Rides in the C-47 Bluebonnet Belle were one of many attractions at the Open House held by the Highland Lakes Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force last Saturday. An SNJ-4 Texan and an L-17 Navion also offered rides. The first-class museum was open for free tours; lunch was provided, and a (mid-restoration) WWII Trainer PT-19 was on display. See more photos on page 9.
Upcoming Events

Marble Falls will host its big Howdy-Roo Chili Cook-Off at Johnson Park this Saturday.

By JOHN HALLOWELL

The Spicewood Arts Society will present its eighth annual “Toast to Tony” tribute concert, honoring Austin jazz legend Tony Campise, beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 5, at the Spicewood Vineyards Event Center.

The Open Door 5K Run/Walk for Recovery will be held at Manzano Mile (east of Marble Falls High School) beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 6. Funds will help the Open Door Recovery House.

The Howdy-Roo Chili Cook-Off will be held at Johnson Park in Marble Falls on Saturday, May 6.

The 2017 Burnet Farmers and Craft Market will open on the Burnet square on Saturday, May 6, and continue from 9 to 1 every Saturday until November 18.

Hidden Falls Adventure Park (off Hwy 1431 east of Marble Falls) will host its huge Whirlin’ Wheels for the Wounded event from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 6.

Smoking for Jesus Ministry’s Women’s group will host a Mother’s Day Spa Day at the Kingsland Community Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 6 (see ad on page 7).

The Burnet Firehouse on Hwy 281 South will host a Movie Night this Saturday, with Station Town, Fire Truck Demonstrations, Popcorn and Snow Cones. Free fun for the entire family (snow cones sold separately).

Cameran Nelson will perform at the Uptown Sound Studio in Marble Falls at 9 p.m. on Saturday (doors open before 7).

Zane Williams will perform at Oasis- tic’s Ramblin’ Rose on Saturday evening, May 6.

Come hear Master Gardener, Violet Carson’s free, Green Thumb sponsored, gardening talk, “Soil And How To Make It Better,” at noon on Wednesday, May 10, at the Kingsland Library.

Author Ben Rehder, known for his Blanco County mystery series, will be the featured speaker at the Haven Brown Free Library’s Coffee Talks, scheduled for 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 11.

The Kingsland Community Center will host a “Marvelous Moms” sip and shop event from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 11. Proceeds will benefit the Family Crisis Center. Men are welcome! Come shop for that mother or lady in your life. Ravis Z. Worthington, author of the Red River mystery series, will share his latest book, Unraveled, the Marble Falls Public Library during Lunch at the Library. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, May 12. The book will be available for purchase at the program and for check-out in the library. The program is free, but donations are welcome. Reservations are required and seating is limited. RSVP at the library or by calling 830-693-3023.

Mike Blakey and Woody Eastman will be at the Dabbs Hotel for a concert at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 12.

The Burnet County Rodeo will be held at the rodeo grounds in Burnet on Friday and Saturday evenings, May 12-13.

(Continued on page 10)
Scatterthought

Time flies! It’s already May, and next week will mark the 6th “birthday” of the Highland Lakes Weekly. I’m not planning anything big by way of a celebration, but I can’t help believing that this milestone is another testimony to the goodness of God and the generosity of my Highland Lakes neighbors (and I want to express my gratitude in this column).

I couldn’t begin to list all the miracles that I’ve experienced in these six years. Some of them would certainly not convince a skeptic, but to me they were clear signs of God’s care. And the kind words of hundreds of readers have brightened many of the days when I thought I just might be too tired to keep on going.

Of course, the paychecks come from the advertisers, and they certainly have a special place in my heart! One of my “miracles” has been the support of L.E. and Connie Fite, at Texas Building Center. They have been my number-one advertiser for more than five years, and have sent several other advertisers my way by their recommendation. You can see their ads every week on the front and the back pages of this paper. (By the way, L.E. was telling me the other day that people seem to have forgotten that they still manufacture small storage sheds and garages, so most of their recent business has been barnominations and larger buildings. If you need a small metal building, please keep them in mind!)

Other mainstays in my little business are Lighthouse Country Club (page 2) and Century 21 – Keiser Real Estate (page 3), and you can see others who have been in my paper every week since the beginning. I appreciate them all very, very much!

One of my other regular advertisers is Charlotte West, of Sure Cuts and More hair salon. You’ll see elsewhere in this paper that she has moved her business to larger quarters in the white building between Wells Fargo Bank and the Kingland Library. Among other improvements, Charlotte tells me that they will soon have a playroom to keep waiting kids from getting too bored.

Of course, my six-year history has been full of mistakes (most of which I fortunately have forgotten; I hope you have, too). One that I just noticed was the omission of the Upper Highland Lakes Nature Center Family Fun Day from my “Upcoming Events” article. That event will be from 10 to 2 this Saturday, May 6, where Master Naturalists have created a chain of educational stations at Vol and Kristi Montgomery’s beautiful Revellie Peak Ranch (on the east side of Lake Buchanan). You can learn about plants, animals, rocks, archaeology and more, all while having a great time.

April was an amazing month for me, with more great events every week than I could possibly cover. I am halfway hoping that May won’t be quite so “great” because I have a part-time job this month. If all goes well, I’ll be able to put together the 2017 issue of “Kingland, Texas!” magazine in the next few weeks (and then take copies around the state in my “spare time” next month). I’ve often thought that I’d quit doing that, but it’s such a satisfying achievement (once it’s finished) that I forget what a hassle it has been. I hope you’ll be very patient with me these next few weeks!

I think I’ve rambled on long enough now; thanks again to all those who are still reading. Have a great week!
The Highland Lakes Shopping Center

The Highland Lakes Shopping Center is almost gone, and the shell of the former Highland Lakes National Bank remains standing only because Prosperity Bank is taking great care to preserve the iconic north wall, with its mosaic Highland Lakes map. A concrete base has been poured, and supports will be installed to keep the wall standing straight as the rest of the building is very carefully removed. The new Prosperity Bank building will incorporate the old wall into its modern design to preserve this important piece of Kingsland history.

While the shopping center has been showing its age for the past several years, its role in the growing community of Kingsland for more than five decades will not be soon forgotten. The article at right gives a brief overview of the center’s story.

By JOHN HALLOWELL

There were quite a few milestones during Kingsland’s rebirth in the second half of the 20th century. Some of the most important were the completion of the dam that formed Lake LBJ in 1951, the construction of Farm to Market Road 1431 in 1957 (finished in 1958) and the new bridge across the Llano River in 1968. But perhaps none so clearly marked Kingsland’s “arrival” as one of the major communities in the Highland Lakes area as the Grand Opening of the new Highland Lakes National Bank and the shopping center that came with it in June of 1965.

Woody McCasland was a bank examiner from Waco who often spent time in the Highland Lakes area. He would vacation in Kingsland between jobs at banks in Burnet, Marble Falls and Llano. He became aware that land salesmen were selling lake lots to quite a few people (particularly to military personnel) in the San Antonio area and water-starved residents of west Texas), and realized that a forward-thinking bank could do very well as the new landowners began to move to Kingsland. A survey (done as part of the bank’s charter application in 1962) showed 1,000 people living within a five-mile radius of Kingsland.

It didn’t take quite as much capital back then to start a new bank, but even with investments from a few partners, McCasland had to “go door-to-door” selling stock at $25 a share to come up with the necessary seed money. It worked, and the new Highland Lakes National Bank opened in March of 1965 between a cafe and a real estate office in the Odie Ainsworth building (now the Landmasters Real Estate building). Nearly all the existing local businesses (including Stein Lumber Co., Ainsworth Real Estate, Wood Grocery, Kingsland Auto Service, Wayman’s Restaurant, Dairy Dock, Foster’s Grocery, the River Ranch Store, Smith Electric, Kingsland Insurance Agency, Bill’s Marine Service and Kingsland Lodges) took out large ads in the Highlander to welcome the new bank, and a huge crowd attended the bank’s Grand Opening.

The bank was an instant success, and almost immediately McCasland was looking for a good place to build a larger office. He bought a ranch about a quarter-mile west of the Ainsworth building and donated land to widen the street from FM 1431 to the lake (where a privately-owned ferry took cars across to the road from the Sunrise Beach subdivision). Stein Lumber was awarded the contract for construction of the planned Highland Lakes Shopping Center, which was to include a beautiful and spacious new office for the Highland Lakes National Bank. It would be by far the largest building in Kingsland, surpassing the 1901 Antlers railroad hotel and dwarfing the tiny business houses along FM 1431.

The finishing touch for the beautiful new bank would be a large mosaic map of the Highland Lakes area on the wall facing the highway. Behind the bank would be a row of stores and offices; the post office was one of the first tenants, along with Western Auto (in a stand-alone building), the Kingsland Department Store, the Kingsland Insurance Agency, Cozy’s Drugs, Clip ‘N Curl Beauty Salon, the Post Office Barber Shop and a dentist’s office for Dr. N.V. Berry.

The big celebration was held on the last weekend of June, 1965. It featured skydivers, a folk festival, a car show and gymkhana, music, singing, dances, speeches, an art and ceramics show, a trackless train and multiple refreshment booths. The ceremonial ribbon cutting was cut by Texas Secretary of State Crawford Martin. Accompanying Grand Openings were held at the Weise Industrial Center (a little to the west) and Don Lecas’ new Texaco station (across FM 1431).

HLNB continued to prosper, and became the area’s fastest-growing bank, a status accentuated by the Llano ISD’s choice to use the Highland Lakes National Bank as depository for school funds “for the 1965-67 biennium.” In February of 1968, bank president Woody McCasland announced that the bank’s assets had grown to more than $5 million in less than five years. In January, 1970, construction began on a 1,800 square-foot addition to the still-new bank. In July, 1970, HLNB announced that it had surpassed $10,000,000 in deposits and was now “the largest bank in the Highland Lakes area.” In the meantime, the bank and the shopping center had been playing a central role in all kinds of community events. Most of the town’s social events and civic meetings were held in the upstairs “community room,” and the bank donated generously to every good cause. Several of the bank’s

(Continued on page 6)
Signs of the times: It’s been a couple of weeks since this picture was taken, and the new LED sign is now busy sending out messages at Pinnacle 1 Realty (on Highway 1431 in Kingsland).

There’s already a banner on the side of Sure Cuts & More’s new home, on Highway 1431 between the Wells Fargo Bank and the Kingsland Library, and Charlotte West’s crew is open for business (see ad below, right).

The big addition to Splash Boat Rentals (& Sales) was completed a few weeks ago, and the sign has been up for a little while already; it just hadn’t been in the paper yet, and this seemed to be a good opportunity!
The active arts community in Llano has kept its schedule full this past week. Above: Artists and enthusiasts (as pictured here at Calamity & Grace, on the west side of the Llano square) wandered around Llano during the Fourth Friday Art Walk. In the photo above, right: Mason artist Karen Sharbo gives a multimedia demo at the Llano Fine Art Gallery on Monday. At right, Roger Evans' painting, "Trail Boss," won the blue ribbon in the Spring Fling Art Show, which continues through this weekend. An "Art Party" with popular instructor Jean Bass will be held on the evening of Tuesday, May 16.

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SHOPPING CENTER:

(Continued from page 4) officers were active in different groups, from the Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce to Boy Scouts and Little League. On January 11, 1968, a news item reported the opening of Mary and Truman Thurman's Candy Stripe Kitchens "in the bank block, next to the post office." The Candy Stripe would go on to be a Kingsland institution, the little town's most popular hang-out for the next few decades. Other additions to the shopping center included a new Ben Franklin store (now O'Reilly Auto Parts) and West Food Center (later sold to H.E.B.).

By 1994, Woody McCasland had purchased all the outstanding shares of stock and was the sole owner of the bank. He sold the bank and retired in 2003, after an amazing 40-year career as Kingsland's most influential citizen. By then, there were several competing banks and social venues in the growing community, so one entity could be as prominent as the Highland Lakes National Bank had been. But the new aging bank building and shopping center still remained the center of Kingsland's business district, and the mosaic map on the bank's front wall remained as Kingsland's most familiar landmark and a Highland Lakes icon.

The current owner of the building (since 2008) is Prosperity Bank, one of the largest Texas-based banks, with nearly 300 branches in Texas and Oklahoma. Prosperity has made the Forbes list of "Best Banks in America" each of the past five years, taking top honors in 2012 and 2014. The aging (and crumbling, and leaking) two-story building is not ideal for Prosperity's purposes, and in 2015 the decision was reached to tear down the old shopping center and build an efficient, modern banking facility in its place. Demolition began about two weeks ago, and construction of the new bank should be completed by next winter, at the meantime, bank operations will continue from a portable building and the drive-through. But, the company is not ignoring the rich tradition of Woody McCasland's almost-legendary local bank and its plan will preserve the iconic map as a tribute to the history and prestige of the original builders. It will also incorporate other nostalgic touches, such as using the original board-room table used by the first board of HLNB directors.

There is no doubt that the demolition of the Highland Lakes Shopping Center marks the end of an era in Kingsland's history. But already, Kingsland's economy has benefited as former tenants have found (or built) new locations around town. And a beautiful new bank in Kingsland's prime business location could well mark the beginning of a new era. Prosperity Bank is a good neighbor, and has every intention of being here in Kingsland for the long haul, we expect them to be a force for good in our community for (at least) the next 50 years!
A delegation from the Moses Austin Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas participated in last Saturday’s Texas Ranger Memorial Cross Dedication at Bluffton Cemetery, an event honoring fourteen Texas Rangers who are buried in the cemetery.

A cannon waits in front of one of the marked Ranger graves during the ceremony at Bluffton Cemetery last Saturday. It was fired by members of the SRT delegation at the end of the proceedings as a salute to the Texas Rangers buried there.

A good crowd attended the dedication at Bluffton Cemetery. They heard remarks from retired Texas Ranger Joe B. Davis and local historians Alfred Hallmark and Karylon “Bisly” Russell.

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May 5, 2017   Highland Lakes Weekly   Page 7
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A good crowd turned out for the Bertram Bulldog PTO’s “Run for the Playground” in downtown Bertram on Sunday afternoon. The event raised funds for playground improvements at Bertram Elementary.

Members of the Houston-area Eagles tribute band, Already Gone, posed for this photo during a CD release party at Main Street Affairs in Llano last Saturday. Seated: Clint Springer and Marty Comeaux; Standing: Jay Bourgeois, Johnny Ono and Danny Lee.

A large and enthusiastic crowd turned out for the Grand Opening at the new Chick-Fil-A in Marble Falls last Thursday morning. In the photo above, Mayor John Packer helps owners Alan and Inda Williams cut a ceremonial ribbon as the colorful cow mascot led a chant of “Eat More Chicken!”

The Burnet High School Highlandette Drill team put on an excellent “Spring Show” last weekend; it was partly funny, partly inspirational and partly very moving. The photo above shows a tribute to two recent BHS graduates (Pfc. Anthony Nunn and Captain Jason Holbrook) who lost their lives while serving in the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.

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Passengers of various ages enjoyed rides in the C-47 Bluebonnet Belle during the Open House at the Commemorative Air Force’s hangar in Burnet last Saturday.

Burgers and beverages were served during the lunchtime hours, as visitors inspected the historic aircraft at the CAF hangar.

The Open House included free tours of the CAF’s fine museum, open regularly for tours on Wednesday from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday from 10 to 4 and Sunday from 1 to 4.

Pilot Larry James prepares the CAF’s Navion L-17B for a flight last Saturday. The biggest event for the CAF in Burnet is the annual Air Show, scheduled this year for Saturday, September 9.
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The Burnet County Fair is scheduled this year for Friday and Saturday, May 12 & 13.

EVENTS Continued from page 2
12 & 13. For more information, contact Cody Orman at 830-795-4018.

King Ranch will hold a Small Business Saturday event at the First Baptist Church on Saturday, May 13.

The Blue Lake Golf Club Benefit Rally will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 13. Go to www.bluelakegolfclub.com or call Pro Shop at (830) 598-5524 for registration information.

Doug Supernaw will be at the Llano Country Opry for a 7:30 p.m. show on Saturday, May 13.

Susan’s Travel Time invites you to hear about their Southern Charm Tour during a presentation at the River City Grille in Marble Falls at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16. RSVP to 1-800-292-1446 or susie@susietraveltime.com.

The Llano Fine Art Guild will host an Art Party with instructor Jean Bess at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16. Bring your choice of beverage (wine, beer, or your beverage of choice) and your inner artist; take home your very own masterpiece! Please register in advance at 503 Bessemer Ave or online: www.llanofineartsguild.com.

Flavin Glover (from Auburn, AL) will present the program, “Color – The Design Element with Punch,” at a meeting of the Highland Lakes Quilt Guild at 9:30 am, Wednesday, May 17, 2017 in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church in Marble Falls. Guests are welcome. For guild information, go to hlguild.blogspot.com or call 830-385-3638.

Lighthouse Country Club will host the 6th Annual Tee Off for HOPE, beginning with a shotgun start at noon on Saturday, May 20.

Science Illustrator Samantha Peters will talk about “Botanical Illustration: Why and How” at a meeting of the Highland Lakes Native Plant Society at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, at the Marble Falls Library. The public is encouraged to attend.

The Hill Country Relay for Life will be held at Johnson Park in Marble Falls from 2 p.m. to midnight 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. All proceeds benefit LW/MUMC Costa Rica Mission Trip.

Reference Librarian Claudia Wolfe will present a special program about a Texas Frontier Library, circa 1880, at a meeting of the Friends of Kingsland Library, at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23. Refreshments will be served.

The Tof VFD will hold its annual Fish Fry from 11 to 2 on Saturday, May 27, at the Town Community Center.

Burnet’s Summer Concert Series will begin on May 27 at Halsey Nelson Park with a Texas Talent Showcase, featuring Andrew Hance, the Steel Bells and the Sam Williams Band. Doors open at 6:30; the music starts at 7:30. See doubledigitex.com for tickets or more details.

The Llano VFD will hold its annual BBQ Cook-Off at Robinson Park on Friday and Saturday, June 26.

Bruce Robinson and the Back Porch Band will perform at the Globe Theatre in Bertram at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 2 (doors open at 7:30). People’s Choice will provide live music for the Rodeo Dance, to be held at Oestreich’s Ramble-Ro Hostel in Llano on the evening of Saturday, June 3.

Harmony School of Creative Arts will present their dance production, Time Flies, at the Hill Country Community Theatre in Cottonwood Shores, at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 4.

The Burnet County Fair will be held June 9 and 10 at the Burnet Community Center.

The highly-entertaining Soapbox Classic, an adult Soapbox Derby on 3rd Street in Marble Falls, will be held on Father’s Day Weekend, June 16-18.

Chapel of the Hills, in Buchanan Dam, will hold a music camp from June 10 to 23.

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The City of Granite Shoals held a ribbon-cutting last Sunday afternoon at the new wildlife viewing station built by the Highland Lakes Master Naturalists as a gift to the city. The station overlooks a pond in the former granite quarry on the grounds surrounding city hall. It is located near the 1.75 mile marker on the city’s Leonel Manzano Trail.

The Marble Falls/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on Tuesday afternoon at the recently-acquired CelesteCare Assisted Living and Memory Care center on Hwy 71 in Horseshoe Bay (formerly Spanish Trails Assisted Living).

Anglers wait their turns at the weigh-in after last Saturday's big Texas Tournament Zone (TTZ) bass fishing tournament at the Llano County Park on the west side of Lake Buchanan. Almost 200 teams participated in the tournament, and nearly 400 fish were caught. David Townsend and Bryan Cotter took top honors with 23.65 pounds of fish, and won $10,000 for their efforts. The Big Bass award went to the team of Donnie O’Neal and Darrell Wuebsche for a 9.07-pounder.

May 13
Lantex Theater
Llano, TX
7:30 p.m.
$15.00

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Kingsland Community Center

5pm until 8pm

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Contact Teresa Gray at 325-429-0133 / Gray Insurance or
Chelsea Moreau at 830-960-6388 / Protea for more information or to purchase tickets
Above: Eric Schuessler and Jenny Keiso, of Cadillac Gypsies, braved the cool wind on Saturday evening to entertain diners on the back patio of Bill’s Burgers in Burnet.

Above, right: The Jazzed4Jesus Praise Team led off an afternoon of music at Genesis Lutheran Church’s “Cajun and Zydeco” festival on Saturday. The event featured gumbo, boudain and sausage wraps, community and craft booths, and a musical lineup which included The Mighty Pelicans (from New Orleans), Third Degree Reunion (from Breaux Bridge, LA) and HIS Band, from Christ Lutheran Church in Austin.

At right: The Billy Proctor Band (Jody, Joey and Billy Proctor) performed at Joe’s Bar on the Llano square last Saturday evening.

The new Avogadro’s Number band attracted a good crowd to Fuel Coffee House in Llano during the Fourth Friday Art Walk last weekend.

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by Brian Clemens
Directed by Laura Gia

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Music around the Lakes

Already Gone, the popular Houston-area Eagles tribute band, delighted the crowd at the Lantex Theater in Llano with favorite Eagles songs, interspersed with a few of their own compositions, last Saturday night.

The spectacular light show at the concert of Departure ATX, a Journey tribute band from Austin, made photography difficult at the Uptown Sound Studio in Marble Falls last Saturday night, but the music was great and the crowd was enthusiastic.

Local musical sensation Sommer Floyd, accompanied by Dave Scher of Austin, sang for the crowd outside the Burnet High School gym for the State of Texas High School BBQ Cook-Off on a windy Saturday afternoon.

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Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!
Cooking teams from around Texas converged at Burnet High School last weekend for the State of Texas High School Barbecue Cook-Off. Burnet’s own Kianna Moss won Grand Champion honors; she is now headed to the World Food Championship in Orange Beach, Alabama, with a chance to win $100,000.

At left: This picturesque rig came with the team from Alvarado. Other teams came from Wortham, Mansfield, Vidor, and all over Texas.

Several bands provided live entertainment for the cookers. This band is the Rusty Wranglers, high school students from Round Rock.

Cash wants to meet you at the Hill Country Humane Society. He is a 1 and 1/2 year-old, neutered, Staffordshire Terrier mix who weighs about 50 pounds. Cash is a staff favorite and has been with us for a while and is really getting tired of the shelter life. It’s time for him to have his very own family. He is a sweet boy that likes running and playing outside with the other dogs. You can adopt Cash for only $125 and he will be your new best friend forever. If you would like more information on Cash 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.
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ALL-STEEL Building – 3/12 pitch, Full Insulation • CUSTOM TRIM package w/12” eaves
Install 8 windows and front door (provided by customer), two 10’ x 8’ roll-up doors
and one 36” walk-through door • (Interior build-out not included)

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ALL-STEEL SHOPS AND GARAGES
“We manufacture and install”

12” eaves • custom soffit
Janus 2000 commercial doors

SPECIAL – Through May 31, 2017
FREE! Color-Matched Screws and Shop Window with every building purchased

SMALL OR LARGE – MANY COLORS TO CHOOSE FROM
OPTIONS INCLUDE: 26-gauge commercial-grade panels • Full Insulation
Windows • Foundations • Custom Rock • Color-Matched Screws
See front-page ad for examples of pricing