The Urban Slide company, from Houston, turned Third Street in Marble Falls into a three-lane, 850-foot-long water slide, helping hundreds of enthusiastic customers (of all ages) beat the heat last Saturday. Ten company employees and nearly one hundred local volunteers put the amazing water slide together on Friday night, kept a steady stream of sliders safely entertained all day Saturday, then dismantled the whole thing late Saturday night. The Marble Falls Chamber called the event a big success and announced plans to bring the slide back for two days next summer. See more slide pictures on pages 22 and 23.
Aspiring actors from the Hill Country Community Theatre’s Summer Youth Program will present showings of “Seussical Jr.” (previous production pictured above) at 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, with 1:15 matinees on Saturday and Sunday.

By JOHN HALLOWELL

The Kingsland Library will host a Wildfire on the Water program (Helping kids develop a true appreciation for nature) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, June 21.

The Burnet County Historical Commission will hold a Texas Ranger Memorial Cross Dedication at the grave site of two former Texas Rangers and pioneer Burnet citizens at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 22, at the Bethel Cemetery (700 CR 202). The gravesite of another Burnet pioneer will be marked with a medallion from the Sons of the Republic of Texas. The public is invited to attend the dedication, and a luncheon reception will follow at the Bethel Community Center (at the intersection of FM 963 and 2340).

Whipp Farm Productions will hold a Gun Show at the Burnet Community Center on Saturday (9 to 5) and Sunday (10 to 4), June 22 & 23.

The Kingsland Library will host an Open House from 2 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, to celebrate the opening of the new RM 2900, and to welcome returning friends and patrons from the south side of the lake.

Lisa Crawford, from Bandera, will be the featured performer at Texas Songwriters in the Round, scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, at the Texas Music Depot in Llano.

The Marble Falls Library will host the Hill Country Community Band’s annual Patriotic Concert at 4 p.m. on Friday, June 28.

Chapel of the Hills will host its annual Veterans Dinner at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 28.

The Santana tribute band Abraxas will be at the Uptown Theater in Marble Falls at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 29.

The Aqua Boom Scholarship Pageant will be held at the Kingsland Community Center on Saturday, June 29.

The First Baptist Church of Kingsland will host its annual Patriotic Meal from 3 to 5 p.m. and its Patriotic Concert at 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 30.

Well-known artist Kim Roberts will give a hands-on demo of Pastel Oil Painting from 10 to noon on Monday, July 1, at the Llano Fine Art Gallery. The $20 charge includes potluck lunch.

The Sunrise Beach Federated Church (105 E. Lakeshore Drive) will host a concert of Patriotic Music and Readings from 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3. Come as you are; if you’re in a bathing suit, bring a towel to sit on! Live music will be presented by pianist Becky Jones, the church choir and a few guests.

Kingsland’s 50th Annual Aqua Boom Festival will be held Thursday through Saturday, July 4-6 (see page 15).

The 2nd Annual Wildfire Dinner, to benefit His Joshua House, will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 6, at the Kingsland Community Center. Festivities will include live music, live and silent auctions and raffles for several great items (including a 1964 Ford Bronco 4x4!).

The River Rats will be playing at a street dance later that evening in the parking lot at First United Bank.

Several other lake communities will host Independence Day celebrations. The Llano Lake State Park will host an Independence Day Bike Parade from 9:30 to 11 a.m., and Horsehoe Bay will host a tribute to Kenny Chesney & Garth Brooks and a fireworks show. The City of Marble Falls (in partnership with First Baptist Church) will host Fourth of July festivities beginning at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 4. Activities will include a rock wall, bounce houses, waterslides, an interactive photo booth, giant lawn games and Go-Karts, plus live music and food vendors at the church (FM 963 and 2340 Drive). Llano will have a fireworks show on July 4, then another one at the Rockin’ Riverfest on July 6. That festival will also include Jet Ski races, a disc golf tournament, a Pet Parade, splash pad & water rides, BBQ Cook-Off.

John Arthur Martinez will perform at noon on Friday, July 5, at the Marble Falls Senior Center (Ave. C and 6th St.).

The Marble Falls Rotary Club will host its 70th Annual Fish Fry at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 12, at the Lakeside Pavilion.
The weather has been very interesting these past few days. Andy Virdoll took this amazing picture somewhere near Kingsland on Tuesday morning; there were plenty of dramatic clouds again on Wednesday evening.

Scatterthought

I want to start off this column with a huge “Thank You!” to my advertisers. I have been really proud of my paper since I added the “second section” in February, but the first few months involved a little “deficit spending.” I figured it was good practice (in case I get elected to Congress sometime), but it really wasn’t much fun. June is the first month that I’ve had a positive cash flow, and I am very grateful. I hope all my readers will pay attention to the ads and see if there isn’t someone here that you could do business with. And tell them you saw their ad in the Highland Lakes Weekly!

Of course, I wouldn’t have any advertisers if it weren’t for my loyal readers, and I want you to know (whoever you are that is reading this right now) that you are helping to keep this newspaper afloat, and helping me provide a source for good news from all around the Highland Lakes. There is so much good news going on in our neighborhood; it would be a real shame if it didn’t get reported (or at least some of it; I can’t ever seem to get all of it covered).

Speaking of good news, I was delighted to hear that the Hill Country Feed/HARTH “Feedraiser” was a big success. The “Healing And Recovery Through Horses” foundation is doing good things on the east bank of Lake Buchanan, and I’m glad to see the community supporting it. I hope to include more details in next week’s paper.

The Sunrise Beach Federated Church (106 E. Lakeshore Drive) will host a concert of Patriotic Music on the Fourth of July. The church is located at the corner of Highland Lakes and South of intersection of Hwy 29 and 1325 388-4187. highlandlakesumc.org

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John Hallowell

John Llano will have fireworks on the Fourth, but they’ll have another fireworks show on the 6th, to close out the town’s Rock’n Riverfest. That event will feature Jet Ski races and a whole lot more, centered around Buda Park on the north side of the Llano River.

John Arthur Martinez will be performing at the Marble Falls Senior Center at noon on Friday, July 5. The public is invited; there is no charge.

The community of Llano is rallying around 1-year-old William Leach, who was born with a very rare brain disorder and has developed cerebral palsy. He has been having seizures, and his medical expenses have been mounting; a fundraiser will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, at the Llano County Community Center. There will be a Fried Catfish Dinner (by donation), live music by Southern Underground, live and silent auctions, and a baked goods sale.

I think this will be enough writing for this week, although there are probably things I’ve forgotten. Thanks for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly; I hope you have a great week!
The Kingsland Garden Club presented this month’s “Beautification Award” to Kevin Todd and Kathy Lowdermilk of KT Waterfront Construction, who report that (with the recent landscaping) their beautiful new office just down the hill from the scenic overlook on RR 1431 is “finally finished.”

Above: Lambda Nu sorority members Rhonda Coker, Charlene Cummings, and Paula Maxcy took the Lambda Nu raffle quilt, made with an assortment of Aqua Boom T-shirts from most of the festivals 50 years, to Market Day on Main in Marble Falls last Saturday.

At right: This classy Weber grill looks a little bit out-of-place among the library shelves. It is the “Grand Prize” in this year’s Friends of the Kingsland Library’s 2019 Summer Raffle. The tickets are $5 each (or 5 for $20); the winning ticket will be drawn on July 8.
LakeLife Realty hosted the Kingsland Chamber’s Breakfast Club networking meeting on Wednesday morning. The event was sponsored by Paul Danna Home Repair.

The new Dollar Tree store, on RR 1431 in Kingsland (formerly Family Dollar) should be open for business by the time you read this. A sign in the window on Tuesday said “We Will Open on 6/20/19.”

The beautiful new home for Mr. Gatti’s Pizza (“a mini-GattiTown”), just west of the First Baptist Church on RR 1431 in Kingsland, is not quite ready, and is now projected to open for business “the week after Aqua Boom.” The current Mr. Gatti’s location will remain open through the July 4th weekend.

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June 21, 2019 Hiinthlade Lakes Weekly Page 5

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Pet of the Week

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His adoption fee is only $30.00 for the month of June, so hurry! For more information, please call HCHS at 512-793-KIND (5463).
To see all our wonderful animals, please visit our website at www.HillCountryHumaneSociety.com.

Music promoter Billy Scott sits at the desk of the professional-quality recording studio he built at his home in Kingsland. He is currently offering free recording time to area bands; he and his talented daughter, Sarah, also perform in popular “karaoke entertainment” gigs around the Highland Lakes area.

This cleverly-camouflaged 1984 Ford Bronco is the “Grand Prize” in raffles to support His Joshua House in Kingsland. The drawing will be held at a Wild Game Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, July 6.

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Marble Falls, Texas
Area First Responders congregated at the Kingsland Library just before noon last Friday for the Hometown Heroes program, introducing themselves and their equipment to children in the library’s Summer Reading Club. In the photos below, youngsters seemed particularly interested in the Kingsland VFD’s new rescue boat.
“Hometown Heroes” in their own right, members of the Lake Area Rods & Classics car club brought their cars to the Kingsland Library to join the First Responders there on Friday morning. The club is a longtime supporter of the Summer Reading Club and other area programs for children.

Not content to do just one car show on a sunny Friday, some of the members of the Lake Area Rods & Classics gathered that afternoon at the Gateway Gardens Senior Living community in Marble Falls.
The YMCA of the Highland Lakes (on Hwy 281S in Burnet) held a well-attended and much-enjoyed Casino Night fundraiser in the gymnasium last Saturday. Festivities included a BBQ-style meal, horse races (on the screen) and gaming at the tables.

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The Llano County Historical Museum hosted a “Founders Day” gathering last Saturday evening to commemorate the anniversary (163 years!) of Llano County.

Tours of the museum exhibits and a meal of Llano’s traditional pork burgers preceded the program, which featured talks on Llano history by former District Attorney Sam Oatman and others. (The Oatman family has played a prominent role in Llano history since the county’s early days.) The history program was followed by an “after dark” fireworks show.

Photos by John Hallowell
Above: Progress continues on Burnet’s Airport Static Display Restoration Project, and two of the historic aircraft (including this 1950s-era F-100 Super Sabre and a 1960s-era T-38 Talon) are completely redone.

At left: One of two new restaurants, a Burger King and a Captain D’s (seafood), rapidly taking shape between the Chicken Express and the Taco Bell on Hwy 281S in Burnet.

The Highland Lakes Genealogy Society will not be meeting in July. We will return to our regular time at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, in the large meeting room of the Kingsland Library.

You are welcome to attend the following meetings: August 13th our program will be “DNA and what they do” presented by Randy Whited; Tuesday September 10 our members will share their research from the Texas State Library & Archives; Tuesday, October 8 is a presentation by Phyllis Mallinak on creating a ‘Family Book’ from Family Tree Maker. November 12 is a presentation on using Fold 3 research program. December 10 is our annual Christmas Party.

*Snacks and refreshments are provided at each meeting.

*Membership is open to the public; Annual dues are $30 a single and $40 a married couple. Text or Call Shirley for more info 830-385-7070

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This group at Valerie Smasal’s “Calamity & Grace” shop on the west side of the square, was among the participants in last Saturday’s Llano Art Walk. A good number of Llano’s unique shops offered specials, displays and refreshments during the afternoon event. Jenny Kelso (3rd from left, of “Cadillac Gypsies”) provided live music at Calamity & Grace.

Matt Hilton and Harold Castleman performed at an “after-party” at Tommy’s Pizza following the Llano Art Walk. In the photo above, they paused to allow Tony Gutro (Community Development) and Briley Mitchell (Llano Chamber) to present door prizes.
Music Around the Lakes

Above: The LaDowz band from San Antonio opened last Saturday night’s concert at the Haley-Nelson Park amphitheatre, the first of this year’s Burnet Concert Series.

At left: Grammy Award winner David Lee Garza was the headliner at Haley-Nelson Park in Burnet last Saturday night, and a good crowd attended the first in this year’s “Concert Series” there. The next concert will feature Kevin Fowler on August 3.

Below: The “Hard Right” band, which performed on Friday night at Wakepoint LBJ in Kingsland, took part (with the “River Rats”) in a benefit concert at the Uptown Theatre in Marble Falls. The event raised funds to help Linda Kalaher and Debi Walker with medical bills.

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The camera missed the last letter of “YMCA” (the music that the Sunrise Beach “Beachers” were marching to), but captured a little of the excitement along RR 2900 during last year’s Aqua Boom Parade. This year’s parade, car show, water activities and fireworks show will all be held on Thursday, July 4, but other events will extend the celebration through Saturday, July 6.

Friday, July 5, will feature horseshoe and washer tournaments, an arts & crafts show, children’s rides and activities, a steak cook-off and live music.

Saturday, July 6 will offer a golf tournament, a BBQ cook-off, a wild game dinner and a street dance with music by Kingsland’s popular River Rate band.
There's a lot going on in Marble Falls these days! Above: Last Saturday was "Market Day on Main." At left: The new "Jardín Corona" Mexican restaurant opened on Tuesday morning at 3rd & Main; Patrice Streit and Ronda Vasquez showed off the new tasting room for Fiesta Winery (in Old Oak Square), and workers continue to make steady progress on the final phase of Homestead at Mormon Mill. At right, Taylor Smith gives the Rotary Club a report on last Saturday's successful "Urban Slide."
The Texas Indian Hobbyist Association brought its 63rd Annual Summer Powwow (featuring drummers, singers, costumed dancers, vendors, supporters and spectators) to Llano's JLK Event Center last weekend, and organizers are already planning to return for a Winter Powwow in January. See more “Powwow” photos on the next two pages (and many more on the Highland Lakes Weekly’s Facebook page).
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Two busy days of Summer Powwow activities included not only the Grand Entry (above) and displays (at right), but dances, raffles, contests, awards, etc. at the JLK Event Center, plus special appearances on the Llano square and at the Llano Nursing Center. There were also a few Iulus, (below, right) where some of the participants were able to catch up on social media.

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Photos by John Hallowell
Four teams of the “littles” stars in the Kingsland Little League competed last Saturday in a T-Ball Tournament fundraiser which raised $1,700 for field maintenance and equipment. Above, the Pristine Clean Mobile Details team won the tournament. At right, the other teams were sponsored by Home Smart, Winsborough Construction and Hood’s Games ‘n Things. Plans are already underway for a Fall Baseball season this year, and bigger and better activities in the future.

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There was lots of action last Saturday at the Little League fields in Kingsland. Above: One of the more advanced hitters faces friendly pitching. In the event of a strikeout, he would be allowed the use of a tee to put the ball in play. Because most of the hits were slow grounders, outfielders moved in to help their infield counterparts.

A batter takes advantage of the tee to get a hit during Saturday’s tournament.

Another successful hitter sprints toward first base as fielders scramble for the ball in one of last Saturday’s games.

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Thank you for reading the Highland Lakes Weekly!
The 850-foot water slide on Third Street in Marble Falls attracted a steady stream of participants from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. last Saturday, with the longest lines during the final two-hour segment of the day; these photos were taken before noon. Three lanes were available for would-be sliders; the wider middle lane allowed two-at-a-time slides. A $20 wristband paid for two hours of unlimited sliding; an all-day permit was also available.

A crowd of cheerful sliders starts the uphill walk to repeat the exciting 850-foot slide (nearly three football fields long). Some customers reported being able to slide 15 to 20 times during their two-hour time slot.
Urban Slide in Marble Falls

These photos show more of the action at last Saturday’s Urban Slide event in downtown Marble Falls. The Chamber of Commerce, which organized the unique event, reported that more than 900 people (from 5 years old to middle-aged adults) had purchased wristbands for Saturday's sliding. A two-day slide is already in the works for 2020.

Photos by John Hallowell

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