Llano’s spectacular “Starry Starry Nights” lighting display (at Badu Park, on the north side of the river) opened last Friday with Santa’s arrival at 6 p.m. This photogenic group of youngsters was there to greet him. The next two weekends feature a wide variety of Christmas activities, especially in Llano and Burnet (see “Upcoming Events” on page 2). For more pictures of Llano’s Christmas activities last weekend, see page 9 (or check out the “Highland Lakes Weekly” Facebook page).
By JOHN HALLOWELL

Barnet’s wonderful Main Street Bethlehem production will open at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 1, and continue on Saturday and Sunday evenings (then again December 8-10). Gayl P. Numm will headlinet a special Bandanas & Bling fundraiser at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 1, to help with needed repairs and improvements at the Lantex Theatre in Llano. Every patron will receive a custom-printed commemorative Lantex 90th anniversary bandana. Pair it with your best Texas bling!

The Reindeer Run (to benefit Meals on Wheels) will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 2, at the Depot Visitor Center in Llano.

The Kingsland Community Center will host a Kingsland Christmas event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 2. The event will feature vendors, a fish fry, a Kids Corner and photos with Santa (see ad on this page). A Fiddle Clinic (featuring Dick Gimble and Wes Westmoreland) will be held from 9 to 12 on Saturday, December 2, followed by a concert from 6 to 8, at Fuld Coffee House in Llano.

The Woman’s Culture Club’s Christmas Home Tour (from noon to 5:30), a Sip ’N Stroll (3 to 6) and a Lighted Christmas Parade (6:15) will also be held in Llano this Saturday.

Harmony School of Creative Arts will present its annual Nutcracker show at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 2 & 3, at the Marble Falls High School auditorium.

Sandstone Street B&B (508 E. Sandstone in Llano) will host its annual Christmas Tea at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 3. The First Baptist Church of Marble Falls will host a community-wide Christmas Concert, featuring the Heart of Texas Orchestra at 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 3.

The public is invited to a festive Open House at Kingsland Library from 5:30 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5. Meet the library staff and enjoy refreshments with your neighbors.

The launching of Life Marble Falls (1091 Mormon Mill Road) will feature a free concert by Larry Gattlin from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5. There will be fun for the whole family with Jumpy Houses and give-aways from 5 to 7. Tickets are FREE but seating is limited. RSVP at (512) 220-6838 or register online.

The traditional Llano Christmas Stroll will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, at First Baptist Church and end at St. James Lutheran Church with a cookie reception.

The Kingsland Genealogical Society and guests will gather for their annual meeting and Christmas Luncheon at 11:20 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, at the Bella Sera Restaurant in Marble Falls. Those attending are encouraged to bring contributions of non-perishable food, which will be delivered to the food bank in Kingsland for the Christmas holiday. To sign up (or get more details), call Shirley Shaw at (830) 385-7070 or Joanne Scarborough at (830) 598-6443.

The Llano Library will host a Christmas Open House from 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 7. Stop by to enjoy the fabulous party foods and drinks, visit with friends, and soak up some holiday happiness and cheer.

Kingsland’s 2nd Annual Jingle Mingle, a “Sip & Shop” Ladies Night Out, to benefit Highland Lakes CASA, will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 7 at the Kingsland Community Center. Call 325-423-0113 for details.

The Llano Art Guild will host an Open House at its Holiday Market from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 7. There will be food and drinks to enjoy while shopping for gifts.

The Kingsland Chamber of Commerce will co-host a Christmas Gala at the Kingsland Community Center from 6-10 p.m. on Friday, December 8. The event will include dinner and dance music by The Skylarks (see ad on page 8).

Main Street Bethlehem will be open again, beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and December 8-10.

The YMCA in Burnet will host an indoor Holiday Splash & Dash for children from 6 to 15 (a combination swimming and running race) beginning early in the morning on Saturday, December 9. Call 512-756-6180 for details.

The Llano Cowboy Church will hold its annual Bazaar at the American Legion Hall from 9 to 3 that Saturday. There will be gifts, crafts, food, a raffle and a silent auction.

Buchanan Arts & Crafts will host its annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale from 10 to 4 that Saturday (see ad on page 11).

Barnet will be holding its Christmas on the Square (noon to 9) and Christmas at Fort Croghan (5 to 8 p.m.) events, also that Saturday (December 9).

Llano will hold its annual Snow Day from 1 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, December 9 at Buda Park.

(Continued on page 10)
My “Photo of the Week” is this mid-60s postcard, shared on Facebook by Cathy Carpenter, who spent many summers in Kingland in years past. It is from the old Dariek’s Lodge, which later became Longhorn Resort. The cabins were torn down just a few weeks ago to make room for a new Boat Town complex, which will include a showroom, a marina, a restaurant and more at the north end of the 2900 bridge.

Scatterthought

I’m starting to have more respect for historians. I keep finding “holes” in my Kingland history, even for the decade of the 1960s, which was covered pretty well by area newspapers and remembered by quite a few locals. The 1950s are even more difficult, and I knew before I started that I’d never be able to write a comprehensive history of the decades before the creation of Lake LBJ.

So my book, which is looking more and more like a real probability in the near future, will not include ALL the details of Kingland’s “re-birth” in the 1950s and 60s, but it will at least give a bit of a rundown of the highlights. My main concern now is to weed out all (or at least most) of the inaccuracies and misconceptions that creep into my series of history stories. Some of them are from differences in the memories of the people I interviewed, some of them are from mistakes in the newspapers of the time, and some of them are from wrong guesses I made about something I heard and read.

One of the exciting discoveries that I made this week was that Longhorn Resort (which I thought until a few weeks ago had already been sold in the 1970s) was actually the same “Dariek’s Lodge” which first advertised in The Llano News in January of 1964! I’m pretty sure of that, because Cathy Carpenter (who spent her growing-up summers in Kingland) sent me a postcard (on Facebook) of the old lodge (see above). She remembers it clearly, and now others have confirmed her recollection (and the cabin in the picture sure look like the ones that got knocked down a few weeks ago to make room for the new Boat Town complex). That postcard was the highlight of an already good week, and I am very grateful to her.

Speaking of the book, I’m ready to announce that I will not be publishing a paper the week after Christmas. Instead, I’m planning a “staycation” here in Kingland to finally get a rough draft put together for editing by my daughter-in-law (who has already made some very helpful suggestions). With any luck at all, I should be able to get the book to the printers by February (and maybe sooner).

But first, I’ve got two very busy weeks of Christmas activities coming up. I have a lot of the events listed in my article on page 2, but I know there are more. One that I inexplicably left out of that article is the annual Victorian Christmas Open House, sponsored by the Falls on the Colorado Museum at Caryl Cobyn’s beautiful 125-year-old Victorian home (603 Seventh Street in Marble Falls). The public is invited to stop in between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday (December 2). I hope to see you soon!

Also this Saturday is the Kingland Christmas event (at the community center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; see ad on page 7). Next Tuesday (December 5), the Bluebonnet Choral will be giving a free Christmas concert at the Lakeshore Library in Buchanan Dam. Call 325-379-1174 to reserve a seat.

Next Thursday evening (December 7), there will be an Open House at the Llano Fine Art Guild’s Holiday Market (see ad on page 13) and on Friday evening there will be a Christmas Gala at the Kingland Community Center (see ad on page 8). Amongst the multiple Christmas activities in Burnett on December 9 (next Saturday), there will be a Historical Marker Presentation at 11 a.m. at The Napping Mouse (304 South Main Street, just off the square). The Kingland Chamber’s next Breakfast Club meeting is scheduled for 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday, December 13, at the Vineyard B&B on RR 2233 near Sunrise Beach. Linda Moreau of ReMax Realty, will be the event sponsor.

Girl Scout Troop #40010 has been working on a curbside recycling project for Kingland, and they invite the public to a meeting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13, to report on progress and rally public support. Central Waste and Recycling will be there with a potentially money-saving offer.

THE FOUR LAKES FORUM
is a regional organization formed to present non-partisan programs and information focusing on the lakes area. The group is open to all in the Highland Lakes area interested in the issues that affect all of us. Monthly meetings alternate between day time and evening, with a meal and program. For information, contact mayreellenke@bellsouth.net

KING’S FELLOWSHIP
We meet every Sunday morning (10 AM) at Computer Help in Kingsland (2703 Hwy 1431) for praise, worship, and sharing the Word. We pray for people’s needs. Need help? Need support through the Straws? We welcome you!

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Walkers prepare to start on the 5K course behind Kingsland Health & Fitness Center early last Friday. Eighty-five people entered for the Walk, Run or Kids 5K at the “After-Turkey” Turkey Trot in Kingsland.

Eager young runners start their “Kids One-Mile” run after the adult walkers and runners had completed their 5K course.

All the medalists gathered for a group picture after the Kids Run was finished. The 5K Run was dominated by Elaina and Brian Tabb (back row at left), who were visiting from Watertown, Massachusetts. Elaina finished first with a time of 16:31. Irene Dauphin and Alan White took First Place for Female and Male Walkers, and Abby Hall and Connor Hill won First Place for Girls and Boys in the Kids One-Mile race.

All participants in the Kids One-Mile were entered in a drawing to win a bicycle. Bailey Millegan and Chase DeKinder won bicycles (donated by Hood’s Games N Things and Kingsland Health & Fitness). Proceeds from the successful event will help Sharing the Harvest food bank.

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Santa Claus (Victor Cooksey) and Michael “Q-Ball” Aponte were among the volunteers collecting donations for the Kingsland VFD’s “Toys for Kingsland Kids” program at the corner of Hwy 1431 and 2900 last Saturday morning.

Kingsland’s “Shop Small” event in the First Baptist Church parking lot last Saturday attracted a steady stream of shoppers to the rows of booths set up there by local merchants.

One of the very interesting vendors at last weekend’s Wild Weasel Gun Show in the Kingsland Community Center was Vladislav Komissarov (left), a former Olympic athlete and army officer who defected to the U.S. from the Soviet Union in 1985. He is pictured here colluding with gun show promoter Greg “Weasel” Wessler on Saturday afternoon; in addition to several guns, he offered a variety of Russian-themed items for sale, including photos of Vladimir Putin riding a tame bear!

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December 1, 2017  Highland Lakes Weekly  Page 5
November 1917 in Llano

By JOHN HALLOWELL

The banner headline on the front page of The Llano News on November 1, 1917 said "Every Housewife in Llano County Shopped for Sign Hoover's Pledge Card." It was referring to an amazing voluntary food preservation program, headed by future president Herbert Hoover, which enabled 14 million children (and their mothers) to develop gardening skills while growing food in a "School Garden" program to conserve and donate almost 34 million pounds of food to help starving Europeans during the war. In total, more than 14 million families around the U.S. signed pledges in the hugely successful program.

Other front-page stories reported that the Llano County Red Cross chapter had reached its goal of 500 members, and that Llano County residents had purchased more than $37,000 in Liberty Bonds to help fund the U.S. war effort.

Another very interesting story told of the opening of a new mine "With Richest Deposit in the World" in Llano County. "On last Tuesday afternoon at the old Heath Mine," the story began. "In operation by the Dixie Graphite Company under the personal direction of Warren May," it continued, "the big power plant was started when Mrs. May threw open the throttle of the 100-hp oil engine. Mrs. C.E. Shulls pulled over the lever that started the crushing department, while Mr. A.C. Burdett turned the crank that put in motion the big 50-ton Laine-Mill crusher. Raymond May had previously lighted the fire under the dryout." The article went on to describe the mining process and rave about the quality of the "apparently inexcusable" graphite vein.

A news item reported that "J.L. Haywood of Kingsland was in the city this week on business." Another noted that "E.R. Dubbs spent the week in Dallas attending the State Fair." Also, "Laren Barnett returned home on Tuesday from a visit with friends and relatives in Bertran." T.S. Parker delivered three new Buick cars to customers in Moody and Marble Falls, and sold a truck to Moss & Dees in Llano for $1,775. The story reported that the truck was "indeed a heavy and has already been pressed into service."

The war continued to dominate news coverage. An Associated Press lead story reported that an American patrol boat had been sunk by a torpedo, and 21 sailors were missing. Another story told how German forces were advancing in northern Italy.

Aaron E. "Pinkly" Cunningham wrote home from his military training to report that he was having a great time. He and some other Llano men in his unit had recently been awakened just after midnight and ordered to get up and get dressed; a few minutes later that started or was a ride on a bike, which ended back at the barracks around 7 a.m. They had marched 22 miles before breakfast.

Pinkly didn't mind "doing his bit to get ready to get the Kaiser," and reported that he weighed 180 pounds and was in "optimal" health. In another news item from the same week, a newspaper reported that "General Adolph J. Smith, a branch of the Signal Corps, was married to Miss Mabel F. Marshall was in town to help organize a Parent-Teacher Association at the Llano schools."

The big news on November 29 was Russia's surrender to Germany; "Leningrad" had won the civil war, and "handed Russia over to the Kaiser." Another related article warned that a "Second Call for Men Will Be Made Soon."

Jacob F. Tompkins contracted measles and pneumonia and died while training at Camp Travis. Isaac Schwartz, who had been recovering at home from the pneumonia that he also had contracted at Camp Travis, Mrs. George Watkins (Lula) arrived at home in much better health after four months at a sanitarium in Battle Creek, Michigan. Isaac was 14 years of Driftless, Buntel's football team battled Llano twice in 1917 and won the Central Texas High School championship.

A local man sold his Ford truck to Steve Peacock (who delivered freight around town) and purchased a much bigger Republic truck from T.S. Parker to handle the "Llano's" off-farm "driving in Llano daily for transportation out to the ranch," Walter Decker bought a new Chevrolet from Batter Hardware.

At that rate, I won't be here 100 years ago.
A long line of eager diners helped themselves to a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner last Thursday at St. James Lutheran Church’s Schorlemmer Hall.

These volunteers helped serve another crowd of Thanksgiving guests at the Vanderveer Street Church of Christ in Burnet.

The First Baptist Church of Granite Shoals was another location for those who were looking for good food and good fellowship on Thanksgiving Day.

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Kingsland, TX 78639

Vendor Market Bazaar
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Christmas at Horseshoe Bay Resort

One of the attractions at Horseshoe Bay Resort’s holiday celebration last Saturday was this amazing gingerbread castle, weighing more than 1,000 pounds and containing about 756,000 calories!

Other attractions included a Kids Laser Light Show (below) and a personal appearance by Santa Claus, who posed for pictures with some of the young guests.

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Above: Phoenix Montoya earned the right to light up the Llano courthouse and square last Wednesday evening by winning a coloring contest at school. At right, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived by fire truck to help open the Starry Nights display at Badu Park last Friday evening. That event included live Christmas music, cookie decorating and, of course, the lights (below).

The Friends of Kingsland Library Invite the Public to enjoy refreshments at our

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Two area dance groups will present versions of The Nutcracker Ballet this weekend: Harmony School of Creative Arts (pictured above) in Marble Falls and the Studio 29 Dance Centre in Burnet will both perform on Saturday evening and on Sunday afternoon.

Right: The world-famous Bellamy Brothers will be the featured entertainers at two shows (2:30 and 7:30 p.m.) of the Llano Country Opry this Saturday (see ad below, left).

(EVENTS: Continued from page 2)

The Bellamy Brothers will star in two Llano Country Opry shows on Saturday, December 9 (2:30 and 7:30 p.m.) at the Lantex Theatre.

The Highland Lakes Writers’ Club will meet for their annual Christmas Potluck and Read-Around Saturday, December 9 at the Marble Falls Public Library. The program will begin at 3:00 p.m. Members will read their work. Non-Members are welcome as visitors.

The Choral Department of Smoking for Jesus Ministry’s Christian School will present a free winter concert (“The One Child who Changed the World”) at 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 10.

The LOGOS Christmas Play will be held at Lutie Watkins Memorial United Methodist Church in Llano at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 10. Harmony School of Creative Arts will present its Christmas Music Recital at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 11, at the First United Methodist Church in Marble Falls.

The Llano Chamber will welcome Winter Texans with a Chamber Mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, at the Riverway RV Park (just west of town on RR 152). The Friends of the Llano Library will host a Soup Lunch fundraiser at the library on Thursday, December 14. Serving will start at 11 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. (or when the soup is gone)

The “Best Christmas Pageant Ever” will be presented at First Baptist Church in Marble Falls at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 15, and at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 16. The musical tells how a family of misfits storms the local church decides to take over the annual Christmas pageant. Once all is said and done, neither they nor the church folk will ever be the same again. Admission is free.

Wildflower Dance Studio will present its Nutcracker show at the Llano High School auditorium on Saturday (2 and 6 p.m.) and Sunday (2 p.m.), December 16 & 17. Weekday Ministries will hold a “Holiday Trio” event (Chili Cook-Off, Pie Contest and Old-Fashioned Caroling) from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 16 at the Methodist Church in Burnet.

The Llano County Historical Museum will host a “come and go” Open House from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19.

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Now until Christmas Eve

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*Includes Current Yield + 1.50% First Year Additional Interest. Interest rates are subject to change & vary by plan. The minimum guaranteed interest rate is 3.50%.
This Tuesday morning photo shows workers preparing to move the American Cancer Society's "Wall of Rememberance" monument to its new location closer to the front of the new Prosperity Bank building. The job was completed that afternoon, and the bank building continues to show signs of progress almost every day.

Louraine Robertson was named as the Horseshoe Bay Business Alliance's first-ever "Citizen of the Year" at the HSB Property Association's annual Open House at Quail Point on Tuesday. She is pictured here with the other two finalists: Georganna Zaba (left) and Dianne Jones.

Cowboy Poet Steve Smith and Singer/Songwriter Reuben Darnell entertained guests at the Fall Creek Cowboy Christmas, held last Saturday afternoon at Fall Creek Vineyards, in Tow.

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December 1, 2017
Highland Lakes Weekly Page 11
Above, left: The Kingsland House of Arts & Crafts is ready for Christmas, and will be open from 10 to 5 every day until Christmas Eve, with a special section for holiday-themed items.

Above: The new Panda Express building is nearing completion in Marble Falls, following the opening of the new Burger King about three weeks ago, Panda Express advertises itself as “America’s favorite Chinese restaurant, serving fresh and fast Chinese food for over 30 years.”

Left: The “Helping Hands” community pantry, open from 9:30 to 11:30 every Tuesday morning at the Highland Lakes Church of Christ in Kingsland, is one of several charitable centers around the lakes. Sharing the Harvest in Kingsland is open every Thursday morning, as is the recently-upgraded food pantry at Chapel of the Hills, in Buchanan Dam.

Right: “Awakening,” by Peter Mangan, is one of the new entries in the 2017-2018 Sculpture on Main program in Marble Falls. A “First Friday Art Walk” will be held there from 5 to 8 p.m. this Friday.

The Spidermen
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Above: Well-known area musicians Eric Schuessler, Bode Barker and Ben Watson opened for country music star John Conlee, who attracted a sellout crowd to Oestreicher's Ramblin' Rose last Friday night. Conlee kept the dance floor full with hits from his long and successful career. He has had 21 Top Ten songs, including seven #1 hits.

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Girl Scout Troop #40010 has been working hard to bring curbside recycling to Kingsland!

Join us for a Community Meeting

Wednesday, December 13th, 2:00pm
Windchime at the Village
216 Covenant Lane, Kingsland
Introducing Mike Mnoian of Central Waste and Recycling

We will discuss how Mike can offer Kingsland businesses & residents BOTH waste management and curbside recycling at what may be a lower cost than we are paying now!

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This architect’s drawing, provided by Lake LBJ Partners, who arranged the sale of the El Rio property at the east end of the Hwy 1431 bridge in Kingsland, shows plans for an upscale convenience store/office/restaurant complex at the lakefront site.

Construction is well underway at the former Longhorn Resort property at the north end of Kingsland’s 2900 bridge. The new owner is Boat Town, from Austin, and plans include a showroom, marina, restaurant and family recreational area.

The impressive Kingsland headquarters for KT Waterfront Construction is nearing completion just down the hill from the scenic overlook on Highway 1431.

Dinners at The Vineyard
Featuring Chef Rafael Omar Garcia
December 9, 2017
6:30 pm or 8:00 pm
$65.00 per person*

First Course
Jalapeno Lobster Bisque

Second Course
Baby Spinach/Juliened Jicama/Granny Smith Apples/
Manchego Cheese/Toasted Pepitas/Orange-Hibiscus Vinaigrette

Main
Pecan crusted Striped Bass/Grilled Asparagus/Ancho-chile Beer Bock Smashers/
Jalapeno-Mango aioli
or
Smoked Sirloin Steak/ New Mexico Red Chile Sauce/
Mexican Rice pilaf/ Borracho Beans/Crispy Tortilla Strips

Dessert
Sopapilla Cheesecake/Local Honey Creme Anglaise/
Fresh Berries and Whipped Cream

*For an additional fee, wine pairings are available with each course.

Pet of the Week
Meet Damon, a Domestic Medium Hair, who is about 4-months old and weighs about 6 pounds. Damon is the sweetest kitten you’ll ever meet. He loves attention and will hug your neck with affection. He would be happy to sit in your lap and be spoiled all day. To meet this sweet little guy, please call HCAS at 512-793-5464. To see all of Damon’s friends please visit our website at www.HillCountryHumaneSociety.org. We are open Thursday through Monday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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