Burnet and Llano Counties will both be holding their Livestock Shows this weekend, honoring their agricultural heritage and keeping alive some of the best traditions of life in the Texas Hill Country. One of the most photogenic events of the Burnet County Livestock Show each year is the Future Feeder’s event (last year’s event pictured above), geared to those still too young to participate on their own. This year’s Future Feeders will bring their animals into the arena (with some help) at 5 p.m. this Friday.
By JOHN HALLOWELL

Burnet and Llano will both be holding their annual livestock shows on the weekend of January 9-11. Premium Sales will be held on Saturday; Burnet’s at 12:30 p.m. and Llano’s at 6.

A panel of local gardening experts will answer questions at a meeting of the Kingsland Garden Club, to be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, January 10, at the Kingsland Library.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Jane Wells Woods Chapter, will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 11, at the Herman Brown Free Library in Burnet. The “Stories of Texas” program will be presented by Dr. W. F. Strong. The public is invited, call 432-438-8104 for details.

The Llano Country Opry will feature Doug Kershaw in two shows (2:30 & 7:30 p.m.) on Saturday, January 11.

The Hill Country Community Theatre and the Highland Lakes Equality Center are holding an event that will raise funds for both organizations. “Over the Rainbow - A Tribute to Judy Garland” will be held for two performances only, Saturday, January 11, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, January 12, at 2:15 pm.

Whey Jennings, grandson of country music legends Waylon Jennings and Jessi Colter, will perform at VFW Post 10376 in Marble Falls from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 12.

New president Kris Richins will discuss organizing family history research information at a 2 p.m. meeting of the Highland Lakes Genealogical Society next Tuesday (January 14), at the Kingsland Library. Visitors are welcome.

The Kingsland Chamber’s first Winter Texan Dinner of 2020 will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14 at Log Country Cove’s “Cedar Skies” hall, off RR 2342 in Burnet County.

The Highland Lakes Quilt Guild “Meet and Greet” with coffee will be at 9 a.m. next Wednesday (January 15) at the First United Methodist Church in Marble Falls. Guests are welcome. Final preparations are being made for the quilt show February 14-15, in Burnet, Tx.

The Kingsland Chamber will hold its next Breakfast Club networking meeting at 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday, January 15, at the Little Yellow House (1224 RR 2900) in Kingsland.

Jo Karr Tedder, President of CTWC, will be guest speaker at the Lake Buchanan Conservation Corporation meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15, at Hill Country Hall (1101 29 in Buchanan Dam). Call Ken McCarty at 512-755-2526 for details.

The Country Cuzzins Square Dance Club invites the public to an Open House with free square dance instructions from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, at First United Methodist Church in Marble Falls.

The Tommy Ketterhagen Memorial Bicycle Race will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 18, in Bertram.

A Designer Purse/Mint with prizes, raffles and a silent auction will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. at St. James Lutheran Church in Llano, to benefit Llano Animal Rescue (see ad on page 4).

The Texas Indian Hobbyist Association will hold its Winter Powwow at the JLK Event Center in Llano from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 18.

Sarah Grace, a 16-year-old semi-finalist from Season 15 of The Voice, will perform at the Spicewood Vineyards Event Center at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 17. Local musical prodigy Maddy Hatchett, a Marble Falls High School graduate will open for Sarah.

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.

Zoologist (and best-selling author) Delia Owens will discuss her book, Where the Crawdads Sing, in an appearance at noon on Wednesday, January 22, at the Lakeshore Library in Buchanan Dam. The program is free.

(Continued on page 11)
Scatterthought

I hope you all noticed that there was no paper last week, but I hope you’ll forgive me for the disruption. I was up on a wonderful road trip through parts of Nevada, Utah and Arizona with my daughter, and we’ve been home safely. (The photo above shows the Grand Canyon.)

Now I’m back from vacation, and I have to admit that I was quite pleased with myself when I got home safely with a day or two left for “decompression” before the next deadline. Unfortunately, my nose to the grindstone once again.

I was reading an article about the clouds of pollution that greeted me as soon as I got off the airplane in Austin. The business community has been working hard to improve the air quality there, but it still isn’t as clean as I would like.

For me, the most striking thing about this week’s paper is the “Year 10” note at the top of the front page. It’s hard for me to believe that 2020 is the tenth year in which I’ve been publishing the Highland Lakes Weekly. (I want to point out that I have not been publishing it for ten years; the first issue came out in May of 2011.)

The timeline is just one of the amazing aspects of this “business.” I know that Kingsland needed and deserved a newspaper when I was trying to imagine a new career; I hoped that people here would appreciate and support my paper even if it wasn’t a “real” newspaper. I never anticipated the welcome and the enthusiastic support that I would receive; not only in Kingsland, but around the Highland Lakes area.

That, really, is the main reason the Highland Lakes Weekly is still in business, and the reason that I know I need to continue as long as I am physically able.

(ANOTHER 10 years! Maybe!) I want to say a huge “Thank You!” to all my advertisers and readers who have enriched my life more than you could know.

But I still have a deadline to meet, so I’d better get back to work. That means mentioning some “business” items here.

One item I wanted to mention is the Burnet Chamber of Commerce’s “Taxes for Your Small Business” workshop (in partnership with SCORE Austin) with my accountant friend Lisa Barger. That event will be from 11 to 1 next Tuesday (January 14). It will not cost you anything, and lunch will be provided, but if you’d like to go, you’ll have to register at www.burnetchamber.org by January 13.

Also, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is offering a Master Gardener Certification course through the Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association. Classes will begin on February 17, 2020, and run for 10 weeks, meeting every Monday from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office in Burnet. The cost of the program is $165, which covers resource materials, t-shirt, and field trip admissions. The deadline to apply is January 17. Find details online or contact Callie Elgroth (512-626-9569 or nelgroth@ag.tamu.edu).

The eight-week drawdown of lakes LBJ and Inks is underway, and the lakes will not be back to normal levels until Friday, February 28. Inks Lake will be lowered 8 feet, but (because of the power plant in Horse Shoe Bay) Lake LBJ will be lowered only 4 feet during that time. More details are available at lerro.org.

Livestock shows will be underway in Llano and Burnet County on Thursday (before this paper is printed), but they will continue on Friday and the Premium Sales will be held on Saturday (Burnet at 12:30 and Llano at noon). The Kingsland Chamber has a busy week ahead: the first Winter Texas Dinner will be held on Tuesday, the Llano County 4-H Cedar Skies ball and the Breakfast Club’s monthly networking meeting is set for 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday (see ads for details). That’s all for now. Have a great week!
The new Farmers Market is now open from 10 to 2 each Saturday at Wakepoint LBJ in Kingsland. While fresh produce is scarce this time of year, there are preserved foods and assorted crafts available all year. Check it out this Saturday!

Sharon and Gary Marshall set up a booth at the Wakepoint Farmers Market to let folks know about their registered Belted Galloway cattle.

Christine Jones (and her husband, Bob) set up a booth for her Calico Creations (“Hand made earrings styled after the Joanna Gaines collection”) at Wakepoint’s Farmers Market last Saturday.

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With Lake LBJ lowered by four feet for the next few weeks, the post-flood sandbar is on full display to boaters or visitors at the scenic overlook on 1431. During the summer, the new sandbar has become Kingsland’s “beach,” and is often crowded with boats and bathers.

The new fishing dock at Kingsland Community Park, built with donated labor from Craigin Marinos, Lauren Concrete and Marty’s Concrete, is high and dry while the lake is lowered. It looks to become a valuable addition to the park’s list of amenities after the lake returns to normal levels at the end of February.

The American Legion hall in Kingsland was surrounded by RVs and pickup trucks for the annual Chili Cook-Off on the last weekend in December (see more pictures on page 8).

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January 10, 2020 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 5
Kingsland in 1973 – Part 1

By JOHN HALLOWELL

Former president Harry S. Truman died on December 30, 1972, and a Highlander article at the beginning of January reflected on Truman’s tenure and noted that “down on the Pedernales, another former president is mourning the way public opinion has turned against him.” The following week, a headline proclaimed that some Mexican nationals were charging Lyndon B. Johnson with illegally setting up “a cattle empire” south of the border even as Texas Parks & Wildlife was condemning ranchers in Stonewall to enlarge the IBU State Park.

Also in the January 4 Highlander was an article reporting that the 2,200-acre Wemmeh Ranch (originally known as the “Matern Ranch”), just west of Horseshoe Bay, had been purchased by HSB developers Norman and Wayne Hurd for $2.5 million “as an investment.”

Llano County officials took their oath of office on January 1. They included County Judge Moore Johansen, Sheriff Gale Ligon, County Commissioner Duce Williams (Pct. #3) and Pct. #3 Constable B.T. “Bart” Faller (also the owner of Faller’s Lodge in Kingsland).

There was a lot of big local news in Kingsland at the beginning of 1973, but perhaps the biggest story in January was an election (set for February 27) to decide the fate of the proposed Kingsland Municipal Utility District. The Texas Water Rights Commission, which had previously determined that “a serious potential pollution hazard exists if the area continues to rely on septic tanks in new developments,” had decided on December 19 that the MUD was feasible and an election would be held. Residents of Kingsland and about 38 surrounding subdivisions (in parts of both Llano and Burnet Counties) would vote on whether or not they wished to proceed with the proposed utility district, which would include sewers, treatment plants, lift stations and discharge points, all at locations “to be determined later.”

The area in question was 3,572 acres, already including 1,331 single-family dwellings and 147 commercial establishments “on the northwest shore of Lake Lyndon B. Johnson.” The total cost of the project was expected to be between $7 and $8 million, three quarters of which would come from grants provided by a recently-passed federal Water Quality Bill. Taxes and bonds would provide the remaining $2 million. Judy Berry, Hal Burnet, Harvey Raub, Dwight Reagan and Carl Skaggs were named as temporary directors to organize the election.

The Kingsland Garden Club elected “Mrs. William H. Fowler” as its 1973-74 president. Highland Car Parts, which had been closed down due to the illness of owner Garland Digg, was re-opened by her stepson, Jim Kelly, who had recently moved to Kingsland from Houston. chunksy Ben Cornelius would take care of car repairs in the back section of the building. A photo in the January 18 Highlander showed snow-covered ground and reported “the worst winter in 50 years.”

Lyndon B. Johnson died on January 22, 1973, and the Highland Lakes area held an “official day of mourning” on January 25. On February 1, the Highlander reported that the late president had sold 3,444 acres (1,760 in Stonewall and 2,785 at the Nicholson Ranch across the lake from Kingsland)
This new KMUD headquarters was completed in 2014. Although a tentative board of directors had been named in 1972, KMUD itself was still a hotly-debated idea in February of 1973.

to a Tulsa-based development company called Faires Properties shortly before his death. The sale did not include any lakefront property.

The Calvary Hill Full Gospel Church (which had grown from 17 charter members to 110 in just two years) held a ground-breaking on January 28 for a new, 6,000-sq-ft building. Its original building was to be converted into a combination kitchen, recreation room and classroom. The church was pastor by Charles and Joannie Jackson.

A proposed Kingsland branch of the rapidly-growing People's Savings & Loan (based in Llano) was under protest by the Lampasas Federal Savings and Loan Association, which was represented by attorney John Schmal of Austin (who also happened to be the chairman of the board at Highland Lakes National Bank at the time). He had represented HLNB the previous year in its successful protest of a new national bank in Round Mountain). A frontpage story in the February 11 Highlander reported that People's had purchased (from Neal Wood) almost 12 acres in Kingsland, where it plans to locate its branch office, a commercial complex and a residential development.

A front-page photo caption that week, titled “Strange and Arrogant?” told how the LCRA was “in the midst of constructing unsightly power towers” through the middle of Horseshoe Bay, where developers had just spent $1 million burying all the subdivision's utility lines. Developer Norman Hunt was quoted as saying, “It's just one of those things. They own the easement, and we need the electricity.”

Meanwhile Frank Steric, who had moved to Buchanan Dam from New York in 1972, had just opened “Frank's Auto Service” on Lakeshore Drive, “just four miles from the Y.” He offered a “free grease job” to anyone who stopped in during the first week of February, and had already made application to become an official inspection station.

The Kingsland Chamber of Commerce scheduled its annual banquet for February 10, to be held in the dining room of the Highland Lakes Recreation Association. The speaker at the event would be Gene Jones Riddle, from the American Revolution Bicentennial in Texas, new officers would also be installed at the banquet. John Davis would be assuming duties as Chamber President, while Vice-President duties went to D.O. Boone, R.H. Coe and Malcolm Long were new directors, joining holders Judy Berry, M.K. Oats, Chuck Slump and former president Joe Coe.

A new square dance club (called “Highland Squares”) was formed in Kingsland, and announced plans to dance each Friday evening at the American Legion Hall. Orlie Newcombe would be the club caller.

Kingsland Water Supply held its general board meeting on February 13. It had been a full year since KWS had opened, and a front-page story reported that there were “422 members on the system with room for about 100 more.” Grady West was chosen to replace outgoing board member Curtis Watson; other board members were W.D. Benson (chairman), Jim Harvey (vice-chairman), Felix Richardson (secretary-treasurer) and Roy Moseley.

Ken Gray, a Llano High School grad and football star at Howard Payne University and in the NFL (mostly with the St. Louis Cardinals), was hired to teach history and coach football at LHS.

A public meeting was held at Barrow Hall in Kingsland on Friday evening, February 16, to discuss the upcoming utility district election. The temporary board of directors took questions from some of the approximately 200 attendees; the group in favor of the district was led by new Chamber president John Davis, who pointed to the success of the recently-opened water system to encourage a positive vote.
A crowd of expert chili cooks filled the American Legion hall in Kingsland on the last weekend of 2019 for the annual chili cook-off, held there by the Highland Lakes Chili Pod of the Chili Appreciation Society International (C.A.S.I.). Side competitions were held for pinto beans and black-eyed peas.

Judges settled in for their difficult job at the C.A.S.I. Cook-Off on December 28.

Among the cooks present (there were at least three) who have won International Championships at Terlingua were Lisa Stone (2nd from left), pictured here with her three helpers on December 28.
The new 7 Creeks Vineyard, off CR 200A in eastern Burnet County, held a special TNT event (Tannat & Tacos) last Saturday to introduce its new Tannat. Some guests took advantage of the mild weather to dine in the shade of the huge oak tree, while others chose to relax on the back porch or in the tasting room (below). The vineyard is open from 11 to 5:30 Thursday through Sunday, and plans to hold frequent special events.

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January 10, 2020
Highland Lakes Weekly  Page 9
Dozens of young athletes from several Texas teams competed in the Tex Robertson Swim and Dive Invitational at the YMCA of the Highland Lakes in Burnet last Saturday. These photos, by Martelle Luedecke of Luedecke Photography, show some of the action from this great event (just one of many swim meets held at the world-class facility).
UPCOMING EVENTS:
(Continued from page 2)

Now in its 10th year of publication, the Highland Lakes Weekly wishes to say a huge "THANK YOU!" to all the readers, advertisers, neighbors and friends who have supported this paper so faithfully.

With the Lord's blessing and your continued support, we hope to remain the Highland Lakes area's FREE weekly community newspaper, (with all the GOOD NEWS that we can fit) for quite some time to come!

The Llano Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Community Awards Banquet beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, at the JLK Event Center.

A Safe & Drug-Free Wellness Fair will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, in the auxiliary gym at Burnet Middle School.

Above: Dramatic progress has been made on Burnet's new police headquarters since Christmas, and the building is rapidly taking shape. It is located next to the new fire station (and in front of the airport) on Hwy 281S.

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January 10, 2020 Highland Lakes Weekly Page 11
Virginia Walker presided over a meeting of the Llano County Historical Commission at the Llano Church of Christ on Tuesday afternoon. The group is planning a public tour of Llano County’s historic churches.

The new “Care First!” walk-in clinic, at 305 East Jackson Street in Burnet, held a ribbon-cutting on Tuesday to celebrate its opening at the Burnet Meeting Center. The clinic will be open every Tuesday in January and February.

This photo, mistakenly left out of the Christmas issue, shows part of the Austin Handbell Ensemble, which presented a wonderful “Winterly Mix of Music” concert at the First United Methodist Church in Marble Falls on December 15.

Members of the Upper Highland Lakes Nature Center installed a native bee habitat box at the Burnet AgriLife building (where they hold their monthly meetings) to help in the pollination of the gardens.
Above: The "Three Ol’ Coots," accomplished musicians Jerry Buller, Jeff Haese and Steven Orrange, entertained diners at the Trailblazer Grille in Burnet on Saturday, December 28.

At left: Nathan Hinojosa, of the Spicy Loops band from Austin, provided live music for guests at the TNT event at 7 Creeks Vineyard in Burnet County last Saturday.

Below: Randy Morgan, Tracy Morgan and Carol Adams were three of the participants in the multi-church Fifth-Sunday Singing held at Granite Mountain Baptist Church in Marble Falls last month.

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Sebastian Garcia (at right) starred in the one-act play “Fidelity” at the Hill Country Community Theatre last Sunday as Leo Thoreau, a young investment analyst who survives a career crisis with help from his Uncle Joe (played by Raymond Wheelan, above, who also wrote and directed the play) and his sister Miriam (played by Samantha Levine, below). The trio will perform the play again in this year’s FronteraFest in Austin on January 29. Upcoming HCCT events include a tribute to Judy Garland this weekend and “Moon Over Buffalo” beginning on February 13.
The “Guided Summit Hike” planned for Enchanted Rock on December 28 was cancelled due to predicted rain. The sky was gloomy and the wind was blowing fiercely, but dozens (maybe hundreds) of unintimidated hikers made their way to the top of the enormous granite dome in southern Llano County. Hikes at the Enchanted Rock State Natural Area usually begin at the gazebo (pictured at top left) and wind up or around the larger dome. Some of the features of the Summit Trail are pictured at left, the photo at right looks back from near the top of Enchanted Rock toward the park entrance.

Photos by John Hellowell
The first-ever GraniteFest, held on the grounds of the Granite Shoals city hall, was big news on April 27. Organizers hope that GraniteFest will become a popular spring tradition in the lakeside community (like Burnet's Bluebonnet Festival, Marble Falls' Mayfest, or Llano's Earth Art Festival and Fiddle Fest Weekend), and the Highland Lakes Weekly would love to help make that happen! See the next six pages for a few other highlights of early 2019; later events will be re-visited as space allows in the next few HLW issues.

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Above: The Panther Hollow Apartments, off Hwy 281 on the south edge of Marble Falls, were still under construction on New Year’s Day in 2019.

Above, right: The old Badger Building, on the southeast corner of the Burnet square had a way to go (in this January 18 photo) before it became the Wedding Oak Winery.

At right: the new Gatti’s Pizza in Kingsland was also still under construction when this photo was taken on January 26.

Above: Almost everyone at Bertram Elementary School, and quite a few visitors as well, gathered outside the old gymnasium for this unique “Donkey Day” event (Bertram’s answer to Groundhog Day), where Skip and Patsy Oertli’s gifted donkey, Pawnee (accompanied in the photo by a younger “trainee”), predicted an early spring by his choice of grains.

At right: Workers installed an attractive new sign at the entrance of Packsaddle Elementary School on February 8, one of many improvements at the Kingsland campus during 2019.

Above: The huge sandbar left by the 2018 flood at the junction of the Llano and Colorado Rivers in Lake LBJ was exposed for all to see when the LCRA lowered the lake last winter. In the picture above, a team of local volunteers cleaned up the sandbar, which had been littered with debris since the previous October, on February 16.
The local band, Avogadro’s Number, was one of many which performed at a Flood Aid benefit at the JLK Event Center in Llano on February 16, 2019.

The long-awaited Bear King Brewing Company, in the renovated former Johnson Ford building in Marble Falls (behind the Blue Bonnet Cafe), held a ribbon-cutting at its Grand Opening on February 22.

Black and red decals were applied to the Highland Lakes Weekly’s new Ford Transit Connect on February 25, as this paper increased its size and circulation in a major upgrade last winter.
Above: Bluebonnets came to Kingsland early last year, as this February 26 picture indicates.

Above, right: The girls basketball team at Burnet High School earned a trip to the state championship game last year, and a big pep rally was held for the players at Hill Country Fellowship on February 27.

At right: The final phase of the “Homesteads at Mormon Mill” apartment complex was well underway when this photo was taken last March 15.

Above: The revival of a Buchanan Dam icon took place when “The Old Drive-In” opened on March 1.

Above, right: County judges celebrated a $100,000 grant from the Capital Area Housing Finance Corp with board members of the Highland Lakes Crisis Network last March 18, as flood relief efforts continued around the Highland Lakes.

At right: A large crowd turned out for a golf tournament on March 23 to help raise funds for restoration efforts at the flood-damaged Kingsland Community Park.

Construction at Lakeside Park in Marble Falls was just getting underway when this photo was taken on April 2.

At right: Wakepoint LBJ in Kingsland held a flood-delayed Grand Opening on March 23.
Barber/Kayaker Ethan West made history when he decided to take a few weeks off from his Mason barbershop to kayak from the headwaters of the South Llano River (near Junction) all the way to the Gulf of Mexico last spring. He arrived in Kingsland on April 9, and is pictured here leaving Wakepoint LBJ on the morning of April 10.

The second of three Habitat for Humanity houses on Avenue M in Marble Falls was dedicated on April 14.

The Hill Country Builders Association held a mixer on April 16 at the beautiful new Kingsland headquarters of KT Waterfront Construction, located on RR 1431, just down the hill from Kingsland’s scenic overlook.
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A crowd gathered for an Open House on April 17, after Timmons Insurance renovated the former Central Texas Land Titles building in Kingsland to make its headquarters there. The law firm of Brown & Lacallade has its offices in the unique building’s second floor.

The Lions Club’s new “Welcome to Kingsland” sign, located on RR 1431 next to the Kelly Moore paint store, had recently been completed when this photo was taken on May 4. It has had medallions added by several civic groups since then.

The NSX Owners of Texas filled the parking lot at Lazy Heron Coffee House in Kingsland with their Acura supercars last May 4.
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