

Salado Village Voice

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50¢

Mentoring group given green light

By TIM FLEISCHER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"A mentor is not a replacement for a parent," Bob Roemer told Salado I.S.D. Trustees April 17 before the board approved the Salado Mentors program. "They're not a replacement for a teacher. A mentor is an additional role model for a student who may need that extra guidance."

Roemer sought and received authorization of the Salado Mentor program by the board of trustees as the next step in a series of actions to introduce the program to the school system. He explained that a mentoring board was formed earlier in the school year to build the foundation for a successful mentoring program in Salado schools.

Thus far, the board has established a timeline for actions, including the next phase of recruiting volunteers to meet on a regular basis with Salado fifth graders. After establishing a working program with the fifth grade at Salado Intermediate School, the board may decide to extend the program to other grades.

While the mentoring board has worked on the process from its inception, it has not done so alone.

"We have had a lot of contact with the Round Rock schools, which have had a very successful mentoring program for several years now," Roemer told trustees.

Learning from successes and mistakes made by others, the Salado group hopes to begin to match mentor volunteers with receptive students in the 2006-07 school year.

School trustees Deborah Aldridge was the catalyst to forming the group, calling the first informal

meeting last fall.

Since then, though, the group has grown from a small handful to a board of 11 people with specific assignments and responsibilities. Salado I.S.D. personnel, such as Superintendent Robin Battershell, Intermediate School counselor Melissa Kemp and Communities in Schools coordinator Jessica Beyers, sit on the board along with trustee Aldridge and other community members.

The board has adopted by-laws and other operating procedures. One of the key procedures is a background check of mentor hopefuls. According to Dr. Battershell, the district will use a national database to conduct background checks of mentor applicants.

Matching the student to the mentor is another key, according to Battershell: "A good match is so important."

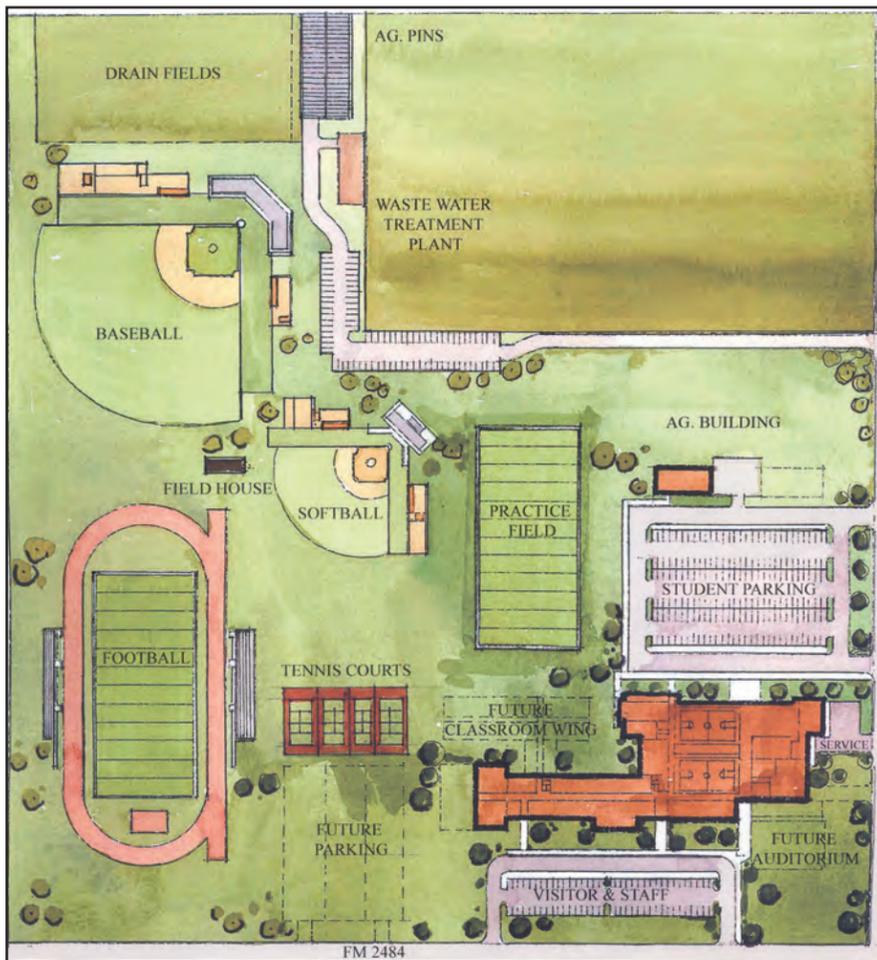
Protecting the confidentiality of the student is one of the top priorities in the program, Roemer told trustees.

School counselors, teachers and administrators -- as well as parents and the students themselves -- may request a mentor for a particular child.

Participation is voluntary for the child and family. "We're not going to force it on a student or a parent," Dr. Battershell told trustees.

The board unanimously approved the program, which will present an annual report to trustees, to go forward with recruitment and training of volunteers on a motion by Lynn Renfro, receiving a second from Jackie Burson.

The board will begin recruiting volunteers in May.



Conceptual master plan

Board approves bond sale, eye conceptual master plan

By Tim Fleischer
Editor-in-Chief

After awarding the issuance of \$16,175,000 unlimited tax school building bonds at their regular meeting April 17, Salado I.S.D. Trustees examined the conceptual master plan for the 50 acres of property on which the new high school will be built using proceeds from the sale of the bonds.

Merrill Lynch & Co. was awarded the bid, with the lowest rate of 4.803 percent, among six companies submitting bids. The highest bid was 4.869 percent.

Before the board awarded the bid to Merrill-Lynch, Ed Moore, with Southwest Securities informed trustees that Salado I.S.D. had improved its bond rating by two ratings.

"In my 24 years of experience, with anywhere

from 200 to 250 bond rating applications, Salado is the second school district that I have seen to be raised two notches," Moore said.

Prior to the bond rating process, in which extensive research into the district's finances were conducted by the rating company Moody Investors, the district had a rating of Baa2. SISD improved its rating to A3, Moore said.

"This improvement is due to the robust tax values in the district, improving the fund balance year after year and the additional financial flexibility of the school district because it is not at the ceiling of \$1.50 M&O," he said.

"It is a direct concerted effort of the board, the administration and staff," he added. "Whatever you guys around the table and in the administration are

doing, you should really keep it up."

All bonds for Texas schools are rated AAA, because of the Permanent School Fund, Moore explained, "but the higher your underlying bond rating is, the more the bond companies will quote. You are getting better bonds than you would have otherwise."

The 30-year bonds that were approved April 17 have a 10-year call, at which time the district may refinance the bonds or begin to pay them off at a faster rate.

After approving Merrill Lynch for the sale of the bonds, trustees reviewed a conceptual master plan for the new campus on 50 acres at the corner of FM 2484 and Williams Rd.

Superintendent Robin Battershell told trustees that the drawings com-

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 5A

Village sales taxes up 10%

Salado's sales tax rebates increased more than 10 percent this month, as the Village received a \$21,192.26 check, compared to last April's \$19,168.67.

So far this year, the Village has received \$114,774.95, which is 9.26 percent more than the \$105,046.44 paid to the Village through April 2005.

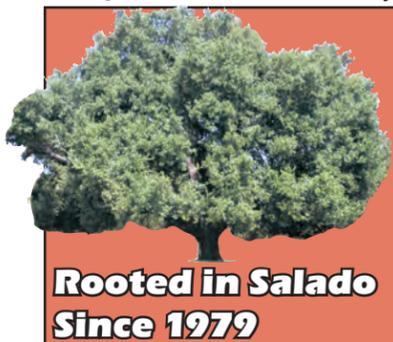
Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn sent April sales tax allocations of \$249.3 million to Texas cities, up 17.8 percent compared to April 2005. Calendar year-to-date, city sales tax allocations are running 15.5 percent higher than last year.

Eleven cities within Bell County levy sales tax. Those cities collected a total of \$2.7 million, which is 15.32 percent more than last April's payments of \$2.4 million.

Bell County levies a half-cent sales tax. The County received \$912,438.63 for April, up 12.89 percent from last year's \$808,201.82. For 2006, the County is 11.18 percent ahead of 2005, receiving \$4 million, compared to \$3.6 million through April 2005.

Salado Public Library District showed a remarkable 24.73 percent increase in sales tax rebates for April. The Library District earned a \$14,810.66, compared to \$11,873.57 in April 2005. For the year, the Library District has received \$75,700.46, up 16.89 percent from the \$64,758.75 received through April 2005.

April payments made to local governments represent sales that occurred in February.



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Gospel Fest at Tablerock slated this weekend

Eleventh Annual Gospel Festival at Tablerock Amphitheater will be 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.

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FORUM

An Open Exchange of Ideas



Romney vs. Allen

The non-McCain primary has begun. There are two major slots in the battle for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination -- one for Arizona maverick John McCain, the other for some other candidate. It is shaping up as a battle between Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Virginia Sen. George Allen.

Romney vs. Allen could well become a classic of intra-Republican conflict, featuring two equally formidable politicians jockeying to occupy nearly identical ideological ground. Romney is off to a strong start. He is a polished performer on TV, and people are noticing. He is good-looking, charming and articulate -- so impressive that at times one has to wonder how he found himself tossed among all of us mere mortals.

The governorship of Massachusetts isn't a natural launching pad for a Republican presidential run. But Romney has shrewdly leveraged his position there into an ongoing social-conservative credential. He has been in fights with liberals on every social issue imaginable -- gay marriage, cloning, abstinence education, emergency contraception, gay adoption.

Romney isn't running for a second term this year, which frees him up for energetic presidential stumping and organizing, all for the cause of getting a leg up on Allen. The Virginia senator is as affable a politician as exists in America. The son and namesake of the famous football coach, Allen is such a perfect representative of football-obsessed, NASCAR-loving Red State America -- down to the cowboy boots and the spit cup -- that you couldn't create a better specimen in the laboratory.

Allen's natural political skills and his down-the-line conservatism have fueled the strongly favorable insider buzz about his candidacy. But Allen is running for re-election this year, limiting the organizing he can do in early primary states. If

Rich Lowry



his Democratic challenger in Virginia is former Reagan Navy secretary and Iraq War critic James Webb, and if the situation in Iraq continues to deteriorate, Allen could find himself embroiled in a bruising, nationally watched referendum on the course of the war.

Allen's circumstances are sticky in another way. A great populist wave is building against Washington, and he has been sitting in the Senate for six years. Romney is perfectly positioned to blast away at the bloated and out-of-touch Beltway, since he has never voted for any federal spending programs nor taken any congressional pork. After eight years of President Bush, there might be a thirst, even among Republicans, for a different cultural feel in a candidate.

But Allen has advantages of his own. For many primary voters, a conservative from Virginia will more naturally compute than one from Massachusetts. Perhaps most importantly, beneath Allen's easygoing exterior is a fierce competitor who knows how to hit, and hit hard. Opponents beware.

It is early yet. A dark horse could emerge, or Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist -- a candidate who is widely discounted because he is thought to have a political tin ear -- could surprise. But it looks like it's going to be Allen vs. Romney -- a race that could be tremendously entertaining and, with Bush's domestic and foreign agendas increasingly tattered, momentous for the GOP.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2006 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Will extreme partisanship destroy the effectiveness of our system of representative Democracy?

The escalation of mean spirited partisanship between our two major political parties is not only sapping the strength and energy of our political system (particularly at the congressional level), but has **all but eliminated the use of compromise** - the one necessary ingredient in creating legislation that can withstand the intimidation of special interests.

Leading this "take no prisoners" attitude in lawmaking, are the fierce forces represented at the right-and-left wings of the Republican and Democratic parties. Today these extremists permit no middle ground discussion of important legislation. A practice that in past years help resolve the toughest problems coming before a legislative body.

Connected to each political party's "number-one" special interest (reelection), are the omnipresent lobbyists, who traffic in dollar-power, and vote-influence procurement. And who have not only subverted our system of representative government, but helped cripple the production of decent laws designed to serve the majority of citizens, in favor of a select (high-dollar) few.

CASE IN POINT

The most damning example of deranged political partisanship torpedoing an excellent compromise, took place in the Senate on April 7, just hours before they adjourned for yet another "vacation" (the third in four months).

The compromise dealt with the important human, economic, and political issue confronting the nation today - "**Immigration.**"

The House of Representatives had approved in March, a bill that was not only loathsome, but unworkable from start to finish, and undoubtedly designed by the extremists within the GOP who are **instinctive isolationists, except when it comes to making a global-buck.**

Attention then turned to the Senate in hopes that a more thoughtful legislative resolution would take place. This being after all, a critically important matter dealing with millions of immigrants - some legal, some not.

The upper-house immediately became stalled at both ends of the problem until a bi-partisan group created an excellent "eleventh hour" compromise that had the necessary 60 votes to pass. The measure would have resolved much of the illegal immigrant's plight, as well as create ways to protect our borders, and assist newcomers to legally enter and work in America.

ROOF CAVED IN

And then the roof caved in, as partisanship in its most ugly form, entered the picture. For once the blame can be laid squarely at the doorsteps of the guilty - the Senate Democrats!

These Demos (who were supporting the compromise) knew that Congress was headed home for "spring break" and would be facing already unhappy voters. So, they decided to "delay" the carefully crafted (middle ground) immigration plan, thus leaving on the table the outrageous House bill that everyone (with any sense) despised.

"Be great to have Republican voters mad at House GOPers with runoff anger aimed at their Senators," the Democrats reasoned. "Anything bad for conservatives would be good for Democrats, especially in November's general election."

So, Democrats temporarily "killed" the measure and disgracefully went home, pleased (no doubt) at what they'd done to their conservative adversaries.

Off the Record
by Ken Clapp



TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE

What Democrats did to the Senate immigration bill is a "textbook example" of today's unparalleled (and venomous) partisanship and can be traced directly back to Minority Whip Newt Gingrich's era when he forced Demo House Speaker Jim Wright from office (1989). This partisanship was strengthened when Republicans captured Congress (1994-5) and old Newt became House Speaker. It finally came to full flood with the advent of Tom DeLay who created a new apex in controlling votes, power and favors.

Partisanship began wearing a new (and hostile) face in the '90s. One that not only "hated" the opposition, but leaned towards "one partyism" when it came to passing laws; handing out pork-barrel goodies; and certainly a much cozier relationship to the lobby's money machine.

We are a nation of diverse people with diverse ideas so it's mandatory we avoid legislation designed specifically to appease individual special interest groups, or just one political party. We are obligated to champion the venerated democratic principal that laws must be created for the good of the majority.

When we get that "idea" firmly implanted in the minds of our leaders, from the President on down - we'll have protected our nation's greatness from selfishly passing the "point of no return."

MAY 1 BOYCOTT - BAD TIMING

In politics timing is everything. And the planned boycott by Mexican-Americans (both legal and illegal) on May 1, has been poorly timed.

A national work-stoppage, plus refusing to buy American goods on May 1, could slow (or stop) the ever-so-slight congressional momentum that appears to be redeveloping among lawmakers towards resolving the complicated immigration debate.

This despite the fact some members in both parties think it best to let the matter fester through the November elections. These are the "**scrubby politicians**" who **believe they can use anti-immigration sentiment as a reelection aid.**

Those organizing the boycott have directed a series of successful demonstration marches, that brought proper national attention to the intricate immigration problem, and naturally they want to keep the action moving.

However, patience and timing are needed virtues at this point in time. Immigration is a critically important social and economic issue, and will be resolved (in time) by thoughtful and decent people in this nation. **Despite efforts by the "wall building" isolationists who want all illegals deported as felons - never to return.**

AND THE BEAT GOES ON

One would think that following the uproar of last year's stupefying federal budget deficits, with its wasteful "pork barrel" give-aways, that Congress would have kept their hands out of this year's federal treasury's "cookie jar."

Wrong! Here's just a few outlandish "high dollar" items recently purloined for the home folks: Building a Teapot Museum in North Carolina; A boxing club in Nevada; And, berry research money for the Eskimos in Alaska.

WATERFREE URINALS (HUH?)

And the "Piece de Resistance" - a million bucks to study **Waterfree Urinals in Michigan.** Which represents, in this column's opinion, the entire "down the drain" theory of federal budgeteering. **Yuck!**

That's -30-

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On immigration

Your Voice

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

The following letter was originally sent to Senator John Cornyn. I thought it might be of interest your readers.

I recently received a form letter from the National Republican Senatorial Committee. I thought I should share my response with you as you are my elected representative.

I have voted a straight Republican ticket for the past 30 years because I always felt the Republican Party best expressed my views for fiscal conservatism and national defense.

In 2004 I again voted a straight Republican ticket, though I admit it was with some trepidation, and again we were "victorious." Now I feel that my vote was wasted. I have defended our current president and his policies and I no longer feel good about it.

He and the Republican-controlled Congress act as though we lost the last election. Please pardon my language, but it has been a long while since I have seen such a bunch of "wusses" and that includes the President. The greed and dishonesty of our elected representatives, and all of their predecessors for the past 70-plus years, fed by a liberal media, have allowed the greatest nation on earth to become nothing more than a welfare state. I have little or no trust in any person that is elected and starts to feed from the public trough. Senator, if were just me and a few others, I could deal with the situation a lot better. That is not the way it is. There are multitudes that feel as I feel.

I am tired of "Political Correctness." I am tired of the vocal minority backed by a liberal media, and lawyers running this country.

- When I see students in the United States displaying on a standard the American flag flying upside down and below the flag of Mexico it makes me nauseous.

- When I think of the millions of illegal immigrants that are nothing more than foreign invaders that take my tax dollars, I become irate.

- When I see the president that I helped elect, angling for what is no more than an amnesty program for these same foreign invaders I become even more upset. If I had

my druthers we would round them all up and send them back to their points of origin.

- When I think of the amount of money I pay in taxes every year and the fact that a portion of my tax dollar subsidizes pornographic art and the ACLU, it makes me think of "Tea Party."

- When I think of the fact that this country was founded on Christian principles and a belief in God, it disturbs me that one person can change all of that through our court system. That is wrong and all of the lawyers and judges in the world will never convince me otherwise.

- When I see and hear all of the garbage coming from the liberal left wing media and being expressed as news under the guise of "Freedom of Speech," I see red.

- When I see all of the pork in our budget, and knowing that the president I helped elect has never seen a spending bill he doesn't like, I ask myself "Why?"

- When I see and hear all of the nonsense and outright lies being passed on to our young people under the guise of education and the re-writing of history in our textbooks by members of the NEA and professors that were nothing more than draft dodgers in the 60s and 70s, I wonder where the country is going.

I do want you to know that I support Senat Bill 520. I support withdrawing from the United Nations and send the whole bunch packing to "France" or whatever other third-world country will take them. I support the second amendment as "it makes all the others possible" and "It ain't about duck hunting."

The letter that prompted this correspondence is requested funds. I am retired and on a limited income and personally I can think of better places to spend my money. I did include a check with my reply to Senator Dole. I advised her that this will be the end of my contributions. Any further contributions and my services will be sent to the Minute-man Organization as they seem to have our nation's best interest more at heart than do the elected representatives.

Harlan "Rip" Van Winkle Maj. (U.S. Army, Ret.) Salado

FORUM



Lawmakers should remember educators

By LINDA BRIDGES

Gov. Rick Perry wants the special legislative session to work only on rearranging the Texas tax system. An effort to spread more equally the tax burden borne by businesses makes sense, since many businesses carry a heavy load as other businesses duck through loopholes in the franchise tax.

Meanwhile, the state has dumped too much of the cost of operating schools onto the backs of local taxpayers. Texas needs to shift some of that tax burden from local homeowners back to the state.

However, Perry was not forced to call this special session because the business tax is unfair, or because property taxes are too high. He called this session because courts have ruled that the school finance system is broken and must be fixed.

Perry touts his plan as one that raises new taxes only in order to reduce property taxes. That also means that schools get no new money. I can hear some of you saying, "Schools always say they need more money; they can never get enough." Before you buy that argument, consider some of the special circumstances that our schools face today.

School enrollment in Texas grows by about 80,000 students each year. Each of those new kids

needs a classroom, a desk, a teacher, and a textbook. The new classrooms must be kept clean, the school buses need drivers, and the school cafeteria needs lunches. Schools need more than \$500 million more each year just to keep up with this enrollment growth.

After Hurricane Katrina, our public schools welcomed about 45,000 new students whose families fled the devastated areas. Local schools had to come up with more than \$250 million to take in those evacuees.

State lawmakers have demanded better performance on tougher tests from Texas students. So far schools have met the challenge. However, we cannot expect our 4.4 million schoolchildren to hit higher and higher levels unless we give them the additional help they need to make the grade.

Since 2003, the legislature actually has gone in the opposite direction, with cuts in education spending on personnel and programs that add up to more than \$4 billion per biennium. We are not talking about cutting fat. Funding for textbooks, advanced placement courses, and basic skills programs was slashed, along with many other vital educational programs. Texas teachers have not received a pay raise from the state since 1999. While failing to

provide pay raises to teachers, the legislature actually cut health-care compensation for school employees by \$500 or more per year in 2003. That cut continues in force today.

This special session has its genesis in a court case filed by school districts over the twin issues of adequate and equitable school funding. In his ruling in favor of the school districts, the trial judge noted that, unless the state government fulfills its responsibility to fund education, Texans in the future will be less educated, poorer, and more needy. The judge summed up by saying, "Education is expensive, but ignorance costs more."

Governor Perry and the leaders of our legislature should remember that the fundamental issue facing the new special session of the legislature is the problem of adequate, equitable school funding. If they neglect their responsibility to fund schools, then the judge's grim prophecy could become reality. To keep tabs on the special session, be sure to check our weekly "progress reports" at www.tft.org.

LINDA BRIDGES IS PRESIDENT OF THE TEXAS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, WHICH REPRESENTS MORE THAN 51,000 TEACHERS, PARAPROFESSIONALS, SUPPORT PERSONNEL, AND HIGHER-EDUCATION EMPLOYEES ACROSS THE STATE. TFT IS AFFILIATED WITH THE 1.3-MILLION-MEMBER AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS.

Legislators pushing genetically modified food



Jim Hightower

Have you been pre-empted yet?

You probably don't know it, but chances are that your state legislature either already has passed or is considering laws to steal an important level of local authority from you and the other folks in your city, town, or county. The present focus of this pre-emption power grab is on local governments around the country that have been responding (as they should) to the corporate effort to contaminate our food supply with genetically modified organisms.

These GMOs literally alter the DNA of the food we put in our family's mouths, including transferring animal genes into fruits and veggies. There has been no long-term testing of the human and environmental impacts of these Frankenfoods, yet the federal government has meekly let Monsanto and a few other purveyors of genetically-manipulated seeds put this stuff into our food supply - without even having to label the foodstuffs as having GMOs in them.

Consumers, farmers, environmentalists, and other sane people don't want the Monsantos to use us as their guinea pigs, so they have already gotten more than 100 local governments to ban GMO crops within their area. This has infuriated the corporate powers, which have spent tons of money to defeat these local bans... but lost.

So, for the last couple of years, they've been sneaking off to state legislatures to pass laws (often with no debate) that take away our local control over this health issue.

To date, 14 states have stripped this democratic decision-making power from local people - and corporate lobbyists are moving to take it away from local governments everywhere.

No matter how you feel about GMOs in your food, this orchestrated corporate power grab is stealing the fundamental right of our communities to protect our families' health and shape our own future. To learn what's happening in your state, call Environmental Commons: 707-884-5002.

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Expand your stock ownership...DRIP by DRIP

Financial Focus

by Allen Mantanona



At one time or another, you probably wished you could increase your investments - if only you had the money. And it's certainly true that investing can be expensive. However, you might be able to get "more bang for your buck" - and, over time, significantly increase your holdings - by buying shares of dividend paying stocks and reinvesting the dividends into the same stocks.

To follow this strategy, of course, you have to find stocks that regularly pay dividends. Fortunately, by doing a little research, you can indeed locate companies that have long histories of not only paying, but also increasing, their dividends. (Keep in mind, though, that stocks are not fixed-income vehicles, and dividends can be increased, decreased or totally eliminated at any point without notice, no matter how good their

track record has been.)

If you are interested in reinvesting dividends, you might want to look for companies that offer automatic dividend reinvestment plans, also known as DRIPs. And you don't have to receive enormous dividends to participate, either; many DRIPs allow you to send in as little as \$10 to \$50 at a time to buy additional shares of stock.

The biggest benefit of DRIPs, of course, is the ability they give you to increase the shares of stock you own. But you'll find other advantages, too. Here are a couple to consider:

- Investment discipline - To be a successful investor, you need the discipline to continuously invest, month after month,

year after year, in good markets and bad. Many people lack this discipline and take a "time out" from investing until they feel they can really afford it. But, as you know, we can all find other ways to spend money, and investing often ranks tossed aside for what appear to be more pressing needs. However, by taking part in DRIPs, you will invest steadily, and with virtually no effort on your part. And since you never received the dividend checks in the first place, you won't really "miss" the money. Remember, though, that a systematic investment plan does not guarantee a profit and does not protect against loss in declining markets. It involves continuous investment in the security regardless of the price of the security. You should continue your ability to invest through periods of low price levels.

- Tax benefits -

Until the laws changed a few years ago, dividends were taxed at your current income tax rate. Now however, dividends are taxed at a maximum rate of 15 percent. (This rate is set to expire at the end of 2008, barring congressional action.) But even this new, relatively low rate can lead to a hefty tax bill for you if you receive a great deal of dividends. Consequently, if you participate in several DRIPs, you might want to keep some of your stocks in a tax-deferred vehicle, such as an IRA.

DRIPs for the Long Run

Ideally, to use a DRIP, you want to find stocks that offer attractive current yields and growth potential, and you want to keep adding shares of these stocks for a long time. Fortunately, you should not find the task too hard, because the companies that regularly increase dividends are generally high-quality businesses that actively try to reward their investors.

So, work with a financial professional to identify these stocks and then turn on the faucet and let the DRIPs begin.

It's in the bag!

Buying and Selling

by Ryan Hodge

There are many factors that contribute to ups and downs in any given real estate market, and a lot of time is spent analyzing "trends" across the country. While analysts treat the figures with all due gravity, there is a recent trend that indicates folks are willing to investigate every option when selling

their homes.

If you're a Catholic, you are familiar with St. Joseph. Others may not know about the patron saint of home and family, but if you Google "St. Joseph statue" on the web, loads of stories of home-selling success appear in the results.

Why? Homeowners of all faiths are following the centuries-old tradition of placing a statue of the saint in a bag and burying it in their yards to increase the likelihood of a sale. (You can get the whole scoop at www.StJosephStatue.com.) It's not scientific, but it's not just Catholics who are turning to the saint for help. One website has seen orders for such statues rise 50 percent from last year, meaning many homeowners are having difficulty selling their property.

Nothing beats a listing in excellent condition and fairly priced, and there really isn't any magic involved in selling your home. It takes marketing skill and a ready supply of buyers, but you wouldn't be the only one to turn to a "higher authority" for a little extra help!

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Schools

pleted by Fields and Associates Architects for the 50 acre site are only conceptual in nature and should be used for future planning.

"A master plan should not only take care of current needs, but help this community have a framework for expansion in the near and far future," Dr. Battershell said after the meeting. "I want to put into place a game plan for the future where we have a priority list of what will happen -- first, second, third -- on the current school sites and on the 50 acres."

The 50 acre conceptual master plan includes space

for a future football and track stadium, future tennis courts, future baseball and softball fields, and future additional parking, as well as additional classroom wings and a possible performing arts auditorium adjoining the new high school.

The master plan also reserves considerable acreage for an additional school campus. The future campus may be an expansion of the high school, i.e. a ninth grade center, or a future junior high campus at which athletic facilities can be shared with the high school.

One key change in the master plan for the 50 acres is to have the high

school face FM 2484 rather than facing Williams Rd. Student parking will be behind the high school, with access from Williams Rd. Visitor and staff parking will front the school with access on FM 2484.

Trustees will begin examining floorplans for the high school in May and June in preparation of sending the work out to bid by the end of the year.

"That's when your hard decisions will have to be made," Dr. Battershell said of the coming months.

In other business at the April 17 meeting, school trustees approved the addition of a Curriculum Director for the school dis-

trict. The board approved a part-time position for Curriculum Director after comparing the curriculum director positions and pay for several peer school districts in the area.

"The board took a great step forward last night," Dr. Battershell said. She told trustees that the curriculum director was a request she had put off for several years.

Trustees also approved increasing teaching positions by 3.5 total slots.

In other business, trustees approved hiring five teachers: Fran Smetana and Jennifer Marquis at the elementary and Kenneth Mann (composite social studies, boys' bas-

ketball coach), Linda Seawood (home economics in which she has a master's degree) and Grady Newton (English, boys' assistant basketball coach) at the high school. Newton was going to retire at the end of the school year and had turned in his resignation, requiring board action for rehiring.

Dr. Battershell also informed the board of resignations she has accepted: Diane Morgan, Stephanie Halpert, Cythia Winsman and Sherry Jackson at the elementary school and Kory Craddick, Josh White, Lisa Brown, Clint Weaver, Gary Askins and Phyllis Billingsley.

Monteith hosts 1031 exchange seminar May 2

Monteith Abstract will sponsor a seminar on 1031 Exchanges on May 2 at the office at 213 Mill Creek Dr..

The seminar is entitled, "The Texas Gold Rush: Why California Investors are Buying in Texas."

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For details and to reserve your space, call Monteith Abstract at 947-3922.

Space is limited for the afternoon seminar.

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Salado golf sweeps district field

It was all Salado, all the way at the District 25AA Golf Tournament, held in two rounds last week, the first coming at Lago Vista Country Club and the second taking place at Mill Creek.

For the Salado girls, sewing up the district title wasn't exactly a cakewalk, but the final outcome wasn't much in doubt, either. On the tournament's first day in Lago Vista, the Lady Eagles put to-

gether a four-player round of 363, placing the girls some distance of second place Lago Vista, which compiled a day-one total of 407. Rogers held down first place after day one, but was well behind the pacesetters, recording a 483.

Salado then used Round Two, and the home course of Mill Creek, to great advantage, registering a 357 to finish a two-day total of 720. Lago Vista, however,

seemed to struggle away from home, notching a 428 for a two-day tally of 835, good enough for second place but still a far cry from Salado, which outdistanced the Lady Vikings by 115 strokes. Rogers held on to earn the team bronze.

The sledding wasn't quite as smooth for Salado's boy golfers, as the Eagles number one team trailed narrowly after day one, putting together

a 327, four shots behind Lago Vista. Salado's team two finished day one in third place, thanks to a round of 345.

As was the case with the Lady Eagles, the move back to Mill Creek for round two benefitted the boys, as team one put a lot of distance between themselves and the rest of the field. On the strength of a 312 in round two, Salado totaled a 639 for the two days, placing them comfortably ahead of second place Lago Vista, which had a 676. Salado's team

two took the team bronze with a 695.

In addition to winning the team title, the Lady Eagles had the top three individual finishers, led by Katie Harris, who shot identical rounds of 85. Sarah Dowell won the silver with rounds of 87 and 87, and Lacey Bartlett earned bronze with a 91 and a 90. Other team scores were Veronica Patockova (184) and Nicole Weatherly (209).

Wes Dowell earned the gold individual medal for the boys, thanks to his two

round total of 143, while teammate Ryan O'Rear took the silver with a combined score of 156. Lago Vista's Jimmie Jackson won the bronze.

Other scores from Salado 1 were Lucas Martin (166), Travis Kemp (178) and Clint Permenter (176). Salado 2 was led by Denny Jordan, who shot a 166, and Tyler Pines, who put together a 173. Salado 2 was rounded out by Blake Newman (176), Tyler Burden (182) and C.J. Little (182).

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Coe, Kendall, Shaw qualify for regionals

Boys send 3 to next level

Though the team results for the Salado boys track team were not as lofty as hoped, with the Eagles finishing sixth out of eight, Salado will be sending three athletes to the Region IV meet, set for April 28-29 at Texas State University in San Marcos.

Johnny Kendall qualified in the 3200m run as the third place finisher in district, logging a quali-

fying time of 11:04.29. Joining Kendall will be Chance Coe, who will compete in the 400m dash after his third place district finish at 51.60, and Josh Shaw, whose 13' pole vault was good enough for tie for first.

Salado closed out the April 13 District 25AA Meet with 49.5 points. Lexington won team gold, racking up 173 points, while Florence and Jarrell followed in second and

third place, respectively. Other individual results are as follows:

High jump: Josh Marquez, fifth, 5'8";

Pole vault: Collin Smith, fourth, 10'6";

800m relay: Salado (Blake Newman, Clayton Whitmire, Seth Collins, Leo Galvan), sixth, 1:35.36;

1600m relay: Salado (Coe, Justin Konzen, Stephen Quick, Whitmire),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7A

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Regionals upcoming for tracksters

The Salado Lady Eagle tracksters put together a strong showing at the April 13 District 25AA meet, but came up a bit short in their quest for the title. Salado closed out the day with 176.3 points, which put them in second place behind district champ Academy, which topped 200 team points, finishing with 202.3.

Salado did garner gold medals in seven different events, however, including gold medals for Chelsea Ervi in both the 1600m run (5:15.63) and the 3200m run (11:58). In the 3200m, Ervi outpaced her closest competitor by over a minute.

EAGLE TRACK — FROM 6A

fifth, 3:35.30;
110m hurdles: Quick, sixth, 16.72;
Shot put: Cody Gobin, fourth, 44'7";
1600m run: Kendall, fourth, 4:52.15;
200m dash: Collins, sixth, 23.55;
400m relay: Salado (Blake Newman, Ethan Williams, Collins, Coe), fourth, 44.40.

Junior Varsity
The JV boys fared a bit better than their Varsity counterparts in the district meet, finishing in second place with 129 points. Florence won the meet by a wide margin, closing out the day with 214 points.
Individual results are as follows:
Triple jump: David Rosenau, first, 40'7.5";
High jump: Rosenau, fourth, 5'6";
Pole vault: Duran Arquelez, third (tie), 9'6";
800m relay: Salado (Jerod Lutz, Patrick Prince, Stephen Reagan, Tyler Wright), third, 1:38.68;
1600m relay: Salado (John Cruz, Prince, Rosenau, Wright), fifth, 3:50.16;
110m hurdles: Garrett Ward, fourth, 18.49;
300m hurdles: Rosenau, first, 43.74; Trae Liller, fifth, 49.11;
Long jump: Lutz, third, 17'1.75";
100m dash: Lutz, first, 11.34; Reagan, third, 11.69;
400m dash: Cruz, third, 55.94.
800m run: Kasey Cockrell, second, 2:12.29; Clayton Sharum, sixth, 2:22.10;
1 6 0 0 m run: Brian Reed, sixth, 5:22.68;
3 2 0 0 m run: Michael Silkett, fifth, 12:44.83;
400m relay: Salado (Lutz, Prince, Reagan, Wright), first, 46.08.

Other individual results are as follows:
3200m run: Rosie Sierra, sixth, 14:01.94;
200m dash: Keelie Mims, second, 27.46; Shae Janda, fourth, 27.90;
400m dash: Leigh Martin, sixth, 1:03.71;
800m run: Mims, first, 2:31.82; Tamra Stanish, second, 2:32.81; Kathryn Holdampf, sixth, 2:42.70;
400m relay: Salado (Janda, Kelsey Smith, Courtney Dunnahoo, Amanda Mattson), second, 51.63.
800m relay: Salado (Janda, Kaitlyn Ruth, Smith, Mims), fourth, 1:50.63;
1600m relay: Salado (Martin, Molly Rooney, Stanish, Mattson), first, 4:12.35;
100m hurdles: Rooney, first, 15.32;
300m hurdles: Rooney, first, 46.34.
Discus: Lauren Haire, fourth, 105'7.5"; Kaylan Hearne, sixth, 96'3.5";
Triple jump: Rooney, second, 34'8"; Martin, third, 33'10.5";
High jump: Rooney, fifth, 4'10"; Haire, sixth, 4'8";
Pole vault: Martin, first, 9'6"; Stanish, second, 9'; Denise Jasso, third, 9'.
Junior Varsity
The Lady Eagle Junior Varsity won the district title with points, five in front of second place Rogers.
Individual results are as follows:
1600m run: Kaleigh Rank, fourth, 6:34.71; Marissa Saucedo, 6:38.25;
200m dash: Candy Jimenez, second, 28.65; Natalee Cantrell, sixth, 29.50;
3200m run: Rank, fifth, 15:19.67;
400m dash: Abby Frazier, first, 1:07.37;

Cantrell, sixth, 1:10.79;
800m run: Saucedo, first, 2:42.42;
400m relay: Salado (Amy Wooley, Rita Buckley, Chelsea Risendez, Jimenez), fourth, 55.52.
800m relay: Salado (Frazier, Wooley, Risendez, Buckley), second, 1:57.79;
1600m relay: Salado (Frazier, Wooley, Saucedo, Jimenez), second, 4:38.65;
100m hurdles: Sarah Danek, third, 19.09;
300m hurdles: Amanda Hoffman, second, 55.42; Danek, fifth, 57.39; Kari Mohler, sixth, 59.07;
Shot put: Ashley Cantrell, third, 28'9.5";
Discus: Jordan Dunn, third, 80'6.5";
High jump: Dunn, second (tie), 4'6";
Pole vault: Sarah Cleveland, first, 8'.

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Playoff hopes doused for Lady Eagle softballers

Despite defeating long-time rival Rogers for the first time in a few seasons - and ensuring a winning record in district play - the Lady Eagle softballers saw their hopes for a postseason berth dashed April 17 versus Jarrell, as eight Salado errors led to a 6-1 defeat and elimination from playoff contention.

The girls will close out the 2006 season April 22 in Somerville.

Needing a win to force a tie for the third and final playoff position, the Lady Eagles entered the contest with district frontrunner Jarrell with everything on the line. Unfortunately, it was not Salado's night, as the Lady Eagle defense had an off-night while at the same time the Salado bats were kept silent for most of the game.

Following a scoreless first inning, Jarrell got

on the board in the top of the second, as four of the inning's first five batters reached base on errors. Add to that a pair of singles from the top of the order, and Jarrell took an early 4-0 lead.

The error bug would strike Salado again in the third, as an infield miscue with one out put a runner on, who would come around to score on a single two batters later, pushing the score to 5-0.

And there it would remain until the seventh, when two more Salado errors and a single would lead to Jarrell's sixth run of the game.

The Lady Eagles avoided the goose egg by pushing across a run in the bottom of the seventh. Heather Winters drew a leadoff walk, stole second and advanced to third on a passed ball, can was brought home on a Lauren Culver single.

Lindsey Coffey, Rachel Stemmer and Culver collected Salado's only hits.

Prior to that defeat, the Lady Eagles had put themselves in good position with a dramatic, 4-3 extra-innings road win over Rogers April 14. Salado broke a 3-3 tie in the top of the eighth when senior Shae Janda singled home Coffey with the go-ahead run. Janda then took her place on the mound and sat Rogers down in order to secure the victory, earning her seventh win of the season against six losses.

Salado was the first to strike, posting a pair of runs in the top of the second. Janda led off the inning with a double, and following a sacrifice from Culver, advanced home on a double by Justine Ferrell-Raborn. Raborn would then steal third, and would come home on a two-out infield error by the Rogers defense.

Rogers came back to tie the game in the bottom of the fifth, as two critical errors, a sacrifice and a single led to two unearned runs.

Salado, though, would respond in the sixth, re-taking the lead as a lead-off double from Coffey was converted to a single run - thanks to a sacrifice and a Rogers error.

Beguiled by another defensive mishap, the Lady Eagles allowed Rogers to tie the game in the home half of the sixth, when the Rogers leadoff hitter reached on an infield miscue. A passed ball and a stolen base helped to bring the runner around to knot the score at three apiece.

But in the top of the eighth the Lady Eagles got the last laugh, as Janda's hitting and pitching wrapped things up for Salado.

Coffey paced the offense on the night, going 3-4 with two runs scored. Janda collected two hits, while Raborn and Stemmer had one hit each.

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Eagles ready for playoffs

On April 11, the Salado Eagle baseballers survived a scare from the visiting Florence Buffaloes, eventually winning by a 6-3 final to avenge an earlier loss to Florence. Salado held an early 2-0 win in this one, but the Buffs managed to score three runs in the top of the fourth to jump on top.

Salado's early runs came in the bottom of the first, starting when Jesse Rodriguez walked and Justin Schiller reached base on an error. Both runners then advanced on a ground out. Johnny Nix then produced a single, bringing home both runners.

After Florence's three runs in the top of the fourth, the Eagles came right back and tied it up in the home half of the inning.

Seth Hale came through with a two-out single to get things going, which was followed by consecutive singles from Wes Ruth and Tanner Myers. The Myers base knock brought home Hale and tied the score at three.

The score remained knotted until the bottom of the sixth. With Hale on first and one out in the inning, Ruth delivered his third single of the night. Tucker Wilhite then came into the game to pinch run for Hale, and he and Ruth pulled off a double steal to put two runners in scoring position. Myers followed with a walk to load the bases. Rodriguez then sent a drive over the outstretched arms of the centerfielder for a two-run double. Myers would come in a few pitches later on a passed ball, moving the score to its 6-3 final.

Brian Bates pitched another excellent game for the Eagles, allowing only three hits and striking out five in going the distance. The win moved his record on the mound to 6-0.

Ruth led the Eagle offense, going 3-3.

On April 14, Salado was blanked by district frontrunner Rogers for the second time, this time by a final of 10-0. In the game the Eagles were out-hit nine-to-one, and Salado managed only five baserunners all evening.

Salado's only hit came

with the first batter of the game, as Myers led off with a single. He then stole second, accounting for just about the extent of the Eagle offense.

One bright spot for Salado was the pitching of Justin Schiller. In his first start of the year Schiller allowed four

hits over the first four inning, striking out eight and walking six.

Salado will finish the regular season with a trip to Somerville April 21 and host Lago Vista April 25.

--REPORTED BY MELVIN BATES

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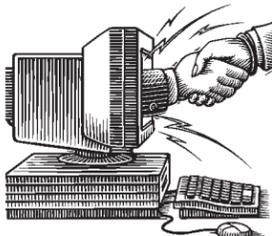
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Traditional Worship/Bible Study	10:30 a.m.	Celebrate Recovery	6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.	Youth Choir	6:00 p.m.
Jr. High Huddles	6:00 p.m.	Team Kid (Age 3 - 6th grade)	6:15 p.m.
Sr High Huddles	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting	6:15 p.m.
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Sunday Morning Service • April 23, 2006



Returning to our series from the letters of James, we address things in the first verses of Chapter 4 that plague us from within when we don't humbly seek our God and place him first in our hearts and lives. To discover how to find peace within, be with us for the message: "There's a War Going On"

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"Domestic Violence and Its Effects on Children" seminar set at Methodist Church April 21

The Family Life Ministries Committee and Families in Crisis, Inc. has announced the co-sponsorship of a presentation entitled, "Domestic Violence and Its Effects on Children." Designed to raise community awareness, the Friday evening seminar 7-9 p.m. April 21, featuring an agency speaker, and authentic figure drawings by children from high conflict families.

The seminar will be held at the Salado United

Methodist Church.

Diane Pascoe will offer a brief projective interpretation of the drawings from her research. This seminar is recommended for parents, child care workers, teachers and other caring professionals, as well as interested community members.

Light refreshments will be served. The public is invited.



Dr. Diane Pascoe

Community Bible Study delves into Revelation this fall

If you are interested in studying the book of Revelation next fall, you are invited to attend the Temple/Belton Community Bible Study (CBS) class 7:30-9 p.m. on either April 17 or 24 in the old sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Belton, located at 6th and Main Street Belton.

Visitors will have the opportunity to learn more about CBS and register for the upcoming 30-week study of Revelation as well as attend a lecture on the current study of the Acts of Apostles.

CBS is an interdenominational study for men and women of all backgrounds who are interested in an in-depth study of the Bible. There are more than 539 CBS classes around the country.

Next fall, beginning Sep. 11, the class will meet

every Monday night from 7:30-9 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Belton.

Each week participants receive a reading commentary on the previous week's topic and a set of questions to work on each day covering the next week's reading. These questions are discussed in small groups of about 15. Couples may choose to participate together in a couple's small group or individual in a men's or women's small group. Following the small groups there will be a short lecture over the same section of Scripture.

The class will break for Christmas and spring vacation and finish at the end of April 2007.

For information and registration call Kathie Kimes, 254-773-1842, Rick Erickson, 254-526-9128 in Killeen.

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Hilliard named All American Scholar

The United States Achievement Academy announced that Rebecca Jaylee Hilliard, of Belton, has been named a Collegiate All-American Scholar.

The USAA established the All-American Scholar Award program to recognize superior students who must earn a 3.3 or higher grade point average. Fewer than 10 percent of all college students receive the honor.

Hilliard attends Temple College and the University of Mary Hardin Baylor. She will appear in the Collegiate All-American Yearbook, which is published nationwide.

In addition to maintaining the minimum 3.3 grade point average, Hilliard is a former president of Phi Theta Kappa -Lambda Theta chapter at Temple College, an honor society for students attending two-year schools. She is also a member of Psi Beta and is a Temple College Foundation Ambassador. She is currently studying nursing at UMHB. She is the daughter of Jerry and Becky Hilliard, of Belton. Grandparents are Homer Lee and Louise Walker, of Belton and J.W. and the late Lillian Hilliard, of Little River.

Casino night April 22 benefits St. Stephen's church building fund

Plan to come to Casino Night 7-11 p.m. April 22 at Tenroc Ranch. The Knights of Columbus will run the Casino and the St. Stephen Women's Society will provide Heavy Hors d'oeuvres: Italian, Western, Hawaiian, and Mexican.

Tickets are \$30 and get you \$30,000 worth of chips for fun at the Casino. A cash silent auction will also be available with lots of good items. Special prizes for Casino winners.

Sponsored by St. Stephen KCs and SSWS, the casino night will raise money for the St. Stephen Building Fund.

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In all our ministry programs, our mission is to share the love of Jesus with everyone that comes to us.

All Church activities take place in Temple at 120 S. 21 Street. For more information, contact the Temple corps at the number below.

For more information about The Salvation Army please contact us at (254)774-9996 or visit us on the web at www.uss.salvationarmy.org.



Lloyd Parks with Auxiliary President Pat Wanzor.



Lloyd Parks with Lions Club President Don Clayton.

Local groups give grants to Salado Civic Center

Salado Civic Center President Lloyd Parks accepted two grants from local organizations for the operation and maintenance of the Civic Center on Main St.

Parks noted that it is through generous grants from great local organizations like the Ladies Auxiliary and that

allows the Civic Center's Board to provide a clean and comfortable gathering place for both Village groups and visitors.

He noted also: "We have been fortunate over the years, thanks to grants such as this, to operate 'in the black' ever since we opened our doors back in 1993 - and we greatly appreciate President Pat Wanzor and her members for this annual gift."

Lions Club President Don Clayton presented the annual Lions Club grant of \$3,000 to maintain the Lions Club Park area on the grounds of the Civic Center. Each year the Lions Club holds a golf tournament to help raise the \$3,000 given to the Civic Center.

"The Lions Club took on the project of keeping the area attractive and inviting for both Villagers and visitors and to that end they have been exceptionally successful," according to Foundation President Parks.

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Salado Village Guide

Shopping Map
Pages 6-7B

Section B Salado Village Voice

April 20, 2006

12 Pages Shopping, Dining, Overnight, Events

Galleries open late for Fine Art Trail May 13

Art lovers are invited to Salado's Fine Art Trail 5-9 p.m. May 13 showcasing the work of artists in the seven galleries found throughout the village.

The galleries will be open late for the special viewings. Free carriage rides will take art lovers to each of the galleries. Each gallery will have special guest artists showing their works during the Art Trail. Wine and cheese will be served by the Public Arts League of Salado (PALS), who will greet visitors to each of the galleries participating in this event.

Each gallery will have drawings for artwork offered by their artists. A great weekend getaway will also be given away. The weekend will include lodging in a Salado bed and breakfast inn, dining in Salado restaurants and rounds of golf at Salado's Mill Creek Golf Club.

The seven galleries lining Main Street Salado will participate in the Art Trail.

Wells Gallery, featuring limited edition prints, original paintings and bronze sculptures by famed wildlife artist Ronnie Wells.

Thomas Kinkadee Stagecoach Gallery exclusively represents the art of Thomas Kinkadee, the Painter of Light.

Prellop Fine Art Gallery is owned and operated by Texas artist Larry Prellop. He has one of the largest selections of G. Harvey prints in Texas and represents more than 20 Texas artists and sculptors.

Griffith Fine Art Gallery represents more than 30 artists. You can find a variety of subjects and wide range of prices.

Miller Fine Art Gallery exclusively represents Bill Worrell and Jim Eppler, among other artists.

Southern Image is the newest gallery to open in Salado, carrying the paintings of Texas artist Jack Terry.

Sharp detail, vividness of color and unique unmistakable style describe clearly the oil paintings of B. Herd whose Gallery is located on N. Main Street.



(FILE PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)

Kay Griffith visits with a patron during the Fine Art Trail. This year, the Fine Art Trail will be May 13.



Planning a Night in Tuscany are (seated from left) Janice Taylor, Ann Gardner, Kathy Keller; (standing, first row) Sandy Schneider and Marilyn Griffin; (standing, back row) Dave Gardner, Ron Schneider and Robbie Griffin.

Night in Tuscany set in Salado May 6

Italy comes to Salado this spring when the Women's Ministry of the United Methodist Church hosts "Celebration 2006: A Night in Tuscany."

The group is raising funds to design and build a rock wall to display artist Troy Kelly's statue titled

"The Lord is My Shepard" on church grounds.

The event is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. May 6 at 3700 Chisholm Trail in Salado, which is the home of Bobbie and Marilyn Griffin.

Advanced tickets are available for \$25 or can be purchased for \$28 at the

door of the event.

Featuring an array of Italian food and drink pairings, the festivities will also offer live entertainment, a silent auction and a raffle--all in the spirit of Italy.

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What's happening in the

Have a Salado event to list on this calendar? Email your information to: news@saladovillagevoice.com, call 254-947-5321, or fax to 254-947-9479.

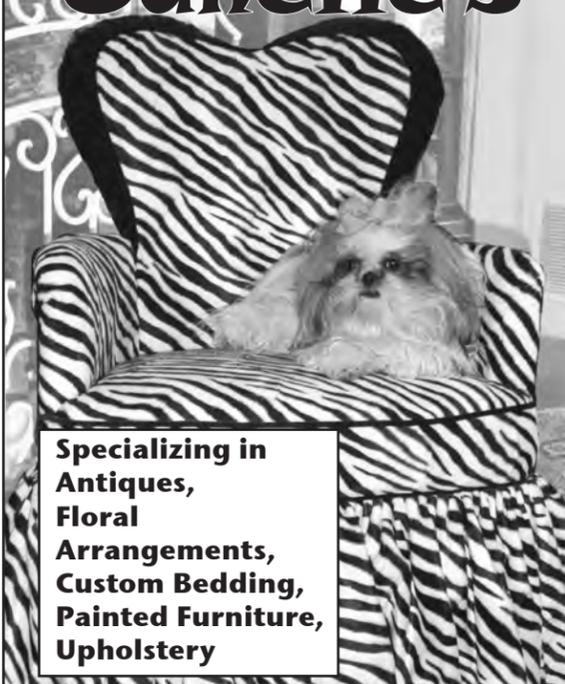
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APRIL 20
Salado Emergency Response Team (CERT) monthly meeting, 7 p.m. at the Salado Police Office. Visitors welcome. Info: Bill Upton, 254-947-8999.

APRIL 20
Fourth Annual Salado Athletic Booster Club Golf Classic at Mill Creek. Registration and Chipping Contest, 11:30 a.m.; shotgun start at 1 p.m. Entry fee: \$105 per player. Prizes will be awarded, and sponsorships are available. Tournament benefits all Salado sports as well as scholarships for graduating seniors. Info: Ronnie or Sandy Heller, 254-947-9090 or email sheller@hellerlandscapes.com.

APRIL 21-23
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opener, "Off and Running!," featuring classic films starring Buster Keaton, Harold Loyd and Monte Banks, set to live musical accompaniment. Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. April 21 and 22 and 2 p.m. April 22 and 23. Info and tickets: 254-947-3456 or www.saladosilverspur.com.

APRIL 21
"Domestic Violence and Its Effects on Children," seminar, sponsored by the Family Life Ministries Committee of the Salado United Methodist Church and Families in Crisis, Inc., 7-9 p.m. at the church. Seminar recommended for parents, child care workers, teachers and other caring professionals, as well the public at large. Light refreshments will be served. Info: 254-947-5482.

APRIL 22
St. Stephen's Knights of Columbus Casino Night, 7-11 p.m. at Tenroc Ranch. Evening will feature dinner, casino activities and a silent auction. \$30 ticket buys \$30,000 in casino chips. Proceeds to benefit St. Stephen's Building Fund. Info: 254-947-3901 or 254-657-0097.

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.

APRIL 27
Salado School Board Candidates Forum, 7

p.m. at Civic Center.
APRIL 29
Mill Creek Community Association Spring Cleanup. 8:30 a.m. coffee and rolls, 11:30 a.m. free hot dog lunch. More details TBA.

MAY 1
Salado Historical Society board meeting, 7 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

MAY 1
Early voting begins at Salado Civic Center.

MAY 1
Monday Club of the Salado United Methodist Church field trip to the Blue Bell Ice Cream facilities in Brenham. Group will meet 7:30 a.m. at the church and return by 4 p.m. Reservations and info: 254-947-5482.

MAY 6
Institute for the Humanities at Salado Spring Lecture Series, featuring Patricia Limerick, Ph.D on "Pride Without Vanity: Patriotism in the 21st Century." Lecture: 5-7 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center; lunch with the speaker, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Range. Tickets and info: 254-947-5729 or www.salado-institute.org.

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 8
PALS production of "LOVE LETTERS" and an elegant picnic supper at 6:30 p.m. in the new amphitheater at Tenroc Ranch. Tickets are \$25 per person. Reservations 947-833 before May 1.

MAY 11
Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary Spring Lun-

cheon at the Salado Civic Center. Program: Gwen Morrison on "Mothers and Daughters."
MAY 13

Second Annual Salado Fine Art Trail. Salado's seven galleries invite visitors to join them for an after-hours special event. There will be door prizes, drawings, refreshments and an opportunity to meet the artists in a relaxed atmosphere. Galleries will be open until 9 p.m.

MAY 13
Eleventh Annual Thomas Arnold Elementary 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.

MAY 16
Salado Community Chorus Spring Concert, 7 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

MAY 17
Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

MAY 21
Salado High School Class of 2005-06 baccalaureate service, 7 p.m. at Salado United Methodist Church.

MAY 25
Salado High School Class of 2005-06 graduation ceremony, 7 p.m. at Bell County Expo Center. Info: Salado High School, 254-947-5429.

MAY 29
Annual Memorial Day Service, 9:30 a.m. at the Salado Cemetery. Public invited; bring lawn chair.

JUNE 5
Salado Historical Society board meeting, 7 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

JUNE 8
Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. Program: Storyteller Joe Pehoski.

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JUNE 9-10

2006 Judy and A.C. Greene Literary Festival, featuring Steven Harrigan, author of the bestseller "Challenger Park," 7 p.m. each evening. Also featuring Salado performer in "A Legacy: the Sa-la-oh." More details TBA.

JUNE 10

Annual Salado Reunion, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Salado Intermediate School. Info: 254-947-5783 or 254-939-3187.

JUNE 21

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

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, 6:30 p.m. in Pace Park.

JULY 13

Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. Program: Ruth Daw, "Women of Peru."

JULY 19

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

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.

AUGUST 10

Salado Chamber of

Commerce Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. Program: Paul Letourneau on his book "My Vietnam Experiences." Spouses invited.

AUGUST 12

Mill Creek Community Association Fall Social, 6 p.m. happy hour, 7 p.m. dinner. Details TBA.

AUGUST 16

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

SEPTEMBER 16-17

Tablerock's Fantasy Faire 10 a.m.-6 p.m. both days, featuring characters from history, literature, mythology and imagination. Enjoy music, dance, swordplay and storytelling, and shop goods from over 50 vendors. Admission: \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, seniors and military. Info: 254-624-1008 or email hhood@tablerock.org.

SEPTEMBER 20

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

OCTOBER 7-8

Auditions for Tablerock's annual A Christmas Carol production, 3 p.m. both days. Info: 254-947-9205 or email harrycsweet@sbcgl

obal.net.

OCTOBER 7, 14 AND 21

Tablerock's Annual Shakespeare Play, Macbeth, under the stars, 7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for child, student or military. Info: 254-247-0220 or email ddunlap@tablerock.org.

OCTOBER 12-14

Annual Christmas in October event, sponsored by the Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary. Details TBA.

OCTOBER 18

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

OCTOBER 21

Salado Area Republican Women Fine China Luncheon, noon at Stagecoach Inn Longhorn Room. Info: 254-947-3617.

OCTOBER 21

Annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, 8 a.m. start at Mill Creek. Info: Salado Chamber, 254-947-5040.

OCTOBER 21

Salado Education Foundation Cattleman's Ball at Tenroc Ranch. For tickets call 947-1958

OCTOBER 28-29

Tablerock's Fright Trail 7:30-10:30 p.m. both nights. Two trails to choose from. Concessions

available. Admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Info: 254-947-9205 or email tablerock1@aol.com.

NOVEMBER 15

Mill Creek Community Association meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Inn on the Creek.

NOVEMBER 21

Salado Historical Society annual General Meeting and Chili Supper, 6:15 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.

DECEMBER 1, 2, 8 AND 9

Tablerock Amphitheater's Annual presentation of Charles Dickens' Yuletide classic, A

Christmas Carol, 7 p.m. each night. Tickets available at the gate beginning 6:30 p.m. Concessions open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children. Info: 254-947-9205 or www.tablerock.org.

DECEMBER 1-3

Salado Historical Society's Annual Christmas Tour of Homes. More details TBA.

DECEMBER 1-3 & 8-10

Annual Salado Christmas Stroll event. More details TBA.

DECEMBER 7-9

2006 Coach Smith Memorial Basketball Tournament, featuring

some of the finest high school basketball teams in the state. More info TBA.

DECEMBER 12

Mill Creek Community Association meeting and Christmas Dinner at Mill Creek Restaurant. 6 p.m. happy hour, 7 p.m. dinner.

Have a Salado event to list on this calendar? Email your information to: news@saladovillagevoice.com or call 254-947-5321, or fax to 254-947-9479.

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Drought affects backyard wildlife

Dry gardens. Wildfires. Low reservoirs. These are all examples of how the drought is affecting Texas this year. State wildlife biologists say there is something land managers and gardeners can do to offset the drought's impact. "Water is a vital resource for all life, including our backyard visitors," says Matt Wagner, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department director of wildlife diversity. "If the drought continues,

it will be important for homeowners across the state to maintain water features that wildlife are using in our backyards." Not only will water be needed for ponds and birdbaths, but the plants animals use in gardens will be struggling as the drought continues. Wildscapes, or landscapes that are designed with wildlife in mind, and supplemental feeders will become increasingly important, since food for birds, butterflies and other

animals depend on may be scarce from other natural sources. "Nectar, seed and fruit production all require water," said Mark Klym, coordinator of TPWD's Texas Wildscapes program. "Leaves are composed heavily of water and stems serve to transport water through the plants. The Texas Department of Transportation recently stated that they do not expect a great wildflower display this year. This is

typical of what will be happening with plants in the wild during droughts. The plants we use in our wildscapes are native, generally consuming less water than cultivated ornamentals, but they still require some water. These plants will also be important food and shelter sources this year." For information on the program, and other ways citizens can help birds, butterflies and wildlife in gardens, click on <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>.

Bell Dems' execs meet on April 20

The Executive Committee of the Bell County Democratic Party will meet at 6:30 p.m. April 20 at Democratic Headquarters, 111 N. East Street in Belton. Some items on the agenda are: update on the State Convention, discussion of candidates for Party Officers for the new term, and other upcoming events. All Democratic Precinct Chairs are urged to attend.

Salado Volunteer Fire Department Incident Report, March 2006

DATE	TIME	TYPE
3/1	12:38	Brush, or brush and grass mix fire
3/2	19:59	Unauthorized burning
3/4	16:24	Unauthorized burning
3/5	13:47	Authorized controlled burning
3/6	16:55	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/6	17:42	Brush, or brush and grass mix fire
3/7	09:01	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/8	08:01	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/9	12:55	Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire
3/9	15:48	Brush, or brush and grass mix fire
3/9	19:26	Smoke or odor removal
3/9	12:33	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/9	19:21	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/11	06:25	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/11	16:21	Grass fire
3/12	14:34	Special outside fire, other
3/12	20:31	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/13	10:45	Vehicle accident w/injuries
3/13	23:19	Vehicle accident w/injuries
3/14	08:59	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/14	19:28	Electrical problem, other
3/15	23:56	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/17	07:22	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/17	17:12	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/18	04:41	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/18	07:13	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/18	08:13	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/18	14:41	Unauthorized burning
3/19	11:37	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/19	14:49	False alarm or false call, other
3/20	00:25	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/21	08:15	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/21	09:16	Unauthorized burning
3/21	13:42	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/23	13:02	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/23	17:24	False alarm or false call, other
3/23	00:58	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/24	22:41	Unauthorized burning
3/25	19:33	Authorized controlled burning
3/25	22:41	Vehicle accident w/injuries
3/26	11:56	Smoke or odor removal
3/30	02:14	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/30	09:19	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/30	10:26	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
3/31	17:01	Gas or other flammable liquid spill
3/31	17:21	Hazardous condition, other
3/31	18:24	Unauthorized burning

JP report for March

Justice of the Peace Pct. 2 Don Engleking Reports that monthly revenues in March at his office in Holland have surpassed all other months since he took office in January 2005. Revenues for March 2006 were reported as being \$64,093.00. The number of cases filed increased with 518 cases being filed. Cases filed include traffic offenses, non-traffic offenses, parks and wildlife offenses, small claims, civil claims and rental disputes. There were 341 cases disposed of during March. The Judge also conducted 5 inquest during the month accepted 21 misdemeanor complaints and 16 felony complaints while conducting 58 arraignments.



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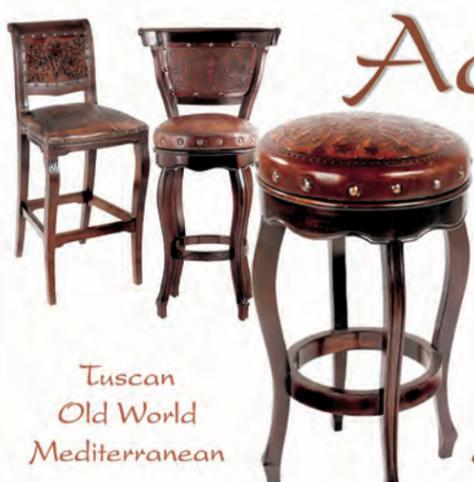


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Childhood obesity a complex issue

By KEVIN McCauley

Childhood obesity creates a multi-faceted challenge that involves not only the children of America, but their parents, their schools and our government. The impact of childhood obesity on our families, and our nation will be quite devastating. Here are just a few comments from specialists around America:

John Foreyt, director of Behavioral Medicine Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, estimates that almost every American will be overweight or obese by 2040. Very few, possibly five percent to 15 percent, might be able to maintain a healthy weight, he says. "But most of us are in trouble," Foreyt says. "We are affected so strongly by the environment — fast food, big portion sizes and the lack of a need to be active — that we are doomed."

Samuel Klein of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity says, "More lives are being lost to obesity than any war or terrorist attack?"

Yale public-health expert Dr. David Katz believes, "Today's kids may be the first generation in history whose life expectancy is projected to be less than that of their parents!"

Consider this: Excess poundage takes a terrible toll on the human body, significantly increasing the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes, infertility, gall-bladder disease, osteoarthritis and many forms of cancer.

The total medical tab for illnesses related to obesity is \$117 billion a year, and climbing, according to the Surgeon General. Revenue from Social Security and taxes will drop substantially as life expectancy drops in America, creating an even

greater burden for the U.S. government.

With the decline of proper nutrition in our homes and schools, and the discontinuation of mandatory physical education in our schools, there has been a tremendous increase in Attention Deficit Disorders and Childhood Depression.

My answer to this epidemic is quite simple, but unfortunately difficult to implement, as we live in a "convenience food culture" where the lifestyle trends lean toward longer working hours, more working mothers, and time-poor/cash-rich parents.

Conventional wisdom would lead us to believe that we are obese because we are eating too much, but this is only a small part of the story. Americans are malnourished while consuming thousands of calories more than we need. The displacement foods that our children spend the majority of their lives eating are loaded with calories and have little or no nutritional value.

I will even take it one step further and say, "children may have enough will power to stop eating if they have eaten enough calories, but no one has enough will power to stop eating if they have not consumed the essential vitamins, minerals, fat and proteins their body's need." This is one of the main reasons people struggle on diets that are loaded with non-fat/low-fat manufactured foods.

Here is a simple to understand approach for parents and their children: Go back 200 years and think of the foods that would be available, and eat them.

Consider yourself a Hunter and Gatherer. Eat only foods that were killed, caught, gathered, picked or harvested.

Eat foods only in their natural state.

When shopping, shop the perimeter of the grocery store. You will find 90 percent of fresh, natural, and whole foods outside the aisles: fresh produce, meat, fish and poultry.

Focusing on a few simple nutritional rules will create tremendous results when fighting against childhood obesity.

Children should daily:

- Eat real food
- Eat breakfast (eat leftovers from dinner if need be)
- Avoid eating "Displacement"* foods and The "Big 6" (which shouldn't be called food at all)

- Replace drinking sodas, juices and other sugar drinks with water (dehydration has been shown to lead to obesity and retarded growth in children)
- Eat dinner around the dinner table (Nutritionists and anthropologists agree

that the death of the official mealtime may play the biggest role)

- Move, Move, and Move (there is a direct relationship with unwanted bodyweight and amount of time spent watching television and playing video games)

One last word of wisdom (caution): Don't focus on a problem child. It's better to get the whole family eating right, starting with yourself. Sit-down family dinners offer the best opportunity for building good eating habits.

*Refined and processed flour, sugar, vegetable oils, pasteurized milk and canned goods. **Baked goods, soft drinks, commercialized snack foods, fast food, pre-sugared breakfast cereals and pre-prepared/convenience foods.

Kevin McCauley, MA, is a Lifestyle and Wellness Coach serving the Greater Salado Area.

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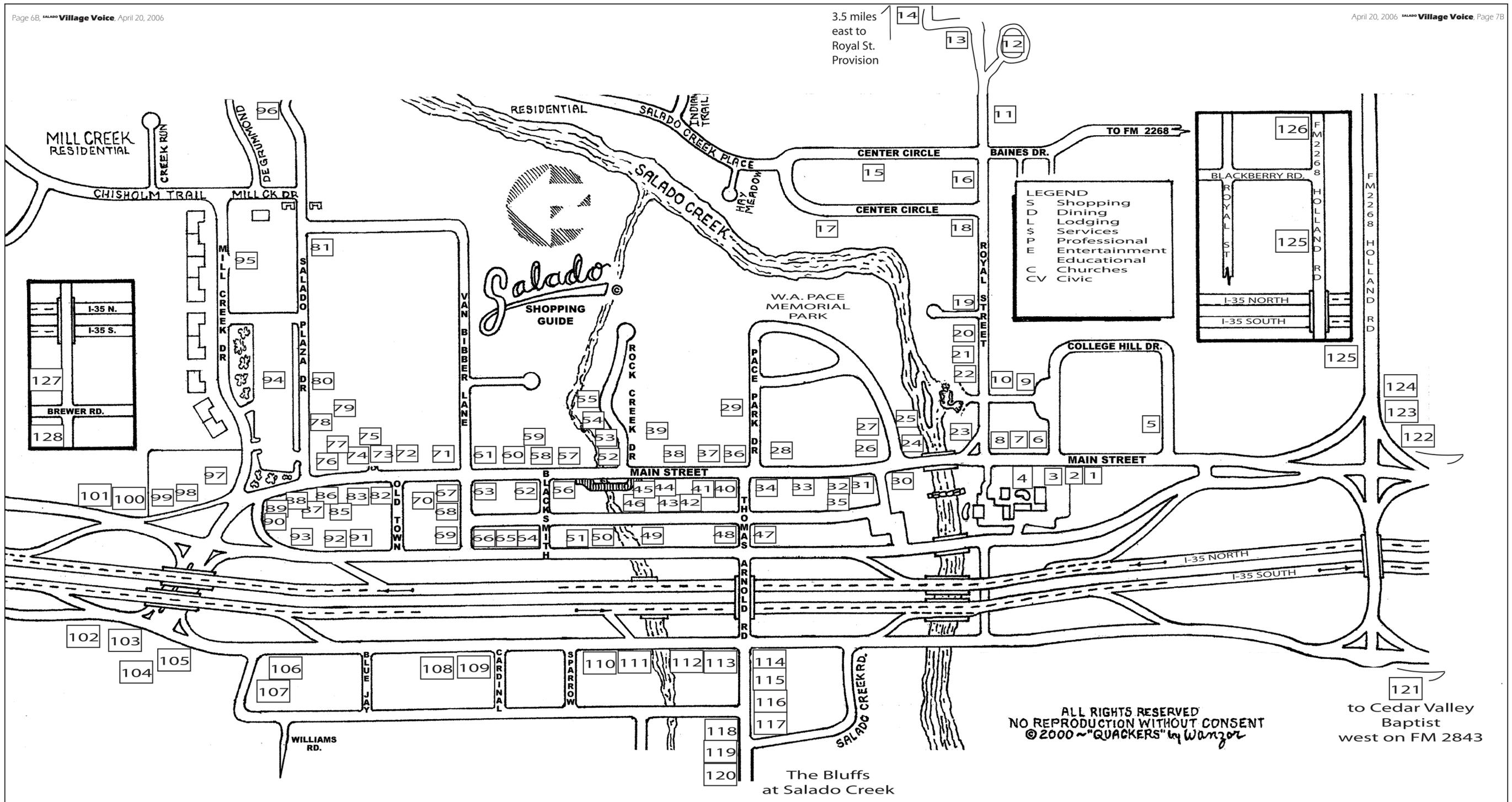
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5. Stone Creek Settlements	254/947-9099 888/777-8844	L	24. Accents of Salado	254/947-5908	S	40. Family Dentistry Dr. Douglas B. Willingham	254/947-5242	P	Joe Read State Farm Agency	254/947-3599	\$			108. Scissors Hair and Nails	254/947-9001	\$	
6. Central Texas Area Museum	254/947-5232	E	25. Leigh's Necessities and Floral Creations	254/947-0128	S, \$	42. Mud Pies Pottery	254/947-0281	S	Properties by Larry Sands	254/947-5580	\$	79. Presbyterian Church of Salado	254/947-8106	C	111. Super 8 Motel	254/947-5000	L
7. Salado Galleries	254/947-5110	S	26. CREEKSIDE CENTER			43. Southern Comforts	254/947-0595	S	Uncommon Grounds Cafe	254/947-3354	D			115. Johnny's Steaks & Bar-Be-Que	254/947-4663	D	
8. SHADY VILLA			Prellop Fine Art Gallery	254/947-3930	S	Margrit's Shoe Chateau	254/947-0595	S	Heirlooms	254/947-0336	S	81. Salado Sawmill	254/947-0137	S	116. Johnny's Texas Banquet Hall	254/947-4663	D
Gregory's	254/947-5703	S	Susan Marie's	254/947-5239	S	Roy T's Old Salado Bakery	254/947-1868	\$	The Village of Salado	254/947-5060	CV	The Timbers at Salado Sawmill	254/947-0137	L	117. The Barber Barn	254/421-5173	\$
Sweet Nut Things	254/947-8088	S	Levi Tenney House B&B	254/947-1003	L	44. Salado Haus	254/947-9200	S	Serenity Spa	254/947-8833	\$			118. Thomas Arnold	254/947-5191	E	
Shyenne's of Salado	254/947-9215	S	First Baptist Church	254/947-5465	C	45. Sweet Dreams	254/947-9200	S						119. Salado Intermediate	254/947-1700	E	
Tablerock Amphitheatre	254/947-9205	E	Salado Mansion	254/947-5157	D	48. A Touch of Heaven	254/947-5543	\$						120. Salado High	254/947-5429	E	
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Royal Street Provision	254/947-3350	L	Alice's	254/947-9000	S				Chamber of Commerce	254/947-5040	CV	88. The Personal Wealth Coach	254/947-1111	\$	127. Grace Baptist Church of Salado	254/947-5917	C
Country Inn			Chameleon Clothier	254/947-7104	S				Historical Society		CV			128. Janelle's	254/947-3584	S	
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The Baines House B&B	254/947-5260	L	Christy's of Salado	254/947-0561	S	53. Splendors of Salado	254/947-3630	S	(on the grounds of Salado Civic Center)			Salado Village Voice	254/947-5321	\$	The Event Center at Tenroc Ranch		
Inn on the Creek B&B	254/947-5554	D,L	Inn at Salado	254/947-0027	L	54. Charlotte's of Salado	254/947-0240	S	Salado Chiropractic	254/947-1000	L	Edward D. Jones	254/947-5128	\$	2 miles west of I-35 on Thomas Arnold Rd.		
CELEBRATION CENTER									Salado Eye Care	254/947-LENS	P	Monteith Abstract & Tittle Co.	254/947-3922	\$			
Botangles	254/947-4747	\$	SALADO SQUARE			56. OLD CHURCH PLACE			Village Pharmacy	254/947-3185	\$	Salado Chiropractic	254/947-BACK	P			
Old Salado Springs Celebration Center and Retreat	254/947-5933	\$	Browning's Courtyard Cafe	254/947-8666	D	The Front Row Emporium	254/947-5831	S	Salado Eye Care	254/947-LENS	P	Salado Eye Care	254/947-LENS	P			
Old Salado Springs			Carden's	254/947-0300	S	THE COLONY			Salado Eye Care	254/947-LENS	P	Salado Public Library	254/947-9191	E			
Guest Lodging	254/947-5933	L	Linda Rountree Pritchard	254/947-4263	P	Griffith Fine Art	254/947-3177	S	Merle Norman Cosmetics	254/947-9993	S	Salado Cleaners	254/947-7299	\$			
Springhouse Antiques	254-947-0747	S	Main Street Place	254/947-9908	S	Lori's	254/947-8350	S	Etrulia's	254/947-0504	S	Village Realty	254/947-0342	\$			
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Institute inks Chapter 2 of writing project

The Institute for the Humanities has launched a writing project that it hopes will entice hundreds of central Texans to write about their experiences that will eventually become an anecdotal history of Bell County. The Institute is encouraging anyone with a story to tell to come to the next public writing workshop to learn how

to write their personal stories.

The second of the Writing Central Texans' Lives public writing workshops is being co-sponsored by the Cultural Activities Center in Temple. It will be held 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. April 29 at Temple's Cultural Activities Center.

Each of us has stories to tell—of our experiences, our history, our lives—memories that bridge the time between our grandparents and our grandchildren's generations. Collectively our stories shape the character of Central Texas. The Writing Central Texans' Lives Project has been created to help those stories come to life on paper by helping people learn how to write about their experiences and family stories.

The purpose of the workshop is to produce and collect stories about central Texan's lives by helping people learn how to write about their experiences. If the workshops continue to grow and enough stories are collected, it is hoped that they can be collected into a book about the people and their experiences in this area. The Bell County Museum has expressed interest in helping collect and house the material.

The project began last fall with a writing workshop jointly sponsored by the Salado Institute and the University of Texas Humanities Institute, the group who sponsored the highly successful Writing Austin's Lives project.

The Writing Central Texans' Lives project is

continuing this spring with another hands-on writing workshop, taught by the same workshop leader, Abe Louise Young, who helped get the project started last year. She is an Austin writer, poet and the designer of the Writing Austin's Lives life writing workshops.

All ages are welcome and no writing background is needed. This workshop is open to the public. Space is limited, and reservations are required. For more information or to pre-register, call the CAC at 254-773-9926 or the Humanities Institute at 254-947-5729.

The cost of the workshop is \$35 and includes lunch. There is a \$5 discount for registration by April 21. Humanities Institute and CAC members get an additional discount.

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TTC tops GOP gals' April agenda

The Trans-Texas Corridor, a subject on everyone's mind, will be the subject of a forum presented by the Salado Area Republican Women at their April dinner meeting. Participants include Chris Hammel, Chairman of the Blackland Coalition and Kris Heckmann from the Governor's office.

The dinner meeting will be at the Mill Creek Country Club 6 p.m. April 27 with a social time followed by a buffet dinner.

Cost for the meal will be \$20 for reservations and payment received prior to April 21. The meal cost will be \$25 for reservations made after that date. Make checks out to Salado Area Republican Women PAC; P.O. Box 373; Salado, TX 76571. Meals will not be guaranteed for reservations received after this date.

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Salmon a great grill choice

Grilled Wild Alaska Salmon with Basil Butter Rub

Serves 4

- 4 wild Alaska salmon fillets, 6 oz each
- 1 tsp salt
- 3/4 tsp pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped or 1 tsp garlic powder
- 4 tsp butter, softened
- 4 TB basil, chopped

Preheat grill. Season salmon with salt, pepper, and garlic. Mix butter with basil and rub over salmon skin.

Make a shallow foil bowl, dull side up, by folding heavy-duty foil in two then up on all four sides to be sure salmon will cook in its juices.

Place salmon in foil, skin side down. Cook on medium-hot covered grill for about 10 minutes per inch of thickness. Turning is not necessary. Salmon is done when it turns a light pink color throughout.

Nutrition Info

Per Serving (6 oz-wt.): 270 calories (100 from fat), 11g total fat, 4g saturated fat, 0g dietary fiber, 40g protein, 1g carbohydrate, 105mg cholesterol, 680mg sodium

Sweet & Sour Grilled Fish

Sweet pineapple and tart lemon pair perfectly with the smokiness of grilled fish, red onion and bell pepper slices. Halibut or Black Cod fillets work equally well. After sampling this fish version, you may never be satisfied with sweet and sour pork again.

Serves 6

- 6 Halibut or Black Cod fillets, 4-6 oz each
 - 6 - 1/2" thick slices red onion
 - 6 - 1/2" thick sliced rings green bell pepper
 - 6 slices canned pineapple
 - 3 lemons, sliced
 - 1 stick butter*
 - 1 TB prepared ketchup
 - 1 tsp sugar
 - 2 TB pineapple juice
- Grill onion, bell



pepper, pineapple and lemon slices. (Onions and peppers will take the longest and should be cooked until soft and well browned, so start them first.) Remove to a plate and keep warm in a 200-degree oven while grilling fish.

Grill fish filets over a medium to medium-high heat for just about 4 to 5 minutes per side. Be careful not to overcook. Fish should be just cooked through, but not flaking. If fish is flaking it is overcooked.

Arrange fish on individual plates with grilled veggies, lemon slices and pineapple. Melt the butter. Stir in the sugar until dissolved. Add the ketchup and drizzle sauce artfully over top of fish and serve while hot. * If you prefer a low fat version, substitute more pineapple juice for some or all of the melted butter.

Nutrition Info

Per Serving (8 oz-wt.): 280 calories (120 from fat), 13g total fat, 7g saturated fat, 1g dietary fiber, 26g protein, 13g carbohydrate, 65mg cholesterol, 110mg sodium

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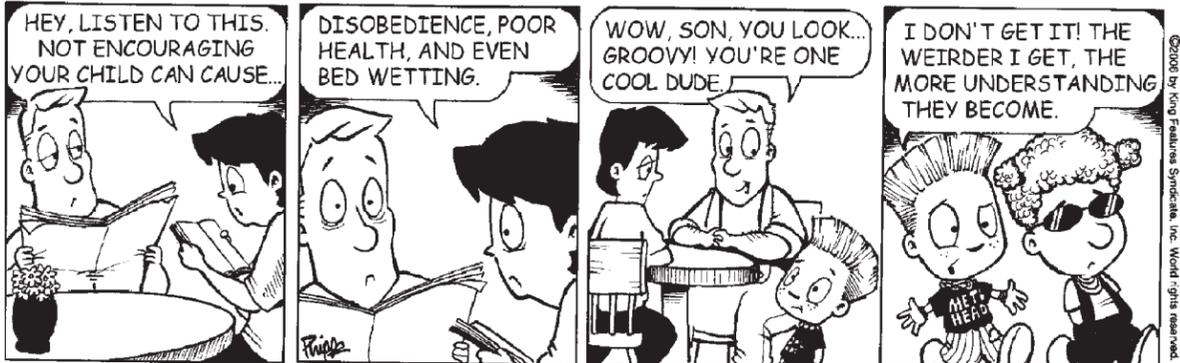
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Planes, babies and young moms

by
Tumbleweed
Smith



the paraphernalia and wonder how in the world is all that going to get on the plane. Sometimes the mom checks the carriage and a piece of luggage. Sometimes the whole shebang gets on the plane.

Passengers are wonderful to help. They see the young mom struggling with all the stuff in a small, crowded space and offer to help. Usually the moms let them put a bag in the overhead space and hold other items while she gets seated.

On crowded planes, when the mother arrives late, passengers cooperate to make sure the mom and her toddler are able to sit together. Babes in arms travel free if they're under two years old. That means the mother has to hold the baby during the entire flight.

I usually see all this on short flights of an hour or so. The baby doesn't cry, the toddler reads a book or drinks from a sippy cup. When the flight ends, passengers again are willing to help load up the mom with all her belongings. They appreciate her ability to not only cope, but also do so without complaining.

Way to go, girls. You're amazing.

Central Texas MOAA meets April 21

The Central Texas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, MOAA, will meet April 21, at the Stonetree Cafe and Restaurant (in the Killeen Golf Club Building). The meeting will be held in the "downstairs" dining room.

The program will be given by Ret. Col. Robert H. Bishop, Acting Garrison Commander, who will bring the group up to date on related Fort Hood activities. There will be a board meeting at 11 a.m. Lunch will be available at 11:30 a.m. prior to the presentation at noon.

At airports I see young mothers traveling with a baby and a three-year-old toddler. It is an amazing sight. The mother is pushing a baby carriage about the size of a Volkswagen. It has large wheels, pockets, shelves, brakes, a sun visor and windshield. Built in snap-on compartments hold everything from baby bottles to pacifiers.

The mother is pushing the stroller while carrying half a dozen bags strapped over her shoulders. Her toddler is wearing a backpack filled mostly with toys and books. The mother seems calm, cool and collected. She apparently has done this before and doesn't consider it to be anything out of the or-

dinary. No big deal.

I think young mothers traveling by air with a couple of youngsters are courageous individuals. They are certainly organized. When they stop to get a bite to eat at an airport walk-up restaurant, they serenely stand in line, wait their turn and order their food. The young mom now has more to carry and does it with all the class and style of a model walking

down a runway at a fashion show. It is a ballet of calculated movement and skill. The toddler helps, usually carrying a small drink the mother has just purchased.

When they get to a table, the mother puts down the food, disengages herself from the bags on her shoulders, tends to the baby in the carriage and prepares the food for the walking child. Then she eats. It can't possibly be an enjoyable experience because she's constantly checking on the baby and the three-year-old. But we seldom see any signs of agitation. Although the moms must be under considerable pressure, they seem composed, appearing tranquil and unruffled.

Standing in line, I see

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Pascoe says he can design to your specification. "Just bring in a picture or sketch of something you're interested in and your specific requirements like dimension and wood type. I'll provide you with a bid and we can go from there."

Pascoe enjoys the challenge of custom designs. "I like to learn something with each piece I make," he says. He invites you to visit him.

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\$386,900: This builder never builds the same house twice, so take advantage of this one-of-a-kind, truly gorgeous home. Walk in and look through the abundant plate glass windows overlooking Mill Creek golf course. Front office could be a 4th BR. Pay attention to all the detail work in this home.



\$468,000: Well maintained country estate on 4.345 acres. Spacious master suite with sitting area, fireplace, desk, jetted tub and separate shower, huge closet with built-ins. Country kitchen has brick hearth around stove island, pantry. Whirlpool and JennaAire appliances, granite tile countertops. Open living and formal dining with fireplace.



\$549,000: Own a piece of Salado Creek. A Darwin Britt home built in 1987 with beautiful wood floors, beams and staircase designed by a true craftsman. 1910 beams from a Galveston warehouse accent the living areas. Walk through the archway of Belgium doors as you enter the formal living and dining. Entertain on banks of Salado Creek.



\$229,000: Totally updated, this home is breathtaking! Walk in on hardwood to an open living/dining area that would be ideal for entertaining. Corian kitchen countertops complement the double oven and other recently replaced appliances. Enjoy your morning coffee on private screened porch.



\$229,000: Just a few steps from Main Street, Salado. This home is located on 1.6 acres with beautiful large live oak trees. Charming 3 BR home with a beautiful small creek running through the back yard. Over an acre behind the home provides privacy. A charming cottage in the heart of Salado.



\$281,800: Only 2 years old, this nicely landscaped brick/stone 4 BR home has 3 full baths and is walking distance to Mill Creek golf course. Irrigated rose garden, flower garden and vegetable garden. Entertain in the large backyard with covered patio and an arbor. Lots of crown molding, stone fireplace in family room, large kitchen with granite tops.



\$339,900: What dreams are made of! Gorgeous kidney shaped pool with waterfall accents the backyard. A 14X24 insulated shop/studio with French doors provides extra space for a work area or studio. Two living areas, two dining areas, 4 bedroom home, with an open kitchen for easy entertaining. Located in Mill Creek Springs.



\$154,500: Great country setting. Two car garage has been enclosed for 4th BR. This can be easily be converted back to full garage. Horses allowed.



\$154,900: This home is in great shape. 4 BR/2 BA, open floorplan. Kitchen is large and opens to the dining area, which flows into living area. Front yard and half of back yard has sprinkler system. Large one acre lot. Master BR has a garden tub, separate shower and his/her closets.



\$162,500: Walk into a beautiful living room accented by a rock fireplace. Formal dining, breakfast and kitchen are all open to provide for easy entertaining. Split bedrooms with Master separate from two guest bedrooms. Magnificent trees cover the lot with private back yard. Long covered front and back porches.



\$218,000: Open living area consists of family room, den, dining and kitchen. Two fireplaces. Large windows overlook beautiful backyard from family room. Two bedrooms and bath downstairs with bedroom, bath and loft upstairs. Wonderful master suite has room for sitting area or office.



\$53,900: Looking for investment property? This just might be what you are looking for. This home needs many updates and will need to be sold as is. Storage unit will remain on property.



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- **Eagle Rock Ranch,** Lot 15, 3.19 acres, \$59,500.
- **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.
- **Jeremiah's Well:** 11.9 acres with pond and well.

Commercial Property

- \$149,000: 1.6 acres with good potential for commercial near I-35 & FM 2484.
- \$84,500: 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.

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1209 Old Mill Road

Great location in Mill Creek. Built, one owner home in need of updating. Nice floor plan with large great room, three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, large study with built-ins. Lots of storage. Pretty, private backyard.



1617 Chaparral

Great price for this custom home. Must see inside to appreciate all the features, including views, screened-in porch, master BR balcony, open kitchen and many more! 4 generous BRs, 3 full baths, large great room, formal dining room, breakfast room and great outdoor living. \$250,000.



515 Indian Trail

Gorgeous stone home, landscaped with two-tiered pond in 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.



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.



5055 Elm Grove Rd.

Beautiful 30.03 acre Belton property that borders the Lampasas River. Huge hybrid and native pecan trees. Well-maintained home with large living room, dining room with hardwoods, den, 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Amenities include greenhouse, haybarn, equip shed, 6 traps and decks. Must see! \$620,000



900 DeGrummond

Salado's hidden treasure. 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



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



716 Whispering Oaks

Located in Mill Creek on a beautiful treed street. One-story has 3 BRs/ 2.5 BAs, study, formal living and dining areas, large kitchen with breakfast room. Great room with wood-burning fireplace. Great floorplan, large deck, storage building, a greenhouse and a hot tub. \$249,900. Call Mike Bowles, 254-913-0469

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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Spring Cleaning Garage Sale. 2200 Chisholm Trail. Salado. Saturday-April 22. 7 a.m.-noon. Hot Tub, furniture, jewelry, computers, printers, electric pull golf cart, much more. 4/20b

MOVING SALE - Booth # 100 at Salado Antique Mall located on I 35 Access Road between Exits 284 & 285 4/13-4/20b

Employment

Johnny's Steaks and BBQ is now hiring waitress and cashier position. Apply in person 301 Thomas Arnold. Salado. 254-947-4663 4/13b

Stagecoach INN Dining room now hiring. Host, hostess, cashier, and daytime busser. Apply in person Stagecoach Inn, Salado. 4/13-4/20b

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Now Hiring. Tues-Friday 9:30-2:30 Old Mill Pizza 947-0700

Office manager/bookkeeper needed. Send resume P O Box 1044, Salado, TX 76571 tfnb

Now accepting applications for waitperson.

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Part time employment Susan Marie's ladies boutique in Salado Sat. or Sun or both 947-5239 or drop by. 1/26tfnb

Wanted

Single Dad wanting to buy an older home or 1-2 acres. Call 254-541-8005 4/13-4/20p

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CLASSIFIEDS CONT. PAGE 5C



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Public Hearing

Thursday, May 4, 2006

The Board of Aldermen of the Village of Salado will hold a public hearing during their regular session on Thursday, May 4, 2006 @ 6:30 p.m. at the municipal building to consider adopting two ordinances pertaining to the municipal court in the Village. Once ordinance is to assess a \$4.00 Technology Fee upon each misdemeanor conviction and one ordinance is to assess a \$3.00 Building Security Fee upon each misdemeanor conviction.

Hidden Springs. 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 Car garage on 2 acres. Fireplace., laundry room, office. Beautiful home. \$219,000 254-760-4486 0209tfnb

Century old live oaks surround this 4/1.5 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. \$324,900 Call First Texas Brokerage 947-5577 0202F

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. Call Village Realty 947-0342. 0202F

Belton - Spacious master suite is the highlight of this 4 BR home. Wood, tile and carpet flooring, gas log fireplace, granite countertops in kitchen and dining areas, separate shower and jetted tub in master, large covered patio. Side entry garage. Complete in early Summer. \$229,900 Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050 6/16/tfnf

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR DRILLING & OPERATING PERMIT FROM THE CLEARWATER UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Rodman Construction Company has made application to the Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) on April 12, 2006, for permit to authorize drilling and operating of a new well with a proposed 2-inch column pipe on the property of Elzie Warrick approximately 3 miles South of Salado on the East side of IH35 between FM 2115 and Hackberry Road to produce water for construction of two rest stops in a proposed annual quantity of 12 million gallons or 37 acre-feet.

This application will be set for hearing before the CUWCD Board upon notice posted at the Bell County Courthouse Annex and the CUWCD Office. If you would like to support, protest, or provide comments on this application, you must appear at the hearing and comply with District 8.10. For additional information about this application or the permitting process, please contact the CUWCD at 550 East 2nd Avenue, Building A, PO Box 729, Belton, Texas, 76513, 254-933-0120. This applicant may be contacted at 2300 Picadilly, Round Rock, Texas, 78664, 512-670-5277.



Look out your windows and see this view of Salado Creek! This home is priced to sell! 4 BR/3.5 BA, large den with additional sitting area. Sit on the deck and watch the creek flow. Two additional wood creek-view lots available next to home. \$249,900.



Salado country home on 1.3 acres. Lots of sq. footage. 600 SF hobby/office building behind home. Two living areas. 3 BR/2 BA, \$164,900.



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. \$435,000.



Executive home in Timber Ridge Subdivision, Temple. Two story home that has three living rooms, four bedrooms, and three-and-a-half baths. Master suite is downstairs. Informal and formal dining. Raised ceilings, Romeo balcony, wide open spacious kitchen with lots of storage. \$398,900.



Just like a model! Morgan's Point home with flexible floor plan. Fireplace with custom mantle. Wood-like blinds, high ceiling, fenced backyard. 3 BR/2 BA. \$118,900.

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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, \$444,500. Reduced to \$141,900.



Great country views! 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/2-1/2BA, \$179,900.



Ranch-style home with lots of room and trees! Metal roof, spa, playground, fenced backyard with pet pen, two storage buildings. Updates include limestone flooring, carpet, kitchen appliances, countertops, painting and many extras. 4 BR/2 BA for \$145,000. Price reduced to \$134,995.



New Listing! Salado 2003 brick home on .94 acres, large open great room with roomy kitchen, breakfast bar and dining area. Vaulted ceilings and lots of windows make this home bright. 3 BR/2 BA, attached car garage, nicely landscaped with covered patio. \$146,000.



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.



20 Acres in Salado! 5 BR/3.5 BA with two living and two dining rooms! Easy access to I-35 and Killeen area. Lots of windows with great views. Open bright kitchen with island. Fireplace in den and master suite. Small horse shed with enclosed feed room. Huge chainlink backyard. \$350,000.



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

Oliver's opens

By MARGARET WILLIAMSON

Joe and Dottie Oliver's private yard and garden will be one of six stops on the May 6-7 Salado Yard and Garden Tour.

Located on a quiet dead-end street in Mill Creek is the lovely woodland setting of Joe and Dottie Oliver's private yard and garden. Enter by the bridge, spanning the wet weather creek and under the ivy-laden majestic live oaks onto the spacious property. The flowering quince, an important part of early gardens in Texas, reveals its intensely red bloom as you pass by. This is a traditionally landscaped yard with formal foundation plantings, a smooth green expanse of a St. Augustine lawn, blooming annuals, comfortable seating areas throughout and a refreshing pool with enclosed courtyard located behind the home.

The circle garden of the motor court is planted with a contrasting mixture of dwarf yaupon, rosemary, Asian jasmine, iris and colorful annuals. The foundation plantings around the home have an added interest with the layering of the beds into tiers and filled with traditional plantings of Buford holly, nandina, Indian Hawthorne, pittosporum, and English ivy spilling forth through the layers and over the sides. Nandina, or "Heavenly Bamboo," with its lacy foliage is planted near the entrance to the home where in Japanese gardens it is found at the entrance because it is considered "the friendship plant."

Stroll along the western side of the property by the wet weather creek and enjoy the graceful curving garden beds under the ivy draped oaks; cross the charming cedar foot bridge and stop to rest or relax at the wooden bench; look for a stately white iris in bloom or the vine and ivy covered embankment; listen to the gurgle of water from the trickling creek, the wind blowing through the trees, the songs of the birds or the distant sound of a wind chime. Another peaceful spot is the bench flanked by native rocks and flowering red and purple verbena with the lovely birdbath statuary as focal point.

As one walks down the drive toward the back garden gate notice the

Mill Creek private woodland for Salado Yard, Garden Tour

foundation plantings are again terraced from the home using posts and stone. Autumn sage, or salvia greggii, with its tubular shaped rich red flowers lines the bed. This wonderful native plant flowers profusely in the spring and fall and is a favorite of the hummingbirds. Also planted in this side bed are Southern wax myrtles or Southern bayberry. The berries of this shrub were used by the early American colonists to make fragrant bayberry candles. Wax myrtles are also important to many songbirds providing food and shelter.

The pool area and ivy draped walled courtyard is entered through a garden gate. This very private and intimate space is overflowing with hanging baskets of ferns, collections of sculptural wrought iron and crosses and a wealth of blooming plants in containers under the canopy of majestic live oaks. Two arbors frame the pool and provide cool, shaded seating arrangements for entertaining around the pool. These architectural garden structures have classical columns that support cross beams and have thick woody vines trained to cover the structure. An outdoor chandelier hangs from one of the arbors and



Pictured above is the pool in the backyard of Joe and Dottie Oliver.



(PHOTOS BY MARGARET WILLIAMSON) Joe Oliver's antique car is shown above at the entrance to their home.

icicle lights on the eaves of the home are used to add sparkle and romance to the scene at night.

This Salado garden and yard is truly a beautiful and serene woodland setting.

Other gardens on the SEE GARDEN, PAGE 11C

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- Treasurer, Salado Band Boosters, 2005-Present
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- Vice President, Salado ISD School Board, 1999
- Secretary, Salado ISD School Board, 1998
- Director, Salado ISD School Board, 1993-1999
- Child Patient Advocate and Baby Rocker, Scott & White, 1998-1999
- Membership Chairman, Scholarship Chairman Salado Lions Club, 1993-1996
- Member Salado Lions Club, 1992-1997
- Manager/Producer, Christian Music Concerts, 1995-1998
- Chairman, Salado Bluebonnet Parade, 1993
- Chairman, Salado Family Festival, 1994-1995
- Actress, Salado Legends, 1993-1996
- Actress, A Christmas Carol, 1994-1995
- Actress, Salado Living Room Theatre, 2005
- Mentor, Salado ISD Students, 1996-1998
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Only 2 years old, this nicely landscaped brick/stone 4 BR home has 3 full bats and is walking distance to the

new Mill Creek Springs golf course. Irrigated rose garden, flower garden and vegetable garden. Entertain in the large back yard with covered patio and an arbor. Extensive crown molding, stone fireplace in family room, skylight in kitchen. Large kitchen with granite countertops, island and garden window. Large walk-in pantry \$281,800 Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050 tfnf

Tile entryway takes you into a wonderful living area with built-in bookshelves and fireplace. Large open kitchen with island, granite countertops, breakfast bar and under counter lighting. Master suite has a double vanity sink, garden tub, separate shower and walk-in closet. a 20' X 13" office upstairs. Four car garage \$379,000. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

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3/9-3/30p

Prime location in Salado, Great investment!
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Land for Sale

Gorgeous building site, 10+ acres, Trees, Creek, Owner Finance, under \$50,000, Owner/Agent, Pam LaShelle, RE/MAX Round Rock, located between Salado & Holland, Water meter, 512-217-2070 4/20-4/27P

Heavily wooded 5.64 acre tract in a premiere Salado subdivision. Lots are flat and would be easy to build on. Perfect hideaway. \$70,000. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 254-947-5050 tfnf

Beautiful Landscape home in the Prestigious Carriage House Estates. Two living areas, both with stone fireplace, spacious master suite, great room and sports court all for just \$369,900 Call First Texas Brokerage at 254-947-5577 tfnf

Salado land! Huge oak trees. Buy this 3.79 acres located on Brewer Rd. and build your dream house. City water & utilities available. Beverly Hamby Realty. 254-721-1784 3/30b

The Overlook - wooded estate sized lots with hill top golf course views. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 254-947-5050

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. Call First Texas Brokerage at 254-947-5577 tfnf

30 acres for sale. Salado Creek runs through it! 100 plus large pecans and oaks. Spring. Wildlife tax exemption. Bordered on 3 sides by large ranch. 5 miles west of Jarrell. \$139,000

35 acres very convenient to I-35 South of Salado on Horned Frog Rd. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 254-947-5050

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This home with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and oversized 3 car garage with almost 3300 sq. ft. of breathtaking enchantment sits on a quiet and secluded cul-de-sac in Mill Creek. Windows galore overlook beautiful irrigated landscaping, the 17th. tee, a deck and an in-ground pool. MBR suite on first level leads to screened/windowed porch. Central vacuum, intercom system with speakers in all rooms including front and rear entry. Entertainment center with TV, VCR, Dual Cassettes and CD all convey. *This is truly a must see!* \$399,900.



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tage with water, cable, and yard work included. \$750/month plus \$400 deposit. Now available! No pets. (254) 947-7145. TFNB

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Bella Charca - Nolanville's Gated Community

EVERYTHING IS "BIGGER" in this new Texas Style Rock Home with approximately 2,360 living sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2.75 baths, 2 living, 2 dining, master bath with his whirlpool tub. 3-car garage. Austin stone makes this a true Texas star. **\$283,500.**

EXPERIENCE MAJESTIC LIVING in Nolanville's Bella Charca, gated community with security surveillance. New 4 bedroom, 2.25 bath is complete with floor-to-ceiling rock fireplace, 2 car garage, granite kitchen counter tops. 2131 SF. Top Notch Landscaping. **\$255,780.**

HORSEMAN'S DELIGHT! Austin Stone ranch house in Salado on 29.5 acres. Home has 3 bedroom, 3 bath with approx. 1,851 living sq. ft. Master bedroom has built-in closet for storm shelter. 3,016 sq. ft., 5-horse stall barn with pipe turnouts, office, tack, and feed room. Large 598 sq. ft. open barn with large airport storage. Pasture has traps with water and shelter. Austin Stone entrance with iron gate. Panoramic view of countryside. **\$399,000.**

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2850 Hester Way • Mill Creek • Salado

This stunning 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with study is ready for your family!

Absolutely gorgeous with huge fireplace, granite tops in kitchen and ceramic tile throughout. Hardwood floors in study and private vanities in secondary bedrooms. This floor plan is very impressive and the décor is exceptional!

Please call Marcie to see this dream home! 512-415-7786



Brewer Rd. Development

183 acres just .25 miles of FM 2484

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2288 Chisholm Trail • Mill Creek • Salado

Beautiful custom home on 1.5 acre lot. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths with study and formal dining. All the extras including granite and marble counters. Oversized garage and appealing landscape set this home apart.



**Call Marcie for more information
at 512-415-7786 or 254-526-9646**

Green tourism available here?

Dear EarthTalk: I hear a lot about "eco-travel" and "green tourism" in far-away exotic places, but don't we have some environmentally-friendly vacation spots right here in the U.S. and Canada? -- Paul Howe, San Francisco, CA

While it is true that tour operators in other countries play up their green-friendly itineraries, there is no shortage of eco-travel options right here at home. Eco-travel is alive and well in North America, too.

Not to be confused with "adventure travel," which may take one to wild places but which may also do harm to them, genuine "eco-tourism" - according to the United Nations - must satisfy several criteria that speak to both the enjoyment of the traveler and the well being of the host community. For the traveler, eco-tourism's main motivation should be the observation and appreciation of both the local ecology and the local culture, and it should contain "educational and interpretation features."

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

And to truly benefit the host community it should be organized for small groups by local businesses, it should minimize impact on both the natural and cultural environment, and it should generate income for the host community and increase awareness of the need for conserving its natural and cultural assets.

According to Natural Home and Garden magazine, top U.S. eco-travel choices that live up to these guidelines include: the El Monte Sagrado Living Resort and Spa in Taos, New Mexico; Inn Serendipity Bed & Breakfast in Browntown, Wisconsin; Papoose Creek Lodge in Cameron, Montana; the Sadie Cove Wilderness Lodge in Homer, Alaska; and any of the options available within Yosemite National Park in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. In Canada, the magazine named the Cree Village Eco-Lodge on Moose Factory Island, Ontario; ForestHouse Eco-Lodge in Air Ronge, Saskatchewan; and Wilderness Outpost at Bedwell River in Clayoquot Sound, British Columbia as its top picks.

For those looking to go a little farther afield, Maho Bay Camps and the affiliated Concordia Ecotents on St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands is a well-known green hotspot. These primitive lodges provide guests with treehouse-like platform tents tucked into a rainforest canopy overlooking the Caribbean. The minimal impact accommodations and other lodge facilities are linked together via a series of intricate and environmentally-friendly boardwalks, some of which deposit hikers onto trails in Virgin Islands National Park while others make a bee-line down to the beach where surf and sand abound.

Meanwhile, a sultrier option might be any of the tours and lodges available through the Hawaii Ecotourism Association, which provides a free online clearinghouse of pre-vetted eco-travel trips and accommodations.

For more information on how to judge the eco-friendliness of any lodge or tour one needs only to look online. The website of the International Ecotourism Society lists its criteria for judging a given operation's sustainability, and Sustainable Travel International (STI) goes so far as to certify lodges and tour operators who run environmentally responsible trips. STI also provides ideas for travelers to keep in mind in order to keep their impact as minimal as possible. Conservation International does the same, providing tips on traveling conscientiously on a special website devoted to eco-tourism.

C O N T A C T S :
International Ecotourism Society, www.Ecotourism.org; Sustainable Travel International, www.SustainableTravel.com; Conservation International Ecotourism, www.EcoTour.org.

Dear EarthTalk: It seems like the Amazon rainforest is not in the news nearly as much as it used to be. Have the environmental problems there been resolved? -- Justin Tucker, Oakland, CA

Just because the Amazon is not in the headlines today as much as when the media first covered its widespread destruction in the 1980s does not mean that environmental problems there have been solved. In fact, the non-profit Rainforest Action Network (RAN) estimates that more than 20 percent of the original rainforest is already gone and that, without stricter environmental laws and more sustainable development practices, as much as half of what remains could disappear within a few decades.

Researchers like Britaldo Soares-Filho of Brazil's Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) concur with such findings. Soares-Filho and his team of international researchers recently reported in the journal Nature that, without further protections more than 770,000 additional square miles of Amazon rainforest would be lost, and at least 100 native species would be profoundly threatened by the loss in habitat.

One of the driving forces behind the destruction is the poverty in the region. Looking for

ways to make ends meet, poor inhabitants clear tracts of rainforest for its timber value, often with government permission, and then further despoil the cleared land through destructive farming and ranching practices. And in some cases corporate conglomerates such as Mitsubishi, Georgia Pacific and Unocal are underwriting the conversion of Amazon rainforest into corporate-sponsored farms and ranches.

In an effort to provide solutions, Soares-Filho and his associates plotted different scenarios to show how policy changes could have dramatic effects across the vast Amazon River basin. "For the first time," he told reporters, "we can examine how individual policies ranging from the paving of highways to the requirement for forest reserves on private properties" could determine the future of the Amazon.

With new checks in place, UFMG researchers believe that nearly 75 percent of the original forest could be saved by 2050. They also point out that, since trees absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide, industrialized countries like the U.S. should have a keen interest in forest protection so as to combat global warming.

Stemming the tide of destruction in the Amazon is a complicated task, but some concerned government officials, international policymakers and environmentalists are making strides. Groups like RAN and the like-minded Rainforest Alliance have mobilized thousands of activists around the world to put pressure on corporations and governments in the region (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil and Venezuela all have Amazonian regions) to clean up their acts. Only if they do will we preserve the rainforest for its own sake as well as for its important contribution to medicine and other applications.

Meanwhile, Brazil recently announced plans to expand protections of its portion of the Amazon, telling reporters in March that it would declare 84,000 square miles of the rainforest a protected area within the next three years. But whether leaders there have the clout to enforce such protections remains to be seen.

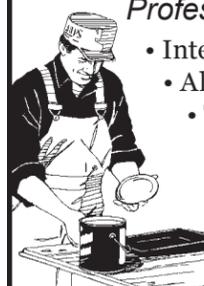
C O N T A C T S :
Rainforest Action Network, www.ran.org; Rainforest Alliance, www.rainforest-alliance.org.

G O T AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; or earthtalk@emagazine.com.

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Garden

FROM PAGE 7C

tour are the public garden at the Green Bridge where one can enjoy the many flowering perennials, native plants and public art; the historic Baines House bed and breakfast owned by Rod and Sheryl Russell where the spacious garden is filled with art and art objects; the architecturally significant private country estate of Barton and Jeanie Jones situated on a limestone cliff and landscaped to afford one the natural view and awe of the site; the private yard and garden of John and Barbara Robertson featuring a spectacular Texas style potting shed, vegetable and perennial gardens and gorgeous views of the golf course; and the private country garden of Les McCollum and Richard Teeler that is actually a collection of interesting gardens flowing from one space to another.

The tour, sponsored by the Salado Garden Club and the Public Arts League of Salado, will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 6 1-4 p.m. May 7.

Gardens will be self guided with volunteers helping when needed. Tickets are \$10 and are good for both days. Maps will be available leading to each location with a short description of each garden. Tours will be conducted rain or shine. Strollers and pets are not permitted and wheelchair accessibility is limited. Additional information can be found on the Salado Chamber website at www.salado.com or by calling the Civic Center at 947-8300.

An additional feature of the garden tour will be the Village Artists' exhibit displaying their lovely art pieces at their location on the back property of the Salado Civic Center.



(PHOTO BY MARGARET WILLIAMSON)

The backyard of Joe and Dottie Oliver is a private woodland.

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Enjoy morning coffee in a private sunroom overlooking the golf course. This spacious 2810 sq. ft. Mill Creek town home is great for entertaining. The oversized living room has a wet bar and built-in bookcases. A gourmet kitchen includes a butcher block island and is open to another living area with a fireplace! The master bedroom is oversized and boasts of a dressing room with vanity, many closets and more. If you like to entertain then this is a great place for you to be in Mill Creek. **Price reduced to 169,900!**

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TOP OF THE HILL, WHAT A VIEW!! This lovely Mill Creek home is situated on 2 lots overlooking a private pond & comes with an additional wooded lot. **Antique** doors, sinks, cabinets, are just some of the extras. A spacious workshop comes with this special home!!

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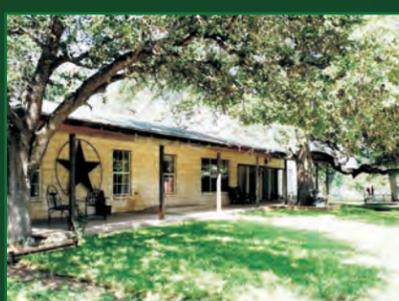
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East of Salado, this 3/2.5/2 custom home is fully landscaped. Granite countertops, large master bath, gutters and more. Study could be used as 4th bedroom. **\$247,500.**



Beautifully Landscape Home in the Prestigious Carriage House Estates. Two living areas, both with stone fireplace, spacious master suite, great room, and sports court all for just **\$369,900.**



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. **\$324,900.**



Excellent location in Salado! 3 BR/3 BA home on over 6 acres surrounded by large live oak and pecan trees. Tall ceilings, open floor plan, hardwood floors, etc. Simply a must-see! Priced at **\$400,000.**



4/2.5/2 - Escape to the Country in this Austin Stone home on 2 tree-covered acres! Open & spacious floor plan, large kitchen, stainless steel appliances, beautifully landscaped, & much more! **\$282,900**



Beautiful home on 16+ acres. A restored historic train depot, this home features a large master suite, unbelievable kitchen with granite countertops, great for entertaining, large suite for guests/children and much more. Garage with lots of storage. Horse stables. **\$525,000.**



Enjoy the peaceful setting of this tree-covered lot. 3/2/2 that is close in Salado all for just ~~\$479,900~~. Price Reduced to **\$162,900.**



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. Reduced **\$229,900.**



Great location! 3/2 manufactured home with excellent location in Salado overlooking Salado Creek. Priced at **\$99,900.**



Exquisite ranch-style home located on 3 tree-covered acres. Travertine flooring, hardwood floors, granite counters, high ceiling, open floor plan. Priced at **\$319,900.**



Open and Spacious 3/2/2+ in Mill Creek. Large kitchen, open floorplan, fenced yard and covered porch all for just **\$194,900.**



New Elegant Estate 4/3/3+ on 3 tree-covered acres. Inviting entrance, high ceilings, crown molding, beautiful kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops, large fireplace, 3+ car garage and much more. **\$399,000.**

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.
 7 acres oak trees, electricity & well, **\$85,000.**
 5 acres in Hidden Springs, lot #271, **\$46,900.**
 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.
 10 Acre Home Sites starting from \$99,900. Live Oak Trees and Views!
 Lot 290 Hidden Springs, \$49,000.
 Lot 71 Hidden Springs creek front, \$69,950.
 Lot overlooking Salado Creek, -
~~\$50,000~~ - reduced to \$29,900!
 Beautiful treed lot, 178' deep, 1219 Indian Trail, Mill Creek, **\$36,000.**
 Lot in ~~UNDER CONTRACT~~ Creek, \$45,000.
 Royal ~~UNDER CONTRACT~~, \$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.
 .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.

Bell County

5+ acres fronting SH 190 and Boxer Road. Great commercial location. Belton city water available. **\$299,000.**
 2+ acres at ~~UNDER CONTRACT~~ FM 1670 and HWY 190.
 Exit 305 North of Temple. .54 acres with existing station. Excellent business opportunity.

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