

Guide to Salado: Events, Shopping Map inside

Salado Village Voice

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Hearing set Jan. 5 on proposed rock crushing near Jarrell

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has scheduled a 7 p.m. Jan. 5 public hearing at the Jarrell Volunteer Fire Department Hall at 212 North Main Street in Jarrell to allow the public the opportunity to submit comments or ask questions about proposed air quality permit 7591L001 for Mine Service Ltd. rock crushing facility.

The rock crushing facility is proposed to be

located at the northwest corner of the intersection of County Road 344 and County Road 305 near Jarrell in Williamson County.

In addition to the application for an air quality permit, Mine Services Ltd. is also submitting a new Water Pollution Abatement Plan to allow the rock crushing plant to operate at maximum capacity.

The proposed rock

crusher will operate 14 hours per day, six days per week, 52 weeks per year for a total of 4,368 hours per year. The total capacity of the operation is almost 3.5 million tons per year (800 tons per hour).

Residents and property owners in the area are concerned that the proposed facility will adversely affect the quality of water in Salado Creek not only in Williamson County but downstream in Bell County and Salado.

Proposed bond issues seek construction of HS, renovations

The deadline for non-registered voters in the school district wanting to vote in the Feb. 4 Salado I.S.D. bond election is Jan. 5.

A qualified resident of Salado I.S.D. must send their voter's registration application -- if not already registered -- into the voter's registrar office on Central Ave. in Belton by that date in order to vote in the Feb. 4 election.

Voter registration applications are available at the Salado Civic Center.

Voters will have two propositions before them in February.

Proposition 1

Proposition 1, totaling \$15,675,000, will be construction of a new high school on the 50 acres of property at FM 2484 and Williams Dr. with renovations of current academic facilities.

Construction of the new high school is budgeted at \$15 million, while \$675,000 is budgeted for the renovations. It will be built with a core capacity of 800 students and a classroom capacity of 600 students. The design will allow for additional classroom wings to be

built when needed.

"We maintained approximately the same cost estimate given to us by Fields and Associates last spring and increased the capacity by considering a simpler architectural design, pre-engineered building, and a one story building," Dr. Battershell said of the proposed high school.

"It will be a simple building that the community will be pleased with," Dr. Battershell said, adding that the high school will have an initial classroom capacity of 600 and a core capacity (library, cafeteria, etc.) of 800.

The renovations on existing campuses in the proposed bond include interior and exterior painting, fixing cracks, additional storage and replacement of ceiling tiles and grids.

"If bids come in under the projections then we can use the money to do additional renovations," said Salado I.S.D. Superintendent Robin Battershell.

Proposition 2

Proposition 2, totaling \$500,000, will be for renovating the existing

football stadium and elementary gymnasium. The renovations of the football stadium include adding seating capacity, bringing restrooms, stands and walkways into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The renovations of the elementary gymnasium include addressing cooling and roofing issue.

The bond propositions are made with the understanding that Proposition 1 must pass in order for Proposition 2 to be implemented. If Proposition 2 is approved by voters, but Proposition 1 is declined by voters, the board will not issue the \$500,000 in bonds for Proposition 2.

Past bond comparison

While the upcoming proposed bond election has much in common with the failed April 2005 bond election, it also has several differences.

The most notable similarity between the two is this: both called for construction of a new high school on a new location with a cost of approximately \$15 million. The failed bond budgeted \$15.2 million for construction of

SEE BOND, PAGE 5A



Jim Kilpatrick watches as Earl Bragg prepares new computers for use at the Salado Public Library.

Library has new computers on-line for patrons to use

The Salado Public Library is looking forward - and trying to anticipate what the residents of Salado will need from their library in the coming years. After reviewing usage statistics the trustees determined that given the increase in computer use in the last few years, it was time to upgrade the technology at the library.

During the summer the library underwent an evaluation of its computer services by Central Texas Library System consultants. In response to their recommendations, the library has made some changes, including new computers and services - and is now ready to provide even more to the community.

New public access desktop computers were installed in December for the use of patrons. The new computing services will allow more people to access the internet. All computers in the library have both an internet connection and standard software such as word processing, publishing and spreadsheet applications.

All the computers allow the uploading and downloading of files and have printing capabilities, and there will be no more restrictions on which computer can be used. To meet growing demand

the library will soon provide six wireless laptops for checkout use within the library. The laptop computers are not new, but have been upgraded and given the same functionality and services as the new desktops. And the library will continue to offer quarterly computer classes to the residents of Salado.

The children's area has received new computers as well, with appropriate filtering software to ensure a safe experience. Children under 14 will no longer be allowed to use the main library computers, which will not have filtering software installed on them. This will help move towards compliance with the new Children's Internet Protection Act recently enacted by Congress.

Through the addition of new networking equipment the library now is able to provide wireless access to the community. Residents and visitors will be able to come into the library and have access to the internet through their own wireless device. The service will be available only during library hours.

The library is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.



Rooted in Salado Since 1979

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Make-up day Feb. 9

The two make-up days designated on the Salado I.S.D. 2005-06 calendar for bad weather are Feb. 9 and 10. Due to missing school earlier due to icy weather, Salado students will make up this day on Feb. 9.

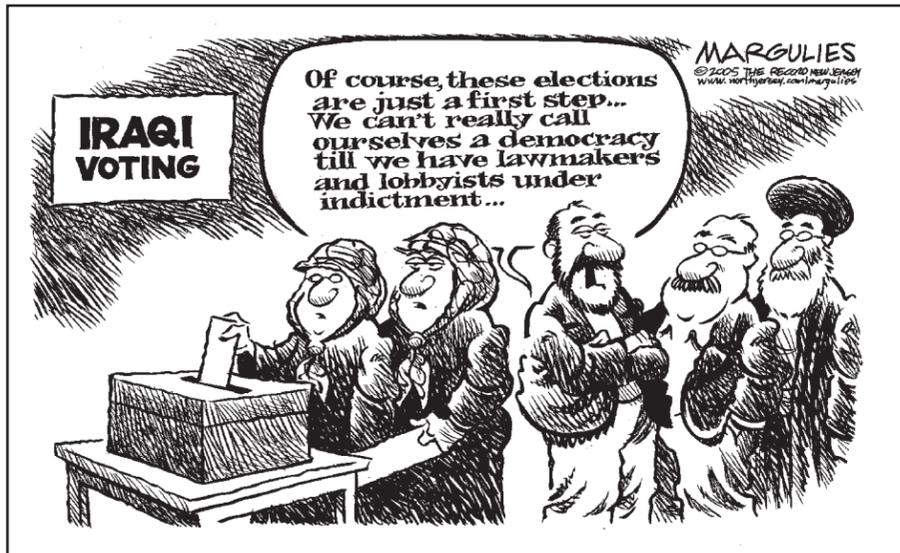
"Although I know some families have made plans, I ask for you to do everything possible to have your children at school. School attendance and parental support are the main indicators of student success," said SISD Superintendent Robin Battershell.

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FORUM

An Open Exchange of Ideas



Wal-Mart and Retail Innovation

A new documentary, "Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price," trashes the much-maligned discount retailer. What the company's executives are now encountering is the high cost of progress. The political reaction against Wal-Mart is the latest iteration of the fear and loathing that greets any major innovation in American retailing.

A new paper from the Competitive Enterprise Institute details the long history of resistance to retail advances. In the late 19th century, the advent of department stores caused outrage. The same reaction met the rise of mail-order catalogs, which were burned in public at the behest of local retailers. The rise of chain stores in the 1920s also inflamed local merchants, who claimed that they threatened "the future of the children."

Now, it's Wal-Mart's turn. Founder Sam Walton realized that by offering customers discount prices he could make more profits based on increased volume. Hence, the Wal-Mart revolution, and the movement against it that "The High Cost" celebrates. Wal-Mart is faring the film surprisingly well, since its release coincided with the publication of studies that debunk the image of the company crucifying its employees on a cross of low wages and nonexistent benefits as it forces them onto welfare.

The first thing to know about low price is that it has a wonderfully low cost for Wal-Mart customers, a category that includes eight in 10 Americans a year. In a widely cited report, Jason Furman of New York University notes that Wal-Mart and other discount stores make "consumers better off by the equivalent of 25 percent of annual food spending."

But only at the price of wage slavery? No, Wal-Mart's average wage of roughly \$9 an hour is on par with other retailers. Because the jobs tend to be low-skill, retail workers earn less than the aver-

Rich Lowry



age wage for all U.S. workers. According to Furman, this holds true even in areas without Wal-Marts.

Three-quarters of Wal-Mart workers are full time. Other retailers have work forces that are only 20 percent to 40 percent full time. And Wal-Mart offers health insurance to full-time and part-time employees, which is rare in retail. Eighty-six percent of Wal-Mart employees have health insurance; 48 percent through Wal-Mart's plan.

Although "The High Cost" attacks Wal-Mart as a welfare queen, only about five percent of Wal-Mart employees are on Medicaid, the same proportion as other retailers.

It is true, as the CEI paper notes, that Wal-Mart jobs are poorly paid compared with unionized jobs. Grocery clerks at unionized stores in California get paid nearly \$18 an hour. But Wal-Mart passes its lower costs on to customers, who pay 17 percent to 39 percent less for groceries there.

In this sense, the self-styled humanitarians who object to Wal-Mart are narrowed-minded defenders of a special interest. If they get their way, they might better the lot of retail employees, but at the cost of the community, including people who aren't fortunate enough to have a retail job but who still have to buy clothes and food. And so the anti-Wal-Mart zealots oppose the general welfare and an innovation that has promoted it. Hasn't it always been thus?

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Bell Commissioners order historic ban on fireworks; DNGers approve wiretaps: Feds still "Mining Data"

Bell County Commissioners, meeting in special session this past Friday, banned the use of fireworks effective immediately. It will remain in effect until March 30.

This was an historic move by Commissioners and made absolutely necessary because of the current weather conditions - lack of rain, high temperatures and wind, that combined at both rural and urban levels, to produce dangerous fires that have destroyed lives, homes, livestock and pasture land across the State.

The Commissioner's firework ban order does not include the sale of fireworks - only the use of them. A fine of up to \$500 will be assessed for violating the ban.

Up until now, only incorporated cities in Bell have banned fireworks, since counties have no general ordinance authority, other than "emergency powers." And it was this "special" authority that commissioners used to enact the firework restrictions.

We heartily commend the Bell Commissioners for halting the use of fireworks - something that was sorely needed. It is hoped that counties will be able to overcome legislative roadblocks in the future, so local decisions can be made on a regular basis and before emergencies occur.

We also extend grateful appreciation to our paid and volunteer firefighters - both here in Salado and throughout the county, for the exhausting work they have accomplished in controlling the raging fires plaguing the county in recent days.

"DO-NO-GOODERS" ON NEWSWEEK

Leave it to our noble "Do-No-Gooder" group, to end last year quaffing coffee (as they do with alarming regularity at the Stagecoach Coffee Shop) while commenting liberally (actually "conservatively" since most of these guys lean pretty far to the right) on a recent Newsweek article concerning the President.

The report dealt with Mr. Bush's propensity to stay within a "tight circle" of "special" associates in both the White House and West Wing. Newsweek called it a "bubble" but that's a stretch. It really deals with a comfort zone enjoyed by Bush that's found within a relatively small group of trusted confederates, starting with the Old Nixon-Ford hands - Dick Cheney and Donnie Rumsfeld, and ending with a limited cadre of "yes" loyalists who carry out orders.

Nothing wrong with all that, so far as it goes, but the "sticker" is that it leaves little protection for honest dissent or the bearers of bad news. It also handicaps the president when "final" decision time rolls around.

Newsweek went on to highlight the fear staff members have when bringing unfavorable items to the Prez's attention - a fate worse than being exiled to the Department of Interior's Penguin Census Bureau.

The article (quoting staffers who pleaded for anonymity) noted that "In the Bush White House, disagreement is often equated with disloyalty." Which sounded a little like the blasts hurled at those (in recent years) who questioned the war in Iraq and other related "anti-terror" (and anti-privacy) matters.

These contrarians continue to be labelled "disloyal," "un-American" and even traitorous - by stolid, intractable Bushies.

Off the Record by Ken Clapp



BUSH HANDS OUT NICKNAMES

Newsweek also noted (humorously) that close friends are given "special" nicknames by the President - something like knighthood or a "gotched ear" brand. Like the one Bush awarded his "closest" buddy, Karl Rove. That "affectionate" sobriquet (cleaned up) is "excrement blossom!" Great kidder is our jolly old King George!

That brought chuckles to the DNGers, as they continued a week-long pontification about the national security wiretapping program. "Great" and "Needed" they opined. A more complete evaluation by these zealots: "If you aren't doing anything wrong - you don't have to worry if the government taps your wire," (or words to that effect).

One DNGer slyly suggested that idea could have come from Orwell's "1984." Another "back bencher" noted that the Bush staff in action gave him an insight as to the number-one qualification for a White House job - namely a "grim look" (or at least gravely monarchical).

All this brought to mind what a friend said about his personal physician. "I want my doctor to have hemorrhoids," he noted. "When he treats me, I want him to have a sincere look of concern - at all times."

FEDS STILL "MINING DATA"

Back on November 27, 2002, this column carried a full report about what we termed "an outrageous federal data-collection project underway at the Defense Department." It was the brainchild of Admiral John Poindexter (Iran-Contra disgrace era), with startup money from SecDef Donald Rumsfeld's Pentagon "petty-cash" reservoir.

This massive personal data assemblage was designed to store information on everyone in this country (native born citizens and all others). It was well underway when the public discovered what was going on (thanks to the bad old liberal media). The howls were enough to have the White House and Congress denounce it and officially declare the project "dead and buried."

Fact is, only the title of the computerized data monstrosity was "killed" with personal information still being stockpiled at an unbelievable clip, only this time attached to national security - thereby cloaking it with "top-secret" protection.

The plan of collecting info on citizens was given the officialese term "data mining." This column (early-on) called the giant personal data collecting computer - "Snoopy," as a joke. With billions of personal items collected on every phase of our lives, we should have tagged it with the more appropriate name - "Big Brother!" It remains today a dangerous (and warrantless) invasion of our privacy.

Just what our political leanings; medical files; education background; banking records; licenses issued; legal records; charge accounts and credit reports - have to do with national security is a question that needs an "unvarnished" honest answer.

It might be well if all of us - from the White House to our own house, keep in mind the important words of British politician William Pitt, from an address to Parliament (1766) - which is dynamically true - to an even greater degree today - in our beloved (and troubled) nation: "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

That's -30-

(kclapp@saladovillagevoice.com)

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Tim Fleischer, **Editor-in-Chief**
tfleischer@saladovillagevoice.com
Chris McGregor, **Staff Writer**
cmcgregor@saladovillagevoice.com

Marilyn Fleischer, **Managing Editor**
mfleischer@saladovillagevoice.com
Ken Clapp, **Political Commentary**
kclapp@saladovillagevoice.com

The New Year's Resolution

Superintendent's Corner

By Robin Battershell

Over the holidays, I did things my hectic schedule normally doesn't afford me time to do like watch the *Today Show* and read various newspapers. In watching and reading these media sources, I happened upon a common theme, the writing of thank you notes. One of the journalists on the *Today Show* interviewed someone from Emily Post on the obsolescence of the thank you note. According to this report, very few people write thank you notes. The interview went on to say that there is an etiquette to thank you note writing. A REAL thank you note is not an e-mail or voice mail message, it is handwritten. It certainly does not misspell the name of the person being thanked and it is always very specific about the gift and how that gift is going to be used. Then in Dallas Morning News I read an editorial written by a noted artist about a thank you note that he had sent to his high school art teacher long after he had graduated and attained some notoriety. He said that his teacher returned his correspondence and said that in her 30 plus years of teaching she had never received a thank you note from a former student. Thus one of my New Year's Resolutions was to thank some of my teachers who made such a difference. One of these teachers was Mrs. Kerr. Note that I did not use her first name, because a true teacher is always Mrs./Miss _____.

Mrs. Kerr is still living in an assisted living facility in Waco. She was the fourth grade teacher that everyone wanted. Because my mother was a teacher in the school, I rarely got the "nicest" teachers (I guess if I did people thought that favorites were played). But in fourth grade, I was lucky enough to have Mrs. Kerr. Mrs. Kerr had flaming red hair that never really arranged itself into what some call a style. She had a good smattering of freckles and a perpetual toothy smile. In retrospect, she was just a bit daffy, but we loved her. Mrs. Kerr introduced us to the game of chess. Instead of recess many days, we battled over boards of chess pieces. Little did we know that the weather was abysmal and I'm sure Mrs. Kerr

had had her fill of us. I'm sure the rules were a bit skewed, but victory was none the less sweet. Mrs. Kerr was a bit of a weather phobe and in Central Texas that is a curse. In the Spring, our town was hit by a tornado. I know Mrs. Kerr was supposed to be cool and collected, but instead she screamed at the top of her lungs, "Stay calm and get under your desks!" Instead of fear, we thought it was fantastic! She also really liked science and conducted some science experiments with questionable results, to say the least. The most memorable was the volcano which just wouldn't cease erupting even when the ceiling tiles above it caught on fire. And through all of this we laughed.

Mrs. Kerr, I want to thank you for always smiling and laughing, even when I now know you didn't feel like it. I want to thank you for having the courage to conduct science experiments that didn't come out right. I want to thank you for allowing us to be nerds and have chess championships. I want to thank you for being scared in the face of a tornado. I want to thank you for being just a bit eccentric and above all I want to thank you for teaching me that knowledge is nothing without a sense of humor and without a sense of adventure. These were all gifts.

What did these gifts do? Well, they taught me to love learning, to laugh at my own mistakes, to seek out knowledge and to take risks. To this, I thank you, Mrs. Kerr.

If you feel so inclined I ask you to join me in stamping out the extinction of thank you notes. Remember what it feels like to get one?

Supporters of school bond write

Editor:

As you know, we have a very important school bond issue coming up very soon.

The need for a larger school with more classrooms, labs, and all that goes with providing a quality education that helps prepare our young people for what they face in the near future is to me very clear. All anyone has to do to see this need is to take one of the tours being offered and then make up your mind.

Maudie and I support the upcoming bond issues. Like so many, we feel like we are bearing a tax load already

FORUM

Exploration, Discovery and America's Future

Capitol Comment



Kay Bailey Hutchison
U.S. Senator



Among the bills that received final approval from Congress in the hours before it adjourned for the year was legislation to authorize continued funding for NASA. It was the first time in five years Congress has spoken so emphatically in support of the vision for the next generation of space exploration and research, including affirmation of the goal to put a permanent base on the moon.

The authorization bill provides a policy blueprint for NASA. I believe it is significant that an overwhelming number of my colleagues in the House of Representatives and the Senate recognized that the pathways of exploration and discovery outlined in the legislation merited their endorsement.

By supporting the bill, Congress has placed a stamp of approval on completion of the International Space Station and on moving forward with the transition to a new generation of crew exploration vehicles. In addition, NASA now has Congressional guidance on its activities related to research, science, education and aeronautics.

But perhaps most important, passage of the legislation -- and the implicit support for the science and engineering expertise contained within it -- may be seen as evidence of Congress' determination to address one of the most important challenges looming in front of our nation.

America's preeminence since World War II has rested upon the bedrock of its economic dominance. Our economy, in turn, has depended upon a continued flow of technological and scientific advances for its

strength. Increasingly, the edge that we have enjoyed in such a crucial area is being challenged by other nations. If we do not meet this challenge, not only will NASA's leadership be at risk, but so will America's.

Thankfully, leaders from our political, business, scientific and academic communities are beginning to tackle this problem. The National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine, have created the "Committee on Prospering in the Global Economy of the 21st Century." The committee is expected to soon release the final version of its study "Rising Above the Gathering Storm."

The committee cites a number of what it terms "worrisome indicators" that point to the decline in educational emphasis on science and mathematics. For example, in 2004, China graduated about 500,000 engineers and India 200,000. Here at home, we had only 70,000 such graduates.

U.S. 12th graders have performed below the international average of 21 countries on a test designed to measure general knowledge in mathematics and science. In 2007, for the first time, the most advanced high-energy particle accelerator will not be in the United States. In a prepublication summary, the committee notes that it is "...deep(ly) concerned that the

scientific and technical building blocks of our economic leadership are eroding at a time when many other nations are gathering strength." The committee urges our nation to "... prepare with great urgency to preserve its strategic and economic security."

My colleagues and I are ready to act on a number of the recommendations made by the committee. This issue is not political; it is not partisan. There is already emerging in Congress a willingness to embark on a serious effort to ensure that America maintains creative leadership in the world.

We will make an effort to recruit annually 10,000 science and math teachers in middle and high school, offering four year college scholarships as an incentive. New training and education programs will be developed to strengthen the skills of current teachers and additional federal resources will be allocated for research activities in the hard sciences.

I will continue to write about this important initiative as the year progresses. Few policy debates will be more important to our country's security and our children's future. As Chairman of the Space and Science Subcommittee in the Senate, I intend to push for America's leadership and superiority to continue through this century.

IBM's dismal plans for the middle class



Jim Hightower

The internal memo is dated April 2005 and tagged: "IBM Confidential."

The reason for the hush-hush treatment is that this document is written confirmation of corporate America's intention to offshore our nation's middle-class future, shipping out jobs in engineering and other sciences that require advanced degrees and pay top wages. IBM, the world's largest information technology corporation, has become the leading practitioner of shopping the globe for the cheapest high-tech workers, knocking down the wage floor to the lowest common denominator.

Because of the wrenching economic, social, and political impacts this will have on U.S. society, IBM has not wanted to concede publicly that undermining middle-class opportunities is a corporate goal. This leaked memo, however, confirms that while the top honchos are cutting 13,000 of these high-tech jobs in America and Europe this year, it will add 14,000 in low-wage tech centers of India.

Experienced software programmers in our country earn maybe \$75,000 a year, creating a sound middle-class base for our economy and communities. But the hell with such democratic notions of the common good, say the profiteers. We can replace American programmers with ones from India who'll do the work for \$15,000 a year.

That's \$60,000 per job, per year, that the corporate and investor elites can take out of the middle class and put in their own pockets.

Adding insult to injury, a top IBM executive says that the corporate rush to India is not merely a chase for the cheapest workers, but "It's mostly about skills." He then proceeds to lecture America's high-tech workers: "You are no longer competing just with the guy down the street, but also with people around the world."

And there you have a sparkling clear statement of what corporate America thinks of you and has in store for you. How do they think they'll hold a society together when they knock down all of our wages to \$15,000 a year?

Your Voice

Letters to the Editor

and before we increase that we want assurance this is the best way to meet a need and not just complete a wish list. I am convinced in my heart of hearts that we must expand. We have the land and that purchase was done after input from across the district and was the exact piece of land that so many decided was the "right place for a new school." Do we want to increase our

taxes? NO! Are we willing to bite the bullet and do it? YES!

We offer just a couple of our opinions that lead us to support the bond issue.

1. Cost-if you believe that we are undersized to meet growth that will occur, things are going up everyday and waiting will cost us money when we do build. To us it makes business sense to do it now!

2. There is some talk of building on current site. We believe this not to be the answer and that the savings that may be gained at this point are negated by the things we lose by trying to do it all at the current site.

Our hope is that we all come together, in many cases agree to disagree, and when the voters speak and the decision is made one way or the other, we stay committed to a great school.

Sincerely,
Darrell and Maudie
Street, Salado

Resolved.

This is the year to *get your investments* in order.

If you keep only one new year's resolution, make it one that's designed to last a lifetime. Resolve to create and implement an investment strategy to help you achieve your long-term financial goals. Then review and revise it on at least an annual basis.

Do something positive for yourself this January. Call me today for a no-cost, no-obligation portfolio review. Together we can create the plan that's right for you based on your current situation, objectives and risk tolerance.



Allen Mantanona

Call or stop by today.

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Take advantage of IRA "catch-up" limits

Now that it's 2006, you are one year closer to retirement. Of course, if you are still in your twenties, this milestone may not mean that much to you. But if you are 50 or older, the prospect of actually becoming a retiree looms larger as the years go by. Fortunately, it's just become a little easier to build savings for your retirement years. Why? Because, starting Jan. 1, you can put in \$1,000 in "catch-up" contributions to your traditional or Roth IRA, up from \$500 in 2005. So, given the \$4,000 annual limit for regular contributions, you can put in a total of \$5,000 to your IRA in 2006.

Fully funding your IRA should be one of your top investment priorities. Keep in mind that IRAs offer two major benefits:

- Tax advantages - If you have a traditional IRA, your earnings have the potential to grow tax-deferred, so your

Financial Focus

by Allen Mantanona



money can grow faster than it would in an investment on which you paid taxes every year. (You will eventually have to pay taxes on your earnings, but, by then, you may be in a lower tax bracket.) Also, depending on your income level, your contributions may be tax-deductible. When you have a Roth IRA, you can withdraw your contributions at any time, free of taxes. You can also take out earnings, free of taxes, as long as you don't begin withdrawals until you are 59-1/2 and you've had your account for at least five years.

- Variety of investment options - You can invest your

IRA in virtually any security you choose - stocks, bonds, Treasury bills, certificates of deposit, etc. In fact, you're not confined to just one type of investment within your IRA; you can create a diversified portfolio containing a variety of holdings.

Given these tax advantages and this investment flexibility, it's almost certainly a good idea to "max out" on your IRA every single year. Of course, it's not always that easy to come up with \$5,000 at one time, but you don't have to. You can fund your IRA over the course of a year by putting in about \$416 per month. And, to make it even easier for you to completely fund your IRA, you could

have that \$416 moved automatically, via a bank authorization, from your checking or savings account to your IRA.

On the other hand, if you can possibly afford to pay the full \$5,000 in the first few weeks of the year, you may well end up with more money in the long run. That's because you'll be giving your money more time to grow - and, as an investor, time can be your greatest ally.

But however you do it - over 12 months or right away - put the full amount into your IRA. Along with your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, your IRA is one of the best retirement-savings vehicles you have available. And now that you are on the "plus" side of 50, you'll want to really focus your efforts on making sure you have the resources available to enjoy the retirement lifestyle you deserve.



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Counting your chickens!

Buying and Selling

by Ryan Hodge

It's a common predicament: you need to sell your home and at the same time buy and move into another, possibly in another city. Since it's not likely that you'll close on both homes in the same day, how do you proceed? Buy first or sell first? It's a classic "chicken or the egg" scenario.

If you sell first,

you're pressured to move, perhaps into temporary quarters. But if you face something like job relocation, there may be little choice. If you buy first, you might be paying two mortgages for some time. But if you can't afford two payments, you'll probably have to sell first to qualify for a loan. What a headache!

There's a beast called a "contingency contract," wherein you make an offer on a home that is "contingent" upon selling your current home. Experience has shown, however, that sellers will not be enthused by such an offer. Why should they take their home off the market while waiting for the possible sale of your home?

The best bet is to go ahead and list your home for sale as soon as possible, and start looking at other homes. When your home is under contract, get your loan pre-approval and choose from the houses you've already selected as your top three. Then make your offer and make your plans to start moving!

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Salado school classroom capacity and current enrollment

Campus	Student Enrollment	Campus Capacity*	Over+/Under- Cap
Thomas Arnold Elementary	412	374	+37
Salado Intermediate	391	462	-71
Salado High School	406	242	+164
District Totals	1,209	1,078	+131

* Campus capacity is based upon 22 students per classroom. Capacity does not include portable buildings on the campus. Six portable classrooms are at the Salado High School and six portables classrooms are at Thomas Arnold Elementary. These would bring the total student capacity to 1,210.

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Bond FROM PAGE 1A

the new high school, while the upcoming bond issue budgets \$15 million for a high school with a larger and student capacity.

The chief difference is that the failed April bond included construction of a new athletic stadium complex, while the proposed bond election has no such plans.

However, the second proposal will expand and renovate the current high school football field, as well as renovating the elementary school gym.

Additionally, the upcoming proposed bond includes \$675,000 for renovations of the current facilities. There were no such renovations included in the April 2005 bond proposal.

Salado I.S.D. voters on April 2 2005 rejected the \$17 million bond proposal by a 214-vote margin, 844 against to 630 for.

Neither the April bond nor the upcoming bond included construction of a performing arts center, although some in the com-

munity have expressed support for that center.

The chief reason for not including the PAC is its cost, which was estimated at more than \$3 million.

Whether the changes between that bond and the upcoming bond on Feb. 4 will make a difference to voters remains to be seen.

Voting times

Election day, polls will be open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Salado Civic Center. Early voting will be 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays Jan. 18-31, 2006 at the Salado Civic Center on Main Street.

Additional early voting times will be the following:

- 7:00-8:30 a.m. Jan. 19 at the Thomas Arnold Elementary school library on Thomas Arnold Rd.
- 5-8 p.m. Jan. 24 at Salado High School on Thomas Arnold Rd.
- 5:30-8:00 p.m. Jan. 26 at Salado Intermediate School commons area on Thomas Arnold Rd.
- 8 a.m.-noon Jan. 28 at

Salado Student Enrollment

(as of 10/21/05)

PK	19
K	75
1	67
2	80
3	89
4	80
Elementary	410
5	94
6	96
7	110
8	93
Intermediate	393
9	118
10	85
11	110
12	93
High School	406
Total	1,209

the Salado Civic Center on Main St.

Election day, the polls will be open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Salado Civic Center, 601 N. Main St. Salado.

To vote in the school bond election, an eligible resident of Salado I.S.D. must register to vote no later than Jan.

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Bob Barina files for Judge

Bob Barina announced he is running for Judge of Bell County Court at Law Number two as a Republican when he filed for the office.

"I bring a career of dedication to the law, and I am ready to serve all the people of Bell County," stated Barina. "As a conservative Republican, I feel I can best represent the citizens of Bell County."

Bob Barina is a Board Certified Attorney by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Criminal Law, Juvenile Law, and Family Law. He has 14 years experience practicing law in the State of Texas. He has also served as an Assistant District Attorney in Coryell County and is presently an Assistant County Attorney in Bell County where he is assigned as the Chief Juvenile Prosecutor. With this experience and after also engaging in private practice for 11 years, Barina feels that he is well acquainted with the legal

needs of the people of Bell County. "I bring the personal knowledge and dedication needed to be a fair and just Judge for this county," stated Barina.

Barina is licensed by the United States Supreme Court; The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; The U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas; and the Supreme Court of Texas. He is an author and has given seminars to local and state wide audiences consisting of judges, licensed juvenile probation

officers, members of law enforcement, and attorneys.

Barina graduated from Temple High School and went on to Temple Junior College and The University of Mary Hardin Baylor before earning his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in Austin.

Barina is married to Kathleen Person Barina and the couple has two children, Kallihan and Joaquin.

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Salado Eagles hold Fall Athletic Banquet on Jan. 5

The Salado High School Fall Athletic Banquet will be 6:30 p.m. Jan. 5 at the Salado Intermediate School auditorium. The catered dinner is \$8 per person. The program, which will include awards presentations to members of the Salado Eagles football and, volleyball and cross country teams, begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the door. The public is invited. For more information, call Athletic Director Jeff Cheatham at Salado High School, 947-5429.



Kyle Suhling

Salado youth earns hardware for hockey play

Kyle Suhling, a 10-year old Thomas Arnold Elementary student and ice hockey player, was recently named MVP of the Northwoods Pioneer Classic Hockey Tournament in San Antonio. Suhling earned the honors for manning the goalie position - one he just began playing this season - for his team, the Austin Roadrunners. He now makes two trips a week for practice and games. In the Northwoods Pioneer Classic, Suhling was 4-0 with a goals against average of 2.0 as his squad bested teams from San Antonio, Laredo and Corpus Christi. For the season, Suhling has posted a 12-1 mark in the net. From Jan. 13-16, the Roadrunners will travel to Dallas to compete in the Texas Star Winter Classic, where they will join 100 other teams from around the country within various divisions. Kyle is the son of Thomas and Jennifer Suhling, of Salado.

Suhling began playing hockey at age five, with the Bell County Youth Hockey Association, and over the next few years played nearly every position except for goalie. With the BCYHA on hiatus for 2005-06, Suhling was then compelled to travel to Austin to play hockey.

Eagles smoke Bees in district opener

The Salado Varsity Eagles got off on the right foot in district by opening what is often termed as the "second season" with a big road victory over rival Little River-Academy Dec. 20.

The 10-point, 63-53 win goes a long way in establishing an Eagle squad that was perceived to be in a rebuilding year as a legitimate threat to three-peat as District 25AA champions. It also means that one has to go all the way back to Feb. 2003 to find the last time Salado

lost a district game, as the boys have gone over two full seasons of play without suffering a defeat.

Facing a familiar foe in the Bees, and a raucous Academy crowd, Coach Josh White's Salado team played the host squad to a virtual deadlock for the majority of the game.

Academy actually nursed a slim 15-14 advantage after the first period, but Salado fought back to grab an equally tenuous 31-29 lead going into the half.

In the third, the seesaw battle for the lead continued, tipping towards Academy, who went up 45-42 with one period to play.

With the prospect of dropping to 0-1 in district staring them in the face, the Eagles responded with an offensive explosion in the fourth, scoring 21 points while at the same time limiting the Bees to just eight. Noah Harbison heated up with seven in the final frame, and Salado's offensive pace-setter Ryan Clark converted all four of his crucial free



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EAGLES — FROM 6A

throw opportunities in the game's waning minutes to help secure the victory.

Clark's fourth quarter points would give him 14 for the game, which was slightly ahead of Harbison's 12. Also in double figures, Garrett Askins pumped in 11. Justin Pruitt closed out the night with eight points, Chad Tumey had five and Blake Newman scored seven. Also contributing were Chris Redman, four, and Tanner Myers, three.

Looking to continue the momentum gained from the Academy victory, the boys saw their first action following the Christmas break Dec. 28-29 in the Robinson Tournament.

Drawing Valley Mills in the opening round, the boys let a double-digit lead gained in the second quarter dissipate and eventually lost 73-71 in the fifth overtime game Salado has played this season.

In many ways, the Eagles began the game in much the same manner they did versus Academy, except this time they led by one, 16-15, entering the second period of play.

Salado opened things up in the second with a 29-point outburst to gain a 12-point, 45-33 halftime lead.

Perhaps thinking they would, for a change, be spared the need for late game dramatics, the Eagles might have eased up a bit too much as Valley Mills clawed their way back into the game by holding Salado to only seven points in the third while they

scored 18 of their own to trim the Salado lead to a single point going into the fourth.

Both squads jockeyed back and forth over the final frame, but regulation proved to not be enough time to determine a winner, forcing overtime.

In the extra minutes, Valley Mills was able to drop in six points, which proved to be just enough to cement a two-point win, in what was a bitter defeat for Salado.

Clark's 25 points led the Eagles, while Harbison contributed 10. Newman had nine and Slayt Ebeling and Clay Sharum both had six.

Finding themselves in the consolation bracket facing Crawford, Salado, in what shouldn't be a surprise to anyone, found themselves in yet another down-to-the-wire game. Only this occasion, no overtime was necessary, thanks to Clark. The standout Eagle point guard, who was held to under 20 points for the game, pulled up from near the free throw line as time expired, draining a bucket that earned Salado a 49-47 victory over a tough Crawford team.

Though this game featured a bit less offense than other recent tilts, it was every bit as drama-filled, with both clubs exchanging leads up until the final buzzer.

Salado took an 11-9 lead after one, but saw that disappear as Crawford surged back with 18 in the second to pull out to a 27-21 halftime lead. The Eagles went back on

top in the third, 38-37, but in a game where no lead seemed safe, the Pirates kept Salado from pulling away. And were it not for Clark's fourth quarter heroics, the Eagles would've found themselves in another overtime game.

Fourteen of Clark's game high 19 came in the second half, and he was the lone Eagle to crack double figures in points. Newman and Pruitt each scored eight in the win, while Justin Konzen chipped in with four points.

Moving on to play for the consolation prize, the Eagles tipped-off against Class 3A Gainesville and...get ready...had to go to overtime again, making it an astounding six times this year. But unlike the Valley Mills game, Salado shone in the extra frame to earn a hard-fought 57-53 victory.

Gainesville, simply, could find no answer for Clark's offense in this game. The junior knocked down an impressive nine three pointers in the game, scored eight of Salado's 11 points in overtime and amassed a season-high 35 for the game.

This win was especially sweet for the Eagles, who trailed after each of the first three frames. Behind Clark's 35 was Harbison, who had nine. Also scoring were Myers, six, Newman, three, and Pruitt and Redman, who each had two.

Salado is now 12-5 on the year, 1-0 in district.

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As we begin the year, *Salado Village Voice* staffers would like to introduce themselves to the community they serve.

Salado Village Voice has a staff of six, including publishers Tim and Marilyn Fleischer. Other staffers are Ken Clapp, political columnist; Chris McGregor, features and sports writer; Royce Wiggin, office assistant; and Sean Rex, composition and ads.

In addition to individual awards by staff members, *Salado Village Voice* has been honored by the community and state. The newspaper was the first-ever Business of the Year, awarded in January 2003 by the Salado Chamber of Commerce. The newspaper has also been named multiple times to the Texas Association of School Board's Honor Roll for news coverage of the Salado school district.

Tim Fleischer

Tim Fleischer has been a newspaperman since he was 16, working for both weeklies and daily newspapers. "I got the Devil's Ink at an early age and



Tim Fleischer



Marilyn Fleischer



Ken Clapp

haven't been able to get rid of it," he said of his 23 years in the newspaper industry.

For almost 18 years of it, he has been the editor of the *Salado Village Voice*.

But his love for Salado has been for more than two decades. "I came to Salado for the Art Fair and Gathering of the Clans with my parents when I was growing up in Coryell County," he said. "I drove through it every day on my way to run a small newspaper in Florence."

Tim and Marilyn Fleischer have published the newspaper since 1988. During that time, the newspaper has grown from an eight-page tabloid to a 32- to 40-page paper

of three sections including two sections with full color.

"We have grown with the community and are a reflection of it," he said.

In those years, the newspaper has won several awards from the Texas Community Newspaper Association, where *Salado Village Voice* competed against newspapers from San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, Austin and around the state.

Tim has won several TCNA awards: advertising design (third in state for large ad format and third in state for advertising series); editorial work (first in state for editorial writing, third in state for column writing) and second in state for community service (for articles during the incorporation election).

He has also served the community in a variety of capacities, including four years on the board of directors of the Salado Chamber of Commerce and six years on the board of directors of the Institute

for Humanities at Salado. He was president of the Salado Chamber of Commerce and treasurer for two years of the Institute for Humanities.

He and wife Marilyn share responsibilities at the newspaper. "She runs the office and I make editorial decisions," he said.

Marilyn Fleischer

Marilyn got the Devil's Ink in her blood after meeting Tim 19 years ago.

She worked for TU Electric prior to the purchase of the *Salado Village Voice* in March 1988.

She also owned and operated a plant business in the Killeen/Copperas Cove area for several years while raising her three children.

During their years in Salado, Marilyn has served the community in many ways. "I think I have been most satisfied with my work with the Salado Family Relief Fund," she said. In addition to her work to establish the Family Relief Fund, Marilyn has also been Art Fair chairperson for two years, worked with the Ladies Auxiliary and currently serves on the Chamber of Commerce Board.

She has also won awards from the TCNA. She has twice been honored. She won second place for Best Feature

SEE STAFFERS, PAGE 9A

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Royce Wiggin



Sean Rex

Staffers

FROM PAGE 8A

Photo and second place for Community Service for her work with the Family Relief Fund.

The Fleischers' children -- Royce Wiggin, a junior at Salado High School and three-year member of the Salado High School marching band who received the band award for Best Marcher, and Jenny Wiggin, a ninth-grader at Salado High School, and junior varsity cheerleader -- have grown up in the eye of the community. "We have dragged them to so many events with us as they were growing up," Marilyn said, "and now they are participating in many of the events that we are covering for the newspaper."

Kenyon Ford Clapp

Ken Clapp began his career in the newspaper business in 1938, at the age of ten, when he was hired to home-deliver the Cleveland News, one of that city's two afternoon papers.

He studied Journalism in high school and after three years' service with the Air Force followed later by a year's recall to active duty during the Korean conflict, Ken

returned to Southwestern University in Georgetown with his wife Melba and their children.

Graduating with honors, Ken began teaching government, history and journalism at Uvalde High School. He later received his Master's Degree in Education from the University of Texas in Austin and was promoted to assistant high school principal.

After 10 years as teacher-administrator, Ken accepted the position of managing editor of the Uvalde Leader-News. Two years later he moved to Killeen as that school district's Director of Personnel, Research and Public Relations.

In 1972, Ken took a leave of absence to work with Uvaldean Dolph Briscoe in the rancher-banker's successful run for Governor. Governor Briscoe convinced Clapp to remain in state government thus ending his 18-year career as teacher and administrator. Clapp became the Governor's executive assistant and chief of staff in 1974.

Before leaving office, Governor Briscoe appointed Clapp to the Texas Employment Com-

mission in late 1978 to represent Texas employers. Commissioner Clapp was approved unanimously by the Texas Senate in January 1979 and served a full six year term before retiring in December 1984.

Returning to their Bell County home, Ken and his wife Melba, founded the Salado Post-Dispatch, located in the historic Vickrey-Berry house. The recession of '85-'86 took its toll including the Post-Dispatch, however never straying far from journalism, Ken continued writing a political column for a number of Texas newspapers and in 1988 created his "Off The Record" column for the Salado Village Voice under the new publisher-editors Tim and Marilyn Fleischer.

He has made his column's "-30-" deadline over 900 times during his years with the Salado weekly, which means he is nearing the million word mark as an observer of state and national politics.

Ken is Chairman of the Salado Civic Center Foundation and is one of the original members of the group that renovated the old school building in 1992-3.

SEE NEWSPAPER, PAGE 11A



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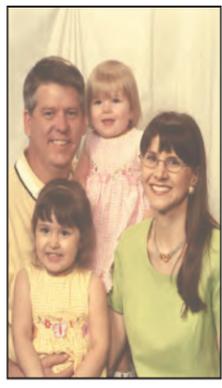
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CHURCH NEWS

St. Stephen Women set 1st meeting Jan. 9

The St. Stephen Women's Society will hold its first meeting of the new year 6:30 p.m. Jan. 9 in the Parish Hall just behind the church.

Saladoan Judy Greene will provide the program, a monologue titled "Esther, Woman of the Bible." This is another installment in Greene's "Women of Faith" series. Greene researches each of her subjects for authenticity of their personalities and lives.

This program and meeting will be 6:30 p.m. Jan. 9 at the Parish Hall.

Guests are invited to

this special presentation. Refreshments will be provided by hostesses.

In addition, early in 2006 the Women's Society will hold its Valentine Bake Sale, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 11 and 10:30 a.m.-noon Feb. 12.

If it is cold, the sale will be in the Marian Room of the church, if it is warm weather, the sale will be outside in front of the church. The public is invited.

St. Stephen Church is located just off FM 2268, next to Wildfire Ranch. For more information call Bobbie Reihsen at 254-947-3901.

Organic planting methods topic for Salado Garden Club Jan. 10

The Salado Garden Club will meet 10 a.m. Jan. 10 at the Presbyterian Church of Salado, 105 Salado Plaza Dr. The speaker will be Tracey McCloud, owner of Tracey McCloud Landscaping of Salado, who will present a program on using organic planting methods including the use of Texas plants.

McCloud was raised in Salado but worked in Austin until recently, when she moved her landscaping

business from Austin to Salado. She has worked in all areas of landscaping, including working with Texas native plants and using organic planting methods. She considers herself a naturalist who enjoys beautifying and improving the environment by planting Texas native plants.

Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information contact Barclay McCort, 254-947-3617, or bam002@earthlink.net.

FBC Women's Ministry to begin study of "The Patriarchs" Jan. 10

The First Baptist Church of Salado Women's Ministry will begin a study of "The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" on Jan. 10 at the church, located on S. Main St.

Morning sessions will be Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. and evening sessions will be 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays.

For more information, or to sign-up contact the FBC at 947-5465.

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Worship Schedule

Sunday School • 9:45 a.m. • Worship • 11 a.m.
Worship/Bible Study and Praise Kids Music • 6 p.m.

Wednesday

Pot Luck Meal 6:45 pm
Praise & Prayer • Missions for children • Satisfy for youth 7:15 p.m.

First Baptist Church • Main St. at the Creek

SUNDAY

Contemporary Worship/Bible Study	9:00 a.m.	Fellowship Meal	5:30 p.m.
Traditional Worship/Bible Study	10:30 a.m.	Celebrate Recovery	6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.	Youth Choir	6:00 p.m.
Jr. High Huddles	6:00 p.m.	Team Kid (Age 3 - 6th grade)	6:15 p.m.
Sr High Huddles	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting	6:15 p.m.
		Youth Half-Time	7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers: let Him not leave us, nor forsake us; that He may incline our hearts unto Him, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments, and His statutes, and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers.

from 1 Kings 8: 57, 58



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Sunday Morning Service • January 8, 2006

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Joe Keyes
Minister

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Sunday

Bible Class • 9 a.m. Worship • 10 a.m.

Evening Worship • 6 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes • 6:30 p.m.

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Seven steps to keep your New Year's resolutions

By KEVIN McCauley

Now that the New Year is upon us, most of us have at least mentioned the phrase "New Year's Resolutions" or "Goals for this year." But honestly, will this year be any better than last year? Do you really believe this is the year you will be successful in achieving your resolutions and goals?

Every year do you ask yourself, not "what" are the resolutions or the goals, but "how" do I attain them this year?

Here are seven simple steps to help you achieve those "just out of your grasp" goals:

Be Specific

You cannot be general here. A general goal would be, "I am going to lose weight this year" or

"I am going to work on my health". A specific goal sounds like this, "I am going to lose 15 pounds" or "I am going to get my blood pressure into the healthy range".

Write It Down

What would you like to "Have", "Be", or "Do".

Set A Time

"What gets measured gets done!" Set a time so the goal is attained "on" or "before" a certain date. An example would be: "I am going to lose 15 pounds of fat by April 1st, 2006.

Read It Aloud

A good time for this is, once upon awakening, and once in the evening.

Take Action Now

This isn't the time to procrastinate. Even with the best planning in the world you cannot succeed if you don't take action.

Reward Yourself

Since goal setting is not a process that satisfies the desire for "instant gratification", make sure to take time to celebrate when your goals are attained.

Set New Goals!

Why stop now? What once seemed unattainable may now be in your reach. Go back to step number one and improve yourself again, and again, and again.

Follow these seven simple steps and find yourself attaining the goals and resolutions that have always escaped you in the past.

Kevin McCauley, MA, is a Lifestyle and Wellness Coach in Salado. Kevin has years of professional experience as a personal trainer and clinical nutritionist, he can be reached at 947-8304.

Aldermen mull Park Jan. 5

Village of Salado aldermen will consider at its 6:30 p.m. Jan. 5 meeting the agreement the Village has with the Salado Chamber of Commerce to manage Pace Park.

The Village pays the Salado Chamber of Commerce \$12,000 per year to manage Pace Park on its behalf. The Chamber also collects funds from renting the pavilion in Pace Park.

For many years, the Chamber of Commerce funded the maintenance, operations and improvements to Pace Park from the rentals of the park and some of the proceeds of the Art Fair.

In other business, the board will review its investment policy and discuss Bell County Health Department funding.

Salado Area Republican Women set Jan. 26 for candidate forum

Traditionally, the Salado Area Republican Women's first program of each election year is a candidate forum, and this year is no exception, as the SARW will host a Jan. 26 dinner meeting at Mill Creek Country Club.

This event provides club members as well as the residents of Bell County their first opportunity to meet and learn about each Republican candidate seeking a Bell County office in 2006. At this time more than 20 prospective candidates are

expected to participate.

At the dinner meeting, there will be time both before and after the meeting to visit informally with the candidates. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with a social time followed by a buffet dinner.

Cost for the dinner is

\$20. Payment must be received no later than Jan. 20. Make checks out to Salado Area Republican Women PAC or SARW PAC; P.O. Box 373; Salado, TX 76571.

For additional information contact Marie Martch at 254-939-8240.

Newspaper

FROM PAGE 9A

Chris McGregor

Chris was born in 1979, in Georgetown, Texas, and was raised in Salado. He attended Salado schools from kindergarten through graduation.

He joined the newspaper in April 2002, and is a full-time student at Tarleton State University - Central Texas.

Chris lives in Morgan's Point with his wife, Whitney.

Royce Wiggin

Royce Wiggin is one of those rare species: a native of Salado, born here in 1989.

He has attended school in Salado since first grade and is now a junior in High School, where he is a trumpet player in the Salado Eagle Marching Band and a tennis player.

He began work at the newspaper over the summer, where his

responsibilities include placing and rotating ads on pages, directing phone calls in the office, proof reading, typesetting and a myriad of other duties.

He is the son of Tim and Marilyn Fleischer, owners of the newspaper, and is glad to finally get paid for all the hours he spends at the newspaper office.

Sean Rex

Sean Rex has lived in Salado for the past nine year and graduated from Salado High School in 2004.

He has been on staff since August 2005.

He is a Communication Design major at Temple College and plans to transfer to Texas State this fall.

His main focus is the ad composition for local businesses.

Auxiliary to learn more about spring planting

The Chamber of Commer Ladies Auxiliary will have its first meeting of 2006 on Jan. 12, at the Civic Center. The ladies will gather for refreshments and fellowship at 9:30 a.m.; the meeting begins at 10 a.m.

Prior to the program, Charlotte Douglas will speak on the school bond election that will be held Feb. 4.

Deborah Martin, Master Gardener, will present the program, "Preparing our beds for spring planting." Deborah's life long love of gardening led her to become a Master Gardener in 2003. She earned specialist designations allowing her to teach prop

gation and the treatment of oak wilt. In June 2005, Deborah chaired a committee that partnered with the Texas Forest Service to hold the first ever specialty course in oak wilt for other Texas Master Gardeners, and will hold the course again in 2006.

The Ladies Auxiliary officers for 2006, include Pat Wanzor, president; Judy Beisel, vice president; Ann Runnels, secretary; Nancy Bell, treasurer, and Dorothy Dentry, Chamber representative.

Auxiliary dues of \$12 for 2006, are due and can be paid at the meeting to the membership chair, Linda Hill.

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Salado Village Guide

Shopping Map
Pages 6-7B

Section B Salado Village Voice

January 5, 2006

12 Pages Shopping, Dining, Overnight, Events

Weddings and Events Showcase Jan. 15 features best of Salado inns, centers

Spring-fed Salado Creek weaves its course through this antebellum Texas village, making Salado a perfect and charming destination for memories to last a lifetime. Salado's many historic bed and breakfasts, romantic restaurants, charming cafes and quiet inns will open their doors for the Salado Weddings and Events Showcase on Jan. 15.

Not only can you find the ideal location for your wedding, reception, reunion, anniversary, honeymoon, birthday or retreat, you can meet with local services, such as wedding planners, caterers, photographers, videographers, floral designers, jewelers and others, to help plan your special events.

Whether you are planning your daughter's wedding, your parent's 50th anniversary celebration, your family reunion or your company's weekend retreat, you need ideas. You want to know what works and the Who's Who in making it happen.

For ideal wedding and event services, setting, romantic locations, facilities and amenities, the Village of Salado, Texas has it all.

Here, you will find facilities for small workshops, family meetings, large gatherings of up to 300 people and more. Further, each of the



A path to the Salado Creek at Tenroc Event Center.

stops in the Salado Weddings and Events Showcase has its own flair and style to fit your tastes and desires.

Among the locations on the Showcase are the following:

- The Stagecoach Inn, Main Street.
- The Inn at Salado, Main Street.
- The Halley House, Main Street.
- Salado Civic Center, Main Street.
- Johnny's Texas Banquet Hall, Thomas Arnold Road.
- Tenroc Event Center, Thomas Arnold Road.
- Stonecreek Settlement, College Hill.
- Old Salado Springs Celebration Center, Royal Street and Center Circle.
- Inn on the Creek, Center Circle.
- Royal Street Provision, Royal Street.

Admission to the Salado Weddings and Events Showcase is \$15 per person and includes admission to the after-party at the Stagecoach Inn, where many of the local restaurants and caterers will give a sample of their own unique offerings.

Each person attending the Showcase will be given a map and guide published by the *Salado Village Voice* newspaper, with descriptions of the participating businesses and their offerings. The Bridal Dreams guide will be published in January and provides a rich resource of information about Salado's charming bed and breakfast inns, elegant restaurants, and unique venues for gatherings of all kinds, whether personal or corporate.

For those who reserve a Sunday night stay in one of the participating

lodging facilities, the \$15 admission to the Wedding and Events Showcase will be free.

Tickets are now available at the Salado Civic Center, Garden Spirits and the participating locations.

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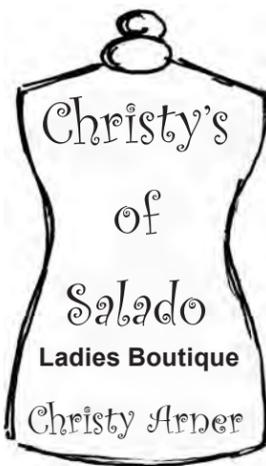


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JANUARY 5
Salado High School Fall Athletic Banquet, recognizing football, cross country and volleyball, 7 p.m. at Salado Intermediate School. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Date moved from Jan. 9. Info: Salado High School, 947-5429.

JANUARY 5
Salado Area Business Women's Association meeting, 6 p.m. at the Stagecoach Inn. Program by Carol Walls. Members and potential members invited to attend. Info: Anne Marie Harwell, 254-947-3159.

JANUARY 6
St. Stephen Women's Society meeting, with Judy Greene presenting her monologue, "Esther, Woman of the Bible," followed by refreshments. 6:30 p.m. in the church



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JANUARY 9
Salado Monday Club meeting, 2 p.m. at Salado United Methodist Church. Program: John Perry, discussing his book, "Myths and Realities of American Slavery." All ladies are invited to attend.

JANUARY 15
Salado Wedding and Event Showcase, 1-5 p.m. Exhibitor, Tasting and Bed and Breakfast Tour; 5-6 p.m. reception at the Stagecoach Inn. Admission: \$15. Info: Salado Chamber of Commerce, 254-947-5040.

JANUARY 17
Teacup Tuesday meeting, Program: A talk on new spring fashions by Ron Leguin of Susan Maries, 9:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Salado.

JANUARY 19
Thomas Arnold Elementary/PTO Dads and Donuts morning, 7-7:45 a.m. at the school. Info: 947-5191.

JANUARY 24
Salado Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, 6 p.m. at Salado's Tenroc Event Center. Speaker: Dr. Gary McCaleb, Vice President of Abilene Christian University. Info: Salado Chamber, 254-947-5040.

JANUARY 26
Salado ISD STARS Conference, 6:30 p.m. at the Salado Intermediate School. A curriculum showcase, STARS Conference allows students to demonstrate curriculum lessons for parents. Details TBA.

JANUARY 26
Salado Area Republican Women's Candidates Forum, 6 p.m. at Mill Creek Restaurant.

Dinner included. Info: 254-947-3617.

FEBRUARY 3-5
Salado Mozart Festival, sponsored by Music in Salado, Texas, Inc., in celebration of the composer's 250th birthday. Performances include a Mozart Song Recital on Feb. 3 and the International Piano Duo on Feb. 4. More details TBA.

FEBRUARY 4
Salado ISD School Bond election. Polls open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

FEBRUARY 4
Wildfire Open to the World team roping at Wildfire Ranch. Details TBA.

FEBRUARY 4-5
Salado Legends auditions, 3-5 p.m. each day at Tablerock Amphitheater. Auditions for over 150 men, women and children. Scholarships available for college students. Info: Donnie Williams, 254-460-6838 or email mrduck@vvm.com.

FEBRUARY 9
Central Texas Poetry and Prose Readings, at Tablerock Amphitheater. Invited readings, 7 p.m.; Open mic, 9 p.m. Info: 254-947-9205.

FEBRUARY 11-12
St. Stephen's Women's Society Valentine Bake Sale. 6:30 p.m. Feb 11 and noon-1 p.m. Feb. 12 in the church's Marian Room. Everyone welcome.

FEBRUARY 13
St. Stephen's Women's Society meeting. Topic: Women's Health, "Prevention and Early Detection of Cancer," 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen Parish Hall.

FEBRUARY 21
Teacup Tuesday meeting, Program: "Early Childhood Memories" by Patsy Sanford and friends, 9:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church.

FEBRUARY 23-25
Salado Soaring Eagle High School Softball Classic, at the Salado softball fields. More details TBA.

FEBRUARY 27
Taste of Salado, sponsored by the Public Arts League of Salado (PALS), 7 p.m. at Blue Heron Event Center at Tenroc Ranch. More details TBA.

MARCH 2-5 & 9-12
First Annual Central Texas Shakespeare Invitational at Tablerock Amphitheater. March 2-5 will feature performances of Shakespeare by performers 18 and under; March 9-12 performances of all ages. Info: David Dunlap, 254-247-0220 or ddunlap@tablerock.org.

MARCH 17
11th Annual Denver Mills Golf Tournament at Mill Creek, benefitting Tablerock Amphitheater, \$60 entry fee. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. Info: 254-947-3354 or email tablerock1@aol.com.

MARCH 18
Salado Civic Center Auction and Dinner honoring Wilbur and Jessie Foster, 6 p.m. at Salado Intermediate School. Tickets: \$10 per person. Info: 947-8300.

MARCH 21
Teacup Tuesday meeting, Program: "New Wines and Old Wine-skins (new identity) by Molly White, 9:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church.

MARCH 21
Salado Historical Society general meeting, 6:15 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

APRIL 1-2
Annual Wildflower Art Show. More details TBA. Info: Salado Chamber of Commerce, 254-947-5040.

APRIL 7
Thomas Arnold Elementary/PTO Moms and Muffins morning, 7-7:45 a.m. at the school. Info: 947-5191.

APRIL 8
Chisholm Trail ABWA Style Show, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mill Creek Restaurant. Info: 254-947-3617.

APRIL 14-16
Easter Pageant at Tablerock Amphitheater, presented by First Baptist Church of Salado, 8:15 p.m., bring





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Village of Salado?



JANUARY 15

Salado has long been a destination for weddings in Central Texas. The upcoming Salado Wedding and Event Showcase will give attendees to meet with local businesses that specialize in weddings and related areas. The event will include vendor exhibits, tastings, a bed and breakfast tour and a reception at the Stagecoach Inn. Admission is \$15. For more information call the Salado Chamber at 254-947-5040 or visit www.salado.com.



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a lawn chair. Free admission; church groups welcome. Info: 254-947-5465 or www.fbcsalado.org.

APRIL 18

Teacup Tuesday meeting, Program: "History Mysteries" by author, historian and Salado-resident Charlie Turnbo, 9:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church.

APRIL 22

Third Annual Salado Dog Daze, in Pace Park. Details TBA.

APRIL 22-23

Eleventh Annual Gospel Festival at Tablerock Amphitheater, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. April 22 and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. April 23. Food, drink, and gift vendors on-site. Admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Tickets available at gate. Info: Donnie Jackson, 254-947-5100 or email cvmusicministry@aol.com.

MAY 6-7

Third Annual Salado Yard and Garden Tour, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 6 and 1-4 p.m. May 7. More details TBA.

MAY 13

Eleventh Annual Thomas Arnold Elemen-

tary Fourth Grade Play

at Tablerock Amphitheater, 7:30 p.m. Students, under the direction of Jackie Mills, write, produce, crew and act in their own melodrama. Admission: Adults, \$5; children, \$3.

MAY 16

Teacup Tuesday meeting, "Tea, Talk and Togetherness" luncheon at Stagecoach Inn. Details TBA.

JUNE 24-25

Auditions for Tablerock's production of Macbeth, 3 p.m. both days at Tablerock. Director: David Dunlap, 254-247-0220 or ddunlap@tablerock.org.

JULY 4

Salado Historical Society Annual Picnic, 6:15 p.m. in Pace Park.

JULY 22, 29 & AUG. 5

Tablerock's 14th Annual presentation of Salado Legends, 8:15 p.m. Dinner: 7:15 p.m., cost \$8, reservations required. Performance tickets: \$15 adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. Info: 254-947-3205 or www.tablerock.org.

AUGUST 5-6

40th Annual Salado Art Fair in Pace Park. Info: Salado Chamber of Commerce, 254-947-5040.

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In commemoration of the 250th birthday of Mozart, Music In Salado, Texas, Inc. will sponsor the Salado Mozart Festival Feb. 3-5, with performances at the Salado Silver Spur Theater. Performers include soprano Marjorie Owens, who will give a Mozart Song Recital 7 p.m. Feb. 3 and the Genius

of Mozart 2 p.m. Feb. 4, and the International Piano Duo, who will perform 7 p.m. Feb. 4.

Owens, a native of Virginia and graduate of Baylor University, is a veteran of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, the Fort Worth Opera, the Aspen Opera Theater and Opera Illinois. Her past roles include portrayals in the *The Turn of the Screw*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, *Don Giovanni*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *The Old Maid and the Thief*, among others. In 2005, she was the winner of the McCammon Vocal Competition in Fort Worth, and in 2004 she was awarded second place in the Advanced Division of the Palm Beach Opera Competition.

The International Piano Duo, consisting of Krassimira Jordan and Wolfgang Watzinger, in the past played to appreciative Salado audiences as part of a previous Music In Salado event. Jordan, a professor of piano and Artist-in-Residence at Baylor University, has established a worldwide reputation as a concert pianist and recording artist. Born in Bulgaria to Russian and Bulgarian parents, Jordan studied in Sofia, Vienna, and Moscow, where she was a pupil of Stanislave Newhaus and Emil Gilels. She is the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the Mozart "Clara Haskil" Prize and the Gold Medal at 1981 Rio de Janeiro International Piano Competition, where she represented Austria.

She was a professor for 10 years at the world-renowned Vienna Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, and she



Soprano Marjorie Owens



Krassimira Jordan and Wolfgang Watzinger, of the International Piano Duo.

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Civic Center auction returns after 3 years

Salado Civic Center Auction Chairman Lloyd Parks announced recently that tickets for the 2006 Civic Center Auction are now on sale at the Civic Center Business Office and from members of the Board of Directors.

Cost of the ticket, which includes both meal and auction, is \$10. The meal includes a choice of beef barbecue, chicken or sausage complete with all the trimmings, including potato salad, beans, pickles, cole slaw, bread, iced tea and homemade brownies for dessert.

The auction and meal will be held March 18, in the Salado Intermediate School cafeteria. The meal will be served at 6 p.m. with the auction to begin promptly at 6:45 p.m.

The popular auction was held for eight consecutive years and it was felt at that time, by the Civic Center's directors, it was best to give the fund raiser a rest for three years. That time period is over and the auction is back on track with a gala evening planned to kick



Some of the last stagecoaches handcrafted by Wilbur Foster will be auctioned off at the upcoming Civic Center auction and dinner.

off the new series of fund raisers.

Jessie and Wilbur Foster will be honored at the 2006 Auction and a number of Wilbur's famous stagecoaches and other handcrafted wagons and buggies will be sold to the highest bidder.

This will be an especially important sale of the Foster productions since according to Wilbur - these are the last to be produced. Due to failing eyesight,

Wilbur has decided to put away his tools and enjoy a less exacting hobby.

Members of the Board of Directors of the Civic Center Foundation who will be selling tickets include: Ken Clapp, Chairman; Lloyd Parks, President; Patsy Sanford,

Vice President; Vernon Holt, Treasurer; and members David Matthews, Mike Cornett and Dennis Cabaniss.

Tickets will be on sale at the Business Office of the Civic Center by Hulda Horton, manager of the center.

MUSIC IN SALADO

FROM 4B

made her Carnegie Hall debut in 1989.

Jordan has also recorded a series of famous piano works by Franz Liszt, and piano concerts and solo pieces by Heitor Villa Lobos. Her most recent c.d. releases, *Slavic Masterworks for Piano* and *The Legacy of Pantcho Vladigerov*, are both available on the Albany Records label.

Her partner in the Internatinal Piano Duo, Wolfgang Watzinger, was born in Darmstadt, Germany, and studied at the music academies in Freiburg, Germany, and

Salzburg, Austria. He has performed with acclaim as a recitalist and orchestral soloist in Europe, the U.S., South Africa, Asia and South America. Highly regarded as a teacher, he has been a professor of piano at the music academies in Berlin, Detmold and Vienna, and is a permanent member of the Vienna International Music Seminar.

Tickets are \$10 per person for each performance. For more information contact Music in Salado at 254-947-5592 or visit www.musicinsalado.com.



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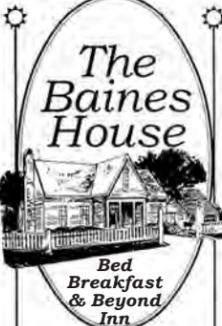
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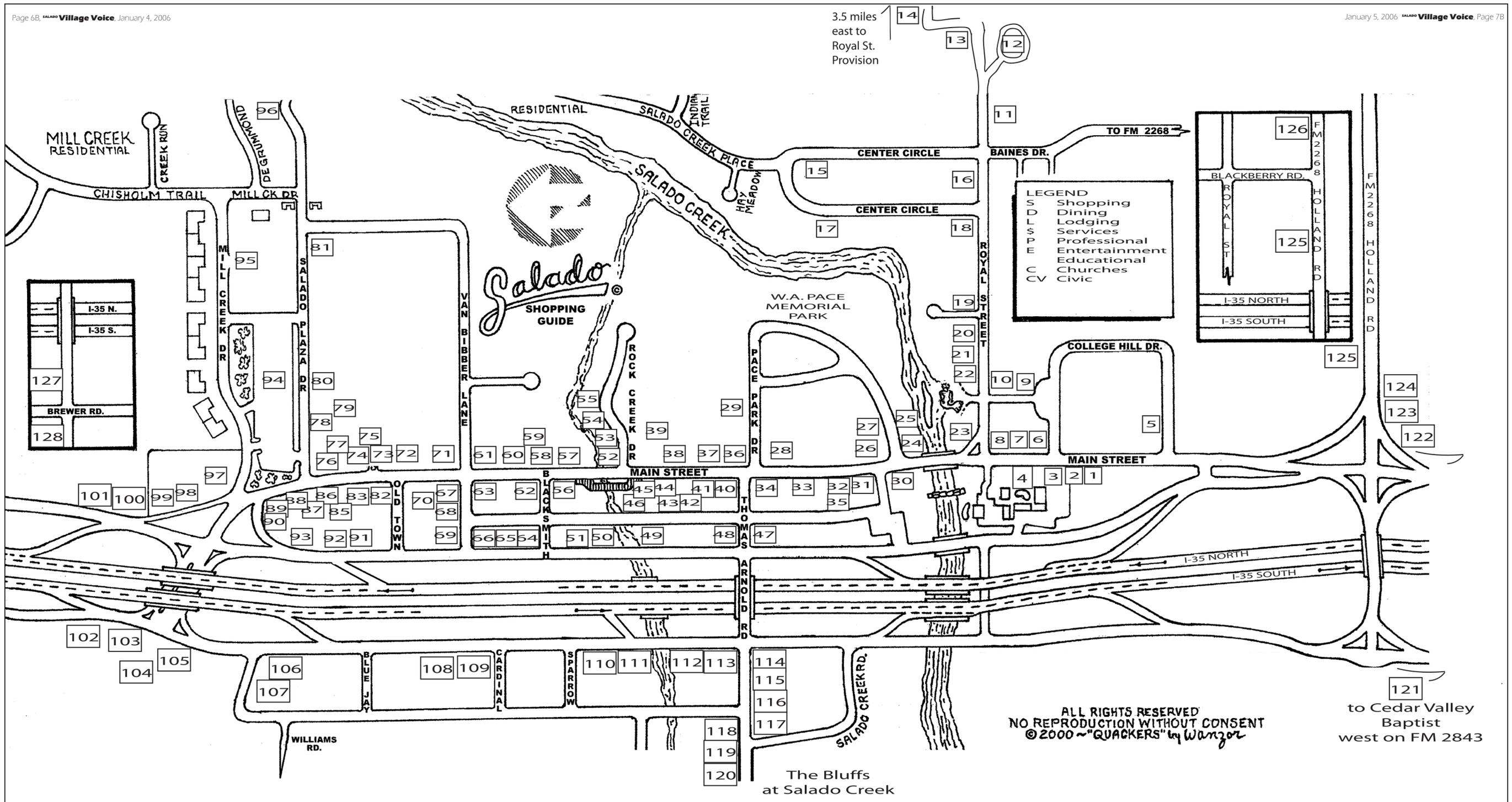
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Are you dreaming of getting back outdoors? Plan your outdoor living room now

(ARA) — During colder winter weather, the thought of being able to get outside and enjoy the yard and garden is almost overwhelming at this time of year. As you count the days until spring, why not start planning how you'll use your outdoor space this year.

"People want to be able to use more of their outdoor space, and they want flexibility," says Deb Anderson, president of By The Yard Inc., makers of maintenance-free outdoor furniture. For example, you might have a bench tucked away under some trees in the back of the yard that you can disappear to when you need a quiet place to think, as well as a seating area near your perennial garden where you and a friend or two can admire the flowers while sharing each other's company.

A look at decorating and gardening magazines

shows that the way Americans use their outdoor space is changing. Outdoor entertaining is a trend that has been gaining in popularity in recent years. While once a humble gas or electric grill next to a picnic table on the deck or patio constituted an outdoor cooking setup, today it is not uncommon to find outdoor kitchens that include pizza ovens, industrial-grade appliances and granite counter tops.

From new and innovative materials to groupings that are tailor-made for entertaining, outdoor furniture has come a long way, too. Minnesota-based By The Yard manufactures furniture made from recycled plastic milk jugs that is stylish, attractive and virtually maintenance-free. The plastic lumber is colorfast, so it never needs repainting, and it is impervious to all types of weather from freezing temperatures to blistering heat. It can withstand moist or dry climates. "We've tested our products in Alaska, the Arizona desert and the Florida Keys and after 30 years they still look great," says Anderson.

When planning your outdoor room, approach it the same way you would a decorating project inside your home: spend some time thinking about how you'll use the space. Will you be entertaining large groups, or just a few friends at a time? Do you want to eat outside, or do you prefer furniture grouped for conversation?

For example, envision a typical get-together



Outdoor furniture By the Yard

from start to finish: for cocktails, guests can sit and chat at the bar-height tables and chairs from By The Yard. For dinner, adjourn to the dining table. With tables in various shapes and sizes, you can entertain a crowd all at one table, or get people to mix and mingle by using a couple of smaller tables. Enjoy dessert in Adirondack chairs in the garden. The "Tete-a-Tete" combination of two chairs connected by a table offers a place to set coffee.

Choose a color scheme for your outdoor room that can be reflected in the small touches that make a room special. In this case, since the room is outdoors, that might mean candles or other outdoor lighting for when you use the space

at night; decorations like potted plants and weather-proof rugs; and colorful, but unbreakable outdoor table settings.

You can coordinate your furniture to your color scheme as well. All 70 pieces from By The Yard are available in six colors, including white, brown, green, grey, sandtone and weathered wood. A quick spray with the garden hose is all it takes to keep this furniture looking new.

Take full advantage of the hot summer days and balmy summer nights this year in your new outdoor oasis.

Visit www.bytheyard.net to see the complete collection of outdoor furniture.

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Cynthia (Mama) and I would like to thank all of those who have enlightened our day by coming into our restaurant and sharing their company with us. But, Guess What?
We will be closed December 14, 2005 to January 12, 2006
so that we can relax for a while and enjoy the holidays.
We would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Most of all, may God keep you and bless you through this holiday season.
David and Cynthia Appichino

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Guilt-free & delicious baked treats

(ARA) - During the carefree holidays, you indulged in frosted, sprinkle-covered sugar cookies or your mother-in-law's calorific pumpkin pie. And now you are kicking off the New Year with a resolution to shed some pounds.

But you don't have to deny yourself of the sweets you love. The folks at Knouse Foods are helping you beat the post-holiday blues by offering recipes for delicious treats -- minus the guilt and calories. Whether you are dieting or not, they promise you won't miss the fattening ingredients.

* Cherry Swirl "De-Lite"

1 1/2 cups sugar-free graham cracker crumbs
1 tablespoon Splenda
1/4 cup margarine, melted
1 box (3 ounces) sugar-free cherry gelatin
1 cup boiling water
15 large marshmallows
1 cup low fat milk
1 tub (12 ounces) "lite" whipped topping
1 can (20 ounces) LUCKY LEAF Lite Cherry Pie Filling

Directions: Mix together graham cracker crumbs, Splenda and margarine. Press firmly into 9" pie pan. Chill. Dissolve gelatin in boiling water; chill until partially set.

In a large saucepan, combine marshmallows and milk. Heat and stir until marshmallows are melted. Cool. Fold whipped topping into marshmallow mixture. Add LUCKY LEAF Lite Cherry Pie Filling to partially-set gelatin. Swirl in marshmallow and cream mixture. Pour all into prepared pie pan and chill to set. Serves 10.

* Apple Graham Cracker Dessert

1 can (20-ounces) LUCKY LEAF Lite Apple Pie Filling
1 tablespoon apple pie spice
2 tablespoons margarine
2/3 cup Splenda
2 eggs (or equivalent in egg substitute)
1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup fat-free milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup chopped walnuts
1 cup "lite" whipped topping

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9x9-inch cake pan with butter-flavored cooking spray. In a medium bowl, combine pie filling with apple pie spice. Set aside. In a large bowl, combine margarine and Splenda. Stir in



eggs. Add graham cracker crumbs, baking powder, salt, milk, and vanilla extract. Mix well to combine. Spread half of mixture into prepared cake pan. Spread half of pie filling mixture over top. Spread remaining batter carefully over apples and arrange remaining apple pie filling over top. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes. Place cake pan on a wire rack and let set for at least 10 minutes. When serving, top with 2 tablespoons whipped topping. Serves 8.

* Black Forest Trifle

1 can (20 ounces) LUCKY LEAF Lite Cherry Pie Filling
1 package (8 ounces) sugar-free, low-fat chocolate cake mix
1 small box sugar-free, fat-free instant chocolate pudding mix
2 cups fat-free milk
2 cups "lite" or fat-free whipped topping
Sugar-free chocolate curls

Prepare cake mix according to package directions, using 3/4 cup water. Let cake cool in pan; remove from pan and cut into cubes. Prepare pudding mix according to package directions, using 2 cups fat-free milk; chill at least 30 minutes. Place half of cake cubes in a 3-quart trifle bowl. Spoon half of cherries over cake; spread 1 cup pudding over cherries, and top with half of whipped topping. Repeat layers. Top with chocolate curls. Cover and chill at least 8 hours. Serves 12

For more delicious recipes, visit Knouse Foods, the home of Musselman's Apple Sauce, Musselman's Apple Butter and LUCKY LEAF Pie Filling at www.knouse.com.

Courtesy of ARA Content

EDITOR'S NOTE: LUCKY LEAF and SPLENDA are registered trademarks.

Mushrooms take root in Mexican cuisine

Mexican-inspired dishes keep growing in popularity, not only in restaurants but at home as well. The spices and fresh, zesty peppers and other Mexican essentials are readily available in any supermarket.

Today we give you Mushroom and Spinach Quesadillas served with a different kind of salsa made with corn and black beans.

Mushrooms are no strangers to Mexican cuisine. There is evidence that they were used for centuries to boost the taste of the other ingredients and to add their own unique flavor. Those early cooks, we're sure, didn't know they were also piling in lots of nutritious benefits. Particularly important is their selenium, which helps protect against certain cancers. They are also a source of B vitamins and potassium, are low in calories and have practically no fat. And they taste so good.

MUSHROOM AND SPINACH QUESADILLAS

1 (10-ounce) package sliced mushrooms
1 (5-ounce) package baby spinach
1/2 teaspoon Mexican or Southwestern seasoning
4 flour tortillas, 7 or 8 inches each
1 (8-ounce) package shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

Place mushrooms in a 2-quart microwavable baking dish; cover loosely with wax paper. Microwave until mushrooms are tender, about 2 minutes. Stir in spinach; cover loosely; microwave until spinach just begins to wilt, about 2 minutes. Drain well; stir in seasoning.* In a heavy 10-inch skillet, place a tortilla; cook over medium-high heat until the bottom begins to brown, about 1 minute. Turn tortilla, sprinkle with 1/2 cup of the cheese; heat until the tortilla starts to brown, about

The Chopping Block

By Philomena Corradeno

1 minute. Spoon 1/2 cup of the mushroom mixture onto half of the tortilla. Fold to enclose. Remove to a platter; cover loosely to keep warm. Repeat 3 more times. Serve with Corn and Black Bean Salsa, if desired. Yield: 4 servings.

*NOTE: Alternatively, heat oven to 350 F. On baking sheet coated with cooking spray, place tortillas. Top each with an equal amount of cheese. Bake until melted, about 5 minutes. Spoon an equal amount of the mushroom mixture over the cheese on each tortilla; fold to enclose. Bake just until hot, about 5 minutes.

CORN AND BLACK BEAN SALSA

1-1/2 cups frozen corn, thawed
1 (15-ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained
1 cup diced red bell pepper
2 teaspoons finely chopped jalapeno pepper
1/4 cup coarsely chopped cilantro
3 tablespoons fresh lime juice
1 tablespoon olive oil
1/8 teaspoon salt

In a medium-sized bowl, combine all ingredients. Serve with Mushroom and Spinach Quesadilla. Yield: about 4 cups.

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Dessert Course
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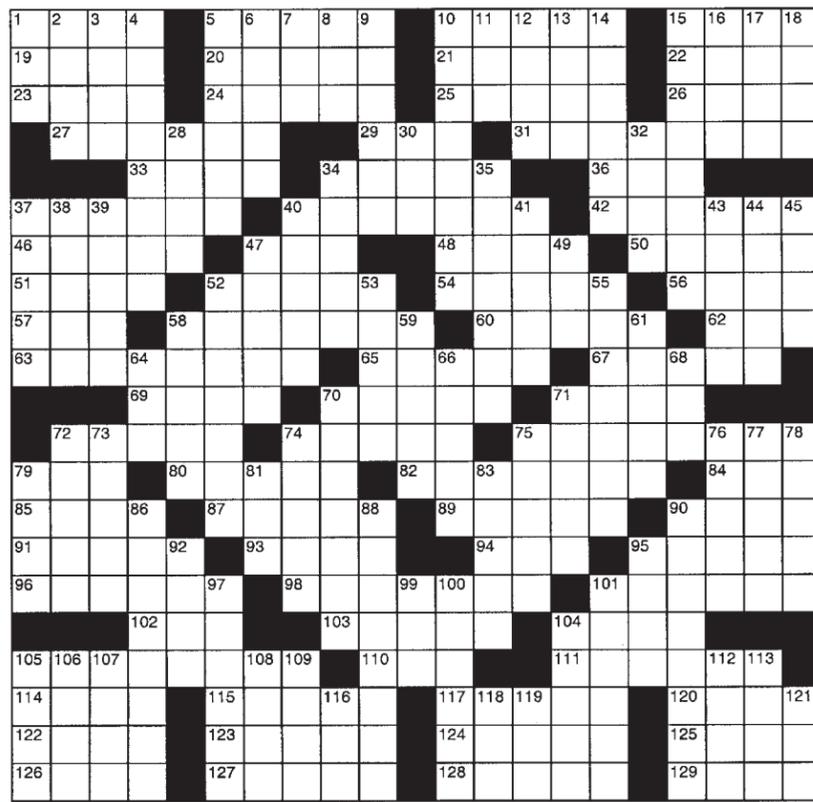
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Super Crossword R U READY?

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Wished undone
 5 In fact
 10 Vance or McCormick
 15 Callao's country
 19 Proverb reposition
 20 Rene of "Big Trouble"
 21 Annual award?
 22 Authentic
 23 "My —" ('65 hit)
 24 Romance
 25 Host a roast
 26 Forearm bone
 27 Monotony
 29 States briefly?
 31 Hit man
 33 Actress
 34 Touches
 36 Pecs' partners
 37 Clark of "Finian's Rainbow"
 40 Usually
 42 Considers carefully
 46 Bouquet
 47 Green and Gore
 48 Interstate exit
 50 Cowboy star Lash</p> | <p>51 Young boxers
 52 Navigation hazards
 54 Fireplace fragment
 56 Valueless
 57 Zoo attraction
 58 Greeted the general
 60 Jason's wife
 62 Ram's remark
 63 Acted like a peacock
 65 Scooped at
 67 Orchestra section
 69 Neighbor of Nev.
 70 Keep an eye on
 71 Destroy
 72 Show indifference
 74 Model
 75 "Wall Street Week" host
 79 Mauna —
 80 Michelangelo work
 82 Potsdam pastry
 84 Lilly of pharmaceuticals
 85 Not give — (be indifferent)
 87 Actress Samantha</p> | <p>89 Adjusted an Amati
 90 "Educating —" ('83 film)
 91 Certain sharks
 93 Actress Sharon
 94 — de-lance
 95 Jabber away
 96 Impacts
 98 — oxide
 101 Dentistry material
 102 Use a phaser
 103 Standards
 104 Iran's Abolhassan — Sadr
 105 Swedish turnip
 110 Trams transport it
 111 Like
 112 Schonberg's music
 114 Turgenev's birthplace
 115 Plot
 117 Pianist
 120 Got off
 122 "Zip — Doo-Dah"
 123 Uneven
 124 It comes from the heart
 125 Eye drop?
 126 Tamblin or Westover
 127 Celtic cultist</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Bad hair, every day?
 2 Element
 3 Reason d—
 4 Stagnant state
 5 Shock
 6 Card game
 7 Troop grp.
 8 Shreveport coll.
 9 Nigerian native
 10 Animal
 11 Root vegetable
 12 Costa —
 13 Manipulates
 14 It has its ups and downs
 15 Franco — War
 16 Elver's folks
 17 Rampur royalty
 18 — Bator
 28 Kansas city
 30 Big —, CA
 32 Explorer
 34 Desirable quality
 35 Shut forcefully
 37 Irene of "Zorba the Greek"</p> | <p>38 Let out the lava
 39 Sot
 40 Viva voce
 41 Inlay
 43 Baby beetles
 44 Sinuous dances
 45 Actress Ward
 47 "Go!" to Gounod
 49 Word form for "foot"
 52 Exhaustion
 53 Smooth transition
 55 Told off
 58 Play the mandolin
 59 Push-buttons' predecessors
 61 Sharon of Israel
 64 Mideast letters
 66 "The Sun Also Rises" heroine
 68 Some
 70 Semisolid protein
 71 More uncouth
 72 To date
 73 Terse verse
 74 Heathen
 75 Ancient characters
 76 Notre Dame's river
 77 Singer John</p> | <p>78 Laughing
 79 It becomes ewe?
 81 Mil. group
 83 Sewell of "A Knight's Tale"
 86 Tennis great
 88 Updated the factory
 90 Ponder
 92 Use a poniard
 95 Tahoe town
 97 Set apart
 99 Registered mail abbr.
 100 Zeno's zees
 101 Afternoon refresher
 104 Swahili, e.g.
 105 Serengeti sound
 106 Pakistani language
 107 Some shirts
 108 Teri of heroine "Tootsie"
 109 Hunt's — Ben Adhem
 112 Composer
 113 Inventive sort?
 116 "A Fool Such —" ('59 hit)
 118 Powell co-star
 119 Muff
 121 Capote, on stage</p> |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|



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Weekly SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

6			4					8
		1	7					9
7	4				8	3		
		7		5		6		
	6		4				1	5
4	8				1			2
2				6		9		
	9		1	2			8	
		4			7			3

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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THE OBSERVATION DECK

The chain reaction of evil — hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars — must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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North dealer.
 North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ Q 4
 ♥ K J 9 7 6 3
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ Q 7 4

WEST
 ♠ 10 8 5 2
 ♥ A Q
 ♦ J 9 8 5 4 3
 ♣ 8

EAST
 ♠ —
 ♥ 10 8 5 4 2
 ♦ 10 2
 ♣ A K J 6 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A K J 9 7 6 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ K Q 7
 ♣ 10 9 3

The bidding:
 North 1♥ East 2♣ South 2♣ West Pass
 3♥ Pass 4♣
 Opening lead — eight of clubs.

Famous Hand Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

There are plays in bridge that make a lot of sense after they're pointed out, but are often overlooked in practice because they are so unusual.

Take this example from H.W. Kelsey's book "More Killing Defense." South gets to four spades, and West leads his singleton club. Declarer follows low from dummy, and East wins with the jack.

East then cashes the king of clubs, and West has to choose a discard. Probably most defenders would discard a low diamond on East's king of clubs, in which case declarer eventually makes the contract, losing three club tricks -- period.

But if West considers the matter carefully at trick two, he discards the queen of hearts instead! And when East next cashes the ace of clubs, West discards the ace of hearts!!

East now leads a heart, and South goes down one. Regardless of what declarer elects to play on the heart return at trick four, he cannot avoid eventually losing a trump trick to West.

Fancy defense, you might say, but how in the world can anybody holding the West hand be expected to be that smart? Nevertheless, the fact remains that no harm can come from discarding the heart queen at trick two. When declarer then follows to the third club, jettisoning the ace of hearts assures defeat of the contract, while the failure to do so will in some cases -- this one in particular -- allow declarer to make the contract.

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ANSWERS TO SUPER CROSSWORD

3	9	7	2	7	8	6	4	1	5
7	4	8	4	5	1	2	1	9	6
1	6	4	9	3	8	7	2	7	2
3	2	6	6	7	1	9	3	5	4
5	1	7	3	2	4	2	4	7	9
6	9	4	7	8	3	3	3	9	6
4	9	4	2	5	8	7	3	1	3
9	4	8	3	2	6	1	8	5	6
6	9	4	7	8	3	2	1	7	7
4	4	9	9	3	7	3	1	7	8
7	8	3	2	4	9	1	7	8	6

Answer
 Weekly SUDOKU

Amber Waves

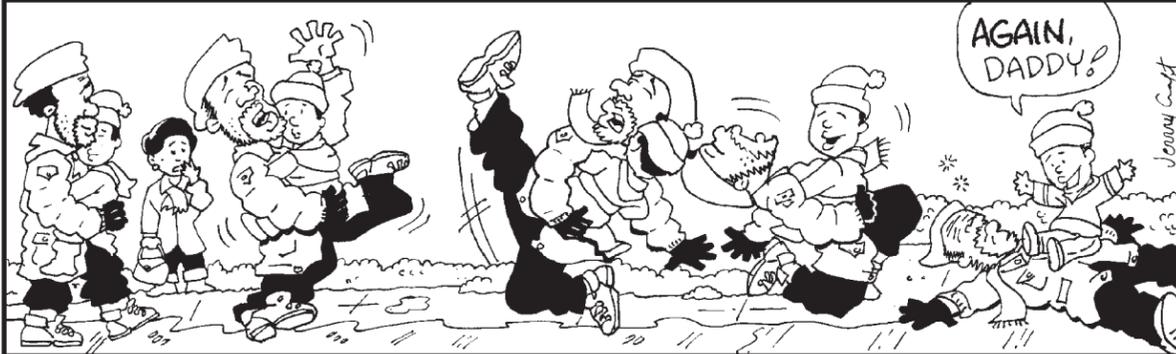
by Dave T. Phipps



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JERRY CRAFT



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



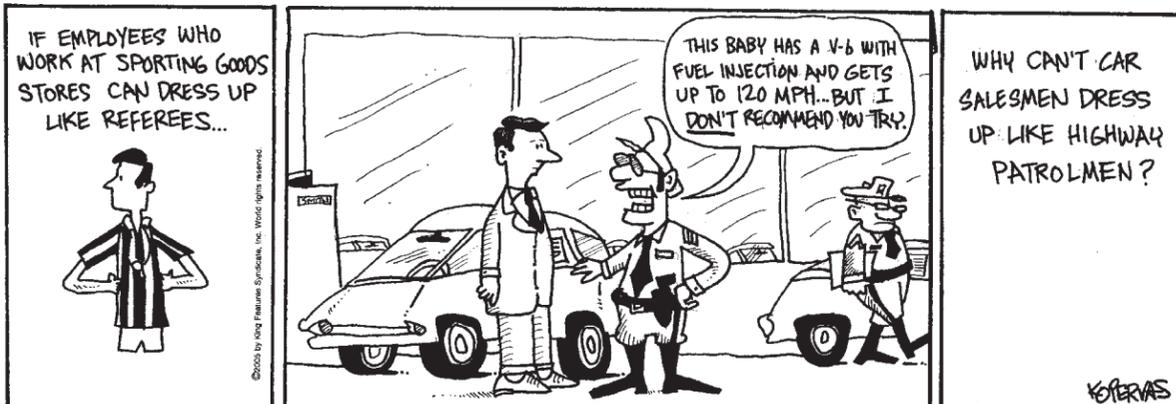
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Garden Bug

George Washington Carver

By the 1890s, cotton farming had depleted Southern soils. Dr. George Washington Carver taught farmers to rotate new crops like peanuts and sweet potatoes with their cotton crops. He developed over 300 new uses for the peanut alone. Learn more at www.tuskegee.edu

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

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Remembering Sesquicentennial wagon train

by
Tumbleweed
Smith



horses, something he has done all his life.

"I don't like to work with these big old wild horses from the range. I like the young ones with a natural gentle disposition about them. I use the soft touch method of breaking horses, but sometimes that doesn't work and I have to get real western."

He and his wife Carol, who he calls Cowgirl, (she calls him Cowboy) make at least one trip a year to the mountains of the West where Gary usually has encounters with black bears. He has developed into quite a storyteller and the benches around a big tree in his backyard are filled during warm weather with his friends and admirers. He has stayed in contact with many of the folks who made the wagon trek across the state.

With a hearty "Wagons Ho!" the sesquicentennial wagon train left Sulphur Springs for a trip across Texas on January 2, 1986. Gary France was wagon master.

"Governor Mark White, when he found out we were going to Fort Worth by way of the King Ranch and El Paso told us he knew of a short cut," says Gary. "The route took the wagon train as far east as Marshall, as far south as Kingsville, as far west as El Paso and as far north as Amarillo for a total of 3,228 miles. It was quite a trip."

The wagons moved through Texas for six months, arriving in Fort Worth in early July.

"One group of people was with us all the way," says Gary. "We called them the core group. It consisted of somewhere around 30 wagons and between 150 and 200 people. We had a lot of people who weren't on the wagons, but kept the wagons rolling."

One hundred and two wagons left Sulphur Springs. In the sparsely populated areas of south and west Texas, the train dwindled down to 32 wagons. Gary says that was the lowest number of wagons on the trip.

"When we made it into El Paso it got bigger and when we left Amarillo it really picked up. When we departed Wichita Falls going into Fort Worth we were growing daily. Not only with the wagons, but we were having a lot of horseback riders. When we pulled into downtown Fort Worth, we were about 200 wagons strong with thousands of people on horses. We stretched out well over two miles."

The trip was made to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Texas. There was nightly entertainment in the campgrounds during and after the evening meal. Many of the people on wagons dressed in period costumes to experience the way their forefathers lived.

Gary, who lives near the Hopkins County community of Birthright, was 44 years old at the time he was wagon master. Life hasn't changed much for him, although his eyesight has deteriorated. He still makes his living breaking

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The Texas Tycoon Collection
 The Salado Sawmill, an artisan's workshop and gallery, has created a unique line of custom furniture: The Texas Tycoon Collection. Big, bold and as rugged as a Texas oilman, this line reflects the character and style of these demanding gentlemen. No Victorian frills here: just clean lines, chiseled features and big proportions. While the style of these pieces reflects Texas' roots, it also demonstrates a flair for the dramatic through the use of burl, bird's eye and quarter-sawn lumber. Picture here is the Executive Desk in the Tycoon Collection. This piece is made from bird's eye maple. Note the shop-made crown molding, distinctive base and towering proportions -- a showpiece for today's tycoon, oil or otherwise.
 Master Craftsman Robert Pascoe makes these pieces at the Salado Sawmill, allowing the customer to specify the dimensions, wood type, color and hardware. Because Pascoe works the project from design through build and finish, you are assured of quality at every step. Just bring in a picture or sketch of something that you're interested in and Pascoe will guide you through the design process. Pascoe has several other lines, including Arts and Crafts and General Store collection.
 The Sawmill, a division of XtraWorX, LLC, is located at 409 Salado Plaza at the entrance to Mill Creek in Salado.
 Call Bob at 254-947-0137 or visit www.saladosawmill.com.

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Granny's House Cleaning. Free estimates/discounts. Move outs. References. Call 254- 947-8533 Salado. tfn

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Storage space in Salado 8X12, 16X24 and up. Some have drive-in doors. Salado Storage 947-5575 tfnb

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Found: Keys on Chisholm Trail. Call 947-9225 12/29-1/5p

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Bruno Chair -lift \$300 Call 947-9257 1/5-1/19p

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Lost: Stagecoach Inn "Foots" a large neutered black male cat. cell (903) 445-6519 or home (903) 665-3411. 12/22-1/5b

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Take a step out of the city and enjoy this peaceful 2 acre setting. Granite counter tops. Huge family room and bonus room with great location. Convenient to Georgetown, Temple or Killeen. \$316,900. Call First Texas Brokerage, (254) 947-5577

Private wooded setting. Soaring ceilings and stained concrete floors accent this gorgeous 5 BR, 3 BA home. Gas fireplace with slate front and hearth. second living now used as office. All stainless steel appliances convey 2 ovens. Granite countertops. Covered patio with surround sound and gas fire pit, second terrace is wired for hot tub. Too many extras to list. \$383,000 Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

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Storage

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CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3C

Contact Marilyn for information about advertising in the Salado Village Voice 254-947-5321 Friday is the deadline for the following Thursday issue.

Properties By Larry Sands



PLEASE NOTE THIS NEW PRICE!! The Historic Fowler House is now being offered at **\$295,500**. What a DEAL to own a piece of Salado's history at this GREAT price! 3 BD, 2.5 BA in the MAIN house. 1 BD-, 1 -BA in Guest house & a great BARN for parties or gift shop. Call Larry NOW!!!



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Trim, don't top, your trees

Trees must be pruned sometimes to avoid interference with utility lines, buildings, or parts of the surrounding environment.

Whenever pruning to reduce a tree's size is required, avoid the harmful practice of topping.

Topping involves removing all parts of a tree above a certain height with no consideration for its structure or health. This method is not a viable method of height reduction but only a temporary and ineffective solution that actually makes a tree more hazardous in the long run.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) explains why topping is not an acceptable pruning technique. "Topping is probably the most damaging and detrimental thing a person can do to a tree," says Sharon Lilly, Director of Education for ISA. "Topped trees are ugly, and the harmful effects usually endure for the life of the tree."

The destructive effects of topping include:

"Starved" trees -

Topping often removes 50-100 percent of the leaf-bearing crown robbing the tree of food-creating leaves.

Creation of weak shoots- As a defense mechanism, a tree will quickly grow (up to 20 feet in one year) food-producing shoots that are weak and prone to breaking, resulting in a more hazardous tree.

Added stress for the tree- If a tree does not have enough stored energy it will not be able to produce the chemicals required to defend the multiple wounds from a disease or insect attack.

"Sunburned" trees- The leaves within a tree's crown absorb sunlight. Without this protection, branches and trunks are exposed to high levels of light and heat which can burn the tissues beneath the bark.

Poor aesthetics- Topping removes the ends of branches often leaving unsightly stubs, and destroying the natural form of the tree. A tree that has been topped can never fully regain its natural form.

Higher maintenance

costs- Trees that have been topped will need pruning more often, or may die and need to be removed. Topped trees are potential liabilities and can reduce property value.

Trees should be pruned according to the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) pruning standards. An ISA Certified Arborist should quote approved ANSI pruning methods to their customers. Beware of a tree service that offers to top your tree.



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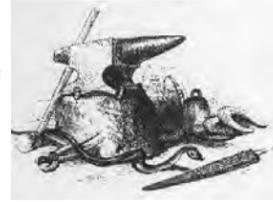


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100 acres on Kuykendall Mountain Road west of Moffat. Lots of trees. Community water available. Unique land feature along the west side. \$3,850 per acre
88 secluded acres with 1700 feet of Lampasas River frontage and 2300 feet of Clear Creek frontage in west Bell County - deer, turkeys, ducks, fish, doves. \$3,950 per acre. No mobile homes, please. Will subdivide to 16 acres or more.
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1.3 acre building site zoned C-2 on Sparta Road in Belton - west of new Super Wal-Mart. \$215,000.



Salado Area Business Women to hold first meeting of year Jan. 5

The Salado Area business meeting vice American Business president, Carol Walls, will give a slide presentation on her recent trip to China. Chisholm Trail Chapter, will hold its first meeting of the year Jan. 5 at Stagecoach Inn.

The social time is from 6-6:30 p.m. with the dinner meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. After a short

Visitors or potential members are invited to attend and may call membership chair, Anne Marie Harwell, 947-3159 for more information.



This Austin stone country estate on acreage is framed by large cascading oak trees. Wet weather creek runs on the back of this 8.72 acre homesite. Hardwood floors, windows from ceiling to floor in living room, great room effect, stone fireplace, gourmet kitchen, 3 BR/2-1/2 BA, library with built-ins, zoned AC. Two dining areas and spacious laundry. Barn/garage is 40' x 60' with 800 SF 1BR apartment. \$565,000.



Horse Property! Country living at its finest! Log siding home on 10+ acres. Seven stall horse barn with round pen and lighted arena. New non-climb horse fence with cross-fencing. Recent in-ground pool with waterfall, spa, metal roof and great landscaping. Salado schools, good roads, and easy IH-35 access. Huge attached garage. 3 BR/2 BA. \$340,000.



Austin stone home with brick trim. Minutes from Stillhouse Hollow Lake on .6 acres. Stone fireplace and hearth. 4BR/2BA with spectacular entrance. Dining room, living room and kitchen are open with great room effect. Large utility room. Many upgrades. Two car attached garage. \$179,995



Magnificent country dream home on 2.14 acres in Salado. Many amenities with tile throughout home. Approx. 3,588 SF with attached garage. Custom built-in shelving in kitchen and study. 3 BR/2 BA. \$398,500.

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Your own private park! Lovely Salado home has a beautiful wooded yard. Lots of privacy with two decks in the backyard. Country kitchen with lots of cabinets, huge closets, breakfast bar and dining room. 2 BR/2 BA, \$144,500.



Great country views of Taylor's Valley! Wonderful home is on 3/4-acre lot, fenced and on a cul-de-sac. Separate formal dining and breakfast nook. Academy schools. 3 BR/2-1/2 BA, \$179,900

Lots and Acreage
25 acres for sale with 2 BR/2 BA home. Salado I.S.D. \$149,000.

Temple: 50+ acres on Seaton Road, one-acre stock tank. Creek good for fishing. Large trees and some wooded acreage. Partially planted in coastal bermuda grass. Lots of wildlife. \$3,750/acre.

.71 acre lot in Royal View \$42,000

2 lots near Belton Lake \$6,500/lot.

25 acres Salado ISD \$4,500/ac.

5 acres, Hidden Springs, \$74,900.

Investment Properties

Near UMHB, Belton, 3 BR/1 BA home. \$64,500.

Belton home great rental or potential. 3 BR/1 BA. \$59,500

SOLD



Temple brick home on pecan tree-covered lot! 3 BR/2 BA, covered patio and storage shed in shaded backyard. Neighborhood near Midway Drive, so close to everything! \$97,000.



Mill Creek Golf Course just across the street. Open living and kitchen area with fireplace. Three bedroom, two bath with a great master layout. Kitchen has breakfast area with island/bar. Formal living room. Attached garage, separate laundry room. Privacy fenced. \$189,000.



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Call Properties By Larry Sands, 947-5580 for LEASING information.



\$449,800: A true Texas Ranch on 6.38 wooded acres with apartment & workshop in the 30 x 40 barn. Ready for horses with a 20 x 30 stable. This home features custom knotty pine solid wood cabinets & doors, iron knobs, & wood ceilings. Huge formal dining room, interior stone accents, & more.



\$595,000: Own a piece of Salado Creek. A Darwin Britt home built in 1987 with beautiful wood floors, beams & staircase designed by a true craftsman. 1910 beams from Galveston warehouse accent the living areas. Belgium doors in the entry of the formal dining room. Wood floors. On the banks of Mill Creek.



\$383,000: Private wooded setting. Soaring ceiling and stained concrete floors accent this gorgeous 5 BR, 3 BA home. Gas fireplace with slate front & hearth. 2nd living now used as office. Stainless steel appliances. Covered patio with surround sound and gas fire pit. Wired for hot tub. Too many extras to list.



\$225,000: Open living area consists of family room, den, dining, and kitchen. Two fireplaces. Large windows overlook beautiful backyard from family room. 2 BR & bath downstairs with bedroom, bath, and loft upstairs. Treed lot in a beautiful section of Mill Creek.



\$219,900: This 3 or 4 BR home has a large, open feeling with grand entry. Ceramic tile, custom wood molding, and plant ledges are a few of the amenities of this home. Enclosed sun porch can be breakfast room or living area.



\$195,000: Great location on Indian Trail in Salado. Beautiful trees, private back yard. Larry Lilly built home in the heart of Mill Creek.



\$169,000: Home on 2.9 acres with long wrap-around porch. Beautiful live oak trees on property. 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 LR, one dining. Easy access to I-35. Short distance to Killeen or Salado.



\$97,500: Spacious home on one acre located in the Salado School district. 3 BR, office, 2 living, 2 dining with large carport and above ground pool. Large kitchen opens into the breakfast room and family room.

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Acreage Available

- 780 acs. with nice home, several ponds, large metal building.
- 439 acs. on FM 487, Florence. Oaks, grasslands.
- 230 acres with over one mile of frontage on Little River. UC.
- 150 acres, near Rogers. Excellent soil, good road frontage.
- 65 acs. on Hill Rd. and I-35, all or part. UC
- 5 wooded acres on Blackberry Rd.

Lots & Home Sites

Mill Creek Lots

- Mill Creek Springs I & III - \$30,000-75,000
- Mill Creek Springs IV *Just Released!*
- Golf course & hilltop view lots start at \$40,000
- Interior lots start at \$25,000
- The Overlook, estate-sized lots start at \$94,000.

Woods of Salado Lots

- Mountain Dr. - Lot 5B - \$35,000.
- Live Oak Rd. Lots 21A&B \$70,000

Other Lots

- Windy Hill Ranch: 2 acre lots - \$35,000-\$45,000.
- Heritage: 1 to 3 acre wooded, near Salado. Restricted.
- Hidden Springs: Lot 2, Lot 31.
- Denman's Loop: Lot 8, B 19, Sec. 2, \$18,000.
- Terra Bella: 12 estate lots in park-like setting off Armstrong Rd. \$45,000-\$110,000.

Commercial Property

- \$429,000: 5.66 acres commercial property off Main Street Salado.
- \$199,500: 1.51 acres currently used as golf club shop. Many possibilities.
- \$149,000: 1.6 acres with good potential for commercial near I-35 & FM 2484.
- \$92,500: Commercial building on Thomas Arnold Rd. close to Salado Schools & I-35.
- \$79,800: Great location for a Salado business, on 0.925 ac. on Center Circle.



\$274,500: Drive by and imagine yourself living in this Texas Limestone ranch home. This 4 BR, 3 BA is loaded with extras. All counter tops are granite. The wood floored entry opens to the large living area and formal dining room.



\$209,800: When you walk into this home you will appreciate the volume ceilings with open floor plan & designer paint colors. Beautiful hardwood floors in the dining room & living room. Keep warm in the winter with the clean burning Pellet Stove. Storage everywhere.



\$199,500: What could possibly be more convenient than the entrance to Mill Creek? Magnificent 1.51 acres. See all the possibilities.



\$162,000: Lovely hardwood floors accent this home throughout. Master bedroom with French opening onto a covered back porch and deck. Kitchen opens into the breakfast area and living room. Very private backyard with a great deck for entertaining. Beautiful antique roses adorn the back yard.



\$109,900: Minutes from Scott & White and the Temple Mall, this recently updated home is ready for occupancy. Updates include: fresh paint, carpet, flooring, appliances, A/C unit (inside). Owner is a licensed real estate broker.

What New Year's Resolutions can we take to have less impact on environ?

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Dear EarthTalk:
 Since 2006 is upon us, what New Year's resolutions might my family and I make to lessen our impact on the environment? --
 David Schink, Chicago, IL

The dawn of a new year is always a good time to consider how our

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

actions and activities affect the environment. Here are a few ways to be greener in 2006:

- Buy organic and fair trade. Organic crops grow without the chemicals that pollute our environment and cause health problems for sensitive consumers. Meanwhile, "fair trade" goods won't exploit third world workers or their environment. Purchase organic and fair traded food and clothing and you'll help make a difference while often enjoying

higher quality goods. (www.purefood.org; www.fairtrade.net)

- Travel Lite. Driving gas-guzzling SUVs is a sure way to keep warming the globe and polluting the air. Even small steps--like driving a fuel-efficient hybrid or taking public transit--can have major impact. And don't forget that walking and biking cause no pollution, use no oil, keep you fit and get you to appreciate the great outdoors more. Vacationing? Choose an "eco-tour" that minimizes impact and benefits the host community. (www.hybridcars.com; www.ecotourism.org)

- Batten Down the Hatches. Upgrade appliances to greener models, add insulation and replace leaky

windows and you can make your home comfy and save lots of cash. A slew of new tax incentives make it more lucrative than ever to do the right thing. Jimmy Carter's advice to lower the thermostat and don a sweater still holds. In summer, turn off air conditioners and open the windows. (www.ase.org)

- Dump the Chemicals. Green cleaning products, from a growing list of manufacturers, are safer than conventional cleansers, especially for children who spend a lot of time on the floor. And since dioxin traces have been found on everything from bleached paper towels and diapers to tampons, look for alternatives made with unbleached paper or organic cotton. (www.chechnet.org)

- Eat Lower on the Food Chain. By eating less or no meat and more fruits and veggies, you'll not only improve your health by reducing fat and cholesterol, you'll also help the environment. Meatless diets mean far less land and water usage and reduced pollution from the animal waste that is now a major contributor to water and groundwater pollution. (www.goveg.com)

- Don't buy fur. Give wildlife a break--they have enough trouble surviving as it is, with so much habitat threatened by booming human population and rampant development. And the ones raised on "ranches" aren't having a picnic either. (www.hsus.org/wildlife/issues_facing_wildlife/fur_and_trapping)

- Invest in your principles. Mutual funds like Calvert, Domini and others will invest your money in good corporate environmental citizens. And a growing number of credit unions and banks will lend your deposits to green-friendly businesses. Buy stock in companies you don't like, too--then effect change from within by speaking up at shareholder meetings for better practices. (www.sriworld.com)

- Teach Your Children Well. A good place to start is with curbing consumption. How many Beanie Babies, Barbies and iPods will be in landfills 10 years from now? You decide. (www.newdream.org)



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701 Indian Trail

Price reduced to \$274,000. Motivated seller will consider any reasonable offer. Secluded home on 1.3 acres in Beautiful Salado Creek Place. Rooms with soaring ceilings and large irregular room sizes. Three bedrooms and three full baths, large living area, formal dining room and a study.



2105 Smith Bluff

Immaculate native limestone home ready for new owners, 20x19 living room with stone WBFP, formal and informal dining, 3 bedrooms, two baths and a wonderful kitchen. Many updates and great drive-up appeal. Don't miss this one! \$207,577. Price Reduced to \$188,000.



515 Indian Trail

Gorgeous stone home, beautifully landscaped with two-tiered pond in fenced backyard. Large rooms throughout. Two great rooms, two fireplaces, plus separate formals, library. Four bedrooms and unbelievable storage. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$499,000.



1617 Chaparral

Very special, beautifully-designed contemporary home with unrestricted views of golf course. Features include large great room, formal dining, open kitchen, breakfast room, study, 4 beds and 3 full baths. This home has 4 porches, 2 car plus golf cart



227 N. Main St.

Prime location in the historical district on Main Street. Three buildings approximately 1200 square feet each with room to expand. Call Anna Lou or Mike for more information. \$485,000



900 DeGrummond Way

Salado's hidden treasure. This is not a typical home! This totally updated 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home includes a new master suite with a private patio. There is a large great room plus a family room. Beautiful views of oak trees and a pond. A very warm and welcoming home! \$350,000

Mill Creek Homesites

Premier Half-Acre Lots in restricted Mill Creek Golf course subdivision. Underground utilities, ready for custom homes with only 2,000 sq. ft minimum. 1801 Kevlin Trail 1901 Kevlin Trail
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Who is affected by air pollution

Dear EarthTalk: How many Americans are adversely affected by air pollution and what can we do to improve air quality? -- Tom Weaver, Sioux City, IA

According to the State of the Air 2005 report, published by the American Lung Association (ALA), air pollution levels improved in many parts of the nation during the first few years of the new millennium, but millions of Americans still face dangerous levels of air pollution.

The ALA report highlights the sad fact that, despite pro-environmental sentiment and strong regulations, more than half of the U.S. population lives in counties with unsafe levels of either smog or particle pollution. Smog is the worst offender and is often directly responsible for cases of decreased lung function, respiratory infection, lung inflammation and aggravation of respiratory illness. Some 142.7 million Americans live in counties rated with failing grades by the ALA for this airborne

pollutant. Meanwhile, another 76.5 million Americans live in areas where they are exposed to unhealthy short-term levels of particle pollution. Children and the elderly are especially at risk. Short-term, or acute, exposure to particle pollution has been linked to increases in heart attacks, strokes, and emergency-room visits for asthma and cardiovascular disease. Particle pollution is most dangerous to those already suffering from asthma, heart disease, bronchitis and emphysema.

The ALA's annual tally of America's air pollution is based on readings from air quality monitors in every county in the nation. The organization is presently working hard to protect the Clean Air Act from the budget-cutting efforts of several key lawmakers. It is also currently engaged in a vigorous campaign to force the cleanup of the country's dirtiest power plants. Old, coal-fired power plants are among the biggest industrial contributors to unhealthy air, especially particle

pollution in the eastern United States.

Individuals can help improve air quality by cutting down on driving so as to reduce vehicle exhaust, and by refraining from burning wood or trash that sends particle pollution into the air. The ALA also suggests getting involved in community reviews of air pollution plans and supporting state and local efforts to clean up air pollution. Urging members of Congress to protect the Clean Air Act is another way for individuals to get involved.

CONTACT: American Lung Association, www.lungaction.org.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: *EARTH TALK*, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; or e-mail us at: earthtalk@emagazine.com.



Distinct Creation close to completion in Hidden Springs! 5+bedroom home on 5 acres features 3 levels of living area, soaring ceilings, 2 dining areas, private media room/office and stainless steel kitchen appliances including down-draft range; de-sulphuring well system; pre-wiring for surround sound/security, 2 fireplaces, \$10,000 landscaping allowance. 2206 Cheyenne Pass \$459,625



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Wonderfully manicured country estate on 4.34 acres. 3 bedroom, 2.5 baths, office, 2 living, 2 dining, and game room. Wonderful patio for entertaining with stainless gas grill, fireplace and fountain. Too many extras to list, **\$468,000**

What a wonderful homesite!! 11.71 acres in Hidden Springs, complete with water well and stock tank. Ready for your new home. Enjoy wildlife, beautiful views, and community park on Salado Creek, **\$115,000.**

Absolutely gorgeous!! Vaughn built, stucco on private 3.23 acres. 5 bedroom, 3 bath, slate fireplace, beautiful granite countertops, all stainless appliances convey, double ovens. Extra garage space for motorcycles or golf cart. Stained concrete floors, upgrades throughout. Superior storage. 19' ceilings in most 1st floor areas including the 400 sq. ft. patio with surround sound and gas firepit. Lots of windows, Must see! **\$383,000.**

Call Valerie at 254 **493-0787**



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Private ranch estate! Austin stone home on over 11 tree-covered acres located southwest of Salado. Thermador appliances, hardwood floors, covered porches, 3 fireplaces. **\$699,900.**



550 Acres with ranch style house west of Jarrell. Call today for more details!



Century-old live oaks surround this 4/2.5 home on over 22 acres. Beautifully updated, 12 ft. ceilings, 2 living areas, over 800 ft. of patios, well and water meter. Northwest of Salado. **\$339,000.**



Beautifully restored railroad depot on 16+ acres. Master suite, country kitchen, large suite for guests/children. Garage with lots of storage areas that could be extra living. Horse stables, everything you could ask for in a convenient home on the range. **\$525,000.**



New floorings, fresh paint and updated fixtures make this home move-in-ready. 3/2/2 in an excellent location on a tree-covered lot. **\$164,900.**



Texas Ranch style home with an incredible Hill Country view! Relax on your own hammock while enjoying your Willingham Creek. This home is a must-see **\$444,900.**



East of Salado, this 3/2.5/2 custom home is fully landscaped. Granite countertops, large master bath, gutters and more. Study could be used as 4th bedroom. **\$247,500.**



Enjoy the peaceful setting of this tree-covered lot. 3/2/2 that is close in Salado all for just ~~\$179,900~~. **Price Reduced to \$169,900.**



Great Location, close to Pro Shop in Mill Creek. This 2/2/1 newly renovated condominium has it all for just **\$159,900.**



New Listing: 3/2 manufactured home with excellent location in Salado overlooking Salado Creek. Priced at **\$124,900.**



Clean and Neat on private street. 3/2/2 with open floor plan and fenced yard. **\$144,900.**



Spacious Home on Quiet Street: 6/6/1, the possibilities are endless with over 3,500 sq. ft. on approximately 1.4 acres. Home or business. **\$234,900.**

Acreage/Lots

300 ac **UNDER CONTRACT**, \$2,500/acre.
 340 acres southeast of Salado.
 550 acres Hill Country with house west of Jarrell. Excellent commercial rock property.
 Lots w/ sewage & water on Shady Lane.
 145 acres northwest of Salado. Backs up to Corps of Engineers property. \$3,500 per acre.
 3-5 acre located north of Salado, excellent homesite. **\$58,900.**
 2.4 acres northwest of Salado. Excellent homesite, **\$52,900.**
 7 acres oak trees, electricity & well, **\$85,000.**
 2 acres great trees Hidden Springs. **\$33,900.**
 5 acres in Hidden Springs, lot #271, **\$49,900.**
 5 acres in Hidden Springs, lot #265, **\$49,900.**
 2.7 acres fronting FM 2843. **\$29,900.**
 3.018 acres on FM 2843. Large pecans & live water. **\$35,000.**
 44 acres off of Firefly Road between Salado and Florence. Great Trees Will divide.
 3+ acres with oak and elm Trees **\$39,900**
 10 Acre Home Sites starting from \$99,900. Live Oak Trees and Views!
 Great 2 acre lot in Hidden Springs!
\$33,900
 Lot 290 Hidden Springs, \$49,000.
 Lot 71 Hiddens Springs creek front, \$74,950.
 Lot overlooking Salado Creek, **\$50,000.**
 Beautiful treed lot, 178' deep, 1219 Indian Trail, Mill Creek, **\$36,000.**
 Lot in The Bluffs at Salado Creek, **\$45,000.**
 One of the best lots in Mill Creek. Private with trees. \$59,900.
 Royal View lot priced at \$49,900.
 Indian Trail at Blaylock, lg corner lot, 90x188 - **\$40,000.**
 Indian Trail - 90x188 - **\$38,000.**

Commercial

1.32 acre fronting I-35 with home, **\$350,000**
 30 acres fronting I-35, 1 mile south of Stagecoach Inn. Additional 30 acres available .87 acres off N. Stagecoach Rd. **\$147,408.**
 3 acres fronting I-35, Phase 3. **\$120,000.**
 Approx 3.5 acres off College Hill with small home for **\$300,000.**
 B&B: Great chance to live in Salado.

Belton

Large lot with trees in gated Southlake Subdivision. **\$55,000.**
 5+ acres fronting SH 190 and Boxer Road. Great commercial location. City water available. **\$299,000.**
 2+ acres at corner of FM 1670 and HWY 190.
 Exit 305 North of Temple. .54 acres with existing station. Excellent business opportunity.

**Come by our office located in The Veranda
80 S. Main St. • Salado**