Burnet’s 35th Annual Bluebonnet Festival was a wonderful community event for “kids of all ages,” stretching from Thursday to Sunday all around downtown Burnet. In the photo above, youngsters sorted by age competed in a series of spirited foot races on the west side of the square on Saturday morning. Other highlights included a great Pet Parade, the Grand Parade, a First Cavalry demonstration, a car show, a carnival and plenty of excellent live music. You can see more “Bluebonnet Festival” pictures on pages 7, 8, 9 and 13 in this week’s paper, or see dozens more on the “Highland Lakes Weekly” Facebook page.
Upcoming Events

Llano’s huge Crawfish Open will be held this Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21, at and around Robinson Park (west of town on the south side of the Llano River).

By JOHN HALLOWELL

The Packaddle PTO will hold a Talent Show at Packaddle Elementary School, beginning at 6 p.m. this Friday (April 20).

Llano’s huge Crawfish Open is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 20 & 21. In addition to the tons of crawfish and many gallons of beer, the event will feature a roping competition, a golf tournament, a motorcycle fun run, kids’ activities, auctions and live music (starring Les Hartman and Tracy Byrd on Friday night, and Eleven Hundred Springs and Flatland Cavalry on Saturday night).

Llano County will hold a Limited Residential Bulk Collection from 5 to 8 a.m. at the county annex on Hwy 1431 in Buchanan Dam. For details (or to volunteer) call 325-247-2039.

The annual Children’s Day event will be held at Johnson Park in Marble Falls, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday, April 21.

The Burnet County Historical Commission will host a Fish Fry fundraiser on the grounds of old Fort Croghan from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 (San Jacinto Day). Festivities include a car show, live music and more!

The public is invited to meet Robert Dahlstrom of the 100 Club, a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide support to families of First Responders who have been killed or critically injured in the line of duty. He will speak at the Friends of Kingsland Library’s meeting on Tuesday, April 24 (2 p.m.) Refreshments will be served.

This year’s Help for Heroes Banquet will honor Captain Jason Holbrook, who died in an IED attack in Afghanistan. It will be held on Thursday, April 26 (doors open at 5:30 p.m.) at the Lakeside Pavilion in Marble Falls. The event includes raffles and auctions; proceeds will support “Hunting With Soldiers.” Call (214) 708-8438 for more details.

Barret High School will present its annual Highlandette Spring Show three times, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 26-28.

The Hill Country Community theatre will present twelve showings of “The Red Velvet Cake War” from April 26 to May 13 (Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays matinees at 2:15).

The Camellia Pursuit “adventure camp for grownups” will be held, beginning at 9 a.m. on Friday and continuing through Sunday (April 27-29), at Revelle Peak Ranch, on the west side of Burnet County. See rprtexas.com for details.

Shops in downtown Llano will host their Fourth Friday Art Walk from 5 to 7 p.m. on April 27.

The Llano Community Theatre group will present five showings of the musical comedy “Lucky Stiff” from April 27-May 6. The shows will begin at 7 p.m. on April 27 & 28, and May 5; 2 p.m. on Sundays April 29 and May 6.

The Boys and Girls Club in Marble Falls will host a Dodgeball Tournament from 10 to 5 on Saturday, April 28, to raise funds to fight childhood cancer. Teams and individuals are welcome to participate.

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Llano's huge Crawfish Open will be held this Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21, and around Robinson Park (west of town on the south side of the Llano River).
Bill Pell picked up his autographed copy of "Lake LBJ and the Re-Birth of Kingsland" at The Napping Mouse in Burnet last Saturday. My next book-signing will be at Calamity & Grace, on the west side of the Llano square, during that town’s “Fourth Friday Art Walk,” from 5 to 7 p.m. on April 27.

Scatterthought

From what I could see, Burnet’s 35th Annual Bluebonnet Festival was a huge success. There was little bit of uncomfortable weather, but crowds filled the downtown area most of the weekend, and there was plenty to interest visitors of all ages and interests. I was able to make it quite a few of the highlights, but there were several attractions that I had to skip. Too much fun! My schedule was a little different than in previous years; I didn’t try to zigzag around the Highland Lakes area as much as usual to catch other events, but I did hold a book-signing at The Napping Mouse, just off the square on South Main Street (see ad on page 10). That gave me a little break from the normal hustle and bustle, and it was cool to be in Burnet longer in the afternoon. I lost track of the time there, and emerged about 3:30; I was pleasantly surprised to see the square filled with shoppers (at a time when I had figured the crowds would have died down a little). I made a trip to Llano, stopping on the way at the Hill Country Motorcycles motorcycle museum, where there was a good crowd attending the Grand Opening. That new museum, housed in the old Johnson Ford building on Hwy 29 West, seems like a great addition to the list of Burnet attractions. I hope it will continue to draw crowds.

I got some pictures at the Llano VFD’s Fish Fry and BBQ, then later at the Llano Country Opry, before heading back to Burnet to take pictures of Radney Foster late that night. The square was even more crowded by then.

I took most of the day off on Sunday, knowing that I had probably more pictures than I could fit in this week’s paper, but there have been several events since then. So many, in fact, that I completely forgot about the Kingsland Chamber’s Breakfast Club meeting at the Boys and Girls Club on Wednesday, and slept until it was too late to go. Even though it was deadline day, I felt compelled to make quick trip to the Style in Action fashion show in Marble Falls (which benefited Meals on Wheels) and Captain Rex’s Treasure Adventure in Granite Shoals. You’ll see one picture from each of these two events in this paper, and there are quite a few more in the Tuesday & Wednesday” album on the Highland Lakes Weekly page on Facebook.

This Friday, there will be a Grand Opening from 4 to 6 p.m. at Bridge’s B&B in Marble Falls, as well as a ribbon-cutting at 5. I had noticed the beautifully restored home at 416 Main Street a while back; if I have space, I’ll try to squeeze in a picture of this project.

Prosperity Bank will be holding a “Grand Re-Opening” from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1 at its beautiful new office on the corner of Hwys 1431 and 2900. I think everybody in Kingsland is happy that the new bank incorporates the old wall with the Highland Lakes map; there are other artifacts from the 1965 Highland Lakes National Bank among the new bank’s interior furnishings, too (not to mention the collage of historic Kingsland photos in the lobby). I met a couple of remarkable old-timers in Marble Falls this past week. You’ll see pictures elsewhere in this paper of Anne Boraski (who got out of Poland just before the Nazis invaded in 1939, and married the 101st last Thursday) and Arnold Holden (a 93-year-old World War II veteran who has been married for nearly 74 years, and who recently returned from an “Honor Flight” to Washington, D.C.)

I also heard from a lady whose father worked at the NYA Camp at Inks Dam in 1941 and helped publish a newsletter called the “Ink Ling.” I’m going to try to find out something more about him (or the newsletter); if anyone can help, please email me at editor77@live.com!

Heavily wooded vacant lots on all sides provide nice privacy. Backyard is spacious & totally fenced (wood sections need repair), making it super for children and pets, and a great place to enjoy the outdoors. The home could use some TLC/updates but is easily livable as is. Throughout the neighborhood, you will enjoy the view and the natural wildlife in their “deer heaven”. Put this one on your “Go See” list and see it today!
Kay Stenca and Jim Wynne provided excellent live music last Friday night at “La Tequila Jalisco,” the new Mexican restaurant in the former Storm’s building on the Burnet County side of Kingsland. The restaurant was full on Friday night, and consistently gets good reviews from customers. It’s a great addition for Kingsland.

Captain Rex, a Copperas Cove theatre teacher turned TV star, brought his amazing “Treasure Adventure” to Abundant Heart Church in Granite Shoals on Wednesday evening. You can learn more about his worldwide ministry at www.captainrex.tv.

Biologist Marcos DeJesus, from Texas Parks & Wildlife, delivered a “State of the Lakes” program to a well-attended meeting of the Lake Buchanan Conservation Corp. on Tuesday evening. He reported that “fishing has been amazing” since the drought ended three years ago, mainly due to the “immense amount of new habitat” (vegetation that grew up on the exposed lake bed during the drought).

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The Kingsland Chamber of Commerce held a mixer in front of the office last Thursday evening, as the new Aqua Boom corporation kicked off sales of raffle tickets for this year’s Sea Doo. The beautiful orange-and-black watercraft will be parked at area businesses for the next two months to encourage ticket sales. The winning ticket will be drawn just before the fireworks show on July 4.

Managers from Sunoco Fuels, the gasoline supplier for Buddies in Kingsland, celebrated a recent honor with store employees and owner Derek Timmons on Tuesday. Buddies was ranked the #61 convenience store in the country (#4 in Texas) by GasBuddy, the Boston, MA tech company that monitors prices and customer reviews across the USA.

The Kingsland Feed Store, at 4301 W. RR 1431 in Kingsland, will be hosting a local Farmers Market from 9 to noon each Saturday. Also, the Burnet Farmers and Crafts Market, sponsored by the Highland Lakes Master Gardeners, will be open on the Burnet square from 9 to 1 every Saturday from May 5 to November 17.
GUN & KNIFE SHOW
At the Kingsland Community Center
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CAUTION - We Ain't Haulin' Milk!

BY JOHN HALLLOWELL

The last week of June, 1954, was a big one for the Llano Lions Club. Not only was a new president installed (Chas. A. Sagebald), but the Lions’ Little League baseball team took a contender
leading in the Granite League standings (leaving the Joycees and Fitzsimmons Ranch teams to battle for second place) and 30 years later, thanks at least partly to the Lions Club’s Summer Playground Program on Monday, June 28. Those three stories covered the top of the front page in the July 1, 1954 Issue of the Llano News.

Stories farther down the page in
cluded an article on a Girl Scout “camping
group” at “the Lower Colorado River Authority camping grounds on Granite Shoals Lake. Ninety scouts from orga
nizations in Burnet, Llano and Marble Falls took part in the five-afternoon program, which school Texas
brings them to the park at 2 p.m., and returning them to their homes at 7 p.m. each day. Activities would include games, songs, swimming and classes on knots, crafts, nature study and first aid.

Another article reported that bids were to be opened on July 14 to pave 15
plus miles of Rm 93 (now Hwy 71) and build the Sandy Creek Bridge (which was expected to cost $250,000, and would “make Rm 93 passable from Llano to the intersection with U.S. Hwy 183.”)

And a piece by Rev. Harold Fite, Jr. to be “installed as minister of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Castell” on Sunday, July 11. The new parsonage would be dedicated on the same day.

Construction had begun at Robinson-
Llano City Park for a new swimming pool, to be located “slightly southwest of the concrete diving slab built by the Llano Square Dance club.”

Herbert Otto announced that he would close his Herb’s Feed Store and “assure the operation of the service station now under construction by Elgin Hause adja
cent to Hause’s Grocery and Feed.”

The temperature had reached triple
digits seven times in the previous two weeks, and had only failed to reach 90
degrees one time. The average high had been 98.6 degrees from June 17-30.

Jalopy races were scheduled for July
1 at the VFW Speedway. The Bayoee-FPA Rodeo was scheduled for July 31.

The front-page photo on July 8 showed county employee Leon Wil
ton driving a bulldozer excavating the site for Llano’s new public swimming pool. Elwood Haines, “utilities manager and engineer of pool construction,” was in charge of the project.

More than 50 boys were expected to participate in a Llano County 4-H encampment, to be held at the LCRU Youth Center on Granite Shoals Lake (now the site of the Ferguson Power Plant, in Horseshoe Bay). July 9 through 11. A meeting of Girl Scout leaders at the LCRU administration building in Buchanan Dam declared the previous week’s day camp a big success, and

planned for an even bigger event in 1955.

About a dozen “hot rods” from all around central Texas were expected to join local drivers at a “doubleheader” of races at the VFW Speedway (at the air
port) on July 8. A 12-foot Lone Star boat, with a 340 Mercury motor and trailer, was to be given away at the event.

New events (including a jeep racing and wild cow riding) were planned for 1955, as were, in the bottom of the front page warned that “Douth Sets In Again.” The story reported that only .710” of rain had fallen on Llano County during the first six months of 1954.

Manager Elwood Rains assured Llano resi
dents that upriver rains and baffle boards on the city dam would provide adequate water for Llano through that summer.

On July 15, the temperature had been over 100 degrees for 11 straight days, reaching 110 on July 11. There was no re
spite forecast, and the Chamber of Com
merce was coordinating plans with local and national officials (including Senator Ly
ndon B. Johnson) asking for immediate aid. The front-page article reported that “the municipal countywide water crisis since April,” and that pasturelands had “withered and dried under blazing suns, heightening the acute danger of fire.” Assistant Director ‘Jim’ Bland, of the Agriculture Department, was sent to central Texas “to devise a way to aid the parched area.”

Geologist Robert Hutchinson, of Kan
sas State University and the University of Texas, was preparing to begin a “detailed geological study” of Llano County gran
ite in a triangle between Llano, Six Mile and Castell. He had recently completed a three-year study of Enchanted Rock.

Construction began on two “concrete tennis courts for the students of Llano public schools,” teaching positions were vacated at the end of the school year, and the school board was looking for replacements. The board also discus
sed the possibility of hiring a special education teacher.

A financial report by accountants for the City of Llano reported $55,303.74 in total cash receipts during 1954, and only $4,020.00 in expenditures. The city spent almost $2,600 on “police protec
tion,” and almost $7,000 on street mainte
nance.

The biggest item was “long-term debt retirement,” at $11,000 (more than 40 percent of all the city’s expenditures).

Airport expenses totaled $369.00.

Llano’s Pony League baseball team (which included Darrell Staedler; Earl Vin
Light was the bat boy) finished first in its league with a 9-3 record for the season. Other teams in the league were from Burnet, Bertram and Liberty Hill.

Page 6  Highland Lakes Weekly  April 20, 2018
The charming Pet Parade (pictured above and below) followed Friday evening’s Opening Ceremonies at Burnet’s 35th Annual Bluebonnet Festival. Events filled the downtown area with cheerful crowds all through the weekend.

Three members of the athletic Garner family (August, Mary and Art) earned medals in the 5K and 10K races early Saturday morning at the Bluebonnet Festival.

Michael McDavid, a familiar runner at 5Ks all around the Highland Lakes, took first place in his age group at the Bluebonnet Festival 5K last Saturday.

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Mounted soldiers of the First Cavalry, from Fort Hood, rode in the Bluebonnet Festival’s Grand Parade at 11 a.m. (above), then moved a few blocks east to Wallace Riddell Park for a demonstration of cavalry weapons and tactics from the late 1800s (below).

A big car show at Hamilton Creek Park (above) was another of the highlights from last weekend’s Bluebonnet Fest in Burnet.

At right: One of the imaginatively-decorated bicycles competing in one of the kids’ contests which preceded the Grand Parade on Saturday morning.
A crowd of enthusiastic youngsters (with equipment from “Sacks 5th Avenue”) participated in another of the Children’s Activities on Main Street Saturday morning.

The Aqua Boom float from Kingsland provided a splash of color (mostly bluebonnet blue) at the Grand Parade. Other floats came from Stonewall, Lampasas and Copperas Cove.

Former Burnet High School football stars Stephen McGee and Jordan Shipley (who both went on to play in college and the NFL) were back in town to serve as Parade Marshals last Saturday.

Several brightly-painted cars rode in the Grand Parade to advertise the big Demolition Derby, held at the Rodeo Grounds on Saturday night.

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A capacity crowd filled the Llano fire station for the VFD’s annual Fish Fry & BBQ last Saturday, and dozens more lined up for “to go” meals at the always-popular community event.

Eric Schuessler and Jenny Kelso, of Cadillac Gypsies, provided quality live entertainment for the Llano VFD’s big Fish Fry & BBQ last Saturday evening.

EVENTS:
(Continued from page 2)
about sponsorships contact
JCSseven7@gmail.com
The Buchanan Dam Volunteer Fire Department will hold its Annual Fish Fry at 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, at The Red Barn in Buchanan Dam. It will follow a Washer and Horseshoe Tournament, starting at 2 p.m. For more information call: 830-220-1954 or 325-248-1781.

At Marble Falls’ annual Paint the Town event, more than 40 Plein Air artists from across the nation will be working in various media to capture the outdoor sights and scenes of historic Marble Falls and the panoramic Texas Hill Country that surrounds it. During the week of April 20 to May 5, there will be an exhibiting/sales gallery, live demonstrations, a Quick Draw Challenge, Sunrise and Nocturne painting, a student competition, a lecture/demonstration by nationally recognized judge Suzie Baker, and an awards ceremony.

The Kingsland Community Center will host a “Marvelous Mom’s Sip and Shop” event from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, to benefit the Kingsland Boys and Girls Club.

Shops and galleries in downtown Marble Falls will hold their First Friday Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. on May 4. Legendary drummer and Austin resident Butch Miles heads an impressive lineup of jazz musicians for the ninth annual Toast to Tony tribute concert at the Spicewood Vineyards Event Center Friday evening, May 4. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Back by popular demand, the Real New Orleans Style Restaurant food truck will be available for dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. for those who would like to eat before the performance. The concert is a celebration of the life of Tony Campise.

Texas High School Student BBQ
Cook-Off teams from across the State compete all day on Friday and Saturday (May 4 & 5) at Burnet High School.

The annual Run for Recovery, to benefit the Open Door Recovery House in Marble Falls, will be held at Manzano Mile (just east of Marble Falls High School) beginning at 6 a.m. on Saturday, May 5.

The Llano 4-H Shotgun Fund Raiser will be held at Clay Busters (3 miles north on Highway 16). Registration begins at 8 a.m. Noon meal included.

The Burnet Farmers and Crafts Market, sponsored by the Highland Lakes Master Gardeners, will be open on the Burnet Courthouse square from 9 to 1 every Saturday from May 5 to November 17. For more information, or to become a vendor, contact Roxanne Danegan at 512-756-8396.

Big Antin and the Alley Cats will provide dance music for the Spring Fling, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, at Burnet’s YMCA. $10 per person, BYOB. Proceeds to benefit Hill Country Children’s Advocacy Center and Highland Lakes Strong Kid Program. Call 512-756-6180 for more info.

The annual Marble Falls MayFest, including carnival, games, free concerts, washer pitching, great vendors, and much more, will be held at Johnson Park from Wednesday through Sunday, May 9-12.

The Highland Lakes Pregnancy Resource Center’s Sporting Clay Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, June 9, at Copperhead Creek Shooting Range, east of Marble Falls. Registration begins at 7 a.m.
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Joe Bob Hunger, Tina Hunger Mocksfield, Kathy Hunger, and Hu Hunger are children of long-time Llano veterinarian Robert “Doc” Hunger, and have collected, documented and assembled an exhibit for the Llano County Historical Museum, detailing many aspects of their father’s life. The exhibit will remain on display until the end of this year.

Ninety-three-year-old World War II veteran Arnold Holden recently returned from an “Honor Flight” to Washington, D.C., the 50th such flight taking veterans from Austin to see national memorials. Mr. Holden served in the Philippines during the war; he and his wife, Lucille, have been married nearly 74 years.

June 18th-22nd, 2018
9:30am – 1:30pm

Our Second Music Camp!
After a tremendous experience last year, we can’t wait!
This Music Camp will use a fast-paced format to teach music fundamentals and biblical principles.
The Camp is open to children from K-5 to 6th Grade.

Our Second Music Camp!
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This Music Camp will use a fast-paced format to teach music fundamentals and biblical principles.
The Camp is open to children from K-5 to 6th Grade.

• Piano
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Friday evening
June 22nd 6:00pm
Music Camp Students will lead us in a “Praise Night,” using songs and skills they have developed over the week.

For more information: go to www.hillcountrychapel.com or call 512.793.2463.
(Scan the code at right for info on your phone)

Bridget’s Bed & Breakfast, located in a beautifully-restored historic home at 416 Main Street in Marble Falls, will hold an Open House from 4 to 6 p.m. this Friday (April 20). A ribbon-cutting is scheduled for 5 p.m.
Above, left: A large and enthusiastic crowd attended Wednesday’s “Style in Action” luncheon and fashion show at Lakeside Pavilion in Marble Falls. Students from the Burnet High School Culinary Arts program served a gourmet meal at the event, which raised money for Meals on Wheels.

Above, right: The Hill Country Motorheads motorcycle museum, located on Hwy 29W in Burnet, held its Grand Opening last Saturday.

At right: Courtney Reed and Charly Sardo entertained diners at the Trailblazer Grille in Burnet last Friday evening with a varied selection of popular songs.

Highly-acclaimed Italian artist Bennini, who in recent years has established a private museum just south of Marble Falls, welcomed a group of Leni Lockwood’s art students from Marble Falls High School for a tour and Q&A session on Tuesday. MUSEOBENNINI is a 6,500 sq. ft. gallery showcasing 60 years of Bennini’s paintings and three-dimensional pieces. Visits are available by appointment to curators, educational groups and art tours of ten or more people. (For more details, visit www.museobennini.com).

These new townhomes by Greater Austin Builders are part of a twelve-apartment project on Hill Street in Burnet. Each apartment will have two bedrooms and a bath-and-a-half. Other features in the well-designed apartments are: individual back yards, washer & dryer, LED lighting and foam insulation. Internet and cable will be included in the rent!
Above: Grammy Award winner Bobby Flores and his Yellow Rose Band provided their “Western Swing” music for a street dance on Friday night at the Burnet Bluebonnet Festival.
At left: Radney Foster was the headliner in an evening of great music at the Bluebonnet Festival on Saturday.

Husband-and-wife duo Doug Stone and Jade Jack were the featured performers at last Saturday’s Llano Country Opry.

Photos by John Hallowell

Feeling like you paid too much in taxes this year?
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Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!
Visible changes occur almost every day at the site of the proposed WakePoint convenience store/office/bar complex, located at the east end of the 1431 bridge in Kingsland.

Above: A couple of lots were cleared last week to provide easy access from RR 2900 to the new Boat Town complex.

At left: The recently-completed Prosperity Bank will hold a Re-Grand Opening from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1.

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Meet Duckie, a German Shepherd/Hound mix who weighs about 44 pounds and is about a year old. Duckie is a very sweet girl. She is playful and loving and would make an awesome pet. She recently went to a Show and Shines and did fantastic! She interacted well with other dogs, children and adults. She would be so happy to have her very own loving home, can you help her? To meet Duckie, please call HCHS at 512-793-5463. To see all of Duckie's friends, please visit our website at www.HillCountryHumaneSociety. We are open Thursday through Monday, from 11am to 4pm.
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