Livestock shows were the biggest events on the Highland Lakes area's social calendar last weekend, and good crowds (including many generous supporters) attended both. You can see lots of photos inside this week's paper, and many more on the "Highland Lakes Weekly" Facebook page.

By JOHN HALLLOWELL

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

The Cory Morrow Band will be at the Goizueta Theatre in Llano this Friday night (January 17). The show begins at 9 p.m.

The Rockin' Arts Academy will present "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" on stage at the First Baptist Church of Marble Falls at two shows this weekend. 7 p.m. on Friday and 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 17 & 18.

The annual Ketterhagen Memorial Bicycle Race will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 18, in Llano. A Local Catty Bollers will conduct a Watercolor Workshop from 11 to 3 this Saturday at the Llano Fine Art Guild, the first of monthly workshops planned for the third Saturday of each month. Visit www.bobbollers.com for details and a supply list or contact Catty directly at 325-244-2509.

A Designer Faire Affair, with prizes, raffles, and a silent auction will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. this Sunday (January 19) at St. James Lutheran Church in Llano, to benefit Llano Animal Rescue.

The Texas Indian Hobbyist Association will hold its Winter Powwow at the JJA Event Center in Llano this Saturday.

(Texas Indian Hobbyist Association will hold its Winter Powwow at the JJA Event Center in Llano this Saturday.)
Winter Texan Dinner

The Kingsland/Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce hosted its first Winter Texan Dinner of 2020 at Log Country Caves on Tuesday evening. A good crowd attended; the state of Minnesota led the way with 19 attendees, but Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan were both well represented and a couple were from Canada and Alaska. Woody Kawasaki provided live entertainment; the dinner was sponsored by Highland Lakes United Methodist Church. The next dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11.

Lake LBJ Library, at 155-247-2349 to reserve a seat. Light refreshments will be served.

Lakeshore Library (at RR 21 in Buchanan Dam) will host a discussion of the book, Where the Crawdads Sing, by author Delia Owens, at noon on Wednesdays, January 22. The program is free and open to all, bring your lunch or a potluck item to share. Please call the library at 255-3794-1174 to let them know you’re coming.

The Highland Lakes Service League will host its 2020 Chuck Wagon Chow Down at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 25, at the Y.M.C.A. in Burnet. Tickets include BBQ dinner, complementary beer and wine, a live and silent auction, and a raffle for the heads or tails game. Entertainment will be provided by Wade Tatum; the event will help provide scholarships for women pursuing further education, and grants to local non-profit organizations.

The Friends of the Kingsland Library will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, at the Kingsland Library. Library Director Amber Milton will be discussing last year’s circulation statistics, plus programs and plans for 2020.

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

The Oak Hill Public Library will host a Dutch Oven Cook-off from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 8.

The Phoenix Center will hold its annual Mardi Gras Gala on Saturday, February 8, at Homesite Bay Resort.

The Burnet Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Awards Banquet at the community center (401 E. Jackson Street) beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 8.

Candlelight Ranch (off RR 1314 in western Travis County) will host its annual Chili Cook-Off and Car Show from noon to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 9.

The next 7 Coves Vineyard will host a “We Love Our Members” wine party from 11 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 8. Nathan Harmon will provide live music. Visit 7coveswinery.com or call 512-526-1181 for details.

The Highland Lakes Quilt Festival will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 8 and 4 to 5 p.m. in the Burnet Community Center.

The “Groovy Like Riley” show (Denny Britt, Chip Delan, and Marvin Dyckman) will perform at Lake Point’s Shady Tree Porch venue, off Hwy 71 just before the Pedernales River Bridge in Spicewood, on the afternoon of Sunday, February 16.
Scatterthought

If it’s not one thing, it’s another! I was just starting to recover from my vacation and my cedar fever when I was informed that Highland Publishing (the company that has been printing my paper for about eight years) had gone out of business just after last week’s paper got printed.

My first thought was that this might be the end of the Highland Lakes Weekly; the week that I had written my most optimistic editorial ever, speculating that I might be able to publish this paper for ten more years, I was thinking that I might not last another month. That’s a more dramatic mood swing than usual, but it illustrates how we are to learn “close to the edge” so much of the time. Even when I’m feeling “out of the world” I’m rarely more than an emergency away from total despair; it is totally God’s goodness that has kept me going this long! Now that I’ve had a little time to calm down, I don’t think I’ll have to quit, and I’m counting on God’s goodness to keep me going a little longer.

Unfortunately, the “crisis” occupied my mind so much that I completely forgot about the Lions Club’s district meeting in Kingwood. I meant to at least drop in and take some pictures, especially since I am a member of the Kingwood Lions Club, but it never crossed my mind until it was all over. At least I didn’t forget the livestock show!

Anyone who has read this paper before will recognize that it’s different this week. I haven’t found anyone yet who has printed a paper the size that mine has been for the past five years; my choices are bigger pages (like this week’s paper) or the smaller “tabloid” size (like the Highland Lakes Weekly was when I first started). As I was preparing this week’s paper, I realized that the smaller pages are more compatible with my methods of laying out a paper, but I wanted to have lots of big pictures from the livestock shows this week. I’ll try to get more “practical” by the next time I publish (maybe a week and a half from now). One of the first problems I thought of is that all the printers are more than an hour’s drive away. That means that I’ll have less time for deliveries, so I’m going to have to drop quite a few of the stops where not many people pick up the paper. When I figure out how many steps I can make under the new arrangements (nothing is definite yet), I’ll post a list of locations on the website. Also, I may have to make my ad rates (for the first time ever). This business will never be exactly the same, but my philosophy has not changed at all, so I think it will be pretty close.

January is usually the slowest month of the year for me, so I guess it was a good time to have a little crisis (if it had to be). I hope that I’ll have a schedule to tell you about by the beginning of February. A slow month means that new ads are more welcome than ever, and I really appreciated Gorman and Josh Stoner’s help with ad in last week’s paper Hill Country House Cleaning and Prestige Clean Mobile Detailing, on page 35 last week. I didn’t build the ad, but I was not involved, so there was an unfortunate typo that made me feel bad. The number that you are supposed to call is 512-575-1050.

(If you live or drive in Kingwood, you’ve probably seen the “Party League” banner at the corner of 1431 and 2800 (the Prosperity Bank low). Youngsters from 4 to 14 who want to play baseball, softball, or flag football this spring should sign up at the Little League fields (behind the Kingwood Community Center) between 9 and 1 each of the next three Saturdays January 18 & 25, February 1. I was down at the Kingwood Community Park the other day, and put a picture of the new well-conditioned field in the paper. I should mention that there WILL be a rolling around it soon.

You will see quite a few pictures from last weekend’s livestock shows in this paper, and hopefully they will look really good. I’m not sure if we’ll have a list of the buyers, and some of them I don’t know by name. I decided to just mention the names of the Grand Champion winners (if I have a list for that) and figure that you will recognize many of the buyers (as I do) they are lending their services at the community, and deserve recognition for their support of these great events, but I’m going to name some of them and leave others out.

I am pleased to say that the McDonald’s in Marble Falls will be closed after Sunday, January 26, and the demolition will begin a few days later. It is my goal to build a new McDonald’s on the site, much the same way it was done in Llano a few years ago. That project went amazingly well, and business is much improved since the new restaurant was built. Hopefully, it will go well in Marble Falls, too.

Something I forgot to mention last week was that IFPFA was in its Auxiliary in Burnet. On Monday, January 20, the Auxiliary Scholarship committee will host a fashion show arts students from Burnet High School can enter local businesses, who hopefully will inspire them to enter the upcoming IFPFA Auxiliary Creative Arts Contest. The VIP party also hosts regular bingo nights, so look for those.

I would mention now that the recently refurbished hall is available for rent to businesses, civic groups or families who need an economical venue for a group event.

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Livestock and eager exhibitors, along with a good crowd of family members and interested spectators, filled the John L. Kuykendal Event Center in Llano last weekend for the 2020 Llano Junior Livestock Show.

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January 17, 2020
Hill Country Weekly
Llano Stock Show (continued)

The crowd prepared for Saturday evening’s Premium Sale at the JFK Event Center.

Local musical celebrity McKenzie Jones sang the national anthem to open the event.

Graci Phillips watched as buyers placed bids on her Grand Champion Market Lamb.

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TRAVELER'S
Graci Phillips showed the Grand Champion Market Lamb at Llano's Stock Show.

Above: Kennedy Wootan showed the Grand Champion Market Steer.

At right: Kimble Schuessler showed the Grand Champion Heifer.

Below: Grashom Prokop showed the Grand Champion Market Hog.
Rounding out the elite group of Grand Champion winners at the Llano Junior Livestock Show were: McKenzie Jones (at left) with her Grand Champion Meat Goat, and Dylan Dick (at right) with his Grand Champion Gilt.

Brittany Crow (left) took top honors for her Pen of Pullets.

Kaylee Becker (Pen of Rabbits) and Jaci Smith (Turkey) are pictured at lower left.

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Most of the Showmanship winners at Burnet’s 2020 Livestock Show gathered for this group photo at the beginning of the Premium Sales on Saturday afternoon.

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The youngsters in this photo above were some of the Future Feeders at Burnet’s livestock show last Friday, with some help from their elders, they showed animals and won ribbons.

At right: Those three exhibitors were nervous about showing their goats during the actual judging a little earlier in the day on Friday.

One of the stars at Burnet County’s Livestock show the past two years has been Allyson Warwick (pictured here with buyers of her Grand Champion Breeding Girl), a sophomore at Burnet High School who works with animals daily in two separate barns. She won numerous events this year (also including Grand Champion Breeding Heifer) for her fine cattle, hogs and sheep. She also has had good success at larger livestock shows around the state. Pictured from left: Kellen Floyd, Cheri Trinidad, Cash Ringstaff, Allyson Warwick, Julia Evans, Lori Ringstaff and Danny Floyd.
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Some of the Grand Champion winners at Burnet’s Livestock show are pictured on this page. Above, left, Kyrstean Cody (Market Lamb); above right, Katelyn Moore (Market Steer); at right, Kendal Hampton-Hogue (Market Turkeys); and below, Ansley Goehring (Market Broilers).

Colton Davidson is pictured above with the Grand Champion Boer Goat.

At right, Dylan Burton showed the Grand Champion Angora Goat.

Photos by Jon Hallowell
From top: Grand Champion winners Kelly Linzer (Market Hogs), Hannah Brooks (Market Goats), Brynlee Cody (Erecting Sheep), and Clayton Atkinson (Market Rabbits).
Above: Family members gathered around longtime stock show supporters Gene and Annie Dell Taylor for a picture as the couple was honored for years of dedicated service.

At left: Tyler Patterson won Grand Champion Ag Mechanics Project for his beautiful china cabinet.

Below: Jonathan Baker won Grand Champion at the Bexar County FFA & 4-H Livestock Show last weekend.
Above: John Arthur Martinez, Mike Blakely and Kurt Baimor entertained the crowd at Trailblazer Grills in Burnet, continuing what has become a "MOSTI seconds Thursday" tradition at the rocksteady music venue on the west side of the Burnet square.

Above, right: Seth Smith and Kühn Fosler served as MCs and performers at the Hill Country Community Theatre's excellent "Over the Rainbow" tribute to Judy Garland in two shows last weekend. Other participants in the musical tribute were regular "Hill Country Community Theatre Players" Linda Rasmussen, Tom Souther and Abigail Storm, along with well-known area musicians Dan McMurrrough and Graham Avery.

Above, left: Doug Kershaw, the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame member known as the "Ragin' Cajun," was the featured performer in two shows at the Llano Country Opry last Saturday.

At left: Karaoke entertainer Billy Scott was joined by his talented daughter, Sarah, during his regular Friday evening gig at Wakepoint LBJ in Kingsland.

The Highland Lakes Genealogy Society invites you to its monthly meeting at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, in the large meeting room of the Kingsland Library. Refreshments provided by HLGS and presented by Shirley Dixon.

The Highland Lakes Genealogy Society will have a special guest speaker returning in February to give us a program on the analysis of DNA testing. Randy Whited is a science, genetics, genealogy, and technology geek and has been avidly researching his family history for over thirty years. In addition to earning as the 2016-2017 President of the Texas State Genealogical Society, Randy also serves on the Board of Directors of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

*Membership is open to the public. Annual dues are $30 for individuals, $40 for married couples. Todd or Ciai Shirley for more info 830-385-7070.

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