

Salado Village Voice

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50¢

Family Relief aids 200+ local kids

By TIM FLEISCHER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

What began more than a decade ago as a handful (or less) of teachers gathering used toys and clothes for their students has blossomed into an organization that will provide new Christmas gifts to more than 200 Salado children this year.

The Salado Family Relief Fund needs your help this Christmas to provide gifts and meals to almost 80 families in the Salado school district.

The families being helped will pick up their gifts on Dec. 17 from the house just north of Salado United Methodist Church, the use of which is being donated.

It is that giving spirit that has allowed the Family Relief Fund to provide to those families living within the area that are most at need.

In its earliest incarnation, those families were identified by common knowledge. The earliest volunteers were teachers and other school employees who worked directly with the students on a day-to-day basis.

"I remember one Christmas season seeing Dana Britt and the late Mary Ribeiro carrying in garbage sacks by the armload into the Salado fire station, which was across from our office," said Marilyn Fleischer, who stuck her nose around the corner to "see what they were up to."

"Because I did not see it on a daily basis, I didn't realize what kind of poverty we have here in Salado," she added. "It was heartbreaking some of the things that were being 'donated' to those kids. Toys that were broken, clothes

that were torn and in one sack.... garbage."

Seeing the struggle that Salado teachers were fighting to provide Christmas to the kids that they knew needed it worst of all, Fleischer volunteered to help raise money and awareness in the community. Contacts to local churches, civic and school groups were made and the volunteers began to take shape into an organization.

Today, that organization is a 501(c)3 charity that collects donations with accounts at both the First State Bank of Salado and the Salado branch of Compass Bank.

The group also organizes "Christmas angels" who volunteer to adopt the families who apply for and are screened for the annual Christmas gift drive. Other angels volunteer to do the physical shopping during the days leading up to the annual distribution of gifts. Bilingual volunteers from the school act as translators during the project, working with many mothers and children in the area.

Cathy Coe, head of the Salado Food Pantry at the First Baptist Church, has been an integral part of the Family Relief Fund since its earliest days. Coe has a screening process for applicants to the Food Pantry that is also used for the Family Relief Fund.

The Family Relief Fund has two major projects through the year: the Christmas gift drive and the back-to-school drive in which vouchers for school supplies and school clothes are given to deserving, screened families. Both projects grow in scope each year, as the number of families

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A visit with St. Nicholas

Local Episcopalians celebrated the Christmas season with a service on Dec. 6 to remember Saint Nicholas, the famous Christian giver of gifts on which Santa Claus is based. A representative of the old St. Nicholas was on-hand to give out gold (wrapped candy) to the children gathered with their families. (PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)

Sales tax rebates up 15%

The Village of Salado rebounded from its one-month dip in sales tax, outpacing the previous year by almost 15 percent with its December rebate of \$26,905.87. In December 2004, Salado received \$23,443.82. The recent December payment was for taxes collected in October and reported to the Comptroller in November.

Salado's gain in sales tax was a higher percent than both the state and the county sales tax increases. For the year, Salado has received \$319,708.19, which is 5.43 percent more than 2004 payments of \$303,214.90. The Village

of Salado levies a one-percent sales tax within its incorporated area of approximately two square miles.

Salado Public Library District, a special-purpose district created by local voters, received \$16,773.93 in December for the half-cent sales tax it levies. This is 15.7 percent higher than last December's payment of \$14,497.59. For the year, the Library District has received \$203,954.20, 7.66 percent higher than 2004 payments of \$189,437.87.

Bell County saw an increase of 13.54 percent in December, receiving

a check of \$883,199.05, compared to \$777,855.82 last December. In 2005, the County has received \$11.4 million, which is 12 percent higher than 2004 payments of \$10.2 million.

Overall state and local sales tax revenues are up significantly, Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn reported when issuing sales tax rebate checks on Dec. 9; however, some Southeast Texas communities continue to see declines in their sales tax revenue as a result of Hurricane Rita.

The state collected

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Never too busy to be careful

By TIM FLEISCHER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's the busiest time of the year for local businesses, who may have a line at their counter for the first time in memory, but Salado police are urging all businesses to be extra careful in handling their transactions as cons are especially active right now.

Salado Police Officer Bruno Matarazzo is investigating forgeries of checks passed at area businesses, as well as fraudulent traveler's checks and credit cards.

Evidently, thieves are burglarizing vehicles for purses, wallets and check books left in them overnight to use checks, debit cards and anything else they can get their hands on to buy goods or get cash.

"They will pick a line that looks really busy and get in it," Matarazzo explained. "If the clerk asks for ID, they dig around their pockets and pretend that it is in the car. They can get past the clerk that way if there are impatient customers waiting in line."

Matarazzo asks businesses to help the police department by always asking for photo ID of any person writing a personal, business or traveler's check or using a credit card or debit card. "If a clerk asks you for your ID, they are doing it not only to protect the business," Matarazzo explained, "but to protect you from being the victim."

In addition to being careful when handling checks or credit transactions, local businesses should also be careful when handling large bills. Recently, counterfeit \$20 bills were circulating in

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Do You Hear What I Hear? final performances this weekend at Silver Spur Theater.
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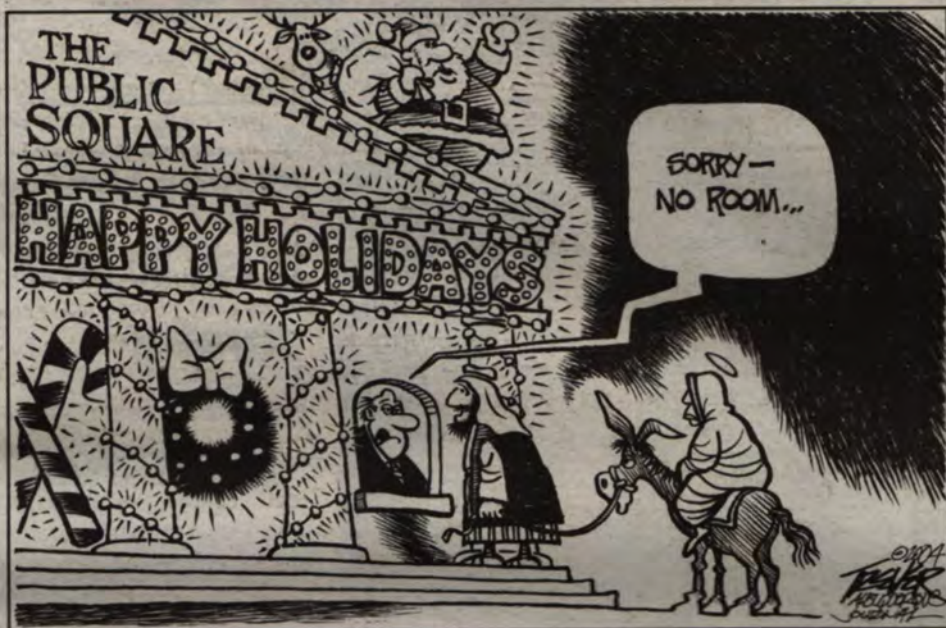
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An Open Exchange of Ideas



GM: Sabotaged From Within

The announcement by General Motors that it is slashing 30,000 jobs and closing all or parts of 12 plants is the fruit of decades of "victories" by the United Auto Workers that even King Pyrrhus would consider shortsighted. The union has done so well at the bargaining table that it has priced its workers out of jobs.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average hourly manufacturing wage is roughly \$16. Autoworkers for the Big Three, in contrast, earn more than \$25 an hour. Who says the UAW doesn't get results? On top of the wages are cushy benefits that mean it costs automakers roughly \$65 an hour to employ its workers. The expense of pensions for retired workers -- and there are more than twice as many GM retirees as current workers -- adds about \$2,500 to the price of every car.

There is a high cost to unsustainably high wages and benefits -- they tend to destroy the businesses in question. GM is perpetually shedding jobs. The only thing surprising about a new announcement from a CEO of a Big Three automaker would be if he said he had initiated a hiring binge.

If an enemy conspirator had infiltrated the U.S. auto industry with the mission of undermining it from within, he couldn't have come up with a worse system.

An example: Big Three autoworkers never quite go away. As part of a union-negotiated "jobs bank," roughly 10,000 of them are each paid \$100,000 a year in salary and benefits for not working at all. When a plant closes, workers either have to be transferred to another plant (not more than 50 miles away) or given an expensive early retirement. Otherwise, they stay on the payroll.

It would be wrong to put all the blame for the Big Three's troubles on the UAW. Management is responsible for design-

Rich Lowry



ing unappealing cars and selling them at a loss with "employee discounts." For all its woes, however, Detroit is improving under the pressure of competition, making major efficiency gains in recent years.

The GM announcement has met the usual laments for the death of U.S. manufacturing. By one key measure the sector is actually robust. Manufacturing productivity has been posting strong gains, as manufacturers make ever more products with fewer workers. But we are witnessing the end of a certain kind of manufacturing, the post-World War II model of heavily unionized, lumbering industry as welfare state. U.S. manufacturers need to be faster, leaner, smarter.

This is the future even in Michigan, even in the automotive industry. A new report by a Southeast Michigan group called Automation Alley notes that the more advanced slices of the auto industry are properly thought of as part of the technology sector. It notes that "the higher-wage, higher-skill jobs in the industry were less likely to be outsourced to lower-cost countries or reduced through internal cost-cutting."

Instead of bludgeoning management, unions should be working to create a better-educated work force. That is the only path to labor victories that aren't Pyrrhic.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Questionable events shaking trust in government; Texas redistricting dissent quashed by Justice Dept. appointees

One of the growing tragedies in contemporary American democracy is the declining faith and trust we have in our elected officials and by extension - our very government. Evidence of this sad fact occurs each time we scan a daily newspaper; tune in talk radio; or watch television's 24-7 news programs - each one equipped with talking heads that feel compelled to explain and manipulate current events - as if they're dealing with robotized androids or throw-backs to the Neanderthal Period.

In recent days we've seen, heard or read about elected lawmakers confessing they traded their influence and votes for millions of dollars in cash and goods; high ranking appointed officials using their power to change the course of important events for political purposes; and (with straight faces) many of our top leaders "adjusting" facts to suit their partisan purposes; the end result of which increases cynicism and distrust of government by untold millions of citizens whose confidence is being tested, if not shattered.

Our style of Democracy is fragile, and needs constant care and attention. It will fail if weakened internally, and therein lies today's potential disaster, for if we begin doubting the efficacy and competency of our system, as well as those we elect; or if people feel they have no voice, because that voice has been muted by the power of the business-wealth classes, then we are truly in danger of destroying what so many have forged over the past 200 years.

CASE IN POINT

Protecting the rights of voters - be they majority or minority - remains the fundamental element supporting our American Democracy. Creating proper voting districts is a basic responsibility of government, so all voters have an equal say in who represents them.

And so it was in that fateful year (2003) that our hapless Texas Legislature tackled the job of redrawing congressional house districts following the 2000 decennial census.

Most of us recall the untidy maneuvers of lawmakers to purposely circumvent the Voting Rights Act in order to create districts that would shift political power from Democrats to Republicans. It took the entire 78th legislative term plus three special sessions to "force-forge" a redistricting map favoring Republicans, all under the direct supervision of House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

Who can forget those sessions when Democrats played hookey (once to Ardmore, Oklahoma, and later New Mexico) to try and stymie the GOP's move to unseat "troublesome" Demos.

Eventually the GOP controlled legislature approved a map (Oct 12, '03) that they felt would shift the congressional delegation's power from Democrats (17-15) to the GOP (21-11).

The redrawn district maps were reviewed by the Justice Department, and quickly approved on Dec. 19, 2003.

Unhappy Democrats went to the federal courthouse, lost, and slowly moved their case towards the Supreme Court, where the complaint is currently under review.

The 2004 election was held, and Republicans secured the 21 seats they'd schemed for, leaving behind 15 bitter (and minority party) Democrats.

JUSTICE SUBVERTED

Fast forward now to this month. Texans were stunned by what's been

Off the Record by Ken Clapp



termed an "unbelievable turn of events" following that unparalleled gerrymandering of congressional districts by Republican lawmakers back in 2003.

The Washington Post on Dec 2 published a story, gleaned from hitherto undisclosed memos written by analysts and lawyers in the Justice department's voting rights division. It dealt with the 2003 Texas redistricting map, and indicated that the Justice Department's staff had unanimously ruled that the plan violated the Voting Rights Act! Their report carried the following conclusion: "The State of Texas has not met its burden in showing that the proposed congressional redistricting plan does not have a discriminatory effect."

According to the Washington Post several senior level Justice Department officials - all appointed by President Bush - had overruled the professional staff's dissent, and approved the new districts for the 2004 elections!

How this disgraceful revelation will play out is unknown, but hopefully when reviewed, "justice" will be the guiding principle - as should be the case when all matters are sent to the Justice Department for "non-political" decisions.

UPDATE ON DELAY EXPOSITION

"Thank Goodness for Tom DeLay" is the grateful thought by political commentators across the land these days. No chasing around looking for things to happen - just a matter of sitting back and watching old Tom's story unfold. Then try to predict what's gonna happen next.

Last week more items were added to the mix. First was news the "conspiracy to use corporate money in the 2002 campaign" charge against Delay was dropped, since that practice was legal in Texas until 2003. The remaining two indictments were affirmed and will be on the docket when Judge Pat Priest gavels the trial to order. They include conspiracy to launder campaign money, and the actual laundering of the funds.

Number of hurdles remain before a jury is seated, including a motion by DeLay's high powered pettifogger Dick DeGuerin, to throw out the entire case based on "grand-jury shopping" by DA Ronnie Earle. Failing in that, are standby motions seeking a change of venue from bad old "liberal" Austin to Sugar Land - DeLay's hometown.

PROBLEMS JUST KEEP A'COMING

Second bit of news concerned the Texas Redistricting plan, that DeLay orchestrated in 2003. As noted earlier in this week's column, it had suddenly blown up "big time" and could create havoc for Republicans from the Justice Department to the White House.

All this adds to the overall feeling (from Austin to Washington) that it's a sure bet DeLay will permanently lose his job as hatchetman-in-chief in the House, and unless his fortunes change dramatically - his reelection bid in District 22.

Difficult to ignore this saga concerning the rise and fall of a guy who went from killing bugs to destroying Democrats, all in one lifetime.

Our hope is the DeLay trial will be speedy. Then maybe we can convince our lawmakers to try something new and innovative - like redrawing congressional districts along legal lines; or perhaps even discover how to properly fund public education.

That's -30-

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Taxing Business is Bad Business

BY BYRON SCHLOMACH, Ph.D.

Texas, we have a problem. Our school finance system is unconstitutional. And the state's supreme court is requiring a solution by June 1st of 2006.

Although the court warned against "pouring money" into the school system, the court ruled we have a statewide property tax because districts are near the rate cap. The easiest way to solve that problem is to throw a billion or two dollars at the schools just to increase the gap between rates and the cap.

But rarely are facts and legal opinions impediments to spending more money. Indeed, the school districts who brought the lawsuit were, immediately after the decision was announced, repeating the "more money" mantra. And, as one would suspect, they have already determined which pockets to pick in that quest.

We have heard it before and no doubt we'll hear it again: business must pony up more cash. They say business must "pay its fair share" of the tax burden. Business, we hear again and again, needs to step up even more to fund schools.

Surely, some claim, Texas business can afford the bill.

It is a fact that Texas' individual tax burden is one of the lowest in the country. The U.S. Census Bureau ranks Texas as having the lowest per capita state tax burden in the country. Another measure ranks Texas as having the third lowest tax burden among the states.

But wait — Texas depends more heavily on local governments, like school districts, than other states. When local taxes are thrown into the mix, Texas' low-tax ranking drops from first or third to eighth among the states.

The bad news does not stop there. It turns out Texas businesses pay just over 60 percent of all state and local taxes, the fourth highest business tax burden in the nation by this measure. The U.S. average is 43 percent. Even California depends less on business taxation for its state and local revenues — 41.4 percent.

Well, one might reason, maybe a lot of Texas' tax revenue comes from business but Texas is still a low tax state, so that

does not necessarily mean Texas businesses face that high of a burden. But Texas' business tax burden is 5.8 percent of the state's yearly gross income — the seventh highest rate among the states. Once again, Texas comes in higher even than California's 4.5 percent; the U.S. average is 4.7 percent.

During the first meeting of the Governor's Commission on Tax Reform, it was repeatedly — and correctly — asserted that only people pay taxes. Businesses do not. Businesses are only tax collectors. It could be reasoned that it makes no difference if we impose business taxes or some other kind of taxes, people will pay them regardless.

But that misses the point. When businesses directly pay taxes, those taxes — every dollar of those taxes — appear directly as business expenses. They do not appear on the check stubs of employees whose pay falls due to taxes. They do not appear on the price tag of the product whose price has risen due to taxes. They do not appear as an expense on a smaller dividend check. And when some business goes under due to the extra burden of taxes, the culprit is rarely publicly named.

Business taxes make this state less competitive with other states and nations. Business taxes do not impact all businesses in the same way, distorting the way business is done and which businesses survive.

Texans have a right to know how much their government costs them. The best way for Texans to know that cost is with transparent taxes like those on consumption. Business taxes, which hide the cost of government, are not good business. They are not good policy. They are bad for Texas.

The easiest way to avoid worrying about the school finance problem is with more money, and the easiest way to hide spending is with a business tax. But neither should be confused with a solution. Indeed, new spending and taxes only create whole new problems for everyone who lives, works, and seeks to prosper in Texas.

Byron Schломach is the chief economist for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan research institute based in Austin.

FORUM



A Giant of the Nano-World

Under the nurturing gaze of his mother, he peered through the eyepiece of a microscope and saw a whole universe: paramecia, diatoms, and amoebas — the various single-celled organisms they had collected together in a nearby pond. To most of us, the many creatures he found in just a drop of water would be too small to notice, too insignificant to make us pause and consider them further.

But, for Dr. Smalley, microscopic things held gigantic possibilities. Those pond creatures were actually among the biggest objects he studied. The universe in which he would later blaze trails, was much, much smaller — 100,000 times smaller in fact.

To explore that universe, Dr. Smalley, had to be, not only bold and creative, he also had to create his own tools. He studied at some of the best schools in the country, from his education in chemistry at the University of Michigan and Princeton, to his work at the University of Chicago and Rice, work that would earn him a Nobel prize in 1996. To see molecules, an ordinary microscope would not do. Since molecules are constantly moving, he pioneered new methods of slowing them down so that it was possible to learn more about them.

It was his amazing combination of expert chemist and basement inventor that made his success possible. He started out as a boy building gadgets with his father and ended up building the most advanced supersonic beam apparatus of its time for his own lab at Rice University, as well as for Exxon. As his vision of the nano-world improved, he discovered the fullerene, a soccer ball-shaped carbon molecule, commonly known as a buckyball. Further research led him to identify a tube-shaped

Capitol Comment

Kay Bailey Hutchison
U.S. Senator



carbon molecule, known as a nanotube.

I was extremely fortunate to work with Dr. Smalley when I began my effort to make Texas one of America's top research states in the hard sciences. He was a very generous man. Rather than seeking to maximize the profits he might have made on his new discovery, he provided other researchers with access to high-quality nanotube so they could learn from his research and it would help mankind as quickly as possible.

Dr. Smalley was not only a scientist, he was a gallant leader of scientists, affirming his mother's intuition in naming him after Richard the Lion-Hearted, one of the great kings of England. When I developed a consortium to use nanotechnology to improve our military equipment (SPRING), Dr. Smalley was happy to lead other scientists in the new endeavor. The group's work has already produced new, lighter, yet stronger, body armor that will save many soldiers' lives.

He was also eager to use his knowledge to save lives by curing diseases. Dr. Smalley played a key role in the formation of the Alliance for NanoHealth, a group that unites Texas' top medical institutions in the mission to cure diseases like cancer with the new technologies his discovery made possible. Scientists are now developing buckyballs they can load with drugs or radioactive atoms to more precisely attack cancer and other diseases.

Finally, Dr. Smalley added his insight to my most ambitious plan to fuel the work of researchers in Texas: The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science

of Texas (TAMEST). This group was designed to bring together Texas doctors, scientists, and engineers who are recognized as leaders through membership in the national academies. Their goal is to share their work in order to increase research collaboration.

Dr. Smalley's true legacy to our state and the world is not yet fully realized because the brightest gems of his discovery have not yet been mined. In the decades to come, computers may be made with tiny, nanotubes circuits, making the smallest computers of today look gigantic; tiny robots may be placed in a patient's bloodstream to clean out his arteries, making intrusive heart surgery unnecessary. By looking at the smallest of things, Dr. Smalley made one of the biggest discoveries in recent history.

He once wrote that when he was 18, he was "convinced that Kansas City, Missouri was the exact center of the known universe." During his life, he changed the center of his universe by seeing the grandest possibilities in the world's most minute details.

Last October, Dr. Smalley died after a long battle with cancer. Now, we mourn the loss of his brilliant mind and great heart. We cannot replace his remarkable vision of the world. But, at the same time, we know that his discovery will continue to revolutionize science.

I will continue to miss this giant of the nano-world, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that our state continues to build on the life work of this dedicated, lion-hearted man.

Airlines doing less, charging more



Jim Hightower

Isn't it just pure pleasure to fly the friendly skies these days? I'm sure there are mule trains that of more joy per mile.

I know that airlines have been hard-hit financially, but what management genius came up with the idea that - Hey, I know, let's cut back on the employees that serve the public, eliminate everything from meals to movies, charge customers for services that should come with the price of a ticket, jam people onto the planes like chickens in a cage, even take away those little pillows that offered a modicum of comfort... and then run TV ads that show delighted customers and happy-go-lucky workers skipping along together and singing "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah."

Yet, we might soon remember the unpleasantness of today's travel reality as the good ol' days, for the industry's bosses are scheming on new ways to do less for customers... while charging more. For example, why should you get a seat that reclines and has padded armrests for nothing, you bum? Airlines are thinking they could charge extra for such frills. Also, while the companies already are charging passengers for boxed lunches, they're now looking at the revenue possibilities of adding a fee for you to use a tray table. Luxury isn't free, bucko.

Then there are your bags. Why should airlines check, load and unload them for nada? Since adding a charge for this is expected to tick off a whole lot of travelers, the savvy executives are contemplating a phase-in strategy, beginning by assessing a fee for priority baggage service. For ten bucks or so per bag, you could get yours unloaded ahead of all the deadbeats standing around the baggage carousel scowling at you.

The nickel-and-diming is practically unlimited. Who says your orange juice should be free? An aisle or window seat could come at a premium. That flight attendant call button and the little air vents could be equipped with coin slots.

The customer may always be right... but there could soon be a fee for that in the friendly skies.

Think twice before cashing out 401(k)



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We have a lot to be thankful for during the holidays because of you - our friends and neighbors here in Salado. It is a pleasure to be part of this community. Enjoy the holiday season.



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If you leave your job, what should you do with the money you've accumulated in your 401(k)? Many of your fellow 401(k) owners are making hasty decisions - which are proving to be quite costly. Consider this statistic: 45 percent of departing workers cash out their 401(k) plans, according to a recent study by Hewitt Associates, a consulting firm that administers companies' 401(k) plans.

Why shouldn't you "cash out" your 401(k) when you leave your job? Here are two reasons:

- You'll face a tax hit. You will pay income tax on the money you receive. Your employer is required to withhold 20 percent of your 401(k) balance when you cash out your plan. The amount of tax you actually pay may be more or less, based on your marginal tax rate when you file your tax return. Plus, you may have to pay an additional 10 percent penalty tax if you are not 59 1/2 and qualify for one of the limited

Financial Focus

by Allen Mantanona



exceptions. You'll lose opportunities for future growth. If you cash out your 401(k), you may lose out on the biggest benefit of the plan - tax deferral. Suppose, for example, that you are 35 years old and your 401(k) is worth \$50,000. If you cashed out your plan, you'd have to pay the taxes right away on this amount, plus a 10 percent penalty tax, and you may be tempted to spend the rest. But if you moved the \$50,000 to a tax-deferred vehicle that earned 7 percent annually, your money would grow to more than \$380,000 after 30 years - even if you never added another cent to the account.

Alternatives to "cashing out"

You have some alternatives to cashing out a plan. Let's look at the most popular ones:

- Move your money

directly into an IRA - If you move your 401(k) into a "Rollover IRA," your investments continue to grow on a tax-deferred basis, and if you rollover the amount directly to your IRA, you will avoid the 20 percent federal withholding. You can withdraw money as you need it, subject to IRA minimum distribution rules, which apply at age 70 1/2. You'll pay income tax only on the amount you withdraw. (If you make withdrawals before you reach 59 1/2, you may be subject to a 10 percent penalty.) Plus, you can fund your IRA with many types of investments - mutual funds, stocks, bonds, government securities, etc.

- Convert your 401(k) into a qualified annuity - Your 401(k) plan may allow you to use your assets to purchase a

qualified annuity. Your investments continue to grow on a tax-deferred basis, and you can eventually take payments in the form of a lifetime income stream.

- Move your money to a new employer's plan - If you're changing jobs, and your new employer offers a 401(k), you may be able to transfer the funds from your old plan to the new one. You'll still benefit from tax deferral, and you may like the investment choices available in the new plan.
- Leave the money in your plan - Not all 401(k) plans offer this option. You will have to start making withdrawals by age 70 1/2.

Which of these choices is right for you?

It all depends on your individual situation. But, as a general rule, all of them would probably be preferable to cashing out your plan. So consult with your tax adviser, talk with your investment representative and consider your options carefully.



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by Ryan Hodge

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You already know that a real estate agent usually accompanies the most serious buyers when they go to look at homes for a potential purchase. But if you're planning to list your home in the upcoming months, here's a sobering statistic: 70 percent of buyers view and compare pictures online before deciding which homes they

would like to visit. While they say one shouldn't judge a book by its cover, it's a sure bet that those buyers are doing just that. So what can you do to improve your chances of being selected for a closer look? Go out and take a picture!

Now take an objective look. Are the shrubs neatly manicured? Is the lawn mowed and are the edges trimmed? Are there some eye-catching landscape elements? Is the exterior pressure-washed, painted and sparkling? Is the front porch and entry inviting?

If you still have to make some cosmetic improvements once a buyer is already inside your home, there is always an opportunity to offer an explanation or to assuage concerns. These days, however, you may not ever get the chance if you don't offer stunning "curb appeal."

Before listing, have a real estate agent perform a "walk through" and take photos of the exterior. Follow suggestions for improvements, and you'll soon be enjoying many visits from potential buyers and then a "picture perfect" sale!


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Bartlett plans Christmas weekend

The Bartlett Chamber of Commerce cordially invites Salado and the surrounding communities to their annual Downtown Christmas Dec. 16-17.

According to Hollye Davis, Chair of the event, "the stores will be open for refreshments, drawings, and, of course, great shopping. Carolers will be singing and Bartlett residents will greet visitors. This is a small town, down-home event where Bartlett wishes friends and neighbors "Happy Holidays."

The schedule of events is as follows:

Dec. 16:
6-9 p.m. - The Christmas Stroll

Dec. 17
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - the arrival of Santa at 140 E. Clark Street (Main Street) for children's' pictures. The Chamber of Commerce is giving a free 4X5 picture with Santa to every child that attends.

The Christmas Stroll continues.

"We really hope all our surrounding neighbors come and share the Christmas spirit with us," concluded Davis. "It just would not be a complete Holiday Season without having the opportunity to greet and welcome Salado, Holland, Jarrell, Granger, Georgetown, and all the other communities around us."

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SPORTS

Eagles drop two in home tourney

The Salado Varsity cagers entered the Coach Smith Memorial Tournament boasting a 7-2 record, having already notched several impressive wins over state-ranked opponents.

And judging by their opening-round dismantling of Rosebud-Lott, which had Salado winning handily, 78-40, prospects looked good for Salado to make a run through the hometown tourney. But a second-round loss to Class 2A number 16 Brock, and another to Class 3A number 13 Liberty Hill saddled Salado with a fourth-place tournament finish.

In round one, though, it was all Eagles, as Ryan Clark poured in 17 of his game-high 26 points in the first half to pave the way for the Salado rout over Rosebud-Lott.

Salado exploded out of the gates, scoring 34 points in the first quarter - from eight different players - while surrendering just 11 to the Cougars. That opening frame established the pattern for the game, with Salado

cruising for the remaining three periods to earn the win.

Aside from Clark, two other Eagles also finished in double figures, with Garrett Askins scoring 11 and Slayt Ebeling coming through with 10.

Also scoring were Tanner Myers, eight, and Blake Newman, seven. Chris Redman, Clay Sharum and Justin Konzen all scored four points, and Chad Tumey and Justin Pruitt had two.

Moving on to face Brock - the eventual tournament champions - Salado mustered only nine first quarter points, which put them behind early, leading to a double-digit defeat. Clark's 17 points led the Eagles, while Newman had seven and Askins and Noah Harbison both scored six.

Following the loss to Brock, Salado moved on to face Liberty Hill - a club they had upset on the road earlier in the season. In this game, the Panthers exacted a measure of revenge, dominating the

SEE EAGLES, PAGE 7A

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Eagles

Eagles to the tune of a 72-51 final.

With Clark limited to just two points on a pair of free throws in the first half, the Eagles were still in striking distance entering the third, trailing by nine, 36-27. But in the third Liberty Hill's offense ignited for 22 points and the Panther lead increased to 16 going into the fourth. The deficit proved to be too much for the young Eagles to overcome, however, as Salado fell by 21. Harbison paced the Salado offense with 13, while Askins had 11 and Tumey 10. Although Clark was held to a season-low six points, he was the lone Eagle represented on the all-tournament team, having averaged 16.3 ppg in three games.

Prior to the Salado tournament, the Eagles took the road to face Troy Dec. 6 and came away with a 49-32 victory.

Salado broke a close game open in the second

with 17 points, and went to the half leading 27-16. Clark had 19 of his game-high 29 in the first half.

Troy fought back in the third period, however, shaving seven points off the Salado lead to trail by just four entering the fourth. In the final frame, though, the Eagle defense tightened up, holding the Trojans to just two free throws to seal the win.

Behind Clark's 29 was Justin Pruitt, who came through with nine points. Askins scored five, while Myers, Newman and Tumey all had two points.

The Eagle's overall record is now 8-4.

Junior Varsity

The JV Eagles have played just one game recently, that coming against Troy, but it was a good one from Salado's standpoint, as the Eagles defeated the Trojans 30-26 Dec. 6. Stephen Quick led the boys with seven points, and Nick Seawood scored six.



Salado's Slayt Ebeling skies for a rebound in the Eagles' tilt with Rosebud-Lott in the first round of the Coach Smith Memorial Tournament. Salado would win 78-40. (PHOTO BY CHRIS MCGREGOR)

FROM PAGE 6A

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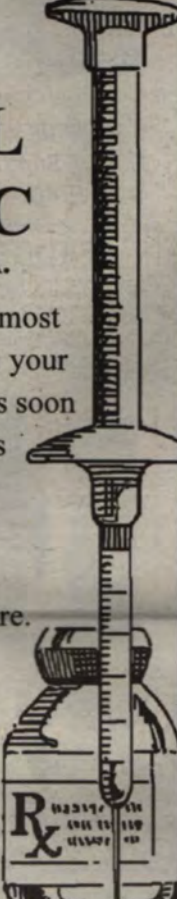
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Tamra Stanish looks for an opening in the Clifton defense in Salado's 38-34 win over the Lady Cubs in the Coach Smith Memorial Tournament.

Lady Eagles win one, lose two in tourney

Drawing Clifton in the first round of the Coach Smith Invitational Tournament, the Salado Lady Eagles got off on the right foot, winning 38-34 in a defensive struggle. With both clubs encountering difficulties in establishing any sort of offensive continuity, the score was knotted at a modest 5-5 after the first quarter. In the second, the Salado offense got going, scoring 14 points, including nine from Kristen Smith, to lead at the half 19-15. From that point on, Salado was able to keep Clifton at arm's length, which was enough to secure the four-point win. Smith's 14-point effort topped all scorers, while Tamra Stanish chipped in with six and Kelsey Gobin had five. Salado then moved on to face the squad that eliminated them from last year's playoffs - Navarro. And similar to last season, the Lady Eagles had trouble containing Navarro post Mallory Moeller, who scored 18 of her team's 36 total points in a five-point victory. Salado can take some consolation in the fact they had Navarro, a team that was 13-0 entering the game, on the ropes in the second half. Leading 20-16 going into the third, the Lady Eagles pushed the lead to five after three, nursing a 29-25 advantage. But in the fourth, the Lady Eagle offense disappeared, as two free throws from Gobin accounted for Salado's only points. Navarro would score 12 in the final frame to escape with the win. Kate Marshall and Gobin both scored 10 for Salado. With the loss, the Lady Eagles dropped into the consolation bracket, where they faced Class 3A Manor and were defeated 50-39. Another sluggish start on offense put Salado at an early disadvantage from which they were not able to recover. Leading 10-5 at the start of the second, Manor scored 19 to Salado's 14 to gain a 29-19 halftime lead. Though the Lady Eagles played Manor even through the third, the girls could not erase the double-digit deficit. Gobin finished the game with 13 points, and Nicole Weatherly came through with 11. Also scoring were Stanish, six, Mary Runyon, four, Kristen Smith, three and Lauren Haire, two. Prior to tournament play, the Lady Eagles traveled to Waco Dec. 6 to face Texas Christian Academy. TCA used a strong first half to stake themselves to a 26-14 lead that would hold up for the remainder of the game, as TCA eventually pulled away for a 57-41 victory. Gobin scored 13 in the loss, leading Salado.

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Truck traffic topic tonight

Salado aldermen will discuss regulating construction trucks on residential streets as well as renovation of the new municipal building at their 6:30 p.m. Dec. 15 meeting at the Municipal Building on Stagecoach Rd.

Aldermen are mulling a plan to require construction trucks to register with the Village of Salado and use approved routes to new development within the village.

Aldermen first examined the issue in 2002 and received an opinion from Bovey, Akers and Bojorquez, law firm for the Village.

The Village adopted a Subdivision Ordinance, which requires a construction road for certain subdivisions. The new expansions of Mill Creek have a paved construction road to provide access to them without large trucks traveling on residential streets, such as Chisholm Trail and Smith Branch.

However, citizens have complained to the Village that the trucks are not using the construction road and are instead traveling at unsafe speeds on already-existing narrow residential streets in Mill Creek.

While the Subdivision Ordinance includes the requirement for construction roads for some subdivisions, there currently is no accompanying enforcement codes or plans for large trucks that do not use the construction road.

Aldermen are researching a plan to address the expressed need to keep the heavy trucks off neighborhood streets.

In other business Dec. 15, aldermen will continue to discuss the renovation of the new municipal building. The board set aside \$125,000 for renovation of the 3,000 sq. ft. former Salado Funeral Home for municipal purposes.

Aldermen will also discuss the possible purchase of a tractor with loader

and other attachments. Currently, Denver Mills allows the Village to use his backhoe and front end loader for repairs and maintenance of the Village streets and roads.

Aldermen set aside \$30,000 for the purchase of a tractor and loader.

The Village contracts with Horace "Shorty" Kelley on an hourly basis for the repairs of Village streets and street signs, using community service workers from Bell County on the weekends. The Village contracts with Bell County for the paving and resurfacing of Village streets.

The board will also consider a request from Summers Mill to be brought into the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the Village. The property lies just outside the school district boundaries, which is the agreed-upon limit for considering ETJ inclusion

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Salado Family Music Night set Dec. 16 at FBC

The music ministry of the First Baptist Church of Salado presents A Salado Family Music Night at Christmas at 6 p.m. Dec. 18 at the church.

Every music group of the church will be performing your Christmas favorites. The children's choir, Made4Praise will be singing. The youth choir, Xtreme4Christ will

be singing selections from their 2006 Re-Build New Orleans Mission Tour show. You'll hear holiday favorites such as Do You Hear What I Hear, and Mary Did You Know from the FBC Worship Choir.

Along with the choirs, you hear from ensembles such as Crossed Timbers, Joyful Hearts, The Gospel 4, and Ceaseless Praise

as they sing your favorite gospel Christmas songs.

"For the very first time, you'll enjoy the contemporary sounds of the Church Street Band playing some of your Christmas favorites," said music minister Randy Carder. "Don't miss this fun evening of listening to and singing our beloved Christmas songs."

Brian Dunks is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Salado and Carder is the Music Minister.

This event is free and everyone in the Central Texas area is invited to attend.

For more information, call 947-5465 or click on www.fbcshalado.org.

Methodists plan Advent, Christmas activities

The Salado United Methodist Church (at 650 Royal) invites the community to share in the events during Advent and Christmas. Pastor Brittain encourages the church and community to support "Family relief" during the Christmas season. Family Relief will use the house he owns at 100 N. Church Street as the collection and gathering place for Christmas Gift distribution on Dec. 17.

"The Blue Crowns" will perform their contemporary Christmas music on at 5 p.m. Dec. 17.

Kevin Yeoman noted for his look and sound alike to Elvis Presley will present original as well as favorite Christmas carols with his band. The group will help get you in the mood for Christmas.

All members and children are invited to a Sunday School sponsored family caroling for shut-

ins as well as neighborhoods at 4 p.m. Dec. 18. Two flatbed trailers will carry carolers on the hayride as they sing. The carolers will return for homemade chili and tamales and desserts at 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Service will be at 5 p.m. Communion will be served. The service will conclude with candles and singing "Silent Night" at the historic sanctuary now moved to the new church

site at 650 Royal. All persons in the community are invited to come.

On Christmas Day and New Year's Day the church will have one worship service at 10 a.m. The Christmas service will feature carols, the Christmas story from Scripture, and other presentations of music and story. During December the church also collects money for Methodist Children's Home of Waco.

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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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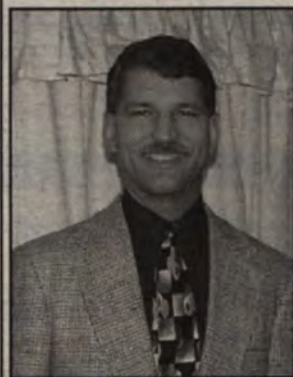


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Sunday Morning Service • Dec. 18, 2005

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Alice Wells, director of Book-Friends, Inc., says that new books or money to purchase new books may be mailed to Book-Friends, P.O. Box 913, Salado, TX, 76571. One hundred per-

cent of all money donated will be used to purchase books. All work on the Christmas Project is done by volunteers. Children on the Christmas list are between the ages of six months and 17 years. If you have books you wished to be picked up locally, call Alice at Royal Street Provision, 947-3350.

Gently used books may also be donated to Book-Friends to help establish and maintain libraries at family shelters in the area.

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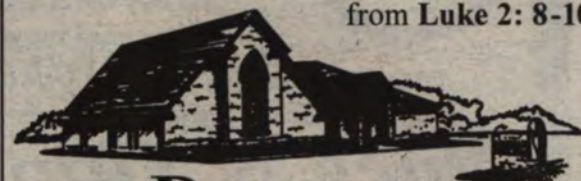
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"There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them,... the angel said, Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

from Luke 2: 8-10



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"In Service to our fellow man..."

Celebrate!

Christian group meets every Wed. to help people overcome addictions, other issues

For those with alcohol, drug or other addictions, the holidays can seem like a hopeless time of broken promises to self and others. Without a support group, it can be an even more daunting time.

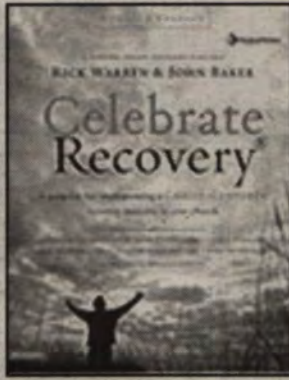
Celebrate Recovery is a group of individuals who want to help those with life issues and behaviors not limited to addictions.

Celebrate Recovery - a Christian 12-step program -- meets at First Baptist Church of Salado 6-7:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

Celebrate Recovery meets at more than 3,000 churches worldwide. It uses teaching principles from the Beatitudes (Mat. 5:1-12) and the traditional 12 steps of recovery and curriculum developed originally at Saddleback Church, pastored by Rick Warren.

The first Celebrate Recovery group was started by a recovering alcoholic, John Baker, to offer a Christian alternative to Alcoholics Anonymous. Over the past decade, the original program has worked with individuals dealing with many life issues besides addiction to alcohol or drugs. Other 'hurts, habits, and hang-ups' have responded favorably to the Celebrate Recovery program including loss issues from death or divorce, codependency, abuse, depression, and eating disorders.

Celebrate Recovery is a program that emphasizes personal responsibility and day-to-day spiritual growth. Volunteers working in this local Celebrate Recovery program have



Celebrate Recovery book

personally experienced God's healing power in their lives and now share their experiences with others through words and example.

First Baptist Church is located at 210 South Main Street, Salado, Texas. For further information call 947-5465.

For more information on Celebrate Recovery see www.celebraterecovery.com.

LeTourneau will read from "My Vietnam Conflicts"

Due to recent inclement weather, scheduled programs from Saladoan Paul Letourneau on his new book, "My Vietnam Conflicts," have been rescheduled.

Letourneau will lead

two engagements, both of which are free and open to the public, 7 p.m. Dec. 19 and 20 at the Salado Civic Center. His program will consist of talk about his book, as well as selected readings from it.

"My Vietnam Conflicts" is a first-hand chronicle of Letourneau's experiences as a soldier in Vietnam. He will offer copies of the book for sale on both nights.

Christmas Cheer at Salado Library

The Salado Public Library will host a holiday program titled "Christmas Cheer," 11 a.m. Dec. 17.

The program will be appropriate for children and adults, and will include music and Christmas readings. It will be given by Salado students, among them local actress Rebecca Petro.

Refreshments will be provided by the library, and the program is free and open to the public.

Justice of Peace sets Open House on Dec. 21

Justice of the Peace Pct. 2, Don Engleking and his staff will host an annual Holiday open house for the residents of Precinct 2, 3 p.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 21.

The come-and-go open house will be held at the Holland office located at 102 W. Travis.

Judge Engleking and his staff extend an invitation to all they serve to come and celebrate the season with them.

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- 11/13 Mary Street
- 11/19 Blacksmith & Kevlin
- 11/27 Blacksmith & Church

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Alice Willson, Chairman of Community Services, for the Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary is shown at right presenting a check to Salado Fire Chief Wayne Rutherford. This check is given as a result of the Auxiliary's annual Christmas in October proceeds. Chief Rutherford thanked the Auxiliary for their continued support of the Department. Funds will go toward the purchase of needed equipment



Bright lights for foster kids

Lighthouse Family Network, which provides foster care placement, is asking the community to help a child this Christmas. Lighthouse Family Network is a Christian Child Placing Agency providing therapeutic foster care to abused approximately 80 children in this area.

"This time of year can be very trying on these special families and their budgets. So we want to help!" said Karen Wistrand, with the Salado office. "We

are asking anyone in our community who has a desire to encourage and support our kids to join together as a community to make a difference in the Christmas of some of the Lighthouse children."

Lighthouse Network has placed a Bright Light Christmas tree in the local office lobby. Printed on each ornament is a child's name, age, and, in most cases, a specific Christmas wish list.

They ask you to consider selecting a child's Christmas wish ornament,

purchase a gift and return the unwrapped gift (with ornament attached) to the Lighthouse office (located in the Salado Plaza shopping center; 213 Mill Creek Drive #175, Salado) by no Dec. 22.

The Lighthouse Family Network staff will deliver the gifts to the various foster families before Christmas.

Lighthouse Family Network is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Mud Pies Pottery



Bring some color to your home with Titia's new red-glazed hand-thrown pottery. Perfect for Fall and holiday tables.

Rebates

FROM PAGE 1A

\$1.58 billion in sales tax in November, up 9.4 percent compared to November 2004. December sales tax allocations to local governments rose by \$50.8 million, or 15.8 percent, compared to December 2004. Sales tax allocations are up 19 percent in 22 counties that were declared disaster areas following

Hurricane Rita.

Strayhorn sent \$372.4 million in December sales tax allocations to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, up 15.8 percent compared to last December.

Texas cities received \$252.8 million in sales tax allocations, up 15.8 per-

cent compared to December 2004. Texas counties received December sales tax allocations of \$21.8 million, up 17.2 percent compared to one year ago. The 103 special purpose taxing districts around the state received \$10.6 million in sales tax, up 22.5 percent compared to last December.

Relief

FROM PAGE 1A

living in poverty in Salado increases.

According to the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report for Salado I.S.D. for the 2004-05 school year, 23.9 percent of the students attending Salado schools are considered "Economically

Disadvantaged." To be considered economically disadvantaged, a student must be enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program in the schools.

At Thomas Arnold Elementary, there were 126 economically disadvantaged students, or 32.6 percent of the total campus population. Salado Intermediate School had 90 economically disadvantaged students, or 23.6 percent of its total population. Salado High School had only 57 economically disadvantaged students, or 15.2 percent of the total campus population. Superintendent Robin Battershell said she attributes this declining number of economically disadvantaged students at the upper grade levels to an unwillingness to apply for the free and reduced lunch programs.

Administrators say that

they know families with children in high school and elementary that have only the younger students on the free and reduced lunch program. "It's a matter of pride," Dr. Battershell said, not of changing economics.

The 203 children who the Family Relief Fund is helping this year are only part of the poverty within the community.

If you want to help touch the life of a child here in Salado, contact Leigh Drake, president of Salado Family Relief Fund, at 947-0128.

Donations of money will be greatly appreciate to restock the coffers of the Family Relief Fund which relies on community support and its annual fund-raiser, the Empty Bowl Project in November to fund its work throughout the year.

Fraud

FROM PAGE 1A

Bell County. The surefire way of not accepting a counterfeit bill is to use a special marker that changes color when the bill is fake. The markers are available at most office supplies.

Finally, if your wallet

or purse goes missing, report the loss immediately to your banks and credit card companies rather than hoping that it will show up.

Remember what your mom told you as a child: "Better safe than sorry."

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Salado Village Guide

Shopping Map
Pages 6-7B

Section B Salado Village Voice

December 15, 2005

12 Pages Shopping, Dining, Overnight, Events

Spur also plans New Year's party Do You Hear What I Hear? is final show of '05 for Salado's Silver Spur Theater

WSPR is on the air!
Dec. 16-18 is the final weekend for the Salado Silver Spur's holiday show, Do You Hear What I Hear?

This family show, with the Spur's trademark blend of live vaudeville-style variety acts on stage and classic cinema on the screen, is presented in the style of a live broadcast from the golden age of radio. The show features the Spur's holiday hooligans on stage with live music and yuletide yuks, along with classic Christmas cartoons and a special holiday episode of The Cop and the Anthem, starring Red Skelton. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., along with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

For more information or reservations call (254) 947-3456, or visit www.aladosilverspur.com.

The Spur is also offering a New Year's Eve package which includes dinner at StageCoach Inn, the Salado Silver Spur Follies, and dancing to the music of A Touch of Class. "It's sure to be more fun than you've had all year with food, fun, and frolic," said Penny Esch, of the Silver Spur.

For more information, and to make reservations, call (254) 947-3456.

The Silver Spur is located at 108 Royal Street, the renovated Guest and Sanford Granary, in historic downtown Salado. Reviving a bygone era, the Silver Spur offers live vaudeville acts, live music, and classic cinema.



Penny & Grainger Esch making a joyful noise at the Salado Silver Spur Theater.

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Salado Civic Center Foundation announces plans for auction

The Salado Civic Center Foundation's Board of Directors recently voted to reinstate the Civic Center Annual Auction and set March 18 as the date for the special event. According to Civic Center planners, the popular event will be held at the Salado Intermediate School starting with a "great meal" at 6 p.m. with the auction to begin immediately thereafter.

Foundation President Lloyd Parks noted that three years ago the board decided to give the auction a "break" and try other means of fund rais-

ing. At that time there were many other auctions taking place, and it was feared that even the Civic Center's entertaining and well-attended activity needed a rest.

Parks stated: "We have decided that it's time to reinstate the auction due in large part to popular demand as well as the need to raise additional funds to continue our on-going maintenance program as well as keep up with the rising costs of operating the village's busiest community center."

"The Civic Center has served the community

for the past 12 years as a gathering place for groups, clubs and other activities throughout the year - with the number increasing this past year to nearly 400 meetings of local organizations and other groups of all sizes. The 2005 rate of occupancy appears to be headed for an all-time record. All of these meetings for local groups are provided at no cost, hence the need for additional funds to provide the utilities, clean-up and maintenance to keep the building clean, comfort-

SEE AUCTION, PAGE 12B



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What's happening around

DECEMBER 15
Salado Area Republican Women meeting, 11:30 a.m. at Mill Creek Restaurant. A speaker

from Families in Crisis will provide the program. Info: 947-3617.
DECEMBER 15
Cooking class at The

Range: Great Winter Desserts. Info: www.therangerrestaurant.com.
DECEMBER 16

St. Stephen Catholic Church Christmas Dinner.
DECEMBER 16-18

Salado Silver Spur Theater presents *Do You Hear What I Hear*, with lots of Christmas and holiday fun. Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16-17 and 2 p.m. Dec. 17-18. Info: 254-947-3456 or www.saladosilverspur.com.
DECEMBER 17

Salado Public Library hosts a "Christmas Cheer" program of family entertainment. Program will feature Christmas readings and music given by Salado students. Time: 11 a.m. Refreshments provided by the library. Free and open to the public. Info: 947-9191.

DECEMBER 19
Music in Salado, Texas, Inc. members only Annual Christmas Party, at the home of Barbara and John Robertson.
DECEMBER 19 & 20
Saladoan Paul Letourneau will present a program and offer readings from his newly published book, "My Vietnam Conflicts," 7 p.m. both nights at the Salado Civic Center. Free and open to the public.
DECEMBER 31

Second Annual New Year's Eve at the Salado Silver Spur Theater. Info: 254-947-3456 or www.saladosilverspur.com.
2006
JANUARY 6
St. Stephen Women's Society meeting, with Judy Greene presenting her monologue, "Esther, Woman of the Bible," followed by refreshments. 6:30 p.m. in the church Parish Hall.
JANUARY 9

Salado High School Fall Athletic Banquet, recognizing football, cross country and volleyball, 7 p.m. at Salado Intermediate School. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Info: Salado High School, 947-5429.
JANUARY 15

Salado Wedding and Event Showcase, 1-5 p.m.

Exhibitor, Tasting and Bed and Breakfast Tour; 5-6 p.m. reception at the Stagecoach Inn. Admission: \$15. Info: Salado Chamber of Commerce, 254-947-5040.
JANUARY 17

Teacup Tuesday meeting, Program: A talk on new spring fashions by Ron Leguin of Susan Maries, 9:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Salado.
JANUARY 19
Thomas Arnold Elementary/PTO Dads and Donuts morning, 7-7:45 a.m. at the school. Info: 947-5191.
JANUARY 26

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

Salado Area Republican Women's Candidates Forum, 6 p.m. at Mill Creek Restaurant. Dinner included. Info: 254-947-3617.
FEBRUARY 4

Salado ISD School Bond election. Polls open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.
FEBRUARY 4
Wildfire Open to the World team roping at

Wildfire Ranch. Details TBA.
FEBRUARY 11-12

St. Stephen's Women's Society Valentine Bake Sale. 6:30 p.m. Feb 11 and noon-1 p.m. Feb. 12 in the church's Marian Room. Everyone welcome.
FEBRUARY 13

St. Stephen's Women's Society meeting. Topic: Women's Health, "Prevention and Early Detection of Cancer," 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen Parish Hall.
FEBRUARY 21

Teacup Tuesday meeting, Program: "Early Childhood Memories" by Patsy Sanford and friends, 9:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church.
MARCH 18

Salado Civic Center Auction and Dinner honoring Wilbur and Jessie Foster, 6 p.m. at Salado Intermediate School. Tickets: \$10 per person. Info: 947-8300.
MARCH 21

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

Salado Historical Society general meeting, 6:15 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.
APRIL 1-2

Annual Wildflower Art Show. More details TBA. Info: Salado Chamber of Commerce, 254-947-5040.
APRIL 7

Thomas Arnold Elementary/PTO Moms and Muffins morning, 7-7:45 a.m. at the school. Info: 947-5191.
APRIL 8

Chisholm Trail ABWA Style Show, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mill Creek Restaurant. Info: 254-947-3617.
APRIL 18

Teacup Tuesday meeting, Program: "History Mysteries" by author, historian and Salado-resident Charlie Turnbo, 9:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church.
APRIL 22

Third Annual Salado Dog Daze, in Pace Park. Details TBA.
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 16

Teacup Tuesday meeting, "Tea, Talk and Togetherness" luncheon at Stagecoach Inn.
JULY 4

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

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TAE Santa letters

Continuing a series begun last week, Salado Village Voice is publishing letters to Santa Claus written by Thomas Arnold Elementary third graders. This week is the second installment of three.

Mrs. Dobbins' Class

Dear Santa,

How are you and your wife? Are you reindeer good? I've been good in school. The thing I want most is a game cube and a game cube chip. Would you give dale a chip so we can play two games? I hope you have a good vacation.

Sean Clement

Dear Santa,

How are you doing with the raindeer? I been a good boy I can't wait until christmas start! I will liked to have a trampoline. For my mom she wants a new puppy. Wrap it up with my name on it! I hope you have a good christmas!

Tyler Leguin

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Claus? Are you preparing for Christmas? I have been kind of good this year. Christmas has always been my favorite holiday. This year I want a new t.v. because mine is puny and doesn't work good. I would also like a portable DVD player. My brother, Kyle wants a mini-bike because he's into that stuff. I hope you have a safe trip.

Ryan Bradley

Dear Santa,

How are your raindeer? I have been such a good boy this year. I have been waiting everyday. Sens I have been such a good boy I deserve a laptop computer. I also deserve a new t.v. I also deserve a new puppy. My mom deserves a day at the spa. My dad deserves not to go to Iraq. My sister deserves a new t.v. Santa I wish I could see you soon.

Magnum

Dear Santa,

How have you been? Have you been getting ready for Christmas? I hope your elves have been working hard. I've been a good girl and good student this year! I would like a trampoline net so me and my dad can fix the trampoline you gave me last year. I also want some pixter cartridges. I have allready played all of the game you gave me last year. My mom would like lots of bath and body works stuff, so she can use

it at night. I hope you have a good Merry Christmas.

Taylor Atwood

Dear Santa,

How "R" you and Mrs. Claus? I've been a good person this year. For example, I helped my brother with 9th grade math homework. I was thinking maybe a 45" Plazma screen TV with some speakers, but what I really want is a X Box 360.

Michael

Dear Santa,

Is it cool at the north pole? I have been mad to my brother. But I think I should still get a present because I got a 100 on a spelling test. I wish for a XBox 360. I want a XBox because it's cool. I also want a fourweeler so I can go fast.

Edgar Castillo

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been good this yea. I want Bratz cherleaders, Bratz cherleders outfits, close, shoes, earrings, rubberbands and hairckleps. Please bring my mom some new iron pans to use on our new stove.

Jessica James

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs.

Claus doing? and how are your rein deer doing? Tell the rein deer that I Love them. I think I have been very very good. I have been helping the neighbors watch the kids. I think I have earend a present like an electric scooter, I would like a digital camera. Maybe some PJ's and a pupy that will stay small.

Darby Baker

Dear Santa,

How is Mrs. Claus and rudoph and the rest of the reindeir. This year I went to state and came in second. We lost to the Bulldogs. What I want for cristmas is a Xbox 360. I also want cristian to have one to. Have a merry cristmas santa.

Jacob Quick

Dear Santa,

How are you? When you come can you bring a truck and a big tv? please Santa. Please bring my dad new boots.

Josue

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? This year I have been a good kid. I deserve a game called Nicktoons Unite! My mom deserves a massage chair. Hope you have a


CONTINUED ON PAGE 4B

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Dear Santa,
How are Mrs. Claus and you? How was your summer vaction? Mine was great. I have been a good boy this year. What I want for chirstmas is a trampoline game for my

game cube. Buy the way my go cart that you gave me last year. Can you fix it for me? Can you make a gift for my cousin?
Bryant Lienbe

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? Did you have a good summr? I have been very good and bad. I would like a swimming pool to swim at at summertime. For Mrs. Dobbins I want her to get a year of school off. She is a very very very very good person.
Tashtoni Carter

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? Have you had a good year? I've had a good year. I've been a good girl this year. I think I deserve some present. I would like a spy kit. I can do some awesome stuff. I would like a bike too. Because mine is too small. I need you to get my parents a new labtop. Get my brother a little car colection. Well I can't wait untill Christmas!
Robin Kelley

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Clause? And of course the reindeer. I have been a little naughty but mostly good. I really want Hillary Duff's new c.d. called Most Wanted. I also want Jessie Mcartney's c.d. called Beautiful Soul. Why? Because I would die for his music. The final thing I want is two mice. Why? Because they are so darn cute! I think Robin and Beca deserve a gift for beeing such good friends. I think they should get a locket with a picture of all three of us. They should get it so we will rember

each other forever. Thank you so much!
P.S. I got glasses.
Ashely Beasley

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How are the raindeer and how is Mrs. Claus? Is she great? I do no now if I've ben good but you know if I've been bad or nice. This is going to be a great Crisitmas I know it. I would want a super man toy. Please bring a batman toy for my brother. I hope you have a good Crisitmas.
Cody Brown.

Dear Santa,
How has your day been going to day. I have bean nice to my family. I have always wished for a swimmingpool because my nana had a swimmingpool when I was little. I also wished for a disney channel cds because I love to dance. My sister also wanted a scooder with a motter and a seat. I hope you have a fun next year.
Rebecca Carol

Dear Santa,
How are you? Has Roodof been good? Can I have a kareoke and six bunnys. Has your summer been good. Mrs. Santa can you get my mom and dad Cowboy Troys cds?
Kaitlyn White

Dear Santa,
How are you and your wife? I been good!?! I been OK!?! I would like like a starwars video game. And a LEGO starwars ship. Sean needs 1,000,000 bucks! Please eat my cookies.
Preston Weaver

Dear Santa,
How is every one in the North Pole? Hopefully they're fine. How are you? I have been a good enough girl to have a few presents. For Christmas I want a DVD player. I have

lots of DVD's. I want a computer so I can play games on it. Also when I'm in 5th grade I can use to do my homework. Last I want a kareeoke machine. I think my mom deserves a massage chair. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.
Kaylan Brown

Mrs. Van Winkle's Class

Dear Santa,
How was your year. Are the elf werking hard. How is the reindeer. Is Mrs. Clous OK. I hope you be carful on the sleae. May I have a trampoline and a sparkle pars. I thank I've been good this year. My-mom wans perfyoom. You could give someone that has that has nothing.
Be carful Santa.
Bethany Cheatham

Dear Santa,
How is the elfs dow-ing? I have bin good as I can Santa. Santa will you giv me a x-box for crismis please. I wud licke sut-ing speshl for my mom to mace her happy please.
Nick Barnes

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Rudolph? I wish I could see your sleah. I have been good. Please can you get me 5 things. 1. Furby. 2. A art set. 3. A marble calekehen. 4. Chapter books to read and number 5 a tank for my turtle. And one more thing for the victims of the herakane...money.
Kayli Jo Beck

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Have you had a good year? How are the reindeer doing? Me and my sister are trying to get along. We have been better about not fighting this year. For Christmas I would like

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10B



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SVA installs officers

The Salado Village Artists held their annual Christmas Party Dec. 6 at the Inn at Salado. Attended by approximately 50 of the membership with their guests, the party honored the newly elected officers to the governing board of the SVA.

Outgoing president, Caralen Rose, spoke of the accomplishments of the Salado art club over the past year, including several workshops given by nationally known art teachers, sponsoring contests and shows for area youths, and holding juried art shows for the membership. There were also classes taught by the members in areas of painting and drawing. Informative talks and demonstrations on subjects like photography, decorative stamping, painting techniques, and art history were also provided and enjoyed.

The Salado Village Artists is unique in the fact that the members are skilled in a variety of artistic accomplishments. The artists are variably proficient in painting, drawing, sculpting, photography, sewing, quilt-



Members of the Salado Village Artists gathered at the Inn at Salado for their annual Christmas party.

ing, crafting, and even cooking.

The new officers, who were installed by Jack Hardin, are Bonnie Armstrong as president, Gwen Morrison as vice president, Carol Strong as treasurer, and Debbie Martin as secretary. New members to the board elected for two year terms are Ivy Rollins, Carolyn Chavers, Silvia Hodges and Mardie Barnard.

The Salado art group meets every Tuesday of

the month at 9:30 a.m. in the art building behind the Civic Center on Main Street. Membership is

open to anyone interested in learning, sharing, and creating artistic endeavors.

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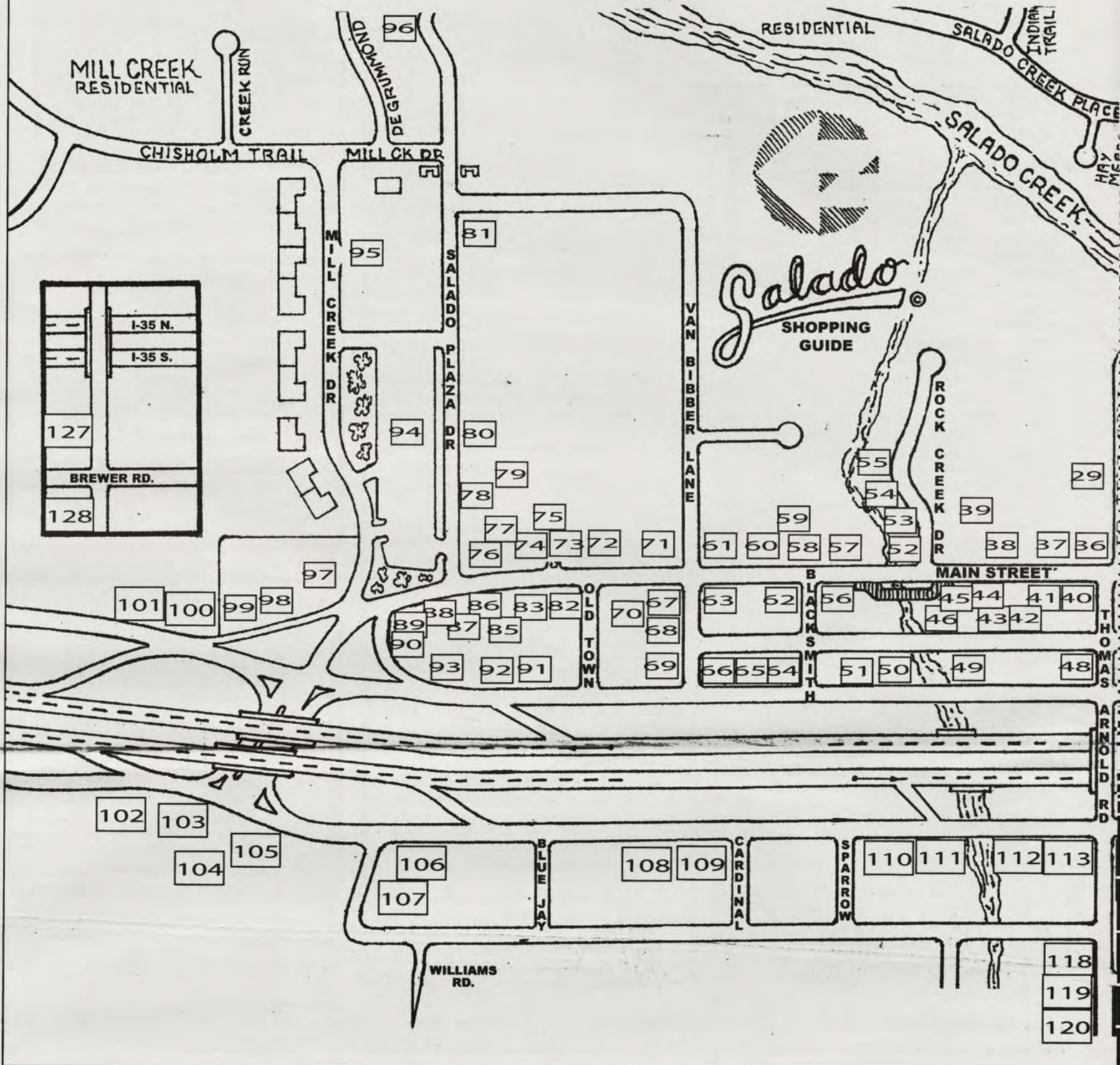
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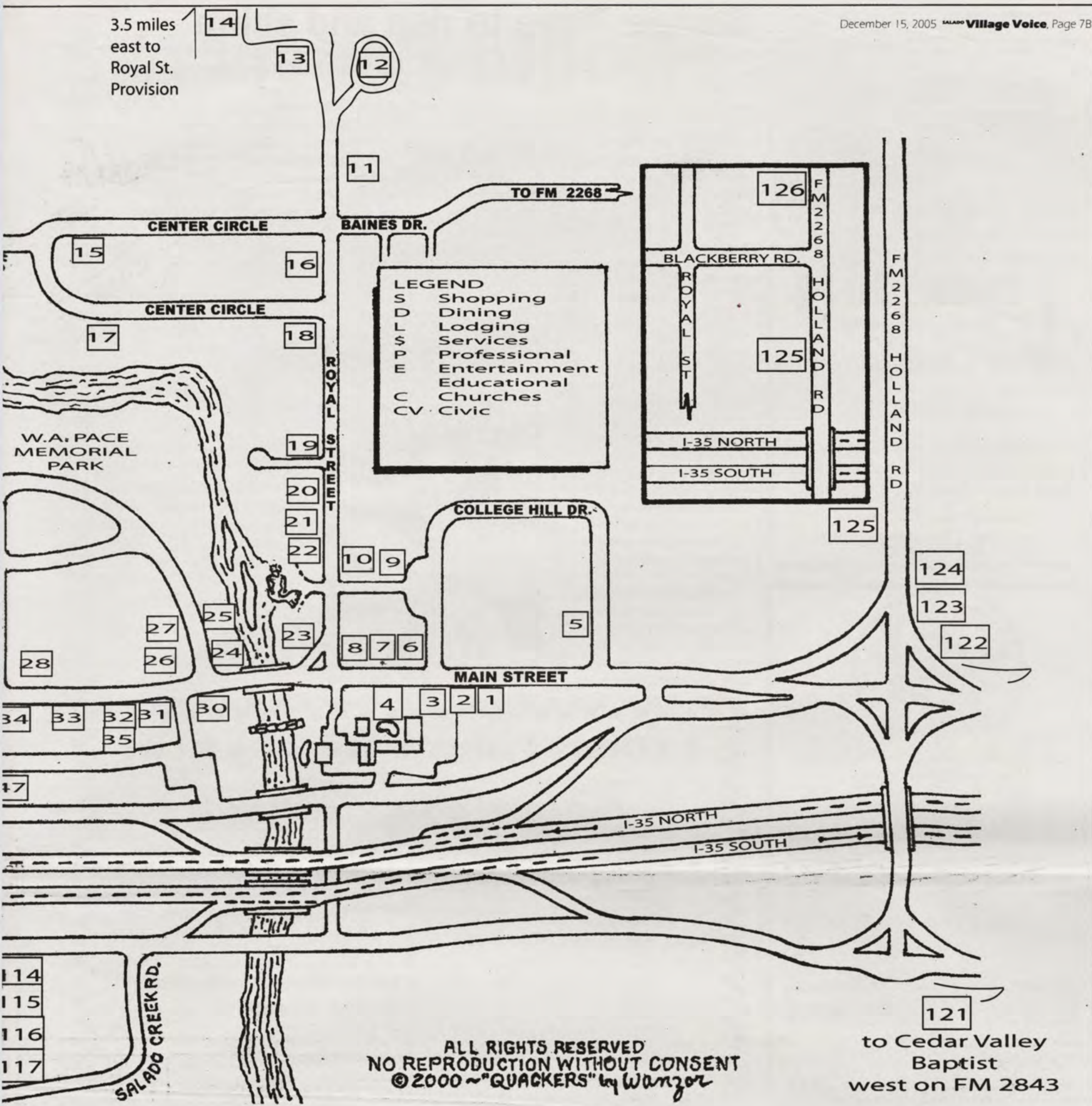
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4. Stagecoach Inn	254/947-5111	D,L	22. Salado Silver Spur Theatre	254/947-3456	E	40. Family Dentistry	254/947-5242	P
5. Stone Creek Settlements	254/947-9099	L	24. Accents of Salado	254/947-5908	S	Dr. Douglas B. Willingham		
6. Central Texas Area Museum	254/947-5232	E	25. Leigh's Necessities			42. Mud Pies Pottery	254/947-0281	S
7. Salado Galleries	254/947-5110	S	and Floral Creations	254/947-0128	S, \$	43. Southern Comforts	254/947-0595	S
8. SHADY VILLA			26. CREEKSIDE CENTER			Margrit's Shoe Chateau		S
Gregory's	254/947-5703	S	Prelop Fine Art Gallery	254/947-3930	S	44. Salado Haus	254/947-1868	S
Sweet Nut Things	254/947-8088	S	Susan Marie's	254/947-5239	S	45. Sweet Dreams	254/947-9200	S
10. Shyenne's of Salado	254/947-9215	S	29. Levi Tenney House B&B	254/947-1003	L	50. Salado Fire Department	254/947-8961	CV
11. Tablerock Amphitheatre	254/947-9205	E	30. First Baptist Church	254/947-5465	C	51. Salado Church of Christ	254/947-5241	CV
12. The Rose Mansion B&B	254/947-8200	L	31. Salado Mansion	254/947-5157	D	ROCK CREEK		
13. Salado United Methodist Church	254/947-5482	C	32. THE VERANDA			53. Splendors of Salado	254/947-3630	S
14. Tennille's Place	254/947-3811	S	First Texas Brokerage	254/947-5577	\$	54. Charlotte's of Salado	254/947-0240	S
(1 mile east on Royal)			33. First State Bank	254/947-5852	\$			
14. Royal Street Provision	254/947-3350	L	34. FIRST CENTRE at 40 N. Main			56. OLD CHURCH PLACE		
Country Inn			Chameleon Clothier	254/947-7104	S	The Front Row Emporium	254/947-5831	S
(3.5 miles east on Royal)			First Community Title	254/947-8480	\$	57. THE COLONY		
15. Friendship House B&B	254/947-3136	L	35. Salado Masonic Lodge #296		CV	Griffith Fine Art	254/947-3177	S
16. The Baines House B&B	254/947-5260	L	36. Christy's of Salado	254/947-0561	S	59. Watersong Massage	254/947-0042	P
17. Inn on the Creek B&B	254/947-5554	D,L	37. Inn at Salado	254/947-0027	L	61. SALADO CIVIC SQUARE		
CELEBRATION CENTER			38. SALADO SQUARE			Joe Read State Farm Agency	254/947-3599	\$
18. Botangles	254/947-4747	\$	Browning's Courtyard Cafe	254/947-8666	D	Properties by Larry Sands	254/947-5580	\$
Old Salado Springs Celebration			Carden's	254/947-0300	S	Uncommon Grounds Cafe	254/947-3354	D
Center and Retreat	254/947-5933	\$	Linda Rountree Pritchard	254/947-4263	P	62. Heirlooms	254/947-0336	S
19. Old Salado Springs			Main Street Place	254/947-9908	S	63. Seasons of Salado	254/947-4769	S
Guest Lodging	254/947-5933	L	39. The Range at the Barton House	254/947-3828	D	65. The Village of Salado	254/947-5060	CV
20. Springhouse Antiques	254-947-0747	S						



The Bluffs at Salado Creek

70. STAGESTOP RETAIL CENTER			80. Shabby Chic Designs & More	254/947-8350	S	111. Super 8 Motel	254/947-5000	D
Angelic Herbs	254/947-1909	S	81. Salado Sawmill	254/947-0137	S	115. Johnny's Steaks & Bar-Be-Que	254/947-4663	D
Southern Image Gallery	254/947-9478	S	The Timbers at Salado Sawmill	254/947-0137	L	116. Johnny's Texas Banquet Hall	254/947-4663	D
The Sewing Basket	254/947-5423	S	82. OLD TOWN SALADO			117. The Barber Barn	254/421-5173	\$
71. SALADO CIVIC CENTER			Cathy's Boardwalk Cafe	254/947-8162	D	118. Thomas Arnold	254/947-5191	E
Salado Civic Center	254/947-8300	CV	Texan by Design	254/947-4479	S	119. Salado Intermediate	254/947-1700	E
Chamber of Commerce	254/947-5040	CV	87. Century 21 Bill Bartlett Real Estate		\$	120. Salado High	254/947-5429	E
Historical Society		CV	254/947-5050			121. Cedar Valley Baptist Church	254/947-0148	C
SISD Administration	254/947-5479	E	88. The Personal Wealth Coach	254/947-1111	\$	122. Eagle Rock Ranch	254/947-5369	\$
Village Art Center			94. SALADO PLAZA			123. Wildfire Saddlery	254/947-8080	S
(on the grounds of Salado Civic Center)			Salado Village Voice	254/947-5321	\$	124. St. Stephen Catholic Church	254/947-8037	C
72. The Halley House	254/947-1000	L	Edward D. Jones	254/947-5128	\$	127. Grace Baptist Church of Salado	254/947-5917	C
73. CARRIAGE PLACE SQUARE			Monteith Abstract & Title Co.	254/947-3922	\$	128. Janelle's	254/947-3584	S
Before & After	254/947-5814	\$	Salado Chiropractic	254/947-BACK	P	Not shown on map		
			Salado Eye Care	254/947-LENS	P	The Event Center at Tenroc Ranch		
			Village Pharmacy	254/947-3185	\$	2 miles west of I-35 on Thomas Arnold Rd.		
			95. Willingham Agency			512/947-9218 \$		
			Nationwide Insurance	254/947-9003	\$	Your Salado business can find its place on this map and on the web with a weekly ad for just \$10. Call Salado Village Voice at 254/947-5321.		
74. ARCHANGEL ON MAIN			96. Mill Creek Golf & Country Club	254/947-5144	D,L			
Etrulia's	254/947-0504	S	97. Salado Public Library	254/947-9191	E			
Merle Norman Cosmetics	254/947-9993	S	98. Salado Cleaners	254/947-7299	\$			
Salado Wine Seller	254/947-8011	S	100. Village Realty	254/947-0342	\$			
76. ArchAngel Antiques & Architectural Salvage	254/947-5933	S	102. Robertson's Hams and The Choppin' Block	254/947-5562	S			
			104. Fairway Golf Carts	254/947-4065	S			
77. St. Joseph's Episcopal		C	108. Scissors Hair and Nails	254/947-9001	\$			
79. Presbyterian Church of Salado	254/947-8106	C						

Bridge: Time to rise and shine

By Steve Becker

Let's say you're declarer at three notrump and West leads the club five, which you win with the seven after East follows low. You play the king of hearts, but, naturally, the opponents don't take it.

This doesn't disturb you too much, because you next lead a low club, planning to finesse the ten and then set up dummy's heart suit. Assuming the club finesse works, which seems likely, you are sure of at least nine tricks.

Unfortunately, when you lead the two of clubs at trick three, West, a worthy adversary, plays the jack. This forces you to take the ace and, with the K-Q of clubs still in your hand, renders the ten useless as a subsequent entry. It therefore becomes pointless to establish the hearts.

So you play a diamond and finesse the queen, hoping to find East with the king and the suit divided 3-3. If this is the case, you would still have

a chance to make the contract. But West takes the queen with the king and returns a club. You struggle awhile, but eventually wind up down one, due largely to West's fine play of the jack of clubs.

Some time later, you think the hand over and realize you should have made the contract. It's too late then to do anything about it, but you add the deal to your store of experience and hope you won't ever repeat the error.

It all goes back to your play to the very first trick. Instead of winning the opening lead with the seven of clubs, you should have won it with the king! Then, after the king of hearts is refused, as expected, you can lead the two of clubs, intending to finesse the ten. Now it wouldn't matter whether or not West put up the jack of clubs, because if he did, the ten would become a second entry to dummy after the hearts were established.

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	6 3		
♥	Q J 10 9 4		
♦	7 5 2		
♣	A 10 3		
WEST		EAST	
♠	A 9	♥	Q 10 7 5 2
♥	7 5 2	♦	A 8 6 3
♦	K 10 8 4	♣	J 6
♣	J 9 8 5	♠	6 4
SOUTH			
♠	K J 8 4		
♥	K		
♦	A Q 9 3		
♣	K Q 7 2		

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	3NT	

Opening lead — five of clubs.

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Merry Christmas, Y'all

Cynthia (Mama) and I would like to thank all of those who have enlightened our day by coming into our restaurant and sharing their company with us. But, Guess What? **We will be closed December 14, 2005 to January 12, 2006** so that we can relax for a while and enjoy the holidays.

We would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Most of all, may God keep you and bless you through this holiday season.

David and Cynthia Appichino

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New takes on traditional holiday desserts

Orange Hazelnut Trifle

This trifle is best when it is prepared 8 to 24 hours in advance of serving. There are several steps to this recipe. Prepare the Orange Curd up to 2 days in advance. Layer the five components into a 6-quart glass serving dish. Have all of the components ready, and assembly will be a snap. And when you're done, it not only tastes great but also looks stunning as well.

Serves 8-10

Trifle

- orange curd (prepare in advance see recipe below)
- 9 oranges
- 1/2 lb shelled hazelnuts; toast, remove husks, finely chop
- 1 lb plain angel food cake, cut into 1-inch cubes
- sweetened whipping cream (prepare just before assembling Trifle; recipe below)

Orange Curd

- 8 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 2/3 cup fresh orange juice
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, cut in small pieces
- 1/4 cup Grand Marnier

Sweetened Whipped Cream

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 TB sugar
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract

Prepare orange curd in advance so it will be completely chilled.

Whisk eggs, sugar and orange juice together in a heavy saucepan. Place on stove over medium-high heat. Stirring constantly cook until the mixture thickens to the texture of pudding, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat, whisk in butter, then Grand Marnier. Transfer curd out of saucepan and refrigerate until chilled through.

Prepare trifle ingredients:

Cut away the top and bottom of each orange. Using a sharp knife, remove the skin of all the oranges and all of the white membrane on the surface. Remove each segment of orange without any of the membrane by using your knife to slice down on each side of each segment to free it from the membrane. Place orange segments in a bowl and set aside. Prepare sweetened whipped cream. Fold 1/3 of the orange curd into the sweetened whipped cream.

To assemble, layer the five components into a 6-quart glass bowl. (Before you begin, set aside 12 orange segments for garnishing later). Use 1/3 of the total of each of the 5 components, as you will be repeating the layers 3 times. Layer components into glass dish in this order: angel food cake, orange curd, orange segments, sweetened whipped cream, and hazelnuts. Repeat this two more times; use a spatula to spread ingredients evenly and to press ingredients down gently. Garnish the top of the Trifle with hazelnuts and remaining orange segments.

Prepare the sweetened whipped cream:

Using an electric mixer whip the cream until it begins to thicken, add sugar and vanilla. Continue whipping cream until it forms stiff peaks.

Nutrition Info: Per Serving (302g-wt.): 790 calories (410 from fat), 45g total fat, 19g saturated fat, 13g protein, 84g total carbohydrate (5g dietary fiber, 51g sugar), 260mg cholesterol, 420mg sodium

Chocolate Mint Pot de Creme

This take on the traditional French "pot of cream" features a minty, chocolaty flavor—ideal for the holidays. It is like a rich custardy version of mint hot chocolate and is great garnished with crushed peppermint sticks.

Serves 8

Pot de Crème

- 2 cups milk
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 1 12-ounce package semi sweet chocolate chips
- 3 eggs
- 3 egg yolks
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 TB peppermint flavor

Sweetened Whipped Cream

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 TB sugar
- 1/4 tsp vanilla

Using an electric mixer, whip the cream until it begins to thicken, add sugar and vanilla. Continue whipping cream until it forms stiff peaks.

Preheat oven to 325°F. Place eggs and egg yolks in a 2-quart bowl, whisk together and set aside. Place milk, heavy cream and sugar in a saucepan. Heat over medium-high heat until the milk mixture reaches 120°F. Stir in chocolate chips; continue stirring over heat until the chocolate is well combined. Remove pan from heat. Very slowly whisk the milk mixture into the eggs. You want to warm the eggs with the milk mixture slowly so as not to cook the eggs. Whisk in the peppermint flavor. Divide the Pot de Crème mixture into eight 6-ounce custard cups. Place the cups into a 2-inch-deep 13 X 9 inch baking pan. Carefully fill the pan with water, just

enough to come three-quarters of the way up the side of the cups. Cover the pan with foil; bake the Pot de Crème for 35-40 minutes, until almost firm. Remove from water bath; place a piece of plastic wrap directly on (and covering the surface of) each Pot de Crème to keep a skin from forming. Refrigerate until chilled through. Remove plastic wrap before serving and garnish each pot de crème with sweetened whipped cream.

The Pot de Crème can be made up to two days in advance. Sweetened Whipped Cream can be made up to 4 hours in advance of serving and kept chilled in the refrigerator until serving.

Nutrition Info: Per Serving (212g-wt.): 570 calories (400 from fat), 44g total fat, 26g saturated fat, 9g protein, 41g total carbohydrate (3g dietary fiber, 32g sugar), 260mg cholesterol, 95mg sodium

Recipes are © Whole Foods Market, LP, 2000-2005.

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SANTA LETTERS — FROM 4B

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Landry Smith

Dear Santa,

How are you? How's the reindeer? What kind of cookie do you want this year? I have been trying hard this year. How's your elves? This year I'll be going to the hospital to give away presents. I think it would be a treat if you could drop by. If it's going to blow your cover I understand. All I want is a 30-30 winchester with a pad for my arm. Or if you can a good scope.

Kyle King

Dear Santa,

What's up? Is Rudolph ok? I've been real good at cursive. Mai i have an xbox 360 please. Can my cosin a PSP please.

Hawk

Dear Santa,

How are you? Is Rudolph doing O.K.? How is Mrs. Claus? I've been trying not to fight with my brothers and sister. If you have the time may I please have these things: a puppy an x-box a desk a computer a basketball goal an Lights, Camera, pants and a gamecube for my brother. Also a Dore the Explorer set for Logan.

Mason-Taylor

Dear Santa,

Are you ready for the big night? How is Dasher? Is he ready too? I have been not trying to fight with my brother. Can you please get me a gurtar this christmas. Can you get me some sky dancers. Can you get somebody else a present for christmas.

Kristen Oakes

Dear Santa,

How is your year? Are your raindeer doing well? How are your elf's. I bet there making lots of

toys. I am doing great! If you get a chance my I please have a water chair, nintendo DS and an i'dog. My mom is inrested in some new pajamas. Can my brother please have a pelete bb gun My dad really wants a computer for the house. And one more thing tell Mrs. Clouse i said hi.

Shelby Tepera

Dear Santa,

Have you had a lot of snow in the North Pole. How are your reindeer. I'm ichtspechengeh you to get me and my frainds lots of presents. Can I please have this presents a go kart, a rifle, shot clock b ball, NCAA football 2006.

Tyler Grant

Dear Santa,

How are you. Have you and your elfs besy working hard. How is your reindeer. I have ben prity good but some times I am bad but most of the time I am good. Can I ples have thes tings for crismes. I want moon shoes, some new book, a watch, and make sher you get somthing for my frends.

McKayla Hodge

Dear Santa,

How are you doing. Are the reindeer bieing bad to roodoff. How big is your bag. I have ben good gards. I rell wot a fowe thengs like a xbox and a arsoftgun. My brouther rell wots a ghon.

Justin

Dear Santa,

How are you doing this year? Are you ok? How are the reindeer? Is rudolph doing ok? Can his nose still glow up? How is Mrs. Clouse is she ok to? I've tried to be good but you now how it is with a brother and two sisters. I've been real disreaspect- full so you don't haft to

get my anything. But I still want you to get me a easy bake oven for me and a bike for my sister a puppy but it's going to be a fake one. And dragon ball z set for my brother and a good birthday for my par- ents and a teddy bear for my granpa and a necklace for my grandma.

Katelyn Clinard

Dear Santa,

How are you this year? Are ikssidid this mounth? Is Roudohf ready to go to houses? How is your famly? Is it cold were you live? lev been realy good but I can do better. lev been working on not fiting with my brother. Santa please can I have a cheeata headstate for my horse and a saddle pade for my other horse named Sally and a basketball for my brother and a pare of Deasl shose and a lape-top computer.

Samantha Chick

Dear Santa,

How are you? Are you ready for the big night? Is Rudoph going to lead your sleigh? Santa how is your big family. Are your reindeer ready for the big night to? I've been pretty good. I've been trying not to fight with my brother or sister. Also trying not to back talk my mom. Please can I have a videocamra, jewelry, and Sky High the movie. Be sore to gife my mom some jewelry.

Cecilia Cantu

Dear Santa,

How is miss claus. I wold like if you to give my grama a car. I want a hamster, and a psp, Paytn Many zerzy. And pleas git all of my frenies in Azle T.X.

Landon

Dear Santa,

How are you doing? How many cookies has Mrs. Claus made you? Can you please tell me if i've been good? Can you

please give me a xbox 360 and a psp and some games with it please. And please give Kyle King a 30-30 Wind Chest. And both for Kyle and Justin Mcbryde a paint ball set.

Issac Henriquez

Dear Santa,

How are you? How is Mrs. C? Are your reindeer ready for the big night? I've been mostly good this year. But I'm trying not to fight with my sister. Or be bad. I'm trying hard to be good. For cristmas can I please have a voice key dairy and a quich clich polly pocket house of stiyall. And can you give some kids in New Orlands blankets and food for a gift.

Casey Daniell

Dear Santa,

I've been wondering how you have been doing. Are the reindeer redy? I've planed to put some seeds on the roof for them. Has anyone ever forgot to give you cookies and milk? When you have a chance could you get me a 60x60 plazma tv, stainless steel watch (not expensive) and my Grandma a massasing chair.

Ellis

Dear Santa,

How are your raindeer? How is your wife doing? Are your elfs working hard? I have been trying to not fight with my brother. Can I have some of these things please for me and my friend in Florida. 2 Gutars, 2 pony posters, and 2 pink Motersikles.

Tori Howerton

Dear Santa,

Hi santa haow or you downhg? I olways wandrd abot you runing ovre a old ladey then kidnapt her. Ok now can you ples git me Dragen Boll Z Boda-kiy tenkiy echey.

Jacob Hambright

The Salado Historical Society
 wishes to thank those who opened their homes
 and sites for this year's successful Home Tour.
 The docents who guided the tour were gracious
 and added much to the enjoyment of our guests.
 Our gratitude to those who responded by
 coming to Salado to enjoy our history.
 Thank You.
 Salado Historical Society 2005

Riding in the Cherokee hills

The images of red, orange and gold flashed by as I drove between Rusk and Palestine. It was late afternoon and I was headed into the sun. The trees were backlit and provided dramatic autumn visions. The reds of the sumac and sweet gum stood out as sunbeams focused on their flaming crimson leaves. It's like some unseen force turned spotlights on main characters in a drama. The reds certainly took center stage on this trip.

The black highway, with its yellow stripes and white lines, created a formal pattern as it curved between the borders of the dense, wild forest. The strobe-like effect of sunlight streaming in and out of the trees as I sped by almost made me dizzy.

I saw fall colors I don't think I've ever seen before. One fascinating tree had leaves the color of apricot. The Chinese Tallows were both red and gold. Cypress was orange. Sassafras was red.

by
Tumbleweed
Smith



Hickory was gold. All the bright colors paraded before walls of deep dark green longleaf pine. The timing of my trip to East Texas was perfect. It was before the first freeze. It was warm and light winds hadn't bothered the leaves, so they stayed on the trees longer than usual and gave us something to look at and appreciate.

The richness of the East Texas fall was even more in evidence the next morning when I drove from Rusk to Alto. Although I was traveling in the opposite direction from the day before, I was again driving into the sun. I passed dead man's curve and saw more colors, this time on white and red

oaks, sugar maple and a few chinaberry trees. In the early morning light, another compelling element was added: the misty, light fog. The wispy clouds of moisture moved slowly through the trees and across cleared land, then evaporated as the sun climbed higher in the sky.

There was little traffic on the small highways I took. I felt lucky to be there at the time, and a little selfish, because really the highways should have been full of people who appreciate fall scenery. It was spectacular this year. From late October until after Thanksgiving, the east Texas woods are bursting with autumn

delights, reaching peak usually in early November. The bright sun brings out the colors, especially when you drive toward the sun while it is making its slow descent to the distant horizon. Fall is invigorating anyway. The cool weather makes you realize summer is gone and football season is here. This year, Texans didn't have to travel north or east to see fall color.

Fall in East Texas also means festival time. At the Pecan Fest in Alto, the streets were lined with vendors selling everything from Elvis t-shirts to homemade root beer. Competition for pecan pies, cakes and candy was fierce. The pecan is an important part of life in Cherokee county, so the city of Alto decided to honor it with a festival. This was the second year for it and it was more than twice as big as last year.

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Ronnie Wells' work to be featured on Cabela's cover

Salado artist discusses his work

Renowned Salado artist Ronnie Wells was the guest speaker for the Rotary Club of Salado's Dec. 6 luncheon at Stagecoach Inn.

Wells, who is proprietor of Wells Gallery of Salado, is recognized as one of the country's premier wildlife painters and sculptors. He has been commissioned, and is currently working on, a "monumental piece" for Tulsa.

He has had numerous commissions from national organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, and his work will soon be featured on the cover of a Cabela's sporting goods catalog.

Wells explained that he had no art training as a youth, but at the urging

of a counselor at Louisiana Tech University, he made the decision in his second year of college to earn a degree in commercial art. After graduation he gained employment as an illustrator for MD Anderson Hospital of Houston, he said. While working for the hospital he displayed some of the work he did in the evenings, where hospital staff saw them and asked to purchase them. The work got the attention of his supervisors, who urged him to go out on his own and guaranteed him his job back if he did not find success, Wells continued.

One of his first individual attempts was to have his art displayed in a gallery. Prior to ap-

proaching a gallery owner for the first time, Wells said he spent the night before making his first frames, which he was more proud of than the art they complemented. The next day, when he showed his work to the gallery's proprietor, he was told by the owner that he would buy the art work, but only if Wells would get rid of the frames. It was then, he said, that he realized he had a future as an independent artist.

Initially, Wells' primary medium was paint, but while teaching an art class one of his students suggested he look into sculpture. He took to sculpture quickly, and now his current work is 75 percent sculpture and only



Ronnie Wells

25 percent painting.

In addition, in 1997 Wells decided to write and illustrate a children's book. Titled "Catfish and Little Bream," it was published by Acadian House Publishers and is currently in its second printing. He says he would like to publish a second children's book in the future.

--REPORTED BY GERRY REIHSEN

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Auction

FROM PAGE 1B

able and presentable for the community and the thousands of people who visit Salado and use the Civic Center's facilities," Parks concluded.

AUCTION 2006

This year's auction - actually twin auctions - will feature a very special "pre-auction-auction" that is certain to please all who



Saladoan Wilbur Foster will craft several items for the upcoming Salado Civic Center Auction. He is shown above with a still he crafted in 2004. The upcoming auction will be March 18 at the Salado Intermediate School.

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attend, according to Auction Chairman Parks.

"We will honor Wilbur Foster and his good wife Jessie, for their contributions to the Civic Center Auction over the past years. Wilbur plans to donate a number of stagecoaches and other hand-carved items that will be the last of such hand-crafted collectables to be created by this master craftsman," Parks reported.

He continued: "As a result, we are going to have -- immediately following dinner -- a pre-auction sale of just the Wilbur Foster creations - stagecoaches, a surrey, several buggies including a pecan wagon and two-wheel cart. These popular items will be auctioned off and as noted - they will be the last of their kind to be designed and built by this

master craftsman."

Bill Hall has agreed to handle the auction. Following the special Foster auction, Hall will gavel the start of the second auction of items donated by local and area businesses and individuals.

GREAT MEAL

Patsy Sanford, Vice President of the Civic Center's board, noted that prior to the twin auctions, a delicious meal will be served that will include a choice of beef barbecue, chicken, sausage complete with all the trimmings - potato salad, beans, pickles, cole slaw, bread, iced tea and homemade brownies for dessert.

Sanford stated: "The delicious pre-auction meal will be prepared and served by Johnnie's Steak and Barbecue. Tickets will be sold prior to the

event for \$10 and with such a great supper, fantastic auction and fellowship with friends and neighbors - it will be an evening to be remembered."

SILENT AUCTION

Foundation Board Member Vernon Holt reported that a silent auction - one of the favorite activities will be held during the evening as participants bid on the many items that will be displayed throughout the cafeteria.

The Civic Center Foundation has been certified by the IRS as a non-profit corporation (501-c-3). All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Each merchant will be contacted by a Foundation Board member in advance of the Spring auction, seeking items for the annual fund-raising event.

The Texas Tycoon Collection

The Salado Sawmill, an artisan's workshop and gallery, has created a unique line of custom furniture: The Texas Tycoon Collection. Big, bold and as rugged as a Texas oilman, this line reflects



the character and style of these demanding gentlemen. No Victorian frills here: just clean lines, chiseled features and big proportions. While the style of these pieces reflects Texas' roots, it also demonstrates a flair for the dramatic through the use of burl, bird's eye and quarter-sawn lumber. Picture here is the Executive Desk in the Tycoon Collection. This piece is made from bird's eye maple. Note the shop-made crown molding, distinctive base and towering proportions -- a showpiece for today's tycoon, oil or otherwise.

Master Craftsman Robert Pascoe makes these pieces at the Salado Sawmill, allowing the customer to specify the dimensions, wood type, color and hardware. Because Pascoe works the project from design through build and finish, you are assured of quality at every step. Just bring in a picture or sketch of something that you're interested in and Pascoe will guide you through the design process. Pascoe has several other lines, including Arts and Crafts and General Store collection.

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12/15-2/2p

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Definitively Salado



Picturesque park-like setting with recent patios overlooking wet weather creek in Mill Creek. All one level with formal dining, great room, whirlpool in master bath. 3 BR/2 full baths with recent updates, including tile flooring, appliances, roof, water heaters. Golf cart garage and lots of storage. \$245,000.

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UNDER CONTRACT

LAND
100 acres on Kuykendall Mountain Road west of Moffat. Lots of trees. Community water available. Unique land feature along the west side. **\$3,850 per acre**
88 secluded acres with 1700 feet of Lampasas River frontage and 2300 feet of Clear Creek frontage in west Bell County - deer, turkeys, ducks, fish, doves. **\$3,950 per acre.** No mobile homes, please. Will subdivide to 16 acres or more.

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COMMERCIAL
Over 5,000 sq. ft. of free standing commercial office/warehouse space near downtown Temple with 20 parking spaces. Very flexible space. Quick conversion to your intended use. **\$180,000.**
1.3 acre building site zoned C-2 on Sparta Road in Belton - west of new Super Wal-Mart. **\$215,000.**



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



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



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



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

Now accepting applications for waitperson. Apply in person at Johnny's Steak and BBQ. 11/17fmb

Pets and Livestock

Lost: Stagecoach Inn "Foots" a large neutered black male cat. cell (903) 445-6519 or home (903) 665-3411. 12/8-12/15b

entertaining. Split bedrooms with Master separate from two guest bedrooms. Magnificent trees cover the lot with a very private back yard. Long covered front and back porches. \$169,900. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050 6/16/tfnf

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

Homes For Sale

Walk into a beautiful living room accented by a rock fireplace. Formal dining, breakfast, and kitchen are all open to provide for easy conversation and

CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUE ON PAGE 6C



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Oak trees surround this lovely Salado home! Large family room with fireplace and vaulted ceiling. Formal dining room with bay window. Enclosed sunporch opens to fenced backyard with large storage building. 3 BR/2BA. \$139,900.



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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Investment Properties

Near UMHB, Belton, 3 BR/1 BA home. \$69,500.

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

UNDER CONTRACT



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Multi-Million \$\$\$ Producer
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mbelote@hot.rr.com

Cindy Adamson
REALTOR
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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. Approx. 2131 SF, check out Top Notch Landscaping. **\$255,780.**

WINDOW WONDERLAND Family-sized home outside Killeen City Limits on .953 wooded acre lot with panoramic view of Lampasas River Valley. Approx. 2,500 SF, 3 bedroom, 2.75 bath, one living, two dining, double oven/cook top, stud, fireplace and laundry room with sink. **\$225,000.**



\$392,900: Private wooded setting. Soaring ceilings and stained concrete floors accent this gorgeous 5 BR/3 BA home. Gas fireplace with slate front and hearth. 2nd living now used as office. All stainless steel appliances convey. Granite countertops.



\$595,000: Own a piece of Salado Creek. A Darwin Britt-built home in 1987 with beautiful wood floors, beams and staircase designed by a true craftsman. Custom cabinets, tongue and groove wood floors allow for wonderful entertaining on banks of Salado Creek.



\$449,800: A true Texas ranch on 6.36 acres with apartment and workshop in the 30X40 barn. Ready for horses with 20x30 stable. This home features custom knotty pine cabinets and doors, iron door knobs, beaded board wainscot, wood ceilings and floors.



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



\$259,900: Open kitchen, breakfast and living room. Separate formal living and formal dining are great for entertaining. 3 BR/2 BA, separate utility room, large covered back porch, beautiful entry into the front foyer.



\$195,900: This home will make you "feel at home." Special features include many upgrades: Corning top range, slate floors, ceiling fans, vaulted ceilings and many more features. Detached garage. This 4 BR/2 BA all-brick home is located on a half acre in Wild Rose Subdivision.



\$87,535: Conveniently located near So. 5th and 31st streets. Near hospitals and shopping. All bedrooms and 2 full baths are upstairs, 2 living areas downstairs. Recent gas range and dishwasher. Corner lot with wood privacy fence. Half bath down. Ready for new owners at great price!



\$74,900: Great rental property in Holland. Home includes fresh paint and recently replaced carpet. Converted garage can be a fourth bedroom, second living area or a study.

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Acreage Available

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

Lots & Home Sites

Mill Creek Lots

- Fletcher Ct. - \$64,000
- Mill Creek Springs I & III - \$30,000-75,000
- Mill Creek Springs IV
Golf course & hilltop view lots start at \$40,000
Interior lots start at \$25,000
The Overlook, estate-sized lots start at \$94,000.

Woods of Salado Lots

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

Other Lots

- Windy Hill Ranch: 2 acre lots - \$35,000-\$45,000.
- Heritage: 1 to 3 acre wooded, near Salado. Restricted.
- Hidden Springs: Lot 2, Lot 31, Lot 194.
- Denman's Loop: Lot 8, B 19, Sec, 2, \$18,000.
- Terra Bella: 12 estate lots in park-like setting off Armstrong Rd. \$45,000-\$110,000.

Commercial Property

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



\$379,900: Secluded 10 acres with beautiful stone ranch-style hacienda. Extensive stonework and multiple courtyards provide privacy. 4 BR/4 BA with formal dining, Saltillo-tiled kitchen with pantry. Acreage for horses.



\$369,900: Unique Mediterranean-style home on .72 acre. Backs up to Mill Creek Golf Course and Smith Branch Creek. Two master suites, wet bar, stainless steel kitchen appliances, Upgrades throughout entire elegant home.



\$339,900: Gorgeous kidney-shaped pool with water fall accents the fenced backyard. A 14X24 insulated shop/studio with French doors provides extra space for work area. 2 living, 2 dining, 4 BR home in Mill Creek Springs.



\$179,500: Located on Mill Creek Golf Course. 3 BR/2.5 BR with beautiful views of Fairway #5 on Creek #2. Large living area with deck overlooking the golf course and pond. Master BR has beautiful views as well. Kitchen has nice open area for breakfast table with pass through to dining room.



\$169,900: Walk into a beautiful living room accented by a rock fireplace. Formal dining, breakfast, and kitchen are all open for easy conversation and entertaining. Split bedrooms with master separate from two guest bedrooms. Magnificent trees cover the lot with a very private back yard.

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



2105 Smith Bluff
 Immaculate native limestone home ready for new owners, 20x19 living room with stone WBFP, formal and informal dining, 3 bedrooms, two baths and a wonderful kitchen. Many updates and great drive-up appeal. Don't miss this one! ~~\$297,577~~. Price Reduced to \$188,000.



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



1617 Chaparral
 Very special, beautifully-designed contemporary home with unrestricted views of golf course. Features include large great room, formal dining, open kitchen, breakfast room, study, 4 beds and 3 full baths. This home has 4 porches, 2 car plus golf cart



1311 Mill Creek Dr.
 Perfection! Beautifully updated. Backs up to golf course and creek. Two bedrooms and two baths, study, large living area and formal dining room. Great location! \$220,000.



6787 N. Lakeview Dr.
 Tuscan in Woods of Salado, custom-built on 3.864 acres. Backs up to Corps of Engineers' treed property with panoramic view of Stillhouse Lake. 3 BR/3 BA, great room, dining, library plus large room upstairs to-be-finished. Tile roof, tile floors, and floating staircase with views of living and dining. ~~\$290,000~~.



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



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

Mill Creek Homesites
 Premier Half-Acre Lots in restricted Mill Creek Golf course subdivision. Underground utilities, ready for custom homes with only 2,000 sq. ft minimum. 1801 Kevlin Trail 1901 Kevlin Trail
 1900 Kevlin Trail 1808 Kevlin Trail

Private wooded setting. Soaring ceilings and stained concrete floors accent this gorgeous 5 BR, 3 BA home. Gas fireplace with slate front and hearth. second living now used as office. All stainless steel appliances convey 2 ovens. Granite countertops. Covered patio with surround sound and gas fire pit, second terrace is wired for hot tub. Too many extras to list. \$392,900 Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

Private ranch estate! Austin stone home on over 11 tree covered acres. located southwest of Salado. Thermador appliances, hardwood floors, covered porches. 3 fireplaces. \$725,000. Call First Texas Brokerage at 254-947-5577

Grand Home on Estate Lot in Salado. 3/3/2.5. Hardwood floors, raised ceilings, gas fireplace, spacious kitchen and large master suite. All over 2 acres. Priced at \$315,000. Call First Texas Brokerage at 254-947-5577

A great price for a home with granite countertops and tile floors. This home shows beautifully. Entertain in the shade on the back deck with an arbor. Light and bright with formal dining room. \$152,800 Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

Land for Sale

Beautiful tree covered 12-44 acre tracts in the gated, restricted Spear's Ranch Development between Salado and Georgetown. Contact Ronnie Tynes, Broker, (512) 461-3370. tfn

Spectacular building site in Woods of Salado, with large oak trees and a possible lake view \$35,000. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 254-947-5050 tfn

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

65 acres on Hill Rd. 5 miles south of Salado all or part. Call Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

1.1 acre homesite on Lampasas River near Belton & Salado. Excellent location, woods, water meter. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050 3/3tfn

For sale by owner: Hidden Springs 3.27 acres. Only \$41,500 Lot #326 254-541-5449 512-285-2563 3/3tfn

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Call Marilyn 254-947-5321 for more information about advertising in the Salado Village Voice Marketplace Classifieds.

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Charming, spacious, 2/2/1, townhome for rent, \$825. 6 closets, vaulted ceiling, w/d closet inside. Walk to shopping center. Lawn care provided. 254-338-5083.
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For Rent - 1BR/1BA completely furnished cottage with water, cable, and yard work included. \$750/month plus \$400 deposit. Now available! No pets. (254) 947-7145.
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Charming One BR, Brick home Sits back from the road next to a pond \$750 All Bills Paid.No Yard Work. Village Realty 947-0342
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Distinct Creation close to completion in Hidden Springs! 5+bedroom home on 5 acres features 3 levels of living area, soaring ceilings, 2 dining areas, private media room/office and stainless steel kitchen appliances including down-draft range; de-sulphuring well system; pre-wiring for surround sound/security, 2 fireplaces, \$10,000 landscaping allowance.
2206 Cheyenne Pass \$459,625



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Glenn Hodge
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Ryan Hodge
254-541-2255

Jerry Roberts
254-760-6576

Alan Persky
254-760-2924



Private ranch estate! Austin stone home on over 11 tree-covered acres located southwest of Salado. Thermador appliances, hardwood floors, covered porches, 3 fireplaces. **\$725,000.**



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

Acreage/Lots

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

Commercial

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

Belton

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

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

Guide to Salado: Events, Shopping Map inside

Salado Village Voice

Vol. XXVIII, Number 37

Thursday, December 22, 2005

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50¢

Glory to God Let the story be told

King James Version: The Gospel According to St. Luke, Chapter 2

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Ceasar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.

3 And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David;

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad they saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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Salado Village Voice will be closed for the Christmas holiday Dec. 23-26. Deadline for the Dec. 29 edition is 5 p.m. Dec. 22.

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FORUM

An Open Exchange of Ideas



Bush's 'Boob Bait' on immigration

The late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan called it "boob bait for bubba" - tough-sounding rhetoric designed to placate conservative voters. President Bush is offering his own "boob bait" in the form of speechifying at the border about a crackdown on illegal immigration.

It's not that Bush doesn't intend to hire more border guards and end the "catch and release" policy that waves illegals into the country. But these steps are primarily meant to diminish opposition to a new guest-worker program and what would effectively be an amnesty for illegal aliens. It's a crackdown as prelude to a letup; in other words, Rove bait for red-staters.

A Republican close to the White House has told *Time* magazine how Bush wants to lull his conservative supporters into swallowing amnesty and a guest-worker program, i.e., a "comprehensive" approach: "Bush decided to give these guys their rhetorical pound of flesh. In return, he wants a comprehensive bill, which is what he has always wanted. He's just going to lead with a lot of noise about border security."

The idea is that the House, where conservatives have the most sway, will pass a bill with new enforcement measures, only to see the Senate pass a different bill with an amnesty and guest-worker program, which will be shoved down the throats of the House on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. Supporters of tougher enforcement will have gotten their "noise," and Bush and the business lobby will have gotten their policy. Unfortunately for this strategy, conservatives aren't nearly as stupid as the White House political shop apparently thinks they are.

The enforcement measures Bush is advocating are welcome, but late and not even close to the heart of the matter.

Rich Lowry



Forty percent of illegals overstay their visas, meaning the border isn't an issue for them. And Bush and fellow supporters of a guest-worker program are right about one thing: As long as there are jobs here for illegals, they will come.

The only way to address that is through interior enforcement. The natural place to start is enforcing laws already on the books. Rosemary Jenks of the group NumbersUSA has compiled a list of currently unenforced laws that runs to four pages. The Social Security Administration and the Internal Revenue Service have it within their power to inform employers when they have hired illegal workers, but are kept from doing so. In 2002, the Social Security Administration sent out roughly a million "no match" letters to employers telling them workers had bogus or duplicate Social Security numbers, but business groups complained and the practice stopped.

Supporters of amnesty always ask the rhetorical question: "What are you going to do with the 11 million illegal immigrants already here -- deport them all?" That is obviously impractical, but requiring employers to verify that their workers are legal would prompt many illegals to leave voluntarily and staunch the flow of new arrivals.

Only after our immigration system is under better control should we discuss a guest-worker program and amnesty for those illegals who are entrenched in our society. Until then, don't take Bush's bait.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2005 by King Features Synd.

Legislative foul-up could halt health care for thousands in Bell County; \$300,000 shifted to Georgetown Clinic

The disturbing news that broke on December 10, indicating that the Bell County Public Health District will lose \$300,000, is certain to cause deserved embarrassment among area legislators and more importantly, create a severe curtailment of family planning assistance to thousands of patients who are currently served by our County health personnel.

The health services, for an estimated 3,375 individuals, include pap smears, breast exams, STD testing, birth control and infertility counseling and treatment, will be transferred on January 1, to the Lone Star Circle of Care Clinic in Georgetown, as a result of an apparently "overlooked" legislative "Rider" (Number 81).

Those directly affected are mostly young people who live below the poverty level here in Bell, and since there is no public transportation available to and from Georgetown, it's apparent, that if this plan isn't reversed - most of these clients will have to do without family counseling and treatment.

Officials of the local health district noted that this loss of funding could also increase the number of teen pregnancies, unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted disease cases and abortions.

The money shifted from the Bell County Health District will definitely result in the loss of two registered nurses, two clerical staffers and one licensed vocational nurse. It will also reduce funding for contracted physician services.

SO WHAT HAPPENED?

Trying to unearth the cause of this disastrous shift in family planning dollars and services from Bell to Georgetown would require the work of a Sherlock Holmes and/or Hercule Poirot. Failing to secure such renowned help, this column turned to the offices of our State Senator Troy Fraser and Representative Diane Delisi, since the whole matter began legislatively with the aforementioned "Rider-81" to the 2005 Texas Appropriation Bill.

That piece of spending-legerdemain was signed into law in June of this year - some six months ago, and up until the past few days no one had paid any attention to the elusive rider.

"Riders" are last minute legislative "additions" that for various reasons are rarely debated, and oft-times slyly attached to a bill as it races towards final passage. Rider 81 is the work of Senator Steve Ogden (R-College Station). Why he did this is uncertain. And why he didn't alert the State Health Department; Senator Fraser; or even more importantly Representative Delisi, falls into the stupid (or malicious) category.

Delisi chairs the State Health Care Expenditures Committee that deals with health centers throughout the State (including the one in her home town).

We suspect Delisi was a little more than "put out" over the matter ("Furious" is probably a better word) and we don't blame her. No matter who finally falls on the "blame-sword" - Delisi will have to fade the heat on this one.

MORE INTRIGUE

What Rider 81 did (in simple English) was to move all funding for family planning services from Bell County to Georgetown. Legislative staff members claim the Ogden ploy was not

Off the Record by Ken Clapp



intended to shift funds out of Bell. They blame that old bugaboo "unintended consequences" for the problem. This is spurious thinking. Our suggestion would be that the next time the Fickle Finger of Fate Award is presented - it should go to all who shared in this "outstanding" example of legislative ineptitude. Losers of course are the less fortunate folks who will forfeit this special type of health service.

James Cooley, chief of staff in Delisi's Austin office told us last week that everyone from the State Health Department headquarters in Austin; the director of the Bell County Health Unit; Georgetown Health Clinic and representatives from Fraser and Delisi's offices have been meeting to straighten out the funding flap. No one is willing to discuss why it took six months to discover the screwup.

Cooley noted: "I think a resolution will take place that hopefully will make us all look a little smarter and get the funding back to Bell County - either through a contract with Georgetown or a direct transfer of the lost funds back to where they belong - in Bell." Let's hope he's right!

Thousands of clients and five professional jobs are hanging in the balance. Deadline is December 31 - so the clock is ticking. It might be wise for someone to see if they can get Governor Perry to slip away from his campaigning and perhaps issue an executive order that directs discretionary money to the Bell County Health folks. That would quickly halt this unnecessary and totally ludicrous move of services from Bell County.

OUR OPINION: "BAH HUMBUG"

This column's opinion of this "botched" legislative matter, comes appropriately enough from old Ebenezer Scrooge. It's a simple "Bah Humbug!" If lawmakers and staff members can't do a better job of monitoring our business down in Austin - voters might decide to seek replacements - hopefully some blessed with a modicum of oversight abilities.

LAST MINUTE NOTE TO SANTA

For years, when December rolls around, we've written long column-type letters to Santa asking for all sorts of dopey things, mostly for politicians (who need all the help they can get).

We almost skipped this year's exercise, but at the last minute, just couldn't let Christmas escape without gently nudging our old friend Santa into bringing this tired old world of ours - several unusual gifts.

What's prompted this change of heart is a feeling that there's an abiding need, growing within all of us these days, for patience, understanding and kindness (call it love if you like).

We need it in our families; our places of worship; our neighborhoods; at work and play; and within our state and national governments (double helpings for our embattled, partisan politicians).

And if those simple virtues happen to work - we could try taking them across our borders. Few have ever tenaciously (or continuously) applied these noble qualities in the past - neither individually nor corporately.

Admittedly, these are simplistic thoughts. But, perhaps it's time we tried something simple, and right, for a change and see what happens.

That's -30-

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FORUM

Another Holiday without Health Insurance?

Along with the chilly northern air rushing into the United States this time of year, December also brings blizzards of advertisements, squalls of shoppers and flurries of holiday cards, all bearing a sense of urgency that another year is near end.

Judging from the 80-foot tall Christmas tree erected on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol, one would also expect Congress to be aware that 2005 is nearly gone. But there is concern that this holiday season will pass before lawmakers awaken. Scrooge-like, to save small businesses from ruin.

Congress has a lot on its platter - War, terrorism and natural disaster - all important and pressing matters. Yet some impending crises, such as our national health care

The Voice of Small Business

by Jack Faris
President, NFIB



system, are met with procrastination because they lack the dramatic urgency that makes headlines.

Although the warning of this impending crisis threatens the safety and well-being of 45 million Americans who are at risk because they have no medical coverage. Nearly two-thirds - 63 percent - are employed by small businesses that have fewer than 100 employees. Small business simply cannot afford the high cost of health insurance.

It isn't as if the American small-business sector has been reluctant to warn

lawmakers that this emergency is on its way. For years, these entrepreneurs have named health insurance costs as their single most important problem. From 2000-2004, these costs have risen 15 percent to 20 percent annually. The share of small businesses with three-to-nine employees that offer health plans has fallen about 10 percentage points in just a few years.

On eight occasions, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation designed to allow the creation of Small-Business health plans,

also known as association health plans, to allow small enterprises to band together across state lines to purchase health coverage through trade associations. Such plans could save the typical owner of a small firm between 15 and 30 percent of their medical insurance costs and give them the same accessibility, and affordability and choice that labor unions and large businesses have.

Unfortunately, similar legislation has failed to pass in the U.S. Senate. Currently two bills have been introduced that will allow the creation of Small-Business health Plans; S. 406, The Small-Business Health Fairness Act, crafted by Senators Olympia Snow (Maine) and James Talent (Mo.) and S. 1955, The Health Insurance Modernization

and Affordability Act of 2005, which was recently introduced by Senator Michael B. Enzi (Wyo.), chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

Both bills have given the issue of Small-Business health plans some much needed momentum in the Senate, but neither bill currently seems to be on a fast track to the Senate floor for a vote.

Momentum towards the goal is always encouraging, but for the millions of Americans without health insurance, momentum is still just talk. This year, urgent action is needed to ensure that minions of small-business owners, their families and employees enjoy future holidays without the worry that comes from having no health coverage.

Evangelical environmentalism stings senator



Jim Hightower

It's obvious to even a casual observer that the Lord works His wonders in mysterious ways. You could ask Jim Inhofe about that.

Inhofe, the right-wing Oklahoma Republican who chairs the Senate environment committee, is the favorite pet of corporate polluters whose industrial emissions scientists cite as the leading cause of global warming. Not only has Inhofe stifled every congressional effort to control these emissions, but he also has called the very idea of corporate involvement in global warming "the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people."

So far, Inhofe has been able to ignore science, but - what, ho! - now he finds himself confronted by a formidable and surprising new force: Evangelical-Christians.

Within the National Association of Evangelicals - representing 45,000 churches serving 30 million members - is a burgeoning "Evangelical Environmental Network" that is taking seriously the Biblical mandate for humans to be good stewards of the earth. Indeed, these mainstream evangelicals are now considering a draft policy statement calling on Congress to pass mandatory controls on global warming emissions.

Good God Almighty, you can almost hear Inhofe shout! In his political career, he has always touted himself as a devout evangelical, and he certainly did not expect this curve ball from God. So far, his reaction has been to assail the messengers. Sticking with his corporate sponsors, Inhofe calls the claim that Christians should work to stop activities harmful to God's creation, "something very strange," and he dismisses the evangelicals' Biblical citations for their work, saying: "You can always find in Scriptures a passage to misquote for almost anything."

The evangelicals don't choose to call their work environmentalism, preferring the phrase "creation care." But forget the labels - it's the message that's important.

Even if Inhofe doesn't want to hear it, you can get the word at www.creationcare.org.

Stroll and county jail issues addressed by readers

To the Editor:

What a beautiful sight! The one-lane bridge in Mill Creek is truly one of our beautiful treasures in Salado. Now when you look to either side of the bridge, there is a panoramic view of the fall leaves and clear water. What a great picture of the beauty in Salado. Thank you to all who were responsible for the restoration of this area. We are proud of you!
Cathy and Larry Sands,
Salado

Dear Editor:

Several letters have been published about the "no means no" issue regarding the Commissioners Court's plan to expand jail and courts facilities.

The voters of Bell County have been presented two different bond issues. The first would have funded a courts building that would house both the district and county courts as well as additional jail space. This proposal would have resulted in a 2.5 cent tax increase. The second proposal would have funded a smaller courts building and additional jail space. This reduced proposal would have resulted in a one cent tax increase. Both were rejected.

The expansion of our jail capacity was (and

continues to be) a pressing need, but leasing additional space, rather than building, is an alternative which may be pursued. From a purely fiscal perspective, this is an expensive, short-term solution, but it postpones the necessity of building a jail facility, at least for awhile.

The present District Courts building was a more urgent issue. Facing a 2005 deadline on regulatory and building code issues that trigger a requirement for the total renovation of that building and a net loss of usable space in a building that is already overcrowded, the options were: 1. vacate the building and move to lease space wherever it could be found in Belton, or 2. buy additional property in downtown Belton and build a multi-story building together with the necessary parking facilities, or 3. acquire larger, less expensive property out of downtown and build the needed facilities.

The Commissioners Court (and a 44-member Citizens' Task Force) determined that the leasing option was a very expensive, short term fix. The downtown build/buy option was too expensive and would have had a negative impact on downtown Belton, requiring the demolition of historic structures to clear the nec-

Your Voice

Letters to the Editor

essary space. It was determined that the third option offered the lowest project cost, by far, with an added advantage in that the site chosen was large enough to accommodate future projects when needed.

Because of earlier debt being retired, we were able to move forward with the courts project with no tax increase.

The Commissioners Court has a constitutional and statutory responsibility to provide the various county officers the facilities needed to perform their official functions. Our job is to meet this constitutional responsibility as efficiently and cost effectively as possible.

We have honored the "no" vote in not issuing any debt related to these projects which would have required a tax increase. And, in so doing, we saved a penny on the tax rate, for the time being.

But we have not yet satisfied our constitutional responsibility to provide adequate facilities, specifically for the jail. For the short term, we have saved a penny on the tax rate, but over the long term, the ultimate cost will be much higher because emotional rhetoric won out over wise

fiduciary decisions.

Voting "no" did not solve the problems we face and honoring the "no" vote does not satisfy our responsibilities under the law.

Richard Cortese
Bell County Commissioner, Precinct 1

To the Editor:

It is time to say "Thank you Salado" again for a wonderful Home Tour and Christmas Stroll for 2005. The lights were beautiful and the white trees on the bridge were seen from I-35. Every single person who had any part can be proud of their efforts. The word got out through the *Salado Village Voice* and other communication to Texas and beyond -- the zip codes recorded were many.

The parade was bigger than ever and everyone had a good time. The tree lighting, the Community Chorus program filled every seat and more and the Baptist church had a crowd for the choir from Texas A&M. The Nativity scene added so much and is a real tradition in Salado. Music on the street was enjoyed.

The Home Tour was excellent thanks to many who served as home owners, docents and workers of every kind. It takes a lot of time, effort and money to get ready each year and all of Salado should be proud to be a part. I really appreciate all the "new comers" to Salado for stepping up to carry on what many of us "old timers" will have to step back and watch as it continues one day.

Thanks to Salado Historical Society, the Boy Scouts, Fire Dept. our police, the city government, chamber of commerce, the schools, organizations and to the Salado Merchants for having great places for visitors to shop. I saw many smiling and carrying sacks! We were blessed with perfect weather.
Doris Denman,
Salado

Letters to the Editor can emailed to news@saladovillagevoice.com. All letters should be signed and have a phone number and address for verification.

The editor reserves the right to reject and/or edit any letter. Letters should address issues, not personalities and should be concise and constructive in approach. Letters should be limited to 300 words.

Can you benefit from Roth 401(k)?



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We have a lot to be thankful for during the holidays because of you - our friends and neighbors here in Salado. It is a pleasure to be part of this community. Enjoy the holiday season.



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As 2005 ends, you are a year closer to retirement. Even though that day may still be a long time away, it will eventually arrive - so you'll need to prepare for it. And starting next week, you may have one more retirement savings vehicle - the Roth 401(k).

Just like a regular 401(k), a Roth 401(k) allows you to spread your money among a variety of investments. But there are differences between the two types of 401(k) plans. When you invest in a traditional 401(k), you generally contribute "pre-tax" dollars, which means you are not taxed on your contributions today. These contributions and your earnings will be taxed when you withdraw them at retirement. Using the Roth feature in your 401(k) allows you to contribute "after-tax" dollars, which means you pay taxes on your contributions right away. However, your withdrawals and earnings will be tax-free (provided you're at least 59 1/2 and you've had the account for

Financial Focus

by Allen Mantanona



at least five years when you retire).

Furthermore, if you leave your job, you can roll over the Roth portion of your 401(k) into a Roth IRA - and Roth IRAs don't force you to take required minimum distributions after you turn 70 1/2, which could be a big advantage if you won't need the money until later in your retirement years.

And here's one more advantage of the Roth 401(k): There are no income restrictions attached to it.

Of course, your employer may not even choose to offer the new Roth feature in your company's 401(k). But if it is available, should you contribute? Before deciding, consider these factors:

- Your age - The younger

you are, the more advantageous it may be to contribute some of your 401(k) dollars into the Roth portion of your plan. As a young worker, you'll have more years to take advantage of the tax-free earnings potential provided by the Roth feature. This additional time helps compensate for the cost of having to fund your plan with after-tax dollars.

- Your tax bracket at retirement - If you expect to be in a high tax bracket when you retire, you may find the Roth 401(k) to be particularly appropriate. The value of being able to withdraw tax-free is worth more if you're in a high tax bracket.
- Your willingness to divide 401(k) dollars between "pre-tax" and Roth - Your total

401(k) contributions - from all sources - are limited to \$15,000 in 2006 (or \$20,000 if you're 50 or older). You could choose to put all \$15,000 into either the pre-tax portion of your 401(k) or the Roth (after-tax) portion. You could also divide the \$15,000, in any ratio you choose, between the two portions. For example, you could defer \$7,500 into the pre-tax portion and \$7,500 into the Roth portion.

Before investing in the new Roth feature of your 401(k), you may want to consult with your tax advisor and investment professional. You might only have a few years in which to take advantage of the Roth 401(k), because it will cease to be offered in 2010, unless Congress acts before then to make it a permanent fixture of the retirement planning landscape.

As long as it's around, though the Roth 401(k) is going to be a valuable retirement savings vehicle - so think about putting it to work for you.

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Cause and effect!

Buying and Selling

by Ryan Hodge

Traditionally, real estate agents have emphasized their "selling" prowess as a reason for listing homes with them. Naturally, sellers want their home sold, and an agent who is a successful "salesperson" would appear to be the likely listing candidate.

Today, agents can play a more important role by

organizing and attracting the attention of other agents. You don't necessarily need an agent to "sell" your property - you need an agent to "cause" it to sell, and there's a big difference.

Consider the odds. Say there are 200 active real estate agents working in your market. Would you rather have just one or all of them working to sell your home? When interviewing agents to list your home, ask how they intend to mobilize the entire realty community to show your home to their ready-and-waiting pool of buyers.

Choose the right agent, and you will enjoy the best possible marketing efforts available, focusing on exposing your home to all buyers, not just a few. The more buyers who see your home, the sooner it will sell. The more buyers are competing for your home, the higher it will sell.

In today's fiercely competitive market, it is imperative that your agent "markets" your home and not just "sells" it. Once you understand the difference and find an agent who follows that philosophy, you can just about begin packing!

Season's Greetings

We have a lot to be thankful for during the holidays because of you, our friends and neighbors. It is a pleasure to serve this community. Enjoy the season.



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Brown to seek 4th term in 2006

Saladoan Tim Brown will seek his fourth term as Bell County Commissioner, precinct two.

Brown was first elected to the position in 1992, re-elected in 1996 with no opponent and defeated Nolan Kinsey in the Republican primary in 2000, drawing no Democrat opponent. Killeen resident and businessman Dick Young will face Brown in the March 2006 Republican primary.

"The central theme of that first race (in 1992) -- in fact the thing that drew me into politics in the first place -- was the realization that Bell County was undergoing an historic transformation, a transformation driven by growth."

"This kind of growth brings with it a dramatic increase in the demand for those basic services that county governments are required by law to provide: services such as the maintenance and improvement of our transportation infrastructure, providing public safety, maintain-

ing our criminal justice system, the preservation of public records," Brown said, adding, "these 'nuts and bolts' governmental functions still compromise the majority of our efforts and consume most of our resources."

Brown said that a trend he has seen since taking office in 1992 is the state "consistently delegating down to the local level an ever-increasing share of responsibility for maintaining and supporting various programs that were not traditionally part of county government." Those programs include indigent health care and legal defense, mental health and mental retardation services and juvenile education programs.

These programs, Brown said, "place added burdens on counties and consume an ever-increasing share of our local tax dollars."

"Despite what our critics would tell you, we are still delivering the best

value, in terms of efficiency, that you'll find in local government anywhere," Brown continued when announcing his re-election plans.

Brown points to the county's improvements to its facilities, radio system, efficiency savings in energy and worker's compensation insurance, bond rating and lean staffing levels. "We have done all this and more while maintaining the lowest tax rate in central Texas, by a wide margin," Brown said.

Brown is the past chairman of the Conference of Urban Counties and the past president of the North American Super-corridor Coalition. He chairs the Trans Texas Corridor Citizens' Advisory Committee. He chaired the Regional Review Committee of the Housing and Community Development Block Grant program.

As County Commissioner, Brown was instrumental in coordinating design development and



Bell County Commissioner Tim Brown

construction of the Bell County Courts Annex, the renovation of the historic Bell County courthouse, development of the Bell County Juvenile Detention Center, and the reconstruction of the historic Potts Hardware building to house the information systems department.

Brown holds Bachelor of Environmental Design and Master of Science in Land Development degrees from the College of Architecture at Texas A&M.

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Young Eagles 9-4 heading into district

In one final tune-up before district basketball begins, the Varsity Eagles tipped-off against Bartlett Dec. 13 and came away with a convincing 71-27 victory over the Bulldogs. The win improved Salado's record to 9-4 overall.

The Eagles charged out to an early 21-7 lead in this one and never looked back, increasing the advantage to a lopsided 40-13 at the break.

In the second half the Eagles went on cruise control, but still continued to hold the Bulldogs in check with most of the Salado starters looking on from the bench. The Salado defense held Bartlett to just 14 points in the entire second half, including four points in the fourth quarter, in wrapping up the comfortable victory.

Offensive production in the game came from all over, with nine different Eagles registering points. Leading scorer was Justin Pruitt, who recorded a dozen. Ryan Clark scored 11, as did Chris Redman, while Blake Newman had eight and Chad Tumey contributed seven. Also scoring were Noah Harbison and Garrett Askins,

who both had six, Clay Sharum, who scored five, and Tanner Myers, who chipped-in with four points.

Salado opened its district season Dec. 20 versus rival Academy, in a game that took place after presstime.

Junior Varsity

In a contest that was a bit less offense-oriented than the Varsity game, the JV Eagles survived a defensive struggle to earn a win over Bartlett by a final of 22-16.

With only 15 points scored combined in the first two periods of play, Salado enjoyed a slim lead of 8-7 entering the third quarter.

Salado doubled its lead in the third to go up 14-12, then held Bartlett to two points in the fourth for the win.

Civic Center auction March 18

The Salado Civic Center Foundation's Board of Directors has announced that it has reinstated the Civic Center Annual Auction, setting March 18 as the date. The auction will be held 6 p.m. at the Salado Intermediate School.

This year's auction will actually be a twin auction, with a "pre-auction-auction" where attendees will have the opportunity to bid on miniature stagecoaches and other hand-crafted items, such as a pecan wagon and a two-wheel cart, from craftsman Wilbur Foster. The collectables will be the last ones made by Foster. In addition, Foster and his wife, Jessie, will be honored for their contributions to the Civic Center auction over the years.

Bill Hall will conduct the auction.

Tickets for the event will be offered for \$10, and will include dinner. The dinner menu will include a choice of beef barbecue, chicken, sausage complete with all the trimmings - potato salad, beans, pickles, cole slaw, bread, iced tea and homemade brownies for dessert.

The Civic Center Foundation has been certified by the IRS as a non-profit corporation (501-c-3) and as such all donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Each merchant will be contacted by a Foundation Board member in advance of the Spring auction, seeking items for the annual fund raising event.

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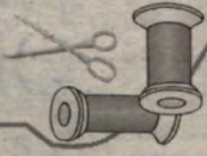
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Salado Cemetery records now online

By CHARLIE TURNBO

You can now pay your respects online to those buried at Salado Cemetery. The Salado Cemetery Association teamed up with a half dozen volunteers to post pictures of all the local grave markers on an internet website operated by the USGenWeb Project. Access to this website is free and unrestricted.

The idea of putting the tombstone pictures on the internet originally came from Dr. Malcolm McLean a noted Texas historian who is a descendant of Salado founder, Col. E.S.C. Robertson. He proposed his idea to MaryBelle Brown, President of the Salado Cemetery Association, who agreed that posting the tombstone information and pictures would be another tribute to those buried in this historic graveyard. This access gives family members as well as researchers readily available information on those buried here.

Salado Cemetery predates the actual establishment of the Village of Salado. The earliest marked grave at the cemetery is dated 1856 and belongs to Zilla Bush. The Cemetery has steadily grown through expansions in 1899, 1905, 1927, 1950, 1967, and 2001. Veterans of the Texas Revolution and up through the Viet Nam war are buried here. There are numerous historical markers within the cemetery honoring individuals who have made significant contributions to the Village of Salado and the State of Texas.

In the 1970s, John A. Barton, and Arthur F. McLean (brother of Dr. Malcolm McLean) surveyed Salado Cemetery

for the Bell County Historical Committee. Their gravestone records were published in *Bell County Cemetery Records, Vol. II* and later made available on the internet. Over the past 35 decades, there have been no published updates of the more recent burials at the cemetery.

As plans were being made to photograph the headstones, a team of area historians was already underway inventorying those buried at this cemetery. Throughout the summer and fall of 2005, Mike and Nancy Kelsey worked on an updated census of the 2,000 burials here with help from another volunteer, Gail Huling.

The Kelsey's have inventoried cemeteries throughout Bell, Coryell, and Milam Counties. They share their records with families searching for relatives and historians researching those who have been laid to rest in Central Texas graveyards. Mike is a Temple librarian and his wife Nancy, when not working as a nurse, helps in their search for historic information and artifacts. The Kelseys have published seven books and have an extensive personal

collection on early Central Texas history.

At Salado Cemetery the Kelsey's and another volunteer, Charlie Turnbo, used the recently completed burial inventory to photograph all the headstones. Some of the older grave markers proved difficult to clearly photograph due to their weathered conditions. At times it became necessary to use chalk to bring out the names and dates on the older tombstones. Railroad chalk, designed to be easily removed, was the choice product for highlighting tombstone dates and information.

Several days were spent photographing the Salado tombstones with digital cameras. Linda Griffith of TBC International in Salado allowed the photographers to use a special camera which would store more than 600 images.

With the completed images of each headstone, there was now a need to locate a suitable website to post the Salado cemetery information and tombstone pictures. Fortunately, there was an established internet site that had other Bell County cemeteries listed along with some tombstone

photographs. The Bell County Genealogy and History Website (TXBELL) operates under the USGenWeb Project, a national volunteer organization committed to free access of genealogical information. USGenWeb is structured by county and state and supported by a cadre of dedicated volunteers.

The Salado volunteers made contact with Mary Duke, the Assistant County Coordinator for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A

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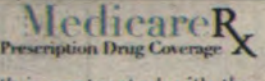
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Shabby Chic	✓ until 3 pm	
Susan Marie's & Scarlett's	✓ 10 am - 4 pm	
MJ's Country Corner	✓ 10 am - 4 pm	
Fletcher's	✓ 8:30 am - 7 pm	
Cathy's Boardwalk Café		✓
Splendors		✓
Uncommon Grounds Café		✓
Texan by Design	✓ until 2 pm	
Remember This Antiques		✓
Barnard's Antiques	✓ until 3 pm	
Salado Village Voice		✓
Prellop Fine Art Gallery	✓ 10am-3pm	
Charlotte's of Salado	✓ 9:30 am - 4 pm	
Angelic Herbs & Inspirations	✓ 10 am - 4 pm	
Serenity Spa		✓
Merle Norman		✓
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Cemetery – From 7A

TXBELL. Mary Duke has been working on cemetery projects since 2002 and originally discovered TXBELL while searching for information on her ancestors. Early on, she volunteered to inventory and photograph North Belton Cemetery, a massive undertaking due to its size. Since then, Mary has taken part in the transcribing and photographing headstones at Hillcrest Cemetery and 11 smaller Bell County graveyards. The TXBELL site has grown considerably in recent years and now has over 100 Bell County cemetery transcriptions and thousands of headstone photos. The Salado Cemetery records and photographs were turned over to Mary Duke who began the tedious project of preparing them to be posted on the TXBELL website. In her spare time - after work and on weekends - Mary organized the 2000 photographs, created the index webpages, and linked them with tombstone information. They were then ready to be posted online.

After completion of the webpage work, it was time to share the work with the world. Joe Deaver, the Bell County TXBELL Coordinator and Webmaster took Mary's work and posted the information online. Joe has served as county coordinator and webmaster for the TXBELL website since October 1999. Both he and Mary volunteer their time to the USGenWeb Project because of the invaluable resources it offers them in doing their own genealogical research. Joe Deaver's ancestors came to Bell County in the 1870s, settling in the Taylors Valley area. Bell County, Texas Genealogy and History resources can be found on the internet at www.rootsweb.com/~txbell. The newly updated cemetery census and tombstone photographs for Salado Cemetery are located at www.rootsweb.com/~txbell/cem/salado/.

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The flawed theology of Government Aid

BY JOHN D. COLYANDRO AND BRENT D. CONNETT

COMMENTARY

Advocates of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) make increasingly strained arguments that the state has a moral obligation to provide health insurance for underprivileged children. That moral obligation rests on social justice theories which posit that access to publicly-funded health insurance is fundamental to human dignity and therefore an imperative.

Former Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff has entered the fray on the side of CHIP, arguing in a recent speech (reprinted by the *Austin American Statesman*) that support for CHIP, a government-run program, rests on certain biblical teachings, and accuses those legislators who oppose increased funding and revenue to pay for CHIP of failing to live up to the highest imperatives of Christianity.

Ratliff, who supported changes to the CHIP program in the 78th Legislature, states: "When considering how many poor children in Texas will be removed from the Children's Health Insurance Program in order to hold down costs to the state, they [referring to certain legislators] choose not to consider Christ's admonishment to 'suffer the little children to come unto me.'"

One may ask Mr. Ratliff: what end of social justice is served by continuing to fund a government program that has not met its objective of reducing the number of children who

are without health insurance? The fact that certain families decline to sign up for the program is not a failure on the part of any public official "to suffer the little children." Parents must make a myriad of decisions based on what is best for them and no amount of cajoling by the government will determine the best interests of every family.

Furthermore, by adding income verification and asset limitations, the legislature actually protected the state's ability to keep CHIP eligibility at 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) - the exact same as before the cost savings measures were instituted. But there is growing and publicly available evidence of program fraud. Included in the 2004 report to the 2292 Legislative Oversight Committee is evidence that people on CHIP were driving luxury vehicles including a 2003 Lexus. One family of two (mother and son) had three vehicles with a value exceeding \$50,000.

Perhaps CHIP advocates should explain what Christian principle requires taxing a family making 205 percent FPL in order to pay the insurance of a family driving a Lexus? Who wouldn't be offended if the well-off took money from the collection plate at church?

More importantly, taking someone else's money in the name of charity is not charity at all. It goes by the name of hypocrisy. There is

not one command in the Bible - not one reference - to shift the duty of care for the poor to the government. It is a shame when Christians call for the government to relieve them of that responsibility.

Mother Teresa labored intensely, patiently and lovingly in the slums of India. She devoted her life to the service of the poor, embracing the AIDS patient, the leper and the cripple in a real, meaningful way just as Christ did. Despite her example, too many advocates confuse taxation with charity, and see government programs as the chief means of achieving social justice on earth. Ratliff says, "We even have the teaching of Christ's parable, where he tells the rich man that if he wishes to enter the kingdom of heaven, he must 'go, sell everything you have, give the money to the poor, and follow me.' Talk about a high tax rate!"

Government programs are nothing more than an involuntary transfer of wealth, no matter how noble one might want to make a program appear. Whether children's health insurance is really a matter of social justice is debatable. Access to the health care may be closer to the mark, but that is not a justification for government doing what we should do for ourselves and each other.

However, Christ did not instruct his apostles to peti-

SEE AID, PAGE 12A

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Local churches open doors for Christmas

Salado-area churches will be honoring the Christmas holiday this week with special services for worshippers.

The Salado United Methodist Church, located at 650 Royal Street, will hold a Christmas Eve worship service at 5 p.m. Communion will be served. On Christmas Day, the church will hold just one service, at 10 a.m. This service will feature carols, the Christmas story from the Scripture and other presentations of music and story. All are welcome.

For more information contact the church office at 947-5482.

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The Salado Church of Christ will not hold any services on Christmas Eve, but will hold its Christmas Day service at 10 a.m. All are welcome.



The Presbyterian Church of Salado, located at 105 Salado Plaza Drive, will hold a Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m., and a Christmas Day service at the regular time of 10 a.m. All are welcome.

Cedar Valley Baptist Church, located at 12237 FM 2843 will hold just one service on Christmas Day, that coming at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

Cedar Knob Baptist Church, located off FM 2484 on Cedar Knob Church Road, will have a Christmas Day service at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

The Salado Church of Christ
welcomes you to our services this week

Sunday Morning Service • Dec. 25, 2005

Joe Keyes
Minister

It's unusual to have Christmas Day fall on the Lord's Day, but a special joy for the church family to join together as we note some reasons why Jesus is God's greatest gift to his children. Come be with us for the message as we close out 2005 speaking of "The Hopes and Fears of All the Years."

Sunday
Bible Class • 9 a.m. Worship • 10 a.m.
Evening Worship • 6 p.m.
Wednesday
Bible Classes • 6:30 p.m.

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They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger

CHRISTMAS EVE
8:00 P.M.
CHRISTMAS DAY
9:30 A.M.
ALL WELCOME

Monday Club schedules first meeting for '06

The Salado Monday Club will hold its first meeting of the new year 2 p.m. Jan. 6 at the Salado United Methodist Church. Saladoan John Perry will present a program based on his book, "Myths and Realities of American Slavery."

All ladies of the community are invited to attend.

Churches:
Send your announcements to
news@saladovillagevoice.com

The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers: let Him not leave us, nor forsake us; that He may incline our hearts unto Him, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments, and His statutes, and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers.
from 1 Kings 8: 57, 58



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Nature Newswatch®

Week of Dec. 18-24, 2005

Of passion and parasites



A time of drawing close with loved ones, the holidays are often celebrated with a little evergreen commonly brought indoors that enhances the passion. It's the tiny sprig of gray-green leaves and waxy-white berries called mistletoe.

Mistletoe berries contain tiny seeds that are spread when birds, such as mourning doves, bluebirds and evening grosbeaks, feed on the fruits. The slightly sticky seeds lodge on tree branches as the birds clean their beaks, or are deposited with the bird's droppings. Young mistletoe plants manufacture some of their own food, but also send root-like hairs through the tree bark where they steal nourishment from the tree. The parasites!

Traditionally, a man is "privileged" to kiss a woman standing under such a sprig. Dangling mistletoe high overhead, however, not only provides us with delightful surprise, but also safeguards our little ones. Although relished by birds, white mistletoe berries are quite poisonous to people.



American mistletoe
Phoradendron leucarpum
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Habitat: more than 100 species of deciduous trees
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Mistletoe: the other evergreen

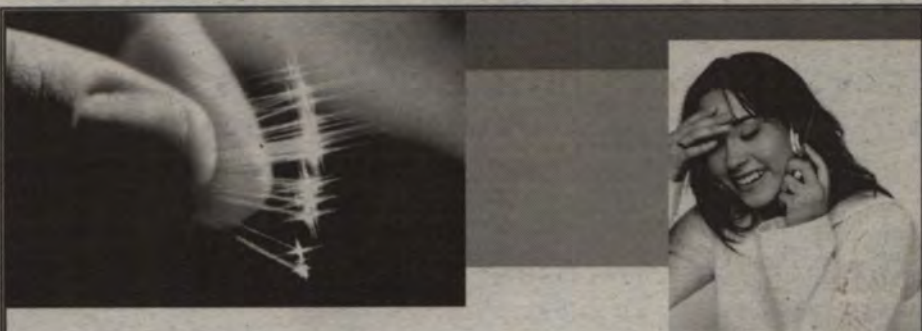
The aroma and romance of a live Christmas tree in the living room never fails to bring people close together during the holidays. There is another live evergreen, however, that we also traditionally bring indoors during Yuletide that beats the pines, spruces and firs hands-down for drawing people close to each other. Whether this function is considered by botanists as part of the plant's ecological niche is debatable. But its effect on humans is certainly enchanting, generally endearing, and occasionally enduring. The plant is the tiny sprig of gray-green leaves and white berries suspended over our heads called mistletoe.

Mistletoe Facts:

Tree Thief. Mistletoe is semi-parasitic. It draws nourishment through root-like hairs it sends through the bark and into the sapwood of a tree. But it also produces some of its own food from sunlight from chlorophyll in its gray-green leaves. Its scientific name, *phoradendron*, is derived from the Greek *phor* (thief) and *dendron* (tree).

Poison berries. Although relished by birds, mistletoe berries are poisonous to people. They contain certain toxic chemicals which cause acute stomach and intestinal irritation with diarrhea and slow pulse. In contrast, other parts of the plant have been used in old home remedies that reportedly raise the blood pressure. Illnesses that require such a prescription, however, should be treated by a doctor, not home remedies. "Safe" increases in blood pressure can be obtained without ingesting mistletoe, by simply putting it to its more traditional use.

Real vs. Plastic. Mistletoe thrives in the south-central and southeastern United States. Purchasing a sprig imported from where it grows abundantly is fine, or you can obtain the plastic alternative, which, although possibly safer for children, may cost you an embrace with someone who knows the difference between *phoradendron* and polyethylene.

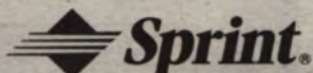


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Christmas Day Celebration Service
Sunday, December 25th at 10:30 a.m.

For more info, call the church office at 947-5465
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(PHOTO BY TIM FLEISCHER)

Rebecca Petro, Audrey Roe and Julia Mueller presented a special Christmas program to young children, parents and grandparents Dec. 17. Skits included audience participation. Luke Arner, son of Christy Arner, is shown above as Joseph.

Aid FROM PAGE 9A

tion the Roman authorities to help the lame and the poor. He did it himself, and demanded they do likewise. Christ filled the multitudes with loaves and fish, and gave us the bread of eternal life in the form of His self-sacrifice. But government advocates, wrapped in their own self-sewn Shroud, can, at best, salve their own moral conscience by insisting that others do the work of tending to the poor. Is that really living the word of God and emulating Jesus Christ?

The first obligation of all those who believe in the message of Christ is to follow His word. If the advocates of CHIP really

believe so passionately in the justness of their cause, then they will adhere to the Biblical admonition to "sell everything" and give it to the poor as Christ commanded rather than demanding that the rest of us render more unto Caesar. Giving of your own resources directly to the poor is called Christian charity. Redistributing the wealth of others in the name of the poor is called socialism. Mr. Ratliff needs to learn the difference.

Colyandro is Executive Director of the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute; Connett is a policy analyst at TCCRI.

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Salado Village Guide

Shopping Map
Pages 6-7B

Section B Salado Village Voice

December 22, 2005

12 Pages Shopping, Dining, Overnight, Events

Weddings and Events Showcase Jan. 15

Spring-fed Salado Creek weaves its course through this antebellum Texas village, making Salado a perfect and charming destination for memories to last a lifetime. Salado's many historic bed and breakfasts, romantic restaurants, charming cafes and quiet inns will open their doors for the Salado Weddings and Events Showcase January 15, 2006.

Not only can you find the ideal location for your Wedding, Reception, Reunion, Anniversary, Honeymoon, Birthday or Retreat, you can meet with local services, such as wedding planners, caterers, photographers, videographers, floral designers, jewelers and

others, to help plan your special events.

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

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

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

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

A complete list of participating bed and breakfast inns, restaurants, event centers, meeting halls, hotels and other service providers can be found at salado.com.

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

Each person attending the Showcase will be given a map and guide

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

For those who reserve a Sunday night stay in one of the participating lodging facilities, the \$15 admission to the Wedding and Events Showcase will be free.

For info, call 254-947-5040 or visit salado.com.



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Salado Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors joined Sheldon Vickers and June Ritterbusch to cut the ribbon on the Salado Wine Seller, which is located on N. Main St. Salado behind Merle Norman. The Wine Seller offers fine Texas wines and accessories at its location, which opens at 11 a.m. daily. For more information, call 254-947-8011. (PHOTO BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)

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What's happening in town?

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

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

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

JANUARY 15
Salado Wedding and Event Showcase, 1-5 p.m.

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

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

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

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

JANUARY 26
Salado Area Republican Women's Candidates Forum, 6 p.m. at Mill Creek Restaurant. Dinner included. Info: 254-947-3617.

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

FEBRUARY 4
Wildfire Open to the World team roping at

Wildfire Ranch. Details TBA.

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

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

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

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

FEBRUARY 21
Teacup Tuesday meeting, Program: "Early Childhood Memories" by Patsy Sanford and friends, 9:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church.
FEBRUARY 23-25
Salado Soaring

Eagle High School Softball Classic, at the Salado softball fields. More details TBA.
MARCH 2-5 & 9-12

First Annual Central Texas Shakespeare Invitational at Tablerock Amphitheater. March 2-5 will feature performances of Shakespeare by performers 18 and under; March 9-12 performances of all ages. Info: David Dunlap, 254-247-0220 or ddunlap@tablerock.org.
MARCH 17

11th Annual Denver Mills Golf Tournament at Mill Creek, benefitting Tablerock Amphitheater, \$60 entry fee. Shotgun start at 1 p.m. Info: 254-947-3354 or email tablerock1@aol.com.
MARCH 18

Salado Civic Center Auction and Dinner honoring Wilbur and Jessie Foster, 6 p.m. at Salado Intermediate School. Tickets: \$10 per person. Info: 947-8300.
MARCH 21

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

Salado Historical Society general meeting, 6:15 p.m. at the Salado Civic Center.
APRIL 1-2

Annual Wildflower Art Show. More details TBA. Info: Salado Chamber of Commerce, 254-947-5040.
APRIL 7

Thomas Arnold Elementary/PTO Moms and Muffins morning, 7-7:45 a.m. at the school. Info: 947-5191.
APRIL 8

Chisholm Trail ABWA Style Show, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mill Creek Restaurant. Info: 254-947-3617.
APRIL 14-16

Easter Pageant at Tablerock Amphitheater, presented by First Baptist Church of Salado, 8:15 p.m., bring a lawn chair. Free admission; church groups welcome. Info: 254-947-5465 or www.fbcshalado.org.
APRIL 18

Teacup Tuesday meeting, Program: "History Mysteries" by author, historian and Salado-resident Charlie Turnbo, 9:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church.
APRIL 22

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

MORE LISTINGS ON 5B

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TAE letters to Santa

This week marks the third and final installment of letters to Santa Claus written by Thomas Arnold Elementary third graders.

Mrs. Oborski's Class

Dear Santa,
How are the Elfs? I hope none of them got sick. Two things about me, I go to Thomas Arnold Elementary, I am eight years old. This year I would want a X Box 360. My aunt Berta wants a puppy.
David Berumen

Dear Santa,
How are you doing up in the North Pole? I hope your fine I am happy about the holidays What I want for Christmas is an A.T.V. and for Taner the same thing. And what I like about the holidia is the cold.
Coleson

Dear Santa,
How are you? Are you working hard on the toys? I am nine years old. I would like a T.V. so I can wath the cartoons. Pleas give Garrbriela, Ariana faith chocolates and juice because they like it. What I like about the holidays is the snow.
Kimberly Nieto

Dear Santa,
Are the elves working on the toys? Two thing about me is I am eight years old and I go to shooll. I would like a watch because I never had a watch. I need a Payton Manney jersey for my sister. My favoriat Holiday is Chritmas. I like Chritmas because it is about Jesus being born and Angel.
Ariana Rangel

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Clause, and the reindeer? My name is Cameron Michael Markham. I am from Belton, Texas Armstrong road. I want an Imaginex set. I want to ask for a sereise of Magic Tree House books for my brother Luke. The best part adoubt the holidays is all the hot chokolate.
Cameron Markham

Dear Santa,
How was you vacation? If you got one. Well my name is Oren Wilkerson and can I please have a Bata beta mon! Beckas I have been good. I realy want a tent for my big brother beckas his brock. The reson I like the Holleday beckas I like the snow.
Oren Wilkerson

Dear Santa,
Has Rudolph charged up his nose for the long ride? The Main Thing about me is I love hunting. I would love to have a 2-23 rifle so I can shoot my first deer. My brother needs new football pads so he can get tackled hard. I like giving thanks and pray for the.Holidays.
Jacob Little

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer have they been working out lately? I'm Chase Kelly and live in Belton Texas. I want an Xbox 360 because I've never had one before and I want games with it. My sister because she wants a lot of clothes and other stuff. What I like about the holidays is getting together with my family, getting stuff, and not going to school.
Chase Kelly

Dear Santa,
Would you want to

have some cookies? I have been a good boy this year. May I please have a golf cart. Because I like to drive it. My mom needs a bigger yard so we can play more stuff! I don't have to do chours on Hoildays!
Dalton Hankamer

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Calus doing? I am doing really good so far. I would like a new bike for cristmas because the stand on my bike will not work very good. My little sister would love some new roller skates cause she loves roller skating. I like holidays best because they are special.
Jessica Wolf

Dear Santa,
How many toys have you made up there in the North pole? I hope some are for me! I think Ive been a fantastic kid this year. I want a cellphone because not only so I can talk to my friends so I can

call my dad if thare is an emergency. And for my mom I want her to wake up and the house to be clean. What I like about holadays is that I always get to be whith my family.
Sabia

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? I'm fine. I was wondering if you can but you can't it will still be fine. I was wondering if you can take my family and me and my class to your home and show us around. And how are your elf's and raindeer?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4B



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SANTA LETTERS

FROM PAGE 3B

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I'm very sad because you and your elves have to work so hard. And may you get my papa a deer hunting gun because he likes to go deer hunting. What I like about the holidays is that they have something special in each and every one.

Kandes Ponder

Dear Santa,

Has Rudolph been eating his trale mix for the long trip? Hi. I'm a sweet 8 year old that is sassy and my name is Tanja Rojas. I want to see a cupter under my tree because I need privesy. I want a Puss in Boots doll for my sister becace she has been good. I like the holidays because I can spend time with faimly.

Tanja Rojas

Dear Santa,

How our you doing Santa Claus have you been working hard on the toys? I am eight years old about 9 years. I got to scool at Thoms Arnled Elmentry. I live in Saldo, TX. I want some stuff for my mom that is art and craffs. I want a new bike or a four wheeler so when she gets bord she can do art and craffs. I will ride my four wheller when I get bord.

Madison Matsi

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer getting along with Mrs. Claus. I am really funny because of you and Mrs. Claus and your reindeer. What I want from you is a Xbox 360 and some games with it. Because I want to play with my brother an sister. My sister's name is Taylor and my brother's name is Garret. I like the holidays because I don't have to go to school.

Morgan Marburger

Dear Santa,

Hay Santa has your deer's been working out for in a fue weeks. Well I have been good this year. I really really would be nice if I got a batman actchen figuar because me and my brother watched it together. My brother would like a race car for Christmas. That would be nice. How was your weekend off ficksing your slaght.

Dylan Touchon

Dear Santa,

Did you and Mrs. Claus go on vacation? I hope you had fun. Two things about me is I am eight years old and I got to Salado Thomas Arnold Elementry. I have been begging for a night stand but my parents haven't had time. Could you get my dad a tie so he can wear it to church. I like Christmas because I know it is not just about presents if was about when Jesus was born.

Faith Renfro

Dear Santa,

I won wondering if your elves are still making toys? Ive been good and I help my mom and dad. I would really like a mini A.T.V. because they are cool. Colby because

he is my friend. What I like most about the holi-day season is giving and receiving gifts.

Keaton Mims

Dear Santa,

Are you and the rain-deer getting ready for Cristmas Eve? You must be working hard for all the little children. I have made new friends. And I have learned to roller blade. This year I would like a computer because I need some privesy. My cusin would like a play stashan. He deserves it because he helped me and I never repaed him back. I like the holidays because you spend time with your family.

Ashley Combs

Dear Santa,

Te pido una T.V. de cinderella un juego de Elada. Te pido hojas de colores un relon para papa, para mama ropa y mucha pero mucha ropa para mi hermana casaso de grandes de maestra vestidos que le queden y parescan de grandes sapatiyas de verdad del numero 1 pinturas para la cara creo que le aria falta una peluco para la maestra ropa.

Gabriela

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B.C. Museum church ornaments still available

Newest in the Bell County Museum's historic church ornament series is First United Methodist Church in Belton. The charming three-dimensional replica sells for \$15 plus tax; museum members receive a 10 percent discount.

The First United Methodist Church was founded in 1850, when Bell County was created, and was part of a circuit until 1869. By the 1880s, the congregation outgrew the

original church building and began construction on a new sanctuary in 1884. Upon completion in 1886, the members moved into the building where worship services are still held.

This limited edition ornament is the fourth in a series of ornaments showcasing historic church structures in Bell County. Salado United Methodist Church, the First Baptist Church of Temple, and Christ Episcopal Church

of Temple are the first three in the series.

This year another commemorative holiday ornament is featured the Carnegie Library Building. The Carnegie Library, endowed by Andrew Carnegie, was constructed in 1904. The building first served as a public library for Belton, and is now home to the Bell County Museum. The building is one of only 12 libraries endowed by Andrew Carnegie still in

existence in Texas.

"The church ornaments are not just for members of a specific congregation," said Board of Trustees member Margaret Williamson. "They are wonderful collectibles for all members of Bell County who love history and who wish to showcase our unique and historic church structures."

To reserve an ornament, contact the museum at 254-933-5243.

Calendar of Events

From Page 3B

APRIL 22-23

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

MAY 6-7

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

MAY 13

Eleventh Annual Thomas Arnold Elemen-

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

MAY 16

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

JUNE 24-25

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

JULY 4

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

JULY 22, 29 & AUG. 5

Tablerock's 14th Annual presentation of Salado Legends, 8:15 p.m. Dinner: 7:15 p.m., cost \$8, reservations

required. Performance tickets: \$15 adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. Info: 254-947-3205 or www.tablerock.org.

AUGUST 5-6

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



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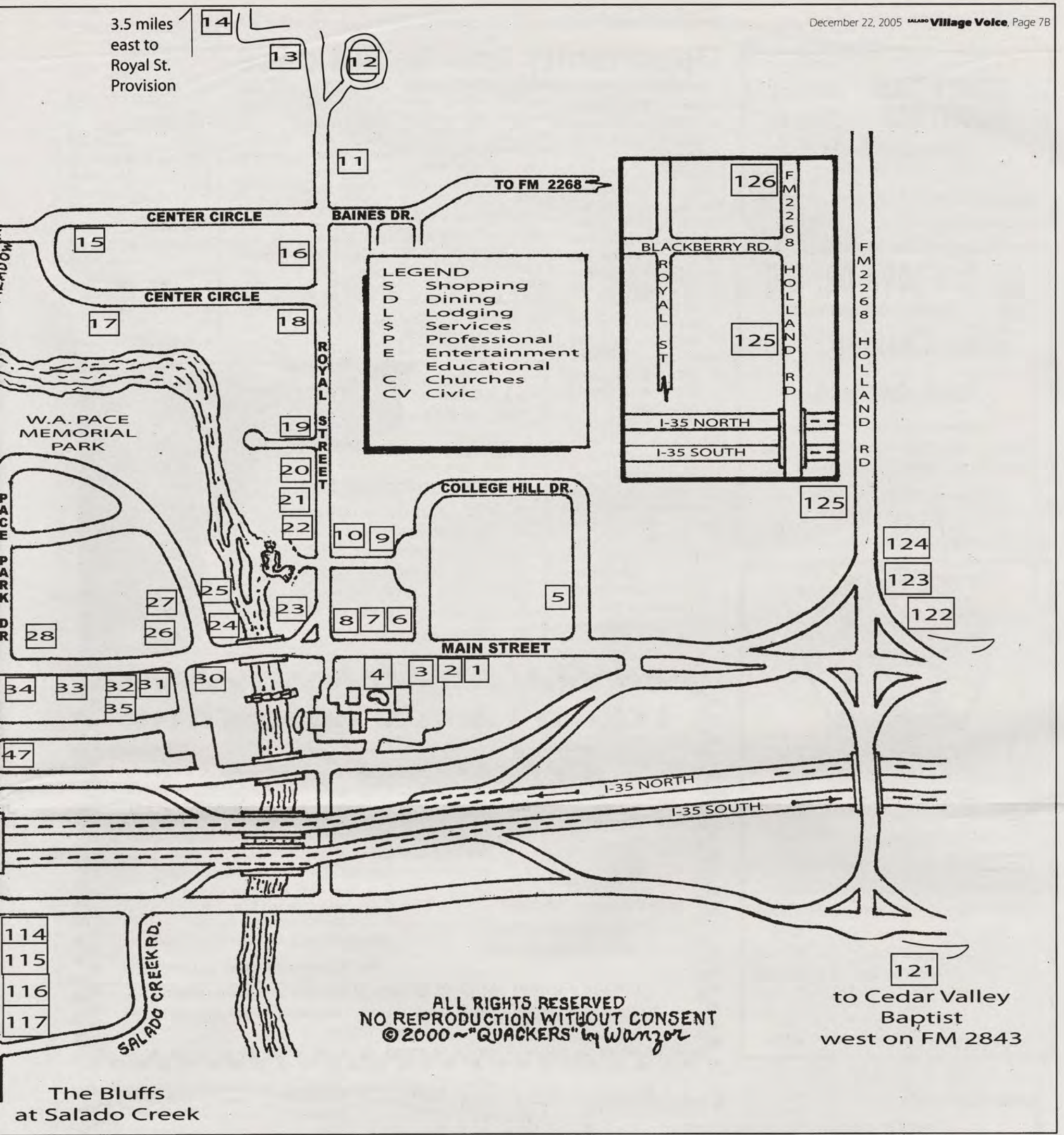
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70. STAGESTOP RETAIL CENTER	Angelic Herbs 254/947-1909 S	Southern Image Gallery 254/947-9478 S	The Sewing Basket 254/947-5423 S
71. SALADO CIVIC CENTER	Salado Civic Center 254/947-8300 CV	Chamber of Commerce 254/947-5040 CV	Historical Society CV
	SISD Administration 254/947-5479 E	Village Art Center (on the grounds of Salado Civic Center)	
72. The Halley House 254/947-1000 L			
73. CARRIAGE PLACE SQUARE	Before & After 254/947-5814 \$		
ARCHANGEL ON MAIN	Etrulia's 254/947-0504 S	Merle Norman Cosmetics 254/947-9993 S	Salado Wine Seller 254/947-8011 S
76. ArchAngel Antiques & Architectural Salvage 254/947-5933 S			
77. St. Joseph's Episcopal C			
79. Presbyterian Church of Salado 254/947-8106 C			
80. Shabby Chic Designs & More 254/947-8350 S			
81. Salado Sawmill 254/947-0137 S	The Timbers at Salado Sawmill 254/947-0137 L		
82. OLD TOWN SALADO	Cathy's Boardwalk Cafe 254/947-8162 D	Texan by Design 254/947-4479 S	
87. Century 21 Bill Bartlett Real Estate 254/947-5050 \$			
88. The Personal Wealth Coach 254/947-1111 \$			
94. SALADO PLAZA	Salado Village Voice 254/947-5321 \$	Edward D. Jones 254/947-5128 \$	Monteith Abstract & Title Co. 254/947-3922 \$
	Salado Chiropractic 254/947-BACK P	Salado Eye Care 254/947-LENS P	Village Pharmacy 254/947-3185 \$
95. Willingham Agency	Nationwide Insurance 254/947-9003 \$	Mill Creek Golf & Country Club 254/947-5144 D,L	Salado Public Library 254/947-9191 E
	Salado Cleaners 254/947-7299 \$	Village Realty 254/947-0342 \$	Robertson's Hams and The Choppin' Block 254/947-5562 S
	Fairway Golf Carts 254/947-4065 S	Scissors Hair and Nails 254/947-9001 \$	
			111. Super 8 Motel 254/947-5000 D
			115. Johnny's Steaks & Bar-Be-Que 254/947-4663 D
			116. Johnny's Texas Banquet Hall 254/947-4663 D
			117. The Barber Barn 254/421-5173 \$
			118. Thomas Arnold 254/947-5191 E
			119. Salado Intermediate 254/947-1700 E
			120. Salado High 254/947-5429 E
			121. Cedar Valley Baptist Church 254/947-0148 C
			122. Eagle Rock Ranch 254/947-5369 \$
			123. Wildfire Saddlery 254/947-8080 S
			124. St. Stephen Catholic Church 254/947-8037 C
			127. Grace Baptist Church of Salado 254/947-5917 C
			128. Janelle's 254/947-3584 S
			Not shown on map
			The Event Center at Tenroc Ranch
			2 miles west of I-35 on Thomas Arnold Rd.
			512/947-9218 \$

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Contract Bridge

Opportunity knocks but once

BY STEVE BECKER

Anyone who writes a bridge book or a bridge column has to be careful of what he says, because his words will sometimes come back to haunt him. He may set forth any number of sound general rules -- and be right about them -- knowing full well that on occasion a particular rule might best be forgotten.

This is, of course, as it should be, since the word "general" implies, by definition, that there are times when a general principle should be temporarily abandoned. Take this case where South is in five diamonds doubled and West leads the two of spades. East takes the ace and returns a trump. South has no difficulty from here on, since his heart losers eventually go off on dummy's clubs, and he finishes with an overtrick.

Of course, if West had led the king of spades and

shifted to the jack of hearts, East-West would have been plus 500 instead of minus 950 -- a difference hardly to be sneezed at.

But ask West why he led the deuce instead of the king, and he might tell you that the two was the right lead and that he could prove it by referring you to a hundred different books on the play of the cards.

In a sense he would be right, because the books generally advise the lead

of a low card from three or more cards including an honor, rather than the highest card. However, there is such a thing as common sense.

West should lead the king in this case because he wants to retain the lead in order to be in a position to decide what to do next, after he has seen the dummy. If he leads the two, he is not likely ever to be on lead again.

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.


NORTH
♠ 5
♥ K 8 4
♦ Q 9 7 2
♣ K 10 9 5 3

WEST **EAST**
♠ K J 8 2 ♠ A Q 10 9 7 3
♥ J 10 5 2 ♥ A Q 7
♦ 8 4 ♦ 6
♣ 7 6 4 ♣ J 8 2

SOUTH
♠ 6 4
♥ 9 6 3
♦ A K J 10 5 3
♣ A Q

The bidding:
East South West North
♠ 2♦ 2♣ 3♦
♥ 5♦ Pass Pass

Dble
Opening lead — two of spades.

 **The Garden Bug**

Grapes and good luck
In Portugal and Spain, when the clock strikes twelve on New Year's Eve, one grape is picked and eaten at each toll. This symbolizes a wish for twelve happy months in the coming year.

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Merry Christmas, Y'all

Cynthia (Mama) and I would like to thank all of those who have enlightened our day by coming into our restaurant and sharing their company with us. But, Guess What?

We will be closed December 14, 2005 to January 12, 2006

so that we can relax for a while and enjoy the holidays. We would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Most of all, may God keep you and bless you through this holiday season.

David and Cynthia Appichino

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The 2006 slate of officers for the Mill Creek Community Association were elected during the annual Christmas party Dec. 13. They are, from left, Secretary Marcy Wilson, President Larry Linder, Vice President Steve Rowan and Treasurer Judy Fulfer. (PHOTOS BY MARILYN FLEISCHER)



Mill Creek volunteers Pat Freeman, LaNora Miller, and Bibbie Reihsen were honored for their work for the Mill Creek Community Association during the annual MCCA Christmas Dinner Dec. 13.



Harry Sweet read from Charles Dickens.



2005 MCCA President Dave Apichino.



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Second Course
Salado Caesar Salad

Main Course
Beef Wellington w/Lobster & Bearnaise
Wild Rice w/ Roasted Pecan and Cranberries
Butter Glazed Carrots w/ Parsley

Dessert Course
Chocolate Nemesis



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Impress your guests with these recipes

Crown Roast of Lamb

Crown your holiday table with this elegant yet simple recipe sure to impress everyone, even the family curmudgeon. Fresh herbs — rosemary, oregano and thyme — gently flavor this centerpiece dish. Be sure to order your crown ahead of time, since they are usually prepared to order.

- Serves 6-8
- 3 TB olive oil
 - 2 TB fresh rosemary, minced
 - 2 TB fresh oregano, chopped
 - 2 TB thyme, chopped
 - 6 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1 1/2 tsp salt
 - 1 1/2 tsp freshly cracked pepper
 - 1 crown roast of lamb, (which are two 8-rib racks of lamb tied together)

Preheat the oven to 450°F. Combine the olive oil, rosemary, oregano, thyme, garlic, salt and pepper in a bowl. Stir to blend. Place the crown roast of lamb in a roasting pan. Rub the lamb all over with the herb rub. Cover the bone ends loosely with a sheet of aluminum foil. Roast the lamb until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the lamb without touching the bone registers 130° to 135° for medium-rare, about 25 minutes; or 135° to 140° for medium, about 35 minutes.

Transfer the lamb to a serving platter and allow it to rest for 5 to 8 minutes. The temperature will continue to rise as it rests. Remove the foil and string. Cut the lamb



between the ribs into chops and serve.

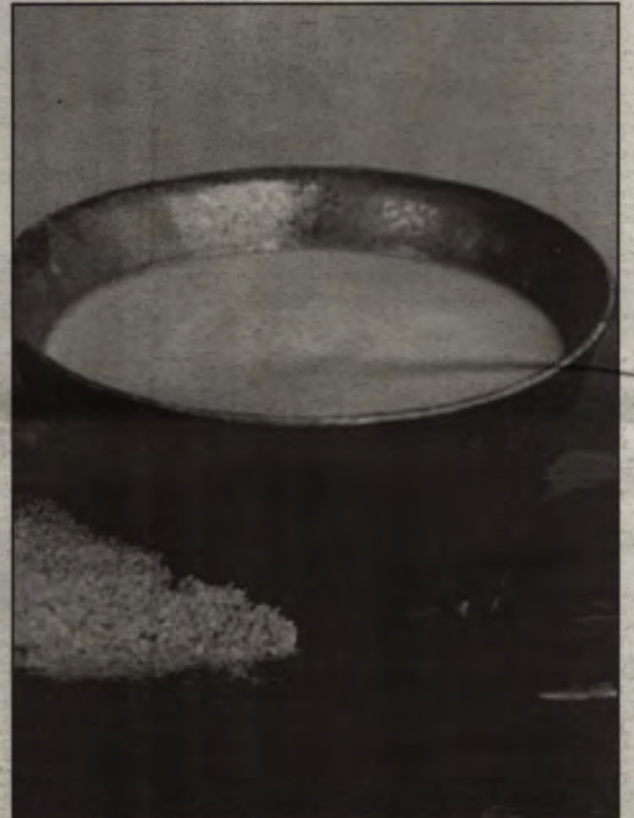
Nutrition Info:
 Per Serving (143g-wt.): 530 calories (400 from fat), 45g total fat, 17g saturated fat, 28g protein, 2g total carbohydrate (0g dietary fiber, 0g sugar), 125mg cholesterol, 590mg sodium

Roasted Pumpkin Bisque

- Serves 8-10
- 5 lb pumpkin, skin removed, and cut into 3/4 inch dice
 - 2 yellow onions, chopped
 - 1 TB finely chopped fresh thyme
 - 3 TB extra virgin olive oil
 - salt and freshly ground black pepper
 - 6 cups chicken or vegetable stock
 - 1/2 cup dry white wine
 - 1 tsp ground cardamom
 - optional: 2/3 cup heavy cream or crème fraiche

Ingredient option: use gluten-free broth. Preheat oven to 425°F. Toss pumpkin, onions and thyme in olive oil and spread mixture onto one or two large baking sheets. Season with salt and pepper and roast for 20-30 minutes until tender, stirring once or twice. Remove from oven and transfer to a large saucepot. Add stock, wine and cardamom and simmer for 10 minutes. Working in batches, puree the soup in a blender or food processor until smooth and transfer to a clean saucepan and check seasoning. When ready to serve, bring back to simmer. Remove from heat and whisk in cream.

Nutrition Info: Per Serving (14 oz.): 150 calories (70 calories from fat), 8g total fat, 2.5g saturated fat, 1g dietary fiber, 3g protein, 19g carbohydrate, 10mg cholesterol, 610mg sodium



Stuffed Pork Chops

Juicy, thick cut pork chops are stuffed with cornbread studded with sweet dried cherries, raisins and apricots. Sage, thyme and a little salt and pepper add a savory balance to this timeless dish. Serve with roasted fall vegetables and rice pilaf for a comforting, well-rounded meal.

- Serves 6
- 2 cups corn bread
 - 1/2 cup chicken stock
 - 2 TB dried cherries
 - 2 TB dark raisins
 - 1 TB small dried apricots, diced
 - 1 TB fresh sage, chopped
 - 1 TB fresh thyme, chopped
 - 6 boneless center cut pork chops, approximately 1 1/2 inches thick
 - canola oil for spraying
 - salt to taste
 - pepper to taste

Crumble the cornbread into a mixing bowl. Heat the chicken stock in a small sauce pan. Add the dried cherries, raisins and apricots to the chicken stock and allow to steep for 2 to 3 minutes. Pour the stock with fruit into the cornbread. Stir in the sage and thyme, adding salt and pepper to taste, until all ingredients are well incorporated. Set aside.

Using a sharp boning knife, cut a pocket in the fleshy side of the pork chop forming a small pocket to insert the stuffing. Stuff cornbread mixture into the pockets, dividing equally among the pork chops. Seal the pocket



with a toothpick cut in half (use both ends to pinch the pocket shut).

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Spray the pork chops with canola oil and season to taste with salt and pepper. In a medium size skillet, sauté each pork chop for 3 to 4 minutes per side. Remove each pork chop and place in a sheet pan. Cook the pork chops in the oven for approximately 15 to 20 minutes. When done, an instant read thermometer should read 155°F when inserted into the center of the cornbread stuffing.

Nutrition Info: Per Serving (185g-wt.): 290 calories (90 from fat), 10g total fat, 3g saturated fat, 29g protein, 22g total carbohydrate (2g dietary fiber, 7g sugar), 85mg cholesterol, 540mg sodium

All Recipes on this page
 © Whole Foods Market, Inc. 200-2005. Visit
 www.wholefoodsmarket.com for recipes and more.

Riney Jordan is one funny man

Riney Jordan was a school executive in Grapevine 30 years, then moved to the central Texas town of Hamilton.

"We were tired of the big city and the traffic and were looking for a peaceful place where we could settle down for a while and figure out what we were going to do next," says Riley. "We went to a real estate company and asked if they had any interesting old homes we could look at and we found just what we were looking for."

Riney had a fine experience in Grapevine. He was named man of the year there. So leaving Grapevine was a big deal for him. But when he got to Hamilton, it turned out to be his honey pond. He and his wife now own the block of houses where their home is located. His office is across the street from his residence. Yep, office. He has found something to do. He is an after dinner speaker

by
Tumbleweed
Smith



and makes an appearance somewhere in the country nearly every week. He holds workshops for teachers. When I visited him, he had just returned from a speaking trip to Maine.

"Folks started calling me to come speak to them," says Riney. "They told me they would give me a free meal if I'd come and say a few words. It finally dawned on me one day that I've got a free meal here at the house. I need to start charging if I'm going to do this."

In his speeches, Riney talks about his family and his town. He tells about his son making a decision to join the Marines. When Riney asked him why he

wanted to do that, his son replied, "because I'm sick and tired of other people telling me what to do."

Riney loves to make people laugh. "Studies have shown that kids laugh 400 times a day and adults only 15. That's sad, especially when you realize that when you laugh, your immune system gets a boost and people who laugh are healthy."

About Hamilton, Riney told me that when he first moved there nine years ago an elderly woman told him to lock his car when he parked it on the square. Riney asked her if there was a crime problem in Hamilton. "No," the woman replied. "But

if your car isn't locked, someone will come along and put a bucket of squash in the back seat. We've got a lot of squash growers around here and they need to get rid of it."

Riney knew then he had moved to the right place. He says car repair is a big business in Hamilton. "People just drive them for a three block trip, then return home and their cars never get warmed up, so they get clogged up."

I couldn't help but ask Riney about his unusual first name.

"Mama says that she heard it on the Stella Dallas radio program. Riney was a little boy that everybody fell in love with on the Stella Dallas program. But where we lived the reception was so bad I don't think it was Riney and nobody else does either, but you're not going to convince Mama of that. She thinks it's Riney. I've searched the internet and I'm the only Riney Jordan in the world."

Best of 2005 in the golf world

Happy Holidays. Isn't that the politically correct thing to say? Just a few end of year things: Laser Ranger Finders will be legal to use in all competitions this next year. Get one, they are not too expensive and will make the game simple and faster. Great gifts.

This is the time of the year to try out new clubs and balls and such. Take a chance, the hybrids are incredibly easy to use, the bermuda is dormant and we have had little rain. All courses are running fast.

Now for the First Annual Willy Awards:

Clubhouse Commentary

By Bill Harris



Best Year 2005 - Jason Gore. Three wins Nationwide Tour, Battlefied promotion to PGA Tour, then win the next week at a PGA Tour, shot 59 at Nationwide event, incredible romance with crowd at U.S. Open, a real person. Said best new perk in PGA Tour was Day Care. Will have much more success.

Runner Up, Best Year - Bart Bryant. Two wins, including Tour Championship.

Worst Start as a Pro - Michelle Wie, undoubtedly. The DQ at the Women's World Championship, then missing the cut at Casio event in Japan. In both cases I question where her caddy was. He was

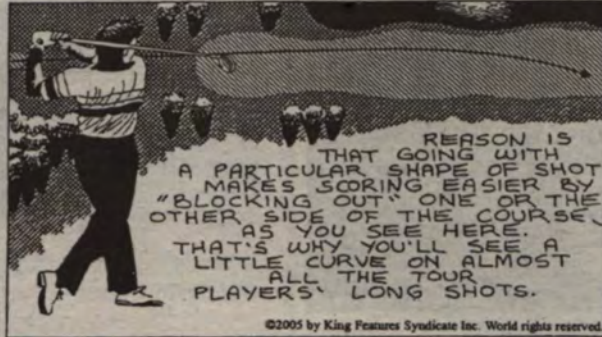
Juli Inkster's caddy for 15 years. He might be looking for a new job.

Best Christmas - LPGA Tour. A new commissioner and the most, young stars on the rise. Lots to celebrate. New commish has got to have visions of sugar plums for the Tour.

There is also a new Tour I am trying - U.S. Pro Golf Tour. They had one event in Atlanta - lots of cash in the purse but poorly run. Also, Canadian Tour in Austin, two weeks in early March. Great to see the new faces, talk to you next year.

Have a great holiday.

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Crossword puzzle answers



- ACROSS**
- 1 Pugilistic poke
 - 4 Silenced a squeak
 - 9 Fuel source
 - 13 "Turandot" tenor
 - 18 Heady quaff
 - 19 Savanna sight
 - 20 Lhasa —
 - 21 Arbus apparatus
 - 22 Rodent's favorite
 - 23 Monkees tune?
 - 24 Lost in thought
 - 25 Nuclear
 - 26 Brimming
 - 27 Join up
 - 29 Take into account
 - 31 Hook's mate
 - 32 — reaction
 - 34 Diva
 - 35 Ponselle
 - 36 Moon crawler
 - 38 Relative of -ator
 - 39 Rodent cheese-cake?
 - 45 Laundry problem
 - 47 Frigga's fellow
 - 48 Young boxers
 - 49 Relished a roast
 - 51 "Taras Bulba" author
 - 54 Emulate
 - 55 Brandy cocktail
 - 58 Protect with plastic
 - 61 Resident
 - 64 "Yours, Mine and —" ('68 film)
 - 65 Keatsian creation
 - 66 Redact
 - 67 "The Bartered Bride" composer
 - 70 Serenade accompaniment
 - 72 TV's "South —"
 - 74 Road curve
 - 75 Rodent's educational level?
 - 79 Dit's cousin
 - 82 Read quickly
 - 83 Actress
 - 84 Peepers protectors
 - 88 Oomph
 - 90 Tokyo, once
 - 91 Like some cellars
 - 93 It may suit you
 - 94 Closet freshener
 - 96 Calculator features
 - 99 Winter hazard
 - 100 Trattoria treat
 - 101 TV chef
 - 103 "— Shuffle" ('77 song)
 - 104 Seaweed product
 - 105 Bobby's flashlight
 - 108 Rodent's Olympic motto?
 - 112 Broad st.
 - 114 "Gotcha!"
 - 115 Article
 - 116 "— Night" ('58 hit)
 - 117 Apt rhyme for squirm
 - 119 "L—, c'est moi!"
 - 121 Matches
 - 125 Inception
 - 129 Cartoonist
 - 131 Writer
 - 133 Fictional rodent?
 - 135 Rink rental
 - 136 List ender
 - 137 "Peer Gynt" composer
 - 138 Psychic
 - 139 Veronica of "Hill Street Blues"
 - 140 Surrender
 - 141 Big revolver?
 - 142 Sticky stuff
- DOWN**
- 1 Secure spot
 - 2 — mater
 - 3 Rosary part
 - 4 Speak freely
 - 5 Roth —
 - 6 Exist
 - 7 Temptation location
 - 8 Earl — Biggers
 - 9 Living room
 - 10 Antipollution grp.
 - 11 "The — Jungle" ('50 film)
 - 12 Carry
 - 13 Purrfect pet?
 - 14 Grandpa McCoy
 - 15 Rodent refreshment?
 - 16 Pisces follower
 - 17 Sapphire side
 - 21 Future officer
 - 23 "We've Only Just —" ('70 hit)
 - 28 Hockey legend
 - 30 Urban transport
 - 33 Sugar amts.
 - 35 Bafbecue
 - 37 Christmas visitors
 - 39 Voting venue
 - 40 Turn of phrase
 - 41 Sib's kid
 - 42 On the — vive (alert)
 - 43 Summer coil
 - 44 Tristan's tootsie
 - 46 Actress
 - 50 Take the honey and run
 - 52 Mayberry town drunk
 - 53 "Why don't we?"
 - 56 Sadistic
 - 57 In the saddle
 - 59 Saying
 - 60 Cheerful
 - 62 Bk. convenience
 - 63 Neighbor of Thailand
 - 68 Used the microwave
 - 69 Digression
 - 71 Prose piece
 - 73 Boat bottom
 - 76 Atlanta campus
 - 77 Indentation
 - 78 Mintz or Whitney
 - 79 Johnny of "Chocolat"
 - 80 Soap additive
 - 81 City of rodents?
 - 85 Architect
 - 86 Window dressing?
 - 87 McCarthy's trunkmate
 - 89 West. alliance
 - 92 Brace
 - 95 Asta's mistress
 - 96 Snarl
 - 97 Banned pesticide
 - 98 London district
 - 102 Shake up
 - 104 Actor's actor?
 - 106 Spassky's game
 - 107 Pillbox, e.g.
 - 109 Bit of a beach
 - 110 Medical grp.
 - 111 TV's "Eight Is —"
 - 112 About to sink
 - 113 Screwdriver ingredient
 - 118 Spouse
 - 120 Composer
 - 122 Prod
 - 123 Binchy's "— Road"
 - 124 Tend the sauce
 - 126 Wallop
 - 127 Architect
 - 128 Small combo
 - 130 Gibson or Tillis
 - 132 Unbalanced
 - 134 Wager

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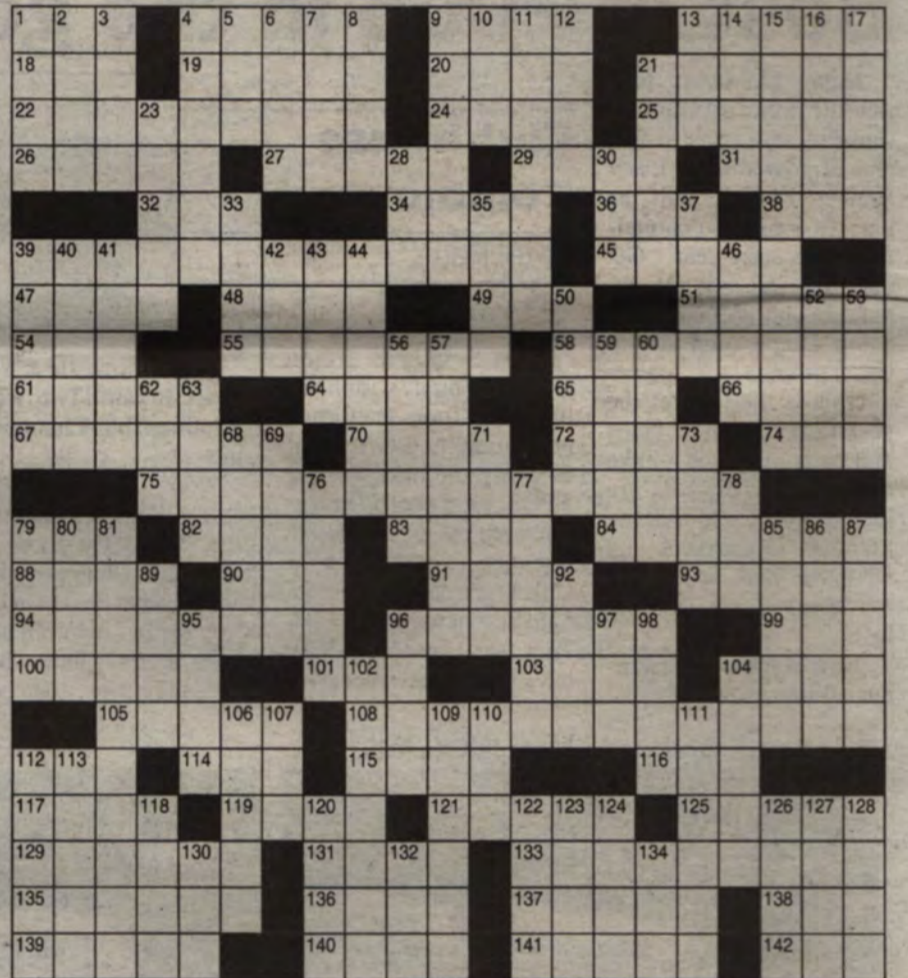


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having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. dated the 13 day of December, 2005. Akins & Nowlin, L.L.P. 1516 E Palm Valley Blvd., B-2, P O Box 249, Round Rock, TX 78680 512-244-0001 fax: 512-244-9733 by: Rick Akins State Bar no. 00962200 Attorneys for Estate 12/22b

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CLASSIFIEDS
 CONTINUED ON
PAGE 3C



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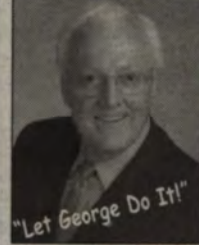
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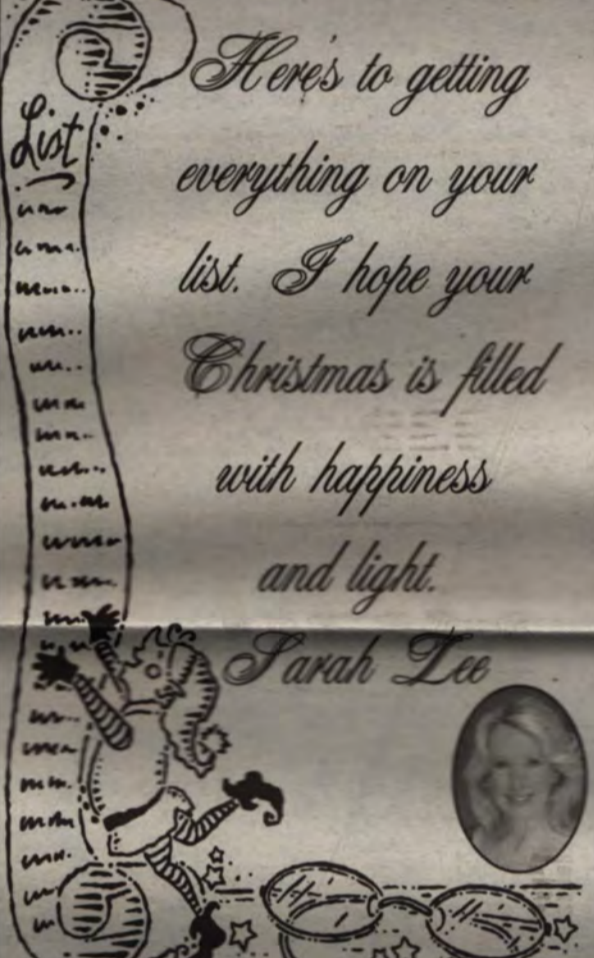
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LAND
 100 acres on Kuykendall Mountain Road west of Moffat. Lots of trees. Community water available. Unique land feature along the west side. \$3,850 per acre
 88 secluded acres with 1700 feet of Lampasas River frontage and 2300 feet of Clear Creek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

We have buyers looking for rural property -- is yours available?

COMMERCIAL
 Over 5,000 sq. ft. of free standing commercial office/warehouse space near downtown Temple with 20 parking spaces. Very flexible space. Quick conversion to your intended use. \$180,000.
 1.3 acre building site zoned C-2 on Sparta Road in Belton - west of new Super Wal-Mart. \$215,00.



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



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



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



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

Corian countertops, custom cabinets, tongue and groove wood floors allow for wonderful entertaining on the banks of Salado Creek. First time on the market since 1980's. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 947-5050

For sale by owner: Hidden Springs 3.27 acres. Only \$41,500 Lot #326 254-541-5449 512-285-2563 3/3tfn

Land for Sale

Beautiful tree covered 12-44 acre tracts in the gated, restricted Spear's Ranch Development between Salado and Georgetown. Contact Ronnie Tynes, Broker, (512) 461-3370. tfn

Spectacular building site in Woods of Salado, with large oak trees and a possible lake view \$35,000. Century 21 Bill Bartlett 254-947-5050 tfn

The Overlook - wooded estate

Commercial Rental

1024 sq ft on South Main near Stagecoach Inn. Available Feb. 1st '06 254-947-3351 tfn

CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUE ON PAGE 6C

Call Marilyn to advertise here 254-947-5321

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Oak trees surround this lovely Salado home! Large family room with fireplace and vaulted ceiling. Formal dining room with bay window. Enclosed sunporch opens to fenced backyard with large storage building. 3 BR/2BA. \$139,900.



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



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



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

Lots and Acreage

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

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

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

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

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

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

Investment Properties

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

Belton home for rent or potential \$59,500



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\$383,000: Private wooded setting. Soaring ceilings and stained concrete floors accent this gorgeous 5 BR, 3 BA home. 2nd living now used as office. All stainless steel appliances and granite countertops. Covered patio with surround sound and gas fire pit.



\$595,000: Own a piece of Salado Creek. A Darwin Britt-built home in 1987 with beautiful wood floors, beams and staircase designed by a true craftsman. Custom cabinets, tongue and groove wood floors allow for wonderful entertaining on banks of Salado Creek.



\$324,900: Custom 4 BR, 3.5 BA country home on 5.5 acres. Mother-in-law plan. Wood floors in the entry, living, & dining. Stately custom red oak cabinets and crown molding. Master has separate sitting area with bookcase & spacious bath with jetted tub. Oversized covered patio with surround sound.



\$274,500: Drive by and imagine yourself in this Texas Limestone ranch home. This 4 BR, 3 BA is loaded with extras, including granite countertops, wood floors, an irrigation system, landscaping and gutters.



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



\$209,800: When you walk into this home you will appreciate the volume ceilings with open floor plan & designer paint colors. Hard wood floors in dining room and living room. Storage room in garage and outside garage. Lots of mature trees and flower beds.



\$179,000: Home on 2.9 acres with long wrap-around porch. Beautiful live oak trees on property. 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 LR, one dining. Easy access to I-35. Short distance to Killeen or Salado.



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

Merry Christmas, Y'all!



\$282,900: Recently constructed home in Heritage Subdivision. 4 BR, 2.5 BA. Stone/brick combination in breakfast/dining areas. Beautiful view out the front door. Check out this home & subdivision.



\$249,900: Beautiful wood floors throughout downstairs living area. Recently remodeled home with master BR downstairs and 3 additional rooms upstairs. Kitchen opens to living area. Close to Mill Creek Golf Course.



\$219,900: This 3 or 4 BR home has a large, open feeling with grand entry. Ceramic tile and custom wood moldings. Enclosed sun porch for breakfast room or living area. Stone work in the front and a fully fenced back yard.



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



\$162,000: Lovely hard wood floors accent this home. Master bedroom with French doors opens to a private back yard with a covered back porch and deck, perfect for entertaining. Kitchen opens into the breakfast area and living room.



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Acreage Available

- 439 acs. on FM 487, Florence. Oaks, grasslands.
- 230 acres with over one mile of frontage on Little River.
- 150 acres, near Rogers. Excellent soil, good road frontage.
- 65 acs. on Hill Rd. and I-35, all or part. Under Contract.
- 5 wooded acres on Blackberry Rd.

Lots & Home Sites

Mill Creek Lots

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

Woods of Salado Lots

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

Other Lots

- Windy Hill Ranch: 2 acre lots - \$35,000-\$45,000.
- Heritage: 1 to 3 acre wooded, near Salado. Restricted.
- Hidden Springs: Lot 2, Lot 31, Lot 194.
- Denman's Loop: Lot 8, B 19, Sec. 2, \$18,000.
- Terra Bella: 12 estate lots in park-like setting off Armstrong Rd. \$45,000-\$110,000.

Commercial Property

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

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



2105 Smith Bluff
 Immaculate native limestone home ready for new owners, 20x19 living room with stone WBFP, formal and informal dining, 3 bedrooms, two baths and a wonderful kitchen. Many updates and great drive-up appeal. Don't miss this one! \$297,577. Price Reduced to \$188,000.



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



1617 Chaparral
 Very special, beautifully-designed contemporary home with unrestricted views of golf course. Features include large great room, formal dining, open kitchen, breakfast room, study, 4 beds and 3 full baths. This home has 4 porches, 2 car plus golf cart



1311 Mill Creek Dr.
 Perfection! Beautifully updated. Backs up to golf course and creek. Two bedrooms and two baths, study, large living area and formal dining room. Great location! \$220,000.



6787 N. Lakeview Dr.
 Tuscan in Woods of Salado, custom-built on 3.864 acres. Backs up to Corps of Engineers' treed property with panoramic view of Stillhouse Lake. 3 BR/3 BA, great room, dining, library plus large room upstairs to-be-finished. Tile roof, tile floors, and floating staircase with views of living and dining. \$290,000.



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



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



Mill Creek Homesites
 Premier Half-Acre Lots in restricted Mill Creek Golf course subdivision. Underground utilities, ready for custom homes with only 2,000 sq. ft minimum. 1801 Kevlin Trail 1901 Kevlin Trail
 1900 Kevlin Trail 1808 Kevlin Trail

alado- Main St. retail outdoor space available plus Glass House nearly 100 sq. ft., Total space garden area over 3,500 sq. ft. Call 947-9200 tfnb

Retail space for lease in new emporium on Main Street, Front Row. 947-5831 tfnb

Main St. Salado Retail Available 2,950 square feet - Great visibility. Can divide. 254-773-0038 10/27 tfnb

For Rent or Lease

Riverfront-studio apt. (duplex style), on 24+ acres. Very private, hardwood floors, large windows, lots of nature. \$635. Premium TV and utilities paid. Non-smoking. Near I-35 254 933-1234 12/22-12/29b

Charming, spacious, 2/2/1, townhome for rent, \$825. 6 closets, vaulted ceiling, w/d closet inside, Walk to shopping center. Lawn care provided. 254-338-5083. 12/15tfnb

For Rent - 1BR/1BA completely furnished cottage with water, cable, and yard work included. \$750/month plus \$400 deposit. Now available! No pets. (254) 947-7145. TFNB

Charming One BR, Brick home Sits back from the road next to a pond \$750 All Bills Paid.No Yard Work. Village Realty 947-0342 8/18tfn

For Rent: 2 BR 1 Ba new carpet and paint. \$550 monthly \$400 deposit. 947-4663 10/27tfnb

Salado Water Supply Corp. meets January 26 at Civic Center

The Annual Membership Meeting for Salado Water Supply Corporation will be held at 6:30 p.m. January 26, at the Salado Civic Center.

This agenda is tentative and subject to change:

- 1 Read and approve minutes from the 2005 Annual Meeting.
2. Treasurer's report and adoption of the 2005-2006 Budget.
3. Report on improvements to the water system.
4. Nomination and election of Board of Directors for all expiring terms.
5. Other business. (to be posted 72 hours prior to the meeting)

This meeting will provide information concerning Salado Water Supply Corporation and give members the opportunity to ask questions.

You may request copies of meeting materials in our office located at 410 Salado Plaza Drive after the above date.

Last call for electrician license grandfathering

Electrician License Grandfathering Period Ends December 31

Texas electricians seeking to obtain a license without taking the electrical exam under the grandfathering provision of the state's electrical licensing law must complete the license requirements set out in the law and file an application with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) by December 31, 2005.

To qualify under the grandfathering provisions of the law, applicants must demonstrate either that they currently hold a municipal or regional license and have completed the requisite number of hours of experience performing electrical work under the supervision of a master electrician. Alternately, applicants who hold no license, but who can demonstrate that they live and work in areas of the state in which no electrical licensing existed prior to the creation of the state electrical licensing

program, also may qualify for a license. Those applicants must prove that they have sufficient hours of experience performing electrical work either under the supervision of a master electrician or under the supervision of an individual recognized within the electrical trade as fulfilling duties and responsibilities equivalent to those of a master electrician.

All applications postmarked by December

31, 2005, will be assessed by the TDLR to determine whether the applicant may be licensed under the grandfathering provisions of the law. Currently, only the electrician exams offered by the International Code Council have been approved by TDLR to fulfill the exam requirement of the law.

Applications and supporting forms can be downloaded from TDLR's website at www.license.state.tx.us.



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



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Hi, I am lost and need help to find my home or a new one. Found on Dec. 12 on Indian Trail. I am a Male Lab-Mix and about 12 to 14 Months old. I am staying at the Salado Police Department's (Casa Del Bow-Wow) Bed & Breakfast and you can reach me at 947-5681

if you find my owner. If you want to adopt me, I am available now. Ad sponsored by Salado Village Voice



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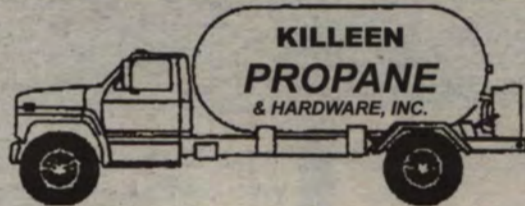


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Ryan Hodge
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Jerry Roberts
254-760-6576

Alan Persky
254-760-2924



Private ranch estate! Austin stone home on over 11 tree-covered acres located southwest of Salado. Thermador appliances, hardwood floors, covered porches, 3 fireplaces. **\$725,000.**



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

Acreage/Lots

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

Commercial

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

Belton

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

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