A crowd of parents and students gathered outside Packsaddle Elementary School in Kingsland early Wednesday morning, as the Llano ISD began its 2018-2019 school year. Most other schools in the Highland Lakes area will begin their school year next week, and several school-related events are scheduled for this weekend.
The Burnet Fire Department’s FREE Back to School Bonanza, offering haircuts, school supplies, backpacks, and much more, will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Saturday (August 18).

By JOHN HALLLOWELL

The Burnet High School Esprit de Corps will be holding its 3rd Annual March-a-thon Fundraiser from 8 a.m. to noon this Saturday (August 18). The March-a-thon is an event where the Burnet HS Band and Highlandettes parade through town, performing and giving back to their amazing community. This year’s route will take the EDC to Delaware Creek, Delaware Springs, the Oaks Nursing Home, and will be finishing near the Burnet Square.

The Burnet Fire Department will host its FREE Back to School Bonanza, offering haircuts, school supplies, backpacks, and much more, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 18.

The Hill Country Community Theatre will host its 4th annual Fall Talent Show at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 18.

Kingsland’s River Rat Revue will be playing from 8 to 11 p.m. this Saturday (August 18) at On The Rocks in Cottonwood Shores. Call 830-637-7417 for reservations.

The Midnight Flyer Band, from Dripping Springs, will perform from 9 p.m. to midnight this Saturday at Brass Hall in Marble Falls.

The Llano Community Theatre group will host its 1st Annual “Freeze Off” Homemade Ice Cream Challenge, from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, August 19, at the American Legion Hall. There will be live music (by Gary Lee Cox), refreshments and family fun; the Community Judging will be held at 4 p.m.

The Alzheimer’s Association will be holding a Virtual Learning Series, with lunchtime programs (at the “Market on H” building in Marble Falls) on August 23 (Healthy Living), September 20 (Understanding Dementia) and October 25 (Know the 10 Signs). Call 512-361-6241 for details and/or reservations.

Llano merchants will host a Fourth Friday Artwalk - White Linen Night from 5 to 7 p.m. on August 24. A White Linen reception will be held at the Dubs Hotel, beginning at 7 p.m.

The JLK Event Center in Llano will host a Peddler’s Show and Hill Country Hunting Expo on the weekend of August 24-26.

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 and 12 to attend Camp Agape at no cost to their families. To learn more about the run, visit the organization’s website at www.campagapepetexas.org.

Fall Creek Vineyards will hold a Harvest Festival, with fine food and wine, live music, grape stomping and more, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 25. See fev.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 oatmeal festival.org 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 (see ad on page 9).

The Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center will host its 35th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 1. Register online or call 830-693-3656 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.

Llano will host its annual Wild Game Dinner, to benefit Llano County’s 4-H and FFA, from 6 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, September 8, at the JLK Event Center.
Scatterthought

I guess I’d better start with the alleged “Talent Show” at the Hill Country Community Theatre this Saturday night. I have been very much impressed with the entertainment offered there, so (even though I feel eminently unqualified) I agreed to participate once before (when I thought they really needed participants). It didn’t seem to do any permanent damage, but I was really surprised at how much I enjoyed the show. (I don’t know if others will experience the same sense of delight as I do, but unless I can come up with a really good excuse I will be in the lineup this Saturday.) You are welcome to come and laugh with me (or at me); the 7:30 show is by donation (‘pay-what-you-can’).)

Before I forget, I want to mention the “Sunday Night” at Anheuser Busch & Trust in Granite Shoals. The public is invited for free ice cream sundae from noon to 5 p.m. (or until they run out) this Friday (August 17).

I hear from board member Gerald Kasper that last month’s well-attended wild game dinner for His Joshua House (held July 2 at the Kingsland Community Center) raised more than $46,000. That is an impressive show of support for the faith-based men’s sober living facility in Kingsland, and the board is very grateful. Thanks to all who attended and participated in the auctions and raffles.

Speaking of “well-attended” events, the crowd at Hayley Nelson Park in Burnet for the Pat Green concert last Saturday night was probably the largest ever at Burnet’s “Summer Concert Series.” I was worried that it might have to be canceled because of bad weather, but (at least as long as I was there) the rain held off and a huge crowd was enjoying the concert. Of course there will be a crowd wherever Pat Green plays, but I think a lot of the credit for the success of the concert series belongs to Damon Berte, of Double Eagle Entertainment. I was very sorry to miss the “Thank You!” event for Llano County firefighters, held at the fire hall in Llano on Tuesday. All the area firefighters seem to have been overworked this summer, and I think everyone appreciates their extra efforts during those extra-hot weeks!

Much of the focus around the Highland Lakes area these days is on “Back to School” events. Which reminds me that I neglected to include the requested back-to-school best wishes in the Sures Cuts ad. And THAT reminds me of how much I am indebted to my very supportive regular advertisers (Thanks, Charlotte!) for their loyalty and patience. Because they pay the bills, I don’t have to charge for my paper. If you want to support the Highland Lakes Weekly, please look for opportunities to do business with my advertisers!

I have had several very interesting phone calls this past week, and at least a couple should soon turn into interesting stories. One that I can mention this week is a unique book put together by two of my “artistic” friends. Famous songwriter Alex Harvey (who recently moved from Nashville to Llano County) has collaborated with well-known artist Daniel Adams (who moved here from Florida a few years ago); he has taken a collection of Daniel’s pictures (paintings and drawings, I think) and written songs for each, to be placed on facing pages in the book. They are planning a public event in October to introduce the book. I hope to have more details in coming weeks.

Another story involves the famous Re-Max hot-air balloon. I hope to have more details in next week’s paper.

Wendy Ferrell took this picture of me at the end of my audition for the Hill Country Community Theatre’s annual Talent Show last Saturday. I am always glad to support the theatre’s excellent work, and I think the audition went well, but I still can’t help wondering if this was a wise decision! (You can see more Talent Show photos on page 15.)

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Cameron and Heather Travis, of 4-T Propane, presented Kingsland School Principal Meloni Puisines with 100 backpacks filled with school supplies—and a check for just over $1,000—on Wednesday morning. Numerous other local businesses and individuals also contributed to the cause.

Workers were still busy this week putting the finishing touches on the former Scott & White clinic in the Kingsland Plaza. It should be ready by “Opening Day” on Monday to serve Kingsland School as administrative offices, classrooms for grades 5, 6, 7 & 8, a science room and an art room.

One of the nearly-finished classrooms in the new Kingsland Plaza section of Kingsland School. The charter school is adding 8th grade this year, and hopes to offer K-12 in coming years.
Members of the Kingsland/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce held a mixer after work last Thursday at the O2 Kool Kreamery’s mobile ice cream parlor (usually parked across RR 1431 from Chapman Docks in Kingsland).

The Kingsland Chamber held its monthly Breakfast Club networking meeting on Wednesday morning at the new Prosperity Bank, located at the intersection of Hwys 1431 and 2900 in Kingsland.

Peggy and Karl Wallace posed for this photo after last Sunday’s morning services at Highland Lakes Baptist Church in Kingsland, where Karl is the new pastor. They retired to Kingsland in May, after serving for 48 years in the mission field (most recently in Bogota, Colombia). The public is invited to a “Get Acquainted” ice cream social on August 26 (see ad on page 11).

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The biggest news on Lake LBJ in the summer of 1970 was the beginning of construction for a new, $40 million dredging plant "around the Granite Shoals Youth Camp." 7.5 miles outside Marble Falls in Llano County, and the impending lowering of the lake to make that construction possible. In an effort to facilitate the lake-lowering, a $2.7 million contract was awarded in the summer of 1970 to the H.B. Zachry Company of San Antonio for modifications to the Wart Dam (as well as some site work at the power plant location). The lake was to be lowered by 31 feet beginning September 8.

Back in Kingsland, the excitement over the first-ever Aqua Boom festival was tempered by the news of a tragic accident on June 19, two weeks prior to the event. The Lake Travis News-Aournal reported on the death of Mike Ainsworth, son of local real estate promotor Odie Ainsworth (who died a few days later at Angleton's Brazilian River Club.)

The first festival, held July 4, was a great success. There were 23 entries in the lighted boat parade, and "a brilliant display of fireworks over the water that lit up Lake Travis and the sky in traditional red, white and blue." Spectators in boats filled the lake near 2900 bridge, and lakeside parks were filled with people watching the show, as well. The Highland Lakes Country Club reported its "largest group of golfers" to date that weekend. Plans were immediately being made for a bigger and better Aqua Boom the following year.

At the request of county commissoner Drace Williams, a new $175,000, 3.5-mile Farm-to-Market Road "from Hwy 1431 to Lakeshore Heights, servicing three subdivisions" was approved by Llano County on July 14. Plans for a new, 2,385-sport post office were announced later that month, and the Highland Lakes National Bank announced that it had surpassed $10,000,000 in deposits and was now the "largest bank in the Highland Lakes area." A second "Singspiration" was planned for July 31 at the Lions Park, featuring "the youth choir from Marble Falls" as well as "a small vocal group from the Full Gospel Church in Austin and an instrumental group from Lampasas, as well as several local individual and group choirs.

Sandra Gross opened "Sandra's Beauty Salon" on West Street near the end of July. Ray and Judy Berry sold "Berry's Grocery" (now King-Island Health & Fitness) to Ed Martin (from Houston) and bought the High-Islander Center Laundromat (now Linda Marie's Laundromat) across the highway. Mr. and Mrs. O.D. Montgomery bought the Fannie Mae Sport Shop and renamed it "Ladies Sport Shop." The Highland Lakes Na- tional Bank announced an Open House at its recently-expanded building ("now double its original size") on August 23. On September 3, the receding lake exposed an "unsightly mess" of trash and debris, plus a very unappetizing smell from "just plain crud" on the suddenly-visible lake bottom when the lake level was lowered only seven feet. On September 24, workers discovered the wreckage of a 1955 Ford on the bottom of the lake. It contained the skeletal remains of Mrs. Charlene Frances Sigler, who had been reporting missing five years earlier. She had been the wife of former minor-league umpire Fred Sigler, who built the Hill-Hi Way Motel in Kingsland in 1965 and operated it for at least 5 years. Foul play was suspected, and Mr. Sigler was questioned by Sheriff Gail Ligon, but there was never enough evidence to bring any charges. By October 8, with the lake down 31 feet, area wells began to go dry. Grocery stores were losing tons of gallons of bottled water.

Kingsland's first Girl Scout troop was organized at the Nob Hill home of Mrs. Emma Rea (who later wrote on September 14, Syria's Beauty Pageant) and Mrs. W.W. Hollinack (with their 19-year-old daughter, Pa- mela) supplied Kingsland with shrubs, trees, plants and a variety of supplies and tools for planting.

The Farmers Home Administration approved a supplemental loan of $30,000 to begin construction on a wax mill at the 46 homes on the Ranton Farm. An earlier loan of $494,000 to the Lake Water Supply Corporation had not been sufficient to cover the lowest bids for the project.

A new Retired Teachers Association held its first meeting in Kingsland on November 2 in the upstairs "commu- nity room" at Highland Lakes National Bank. The Kingsland Chamber of Commerce scheduled its Fall Flower Show for No- vember 14 at the Kingsland Community Church's Barrow Hall. And United Airlines offered a Grand Tour of Europe for $999, plus a new 4,600-square-foot building (now El Acracero Mexican Restaurant) "across the street from the Kingsland Chamber of Commerce Hall, which was common and had been owned by Johnny and Jackie Veieto; it offered all kinds of appliances for sale (a 16-cubic-foot refrigerator was on sale for $298.

The Kingsland Volunteer Fire Department began a fundraising campaign, noting in a letter to the editor that only a third of the about 100 homes on their list had paid their dues the previous year ($10 for individuals, $15 for business- es). The Llano County Commissions voted to pay half the cost of a new firetruck.

The Kingsland Chamber announced that its office would be open from 9 to 5 Monday through Friday; under the management of Chuck Dodson, the chamber had just been printed, and several post cards were selling rapidly. Homer Richardson was re-elected as chamber president.

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Hatfield pur- chased the old Fred Wood Camp (on the Colorado River Arm of Lake LBJ), and the Llano News reported "Kingsland Day camp" to be the new name. The new King-Islander Scouts Troop 239 held an "Aunt Jennie Breakfast" at West Food Center, serving pancakes, toasts, etc., to more than 100 scouts on a Saturday morning in November.

Popular Austin singer Nick Jones, who was the owner/manager at Club Comanche in Granite Shoals, recorded a Christmas album for the Highland Lakes National Bank (which sold cop- ies for $1 apiece), and several autograph appearances were scheduled at the Holiday Lakes Shopping Center.

Construction began on the Kingsland Water System in December, but was almost immediately shut down when prop- erty owners protested the threat of pollution of the water intake, near the Fred Wood Camp. A search began for a more appropriate location, and a site on the Dainger Boys Ranch was selected. That was deemed impractical, and Lions Park was the next location considered. It would be more than a year before The Kingsland Water System Becomes Reality. The Kingsland Water Supply Corporation System opened...
The building of the Thomas C. Ferguson power plant in Horseshoe Bay (pictured in the foreground above, in front of its replacement in 2014) had many reverberations around Lake LBJ, including a huge fish kill and the discovery of a probable murder victim when the lake was lowered to facilitate construction.

on January 4, 1972; Congressmen Bob Pease made a dedication speech at the Grand Opening.

The first Kingsland news which made the front page of the Marble Falls Highlander in 1971 was a tragedy which actually occurred on December 30. Two Marble Falls girls were struck and killed by a car outside the Green Acres miniature golf course on Hwy 1431 (now the home of Ona’s Attic). The same issue described the Kingsland Water Supply Corporation as well as a “holding” pattern as legal details were being worked out to allow an intake pipe to be installed at the Kingsland Lions Club Park.

The first baby born in Llano County that year was “a baby girl born to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Don Ivey of Kingsland” on January 6, C.H. Chastain was sworn in as Justice of the Peace for Precinct #5, and opened an office in Kingsland. A fascinating article by Herman Smith recounted the history of the Lakewood Forest III subdivision, from its beginnings (when Forrest Ross bought 67 acres along the Colorado River arm of Granite Shoals Lake from Mrs. Ona Bedford in 1960) to 1970. The article listed many of the prominent citizens who lived there, including Kit and Dottie Carson, Gene and Juanita Bilberry (and their five sons), Truman and May Thurman, Herman and Pearl Smith, and Weldon and Linnie Osbourn, whose daughter Linette (three years old when the article was written) was the only resident born to the neighborhood.

The lake had already been lowered to allow construction of a new power plant at the former site of Granite Shoals Youth Camp (next to the planned new Horseshoe Bay development), and at the end of January a huge “fish kill” was announced by Texas Parks and Wildlife, apparently to eliminate undesirable species of fish and prepare for stocking of desirable species as the lake was re-filled with water. The announced date was March 27 & 28, when almost $50,000 worth of rotenone would be applied by special barges and spray-boats. The optimistic headline declared that Lake LBJ would become a “spanking new sportsmen’s paradise.”

That week’s paper also announced that the Kingsland Water Supply Corporation’s intake (“between Valentine’s and Bray’s lodges”) had been re-classified as a well, so construction could be legally resumed.

Morrie and Judie Steen opened a “Mastercraft” showroom on Hwy 1431 (no specific address given). It was billed as a “one-stop service for the home builder, the buyer and do-it-yourself enthusiast,” featuring tile, bathroom fixtures, flooring, draperies, etc. More than 400 people attended the Grand Opening on February 6.

The Kingsland Chamber board met with local business owners to discuss plans for the 1971 Aquatic Boom. Since the Fourth of July would make for a three-day weekend, it was decided to add several new events. Plans were announced for a golf tournament, boat race and a carnival in addition to the basic parade and fireworks.

At a “Challenge of the ’70s” program held at the Comanche Club in Granite Shoals, Professor Charles Clark (from the University of Texas) predicted that 95,000 people would be living around the Highland Lakes by 1990. That prediction fueled calls already coming from the Highlanders and concerned citizens for much tougher restrictions on septic tanks and other sources of pollution near the lakes.

Gill Cross opened a new service center behind Garland Dages’ Highland Car Parts store on Hwy 1431 in Kingsland. A strike at a chemical company in New York caused a week’s postponement of the big “fish kill” on Lake LBJ, since T&PC&W could not get enough rotenone by the previously announced date. The event, reportedly the biggest fish kill in U.S. history, was expected to attract 50,000 fishermen to Lake LBJ. That was in the early spring, 1971.
Members at the Marble Falls Senior Center held a “31st Anniversary” party at noon last Friday, and a good crowd turned out to celebrate the event. Among the many regular activities at the popular center (for “Ages 50 Plus”) are potluck lunches every Monday and Friday, Game Days, and evening dances on the first and third Saturday of each month.

A group of long-time members were honored at this special table. From left, Dora Mae Lippe (a member since 1988), Izzy Wendler (1995), Jane Markley (1998), Loreta Stubblefield (1995) and Annie Herridge.

Seated at the head table for the anniversary party were past presidents Arnold Holden (accompanied by his wife, Lucille; the two were also celebrating their 74th wedding anniversary), John Salem (who was a charter member at the center’s opening in 1987), and Barbara Harrison.
Kim Webb presided over the annual meeting of The Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail last Friday evening at the Llano Library; the meeting was followed by a tour of the old jail. While many improvements have been made since the 1885 structure was listed as one of the state’s “Most Endangered Historic Places” a few years ago, the “Friends” still need to raise funds to make the building into a permanent museum. Planned projects include the installation of central heat and air (plus modern rest rooms) in the lower floor, historically occupied by the jailer’s family. The wish list also includes period lighting and landscaping to enhance the atmosphere. More than 3,000 guided tours have been given since the building was re-opened; many have been led by former mayor Mike Reagor (below).

Kingsland Lions Charities, Inc.

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At left: Items by this month’s “Crafters of the Month” (Pat O’Donnell, Pati Williams and Carol Turner) are available for sale at The Kingsland House of Arts and Crafts. Their crafts include gourds, wreaths, birdhouses, hand-painted furniture, embroidery and crocheting.

Above: Manager Deb Pritchard, of Buddies One-Stop in Kingsland, presented a check for $2,250.00 to Interim Director Monique Wallace, of the Kingsland branch of the Highland Lakes Boys and Girls Club, on Tuesday morning. The donation represents a portion of gas sales at Buddies from May 1 to July 31; an ongoing program will benefit the Kingsland club every quarter. Also pictured are: Jason Cullison (president of the local branch), Derek Timmons (owner of Buddies) and Bill Drake (executive director of the Boys and Girls Club for the entire Highland Lakes area.

The latest sale at Lisa Morgan’s new “Highland Lakes Tiny Homes” business sent this home (pictured leaving Kingsland on Hwy 1431) to a buyer near the Salt Lick BBQ restaurant in Driftwood. It was her fourth sale this year.

Representatives of several Llano County Volunteer Fire Departments posed for this photo with Smokey the Bear during a special “Thank You, Fire Fighters!” event sponsored by Lowe’s Market and the Llano Chamber at the Llano fire hall on Tuesday evening. Area firefighters have been busy this summer, and residents were glad to thank them.

Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!
Soapbox Classic organizers and sponsors gathered at 3rd and Main in Marble Falls (site of the popular downtown event) on Tuesday evening to present a check for $14,187.58 to CASA of the Highland Lakes. The adult Soapbox Derby will donate proceeds to the charity each year; next year’s event is scheduled for April 26-28.

Noted author Don Graham was the speaker at the Marble Falls Library’s “Booked For Lunch” program last Friday. He described the writing of his book, “Giant,” which tells the behind-the-scenes story of the making of the epic 1956 film.

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Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!

Burnet’s historic Fort Croghan has an eye-catching new entryway on Hwy 29 West. The annual Fort Croghan Day living history event will be held there on the second Saturday in October.

The old grocery store (and more recently a dollar store) on Hwy 29 at Main Street in Burnet has been totally re-furbished as The Ritzy Texan. A Grand Opening was scheduled for Thursday, August 16.

John Newell’s beautiful mesquite-and-turquoise table is one of the items donated for auction at Llano’s Wild Game Dinner on September 8. The annual event raises funds to benefit 4-H and FFA youth.

The Skylarks, an offshoot of the larger and better-known band, The Flashbacks, will be playing at The Place Downtown in Kingsland this Saturday evening.
Music around the Lakes

Above and Left: Well-known "Texas Country" musician Pat Green solicited some crowd participation during the finale of Burnet's Summer Concert Series last Saturday night.

A huge crowd braved the ominous weather predictions to hear the popular musician at Burnet's excellent music venue on Hwy 29 West.

Dale Watson and his Lone Stars entertained a capacity crowd at Bertram's Globe Theatre last Friday night.


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Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!
About twenty talented locals, of wildly varying ages and interests, signed up to audition last Friday for this Saturday evening’s Talent Show at the Hill Country Community Theatre in Cottonwood Shores. The show, which is billed as a “Donate-What-You-Can” event, will begin at 7:30 p.m. It will feature singing, dancing, instrumental music, humor, drama, and more. Participants pictured above are (from left): Hannah and Tess Chandler, Tristan and Turner Johnson, and Valor Fillingim. In the photo below, Fran McRedmond does a dramatic (but good-humored) poetry recital at her audition. This week’s show will be the Fourth Annual edition of the popular event, which raises funds for the non-profit theatre’s programs.

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12” eaves • custom soffit

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