The big news this month in Kingsland is rapid progress at the WAKEPOINT convenience store/office complex/music venue/lakefront bar, located on RR 1431 between the bridges on the Burnet County side of Lake LBJ’s Colorado River arm. Builders hope to have the convenience store open for business by the first week of September, and a Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, September 29. The convenience store will offer quality site-prepared pizza, sandwiches, etc. A BBQ trailer will be parked behind the smokehouse next to the tracks, and a landscaped music and event venue with picnic tables will be located in the courtyard behind the main building. The deck outside the lakefront bar will offer beautiful views of the lake, looking OVER the bridges in both directions. The upper floor of the main building will be used for commercial offices.
**Upcoming Events**

The final installment in Burnet’s popular “Summer Concert Series” will feature Pat Green at Haley Nelson Park on Saturday evening, August 11. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; music begins at 7:30.

By JOHN HALLLOWELL

Don Graham will be at the Marble Falls Public Library for a Booked for Lunch program on August 14. He will discuss his latest book, “Giant.” Lunch will be provided. Call 830-693-3023 to reserve your seat.

Pat Green will be a 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.

Camp Agape, the area’s bereavement camp for children grieving the loss of a loved one, will host its annual 5K memorial run beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, August 25, at Johnson Park in Marble Falls. The fundraiser will allow children between the ages of 7 to 12 to attend Camp Agape at no cost to their families. To learn more about the run, visit the organization’s website at www.campagapeutexas.org.

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

The Kingsland Lions Club will host a Pancake Breakfast from 7-11 a.m. on Saturday, September 1, at the Kingsland Community Center. The Kingsland Lakes Family Crisis Center will host its 35th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 1. Register online or call 830-693-3636 by September 1.

The Lake Buchanan Conservation Corp. will hold its annual Fish Fry fundraiser from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, September 1 at Hill Country Hall in Buchanan Dam. Festivities will include raffles for three guns and a huge silent auction.

The Bluebonnet Air Show, sponsored by the Highland Lakes Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force, will be held at the Burnet airport from 9 to 5 on Saturday, September 8.

The Spicewood VFD-EMS Destruction Derby will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 8.

(Continued on page 10)
Scatterthot

My vacation is over, and I’m recovering! I consider last week’s amazing road trip to be the second-last of its kind; since I made it to Wisconsin and North Dakota, I have all the lower 48 states, and my planned two-month trip to Alaska will have to wait until I’m too old to publish this newspaper any more. I still plan to take vacations, but I think they will be “one place at a time,” instead of “13 states in one week.”

Because there was no paper last week, some of the “news” in this paper will be almost two weeks old. And a few events (like last Saturday’s Opry, with Doug Kendrow) won’t be pictured in this week’s paper. I hope you’ll forgive me for re-printing a history article that many of you have read before; one of my priorities in my Midwest road trip was to explore the hometown of Burnett County’s greatest hero, and to see the town that he “invaded” in 1862. I was able to cross those two items off my bucket list, and I’ve included some of my vacation pictures as new illustrations for the previously-published article.

A little closer to home, the Kingsland Chamber’s next Breakfast Club meeting will be held at Prosperity Bank next Wednesday (August 15). It will begin at 7:45 a.m.

I had a chance to visit with Jody Bowers, who is in charge of the construction at WakePoint (the former El Rio location at the east end of the Hwy 1431 bridge). He gave me a tour of the soon-to-be-completed facility and (among other things) explained that the unique VP Racing Fuels logo represents the “mad scientists” who formulate their top-quality fuels. (Just in case you were wondering!)

I saw on Facebook that there are plans for a “TubeFest” on Lake Marble Falls (“cooler and wetter than LakeFest!”) this Saturday. If you have a tube, and you’d like to join in, just show up at Lakeside Park. There could be a crowd (or not).

Also this Saturday, the Hill Country Community Theatre will be holding auditions for its fourth annual talent show. If you are a singer, musician, dancer, magician, comedian, ventriloquist, animal trainer, or have some other entertaining act, you are encouraged to try out between 1 and 3 p.m. at the theatre (4003 W FM 2147, Cottonwood Shores). No appointment is necessary, and there is no fee. All musical acts must be acoustical only (no bands, please). This is a showcase performance only, not a competition; prizes will not be awarded. The performance will be held on Saturday, August 18 at 7:30 p.m. The theatre is also seeking an actress for its upcoming musical comedy “Don’t Hum Me, I’m Pregnant.” Bernice is the ex-waitress at a bar, who dreams of going to Broadway. She can be played by any ethnicity. Bernice is in her early 20’s to late 30’s; pretty, wholesome, sexy, thin, native and innocent. Applicants must be able to sing, dance, do a Minnesota accent and have a sense of comedic timing. The music and dancing will not be difficult.

The Llano Library will host Baylor Scott & White’s Dr. Jarro, who will discuss breathing problems and common lung conditions at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, August 15.

According to Web MD, “Asthma, emphysema, pneumonia, heart disease, anxiety, panic attacks, and allergies are just some of the conditions that can make breathing difficult. If you have any of these conditions, a greater understanding of your breathing problems, along with an accurate medical diagnosis and effective treatment, can help you gain control. It doesn’t matter what type of breathing problem you have, daily control is vital to living an active, productive life.” Reserve your seat for this informative program by calling 325.247.3248. Tea and dessert will be provided.

The Oatmeal Festival, held each year during Labor Day Weekend, would like to invite you to participate in the 41st Annual 3.3 mile Run for Your Oats in downtown Bertram. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, September 1 at 8:00 a.m. for the 3.3 mile Run. Online Registration is now open via RunReg://runreg.com/oatmeal-festival.

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We meet every Sunday morning (10:00) at Computer Help in Kingsland (2703 Hwy 1431) for Prayer, Worship and Studying the Word. We pray for people’s needs.

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Kingsland Lions Club

130 West Allen Street

Kingsland, Texas 78638

August 10, 2018

Highland Lakes Weekly Page 3
The Place Downtown

The Place Downtown, managed by Zane and Meredith Lewis of The Hill Church, is steadily establishing itself as an eatery and a gathering place for the Kingsland community.

Recent improvements have included a stairway to a “loft” where the Lewises hope soon to add seating capacity and allow for private parties. They have recently expanded the kitchen and the menu.

Jeremy Serna, of “Painting With Friends,” was at The Place Downtown for a well-attended session that benefited Project Exhil a couple of weeks ago. He plans to return, and many other events and programs (including excellent live music) are already on the schedule.

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email for a rate sheet at editor77@live.com
A long line of parents and students (above and below) waited their turns during the Llano ISD’s “Back to School Blast” at Pucksaddle Elementary School in Kingsland on the morning of July 28. The program was based on Marble Falls ISD’s hugely successful event, held this year on August 4 at the Marble Falls Middle School. Students received free school supplies and enjoyed activities at the event.

Seton’s Care-A-Van mobile clinic and the Kona Ice traveling snow cone stand were at Pucksaddle’s “Back to School Blast,” as were the Kingsland Lions Club (see page 3) and other local groups. The event was a big success, and will hopefully become an annual tradition.
This exhibit, located at a riverfront park in Adam Johnson’s hometown of Henderson, Kentucky, attests to the Marble Falls founder's national reputation. It says: “General Adam Rankin ‘Stovepipe’ Johnson" was born in Henderson on February 8, 1834. His boyhood home was located at 100 North Main Street. In 1862, Adam Rankin Johnson was commissioned a Colonel in the 10th Kentucky Cavalry of the Confederate Army. On June 30, 1862, Colonel Johnson and his two “Breckinridgians Guards,” Robert Martin and Amplious Owen, attacked a company of Federal soldiers who occupied a two-story brick building at 415-425 North Main Street. Johnson and his men escaped unhurt; several of the Federal soldiers were wounded in the brief battle. Johnson and his Confederate 'army' marched back into town two weeks later and seized the courthouse, flying the Confederate flag over Henderson for one day on July 17, 1862. Shortly thereafter, Johnson successfully raided Newburgh, Indiana, where he threatened to use a 'cannon' (actually a stovetop lying atop wagon wheels) if the community did not surrender. Adam Rankin Johnson was promoted to brigadier general in 1864.

By JOHN HALLOWELL

Adam Rankin Johnson is, without doubt, Burnett County’s greatest hero. The county was among the wilderdest places in the west when Johnson made his home here in 1854, but the twenty-year-old Kentuckian proved equal to every adversity, and then some. At various stages in his life, he was an Indian fighter, a Confederate general, the founder of Marble Falls (after being severely wounded during the war) and the only blind man on record to lead a cattle drive. Combining the best traits of legendary figures as diverse as Robin Hood, Daniel Boone and Helen Keller, Johnson gained celebrity status across the South, and had an enormous impact on our area’s history. Every Texan can be proud of Adam Johnson’s amazing achievements.

In Johnson’s boyhood was a perfect preparation for his exploits in later life: the son of a prominent physician in Henderson, he enjoyed a freedom to roam the forests and fields, while acquiring a superb education during evening hours at home. At the age of eight he was allowed the use of a gun, and became an expert shot and a great hunter. He also accepted a job at a factory. He was healthy, strong, and active, and quickly became a leader of the other boys. James R. Holloway, who later fought for the Union army, described Adam as a born leader: “He was ever characterized by a genius in designing and a boldness in executing, and got us in and out of many scrapes.” His keen powers of observation and his decisiveness would serve him well all his life.

At the age of twelve, Adam was hired by a pharmacist who preferred pleasure to work and left the business almost entirely to Adam’s care. Adam managed the store for three years until, at the age of sixteen, he established a store at a factory and was put in charge of eighty workers. His study of human nature and his enormous personal energy helped him set production records, but at age twenty the restless young man decided to go west.
forces of the Union Army. His most fa-
mous escapade, the subject of the book
"Thunder From a Clear Sky," was the
capture of the Federal arsenal in New-
burgh, Indiana.

As Johnson himself told the story, he and his twenty-seven men prepared for the attack across the Ohio River by manufacturing two "cannons" from old wagon wheels, a charred log, and a stovepipe. They aimed the "cannons" at the town from the most visible spot on the Kentucky side of the river, then Johnson and two of his men crossed the river in a skiff, heading directly toward the house where the guns were stored, while Martin and the other twenty-four men crossed the river on a ferry a few miles upstream, to attack the town by land.

The guns were unguarded, and the three men began to barricade the doors and windows to wait for Martin, when they noticed a number of men in a nearby hotel. Johnson walked to the double doors of the hotel and found himself facing the guns of eighty armed men. Telling them that they were about to be surrounded, he convinced them to lay down their guns and surrender. When Martin arrived, they filled two wagons with rifles and took them to waiting boats. As several citizens tried to orga-
nize the two hundred and fifty "Home Guards" for an attack, Johnson shouted to them that he would leave peaceably with the guns, but, gesturing toward the "cannons" on the other side of the river, threatened to shell the town to the ground if attacked. No one attacked, and the twenty-eight arrived safely back in Kentucky with all the guns they could carry. The Union Army massed troops at every town on the Ohio, fearing a repeat performance, and the London Times had a lengthy editorial upon the importance of this first town captured north of the Mason-Dixon Line. Twenty-eight men had struck fear into the hearts of the North.

In July of 1864, General Johnson divided his force into three groups to attempt the capture of a Union force numbering three or four hundred. About fifty of the Union soldiers surrendered to General Johnson himself. As he led them back toward his lines, one group of his men mistook them for attackers and fired at the Union soldiers. A musk- ket ball struck General Johnson in the

(Continued on page 8)
The deck at Newburgh’s Edgewater Grille looks out over the Ohio River, where Adam Johnson crossed into Union territory with two men to seize the Federal arsenal in 1862. His “cannons” were set up on a railroad on a rise just east of Burnet.

His familiarity with the land from his surveying days was invaluable in his land business, and during his days of pursuing his earlier dream of building a city by the “great marble falls” of the Colorado River. His dream became a reality after the arrival of the railroad, and in 1867, he began the rapid development in “his” town of Marble Falls. The general’s land company continued to prosper with the growth of Burnet and Marble Falls. In 1890, he published a catalog entitled “Homes in Texas, 200,000 Acres of Valuable Land for Sale.” One of the listings was for “$500 acres, 6 miles SW of Burnet, 2 dwelling houses, everlasting water, no better grazing land in Texas, all under 5-acre fence; price $3.00 per acre; terms easy.” Another featured a “nice residence, 300 yds. from public square; rents without trouble at $12.00 per month, price $500.00.”

Sometimes strangers would come to the office. The ex-governor of Texas, Francis R. Lubbock, wrote of General Johnson: “He was green in glasses, would receive strangers in his office, point out on the map the various lands, describe them most accurately, for he knew the acre and square foot of the surveyed land. The parties would leave the office, never dreaming that he was blind.”

The When Johnson traveled in his later years, he was usually accompanied by Earl Moore, the son of former slaves who came to Marble Falls as a three-year-old during the Reconstruction in 1865.

At the Herman Brown Free Library in Burnet, I saw a handwritten letter from Mr. Moore, in which he said, “As I grew in stature, I became the eyes of the best friend I have ever known, the one and only General Adam Johnson. I led him to all of his business trips and meetings, and in this I was more than a friend.”

Johnson’s granddaughter, Martha J. “Jo” Hammond, who lived in Burnet until her recent passing, remembered with pride how her grandmother around the Burnet square when she was a little girl.

Johnson’s children inherited their parents’ strength of character, and several went on to noteworthy achievements of their own. Adam Rankin Jr.
Although he was blinded at the end of the Civil War, Adam Rankin Johnson lived a long and extraordinarily productive life. The old factory in this photo (where Hampton Inn now stands) was just one of the many monuments to his vision and drive; he was responsible for building the old “college” building in Marble Falls (now home to the Falls on the Colorado Museum) and two historic homes in Burnet (Rocky Rest, next to Hamilton Creek, and Airy Mount, just off Highway 29 near the railroad crossing east of town).

became city manager of Austin, and helped make it into a modern, growing city. A grandson and a great-grandson (both named Adam Rankin Johnson, as well) became professional baseball players. Great-grandson Ross Johnson is a prominent businessman in Marble Falls today.

When General Adam R. Johnson died in 1922, his body was laid in state at the Capitol Building in Austin, while thousands around the state of Texas paid their last respects. Streets and parks in several towns are named after him. A portrait of the general, painted by his granddaughter, Glory Posey, hung for many years in the lobby of the Marble Falls city hall. Ray Mulesky of Evansville, Indiana, wrote a book in 2005 (“Thunder From a Clear Sky”) detailing his capture of the federal arsenal in the town of Newburgh, Indiana. That exploit was described by a Union officer as “the most reckless, but most successful military maneuver achieved” by either army during the war. Very few have ever lived a life of such courage, honor, and vision. We in Burnet County can be proud to honor his memory.

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A crowd considerably larger than the entire population of Castell gathered inside (below) and outside (above) the new fire hall to support the Castell VFD’s annual BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, July 28. Dub Miller and Bill Tuckness provided live music for the event.
Some of the next month’s best events around the Highland Lakes (clockwise from above): The Oatmeal Festival, described by organizers as “the most OAT-Rageous festival in Texas,” will be held Friday, August 31, and Saturday, September 1 (the weekend before Labor Day).

That same Saturday, the Kingsland Lions Club will host a big Pancake Breakfast at the Kingsland Community Center. The next Saturday (September 8), the Highland Lakes Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force will hold their Bluebonnet Air Show at the Burnet airport.

And on September 15, the public is invited to the Wreyford Foundation’s Hill Country Space Expo, to be held at the Boys & Girls Club in Marble Falls. The free event features interactive displays, authentic space program artifacts and actual former astronauts.

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GRAND OPENING
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Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!
Elevate Church and the City of Marble Falls sponsored a “Sk8 Comp” skateboard, scooter and bicycle party at the Skate Park on Main Street on Tuesday evening.

Harry Mueller keeps adding features at his newly-acquired Peach Valley Farm (on Hwy 281 in Round Mountain). He now offers BBQ and a line of decorative wood windmills, water tanks and chuck wagons (see ad on page 9), and hopes soon to have a good selection of Talavera pottery for sale.

Officers of the Kingsland Garden Club presented their August “Beautification Award” last week to owners Rick Gregory and Drew Gerencer, of Grand Central Cafe.
Chapter Regent Joy Shirley (left) and Chaplain Jessamyn Putnam welcomed Marcia Neuhaus of Tow as the newest member of the Llano Uplift Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. The induction took place during the regular DAR meeting on Saturday, July 28, at the River City Grille in Marble Falls.

A Young Life group from Llano County gathered for a group picture in Colorado during last month’s summer camp.

Seth Smith and Kay Baker were among the accomplished singers who performed before a capacity crowd at the Mambo Italiano Ristorante during a classical music event in Bertram on August 1. They will team up once again to host the Hill Country Community Theatre’s popular Talent Show on August 19.

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Above: John Arthur Martinez and Chris Reeves entertained a crowd of diners at the Trailblazer Grille in Burnet on Tuesday evening. They will be among the featured musicians at the Marble Falls Music Festival (which will include a concert by Mark Chesnutt) on October 13.

At left: Marcus and Sara Acker entertained guests at The Place Downtown on the evening of Saturday, July 28.

Dub Miller and Bill Tuckness provided quality live music outside the fire hall during the Castell VFD-EMS BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, July 28.
The historic Badger building, on the southeast corner of the square in Burnet, is undergoing a thorough restoration. It was built in 1883 by Brandt Badger, who ran a drugstore there with his son before helping General Adam Johnson build the “new” town of Marble Falls.

Workers are making steady progress on the long-awaited gas station at the new H.E.B. grocery store in Marble Falls. Parts of the expanded parking lot have already been completed, and more is on the way!

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**Pet of the Week**

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