New Bridge takes shape in Kingsland!

Probably the biggest news story in Kingsland this winter will be continued progress on the new RM 2900 bridge across the Llano River arm of Lake LBJ. An army of construction workers, aided by impressive-looking machines, produces new evidence of progress every week, but it’s hard for a casual observer to know whether workers are on track to finish in April as expected. The Highland Lakes Weekly will pass on any available information over the coming weeks.
Meetings (and programs) are at 2 p.m.
at the Kingsland Library on the
second Tuesday of each month.

We are all about building our knowledge of
genealogy and the historical facts surrounding
our ancestors. Are you aware that the
Internet is not always correct?
HLGS can help you learn the facts. You will
also learn to work with the different software
programs. If DNA testing interests you,
we offer discussions on that subject as well.

Your membership will benefit the genealogy
collection at the Kingsland Library.
For meeting information, contact our
2019 President, Michele Hogan, at 210-216-2044.

By JOHN HALLOWELL

The Burnet County Livestock
Show will be already underway by the
time this paper is published. It will con-
tinue on Friday and on Saturday morn-
ing (January 4 & 5). The Premium Sale
will be held on Saturday afternoon.
Master Gardener Sheyl Yantis will
present a program on “Hill Country
Landscaping” at the January 4 meet-
ing of the Kingsland Garden Club. The
meeting begins at 1 p.m. this Friday at the
Kingsland Library. Call (325) 388-8849
for more information.

Chuck Hixson will present an
“Archaeology of the Hill Country”
program and answer questions at Numi-
nous Coffee Roaster in Marble Falls this
Saturday morning as part of the Upper
Hill Lakes Nature Center’s Coffee
Talks program.

Artist Tety Oral will present a hand-held acrylic painting demo from
10 a.m. to noon at the Llano Fine Art
Gallery on Monday, January 7. The
demo cost is $5 and includes a potluck
lunch at noon, provided by guild mem-
ers. The monthly meeting of the Llano Fine Art Guild will begin at
1 p.m.

The new Highland Lakes Genealogy
Society (see ad above, left) will hold a
“kick-off” session at 1 p.m. on Tuesday,
January 8, at the Kingsland Library.
The Kingsland Chamber's first Winter
Texas Dinner of 2019 will be held
beginning at 5:30 p.m. next Tuesday evening
at the Kingsland Community Center.

Author Meg Gardiner will be the
featured speaker at the Herman Brown Free Library’s January 10 “Coffee
Talks” event (on the square in Burnet).
The event opens at 1:30 p.m. The program
begins at 2.

The Llano County Livestock
Show will begin with the Rabbit show
at 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 10, and
continue through the Premium Sale on
Saturday evening. A BBQ lunch will be held on Friday, and an Arts/Crafts & Food show will be held beginning at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

T. Graham Brown will be the fea-
tured performer at the Llano Country
 Opry on Saturday, January 12, with shows beginning at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Rick Trevino will perform at Brass
Hall in Marble Falls from 7 to 10 p.m.
on Saturday, January 12.

Hill Country Shops, on RR 1431 be-
tween Kingsland and Highland Haven,
will host a Chili Cook-Off at a Jake
Day event on Saturday and Sunday,
January 12 & 13. Call (512) 964-0636 if
you are interested in competing for $500 prize.

The Highland Lakes Quilt Guild
will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday,
January 16, in the Fellowship Hall at
St. Paul's United Methodist Church. The
event is free. For more information call 830-367-7310.

Charles Beierle will present a “Ge-
ology of the Hill Country” exhibit
and answer questions at Numinous Coffee Roaster on Saturday morning, January 19, as part of the Upper
Hill Lakes Nature Center’s Coffee
Talks program.

Well-known singer-songwriter Kim-
rice Rhodes will be on stage at Spice-
wood Vineyards beginning at 7 p.m. on
Saturday, January 12, for a concert spon-
sored by the Spicewood Arts Society.
Recent years have seen her recorded by such
stellar artists as Kacey Musgraves and
Rhiannon Geddert; she has also released
16 solo albums, written and produced three
musical plays, and recently published a
novella/cookbook!

The Highland Lakes Service League
will host a Chuck Wagon Chow Down
& Auctions beginning at 5:30 p.m. on
Thursday, January 24, at the Lakeside
Pavilion in Marble Falls. Proceeds will
help fund scholarships for women pursu-
ing further education) and grants to non-profit organizations. Tickets may
be purchased at Chocolate’s or by calling
830-693-2639.

The Llano Community Awards
Banquet will be held beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, at the JKL Event Center.

Marilyn Lowe will present a “Vultures” exhibit and answer ques-
tions at Numinous Coffee Roaster on Saturday morning, February
9, as part of the Upper Hill Lakes Nature Center’s Coffee Talks
program.

The Burnet Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Awards Banquet at the community center on Jackson Street, beginning with a social hour at 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 2.
Photo of the Week:

This photo shows an engineer's impression of 1948 Kings Island in the sketch depicting the then-just-proposed lake when the dam was built. I found a small copy of the drawing several years ago on the LCRA's website, but a full-size copy that I discovered last week at the Falls on the Colorado Museum in Marble Falls provided more detail.

Scatterthought

By JOHN HALLOWELL

"Upcoming Events" article.

Pat Matthews and her "best friend," Ranger the Therapy Dog, will be guests at the Highland Lakes Social Club's meeting at 11 a.m. next Monday (January 7) in the Rocz Hall fellowship room at Highland Lakes United Methodist Church (RR 1431 in Buchanan Dam). A catered lunch will follow.

On Tuesday (January 8, at 4 p.m.) the Llano Library will receive its Family Place Libraries designation. Staff from the Llano Library attended training in New York in the Fall of 2016 and have since developed several programs based on Family Place guidelines. National Co-ordinator Kathleen Decer, of Family Place Libraries, will make the presentation and give a short talk on the importance of play in early childhood development.

Commissioner Mike Sandoval (Llano County Precinct 3) invites the public to his Town Hall meeting on the evening of Tuesday, January 22. It will be the anniversary of his first Town Hall, and he is once again offering free chili and hot dogs to everyone who attends. The only catch is that you need to RSVP at 512-793-2007 or commissioner@co.llano.tx.us so he'll have an idea how much food to order. The Town Hall will be at his office in the East Llano County Annex, next to Highland Lakes United Methodist Church in Buchanan Dam. I thought I had an email with the exact times and more details, but as I type this late on Wednesday night, I can't find it. I'll include any necessary updates or corrections in next week's paper.

I have been looking online for updates on the construction of the replacement bridge on RR 2900 (or as TxDOT calls it, RM 2000), and have even tried to call District Engineer Terry McCoy, who was here for the press conference a couple of months ago. I finally filled out the email request form to ask a couple of questions: (Is it on schedule? What has been done so far?), but I haven't heard back yet. I've heard people say that it's going very well and is actually ahead of schedule, but I missed an opportunity to learn more when I forgot about a New Year's Day meal for bridge workers at Valentine Lakeside. I go down there to take pictures when they are not working, and it looks to me like they are making good progress. I think they should be 40% through by now, but I can't tell by just looking. I'll try to get some real info as soon as I can.

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Day 9, 10
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January 4, 2019 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 3
Aaron and Jennifer Richardson’s new Lazy Heron coffee shop opened last Saturday, across RR 2900 from H.E.B. in Kingsland.

A crowd gathered on Saturday morning to see the new coffee shop and sample its wares. Behind the counter (L-R) Jennifer Richardson, Joey Wolfe, Maksinsay Maciek and Madison Caropepe hurried to fill orders for the line of customers.

Owners Aaron and Jennifer Richardson worked along with their employees to provide excellent service at their new Lazy Heron coffee shop. The artistic “menu” on the wall behind them lists a variety of coffees, teas, lattes and hot chocolate for sale.
Carrie Kinnison, of Marble Falls, taste-tests her aromatic chili at the CASI chili cook-off held last weekend at the American Legion Hall in Kingsland. She was one of 54 cooks at the annual event.

Staff members at the Kingsland Library present a plaque to Constable Bill Edwards for his many acts of cheerful volunteerism to help the library. Perhaps most notably, he coordinates the Hometown Heroes event, where local First Responders meet children and demonstrate their vehicles and equipment each summer. From left: Elizabeth Kyle, April Puryear, Constable Edwards, Amber Milum and Claudia Wolfe.

Members of the Kingsland House of Arts and Crafts chose new officers at their Christmas Lunch last month. From left: Pat O’Donnell, co-treasurer; Nina Price, Secretary; Renee Morgan, co-treasurer; Joanne Hanifan, President; Dawn Nicks, 1st Vice President; and Sharon Joy Freer, 2nd Vice President.
Pet of the Week

Flora is a super sweet girl. She really enjoys attention and being loved on. At just six months old, she is very much a puppy who likes to run and play and is still very trainable. Flora would do well in a home where she can be given a lot of attention. For more information, please call HCHS at 512-793-5463. To see all our wonderful animals, please visit our website at www.hillcountryhumanesociety.org.

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Information from B. Zachry Co. (512) 226-5203

The Club Comanche in Granite Shoals, which had closed its doors the previous September, re-opened in late summer with a new name: "Hill Country Lakes" in August. The new management promised to honor memberships which had been current when Club Comanche closed, and invited new members to apply while pointing out that membership was not necessary to enjoy fine dining and entertainment at the Club. A $25 initiation fee would entitle new members to $5.85 drinks from the club bar, free use of the club's pool, picnic area, fishing dock and marina, plus admission to members-only events and color television for sporting events in the club's private recreation area. General Manager and Manager of Food Service, Bob Collier (who had previously worked at the German-American Restaurant in Buchanan Dam and at the Highland Park restaurant in Barron) offered delicious full-meal specials "all under $1.65."

Residents in Kingsland's Comanche Rancheras were worrying about the lack of information available to them on what's happening with the project they believe is a joint effort of H.B. Zachry and former President Lyndon B. Johnson. "Modular concrete homes were being tracked in from San Antonio in two pieces and assembled on sites in Comanche Rancheras; residents believed that they did not meet the subdivision's restrictions, which forbade "structures" from being "moved on the property" and required a minimum floorspace of 1,000 square feet. "The principal fair had reported in August that his steering committee had a detailed description of the proposed utility district for "Kingsland, Sherwood Shores, and the surrounding area" ready for the public to vote on in about two months. The proposed district would be divided into two sections divided by the Colorado River. Kingsland Municipal Utility District on the west side, and Lake LBJ Municipal Utility District #2 on the east side.

By JOHN HALLOWELL

This ad appeared in the Highlander after residents complained about a lack of information on the modular concrete homes appearing at Comanche Rancheras, LBJ's subdivision on the south side of the lake.

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The Skylarks provided quality “big band” dance music for the Kingsland Chamber’s New Year’s Eve gala on Monday evening at the Kingsland Community Center.

Local musical celebrity John Arthur Martinez, accompanied by Caleb Rojas and Luiz Coutinho, entertained guests at a New Year’s Eve party hosted by the Vineyard B&B at Lost Creek (near Sunrise Beach).

Many Highland Lakes area residents celebrated the arrival of the New Year with private fireworks displays.

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TRAVELERS
A cheerful group gathered on Monday morning for a “Last Day Hike” on the Valley Spring Trail at Inks Lake State Park. A similar “First Day Hike” was held on January 1.

Hikers start up the hill overlooking Inks Lake and Spring Creek during the “Last Day Hike” on December 31.

The Llano Library hosted a great “Noon Year’s Eve” celebration for children on Monday, December 31. The event featured all kinds of activities, highlighted by a balloon release at noon.

Balloons and confetti rained down on an excited crowd of children at noon on Monday in the community room of the Llano Library.
The popular local "Un-Muted" band (Tony Flores, Ben Thompson, Sammy Flores, Ryan Buck and Zane Lewis) followed Vision Arcade in providing live music for Monday night’s New Year’s Eve party at The Place Downtown in Kingsland.

An enthusiastic crowd enjoyed indoor and outdoor activities at The Place Downtown (across RR 1431 from the Kingsland post office) on New Year’s Eve. The relatively new restaurant and event center has become a popular gathering spot in Kingsland.

Above and at left: Eddie Shell’s "Not Guilties" kept the dance floor busy with classic country music in a New Year’s Eve party at his Cadillac Dance Hall, located one mile west of Hwy 281, on FM 1855 just north of Marble Falls.
A cheerful group gathered in front of the Castelli General Store on Tuesday morning for the traditional New Year’s Day Polar Bear Plunge, but only four were brave enough to actually participate.

The four brave souls who actually jumped into the Llano River on a 39-degree New Year’s morning were: Janice Jensen, Linda Bryant, Lee Butcher and Glenn Haderle. Needless to say, they didn’t stay in the water very long!

Llano County officials gathered for a group picture after an official swearing-in on New Year’s Day for those who won their races in November’s election. Among the newcomers was County Judge Ron Cunningham (at right), who was sworn in by District Judge Alan Garrett at the beginning of the ceremony. He then presided over the rest of the swearings.
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Above: Master Naturalist Billy Hutsen explains the parts of a bee hive to curious spectators at Numinous Coffee Roaster in Marble Falls last year. The Upper Highland Lakes Nature Center has a full schedule of Saturday morning “Coffee Talks” planned for the next few months (twice a month).

At right: The Falls on the Colorado Museum in Marble Falls (201 West Broadway) is currently hosting a traveling exhibit on Comanche chief Quanah Parker and his mother, Cynthia Ann, both of whom played a big role in the history of the Texas frontier. The exhibit will be in Marble Falls until February 28; museum hours are Thursday through Saturday, from 10-4. For more details, call 830-788-2197 or visit online at fallsmuseum.org.

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Above: Faith Academy grad Joelton Mayfield performed at Brass Hall in Marble Falls with a full band last Friday night.

At left: Cody Joe Hodges and his band performed at the Ramblin' Rose in Llano last Saturday night.

Below: Alex Harvey and Ginelle Sabilino entertained diners at the Badu 1891 restaurant in Llano last Saturday night.
Volunteer workers from Habitat for Humanity in Marble Falls are making good progress on the second of three planned Habitat houses on Avenue M.

Above: A big improvements program, to include a sandy beach, pedestrian bridge and walking trails, is just beginning at Lakeside Park. In the meantime, the big Panther Hollow apartment complex (below) is nearing completion on the south side of Marble Falls.

What are your hopes and dreams for 2019?

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