It was another wonderful Aqua Boom festival in Kingsland, despite a few bumps in the road (like a surprise thunderstorm on Wednesday afternoon). The photo above shows the Kingsland Lions Club’s float in Wednesday’s Aqua Boom Land Parade. This week’s paper is filled with Aqua Boom photos, and there are hundreds more on the “Highland Lakes Weekly” Facebook page.
A surprise visit from my daughter made the week much more pleasant, but I wasn’t able to circulate (or write, or sleep) as much as I had planned. I was able to take a whole lot more pictures than I am able to fit in this little paper, so I urge anyone who is interested in Kingsland or the huge Aqua Boom festival to take a look at the “Highland Lakes Weekly” Facebook page! Because of the abundance of pictures and scarcity of time (This July 4 was on my “deadline day” and I spent much of the day taking more pictures instead of writing), I am skipping my normal “Scatterthought” column and abbreviating my normal “Upcoming Events” article to fill as many pages as possible with Aqua Boom photos. Since I wasn’t able to attend the Independence Day festivities in any other community, I’m hoping that my readers will consider these pictures to be a good representation of the patriotism and good cheer that characterizes the Highland Lakes area. And since I have calculated that (adjusted for inflation) a picture is now worth 1,776 words (or thereabouts), I hope my readers will consider this week’s paper a better-than-usual value. I expect to get back to my normal format next week; I may even have space for a history article!

John Hallowell, editor
Kingsland’s recently-crowned royalty posed for a group picture before they were put to work at the Aqua Boom Festival last weekend. They are: Teeny Tiny Miss Jessica Schreiber, Little Miss Nataley Smarr, Tiny Miss Adilyn Smiles and (in back) Teen Miss Jordyn Young, Miss Aqua Boom Kailie Hair and Young Miss Madelyn Stennett. They assisted at many of the Aqua Boom events.

The traditional prelude to Kingsland’s Aqua Boom, a Veterans Dinner at Chapel of the Hills, was held last Friday evening.

Four of the Kingsland Chamber’s busiest volunteers relaxed (briefly) at the Aqua Boom Kick-Off Party, held at The Place Downtown last Friday evening. From left: Denny Boland, Teresa Gray, Hafdis Gentry and Chamber President Louann Raley.

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Residents, staff members and Chamber representatives met in front of Windchime Assisted Living on Tuesday to celebrate 1st Place in the “Kingsland Spirit Award” judging for patriotic decorations. Runners-up were: Kingsland Healthmart Pharmacy, Central Texas Family Dentistry and Lake Fun Designs (but there were MANY nicely-decorated buildings around town. Congratulations to all!).

The Aqua Boom Golf Tournament was held last Saturday morning at Lighthouse Country Club in Kingsland.

The Arts & Crafts Show was held on Saturday and Sunday behind M&M Donuts on RR 1431 in Kingsland.

Aqua Boom queens posed for a picture with young contestants in the Patriotic Costume Contest, held at the Arts & Crafts Show last Saturday morning.
Julie Green and Trudy Woolverton were at the Boat Town marina on Sunday morning to greet participants in Kingsland’s always-popular Aqua Boom Poker Run, on Lake LBJ.

A Patriotic Dinner was held at Kingsland’s First Baptist Church on Sunday afternoon to benefit the Lambda Nu sorority, a very active community group in Kingsland.

Veterans were honored in a “Procession of the Patriots” during last Sunday’s Patriotic Concert at Kingsland’s First Baptist Church on Sunday evening. Choir members from several area churches joined with the Highland Lakes Brass Ensemble to provide an impressive musical tribute to our country.

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Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this year’s AQUA BOOM such a big success!

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A large and generous crowd gathered at the Kingsland Community Center on Monday evening for a Wild Game Dinner & Auction to support His Joshua House.

Another crowd gathered on Tuesday evening for a family-friendly Street Dance in the First United Bank parking lot with Kingsland’s popular River Revue band.

This 1940 Ford Deluxe Coupe was one of many classic cars on display in front of Security State Bank & Trust on July Fourth for the Aqua Boom Car Show. It came from Tennessee with a secret compartment in the trunk; owners Frank and Judy Caramanica suspect it was used to run moonshine in the ‘40s and ‘50s.
Sights from the AQUA BOOM Children’s Parade

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Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!
Water activities were disrupted by a Wednesday afternoon thunderstorm, but the weather had cleared enough by 7 p.m. to allow the Rubber Ducky race to be held (above). Live music was provided by the local “Un-Muted” band (Tony Flores, Ben Thompson, Zane Lewis, Virgil Taylor and Ryan Buck -- below) as a good crowd gathered for the spectacular fireworks show over Lake LBJ.

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The Kingsland Lions Club inducted new officers during its regular Thursday meeting on June 28, in the photo above, outgoing president Era Marion addresses the club as the new (or in some cases, repeating) officers stand behind her at the Lighthouse Country Club dining room. Jay Ward will be president for the coming year.

Lion Terry Scalise (right) presented Lion Gordon Dixon with a plaque from the Lions Club International Foundation, honoring him as a “Melvin Jones Fellow” at last Thursday's meeting. The award, named for the Lions Club founder, is the highest honor the foundation bestows, recognizing “outstanding community services.” The Lions Club serves the Kingsland community in many ways.

Last year’s winner, Toye Compton, joined representatives of the Friends of the Kingsland Library to draw the winning ticket in this year’s quilt raffle, held during Aqua Boom season to raise funds for the Kingsland Library. The lucky winner of the beautiful quilt was Lynne Serpas.
Tiffany Avonta Thomas, a New Orleans native who came to the Highland Lakes area after Hurricane Katrina and now lives in Iganga, Uganda, was back in town to raise funds for her mission work with Ugandan youth. She offered African-themed artwork and fashion accessories for sale in a booth at Buddies convenience store in Kingsland. She’ll be here through the summer; you can find her on Facebook if you’d like to help.

Kingsland Garden Club officers paid a visit to BancorpSouth in Kingsland (formerly First State Bank of Central Texas) to present their monthly Beautification Award to manager Shannon Ziese.

Dr. Fred Sorrells, Director of Operations for the Haiti National Amputee Soccer Team, posed with two of the team members (Stanley Gustave and Carnot Dorvil) while they were attending the Patriotic Concert at Kingsland First Baptist on Sunday evening. Both are staying with the Kitchens family in Kingsland while awaiting surgeries here in Texas. The soccer players are learning English while teaching Haitian Creole to Chris and Amy Kitchens, who are planning a mission trip to Haiti later this month.

Several local groups joined to present an impressive Patriotic Concert for an overflow crowd at the First United Methodist Church in Marble Falls on Tuesday evening.

Above: Several church choirs joined to present a Patriotic Concert at Kingsland’s First Baptist Church on Sunday evening. Below: The Hill Country Community Band performed patriotic music for an appreciative crowd at the Marble Falls Library last Friday.
Members of the Burnet County Historical Commission met with visiting dignitaries and descendants of John Israel Altman to unveil and dedicate a Texas Ranger Memorial Cross at Altman's grave, located in Burnet's Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Well-known former Texas Ranger Ray Martinez was present for the dedication, and addressed the gathering at the cemetery. He is now a board member with the Former Texas Rangers Association in Fredericksburg.

Members of John Altman’s family unveiled the Texas Ranger Memorial Cross after a short ceremony. The group then held a lunch reception at the Herman Brown Free Library in Burnet.

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