Last Saturday’s Fishing Tournament at Sunrise Beach provided a perfect opportunity to illustrate the reason for the little lake town’s name. These photos were taken at sunup from the top of Sandy Mountain; the boat in the inset at left is barely visible at the right side of the photo above. You can see more tournament pictures on page 7 (or on Facebook); you will have another opportunity to see a Sunrise Beach sunrise on Easter Sunday, when the Baptist Church holds a sunrise service at McNeil Park.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Krystal Brown, of Spring, was one of more than 50 artists who participated in last year’s “Paint the Town” event in Marble Falls. This year’s event is scheduled for this weekend, March 30 to April 1.

By JOHN HALLGOWER

This weekend’s big event is the annual Paint the Town event in Marble Falls and the Fiddle Fest Weekend in Llano. These events are not to be missed!

Paint the Town will be held from Friday, March 30, to Sunday, April 1. The event features art exhibits, music performances, and more. For more information, call 325-388-6660.

Fiddle Fest Weekend in Llano will take place from Friday, March 30, to Sunday, April 1. The event features fiddle competitions, music performances, and more. For more information, visit www.fiddlefestllano.com.

For Further Information, please contact:

Marble Falls Visitor Information Center
801 Main St.
Marble Falls, TX 78654
325-264-7127

Llano Visitor Information Center
801 1st St.
Llano, TX 78667
830-728-2291

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Seatings at 11, 12:30 & 2
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March 31, 2017
Highland Lakes Weekly
Never been kissed? This lovely and gracious young pig was waiting for Prince Charming when I took this picture last Thursday night. Sixth-grade teacher Jessi Spruill had promised his class at the Kingsland School that if they won the "penny war" (collecting loose change for PTO activities), he would kiss a pig. They won, and he did!

Scatterthought

What a weekend! And it’s just the beginning of an action-packed spring season. This coming week will pose another challenge to me and my rescue Ford Focus, with weekend events in both Marble Falls (Faruco the Tuffy Festival) and Llano (Tumbleweed Festival), plus a multitude of other activities in several other towns. If we could somehow be in both this weekend, we would make life easier. I definitely want to be at the Air Field Festival next weekend at the Buda Airport. But also, I want to see John Hallowell at the Globe Theatre in Bertram. I’ll be making tough choices all weekend.

One of the best events last weekend was the Fishing Tournament arranged by the VFD Auxiliary in Sunrise Beach. It looked like a lot of well-organized fun, and a big success. I congratulated the ladies responsible, especially those who showed up at 5:30 a.m. on a cold, dark morning! I also was impressed to see young people from the Boys & Girls Club holding a party at The Oasis Bar & Grille in Bertram. Folks young and old seemed to be really enjoying themselves.

It’s not just fun events that have been impressing me lately; there are lots of businesses starting and growing these days around the Highland Lakes. One thing that is especially encouraging to me is the explosion in the hospitality and surrounding area.

I saw on Facebook that owners Drew Greencraft and Rick Gregory had a record-setting week during Spring Break, and they are holding a Grand Opening and ribbon-cutting this weekend at 1 p.m. for the new Club Car Bar addition to the Grand Central Cafe. That cluster of businesses in the historic heart of Kingsland is very important to Kingland’s future, and I’m delighted to see them doing well.

I hardly ever recommend that my readers travel anywhere outside of the Highland Lakes area, but there are other places that are fun to visit and can be very relaxing.

John Hallowell

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Financial Well-Being Specialist Lisa Crawford led a well-attended workshop on “Making the Most of What You Earn” at First United Bank in Kingsland early last Thursday morning.

Chamber President Ron Poole addressed a meeting of the Friends of the Kingsland Library on Tuesday, discussing community issues with a focus on area lakes.

You never know what you’ll be able to learn at your local library! Rick Roy of “Rick to the Rescue” Handyman Services, gave a seminar on Small Engines at the Kingsland Library on Wednesday. All of the area libraries keep a busy schedule of activities; a few of them are listed in the “Upcoming Events” article beginning on page two, but you can learn more online or (better yet) by stopping in.

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A capacity crowd attended Awards Night at the Kingsland School last Thursday, as achievers in all grades were recognized. An interesting highlight of the evening was a promise kept by 6th-grade teacher Jesse Spruill, who had promised his class at the Kingsland School that if they won the “penny war” (collecting loose change for PTC activities), he would kiss a pig. They won, and he did!

A crowd of golfers gathered at the Lighthouse Country Club early Saturday morning for the Golf Channel Amateur Tour. Golfer Al Smith, from San Angelo, won the Championship Flight; local golfer Bob Tuttle won the Hegan Flight. The event was the first at Lighthouse for the Golf Channel Amateur Tour, but the course earned very favorable reviews on the Tour website.

Kingsland area merchants organized a “Shop Small” event at the First Baptist Church parking lot in Kingsland last Saturday. There was a good variety of booths, and the weather was beautiful. The event was off to a great start when this photo was taken Saturday morning.

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March 31, 2017 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 5
After Llano’s Centennial

By JOHN HALLOWELL

It didn’t take long for The Llano News to get back to business after (actually during) the big week-long centennial celebration at the beginning of June, 1956. While there were two centennial-related items at the top of the front page, it was dominated by current events.

First was the centennial news. A photo showed three “modern” young couples in “old-fashioned” garb. They were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Buehler, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Buehler, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. W. Y. Derrick. An article next to the photo reported that Ann Llano was named Queen of the Llano County Centennial events.

But despite the fact that the paper came out on Thursday of the big week, a backlog of more down-to-earth news filled the front page. The biggest story was that a site had been chosen for the new hospital. Architect John Wynn Scott, of Austin, met with the city council and the county commissioners to choose from three “finalist” sites; the one selected was a city block belonging to Mrs. Orlinda Buehler. It had the benefits of accessibility, utilities, and paved streets on two sides; it also was the closest to a main highway and to the courthouse. The county paid Mrs. Buehler $7,000.

The construction project was underway in several Llano County communities.

A banner headline on July 19 announced “Serious Water Scarcity” for Llano. The city raised water rates and banned lawn-watering, car-washing, and other wasteful practices in an attempt to save what little water was left. The water shortage was the subject of a meeting with the Chambers of Commerce from Mason and Junction on July 20, and a photo of the Llano River at August 20 was titled “Going, going, and almost gone.” Rumors spread around town that the Llano water supply had been “contaminated” but they were vehemently denied by City Manager R.V. Derrick. The temperature reached 105 degrees in the first week of August.

But there was an even bigger story. On July 6, a fireman, just 17 years old, in town to nearly 2” on the Moss Ranch near Enchanted Rock. In other words, Brighi announced that it would close forever on this southern Pearl Railroad from Granite Shoals Lake in Kingsland. Water usage had been cut in half from its “normal” 900,000 gallons per day due to the state’s Emergency Drought Committee action. The city issued a water rationing plan, and joined the state’s water board in a lawsuit against upstream irrigators.

The Prairie Mountain County Waterway had been created to celebrate its 50th anniversary, Leonard Turbyfill was named as coordinator to become Llano County’s new Waterway and Tax Assessor-Collector. And Llano County was included in the state’s Emergency Drought Committee. A new program, “The Llano News,” died of a heart attack.

The terrible drought ended on Friday, August 31, when the four-inch rainfall within an area of over 10,000 acres. The Llano River rose to higher levels and remained at those levels for almost two weeks. However, the water levels receded, and the lake was at normal levels by the end of the year.

In the following weeks, the Llano News continued to report on the ongoing drought, and the city’s efforts to conserve water. The newspaper also covered local news, events, and developments in the community.

Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!
While the serious anglers were out on Lake LBJ competing in the Sunrise Beach VFD’s Fishing Tournament last Saturday, kids in several age groups competed in an entertaining “Perch-Jerk” at the McNair Park headquarters.

Some of the approximately 50 anglers wait for the official weigh-in on Saturday afternoon, after competing in the Sunrise Beach VFD Fishing Tournament.

The winning team poses with Sunrise Beach Fire Chief Steve Grove after being presented with their trophies. Robby Robinson and Douglas Raker won First Place (and $2,000) with 22.47 lbs. Robinson also won Biggest Bass honors with a 7.91-lb. catch. Lee Goershausen and Randy Grounds took Second Place with 18.71 lbs, and Robby Payne came in Third in the successful event. The VFD Auxiliary is also planning a golf tournament, scheduled for April 22 at Lighthouse.

Enjoy a weekend of Fiddling and Wildflowers

LLANO FIDDLE FEST
March 31 - APRIL 2, 2017
Llano, Texas

March 31, Friday 6pm at the Badu House
"Air-Fiddle" and "Anything Goes - Tricks & Lore" Contest

April 1, Saturday 7am - 5pm at the Llano Tex Theater
40th Llano Open Fiddle Contest
Grand Championship prize $1,000!

April 1, Saturday 7:30pm at the Llano Tex Concert featuring ELANA JAMES with special guests Whit Smith and Jake Erin of the Hot Club of Cowtown

April 2, Sunday 6:30pm at the Llano County Museum Sunday Service & Fiddle Music featuring the Wilson String Band followed by a Cowboy Breakfast and display of Llano Fiddle History

For more information regarding concert tickets, schedules, or lodging:
llanofiddelfest.com 830-247-2534 llanofiddelfest.com

Donations collected at all Fiddle Fest events benefit local charities including Llano Kiwanis on Wheels and Llano Food Pantry

Reach more customers for less!
Advertise in the Highland Lakes Weekly!
Brian Fraus, of “The Big Worm” in Bertram, offered worms and worm castings from his interesting business for sale to gardening enthusiasts at the Hill Country Lawn and Garden Show, held last Saturday at the Burnet Community Center. The Llano County Lawn and Garden Show will be held this coming Saturday.

Master Gardener Ricky Lane gave a demonstration called “Tomatoes 101” at last Saturday’s Hill Country Lawn and Garden Show.

Nadia Castro was chosen to represent Burnet County as Queen at the upcoming Burnet County Fair, scheduled for the second weekend in June.
The beautiful new Bealls store in Marble Falls is almost completed, and management plans to hold a Grand Opening (beginning with a ribbon-cutting at 9 a.m.) next Thursday, April 6. There is space for two smaller stores at the south end of the building, which will give Bealls a more spacious store while making room for a new (and larger) H.E.B. store across Highway 1431, as Marble Falls continues its rapid growth.

Renovations were nearly completed at this long-vacant building when this photo was taken two weeks ago. Now the new Texstar Laundry, next to Dairy Queen on Highway 29 in Llano, is set to open for business this Saturday (April 1).

Pet of the Week

The Hill Country Humane Society would like to introduce you to Sparky, a male mixed breed of unknown origins. He is approximately 2 years old and weighs 62 pounds. Sparky is a very gentle soul. He is very laid back, and minds his own business; he would make a wonderful addition to any family. Sparky and all of his other wonderful dog pals can be adopted for $25. If you would like more information on Sparky or any of our other great pets waiting for their forever families, please call HCHS at 512-793-8463 or visit our website at www.hillcountryhumane.org.

Don’t miss this Spring’s Lake LBJ Builders’ Waterfront Home Tour

See newly constructed unique & futuristic designs & features

Look for signs in Kingsland on Hwy 1431 & FM 2342 beginning in April.

Week-ends from 11AM to 5PM

Sponsored by Lake LBJ Partners Call to preview some of these homes if you can’t make it on the week-end Greg McDonnell 512-784-4343
Dave Hudson Broker davehudson@flash.net Conrad Varnam Agent conradvarnam@rcv.com See web site goblj.com

March 31, 2017 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 9
A Lunchen and Swing Style Show to benefit Meals on Wheels will be held from 11 to 2 on Tuesday, April 4, at the Lakisides Pavilion (see ad on page 11). A Senior Adult Day of Celebration will be held from 10:30 to 2 on Thursday, April 6, at the Highland Lakes Camp, on Lake Travis just east of Spicewood.

A “Warriors on the Beach” family 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.

Burren’s fabulous Bluebonnet Festival will be held the second weekend of April. The carnival will be open Thursday evening, April 6, and the opening ceremonies will begin at 10:30 p.m. on Friday, followed by the Pet Parade, music and dancing. Saturday will be the big day, with kids’ activities, the Grand Parade, the First Cavalry demonstration, etc., then the celebration will conclude on Sunday afternoon.

Photographer Jack Knox will tell about his book, “Texas Ghost Towns, Gas Stations, and a 20-foot Cowboy,” during Lunch at the Library on Friday, April 7, at 11:30 AM. The program is free, but donations are welcome. Reservations are required and seating is limited. RSVP in person at the Marble Falls Public Library, or by calling 880-490-3023.

Bobby Boggess will be the featured performer for the Spicewood Art Society’s special concert on Thursday, April 7, at the Spicewood Vineyards Event Center.

The Lake Travis Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Fish Fry Fundraiser beginning at 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 8, at the fire hall on West Main.

George Jones and Tre Twitty will star in “A Tribute to George Jones, Tammy Wynette and Conway Twitty” in two shows (2:30 and 7:30) on Saturday, April 8, at the Lime Country Opry.

This year’s Relay for Life Golf Tournament will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 8, at the Delware Springs Golf Course in Burnet.

The 3rd Annual Bell Ringing Ceremony, hosted by the Daybreak Rotary of Marble Falls and CASA for the Highland Lake Area for child victims of abuse and neglect will be held from 5:30 to 6 p.m. on Monday, April 24, at Johnson Park in Marble Falls. Come and show your support for these vulnerable children and help us raise awareness in our community!

The Lime Spring Art Show will be held from April 29 to May 7. Submissions are due no later than March 31. Find info at: www.limeartscouncil.com. The event will begin with a Plein Air Paint Out on April 25, followed by an artist’s reception that evening.

A Relay for Life Survivors Dinner will be held on May 8 at Hill Country Fellowship in Burnet. RSVP to 512-910-1810 by April 8.

The Howdy Rolo Chili Cook-Off will be held at Johnson Park in Marble Falls, May 7.

The Orange Skies Run/Walk for Recovery will be held at Manorino Mile (east of Marble Falls High School) beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 6.

The Marble Falls MayFest will be held at Johnson Park from Wednesday, May 10 through Saturday, May 13. The event includes a carriage, Battle of the Bands, free concerts, Sandalwood paddle boat races, washer pitching, games, food and craft vendors, and more.

The Hill Country Relay for Life will be held at Johnson Park in Marble Falls on May 20.

The Ball Brothers quartet will present a concert of Christian music at the Llano High School auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 20.

The Llano VFD will host its annual BBQ Cook-Off at Robinson Park on Friday and Saturday, June 2 & 3.

The wonderful Soapbox Classic, an Art Scupltor Derby Saturday Father's Day weekend on 3rd Street in Marble Falls, is scheduled this year for June 14-16.

The Carson & Barnes Circus Saurions will be at the Kingdom Community Center on Wednesday, April 19, for shows beginning at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

The Hill Country Community Theatre will present the mystery Murder Weapons from April 20 to May 7 Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., second weekend.

The amazing Llano Crawfish Open will be held (rain or shine) on Friday and Saturday, April 21 & 22. Those will be two days of foot stompin' and music featuring Lake Hooker on Friday night and Kyle Park on Saturday, a golf tournament and much more.

The Spring Creek VFD will hold its annual golf tournament fundraiser at Lighthouse Country Club in Kingsland on Saturday, April 22.

The new Kingsland School will hold a Health Fair from 10 to 2 on Saturday, April 22.

A “Rednecks Classics on the Square” car show will be held from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 in Burnet.

The Mike Cups Memorial Lawn Mower Races will be held at Sweet Berry Farms in Marble Falls on Saturday, April 22.

The 3rd Annual Dine & Dance Ceremony will be held at the Daybreak Rotary of Marble Falls and CASA for the Highland Lake Area for child victims of abuse and neglect will be held from 5:30 to 6 p.m. on Monday, April 24, at Johnson Park in Marble Falls. Come and show your support for these vulnerable children and help us raise awareness in our community!
Above: John Caballero, Keenan Fletcher and Tommy Gaut gave a “Fiddle Fest Preview” at the Lakehills Library last Friday. The big event is this weekend in Mules. At left, staff members Melanie Rodriguez, Kim Shuford and Susan Everett welcomed guests at an open house in the new office of Visiting Angels (1764 4th St., in Marble Falls).

Ray and Sue Wade smile for the camera at a Soup Supper fundraiser for Vet Rides and Meals on Wheels, held at the First United Methodist Church in Burnet last Friday. Ray Wade is one of the volunteer drivers for Vet Rides.

A group from the Burnet Boys & Girls Club and the new Teen Center in Burnet held an afternoon party at The Oaks Nursing Center last Saturday afternoon. All of the participants seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely.

The 17th Annual Children’s Day Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH 2017
10am - 3pm | Johnsen Park in Marble Falls
www.ChildrensDayTX.com
FREE For K - 6th Grade Children
FREE Carnival Rides FREE Food
FREE Rock Climbing FREE Games

Luncheon & Spring Style Show
Proceeds benefit Opportunities for Williamson & Burnet Counties Meals on Wheels

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March 31, 2017 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 11
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Taste Louisiana

Cajun & Zydeco Festival

Saturday, April 29th 10 AM-4 PM
Live Music All Day!

HIS Band-Christ Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas
Jazzed4Jesus-Genesis Lutheran Church
Mighty Pelicans-New Orleans
Third Degree Reunion-Breaux Bridge, Louisiana

Free Gumbo, Boudin & Sausage Wraps with all the fixins! 11-1!

Activities for the kids (2 & 4 legged) & lots of room to run around!
Free Vendor booths (call 512-793-8800 to reserve a booth)

Eunene and Charles Wendt pose with a metal-and-glass shaman outside the garage studio at their Llano home during last Saturday's studio tour. Eunene’s specialty is fused glass, while Charles (now retired from his well-known Nailhead Spur business) works mostly with metal and gemstones.

A large and cheerful crowd attended the Designer Purses Bingo fundraiser, held at Horseshoe Bay Resort last Saturday afternoon to raise money for the Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center.
Music around the Lakes

The well-known musicians of the "Heybeats!" band: Dallas Wayne, Tom Lewis, Redd Volkaert, Eari Poole Ball and Kevin Smith, delighted the crowd at Bertram's Globe Theatre last Saturday night. This Friday, Jake Penrod will present his "History of Country Music" program at The Globe.

These students from Harmony School of Creative Arts displayed their considerable talents in a wonderful "HymnFest" recital at the First Baptist Church of Marble Falls on Sunday. Harmony's dance students will put on a "Time Flies" show at the Hill Country Community Theatre on June 3rd and 4th.

Music teacher Devon Goodman accompanied young violinist Sophia Fellen in a charming rendition of "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" at Sunday's HymnFest recital.

Retirement may be far off, but the April 18 deadline for IRA contributions isn’t.

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Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!
A Buffalo Soldier re-enactor tells Inks Lake State Park visitors about the life and times of the U.S. Army's 9th and 10th Cavalry units, which helped tame the Wild, Wild West from the 1860s through the 1890s (the lifelike stuffed skunk at right was one of his props). The regiments were made up of African-American recruits who were freed from slavery after the Civil War. Native American tribes dubbed them "Buffalo Soldiers" for their distinctive looks, courage and strength. In addition to protecting settlers, they helped map the west and built much of the infrastructure to allow settlements to thrive. The modern re-enactors' group was formed in 1966. Inks Lake State Park offers a variety of outdoor and educational activities almost every weekend, the Texas Time Travelers will present two programs there on Saturday, April 1 (10 a.m. and 2 p.m.)

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