Long a familiar Highland Lakes landmark, Spider Mountain (on the east side of Lake Buchanan) has become a unique attraction (along with nearby Reveille Peak Ranch) for mountain bikers from all around Texas – and beyond. In addition to its spectacular view of Lake Buchanan, Spider Mountain boasts a re-purposed ski lift to carry mountain-biking enthusiasts and their bikes to the top of the mountain, plus an assortment of downhill trails and obstacles for all skill levels. In the photo above, a rider takes a high-speed jump near the beginning of one of the more challenging trails, just a few feet below the summit of Spider Mountain. See more “Spider Mountain” photos on pages 22 & 23 (and many more on Facebook, at “Highland Lakes Weekly.”)
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Llano’s dazzling Starry Starry Nights lighting display will open with a flourish at dusk this Friday; it will remain open each evening through December 31.

By JOHN HALLOWELL

St. James Lutheran Church (1401 Ford Street) will host Llano’s annual Thanksgiving Day Community Meal from 11:30 to 1 on Thanksgiving Day (November 28). No donations are required. Everyone is welcome! Burnet’s free Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at the Vanderveer Street Church of Christ.

Kingland Health and Fitness will host its annual “After-Turkey” Turkey Trot 5K at 8 a.m. on Friday, November 29.

Llano’s Starry Starry Nights lighting display will open at Badu Park on Friday night, November 29, and continue until December 31.

Kingland’s Small Business Saturday shop-local event will be held in the Prosperity Bank parking lot on Saturday, November 30.

Whisp Farm Productions will hold a gum show from 9 to 5 on Saturday and 10 to 4 on Sunday, at the Burnet Community Center (on Jackson Street by the railroad depot).

The Rita Jay shop, on Hwy 29 at Main Street in Burnet, will host a Small Business Saturday event (to “Support our Vets”) from 10 to 5:30 on November 30. If the day’s sales go the local VFW.

Philip Smith will bring his amazing “St. Paul Spracles” production to Pack-saddle Fellowship in Kingland for services at 9:05 and 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 1.

The Kingland Chamber will hold a mixer at Boat Town Dugger Bar on Thursday, December 5.

The Hill Country Community Theatre will present A Twisted Christmas Carol on three weekends from Thursday, December 5 to Sunday, December 22. A Poisonetta Sale will be held from 8 to 4 on Friday, December 6, at the Burnet Middle School Greenhouse.

The Llano Art Guild (503 Buchanan Ave) will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar Open House from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 6. Eat and drink while you shop for small or large gift items handmade by local artists.

The Watchmen quartet will sing at a Gospel Dinner, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, December 6, at The Place Downtown in Kingsland (across from the post office on RR 1431).

Burnet’s amazing Main Street Bethlehem production will open at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 6 and continue Saturday and Sunday nights.

Llano’s Reindeer Fun Run 5K, to benefit Meals on Wheels, will begin at the Train Depot at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 7.

The YMCA in Burnet (on Hwy 281S) will host a SS “Breakfast with Santa” from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 7. The event includes donuts, hot cocoa, story time, crafts, a chance to visit with Santa and have a picture taken.

The Rita Jay shop, on Hwy 29 at Main Street in Burnet, will host an Open House from 10 to 5:30 on Saturday, December 7.

A Members Wine Release Party will be held at 7 Creeks Vineyard (on CR 200A in eastern Burnet County) from 11 to 5 on Saturday, December 7.

The Llano Woman’s Culture Club will host its annual Christmas Home Tour from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 7. This year’s event will include a collection of vintage travel trailers from Sisters on the Fly (open from 2 to 4 p.m.).

Weekday Ministries will host its annual Holiday Trico, with a Chili Cook-Off, Holiday Bake-Off, Caroling & more, from 3 to 7 p.m on Saturday, December 7. Special music will be provided by Seth Cordova.

The Falls on the Colorada Museum will host a Christmas fundraising tour of four historic homes on the east side of Marble Falls from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 7.

Kingland’s first-ever lighted Christmas Parade will begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday night, December 7. It will follow the traditional route of the Aqua Boom Parade.

Llano’s annual Lighted Christmas Parade will be held on the courthouse (Continued on page 6)
Photo of the Week

One of many highlights this past week was this sunset, as seen from the pavilion at Donnell Estates, on the east side of Lake Buchanan. It is just north of Spider Mountain (another of my highlights), and residents were holding a chili-cook-off to help with the Burnet Chamber’s Bicycle Giveaway at Christmas on the Square on December 14.

Scatterthought

This is a short week for me, meaning that because of the holiday I have one less day to get the paper done. I’m not feeling especially thankful for THAT, but I had a great weekend, and when I get to relax on Thursday this week, I will be especially grateful.

I have found that whenever I am not behind schedule, I tend to feel lazy (and then I procrastinate). This week, I haven’t really had time for that, so I’ve been even more productive than usual (and I’m thankful for that). The weather has been just the way I like it: I haven’t heard yet about any bad mistakes from last week, and I’ve had several “adventures” that I’ve really enjoyed.

When I add those things to the “constants” in my life (four wonderful children, an amazing job, remarkably good health, a beautiful Highland Lakes “neighborhood” with so many friendly people, all the material things I’ll ever need – and COFFEE), I’ll have plenty of reasons to give thanks this Thanksgiving.

I know that not everyone has it so good, and I’ve had several encounters recently that made me more aware of that than usual. I hope that (even while I’m counting my own blessings) I’ll remember to pray for all those I promised to, and keep my eyes open for chances to help those less fortunate than I am.

One of the things that I especially appreciate about my “neighborhood” is that so many people seem so eager to help others, and the Thanksgiving events this past weekend reinforced that impression. Dozens of cheerful volunteers served meals to hundreds of their neighbors at Joseph’s Feast of Thanksgiving in Granite Shoals and the Marble Falls Mission Outreach at St. Frederick Baptist Church.

Now (unless you’re one of the early readers) it’s officially the Christmas season, and along with the parties and fun events there are all kinds of opportunities for giving. I haven’t tried to make a complete list, but I have heard of several just in these last few days.

One is the Kingsland VFD’s last “stuff the stocking” event of the year, scheduled for this Saturday (November 30). Volunteers (some in costumes) will be at the corner of 1451 and 2900 in Kingsland; all donations go to help the children of Kingsland to have a better Christmas. They asked me to mention that they will have applications on hand for families that need assistance; if that doesn’t work out, applications can be picked up during the week at the CTEC office, Pecos Elementary School or Headstart until December 4.

Also, there are “angels” still hanging on the Kingsland Library’s Christmas “Angel Tree,” and volunteers can pick a child or family whose Christmas wish list they’d like to help fill. Items requested include clothes, shoes, toys, etc., and I know that there are many other great organizations with some kind of Christmas effort going on.

Then there are the fun things. I listed quite a few in the “Upcoming Events” article, but I missed some, and some others I want to mention again.

This will be the first year for a Lighted Christmas Parade in Kingsland; the Kingsland VFD and the Hill Country Auxiliary are organizing it, and it is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 7. Unfortunately for me, that means I’ll have to miss the parade in Llano, which is scheduled for the exact same time (but I’ll probably have plenty of “Starry Starry Nights” pictures for next week’s paper).

Speaking of Llano, it seems like there’s always something going on at Calvary & Grace (on the west side of the Llano square). This Friday evening

(Continued on page 10)

Wishing You All a Very

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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November 29, 2019  Highland Lakes Weekly  Page 3
Mark Fernandes, of Ace Hardware, accepted the Kingsland Garden Club’s Beautification Award from KGC members Renee Case, Sharon Marshall and Mary Ann Atwood on Monday morning.

A large group from “Bikers Against Child Abuse” (B.A.C.A.) filled the parking lot at Guddies convenience store in Kingsland for a little while last Saturday.

Another charming “tiny home” arrived at Highland Lakes Tiny Homes (on RR 2545 in Kingsland) on Tuesday afternoon. The company will be holding an Open House from 11 to 4 this Saturday (see ad on page 21).

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Kindergartners at Packsaddle Elementary in Kingsland (above and below) presented a charming skit last Friday, based on the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Groups of children represented Pilgrims, Indians, corn, turkeys, and more.

Also at Packsaddle Elementary, the Boys and Girls Club of Kingsland presented a Thanksgiving play last Thursday evening. This play took a light-hearted look at Thanksgiving Day in the modern United States of America.

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November 29, 2019 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 5
**2nd Annual Stuff the Truck Toy Drive Event**

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**EVENTS: (Continued from page 2)**

Pastor Brian Minter (above) led the singing and gave a short talk before treating guests at Bible Baptist Church in Llano to a variety of delicious-looking desserts (some of which are pictured below) at a “Thanksgiving Pie & Praise” event on Tuesday evening.

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Wonderful news for Burnet! The Texas Zephyr, a 1945 C-47 similar to the “Bluebonnet Belle” (which was destroyed in a crash last year) has been donated to the Highland Lakes Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force by Karl Ritter of Brady. Formerly based in Honda, the “new” C-47 is in need of some repair and restoration, but insurance money from last year’s loss should cover all the expenses. Burnet should have a historical treasure for years to come.

Residents of Donnell Estates, on the east side of Lake Buchanan, held a successful Chili Cook-Off at their lakeside park. The event was a fund-raiser to help the Burnet Chamber of Commerce with its annual Bicycle Giveaway, scheduled for December 14 during the “Christmas on the Square” extravaganza.

The “B Team” band entertained residents at Celeste Care in Horseshoe Bay last Friday afternoon.
Well-known local doctor Kaleb Shaw, formerly with Hill Country Memorial, is opening his own new Shaw Pain Clinic (on Avenue E, just north of RR 1431 in Marble Falls) next week.

The familiar Trendz home decor shop, on Main Street in Marble Falls, now has a new name. It was recently purchased by Rick Scrimshire, of Kingsland, who re-named it "Indian River." That's the only change you'll notice; the merchandise and employees are still the same.

The Lakeshore Library in Buchanan Dam presented a program on Monday detailing the remarkable resurgence of Whooping Cranes in Texas, a species which once was near extinction.

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Small Business Saturday is an American shopping holiday held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving during one of the busiest shopping periods of the year. It is the counterpart to Black Friday (big box retail) and Cyber Monday (internet shopping) and encourages holiday shoppers to patronize brick and mortar businesses that are small and local.

The Kingsland Chamber of Commerce supports this effort and hopes you will too. This event is open to all businesses in Kingsland and the surrounding areas.

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For information (or if you would like to participate), please call Teresa Gray at 325-423-0113
Light-Up Parade

Lighting made photography difficult during the wonderful Light-Up Parade in downtown Marble Falls, but the picture above shows riders on the Atkins Pharmacy Wrappers float before the parade began, and the picture below captured some of the Girl Scouts in the parade.

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SCATTERTHOUGHT:
(Continued from page 3)

Blast, featuring Texas Tacos and Tammat, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 4. You can call 512.866-0121 or visit 7creeksvineyard.com/events for more information.

KT Waterfront Construction called just after deadline to ask about advertising; they would like everyone to know that they can have a new dock ready for you by next summer if you call soon. Look for ads here in coming weeks.

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The spectacular Walkway of Lights is already open at Lakeside Park in Marble Falls. It will remain open from 6 to 10 each evening (weather permitting) until January 1. The photos at left are a sampling of the 100-plus displays along the walkway.

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Ritzy Texan
Hwy 29 to Llano
Burnet Square & Courthouse

November 29, 2019 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 11
New tanks have been successfully installed at the Kwik Stop in Kingsland; the parking lot is paved, and new pumps should be installed early in December.

Work is well underway at the site of the new Community Resource Center at Broadway and Avenue J in Marble Falls.

A new medical building is under construction next to Austin Heart, across from the Burnet County annex on the south side of Marble Falls.

Meet Coco! Coco is a 3-year old Shepherd mix who weighs about 85 pounds. Coco is as sweet as her name. She is friendly and loves affection. She thinks she is a lap dog, although her size says otherwise. Coco would make a great companion for anyone looking for a forever best friend. She rarely barks, her kennel is never a mess, she knows “sit” and she gets along with both people and other dogs. Our adoption fees include shots, de-worming, micro-chip and a voucher for a free spay/neuter.

For more information please call HCHS at 512-793-KIND (5463). To see all our wonderful animals, please visit our website at www.HillCountyHumaneSociety.
Above: Members of the Lake Bottom Jazz Band posed for this picture before their Saturday evening performance at Fuel Coffee House in Llano. From left: Dave Hargett, Richard Golladay, Graham Avery, Don Danzin and Keenan Fletcher.

At left: Ryan Paul Davis played his traditional blues and folk music at the Boat Town Burger Bar last Saturday night.

Sam Williams was one of the guest performers at Jeralice Arsenault’s “Texas Songwriters in the Round” event, held at Badu 1891 in Llano last Thursday evening.

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The Falls on the Colorado Museum in Marble Falls (above) is hosting a Christmas Home Tour at four historic homes on the “upper east side” of town from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 7. Tickets may be purchased at the museum during regular hours and until 6:30 p.m. on the day of the event. The four homes are: the W.D. Yett House (at left) and (from top right) the Christian-Matern House, the Otto Ebeling House and the former First Baptist Church Parsonage.
An enthusiastic choir from Smoking for Jesus Ministries ("on fire for the Lord") serenaded guests and volunteers at Joseph’s Feast of Thanksgiving with songs of praise and thanksgiving last Saturday. The amazing annual event was held at Highland Lakes Elementary School in Granite Shoals (see more photos on page 18 – and many more on the "Highland Lakes Weekly" Facebook page).

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Volunteers, including Cub Scouts from Spicewood’s Pack #287 filled “orders” for a long line of waiting “customers” in front of Highland Lakes Elementary School on Saturday. Meanwhile, a large crowd enjoyed the sit-down Thanksgiving dinner inside. The annual event is organized by Roy and Mary Lou Guerrero of Joseph’s Pantry, a year-round charitable organization which holds monthly distributions of food, clothing and household items in Granite Shoals.
Mission Outreach of Marble Falls held its annual Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Frederick Baptist Church in Marble Falls (on Avenue N) last Saturday. By the time these pictures were taken (before noon), volunteers had already delivered 425 meals to area residents, and deliveries continued throughout the afternoon. Meanwhile, the dining area at St. Frederick’s was filled with cheerful diners. Three of the servers, pictured below, were: Judy Pullen, Henry Jackson and Kay Prew.

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November 29, 2019 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 19
The First Baptist Church in Kingsland held its annual Thanksgiving Dinner last Sunday afternoon, and a crowd of cheerful guests lined up to enjoy the delicious meal. Greeters welcomed each guest, and display tables illustrated some of the support available all year at the active church. Homemade desserts (a few pictured at right) topped off the feast, and there were even two flat-screen televisions showing the Dallas Cowboys football game at one side of the gymnasium.

Photos by John Hallowell

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* We have gone as far as Brownwood, Fredericksburg, Mason, Spicewood, Blanco, etc.
A concert by the Steel Magnolias singing group, from San Marcos, was the centerpiece of the big Thanksgiving celebration last Sunday evening at the First Baptist Church in Tow (16529 RR 2241, pictured above right). The well-attended concert was followed by a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner.

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Christmas Bazaar
Bake Sale
Open House
December 14
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Come See New Models!

Highland Lakes Tiny Homes
Open House
Saturday Nov. 30
11am to 4pm
3100 RR 2545 Kingsland
A group of mountain-bike enthusiasts (above) enjoys the view from the top of Spider Mountain shortly after their arrival on the transplanted ski lift (at right and on facing page). They were among hundreds who enjoyed the multiple trails (easy to extreme) down the mountain on Sunday.

Highland Lakes Baptist Church

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6)

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Worship 10:45 AM 5:00 PM
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Tuesday--Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM
Wednesday--Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 PM
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Pastor Karl Wallace
716 Highway 2900 • Kingsland • 830-302-6212

Two of the many mountain-bikers take a turn on the downhill trails at Spider Mountain, reportedly "Texas' first and only lift-served mountain bike park and the only lift-served, year-round mountain bike park in the U.S." It opened in January, and attracts riders from all over Texas (and beyond) to western Burnet County (on the east side of Lake Buchanan, just off RR 2341).

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This re-purposed ski lift from the Rocky Mountains is now the centerpiece of an amazing tourist attraction on Spider Mountain in western Burnet County, carrying hundreds of mountain-bikers to the top each weekend for an exciting downhill ride.

Radio Station W.O.R.D. presents: Christmas Choir Hour

Featuring:

Dennis Hoover and his collection of singers from Chapel of the Hills Baptist Church.

Some of your old favorites and some new-fangled songs as well!

Live Broadcast will be on W. O. R. D. radio Friday, Dec. 13th at 6:00pm.

Please join our LIVE AUDIENCE for this event at Chapel of the Hills (Hwy 29 @ Buchanan Dam)

For more information get Terlina to connect you to 812.793.2485.