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Tim and Marilyn Fleischer, publishers of Salado Village Voice newspaper and Salado: A Jewel in the Crown of Texas magazine.

Salado Village Voice: always independent, family-owned and hyperlocal since 1979

While the *Salado Village Voice* is not the first newspaper in Salado, it has had the longest life-span since being founded in 1979. The Fleischer family bought the newspaper in 1988, marking 35 years in Salado in Spring 2023.

The first newspaper known to be published in the village was the *Salado Newsletter*. Published by E.W. Billings, the first edition came out on August 25, 1874. Only one copy of the newspaper exists at the newspaper collection of the University of Texas at Austin.

The Grange published another newspaper, *The Texas Farmer* in Salado, but it was later moved to Dallas.

Reference to a third Salado newspaper has been found on a letterhead in the Rose Papers at the University of Texas at Austin. The *Salado Sentinel* was published by A.S. Hornbeck. No copies of the *Salado Sentinel* are known to exist today.

Salado Village Voice founder Dayton Kelley was a native of Bell County, a journalist and a historian. He taught journalism at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor for 12 years before accepting a position as Director of the Texas Collection at Baylor University in Waco. After Dayton passed away, his sons Dennis and Bill ran the Salado Village Voice, selling it to the Fleischer family in 1988.

Since the Fleischer family purchased the newspaper, a week has not passed that the newspaper has not published. *Salado Village Voice* has published the quarterly magazine Salado: A Jewel in the Crown of Texas for more than 30 years.

Visit saladovillagevoice.com for breaking news, the latest Calendar of Events and information on many of the events in Salado.

Salado Village Voice was named the first Business of the Year by the Salado Chamber of Commerce in 2002. Marilyn Fleischer was named to the Hall of Fame by the Chamber for 2019.

See You in Salado

Advertise in the next edition of Salado: A Jewel in the Crown of Texas CONTACT advertising@saladovillagevoice.com

Second Quarter 2024 advertising deadline Feb. 1

SaladoVillageVoice.com

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Salado: A Jewel in the Crown of Texas magazine is a quarterly publication of Salado Village Voice Inc., publisher of the weekly Salado Village Voice newspaper., P.O. Box 587, Salado, Texas 76571. Distributed in Salado and all Texas Visitor Centers



Cover photo of Wildflower Art Show by Marilyn Fleischer

Calendar of Events

January 11

Around the World Dinner Series at Alexander's Distillery, 6:30 p.m. Reservations online through eventbrite.com for \$100 (includes tax and gratuity or \$1,000 for annual passport) for five course themed dinner. This month's Destination, South Korea.

January 13-14

Salado Market Days, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Salado Antique Mall, 721 Stagecoach Road. Salado's original Market Days event.

January 18-29

Annual Texas Stagecoach Wine Trail. You will have 12 days to visit eight participating wineries and enjoy your tastings. Participating wineries are 3 Texans Winery and Vineyard, Bee Ma Rosa Vineyard and Winery, Country Spring Vineyard and Winery, Country Spring Vineyard and Winery, Moose & Goose Winery, Red Caboose Winery, Salado Winery Co., and Valley Mills Winery. Tickets are \$40 (\$135+ value) available eventbrite.com. Or visit stagecoachtxwinetrail.com for more information.

January 19-February 10

Blow-Your-Own Valentines Event at Salado Glassworks. Blown Heart, \$60 (ages 3+). Blown Bowl \$90 (ages 12+). Fridays 3-4:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Registration opens January 2. Register online at saladoglassworks. com.

January 21

Heritage Country Church Annual Chili Cook-Off, 11:15 a.m. immediately following the church service. \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids to eat. For those entering the contest, use at least 10 lbs. of meat (no beans). Categories include Regular and Game and Beans. Trophies for first, second and third in each category. Trophy for one overall winner.

January 25-27

Central Texas Youth Rodeo Association Rodeo, Heritage Country Church, 9677 Lark Trail, Salado. Thursday starts at 7 p.m. Friday starts at 7 p.m. Saturday starts at 6 p.m. Order of Events: Poles, Straights, Goats, Barrels, Chute Dogging, Dbl Mugging, Tie Down, Ribbons, Breakaway and Team Roping.

January 26

Seventh Annual Australia Day

at Barrow Brewing Co. Australians and Texans have a lot in common and Barrow Brewing Co. is joining in the celebration of this awesome country/continent.

January 27

The Joy of Chocolate at Salado Public Library. Come and view and taste chocolate creations by amateur Salado chocolatiers. Public view and sample 2-4 p.m.

February 8

Around the World Dinner Series at Alexander's Distillery, 6:30 p.m. Reservations online through eventbrite.com for \$100 (includes tax and gratuity or \$1,000 for annual passport) for five course themed dinner. This month's Destination, Palermo, Italy.

February 10-11

Salado Market Days, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Salado Antique Mall, 721 Stagecoach Road. Salado's original Market Days event.

February 14

Valentine's in Salado. Don't forget this year. Book your reservations early in Salado's inns and restaurants.

February 22-24

Central Texas Youth Rodeo Association Rodeo, Heritage Country Church, 9677 Lark Trail, Salado. Thursday starts at 7 p.m. Friday starts at 7 p.m. Saturday starts at 6 p.m. Order of Events: Poles, Straights, Goats, Barrels, Chute Dogging, Dbl Mugging, Tie Down, Ribbons, Breakaway and Team Roping.

February 23-March 16

Blow-Your-Own St. Patrick's Day Event at Salado Glassworks. Blown Mug, Sipper or Tumbler, \$90 (ages 12+). Fridays 3-5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration opens January 23. Register online at saladoglassworks.com.

February 26

Public Arts League annual Taste of Salado, Tenroc Ranch, 5 p.m. Happy Hour, 6:30 p.m. dinner goodies provided by area restaurants. Tickets \$30 at centraltexastickets.com.

March 1-2

First Annual Heritage Country Church CPRA/UPRA Rodeo, produced by Diamond Cross Rodeo Co. Gates open at 6 p.m. Rodeo starts at 7:30 pm. Free admission. There will be bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, ranch bronc riding,

calf roping, team roping, women's break-a-way roping, steer dogging, barrel race, bull riding, mutton busting.

March 2

Texas Pizza Festival, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Barrow Breing Co., 108 Royal St. Adult GA tickets are \$20 and include four slices. Child GA tickets are \$10 and get them two slices. Pizza trucks participating include Barrow Brewing Company's resident truck, Happy Pizza Company, Bahler Street Pizza, Pizza Pieros, Treno Pizzeria, Nocco Pizzeria, Waco Artisan Pizza, Carter Brothers Pizza, and Scott's Pizza.

March 7-9

Central Texas Youth Rodeo Association Rodeo, Heritage Country Church, 9677 Lark Trail, Salado. Thursday starts at 7 p.m. Friday starts at 7 p.m. Saturday starts at 6 p.m. Order of Events: Poles, Straights, Goats, Barrels, Chute Dogging, Dbl Mugging, Tie Down, Ribbons, Breakaway and Team Roping.

March 9-10

Salado Market Days, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Salado Antique Mall, 721 Stagecoach Road. Salado's original Market Days event.

March 14

Around the World Dinner Series at Alexander's Distillery, 6:30 p.m. Reservations online through eventbrite.com for \$100 (includes tax and gratuity or \$1,000 for annual passport) for five course themed dinner. This month's Destination, New Orleans.

March 15-16

Texas Vaulting Expo 2024, Heritage Country Church, 9677 Lark Trail. Seminars and training both days. Public exhibition, 3-6 p.m. March 16. Discover equestrian vaulting in Texas by seeing these demonstrations and competitions.

March 23-24

24th Annual Wildflower Arts & Crafts Festival, Salado Civic Center, 601 N. Main. Free admission 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 24.

March 29-30

Blow-Your-Own Easter Egg Event at Salado Glassworks. One weekend only! Egg, \$60 (ages 3+). Friday 3-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration opens February 29. Register online at saladoglassworks.com.

March 31

Easter in Salado. Make reservations early for Easter brunch at the area restaurants.

April 4-7

45th annual Texas Packard Meet of Packard cars built from 1899 to 1958. Public viewing of cars morning of April 6 on the grounds of Holiday Inn Express.

April 6

Barrow Brewing Co. Eighth Anniversary celebration. Live music, food trucks and more, 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m.

April 6

Farmers Market begins its 2024 season at Barrow Brewing Co., 108 Royal St.

April 8

Total solar eclipse, the last one of this century in the United States, begins at about 12:19 p.m. Central Daylight Savings Time. At 1:36 p.m., night will fall as the moons blocks out the sun for three minutes, 46 seconds.

April 11

Around the World Dinner Series at Alexander's Distillery, 6:30 p.m. Reservations online through eventbrite.com for \$100 (includes tax and gratuity or \$1,000 for annual passport) for five course themed dinner. This month's Destination, Singapore.

April 11-13

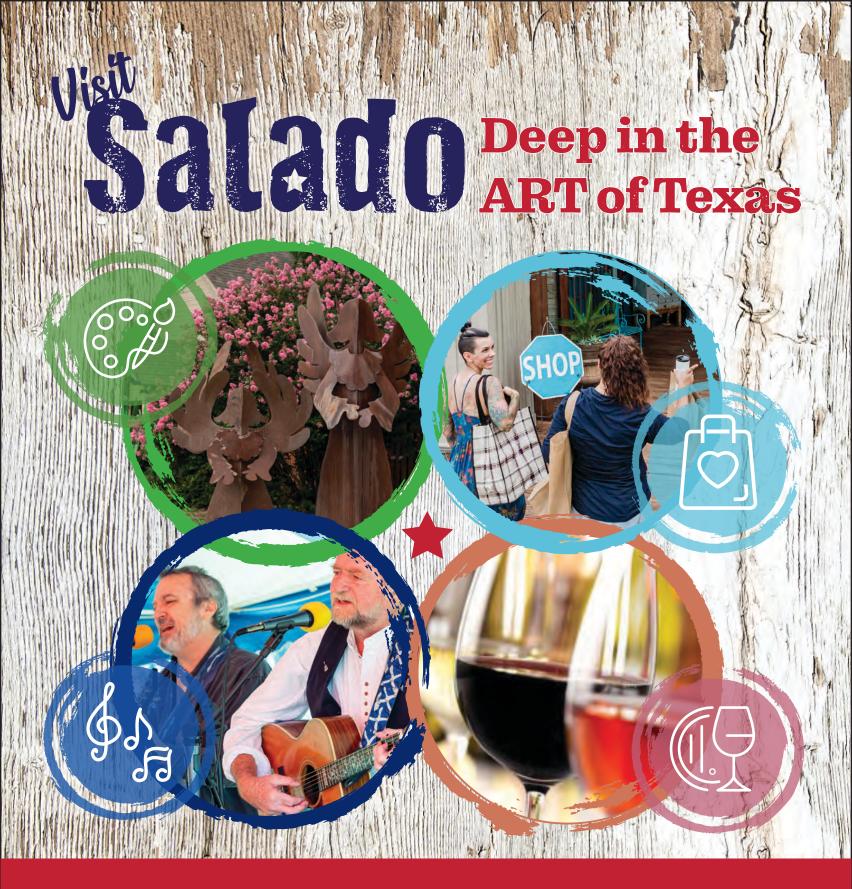
Central Texas Youth Rodeo Association Rodeo Finals, Heritage Country Church, 9677 Lark Trail, Salado. Thursday starts at 7 p.m. Friday starts at 7 p.m. Saturday starts at 6 p.m. Order of Events: Poles, Straights, Goats, Barrels, Chute Dogging, Dbl Mugging, Tie Down, Ribbons, Breakaway and Team Roping.

April 13-14

Salado Market Days, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Salado Antique Mall, 721 Stagecoach Road. Salado's original Market Days event.

Pick up the Salado Village Voice for the most up-to-date calendar of events in Salado. Visit saladovillagevoice.com for online calendar of events.

Salado events can be emailed to editor Tim Fleischer at news@saladovillagevoice.com





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Annual Texas Stagecoach Wine Trail

Embark on a memorable journey to the finest wineries in central Texas! Along the way, you'll drive routes that were operated by western stagecoaches for over sixty years. While the stagecoach was rendered obsolete in the 1880s, it survives as a rugged symbol of the West. This trail is more than just a group of wineries, it is a nod to the history of our region and the spirit of adventure we all share.

As a holder of a Texas Stagecoach Wine Trail ticket you will have the opportunity to taste complimentary wines at each winery. This package deal has a value of more than \$135. It also makes the great gift for the wine lover in your life.

Ticket holders will have 12 days to visit eight participating wineries and enjoy your tastings January 18-29, 2024.

Tickets are available eventbrite.com. Or visit stagecoachtxwinetrail.com for more information.

Check in to the wineries on social media, using #TxStagecoachWineTrail and #TxWine. Business hours vary among wineries so please verify their business hours as you plan your route. Participating wineries



You can enjoy tastings from eight central Texas wineries, including Salado Winery Co. and Axis Winery in Salado, during the Texas Stagecoach Wine Trail January 18-29, 2024.

are 3 Texans Winery and Vineyard, Bee Ma Rosa Vineyard and Winery, Country Spring Vineyard and Wine Garden, Dancing Bee Winery, Moose & Goose Winery, Red Caboose Winery, Salado Winery Co., and Valley Mills Winery.

At each winery, there will be plenty of opportunities to purchase additional wine tastings, and buy cool souvenirs, so bring your wallet. You must present your tickets to receive your tastings at each winery. Your tickets can be shown from your smartphone via email or using the Eventbrite app. Also, you need valid photo ID if you plan to consume alcohol.

NO outside alcoholic beverages allowed. Wine can be purchased at each winery for consumption.





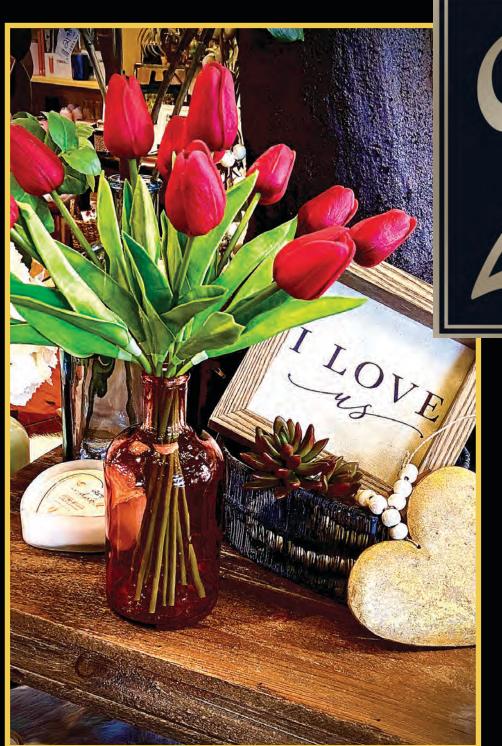


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Taste of Salado Feb. 26 at Tenroc

The Public Arts League of Salado (PALS) will host the annual Taste of Salado on Monday, February 26, 2024 at Tenroc Ranch. This event raises funds for the purchase and maintenance of sculpture in the Salado Sculpture Garden and on Main Street. The funds also go toward student scholarships that encourage the arts in our community.

Happy hour beginning at 5 p.m. will include music, libations, and a silent auction. Dinner goodies provided by area restaurants will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a live auction. The tickets are a steal at \$30 per person.

PALS invites everyone to this annual event that supports public art in Salado.



The Taste of Salado will be held at Tenroc Ranch February 26.







417 N Main Street Monday-Saturday 7-2pm Sunday 8-1:30pm Closed Wednesday

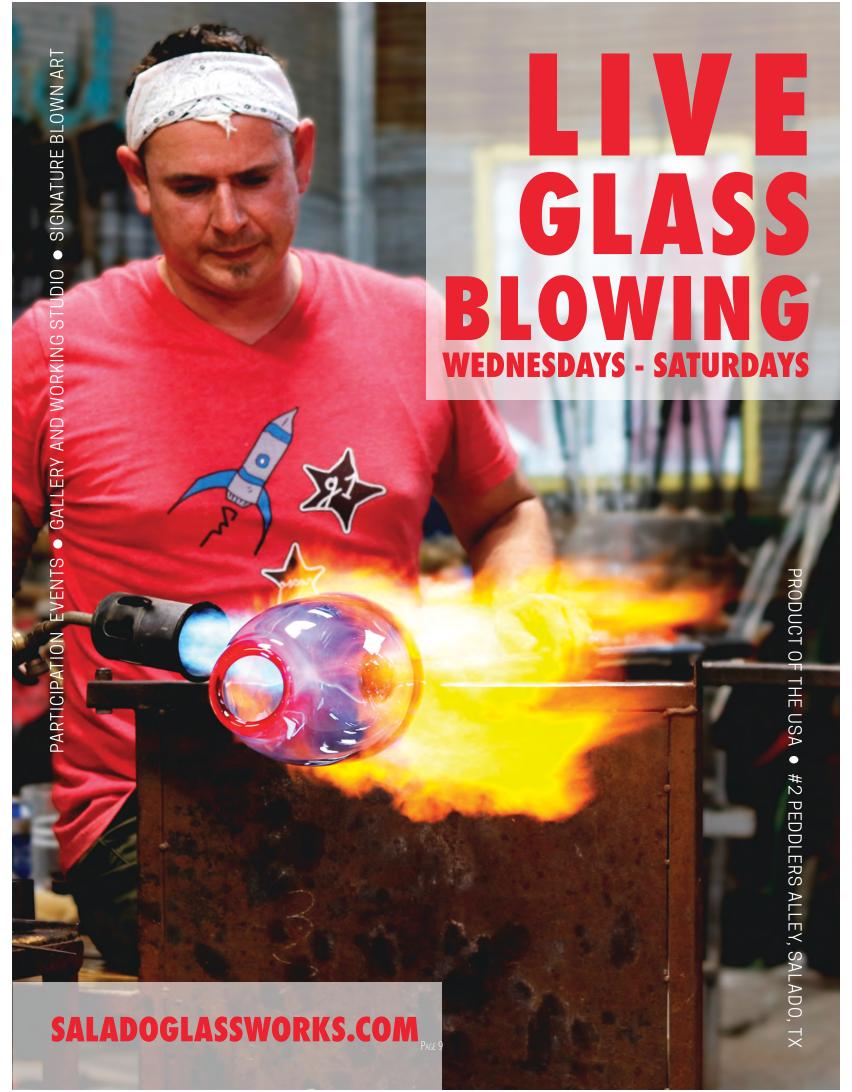
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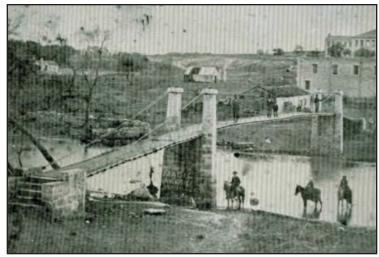
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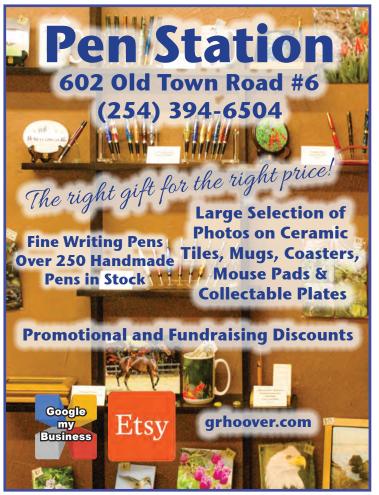




This was the first bridge across Salado Creek, built in the late 1860s.



This photograph shows the first iron top wagon bridge (1892–1913) and the old foot bridge that was destroyed in 1900. (Photos courtesy Salado Historical Society)





Bridges across Salado Creek

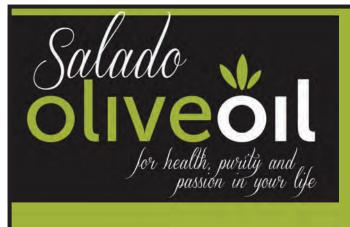
For several years after the town was laid out, the citizens of Salado crossed the shallow creek by stepping from rock to rock, or on logs laid across the wider places. These logs were chained to the rocks and would sink down stream during freshets and be replaced when the flood subsided. But when in 1866 a dam was thrown across the stream at the lower end of the village, the water was backed up over the rocks. Then for a time "footlogs" raised on legs standing in the water and chained to the rocks below were used; but they were narrow, rickety and unsafe, and pedestrians not infrequently tumbled off into the water. A general demand arose for a bridge. To meet this problem as well as others, it was decided to

incorporate the village. Application for incorporation was made under the general law and the county court in January 1867, authorized and election for town officers. On February 23, Judge O.T. Tyler was elected mayor and a board of aldermen was chosen. These officials appointed the other officers, among the Colonel Thos. H. Jones as treasurer. The town officials first tried to raise funds for a bridge by voluntary donations, but finding they could not raise enough by this means, on December 3, 1868, they ordered an issue of bonds...

The bonds were purchased by the citizens of the town. With the proceeds and subscriptions amounting in all to some \$2,500, the municipal authorities proceeded to build a wire cable suspension foot-bridge of substantial construction of unique design and graceful proportions. Two large galvanized rope-wire cables, anchored at each end in strongly built stone abutments, were carried over two double-turreted dressed-stone piers of towers. From these suspended cables wire cords extended down to catch and support the ends of sawed cedar cross bars or joists on which the plank floor was laid. It was one of the first of its kind in the Southwest and was designed, engineered and constructed entirely by home talent-Judge Tyler, Colonel Thos. H. Jones, Judge Wm. H. Garrett, Wm. A. Davis, John Hendrickson and others. It swung some twenty feet above the water and although it could be made

to sway enough from side to side to frighten timid souls--especially groups of squealing girls when mischievous boys chose this method of teasing them--it served the people well for more than thirty years. After the county built a combination wagon and foot bridge a few yards upstream the suspension bridge gradually fell into disuse. In 1913 it was finally swept away when a cloud burst in the upper water-shed of Salado Creek sent down a terrific flood that carried away the county bridge as well. The latter was promptly rebuilt, only to be carried away again in the still greater flood of September 9 and 10, 1921.

From "The History of Bell County" George W. Tyler, Third Edition

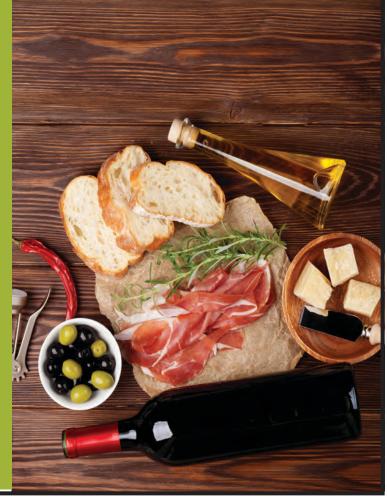


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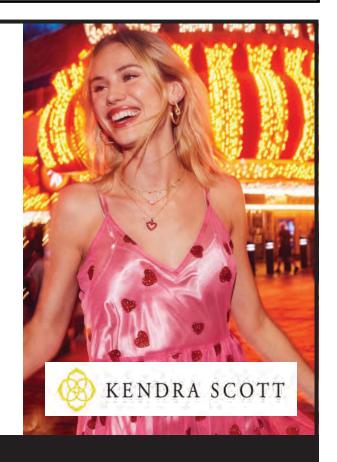


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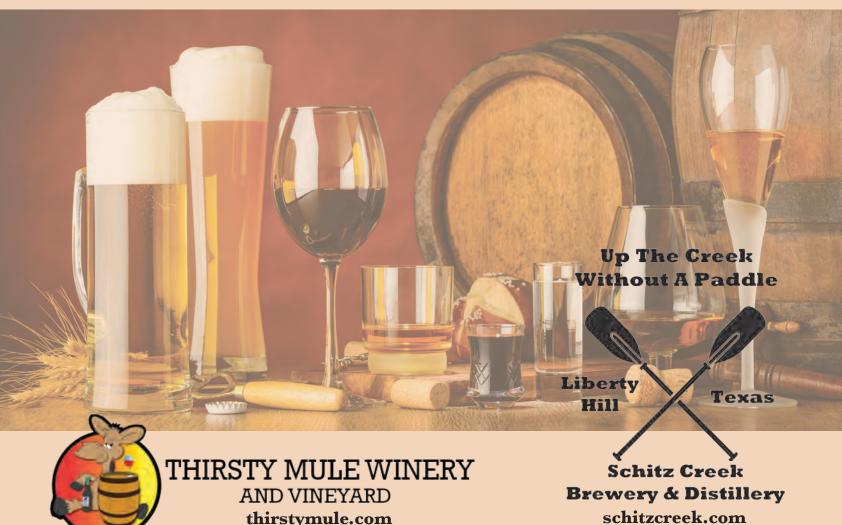
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First Grange Store in Texas located in Salado

The following story is taken from George W. Tyler's History of Bell County, 1985 Edition, page 299-301.

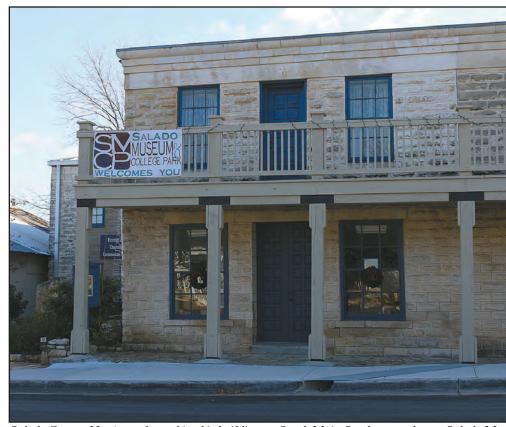
Back in the seventies the farmers had a great national organization, styled the "Patrons of Husbandry." It was commonly called, "The Grange," and its members were referred to as "Grangers." The organization covered the farming district of the whole United States, and at one time its membership numbered hundreds of thousands. It comprised a National Grange, a state Grange in each state, a County Grange in each county, and local Granges in the communities.

Bell County pioneered the movement in this state. Salado Grange, No. 1, opened in the summer of 1873, was the first Grange organized in Texas. Among its charter members were A.J. Rose, O.T. Tyler, William P. Hancock, J.F. Fuller, John S. Rogers, L.A. Griffith, N.L. Norton, Wm. J. Caskey, Joe W. Love and many others.

The order soon spread rapidly over Bell County and throughout the state. County Granges were set up and then the State Grange, all in 1873. Wm. W. Lange of Marlin became the first Grand Worthy patron of the State Grange. By 1878 the membership had become so large and its political power so great that Mr. Lange became a candidate for governor before the Democratic State Convention, on the Grange or farmers' ticket. Lange resigned the leadership of the State Grange about 1882 and was succeeded by A.J. Rose, as Grand Worthy Patron. The ordered prospered for some ten or twelve years before it was largely superseded by a radical and active organization, the "Farmers Alliance."

The leading objects of the grange organization were cooperation among farmers in the marketing of produce and in the purchase of farm supplies, implements, building materials, etc.; the bringing with the "middleman;" better provisions for education especially agricultural education; the social uplift of the farmer and his family; a strong code of morals; law and order; lower taxes; and greater participation by farmers in making the laws. And during those days it was the usual stunt for politicians to cater to the Grange vote and to identify themselves with the political demands of the farmers.

The first incorporated Grange store in the State was started in Salado, whence others, too, spread all over Texas. Today, the



Salado Grange No. 1 was located in this building on South Main St. that now houses Salado Museum and College Park. The Grange Store was downstairs while meetings were held on the second story. (Photo by Royce Wiggin)

building houses the Salado Museum. It is located on South Main Street directly across the street from Stagecoach Inn restaurant. Grange stores flourished for a time, but at last with droughts and hard times, they went upon the financial rocks.

The Texas Cooperative Association, a rather ambitious enterprise, also organized and incorporated at Salado, set up its office in Galveston with Mr. John S. Rogers, of Salado, as manager. Its mission was to receive by consignment, cotton and other farm products from the farmers (through their local Grange stores) all over the state; to sell these products direct to spinners' agents and exporters; to purchase, at wholesale prices, the supplies of all kinds required by the farmers, consigning such purchase, in carload lots, to the Grange stores, where they were to be distributed among the members and customers. To pay its overhead expenses, the Association charged a small fixed commission upon all transactions. It was well planned, and for many years was a decided success. Even after the Grange was superseded by the "Alliance," the latter organization used the facilities of the Grange

Agency at Galveston.

The local Grange stores and the Texas Cooperative Association were all based theoretically upon spot cash transactions, for they had but little capital and could not extend credit. When droughts and other calamities visited the farmer they were forced back to the credit accommodations offered by the regular merchants and these cooperative enterprises, handling only cash transactions, lost a large percent of the business of even their own membership. In a one-crop country the cash or "pay as you go" system seem to be impracticable, however well managed.

The Texas Farmer was launched by William P. Hancock and J.F. Fuller, of Salado, about 1880. It was devoted to the interests of the farmers generally and of the Patrons of Husbandry in particular. At first it was printed at the office of the Belton Courier in Belton, but later equipped its own print shop in Belton, where it was edited and managed by J.F. Fuller. The paper became the official organ of the State Grange, and enjoyed as a statewide circulation. Later it was moved

Please See Grange Meetings, page 32

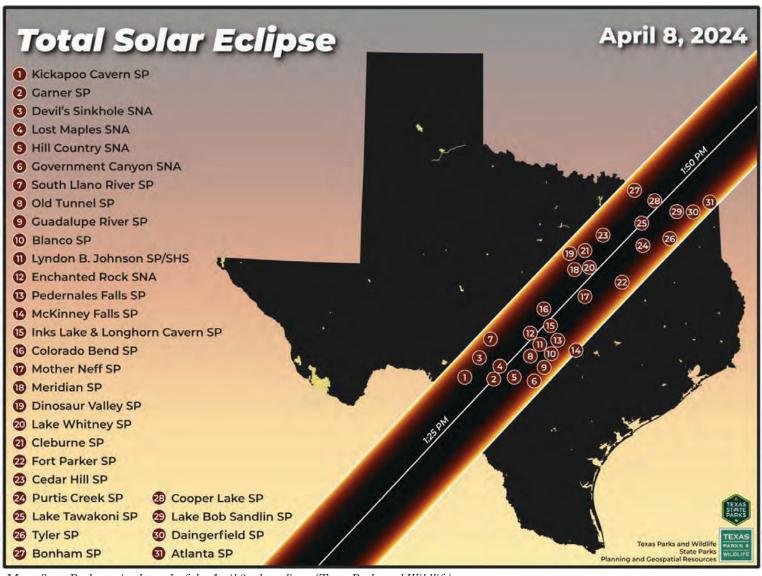












Many State Parks are in the path of the April 8 solar eclipse. (Texas Parks and Wildlife)

Total solar eclipse is coming to Salado April 8

by Jeff McClure

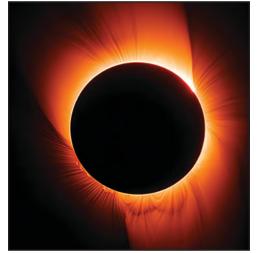
In Salado on Monday, April 8, 2024, at about 12:19 p.m. (CDT), the sun will begin to disappear. At 1:36 p.m. night will fall over the village, the stars will come out, and a profound sense of awe will be felt by all those who are fortunate enough to experience this rare event. For three minutes and forty-six seconds the moon will almost exactly block the sun from the perspective of any observer in a 120-mile-wide path along a centerline that enters Texas at Piedras Negras at 1:27 p.m., and leaves Texas as it crosses the Red River northwest of Clarksville at 1:49 p.m. As the sun's final edge disappears and again as it begins to emerge from behind the moon there is a chance to see the "diamond ring" effect as the last or first sunlight is channeled between mountains on the moon.

If this is your first total solar eclipse, experienced eclipse chasers recommend that

you not attempt to capture it with a picture or a video. Rather, look around you as well as at the eclipse. It is a moving experience easily missed if you are focused on your phone or camera.

The April 8 eclipse will be the last in the U.S. for this century, so you don't want to miss it, but DO NOT look at the sun during the partial eclipse phase unless you are using certified solar glasses or certified solar filters on a camera or telescope. Old film, regular camera filters, or other non-certified filters will not block out the invisible ultraviolet light that can be the most damaging. If you don't have certified glasses, poke a small hole through a piece of cardboard or aluminum foil and project the sun through it onto a flat surface. Enjoy the experience, but don't permanently damage your eyes while doing so.

Pace Park in Salado will offer unobstructed views of the solar eclipse as well



(Adobe Stock)

as parking. There are many other places throughout the village that have parking and unobstructed view. Do not just pull over on the side of the road, especially I-35.



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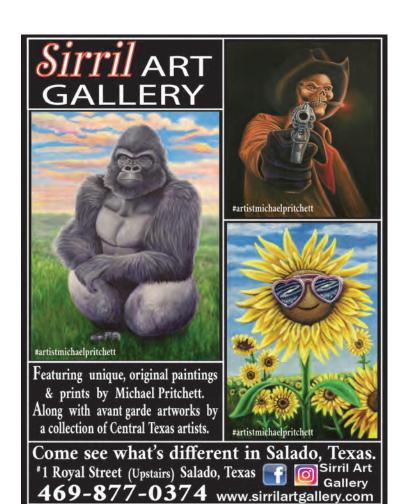


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2024 DATES

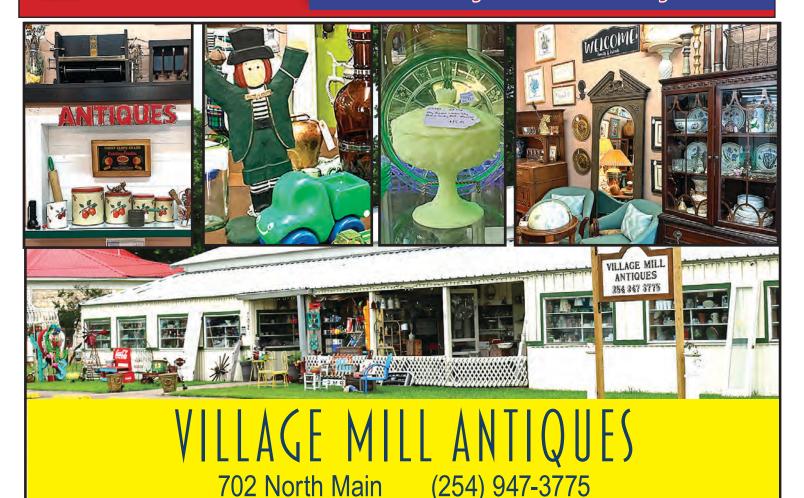
Jan 13-14 Feb 10-11 Mar 9-10

Apr 13-14 May 11-12 June 8-9

JULY 13-14 AUG 10-11 SEPT 14-15

Oct 12-13 Nov 9-10 Dec 14-15

Saturday 9-6 and Sunday 9 - 5



45th Texas Packard Meet in Salado

The 45th annual Texas Packard Meet will again be held in historic Salado April 4-7, 2024.

Salado is in the heart of the Texas Hill Country among the Bluebonnets. The Texas Packard Meet is the oldest and possibly the largest regional Packard meet in the country.

This annual event is hosted by the four Texas regions of the Packard Club and is the oldest regional Packard meet in the country. The event features a welcome party, early bird tour through the hill country, a parade, people's choice competition and show, seminars, and awards banquet. Host hotel is the Salado Holiday Inn Express. Call 254-947-4004 for reservations before March 14, 2024 for the group rate. Go to texaspackardmeet.com for registration materials and details.

Typically there are 40 to 70

cars and well over 100 master registrations. Being the 44th edition of this great meet will likely increase the numbers! Last year, there were more than 50 Packards on display with collectors coming from around the state and surrounding states.

Participants enjoy a tour, all Packard swap meet, people's choice competition, seminars, and awards dinner. Packard lovers from all over the country compete for the long distance award.

Fees for registration vary according to activities selected but fees are among the most reasonable for like events.

Viewing for the public is free on Saturday morning April 6 on the grounds of the Holiday Inn Express.

Packards were once seen as some of the most prestigious on the market. The founder of the



Packards gather in Salado April 4-7. (Photo by Tim Fleischer)

company, James Ward Packard, was an engineer by trade and began producing automobiles as early as 1899. The first Packards were designed as luxury automobiles and were priced much higher than the competition.

In 1902, the Ohio Automobile Company was renamed The Packard Motor Car Company and moved to Detroit. The last Packard came off of the assembly-line in 1958.



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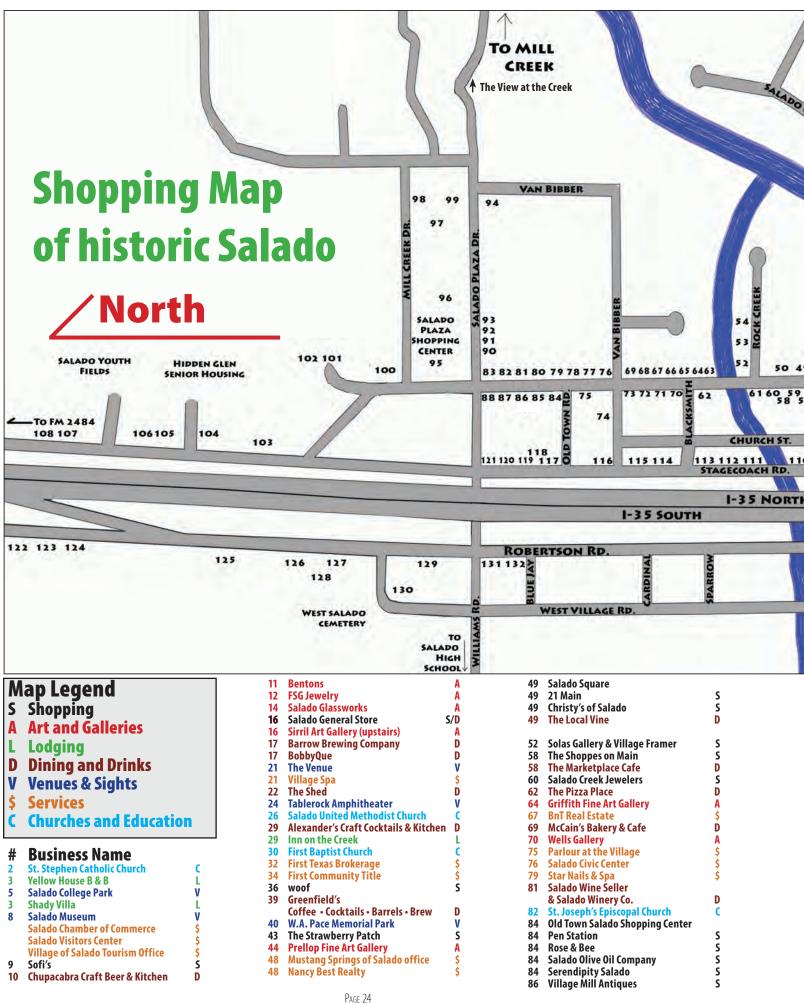
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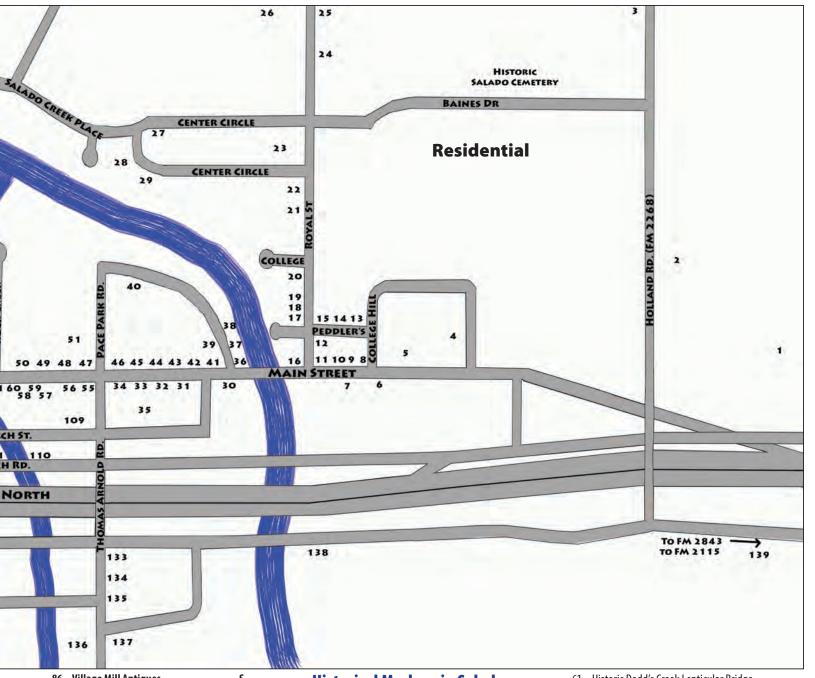
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Historical Markers in Salado

- 5. Salado Historic College Hill
- 6. Shady Villa Hotel
- Main Street Bridge 7.
- 16. Barber-Berry Mercantile
- 23. George Washington Baines House
- 24. Historic Dipping Vats
- 25. Archibald J. Rose Mansion
- 26. Old Methodist Chapel
- 27. Caskey-Hendricks House
- 28. Dr. B.D. McKie Place (Twelve Oaks)
- 29. Alexander's Distillery
- 30. First Baptist Church
- 31. Orville T. Tyler House
- 35. Salado Masonic Lodge #296
- 45. The Anderson House
- Old Saloon 46
- 48. The Norton-Orgain House
- 50. Welborn Barton House
- 51. Levi Tenney House
- 55. Armstrong Adams House

- 61. Historic Dodd's Creek Lenticular Bridge
- 72. The Vickrey House
- 76. Boles-Aiken & Denman Cabins
- 77. Robert B. Halley House
- 79. William Reed Cabin
- 100. The Josiah Fowler House
- 113. Salado Church of Christ
- 125. White-Aiken House
- 138. Elijah Sterling Clack Robertson Plantation

Public Art in Salado

- Col. Robertson Statue 6.
- 7. Sirena
- 16. Turtle limestone carving at the Creek
- 50. Chisholm Trail limestone carving
- 61. The Troll at the Bridge 61. Tree Fairy at the Bridge (look up!)
- 66. Augustus McCrae by Ronnie Wells
- 70. Sculpture by Ronnie Wells
- Late Again by Troy Kelley at Civic Center
- 80. Limestone Carving
- 92. Salado Sculpture Garden
- 100. Reading by Ronnie Wells at Salado Library

History lives on in old cemetery

By Chris McGregor

Four giant, solitary oaks lord over the middle of the property like celestial sentinels. Planted almost divinely in the center of the grounds, they seem to have their roots encircling every aspect of the cemetery, silently drawing in the unrecorded history of a nearly forgotten landmark.

The West Salado Cemetery, taken in and of itself, is a somewhat nondescript parcel of land, neat and well-maintained for the past two decades, but hardly a vision to inspire awe. It is tucked behind Country Boy's, easy to miss, almost as if it's playing hide-and-go-seek with the 21st century. Located scant yards from the interstate, thousands of motorists pass by the cemetery each day, but at 75 miles per hour the full breadth of its unassuming story passes like the white and yellow stripes of the highway, unheard and barely seen.

It is, however, important, because it is one of the few active black cemeteries in the area. A cursory glance around Salado shows that not much remains of the African-American culture that helped clear and settle the village many generations ago. A fact that is either unknown or conveniently forgotten, the history of the black community in Salado stretches back as far as that of the whites. Largely scattered by the time the Depression hit, at one point the number of blacks residing in Salado totaled between 150 and 200, a population only slightly less than that of the whites, and this stoic little cemetery seems to be one of the few remaining threads of their legacy. In private hands since 1991 the late Earnest Wilkinson purchased the property. It was handed down to his daughter Linda Sue Seawood. The one and four-fifths acre plot was originally deeded in 1879 by Colonel E.S.C. Robertson to the freedmen of Salado. In a diary entry dated Christmas day 1875, Robertson writes, "Went up after dinner to see John Sanders f.m.c. (freed man of color) about hiring a cook and wash woman. Will let me know tomorrow. The freed men want a piece of land for a school house and church-have promised it to them."

It would be another four years before the freedmen and women got their land. Common tradition tell us that the land was donated to the black community in town by Robertson, however there are other, more quietly whispered rumors that suggest otherwise, that the black community had raised



A roughly hewn headstone, worn down from years of neglect, reveals a barely legible last name and the date of death, 1888, for the unknown individual at rest below. (photo by Chris McGregor)

the funds amongst themselves to purchase the land. The fact that four years had taken place between the time the land was promised and the time the land was deeded does cause pause. However, it is also commonly held that Colonel Robertson was a kind and benevolent man who treated all his neighbors, both white and black, with respect, so the particulars might never be resolved.

In any case, the land was deeded on the first day of the year, 1879, for the aforementioned use of school, church and graveyard purposes. Another persistent little rumor that cannot be verified, that the purchased land had been used as a burial site in antebellum times, is almost certainly true. In fact, the oldest legible headstone in the graveyard, that of Jozie Fulbright, is dated 1877, two years before the land was deeded. This suggests that the land had been used for burial for some time prior. The oldest area of the cemetery, the northwest corner, is home to many simple, unmarked stones, whose origins are unknown. But it is not unsafe to assume that these markers are contemporaneous with, or predate the Fulbright grave, given that slaves lacked the means of producing ornate headstones, and often times, as the late Earnest Wilkinson explained, they used whatever was at hand, which was generally a large stone, to mark a location of burial. Some unfortunate, anonymous souls never received a marker. According to Wilkinson, this practice continued into the 20th century.

Also said to be buried on the grounds of the West Salado Cemetery is a man named Mtesa Unction, a former slave who followed his master to Texas after the Confederate surrender at Appomattox, who is a story all his own. According to the book, Tales of Old Salado, by E.M. Hutchens, Unction worked on the grist mills and over the years his hands "became inlaid with minute steel splinters," eventually becoming magnetized, and on several occasions, he was called to the College to demonstrate the principals of magnetics to students in natural philosophy class. Also said to have enormous physical strength, Unction "carried in his arms up the stairway the College chapel's first organ," according to Hutchens. Sadly, it will likely never be known where this character was laid to rest.

Wilkinson had a strong historical connection to the cemetery. His grandfather, the patriarch of his family, Finn Wilkinson, was a native born Texas slave who became free after the Civil War. His master was one Melville Wilkinson, who is said to have donated land after the war to all of his



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SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Bible Study (All ages)

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5:45 p.m. Children's Bible Drill (4th-6th graders)
6:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids (Kinder-6th graders)
6:00 p.m. Student Midweek (7th-12th graders)

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

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Texas Pizza Fest March 2

Texas Pizza Festival's second year will be held on March 2.

Pizza trucks participating include Barrow Brewing Company's resident truck, Happy Pizza Company, Bahler Street Pizza, Pizza Pieros, Treno Pizzeria, Nocco Pizzeria, Waco Artisan Pizza, Carter Brothers Pizza, and Scott's Pizza.

Guests can purchase tickets in advance at www.centraltexastickets.com. Adult GA tickets are \$20 and include four slices. Child GA tickets are \$10 and get them two slices. VIP tickets include two additional slices and a t-shirt. Additional tickets and slices can be purchased at a higher rate at the festival.

This year there will be a pizza cooking class on Friday, March 1 at the Shady Villa Hotel. World Pizza Champion, Rocky Shanower, will teach this exclusive class everything they need to know to make their own backyard pizza masterpieces. The class will feature Ooni pizza ovens and be limited to 30 people

The Texas Pizza Festival brings together Texas pizza trucks to celebrate sourdough, cheese, and fire! The day will include demonstrations, contests, and live music



Second annual Texas Pizza Fest is March 2 at Barrow Brewing Co.

from bands like South 77 and Midnight Tradesmen.

The festival is located at Barrow Brewing

at 108 Royal Street Salado, Texas. It will be open 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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Music, gatherings and more

Mondays

Salado Senior Center open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays at 650 Royal St. (Salado United Methodist Church Youth Activity Center). Coffee Corner and Game Time, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Pickleball Courts open, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Chair Yoga with Joette Grieco, 9-10 a.m.; Dominoes 42, 10 a.m.-noon; Stretching (Beginner Yoga) with Gary, 10:15 a.m.; Bridge, 12:30-3 p.m.

Open Mic with Ryan White, at Chupacabra, 7 p.m.

Second Monday Book Club meets at 7 p.m. at Salado Winery, 841 N. Main St.

Tuesdays

Tuesday Night Prix Fixe at Alexander's Craft Cocktails + Kitchen. \$16.95 for entree, dessert and glass of wine. Prix Fixe menu changes weekly. Visit Alexander's Facebook page for weekly updates on Prix Fixe. Reservations encouraged.

Trivia with Rockin Rick, at Chupacabra, 7-9 p.m.

Wednesdays

Guest food truck day at Barrow Brewing Co., 4-9 p.m. Game Night at Barrow Brewing Co., 4-9 p.m. Trivia second Wed.

Wine Down Wednesday at Alexander's Craft Cocktails & Kitchen, 5-7 p.m., Half price on select bottles of wine, featured wine by the glass and feature cocktail specials change weekly.

Karaoke, 7-10 p.m. at Chupacabra.

Thursdays

Salado Senior Center open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursdays at 650 Royal St. (Salado United Methodist Church Youth Activity Center). Coffee Corner and Game Time, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Exercise class with Alice

Cooper, 9 a.m. Chair Tai Chi with Rich Trautman, 10-11 a.m. Learn to Play Mah Jonng, 10 a.m.-noon; Dominoes 42, 10 a.m.-noon. Mah Jongg, 12-3 p.m. Beginner or Refresher Bridge, noon-2 p.m. Bridge, 12:30-3 p.m. Bingo 1-2:30 p.m.

Pint night at Chupacabra, 4 p.m.-midnight.

Vinyl Nite with Shannon at Barrow Brewing Co., 5 p.m.

Barrow Cycling Club, 6 p.m. for a no-drop ride.

Weekly curated wine tasting hosted by Hannah Hendrick 6-8 p.m. at Salado Winery, 841 N. Main St. Tickets available online through Salado Winery Eventbrite https://bit.ly/3MLXXOA. Call 254-947-8011 or check Facebook for more information.

Maxx Carter at Chupacabra, 6-10 p.m.

Run4Beer Group, 6:30 p.m., Barrow Brewing Co.

Family Night at The Shed, specials on beer and pizzas change every week.

Fridays

Live Music at Chupacabra Craft Beers, 7-11 p.m. Live Music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m.

Saturdays

Asanas and Ales, 9 a.m. every Saturday in the taproom at Barrow Brewing Co.

Live Music at Axis Winery, 14420 N. Robertson Rd. 2-5 p.m.

Live Music at Barrow Brewing Co., 7 p.m.

Live Music at Chupacabra Craft Beer, 8 p.m.

Sundays

Live Music at Barrow Brewing Co., 4 p.m.



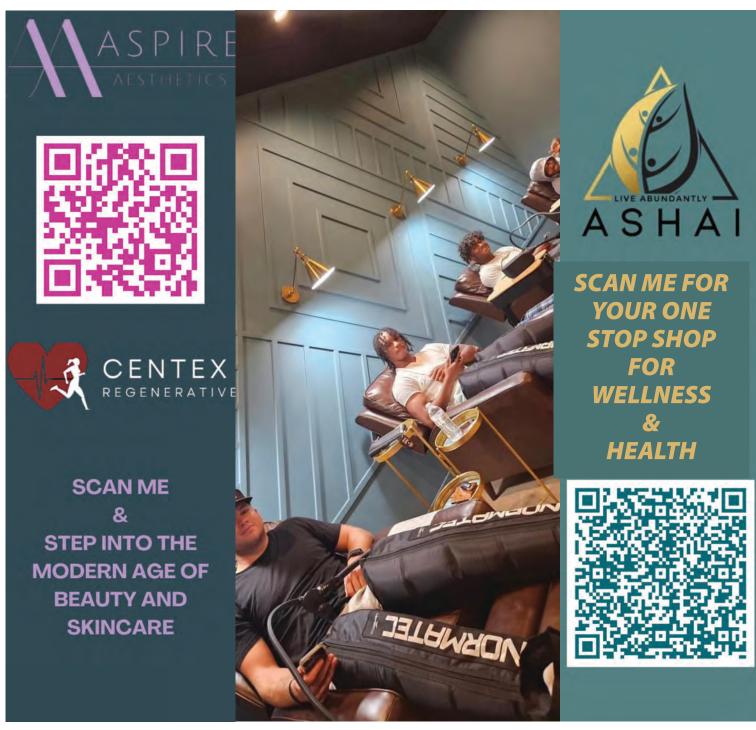
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Grange meetings emulate the Lodge Plan

Continued from page 14

to Dallas and there it was edited and managed by Wm. A. Shaw, generally known as "Farmer Shaw," who made it an influential factor with the press and farmers of Texas.

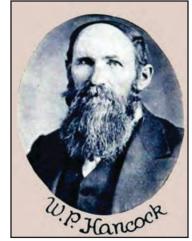
Such an organization, with an overwhelming farmer vote throughout the State, was, of course, catered to and preyed upon by politicians, within and without the membership; and what with the financial straits of the individual farmers and the arrival of a new organization, the Farmer's Alliance, the Grange gradually disappeared as an active body.

The Order still exists in other parts of the United States and still holds well attended National Grange meetings; but it no longer exists in Texas, so far as is known to this writer. (After this article first appeared

in this magazine, we have had reports that the Grange continues in parts of the country).

The membership included all members of the farmer's family - men, women, and children (above a certain age) and all of them participated in the Grange meetings held in halls or rooms prepared for the purpose. The meetings were secret and were conducted on the lodge plan, with a ritual for the initiation of new members and installation of officers. While women as well as men held office in the Grange, the more responsible active duties in that body were performed by the men of the Order.

The Grange did much to promote social intercourse among farmers and their families, brought about a more general habit of reading and investigation, especially along economic lines, and included

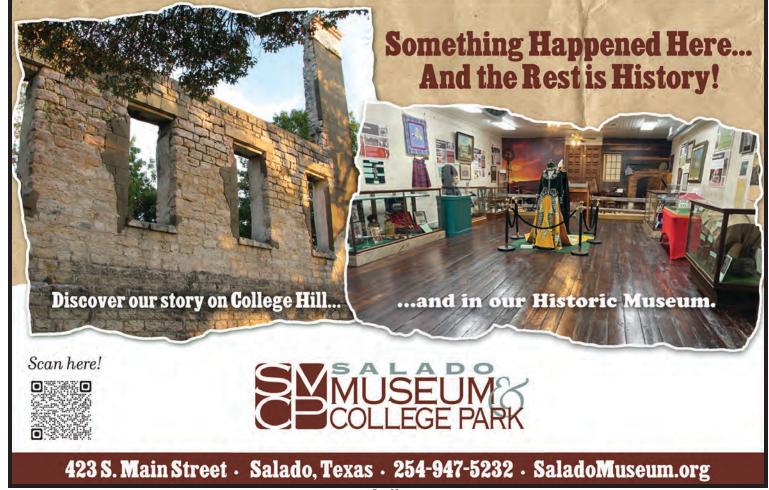


"The Texas Farmer" newspaper was launched by William P. Hancock (shown above) and J.F. Fuller, of Salado, about 1880. It was devoted to the interests of the Patrons of Husbandry.



While the Grange store was downstairs, meetings of Salado Grange No. 1 were likely held upstairs. Above is a Grange poster showing the layout of a meeting room.

broader thinking and a more liberal attitude in the minds of a great body of citizens whose outlook had been too much limited by the hard routine of life on the farm. The Grange left its imprint, virile and lasting upon the period.





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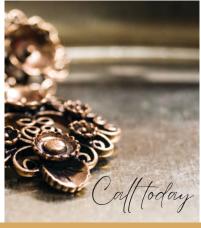
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Wilkinson family funeral circa 1914. (courtesy of the Bell County Museum)

West Salado Cemetery

Continued from Page 26

slaves. This again, is a matter of debate, but however he obtained his land, Finn settled in Salado and several generations of his descendants have been reared here as well. Finn was yet another interesting man whose unique life is rarely mentioned when the history of old Salado is discussed.

Standing six feet tall and possessing considerable intellect, Finn could read and write, unusual for a man of slave derivation. He was also a cowboy who participated in many drives, keeping the spirits of the other cowhands high with his affability and lighthearted sense of humor. Finn, however, never forgot slavery. He would take a turn to the serious when explaining to his children and grandchildren about "the peculiar institution" of slavery. He explained that one particularly diabolical and popular method employed by slave traders was to throw a feast a short distance from the ship. Shortly thereafter, another celebration would be thrown, this time a little bit closer to the ship than the last. Finally, a third would be held, this time however, in the ship itself. Once safely on board, the ship would set sail with its unsuspecting passengers in tow, who were now trapped and resigned to their unenviable fate. Wilkinson's other

grandfather, Finn Fullbright, was a stonemason whose mark of F.F. can still be read on some of the older headstones.

Once the land for the cemetery had been legally acquired, two churches and a school were erected, of which no traces remain. For such a small community, the presence of two churches is indicative of the importance religion played in the community. One church was Baptist, the other Methodist; however, no clear congregational lines were ever drawn, and most folks attended both regularly. The school served children grades one through six only, the high schoolers attending Harris High School in Belton. Because, up until relative recent history, central Texas was an overwhelmingly agriculture area, children did not attend school until early November, their hands being needed more for farming than scholarly pursuits.

During the 1920's, approximately 18 children attended the school, with teachers using textbooks donated from nearby Salado College. But again, no buildings remain.

Unfortunately, when times got tough in Salado, as happened in other communities, most of the black families moved off to the cities or other towns such as Taylorsville, where they sought better job opportunities and less discrimination. The South has a

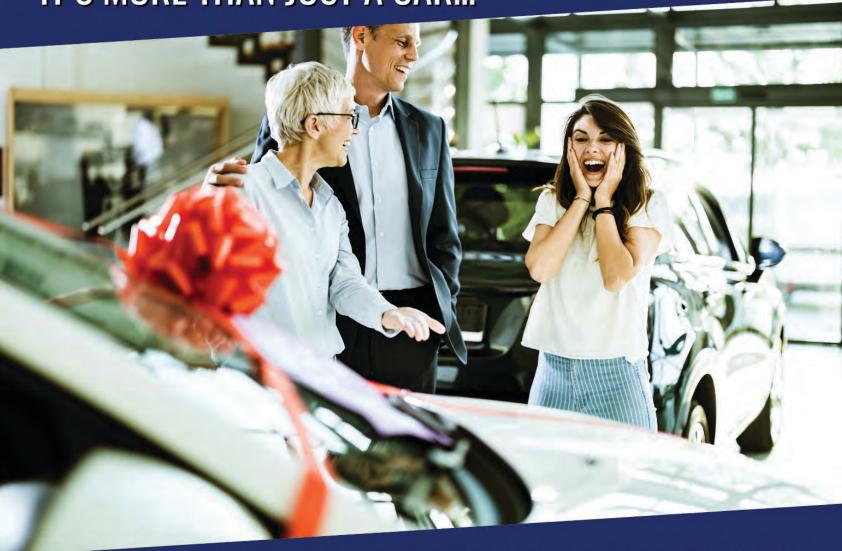
long memory, and the humiliation of the Civil War had yet to part itself from public consciousness, and Salado was no different.

Efforts to recognize and renovate the cemetery, which is still an ongoing process, did not get off the ground until the mid 80's when a group of Saladoans developed an interest in its history. The Salado Historical Society, through the efforts of the late Fred and Dale Springer and the late Thelma Fletcher, exhaustively researched the existing records, including deeds, diary entries and oral histories, and then submitted their findings to the Texas Historical Society. Work done by the Bell County Historical Commission also helped to bring attention to the cemetery. Finally, on May 5, 1991, the West Salado Cemetery was designated with an historical marker, which stands outside the cemetery to this day.

It is a testament to many things, among them a family's link with its past, and of the hard work done by a small group of Saladoans to bring an overlooked cemetery its rightful distinction. But what it doesn't speak aloud is something that is heard only in the soul, how as generations pass and memories are buried like caskets, we, like magnets, are drawn to our history for the sake of our future.

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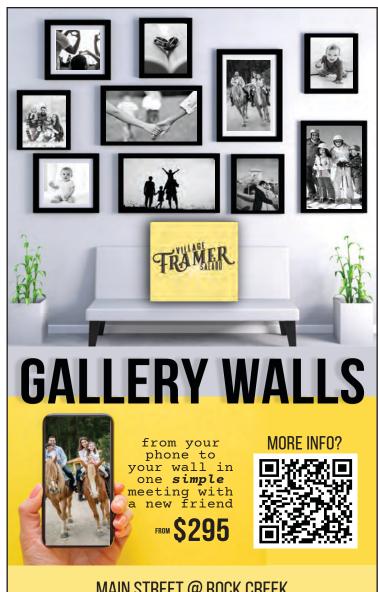




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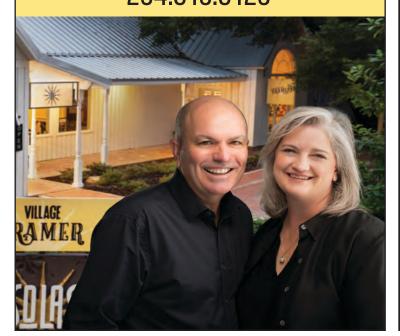




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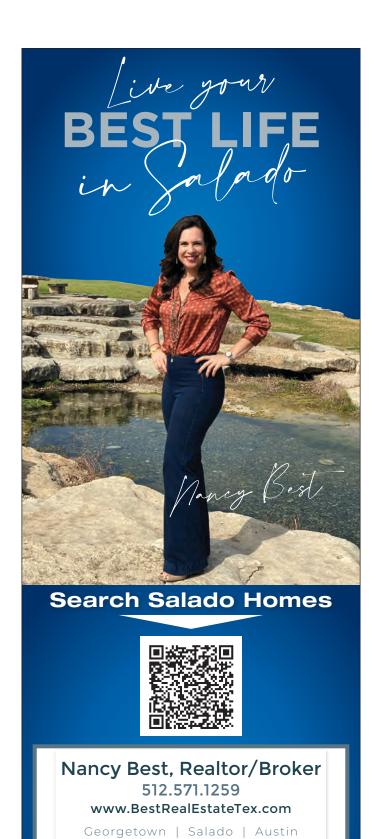




The First Annual Heritage Country Church CPRA/UPRA Rodeo will be March 1-2, 2024. It is being produced by Diamond Cross Rodeo Co. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the rodeo starts at 7:30 p.m. Free admission. There will be bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, ranch bronc riding, calf roping, team roping, women's break-a-way roping, steer dogging, barrel race, bull riding, mutton busting.



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The old Salado Church of Christ building.

Remembering Old Salado Church of Christ

By Tim Fleischer

The Salado Church of Christ congregation began in 1859. An earlier gathering of Church Christ were already meeting at an undisclosed location in Darr's Creek, a few mile southeast of Salado.

"This group included a number of people who lived here and when Dr. Carroll Kendrick came to the area," local historian Tim Brown told members of the Salado Historical Society at their general membership meeting and annual Chili Supper Nov. 6, "he began working with that group and they formed the nucleus of the first congregations established here in 1859."

Dr. Kendrick was a medical doctor, educator and missionary minister of the Gospel. "He served as a doctor in the Civil War," Brown said. "And he was widely known as

an itinerant evangelist who held large camp meetings to make converts and establish congregation. Another facet of his work was involved in recruiting, mentoring and training young men for the ministry." Dr. Kendrick worked in Tennessee, Alabama and other places before arriving in central Texas.

The year that the Salado Church of Christ congregation was established, 1859, was an important one in that it was also the year in which Salado College had its foundation with a meeting under a grove of trees. Salado College Stock Company was formed and lots were sold from the 100 acres donated by Col. Elijah S. C. Robertson.

While there was a post office serving the Salado Creek area in 1852 and some small businesses, the establishment of Salado College was a catalyst "for a surge in growth that resulted in Salado becoming a real town. The village incorporated in 1867 in order to issue debt to build a bridge across Salado Creek.

"The establishment of the college itself was loosely tied to the efforts of the early group of churchmen," Brown said. "One of Dr. Kendrick's long-held ambitions was to establish a Christian school... We know there were various proposals put forward, including one promoting a location around Sulphur Wells."

When the Salado College took off, the congregants at Darr's Creek decided to move to Salado. "They initially met in a brush arbor on the north side of the creek about where the Baptist Church now stands," Brown said, adding that later they met in the Salado College building. In fact, the space

See Saving old church, page 39

Historical Society saving old church

Story continued from page 38

was shared by multiple congregations on a rotating basis for several years.

The Presbyterians had a presence in Salado as early as 1860. Rev. Levi Tenney, an ordained Presbyterian minister, was a principal of Salado College. The Baptist Church was established in 1864. The Methodist Episcopal Church was established as early as 1854. "They had a small meeting place and a small school in the vicinity of Chalk's Mill, the first mill established on Salado," Brown said. "They were formally established here in the Village when their beautiful Gothic Revival building was constructed and consecrated."

"The very grand and auspicious beginnings of the college and the village itself were derailed to a large extent by the Civil War," Brown said. "The college fell on hard times and was reorganized and eventually closed. The building served as a free school, for some time as Thomas Arnold High School and then afterward as part of the state public school system."

Salado began a long decline when it was bypassed by the railroads. "Railroads were driving a new and unprecedented era of economic development across the country, but Salado was bypassed," he said. "A private venture to bring a spur line to the village from Belton failed, so the community was largely cut off from commercial transport until the construction of the federal highway system many decades later.

Salado declined from more than 900 residents to 250 by 1950.

"It was hovering around that number when the family of Tom and MaryBelle Brown moved to a small ranch a few miles west of Salado in 1956," Brown said of his late parents.

"But the Church of Christ had hung on," he said. "The congregation built its first permanent home in 1875 on the east side of North Main Street. Although records are confusing it appears this original building also served as a school for children in the lower grades."

That building burned in 1908 and an exact duplicate of its simple architecture was built. This is the building that stands on North Main Street just north of the Campbell's Branch. It is the building that Salado Historical Society is raising funds to move and restore on the grounds of the Salado

Civic Center where it will sit with the historic log cabins the Society has restored.

The building was moved from the east side of Main Street to the west side of Main Street and remodeled in 1943. The Church of Christ congregation built a brick church in 1961 (now the Village municipal building, at which point the old Church Place became residential. The Church of Christ congregation built its current chapel in 1988.

Brown described what it was like as a young boy to attend church in the old frame building. "This was before air conditioning and we had those big water cooler fans to keep the church cool in summer," Brown said

He added that two small rooms were set up for Sunday school. "Just large enough for us. There was one for the little kids on one side and another for older kids," he said.

If you would like to contribute to the fundraising effort to save the old Salado Church of Christ, checks can be mailed to Salado Historical Society, PO Box 251, Salado, TX 76571 or visit saladohistoricalsociety.com where a donate button is located on the landing page.

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Wildflower Fest includes arts, crafts, food trucks & live music

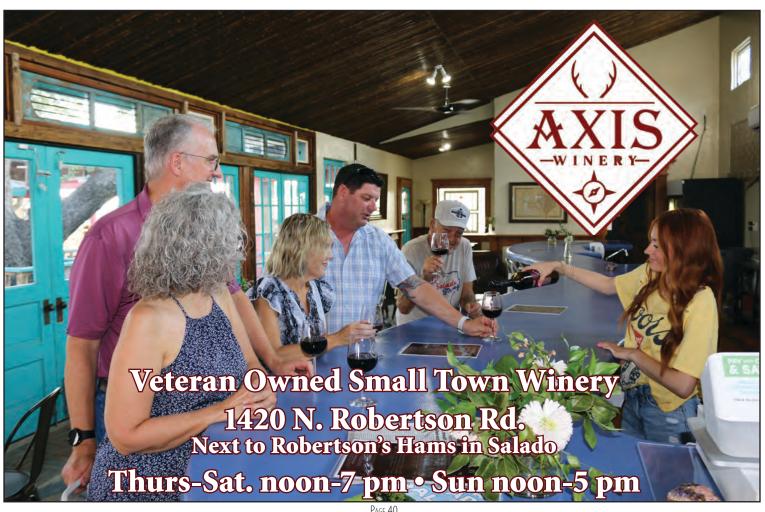
Salado Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating its 24th Annual Wildflower Arts & Crafts Festival March 23-24. The festival will be held on the grounds of the Salado Civic Center at 601 N. Main Street from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 23 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 24 with free admission.

Enjoy this family friendly festival by strolling through the more than 40 arts & crafts vendors selling extraordinary handcrafted items from all over the state. Shop from a large variety of talented crafters including; woodworking, jewelry, original paintings, photography, pottery, toy makers, soap makers, knitting/crochet, embroidery and

Wildflower will also be featuring local food trucks and vendors – so grab a blanket and eat a picnic lunch from one of their food vendors and listen to live music in the gazebo.

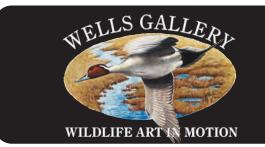


(Photo by Marilyn Fleischer) Wildflower art show in Salado will be March 23-24.











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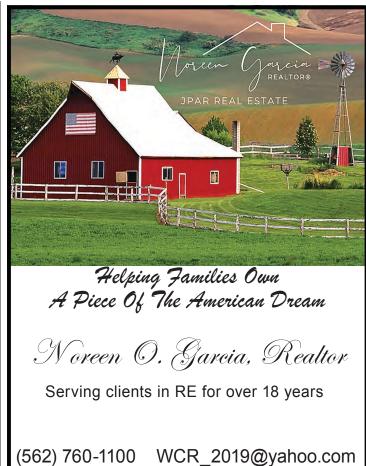
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Vaulting in Salado

Gymnastics.

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The Texas Vaulting Expo March 15-17 will bring all of that to the Heritage Country Church arena at 9677 Lark Trail with demonstrations, competitions and workshops for coaches, competitors and teams.

The Texas Vaulting Expo will be open to the public 3-6 p.m. Saturday, March 16 for the demonstrations and competitions portion of the expo.

During the earlier clinic portion of the weekend, competitors and coaches will learn about various aspects of the sport.

The clinic will include topics such as the role of a coach, tacking and lunging, teaching techniques, technical training for compulsories and freestyle composition.

The Vaulting Expo is an event of the EVAUSA Region 4, which has vaulting clubs in six states: Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.



Ryley Klechka of Salado.



Sydney Klechka of Salado.









MARCH 23 & 24

Salado Civic Center **601 North Main Street**



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KD and Graydon Hill build community at Barrow Brewing Co.

By Tim Fleischer Editor-in-Chief

It seems the glass overhead door at Barrow Brewing Co. has been open forever, but April will mark just the eighth anniversary since Graydon and KD Hill opened the brewery.

Perhaps it is because Barrow Brewing began laying the foundation for its introduction into the community long before they opened in 2016. That was by intent.

The Hills laid the ground-work for the first craft brewery in Bell County by circulating a petition to call for a local option election to allow for the legal sale of beer and wine in 2014. On Nov. 4, 2014, the local option election passed 784 in favor and 229 against.

That's where 784, one of the brews available year-round, took its name. 784 is one of the original flagship brews for Barrow Brewing. A Belgian witte (white) beer, 784 has orange rind and coriander with a traditional Belgian yeast note.

Evil Catfish IPA pays homage to Troy Kelley's catfish that is part of the Legend of Sirena. It has hoppy citrus notes with an intense but round bitterness.

For those who want something light, there is the Creek Don't Rise Lager, described as "Crisp, bright, and refreshing."

Or you might try Big Bubbly Blonde. The springs on the grounds of Barrow Brewing are known as Big Bubbly which is where the newest Blonde in the Barrow lineup took its name.

My personal favorite is the Tipsy Vicar Stout. The malt balances the sweetness of the yeast.

Mystery of the Deep Double IPA packs a punch of hop. Packing 9.2%, it's not for the timid beer drinker.

Barrow adds three main seasonal brews, the Swimming

Hole Honey Pilsner in spring, the Hat Tip Hefeweisen in summer and the Farm to Market Persimmon Saison in the fall.

They add 14 others that rotate throughout the year in the taproom. You can't get these in stores, only by the pour at Barrow and various taprooms and restaurants around Central Texas.

But it's not just the beer that brings you to Barrow. It is something that can't be concocted in giant tanks.

It's community.

The Hills will mark their eighth anniversary with a celebration on April 6, 2024.

Live music will entertain guests throughout the day. The lineup includes Wayworn Traveler, Sam Goldwinners, Brooks Emerson, and Wes Perryman.

The party will last 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. at Barrow Brewing, 108 Royal Street Salado, Texas. See you there.



KD Hill



Graydon Hill

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