These four shepherds (Bryson Culver, Cody Murders, Brandon Lovelady and James McCarty) were some of the 100-plus volunteers from area churches who helped dramatize the night two thousand years ago when Christ was born in ancient Israel at Burnet's "Main Street Bethlehem" production last Friday. Sponsored by the First Baptist Church in Burnet, the annual event (always the first two weekends in December) has become the most popular Christmas attraction in the Highland Lakes area, welcoming thousands of visitors each year. You can see more "Bethlehem" photos on pages 22 & 23 (and many more on Facebook, at "Highland Lakes Weekly."
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Upcoming Events

Aqua Boom queens rode in last year’s parade at Burnet’s “Christmas on the Square.” This year’s event will be this Saturday.

By JOHN HALLOWELL

The Hill Country Community Theatre will continue the comedy, A Twisted Christmas Carol, on the next two weekends: 7 p.m. shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and a 2:15 matinee on Sunday (December 12-22).

The Marble Falls Library will host its annual Christmas Concert with the Hill Country Community Band beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday, December 13.

Chapel of the Hills (on Hwy 29 in Buchanan Dam) will hold a “live broadcast” Christmas Choir Hour at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 13.

The "Journey" tribute band, Departure ATX (with Burnet native Ryan Holley) will perform at the Lipton Theatre in Marble Falls at 8 p.m. on Friday, December 13.

Marble Falls will host a Hometown Heroes Toy Drive/Track, Car, Bike, SUV event from 9 to 5 on Saturday, December 14, at the Charley Taylor Rodeo Arena on Hwy 281.

Buchanan Arts & Crafts (on Hwy 29 in Buchanan Dam) will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar, Bake Sale and Open House from 10 to 4 on Saturday, December 14.

Burnet’s Christmas on the Square (noon to 8 p.m.) and Christmas at Fort Craghan (6 to 8 p.m.) will be held on Saturday, December 14. Main Street Bethlehem will also be open from 6 to 9 on Saturday, Friday and Sunday evenings that weekend.

Llano will hold its annual Snow Day from 1 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, at Bad Park.

The Llano County Opry will present “Christmas With Lisa Layne” at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 14.

Harmony School of Creative Arts will present “Gifts of Christmas,” a Christmas Ballet, at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, at Life Church Marble Falls (on Mormon Mill Road).

Wildflower Dance Studio will present three showings of this year’s Nuttercracker (2 & 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, and 2 p.m. that Sunday) at the Llano at the High School Auditorium. Tickets are available at the door.

Cottonwood Shores VFD will host its annual Christmas for Kids beginning at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 14.

The Heart of Texas Orchestra will present a Christmas Concert at 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 15, at the First Baptist Church of Marble Falls (see ad on page 22).

The Mambo Italiano Restaurant in Bertram will host singers from the Hill Country Community Theatre in a Christmas Italiano concert/dinner at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17. Call 512-725-8640 for reservations.

Packsaddle Elementary School students will celebrate the Christmas Spirit with a performance from the "The Night Before Christmas" at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18, at Kellings’s First Baptist Church.

A Texas Songwriters in the Round event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, December 19, at the Badu 1891 restaurant in Llano. The featured performer will be Tall Paul Hilliard, from Bandera.

Marble Falls will host a Merry Texas Pop Up Ice Skating Rink on 3rd Street, beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (December 20-22, weather permitting). This event is free to the public and all skates will be provided!

The Hermann Brown Free Library will hold a come-and-go "Santa’s Workshop” event from 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday, December 20. Santa will be there for pictures from 2 to 3.

The Marble Falls Library will host a Pajama Party featuring hot cocoa, Christmas carols and a reading of The Polar Express from 4 to 5 p.m. on Friday, December 20.

The Vineyard B&B, on RR 2233 near Sunrise Beach, will host a New Year’s Eve party with Jon Mulham (A.K.A. Jenuine Cello), a classically trained cellist. The 7 Creeks Vineyard (on CR 2000A in eastern Burnet County) will host a TTT New Year’s Blast (Texas Tacos and Tunes) from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 4. Call 512-866-0121 for more information or find them online.

Burnet and Llano will both be holding their annual livestock shows on the weekend of January 9-11.

The Singing Women of Central Texas will present a free concert at 6 p.m. on Sunday, January 19, at the First United Methodist Church of Marble Falls.

ByCOURTESY

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Scatterthought

Wow! It’s been an amazing (almost overwhelming) week, and I’m pretty sure you’ll notice some shortcomings in this week’s paper. I know I missed some good events last weekend; one which I had meant to attend was the Christmas concert at Fredericks Church in San Antonio. I guess I was enjoying Harmony School of Creative Arts’ “Not-So-Silent-Night” so much that I forgot until after it was too late. I do regret that, but otherwise I feel good!

Last weekend and the one coming up are always two of the busiest of the year, and I’ve been having so much fun I can hardly stand it. But I feel good about my neighborhood, my business and even myself (myself partly just because I’m surviving everything, but mostly because I’m planning to take a few days off for a road trip with my daughter at New Year’s; there won’t be a paper on January 3). The downside of having so many good events to bring about is that several events which deserved two or three pictures in the paper are only going to get one. If I was better and faster, and had just a few more ads, I could easily fill another eight pages on a week like this. I’m not, and I don’t, so I’m going to squeeze things for another week or two. When it slows down, I should actually be able to start publishing my history articles again.

That’s probably enough rambling for this week; I’ll tell you more about my vacation plans later.

There have been some questions about the event Chapel of the Hills has planned for this Friday; I was a little puzzled by the ad (see page 23), but Pastor Steve Leffwich called to explain that the event was actually broadcast on cable TV; it’s just a concert arranged like an old-fashioned radio show. You are invited to be part of the live audience, and (knowing Dennis Hoover, as I do) it will be well worth your time to go and hear it.

I was also a little puzzled by a notice I got about a Farmers Market to be held from 10 to 2 every Saturday at Wakepoint. IJBJ in Kingsland (the Burnet farmer’s market just closed down for the winter), I’m told that it’s for real, and that it will include produce, foods and crafts as well as fresh produce. It starts this Saturday, December 14.

This Saturday will be a big day in Burnet. Among many other activities will be: Christmas on the Square (including a “Jingle Bell Jog,” live music, vendors, Snows on the Square, the Christmas Parade, the Bicycle Raffle and photos with Santa) from noon to 9, Christmas at Fort Croghan from 5 to 8 and Main Street Bethlehem (in its second and final weekend) from 6 to 9.

Commissioner Mike Sandoval (Ilano County Precinct 3) will be holding his monthly Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30) at the highland Lakes Church of Christ in Kingsland. Among the issues discussed will be requests to drill 12 groundwater wells for monitoring on county right-of-ways around Kingsland.

You’ll see a picture on page 5 of LCRA representatives presenting a check for $25,000 to the Kingsland Chamber of Commerce to help build new restaurants at the Kingsland Community Park. Committee Chairmen Derek Timmers is asking for volunteer help to draw up plans for the buildings to ensure ADA compliance. If you can help, please email derek@buddyd. com.

Jeff Sellers, of Johnson Sewell Ford in Marble Falls, is heading up another “First Responder Santa Meals” event, for those who will be serving their communities on Christmas Day. He is looking for volunteers to make Christmas Eve dinners for the area’s first responders. Volunteers purchase and cook the meals to deliver between 3 and 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Johnson Sewell is donating all of the turkeys and hams, but the turkeys will need to be cooked by a volunteer. To volunteer or get more information, contact Jeff at (830) 613-8926 or jeff.sellers@johnsonsellford.com.
Guests and employees joined financial advisor Ray Lynch for this picture at the beginning of the Open House at his Edward Jones Investments office in Kingsland last Friday.

Above: Volunteers and “customers” gathered for a group picture at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church’s Lee Hall during distribution of tamales (ordered during the annual Knights of Columbus fundraiser) last Friday afternoon.

At right: Santa and an elf (Dave Seideman and Aubrey Umschied) were on hand to greet customers (and pose for pictures, if desired) last Saturday at the Hill Country Shops complex on RR 1431 between Kingsland and Highland Haven.
LCRA representatives met with Chamber members at Kingsland's Community Park on Wednesday to present a check for $25,000 to help finance a new rest room building there. The funds are part of the LCRA's community grant program, which also presented grants for the rodeo arena in Marble Falls and the fire station in Sandy Harbor during Wednesday's visit. The Kingsland Community Park has seen dramatic improvements in recent months, and a new fishing pier (visible in the background, at left) is currently under construction.

A good crowd turned out for the Kingsland Chamber’s mixer at Boat Town Burger Bar last Thursday evening.

Betty Hall was presented with the “Lion of the Year” award during last Thursday night's Kingsland Lions Club Christmas Party, held in the dining room at Windchime Assisted Living.
Christmas Parade in Kingsland

The first annual Lighted Christmas Parade in Kingsland, sponsored by the Kingsland Volunteer Fire Department and the Hill Country Auxiliary, was a big success last Saturday evening. A good number of quality floats followed fire trucks from several communities around the traditional Aqua Boom parade route, and a good crowd lined the route to cheer them on. Organizers were very pleased with the response, and hope that the event will grow into a major Kingsland tradition.

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Page 6 Hiawatha Lakes Weekly December 13, 2019
A large group of cheerful runners and walkers (including several pets) donned antlers for the beginning of Llano’s annual Reindeer Fun Run 5K last Saturday morning at the Depot Visitors Center.

Santa and two elves welcomed kids for photos at the Highland Lakes YMCA’s “Breakfast with Santa” event last Saturday. Other attractions included photos with The Grinch, cocoa and donuts, crafts and kids activities.

Jack and Virginia Walker, of Sandstone Street Bed & Breakfast in Llano, posed for this picture during the “Christmas Tea” held there last Sunday afternoon. One feature of the elegant tea was an amazing decorated boot contest, won by Darla Wilhite, Robin Chiesa and Cheryl Quallenborg.
Volunteers from the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Burnet hosted children from Burnet’s Head Start program at a “Santa’s Workshop” event on Monday. Along with other activities, kids chose gifts for their parents and made cards to go along with them.

The Llano Fine Art gallery hosted its annual Christmas Bazaar Open House last Friday evening, and a good crowd took the opportunity to eat, drink, mingle — and shop for fine art.

In one of many great activities at Candlelight Ranch (on Lake Travis a few miles east of Marble Falls) during its annual Military Family Day, kids learned cooking tricks from the chefs of the new 2020 Market (“scratch kitchen and bar”) in Georgetown. Other activities at the event last Saturday included horseback riding, archery, birdwatching and crafting.
HORSENESE BAY ESTATE SALE
2401 Clayton Nolen Drive

GREAT CHRISTMAS SALE !!!

FURNITURE INCLUDES: Leather Sofa; (2) Leather Recliners; (3) Custom Coffee Tables; (2) Flat Screen TV’s; (2) Custom White Twin Beds/Custon Bedding; Antique Parlor Table; Large China Cabinet; Antiques Mahogany Hutch; Tea Cart & Server; Love Seat; Occasional Chairs; Several Area Rugs; Wrought Iron Patio Table/Chairs; Texas Bench

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GARAGE INCLUDES: Tools; Fishing Gear; Trek 620 Mountain Bike; Christmas Decor & Trees; Grill.

Directions: 2147 to Clayton Nolen Drive. Go to the last house. Please park only on one side of the street. Parking attendant will advise.

Hours: Thursday, 12/12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m; Friday, 12/13, 9-4 (25% Off Saturday, 12/14, 8:30-1) (50% Off)

Numbers go out at 8:00 AM - Thursday

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Marble Falls held a “Christmas Market on Main” event last Saturday, drawing a good crowd to the downtown area on a beautiful sunny day. Among the attractions was live music by Cade Mower at the corner of 3rd & Main.

The City of Marble Falls is planning a free “Merry Texasmas Pop-Up Skating Rink” there on the weekend of December 20-22; skates will be provided!

---

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December 13, 2019  Highland Lakes Weekly  Page 9
Students, teachers and friends of Harmony School of Creative Arts gave a delightful “Not-So-Silent Night” performance at Lake Shores Church in Marble Falls last Sunday evening. One of the stars was 7-year-old Grace Owens (pictured below).
Get Inspired!
Meet the Artist Day 12/14/2019

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December 13, 2019 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 11
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Ragtime pianist Richard Golladay (of the “Lake Bottom Jazz” band in Llano) is the new owner of the distinctive building at 202 Main Street in Marble Falls, and hopes to open a coffee shop/music venue (called “Ragtime Oriole”) there sometime early next year.

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Meet Ricky! Ricky is a 9-year old Chihuahua mix who weighs about 18 pounds. He came to us when his owner moved and couldn’t take him with them. He enjoys playing ball, sitting in your lap and loves a good back rub. He would make a good companion for the road. He rarely barks, his kennel is never a mess and he walks great on a leash. Our adoption fees include shots, de-worming, micro-chip and a voucher for a free spay/neuter. For more information please call CHCS at 512-793-KIND (5463). To see all our wonderful animals please visit our website at www.HillCountryHumanesociety.com.

Work is progressing at the site of Burnet’s planned new police station, located next to the new fire hall, and in front of the airport, on Hwy 281S.

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Artist Nina “Sam” Hibler (a San Antonio resident, but related by marriage to the Burnet County Hiblers) brought some of her work to Marta Stafford Fine Art in Marble Falls for a trunk show last week.

PECAN VALLEY ESTATE SALE
30 years of Treasures
1106 Louise Marble Falls – Nice antique armoires, side tables, desk & bookcase, Werner ladder, loads of tools, vintage breakfast set, Christmas decorations, ornaments & new lights, beautiful lamps, Planters display depression glass pink jar. Nice bedding and much more. All must go. Alpha & Omega Estate Sales
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Friday, December 13 • 8:30-4 • Saturday, December 14 • 8:30-4 (50% off)
Music Around the Lakes

Above: A barbershop quartet from the Hill Country Blenders (including Chuck Myers as “Santa”) helped get the Harmony School of Creative Arts off to a good start in their “Not-So-Silent Night” program last Sunday.

At left: Multi-talented musician Jim Wynne provided great live music for the Christmas Tea at Sandstone Street B&B in Kingsland last Sunday.

The Watchmen Quartet delighted their audience at The Place Downtown in Kingsland during a “Gospel Supper” last Friday evening.

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Reviews: “Truly a Blessing!” “A must-read,” “Incredible!” “Great Book!,” Heart Felt,” “Loved it and ordered more!”

Christmas by the Highway

The City of Granite Shoals held a brief ceremony at dusk last Friday to turn on the lights for this season’s “Christmas by the Highway” display, located on RR 1431 in front of the Highland Lakes Elementary School. You won’t have any trouble finding the spot as you drive through Granite Shoals on any evening this month!

SEPTIC PUMPING & MAINTENANCE

By Cody Young

PORTA POTTY RENTALS

325-248-8740
www.CodyYoungSeptics.com
The auditorium at Burnet High School was transformed into a magical palace for the second act of “The Story of the Nutcracker,” performed by dancers from Studio 28 and the BHS Highlandettes last weekend. See more photos on page 19 and many more on the “Highland Lakes Weekly” Facebook page. Variations of the famous “Nutcracker” ballet will be performed in Llano and Marble Falls this weekend.
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The Payne family would like to thank all of their loyal customers for 8 great years in business. December 14 will be the last day this year that we’ll be cooking our delicious BBQ; medical issues will prevent us from re-opening until at least the end of February.

If all goes well, the BBQ Shak will re-open then (but on Fridays and Saturdays only). Thanks for your understanding; we wish all of you a very happy Holiday Season!

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KINGSLAND’S FIRST
CHRISTMAS CONTEST

Judging based on:

1. Creativity
2. Lights
3. Decorations
4. Miscellaneous Decorations and Themes

Entries due: December 15
Judging: December 16
Winner announced: December 17

Open to everyone; 255-893-2525
Or email: kingslanchristmas@comcast.net

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Above: This scene in “The Story of the Nutcracker,” performed at Burnet High School by dancers from Studio 29 and the BHS Highlandettes last weekend, depicts a family Christmas in Imperial Russia. The Christmas gathering turns into a dreamland fantasy (below) which has captivated audiences around the world. Variations of the famous ballet have been popular (especially at Christmas time) in the U.S. since the 1960s; Wildflower Dance Studio in Llano and Harmony School of Creative Arts in Marble Falls will present their own versions this weekend.
The Falls on the Colorado Museum hosted a Christmas tour of historic homes in Marble Falls last Saturday, including the 1891 Otto Ebeling house (above, left, on Saturday afternoon) and the 1905 former Baptist parsonage (above, on Saturday evening) recently moved and restored by Randy and Lori Rudman.

One of the other two homes on the FOCM tour was the 1996 Dr. W. D. Yett house, now owned by Megan and Jeff Steele. The interior is pictured at right, and the exterior at right, below.

The bedroom photo at right is from the 1892 Christian-Matson home, where owner Caryl Kalyn has hosted a Victorian Christmas for the museum for many years. Her home was open again this year for the Christmas tour.

---

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A surprise addition to Llano’s Holiday Home Tour, hosted annually by the Llano Woman’s Culture Club, was a collection of unique travel trailers brought to the JLK Event Center by “Sisters on the Fly.” A group of colorfully-costumed members posed for the photo below.

This photo is from the beautiful Llano home of Kim and Jerry Don Hughes, one of eight destinations on the Holiday Home Tour.

Another stop on Llano’s Holiday Home Tour was the quaint Mustard Seed B&B, which consists of a farmhouse-style home and a small cottage. It has been beautifully restored by John and Rachel Corcoran, of Sterling Creek Builders.
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).

Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship 10:45 AM 5:00 PM
Tuesday–Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Tuesday–Men’s Bible Study 7:00 PM
Wednesday–Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 PM
Thursday–Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM
Second Friday–Community Gospel Sing 7:00 PM
Second & Fourth Saturday–Men’s Breakfast 8:00 AM

Pastor Karl Wallace
716 Highway 2900 • Kingsland • 830-302-6212

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Oober tho joy of Christmas with a choice of festive favorites!
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019 • 6:00 PM • FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MARBLE FALLS 951 La Venta Ave • Marble Falls, Texas

This tavern scene from Main Street Bethlehem is one of many illustrations of how the little town may have appeared at the time that Jesus was born. Conversations at the tavern, and at many other public places in Bethlehem centered around the shepherds’ reports of hearing of angels that Christ was born.

Basket-weaving, camel-tending and other trades are illustrated by volunteers in period clothing around the one-block “town” at Main Street Bethlehem in Burnet. The annual presentation, with more than 100 volunteers from the First Baptist and other churches, is the Highland Lakes area’s most popular Christmas attraction, drawing thousands of guests to Burnet on the first two weekends of December each year.

PROTECT YOUR FLOORING INVESTMENT!

LARRY & KATHY FRANKE • KINGSLAND

Page 22 Highland Lakes Weekly December 13, 2019
A stern tax collector at Main Street Bethlehem illustrates the reason for Joseph and Mary’s presence in Bethlehem, and probably explains why there was “no room at the inn” for the expectant couple.

Roman soldiers stood on guard around the town, representing the government of the time.

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 89 @ Buchanan Dam)

For more information get Thelma to connect you to 512.733.2485.
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