Summer at the Lakes!

The Highland Lakes area offers scenery, history, live music and great community events year-round, but (especially in the summer) the lakes are the number one attraction. This view of Lake LBJ’s Llano River arm is from the porch of Kingsland’s new lakeside Boat Town Burger Bar, which offers easy access by boat or car to its location near the north end of the RR 2900 bridge. If you get a sudden urge to own a boat while dining there, you’ll find a great showroom next door! The Boat Town complex is just one of several new and planned attractions around the Highland Lakes.
Upcoming Events

This year’s Marble Falls Rodeo Parade will be held on Main Street at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 21. Rodeo action will take place on Friday and Saturday nights at the Charley Taylor Arena on Hwy 281S.

By JOHN HALLOWELL

The Marble Falls Rodeo will be held at the Charley Taylor Arena, beginning at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings (gates open at 6:30). The Rodeo Parade will be held in downtown Marble Falls at 10 a.m. on Saturday, and there will be a dance with Adam Fears following the rodeo action on Saturday night.

The YMCA in Burnet will host an Adult Dodgeball Tournament from 9 to 11 p.m. this Friday (July 20).

The Llano Fine Arts Guild will hold another Kids Art Camp from 9 to noon next Tuesday, July 24.

The Llano Library will hold a LEGO Camp for children aged five years and up from 2 to 3:30 p.m. each Tuesday in July.

The Hill Country Community Theatre will present four performances of the musical “State Fair” each weekend from July 19 to August 5. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday shows will be at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 2:15.

The annual CASA golf tournament will be held at Delaware Springs Golf Course in Burnet, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 21.

The Brooks Crossing singing group will give a free concert at The First Christian Church in Burnet, beginning at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 22. All are welcome.

Editor (and wanna be author) John Hallowell will talk about his book, “Lake LBJ and the Re-Birth of Kingsland 1951-1970” (and sign copies, if desired) at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24, at the Lakeshore Library in Buchanan Dam. For more information or to reserve a seat, call the library at 325-379-1174.

The Burnet VFW (on Hwy 29W) will host a Benefit Night from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, July 26. Call 317-654-9910 for details.

Wade Hibler will give a free Green Thumb presentation on “Water Conservation and Home Landscaping,” beginning at noon on Friday, July 27, at the Lakeshore Library in Buchanan Dam. Call 325-379-1174 to reserve a seat.

Painting With Friends will be at The Place Downtown in Kingsland, a group art party from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, July 27 (to benefit Operation Exit).

The Kingland Chamber will host a Back to School Blast at Kingland Elementary School from 9 to noon on Saturday, July 28. The first 500 students (K-12) will receive free backpacks filled with school supplies; there will also be free health screenings, Care-A-Van appointments, shoes, food and more.

There will be a National Dance Day celebration at Llano’s Blue Park, beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 28. A practice meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on July 21. See dizzyfeetfoundation.org for details.

The Castell VFD’s annual BBQ Fundraiser will be held at the fire hall, beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 29.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will hold its annual banquet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 2, at the St. James Lutheran Church in Llano.

The Burnet CISD will host a Back to School Breakfast at the high school cafeteria from 7 to 8:50 a.m. on Friday, August 9. Call 512-715-5120 for details.

Don Graham will be at the Marble Falls Public Library for a Booked for Lunch program at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, August 10. He will discuss his latest book, “Giant.” Lunch will be provided. Call 830-693-3623 to reserve your seat.

Pat Green will be the featured performer at Burnet’s Summer Concert Series on Saturday, August 11. Gates at Haley Nelson Park will open at 6:30; the show begins at 7:30.

Fall Creek Vineyards will hold a Harvest Festival from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 25. See www.burnet.com for details.

Bertram’s wonderful Oatmeal Festival will be held on Friday evening, August 31 (at the Oatmeal Community Center) and on Saturday, September 1 (in downtown Bertram). See oatmealfestival.org for details.
SCATTERTHOUGHT

Regular readers of this column will not be surprised to hear that I forgot some things I meant to mention last week. I have since remembered three of them.

One is a chance to talk about my book, Lake LBJ and the Refund of Kingsland: 1951-1970. Melissa MacDougall invited me to speak (and to sign books, if requested) at 6 p.m. next Tuesday at the Lakeshore Library in Buchanan Dam. I gladly accepted and put the appointment on my calendar, but temporarily forgot it in the deadline rush last week. (For more information or to reserve a seat, call the library at 325-379-1174.)

Most of my Kingsland readers know longtime appliance repairman Phil Borin, who retired last year. He mentioned to me just before Aquas Boin that he has a lot of appliance parts left over from his business, and would like to get them to people who could use them; I told him I would mention it here, but by the time Aquas Boin was over, my mind was pretty much a “clean slate.” A couple of days ago, I found the note I had written! For details, please call him at 325-388-0270.

I also intended to mention that Pat & Janell Huston’s excellent Hill Country Motorheads Motorcycle Museum (in the renovated Johnson Ford building on Hwy 29 West in Burnet) has been featured in the nationally-circulated “Motorcycle Classics” magazine, based in Topolka, KS. The three-page article in the July/August issue is very complimentary, and includes a plug for Burnet and the Texas Hill Country. I’m not a biker myself, but I have been very much impressed with this new Burnet attraction; I would recommend it to everyone. It’s open from 10 to 5, Wednesday through Saturday; you can learn more about it online.

Some “new” items are: Sculpture on Main is coming up in Marble Falls (Highland Lakes Creative Arts is accepting applications for entries through October 1. Each sculptor may submit up to three sculptures for consideration. See www.hlarts.com for details) and my friend Robin Chiras Ramos tells me that there is a new animal rescue group in Llano. I’ll plan to pass along details as I learn them; they’ll be holding fundraisers and informational programs in the near future.

Also, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Banquet for Llano County will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 2, at the St. James Lutheran Church in Llano. Water Resource Specialist Billy Kratoff, from Menard, will be the guest speaker. RSVP at 325-247-5159 by July 30 if you plan to attend. And the Marble Falls Library will be hosting a Job Seekers Workshop, with Craig Henry of Texas Workforce Solutions, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, August 29.

One more thing I’d like to mention is the Granite Shoals Senior Citizens Program, which hosts a social time (with a variety of activities) from 10 to 2 every Tuesday at the community center on Phillips Ranch Road. In addition to inviting everyone “55 and older,” the group is seeking volunteers “16 and older” to help make each week’s get-together a great time. Call Fran Rubin at 512-755-2280 for details.

I really felt rewarded for the time I spent working on this week’s history article. I often “discover” a familiar name, even when I am reading newspapers that were published before I was born (as I was for this week’s November 1934 article). I think I met Bryant Ratliff and Dexter Sagebiel only about nine years ago, but they were mentioned in The Llano News in 1954, and their names made the article a whole lot more interesting to me.

But it was a name I had not heard in quite a while that brought back a flood of memories as I read the old papers on Monday night. I think it was in February of 2008 (during my Texas Hill Country magazine days) that someone told me (Continued on page 11)
Artist and Metalsmith Evisa Ballard (at right) showed “students” how to use a rolling mill to make a copper-and-leather cuff during a workshop last Saturday at the Kingsland House of Arts & Crafts.

The normally-busy parking lot at the Kingsland Post Office was a construction site on Wednesday morning. Repairs were expected to be finished by Thursday night.

Lynn Serpas of Sunrise Beach was the lucky winner of the Quilt Raffle held recently by the Friends of the Kingsland Library. The drawing was held immediately after the Aqua Boom Parade on July 4. She is pictured at right with her prize—a beautiful Queen-size Quilt titled “Willow City Loop.”

(Courtesy Photo)
County Commissioner Mike Sandoval held his monthly Town Hall meeting in the back meeting room at the Kingsland Library on Tuesday evening. Subjects discussed included dredging at Sandy Creek and other issues of interest to Precinct #3 voters.

Kingsland Chamber of Commerce members and guests took turns “spaking a tweet” to introduce themselves and their businesses at the Chamber’s monthly Breakfast Club meeting on Wednesday morning. This month’s meeting was held at Splash Boat Rentals; the sponsor was Kelly Adams, of America’s Choice Home Loans.

This new “Shake & Bake” business offers smoothies and tanning in the familiar building next to Whataburger, on RR 1431 in Kingsland. It is open Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Llano in November 1954

By JOHN HALLOWELL

The temperatures in Llano were down dramatically at the beginning of November, 1954. Daytime highs dropped from 79° on November 1 to just 50° on November 3, and a "slen- der, chilled crowd of about 400" watched the Llano Yellowjackets beat the Early Longhorns 51-7 that Friday evening.

Not many more than that took the time to vote in the November 2 election. Just 540 votes were cast, but rural voters rejected 6 of 11 proposed amend- ments (all of which passed in the City of Llano and statewide). All of the local elections featured unopposed Demo- cratic candidates; there was little incentive for citizens to vote.

Representatives of the U.S. Army met with rural landowners to explain large-scale maneuvers planned for the month of February in Llano County. Six "field men" were expected to be in town to secure permits and plan operations for the month-long training event.

A memorial plaque, bearing the names of Llano County veterans who died in World War II, was scheduled for unveiling on Veterans Day, November 11. The Llano County Chamber of Commerce board voted unanimously to declare Veterans Day an official holiday in Llano, and to recommend to the school board that schools be closed on that day as well.

Attendance at the Llano schools set records in October, averaging 781 stu- dents, or 97% of the 800 enrol- led. The average number of students eating in the school lunchroom each day rose to 402.

Tolls warnings to careless driv- ers paid off, and only nine tickets were passed out to traffic violators in Oc- tober.

The State Game and Fish Commis- sion "made a molehill out of a moun- tain of turbulence" by altering hunting rules in Llano and surrounding counties to "unify the harvest methods" for the central Texas area. The commission de- cided that "open season will be held in specified areas on antlerless deer from December 1-15, and in areas other than specified that the back season will continue unabated."

A county-wide meeting was set up to begin planning a huge Centralen celebration for 1956.

Hill Country Boy Scouts planned a Fall Camporee on the Mark A. Moss Ranch. About 100 scouts were expected for a program on wildlife preservation, organized by John Wood of San Angelo and "wild life biology specialist Bob Ramirez, of Kerrville" (see "Scatter- thought", page 3).

About 75 Boy Scout leaders were finishing a four-day "scout leaders school" with an evening meeting at the high school auditorium that Friday. The Fourth Marine 111th Battalion's Llano Scout "lookout" was a non-president, but continued to be relatively scarce. Llano Ice & Cold Storage re- ported that 4-26 deer had been brought in during the first week, compared to 238 during the night the previous year. Although the deer seemed to be "in fair condition, taking the drought into consid- eration," the average weight of the deer was down from 1953.


City Utilities Manager Elwood Raines announced that, now that the Bar- ler Flats water main had been completed, the regional swimming pool at the city's "number one" priority. Site prepa- ration was nearly complete, plumbing and drainage was being installed, struc- tural steel had been ordered and concrete was available to complete the pool.
The Llano Fine Art Guild held one of its Kids Art Camps on Tuesday morning, introducing young artists to painting, weaving and more at the Bessemer Avenue gallery. There will be another camp from 9 to noon next Tuesday (July 24), and an artists reception will be held from 5 to 6 that evening.

Cali Rivers and her daughter, Mikayla, were two of the participants in the Rockpile Church’s Summer Fun Night, where parents and kids decorated cardboard boxes to make “cars” where the kids would sit to watch the movie “Cars.” It was hard to tell who enjoyed it most! The church meets at the Boys & Girls Club in Marble Falls.

Owner Valerie Smasal, of “Calamity & Grace,” watched as artist Lisa Miller demonstrated henna painting on canvas and skin at a “tattoo party” last Saturday. The shop is located on the Llano square.

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Organizer Mario Gonzales gave some last-minute instructions to the crowd of athletes participating in Sunday morning’s Marble Falls Triathlon, based at Lakeside Park.

Swimmers entered Lake Marble Falls in preparation for the 1-km swim which started the triathlon.

The horn blew, and the first group began the swim, shortly after 7 a.m. on Sunday.

As swimmers got out of the water, they began their 23-mile bike ride in southern Burnet County. A 4.4 mile run completed the feat of endurance.
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Buchanan Dam, Texas
Open Tuesdays thru Saturdays, 10-5:00, 956-432-2262.
Workers have made significant progress on the planned H.E.B. gas station, located in the southeast corner of the parking lot, in front of the new H.E.B. grocery store in Marble Falls.

Heavy equipment was busy at Faith Academy in Marble Falls on Tuesday morning, as work continues on a new athletic complex (beginning with a new football field and track).

The Marble Falls Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on Tuesday to welcome new member Building Solutions of Marble Falls (see ad on page 2). The business, which offers playscapes, sheds, cabins, metal buildings and carports, is on Hwy 281N near FM 1855.

The historic Badger building, on the southeast corner of Burnet’s square, is being meticulously restored and will soon be the home of a Wedding Oak Winery outlet in Burnet. The renovation is a project of the city’s Economic Development Corporation.

It’s the end of an era at 1600 Ford Street in Llano, where Kenneth and Esther Laird have run Laird’s BBQ & Catering Service for decades. The beautiful old home was sold a few weeks ago, and the business is closed. We wish the Lairds a very happy retirement!

Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!
SCATTERTHOUGHT: (Continued from page 3)

that I needed to meet Bob Ramsey; I
arranged to visit with him at his ranch
between Hunt and Lankelby in the west-
ern Hill Country. He was 90 years old
when I met him, but he was still excited
about so many things. He showed me
his amazing “arrowhead” collection;
told how the Newton Boys had used
his family ranch as a hideout after one
of their bank robberies (under assumed
names, of course; the Ramseys didn’t
realize who they had been hosting until
the FBI came calling months later), told
stories about his time as a game warden
on the Y.O. Ranch and the time James
Michener came to interview him for his
“Texas” novel. The whole time, he was
very hospitable and friendly; I ended up
going back to visit again when I got the
first copies of my Summer 2008 maga-
zine (with his story in it).

Bob Ramsey had written two books
by the time I met him, and I still have
autographed copies in my book collec-
tion, but a lot of things have changed
since then. He died in 2009, and I don’t
think I’ll ever hear his name mentioned
for at least the past seven years – but then
he was in the 1954 Llano News, and the
memories made Monday night’s “work”
into something really special.

The photos above and at left were taken during the dress rehearsal
for “State Fair” (see ad below) at the Hill Country Community Theatre
in Cottonwood Shores. It looked like a very entertaining show!

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shoes, food, and a whole lot more!
The former Johnson Ford building in Burnet has been transformed into a world-class motorcycle museum. Pat & Janell Hanlon’s Hill Country Motorheads, which opened to the public just this spring, was recently featured in the nationally-circulated “Motorcycle Classics” magazine, based in Topeka, KS. The museum’s regular hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday.

Also undergoing an amazing transformation, the “old” Johnson Ford building in Marble Falls (behind the Blue Bonnet Café, on Avenue G) will open later this summer as the Bear King Brewing Co. The complex will feature a 5,500 sq. ft. family-friendly taproom and restaurant with indoor seating for over 200 guests, an open-air beer garden, patio games and live music.

The First Baptist Church in Burnet recently broke ground on a new church office building, located across Vandeventer street from the “old” office.

Dianna Nixon opened her new “D’s Shaved Ice” stand in this charming little building across Hwy 29 from the Buchanan Dam post office.

Country music star Darrell McCall autographed copies of his book, “The Darrell McCall Story” (actually written by Dee Lackey) at last Saturday evening’s Llano Country Opry.
Music around the Lakes

Above: World-class guitarist Monte Montgomery (accompanied by Phil Bass on the drums) delighted the crowd at the Uptown Art House in Marble Falls last Friday night.

At left: Country music star Tony Booth was one of the featured performers at last Saturday's Llano Country Opry (see more photos on page 15).

Below: The London Baileigh Band performed last Friday night at Brass Hall in Marble Falls.

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For Sale

Hoover Valley — 916 Apache Dr: A-frame house in a few lots, for small family. Access to water; lake walking distance, 700.00. Call 512-588-9685

Tropical Hideaway — Rare 1-Bedroom condo on lower level; Swimming pool outside of patio; boat dock on Lake LBJ. tennis & volleyball courts. $125,000. Call 512-417-7212

Ranch — 25.56 acres. 4BR/2.5BA doublewide manufactured home, decks, tennis, deer, turkey, dove. 30 x 40 insulated metal garageswaping. New AC, roof, well & septic field. Good fences for livestock, horses and holding pen; well-water pond, other amenities. $259,000 cash or conventional; pre-qualified letter. Call Tom 512-293-2369

Three 60 x 150 contiguous lots — On Big Spur in Northside Bay Prop, new to re-platted to one 180 x 150 building lot or 81. acre. All utilities available. Good view. Close to amenities. $30,000. Call 210-387-5502 or 210-818-2902

Corner Lot in Horseyes Bay — Close to all amenities; all utilities available. Located southwest corner of Big Spur and Powder Horn. $5,900. or trade for ??? Call 512-507-4555

1931 new build — $15,000 o.b.o. Banthai sailboat w/trailer $500. Picture available; call Jack Walker at 325-252-3362

1998 Custom-Built Mini Freight — Built sheath on truck in 1996. Was $12,000; asking $5,500. Call 512-507-6108

$400.00 Nice Acoustic Kimball piano — manufactured 1975. Full 88 keyboard. Gets professionally tuned 2x/year. Can provide buyer with name of reputable piano mover. In Burnet. 805-303-4484

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Private LVN needed in Sunrise Beach, FT or PT available. Hourly flexible days and hours. Starting pay $26.56 per hour. Contact Brigitte at 813-686-1533.

Busy Salon — looking for full or part-time stylist. Call Charlotte at 512-755-0518

Wave Chasers Boat Rentals is now hiring. Full-time work with overtime paid. Must be able to work weekends and holidays. Apply in person at 1006 Ranch Road 1431 Kingsland TX 325-248-3865

Kitchen Help Wanted — at Camp Champions, looking for friendly people to work in a positive environment. Mon-Fri available; no evening or weekend hours, and must pass a background check. Pay starts at $11.50/hour with a potential end of summer bonus. Applications accepted in person at 775 Camp RD Marble Falls.

“Visitings Angels”

Visiting Angels needs experienced in-home care for clients all along the Hill Country. Pay ranges from $8-$14/hr depending on the job. Part-time or full-time. Will need a reliable vehicle, clean driving record, and must be able to pass background check. Give us a call today at 512-637-7118. Immediate work is available for qualified applicants!

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Promoter and MC Tracy Pitcox (right) reacts to a joke by Llano’s own “Bucille Snotgrass” at the Llano Country Opry last Saturday evening.

Country music stars Darrell McCall (above, with drummer Shane Lively) and Tony Booth (pictured on page 13), headlined last Saturday’s Opry. Another of the impressive performers was Amanda Peevler (left), of Industry.

Pet of the Week

Bandit is a gorgeous Lacy mix who weighs 60 pounds, and is about 4 years old. He is a friendly guy who enjoys interaction with people. He keeps his kennel clean, rarely barks, knows “sit” and “shake,” and is eager to learn more. To meet this sweet boy or any of his friends please call the Hill Country Humane Society at 512-793-5463 or visit www.HillCountryHumaneSociety.org. We are open Thursday through Monday, from 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
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OPTIONS INCLUDE: 26-gauge commercial-grade panels • Full Insulation
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