Bloom Quilt Show
March 30 & April 1 10 AM to 4PM
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Pastor Steve Leftwich’s grandchildren led the morning worship at the Chapel of the Hills in Buchanan Dam last Sunday. Accompanied by Steve and Glenda Leftwich’s son, Jonathan (a former star quarterback at Burnet High School), from left: Ethan Leftwich, Ellie Leftwich, Jeremy Coltharp, Hayley Coltharp, Lauren Coltharp, Kara Leftwich and Megan Leftwich.

Courtesy Photos

Above: Volunteers from the Texas Hills Quilters display the quilt to be raffled at the “Wildflowers in Bloom” quilt show in Llano on March 31 and April 1. For more info, call 325-423-6487. At left: Master Gardeners pose with horticulture teacher Shelly Arrington at the Burnet Middle School greenhouse, where students will be holding a plant sale from 8 to 4 on Thursday, March 23. The Master Gardeners will be holding their annual Hill Country Lawn and Garden Show at the Burnet Community Center on Saturday, March 25.

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March 17, 2017 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 11
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Sec Gonzales, an employee of ACE Hardware in Horseshoe Bay, had a booth at the Llano Earth Art Festival to raise funds for the Hill Country Beautification Project at the intersection of Hwy 281 and 71 in Marble Falls. Tax-deductible donations in the public/private partnership will be used to landscape and plant wildflowers at the heavily-traveled intersection. Bradlee Mills, of Mills Services in Kingsland, has already donated about $10,000 in arborist services. For full details on the project, visit www.ScenicTexasHighways.com.

The twelve teams of the Llano Youth Soccer League get their season off to a good start last week.

The Kingsland House of Arts & Crafts has named Linda Scott “ Crafter of the Month” for March. She specializes in hand-made necklaces, bracelets and earrings. She also has crocheted items for sale.

KHAC will be holding its annual Spring Show on April 1 & 2, with live entertainment and vendors at the Blue building across Chamberlain Street from the Wells Fargo Bank (see ad on page 11).

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Music around the Lakes

Pretty Miss Norma Jean and Buck Trent (pictured with members of the Llano Country Gypsy Band) were the headliners at last Saturday’s Gypsy, held at the Lartex Theater on the Llano square.

Stoney LaRue attracted a capacity crowd to Brass Hall last Thursday night, the latest in a series of big-name stars at the music venue on 3rd Street in Marble Falls. Brandon Rhyder, Rich O’Toole and Roger Creager will be there in coming weeks; follow Brass Hall on Facebook for up-to-date info.

The Wallace Family Band, from Nolanville, delighted the audience at First Baptist Church of Granbury Sheen’s last Friday night for the Granite Shoals Fire Department’s Gospel Music Show. Pictured (L-R) are half of the band: Kristi Young, Amanda Wallace, GMAA Group Male Vocalist of the Year Joshua Wallace, and crowd favorite Jonah Wallace.

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